

No One Cares for Me
Like Jesus

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

*I would love to tell you what I think of Jesus
Since I found in Him a friend so strong and true;
I would tell you how He changed
my life completely—
He did something that no other friend could do.*

*No one ever cared for me like Jesus;
There's no other friend so kind as He;
No one else could take the sin and
darkness from me—
O how much He cared for me!*

“No One Ever Cared for Me Like Jesus.” Charles Weigle wrote this song many years ago. He was a traveling evangelist with a wife and child. After one trip, he came home to find a note from his wife. Tired of their life, she left him and took their child with her.

Dr. Lee Robinson of the Tennessee Temple gave Mr. Weigle a little room near his office and

helped him recover from the devastating turn his life had taken. Later, Mr. Weigle wrote this great song.

It's a song that always gets me crying—crying because this was a dear, dear man of God. His wife left him for the world, but this song became Charles Weigle's testimony.

Oh, how God cares for us! I could have a revival if we just sang that song fifteen or twenty times and then dismissed the service. Real songs, when you allow them to penetrate your heart, are more than just words that you sing. Anyone can just sing a song and do a beautiful job of it, too.

But when we let a song like this penetrate our hearts, we end up very broken before God. These songs warm our hearts with the love of God. My prayer is that the words of this booklet will pierce your heart in the same way. God loves you so very much. May you really recognize today that *no one* cares for you like Jesus.

Chapter One

SET YOUR LOVE UPON HIM

“And he said, A certain man had two sons:

“And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.

“And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

“And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.

“And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

“And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

“And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have

bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

“I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

“And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

“And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

“And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

“But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:

“And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry:

“For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry” (Luke 15:11-24).

“Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.

“He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver

him, and honour him.

“With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation” (Psalm 91:14-16).

The Word of God says, “Because he hath set his love upon me....” Point to yourself and say that out loud: “Because I have set my love upon Him....” What a tremendous passage. It overwhelms me to think that God will deliver us when we set our love upon Him. Beyond that, He will set us on high because we know His nature of love, mercy, truth, forgiveness, kindness, and gentleness. We call and He answers and is with us in the midst of trouble. He delivers us with honor.

A person could be on “skid row,” living like hell, but if he sets his love upon God, he will be delivered and honored. This message is not so much for the non-Christian; rather, it goes out to backslidden Christians.

God has a word for you who are backslidden. He says, “If you have failed, but you keep setting your love on Me, then I will deliver you in honor. I will make honor out of that dishonor. I will bring grace out of that disgrace. I will establish love out of your mess.”

Born-again Christians are blood-bought and brought into God's family through regeneration

and the new birth. Once you have received Christ as your Savior, you should make a public declaration by getting baptized. Baptism never saves anyone, but Jesus still tells us to do it. We should do it because of what it means in our obedience to God and His Word.

“For I have said, Mercy shall be built up for ever: thy faithfulness shalt thou establish in the very heavens” (Psalm 89:2).

A Son Takes a Bad Turn

The son in Luke 15 was troubled and bored, so he went to his father and said, “Give me my portion.” People always want their portion. “Give me what is mine. This is what I deserve. If my brother gets this, then I should get this.” There are problems in families with wealth because of the divisions it can create. Someone dies and then there are all kinds of heartaches after a month or two because people get upset about who got what. Everyone wants his portion.

This son got what was his and took a journey into a far country. Oh, those journeys into far countries—the drugs, the alcohol, the immorality, the homosexuality. People journey into far countries and it breaks your heart to see it happen. There, in the far country, the son wasted

his portion. He spent all his money in riotous living and was left with nothing. Then came a famine to the land, and he began to be in want.

Oh, the famine that can take place in our hearts if we are not careful. Our hearts begin to draw away from God. Yet, God never leaves us. Thank Him!

Draw Near To God

“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded” (James 4:8).

The Christian's heart draws away from God because there is a famine in his heart and his mind is in a far country. Oh, the way a famine can make a person think, “Church is just not the same.” Why? A famine in the heart has taken place. His mind has wandered far away from God's country of grace and mercy and truth and love. The son begins to be in want.

