

John 7:40-46

- 40 Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, Of a truth this is the Prophet.
- 41 Others said, This is the Christ. But some said, Shall Christ come out of Galilee?
- 42 Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was?
- 43 So there was a division among the people because of him.
- 44 And some of them would have taken him; but no man laid hands on him.
- 45 Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have ye not brought him?
- 46 The officers answered, Never man spake like this man.

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The human voice is a wonderful thing. With the voice a man can say to his beloved, "I love you." With the voice he can sing praises to God. He can make his wishes known to others. He can express his appreciation to those who have been a blessing to him. He can raise that voice in prayer to God. He can use it to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ.

Chrysostom of Constantinople was called the "Golden Mouthed" because of his resonant voice. It was said that George Whitefield could speak certain words which would melt his audience to tears. John Wesley, when he was over seventy years of age, spoke often in the open air to audiences of thirty thousand.

Spurgeon preached to congregations of two thousand people morning and night for many years. It was reported that those on the back seat could hear him perfectly and yet his voice did not seem harsh to those on the front seat.

But, today, I want to talk about the voice of Jesus. It must have been rich and full and vibrant. One day, He got into a boat and pushed out from the shore and spoke to the people. They could hear Him well over the sound of the lapping waves.

But there is something more important than the sound of the voice - it is what you say with that voice. One day the Pharisees sent officers to arrest Jesus, but they came back empty-handed. When they were asked why they had not arrested Him, the officers said, "It was the way He talked. He said such wonderful things. Never did man speak as He speaks."

Jesus said many marvelous things 2,000 years ago. He still says the same things today. Let us hear what He has to say even now. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever; and the truths that He proclaimed then are just as true and appropriate now.

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In Luke 13:3, He said, "EXCEPT YE REPENT, YE SHALL ALL LIKEWISE PERISH."

Jesus knows what many are not willing to admit. They have sinned. They are lost. They can never see God and inherit eternal life until they repent of sin and turn to God through faith in Christ.

One night a group of seminary students heard a fire engine go by. They followed the fire engine to a sanitarium which was burning down. These students went in with the firemen and helped to bring out the patients on the first two floors.

Then as they stood in front of the building, they heard screams from the rear of the building. They rushed around to the back and found that four men were trapped on the third floor and were standing at the window pleading for someone to save them from the flames.

Since all the ladders were being used, four firemen set up a net and then cried out to these men, "Leap down one at a time and we will save you." The first three men leaped to safety and were caught in the net.

The fourth man drew back in fear. He said, "I am afraid to risk the net. Isn't there some other way?"

The firemen and the students cried out, "The net is safe. Leap out and we will save you." But the man would not risk it. He turned back in the building and later they found his charred body.

Listen, if you are without Christ today, you are in danger of the eternal flames. There is only one way of escape. You must repent of your sins and put your trust in Christ. This is the safe way. This is the only way. All of your goodness, your works, and your gifts cannot save you.

In John 14:6, we read, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me."

And Acts 4:12 says, "Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among <sup>↑</sup>whereby we must be saved."  
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In Mark 12:30, Jesus said, "THOU SHALT LOVE THE LORD THY GOD WITH ALL THY HEART, AND WITH ALL THY SOUL, AND WITH ALL THY MIND, AND WITH ALL THY STRENGTH."

Make a list of the things and the people that you love. Where do you put God? Many people put family or friends or possessions or

pleasures first. But God should be at the top of the list. When He is there everything else will fall into its rightful place. Matthew 6:33 says, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

When Dr. F.B. Meyer was in Australia, he said that he often felt like saying to his people, "If you love me, tell me so." They heard about this statement back in London, and when he reached home they had a big welcome meeting for him. A banner was stretched across the church saying, "We love you and we tell you so."

Do you love God? ... Do you appreciate all the things He has done for you? Then tell Him so every day and live in such a way that everyone will know that you do love Him.

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In Matthew 11:28, Jesus said, "COME UNTO ME, ALL YE THAT LABOUR AND ARE HEAVY LADEN, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST."

A religion which has no comfort in it is a poor and worthless thing. We are living in a hard world. Hearts are aching and breaking. What did Mary and Martha do when their brother Lazarus was dying? They sent for Jesus and He came and brought a blessing. He is the One we must send for when we are in sorrow and distress.

The English artist, Romney, married a fine young woman, but art was his great passion. Sir Joshua Reynolds told him that he had talents and could become a great artist if he were not burdened with a wife. So Romney left his wife and went to London. Soon he was highly successful and his pictures brought great sums of money.

