The text for this message today is found in John 15:15-27. The Relationship Fellowship, and Companionship that is available in Christ Jesus our Lord, has been the subject of consideration in the first part of this chapter. The reaction to this teaching will determine greatly the output in our lives as Christians, as well as the rewards that can be received in eternity. The Revelation of the truths that we'll notice in this message today will enlighten us a little more about our New Life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In this message we'll notice the following main points or areas.

I. THE NEW INTIMACY BELIEVERS CAN REJOICE IN.

II. THE NATURAL INVIDIAUS BEHAVIOUR THAT WILL BE REVEALED.

III. THE NEEDED INDWELLER BELIEVERS WILL RECEIVE.

I. THE NEW INTIMACY BELIEVERS CAN REJOICE IN.

This is seen in John 15:15-17. First, we notice the friendship that they will enjoy. John 15:15 declares, "HENCEFORTH I CALL YOU NOT SERVANTS: FOR THE SERVANT KNOWETH NOT WHAT HIS LORD DO-

writer meant in Prov. 18:24 when he stated, "A MAN THAT HATH FRIENDS MUST SHEW HIM--SELF FRIENDLY: AND THERE IS A FRIEND THAT STICKETH CLOSER THAN A BROTHER." That friend is Jesus. My -- what a com-

PASTOR RESIGNS

As most of you know by now, Bro. Glen Tropp has resigned as Pastor of the Grace Missionary Baptist Church in Houston, Texas. He is now the Pastor of the Sharon Missionary Baptist Church in Benton, Ark. The Grace Church voted to continue the Sounding Out The Word Ministries Program. They have asked Bro. Tropp to continue to edit the paper until they get a New Pastor. Continue to pray for this church and this ministry. Grace has called Bro. Charles Swilling as their New Pastor and he has accepted the work effective April 6, 1981.
panion! A true conception of this reality will cause the child of God to always have something to rejoice about. Notice also Prov. 17:17.

In the second place, we notice the FRUITFULNESS that they will EXEMPLIFY. This is declared in John 15:16: "YE HAVE NOT CHOS EN ME, BUT I HAVE CHOS EN YOU, AND ORDAINED YOU THAT YE SHOULD GO AND BRING FORTH FRUIT, AND THAT YOUR FRUIT SHOULD REMAIN: THAT WHATSOEVER YE SHALL ASK OF THE FATHER IN MY NAME, HE MAY GIVE IT YOU." Yes, as a result of having such a vital relationship and intimate fellowship with Jesus, we'll be motivated to do the things that He would have us to do--thus we'll be exemplifying the fruits of the Spirit.

Thirdly, we notice the FEELING that they should EXPRESS. This is seen in John 15:17: "These things I command you, that ye love one another." As a result of this great and glorious friendship, we'll see the extreme importance of love in our lives and we'll have a desire to express this characteristic toward others. Love is the cure for so many of the ills that plague our society, churches and relationships with others. We're talking about the Love of God that's been shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost. Romans 5:5.

II. THE NATURAL INVIDIOUS BEHAVIOUR THAT WILL BE REVEALED.

This deals with the treatment that you'll receive as a result of the connection you have with Jesus Christ. First notice the REACTION of the world toward believers. John 15:18 declares: "IF THE WORLD HATE YOU, YE KNOW THAT IT HATED ME BEFORE IT HATED YOU." The intimate fellowship that you enjoy with Jesus and the results of this friendship which issue in joy, peace, love etc., in your life, will cause others to be envious of you, therefore they will dislike you and as the text states, they will hate you and in many instances seek to hurt and hinder you.

