

A Husbands Challenge



On the fourth anniversary of their wedding day, a young wife said to her husband: "I have been a very happy woman for four years; if only one thing else could be true, I would be the happiest woman in the world."

"Well," he said, "what is it? I would do anything for you."

"If only you were a Christian," she replied.

"Are you a Christian?" said the young husband.

"Yes," came the answer.

"Well, I didn't know it," he remarked; and then, after a pause, he put his astonished wife through a series of questions:

"Do you swear?"

"No."

"Neither do I," he responded.

"You don't steal?" he queried.

"No, of course not."

"Neither do I."

"You don't gamble?"

"Of course I don't."

"Neither do I," said he.

"You don't get drunk?"

"Why do you ask such questions? Of course I don't."

"I don't either," he again responded.

"Now," he said, "you drink wine at receptions?"

"Yes, out of courtesy to the hostess."

"I do too," he added.

"You go to see movies? I do too."

"You play cards, don't you?"

"Where's the harm in that? I play of course."

"I do too."

"You dance, don't you?"

"Certainly!" she said, "there's no harm in dancing. I love it. I dance, of course I do."

"Well," said her husband, "I do too."

"Now," said he, "if you'll show me the difference between the kind of life that you are living, and the kind I am living, I have no objection to becoming a Christian."

The young wife saw his point; and when her husband unexpectedly returned from an errand, he found her on her knees by the couch, her face buried in her hands, and she was weeping. He asked her to forgive him if he had hurt her feelings.

"No," she answered, "it is I who ought to ask your forgiveness and with God's help you shall have a different wife from this time on."

Fourteen months from that time this young man acknowledged at a meeting: "For four months I have been a Christian man, won to God by the earnest, consistent, beautiful life of my devoted wife."

My dear Christian friend, if the religion of the Lord Jesus Christ does not make any difference between the life you are living and the life of your unconverted spouse, it isn't worth recommending to anyone.

Many years ago, among the Alps in Switzerland, stood a towering peak, called the "Rossberg." At the foot of one side, which was nearly perpendicular, there nestled a little village. Just below this, was one of those blue mountain lakes, so common in Switzerland. Some of the people thought part of the mountain might fall some day, so an officer was sent to examine and report on it. He stopped at the hotel, and every day for a week, with pick and shovel and hammer, he climbed and dug and examined. At last he had the people all called together, when he said to them: "I am an officer sent here by the government to examine this mountain. I find that the top of it is composed of separate boulders, resting on a foundation of gravel. One of these days it will fall! And the wisest thing you can do is to move away. Good-bye."

Of course the people were much alarmed at the message, and hardly dared to stay. Some moved to another village.

But it did not fall immediately, and soon people laughed at their fears, for the mountain still stood – days, weeks, months and years rolled by, and it still stood. Old men and women died and were buried. Strange children played in the streets and all went on as usual. The officer and his message were nearly forgotten.

But one night, nineteen years after the warning, with an awful roar the mountain fell, burying the village and half choking up the little lake. Very few escaped.

Now, dear friend, has this no warning voice for you? You are living in a scene which has been solemnly threatened with the judgments of God. "But the Heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men... But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the Heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat; and the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." II Peter 3:7,10.

God has set the very day! "He hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that Man whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead." Acts 17:31.

All of a sudden, like a thief, it will be here!

There is only one way of escape. Jesus died on the Cross of shame for you, and you must flee to Him by faith.

"Christ bore God's judgment, poor sinners to save."

I've forgotten where I read the story of the "Rossberg." But I cannot forget the still more solemn warnings, of still more judgments in God's Word. Mighty men will soon be calling for mountains and rocks to fall on them, to hide them from the wrath of the Lamb.