But as he grew older, he became ill with no one to care for him. It was then that he went back to his faithful wife, who still loved him. She took him in and nursed him and cared for him tenderly as long as he lived.

Have you wandered far from God? Has the world bruised you? Do you have a heavy heart? Then come back to Jesus. He still loves you. His arms are wide open to receive you. He is still there when all the world turns its back upon you. He will never leave you nor forsake you!

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In Mark 8:36, Jesus said, "FOR WHAT SHALL IT PROFIT A MAN IF HE SHALL GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD, AND LOSE HIS OWN SOUL?"

Queen Elizabeth the First lay dying. She had 10,000 dresses in her wardrobe. Her kingdom spread over all the earth. But she had wasted her years on the things of this world. So at the end, she

cried out, "Millions for an inch of time!" At the end of the way, all that counts is our faith in Christ.

A rich man died and someone asked, "How much did he leave?" Another answered, "He left it all!" This is true - you can't take it with you. You can buy many things but you can't buy Heaven or everlasting life.

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In Matthew 5:44, Jesus said, "LOVE YOUR ENEMIES, BLESS THEM THAT CURSE YOU, DO GOOD TO THEM THAT HATE YOU, AND PRAY FOR THEM WHICH DESPITEFULLY USE YOU AND PERSECUTE YOU."

This is a big order. Unless Christ dwells in your heart, you cannot love your enemies.

Few Christians have this spirit. They have too much of the old carnal nature in them. When someone hits them, they want to hit back. When someone curses and persecutes them, they want to kill them.

I know this is a constant trial for me! Especially when I'm driving and some blankety-blank fool cuts me off. But every time I get angry, I ask the Lord to forgive me and strengthen me to avoid hatred and love my enemies as He commanded. I keep falling down, but He keeps lifting me up and setting me back on the path.

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In Luke 18:1, Jesus said, "MEN OUGHT ALWAYS TO PRAY AND NOT TO FAINT."

A chaplain who went overseas during World War II said that he asked many men the same question, "When the shells were bursting around you, and men were being killed on every side, what did you do?" And he said that everyone answered, "Oh, Sir, I prayed!"

It is wonderful to have a God who is right there to hear us when we're in trouble. But we shouldn't wait until we're in trouble to pray. We must pray every day. God blesses us every day: we need to thank Him for His blessings every day. We sin every day: we need to ask forgiveness for those sins every day.

The keeper of a certain vineyard in London said that his vines bore little fruit. Then one year these same vines were full of the most luscious grapes. He began to trace the roots of the vines and he learned that they had reached out and touched the Thames River, finding there the strength and nourishment which they had never had before.

When you see some great Christian bearing fruit for the Lord, you can know this, he has learned the secret of prayer. He has sent his roots down deep and has found the strength and nourishment

which only God can give.

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In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus said, "GO YE THEREFORE, AND TEACH ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY GHOST: TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER I HAVE COMMANDED YOU: AND, LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, EVEN UNTO THE END OF THE WORLD."

There are two great verbs in the Christian vocabulary. First, there is the verb, "COME". We are to come to Him for salvation and eternal life. But, then there is the verb, "GO". We are to go with the message of Christ to the lost souls of the world.

We are soldiers of the greatest army in the world. Jesus commands us to witness everywhere for Him. God help us to be faithful to Him and to be willing to suffer anything rather than disobey Him.

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And finally, in John 14:2-3, Jesus said, "IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE ARE MANY MANSIONS, IF IT WERE NOT SO I WOULD HAVE TOLD YOU. I GO TO PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU. AND IF I GO AND PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU, I WILL COME AGAIN AND RECEIVE YOU UNTO MYSELF; THAT WHERE I AM THERE YE MAY BE ALSO."

This world is not all there is. God has something much better waiting for those who trust in Jesus. God is going to lift us up out of our troubles and give us a mansion in Heaven. When we come to the end of the way and the doors of death open before us, Jesus will be standing there to greet us and carry us home to be with Him!

A boy from a certain home started going to Sunday School and Church and soon found Christ as his Savior. His mother, who was not a Christian, had a morbid fear of death. The boy begged her to go to church, but she refused because she was afraid the preacher might say something about death.

But on Easter Sunday, the boy heard the beautiful story of how Jesus rose from the dead. He hurried home with a shining face and cried out, "Mother, you don't need to be afraid of dying anymore. Jesus went through the grave and left a light behind Him. The mother's heart was touched.

That night she heard her boy praying, "Lord, make my mother a Christian." His prayer was answered. Soon the mother went to church and came to know Christ as her Savior.

Jesus' words should guide us every day. Hallelujah! Amen!

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