I don't care who you are, you cannot continue in sin against God if you are really saved and truly born again. You will find yourself in want. The famine will spread while you are in that far country. Your riotous living will get to you. You will go with your friends and waste some of your money instead of giving it to mis-

sions. You will have to go and waste that substance, and you can do that, but you will be in want.

And that want grows deeper and deeper.

Notice, the son joined himself to a citizen of that far country. That citizen gave him a job feeding pigs. But the want was still there. It just got deeper. It hit him in the belly, and he longed to eat the husks that he was slopping out for the pigs to eat. He gladly would have eaten the pig food, but none would feed it to him. Ultimately, the son did reach bottom. He came to the end of himself.

Secret sins and iniquity will wear out the backslider until he realizes something. The son realized that he had a home. "My father has hired servants. They have bread to spare, and I am out here with nothing and no one. I am in this far country. I am so empty and so hungry. This kind of life is not worth living. I will arise and go to my father and say, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before you. I am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.' "

He arose, and he went to his father. I love the next part of the story. I love it because it reminds me of that song, "No One Ever Cared for Me

Like Jesus.” The father saw the son afar off.
Don't ever forget it.

Chapter Two

JUST COME TO THE LIGHT

Where did the son go? Afar off. Where was it? A far country. What happened? He wasted his substance. What came next? A famine. What happened after that? He began to be in want. What did that lead to? Unbelievable conviction. And his conviction led to a measure of condemnation. He was beginning to make right decisions, so his convictions did not have to bring condemnation. But at this point, he didn't know his father's nature and he didn't know God's nature. God sets us high above condemnation when we know His nature.

The father ran to the son, fell on his neck, and kissed him again and again. The son tried to make a confession. The father, instead, called to his servant, "Bring my son the best robe, bring him the ring, bring him some shoes. Kill the fatted calf and let us make merry. My son was lost, but now he is found; he was dead, but

now he is alive again.”

That is God's love for the backslider.

“For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light” (Psalm 36:9).

I love this so much! Within us is the fountain of life, and in God's light we get more light. Luke 8 tells us to take heed how we hear. To him who has, more shall be given. Keep getting more light from God. The entrance of God's words brings in the light. God's light will love you. God's light will bless you.

Get Light and Then Get More Light

I thank God for those in our church who come out to three services, week in and week out. These folks just keep getting more light.

It doesn't matter what your heartache is. God's light will chase the darkness away and expose it. When you flip the switch as you enter a dark room, the light takes over and controls the darkness. It pierces through the shadows.

Draw near to God's light. Draw near to God's love and God's mercy. He is waiting to kiss you again and again, just as the father kissed the prodigal son. He is waiting to have a celebration on your behalf. No one cares for you like He does.

“Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings. Behold, we come unto thee; for thou art the LORD our God” (Jeremiah 3:22).

The backslider's problem is that he has been drawn away into darkness and away from the light. He is occupied totally with himself. He falls into famine. He is wandering in a far country. We don't have to go that way. I plead with you! Don't go that route. Don't be distracted into a far country.

No one will ever care for you like Jesus. He is just waiting for you to step toward Him.

CONCLUSION

I was part of a revival years ago, my first evangelistic tour. And I can remember that first time that I preached on the unconditional love of God. I had been a legalistic preacher. Someone told me that, and he was right.

That night, things changed. I realized something from this Book. I understood something from the Bible. I finally understood just how much God cares for each of us. There was a long period of silent prayer at the end of that evening, then we closed with singing. What rejoicing we had. We were all enjoying the great love of God.

Just consider that song by Charles Weigle one more time as we finish these thoughts:

*I would love to tell you what I think of Jesus
Since I found in Him a friend so strong and true;
I would tell you how He changed
my life completely—*

He did something that no other friend could do.

*All my life was full of sin when Jesus found me;
All my heart was full of misery and woe;
Jesus placed His strong and loving arms around me,
And He led me in the way I ought to go.*

*Every day He comes to me with new assurance,
More and more I understand His words of love;
But I'll never know just why He came to save me,
Till some day I see His blessed face above.*

*No one ever cared for me like Jesus;
There's no other friend so kind as He;
No one else could take the sin and
darkness from me—
O how much He cared for me!*