

General Topics :: How Ten Shekels and a Shirt Came To Be?

How Ten Shekels and a Shirt Came To Be? - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2008/4/9 12:06

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In over fifty years of Bible teaching and preaching "Ten Shekels and a Shirt" is the only message that I feel constrained to explain how it came to be preached.

During a Bethany Fellowship Summer Conference in the mid sixties I was preparing to speak at the Tuesday morning Bible hour. Upon returning to my room after breakfast to meditate and pray about the message for that morning hour, I felt strangely impressed that I could not deliver the message that had been prepared for the session. Instead, I felt that there was some other message that was needed which I was to bring.

After prayer, the message that came to mind was one which I had begun preparation for the ministry at the church in New York City of which I was pastor at that time. My notes were not with me, but were in a file folder in my study. An empty envelope was on the desk in my room, on the back of which I wrote the scripture texts to be used and one or two ideas that came to mind. With the envelope in my Bible marking Judges, Chapter 17, and my self utterly cast upon the Lord, I went to the auditorium where between four and five hundred people waited to hear from the Lord through me.

I remember praying, "This morning I am utterly cast upon You because I am not really prepared." In my heart I seemed to hear His response, "Well is that so bad, already" (being from New York City it was given in a idiom I would understand.)

I delivered the message and gave an invitation. Shortly the altar across the front of the auditorium was filled with broken people seeking God.

The summer conference was soon over and I returned to New York City and the ministry there.

About ten years later, one of the Bethany Fellowship staff was in Washington, D.C., where we had moved and from where we still minister. His word was, "Paris, I want to tell you that God has repeatedly used your messages, but the exact message itself was preached only that once.

A week or two later Harry Conn from Rockford, Illinois was in Washington. He invited me to have dinner with him. In the course of the meal he said, "I buy that message of yours 'Ten Shekels and a Shirt' by the dozen to give people. God is really using it in lives." My response was that if you have a copy, I would like to have it sent to me so that I can find out what it is I have said. In a few days the cassette arrived.

Since I don't have a tape player in my office, I put the tape into the Sony dictating machine on my desk and listened through the little playback on the hand-held microphone. The element of distance in terms of time, and the distorted sound through the miniature speaker, let me listen to the message with no real awareness of who was speaking. From time to time I felt like exclaiming, "That's right! I wish I had said that!"

Then it dawned on me that it was my voice, but God was speaking through me. I realized that on a Tuesday morning during a summer conference, God had been able to get His message across because of my utter and complete helplessness. Here it is, just as the Lord gave it.

Paris Reidhead

Re: How Ten Shekels and a Shirt Came To Be? - posted by tjservant (), on: 2008/4/9 12:12

So glad you posted this Greg. I remember reading it for the first time. It hit nearly as hard as the sermon itself.

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2008/4/10 21:30

Very inspiring, Greg. Thanks for posting 'the rest of the story'. I, too, have been blessed listening to this sermon.

God bless..
ginnyrose

Re: timely - posted by destinysweet (), on: 2008/4/10 21:52

Love reading how God speaks to these wonderful saints..it comforts me to hear Paris talk about hearing from the Holy Spirit in his own idioms, revealing the true nature of our friendship with Jesus..somewhat relaxed and without stiff formality.

The original sermon you posted, Greg, was so timely..I was counseling a sister, who'd come over for a few hours..she is desiring a closer walk with Jesus..when she was going out the door I felt this desire to qualify the reasons or motives that needed to be in the forefront ..but decided it was too big to begin trying to give her since she was already one foot out the door..I made a mental note to bring it up when we began our next time together ,hoping I could present the concepts I realized might be difficult to get across..then I came on site, you'd posted this sermon..Yea! I'd share this with her..thanks Lord Jesus!

Re: How Ten Shekels and a Shirt Came To Be? - posted by ccchhhrrriiss (), on: 2008/4/10 22:11

Thanks Greg!

This is such an interesting story about this life changing message! As often as I have heard it, I have been challenged and heart-struck.

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