In the second place we are given the REASON for this treatment. John 15:19 states, "IF YE WERE OF THE WORLD, THE WORLD WOULD LOVE HIS OWN: BUT BECAUSE YE ARE NOT OF THE WORLD BUT I HAVE CHOS EN YOU OUT OF THE WORLD, THEREFORE THE WORLD HATETH YOU." Thirdly, Jesus points out the REAL proof of the matter in John 15:20-25. "REMEMBER THE WORD THAT I SAID UNTO YOU, THE SERVANT IS NOT GREATER THAN HIS LORD. IF THEY HAVE PERSECUTED ME, THEY WILL ALSO PERSECUTE YOU: IF THEY HAVE KEPT MY SAYING, THEY WILL KEEP YOURS ALSO. BUT ALL THESE THINGS WILL THEY DO UNTO YOU FOR MY NAME'S SAKE: BECAUSE THEY KNOW NOT HIM THAT SENT ME. IF I HAD NOT COME AND SPOKEN UNTO THEM, THEY HAD NOT HAD SIN: BUT NOW THEY HAVE NO CLOKE FOR THEIR SIN: HE THAT HATETH ME HATETH MY FATHER ALSO. IF I HAD NOT DONE AMONG THEM THE WORKS NONE OTHER MAN DID, THEY HAD NOT HAD SIN: BUT NOW HAVE THEY BOTH SEEN AND HATED BOTH ME AND MY FATHER. BUT THIS COMETH TO PASS, THAT THE WORD MIGHT BE FULFILLED THAT IS WRITTEN IN THEIR LAW, THEY HATED ME WITHOUT A CAUSE."

Jesus came to reveal to man his real need. When you really get to the root of the matter - you'll experience several reactions. If one will admit, confess, and do, they will develop a love and appreciation for you. If one will not admit their wrongs and confess their sins, you're in for it. It may take some time, but brother, they'll get you. The shamefulness of it all many times is that they do all of this ignorantly - and of course sometimes knowingly. They are being motivated by the devil.

Some will simply run away from the problem. This does not necessarily mean that all who leave are running, but God knows - and we need to learn that truth.

III. THE NECESSARY INDWELLER BELIEVERS WILL RECEIVE.

This is seen in John 15:26.

"But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: and ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning."

Let us notice first in this section the Holy Spirit's overall job to humanity. He's the Reestrainer - II Thess. 2:6-7; Reprover -John 16:8; and Revealer John 16:14.

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EYES TO SEE . . .

"While ye have light, believe in the light." (John 12:36).

E RROORS breed under poor light." Runs the advertisement of a great lighting company. It continues, "Good lighting promotes accuracy, reduces accidents, and decreases spoilage.

Is there not a spiritual parallel? What advantages are enjoyed by those who "walk in the light, as he is in the light" (I John 1:7a)? As a consequence, they "have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus cleanseth from all sin" (vs. 7b).

Walking in the light is clearly shown as the condition which insures continuous cleansing.

—Gospel Banner.

"As Thy Days"

W HEN I was a little boy, I helped my mother store away apples. I put my little arms around so many of them and tried to carry them. I managed for a step or two. Then out fell one, and another, and two or three more, till they were all rolling around on the floor. Mother laughed. She put my tiny hands tightly around one apple and told me to carry that and then bring another.

Do not try to put your arms around a year or even a week. Say, "Here is another day begun. Lord, help me to live it for Thee. Give me just for to-day the help, patience, diligence, wisdom, tact, and strength that I need."

—H. P. Barker.

EARS TO HEAR . . .
MINISTRY OF MUSIC

In your leisure moments, spiritual growth can sometimes be indicated through the melodies you sing, hum or whistle to yourself. Are they the secular tunes, as well as the commercial ditties which actually do nothing to elevate the soul? While riding along on a train, a little boy’s singing of a familiar Sunday school chorus spoke to the heart of the drunken, father of Joseph Parker. The man never drank again, saving the money to send his brilliant son to college. Later he became one of the most successful preachers of the Gospel message. While ploughing in a field, a Christian farmer sang at the top of his melodious voice. A mother, in despair, standing on the bridge of a nearby river, was kept from committing suicide. Her preacher son was used of the Lord to turn multitudes to Christ. He declared, “All that I am for God I owe to that humble Christian plowman who sang the praises of the Lord as he did his mental task.” It may seem that there may not be much you can do today. You may feel that what you have to offer the Lord is valueless and that no one even knows that you are around. God says, however, that a merry heart doeth good like a medicine. So may you and I be found, “Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

WALK IN THE LIGHT

In some remote sections of the Orient, where electricity is still unknown, natives use tiny lamps in the loss of their shoes. This provides just enough light to relieve darkness along the way, allowing them to walk from place to place seeing the pathway ahead. What a practical illustration for us as God’s children. We are told to “Walk in the light, even as He is in the light.” For “In Him is no darkness at all.” If life is confusing, perplexing and frustrating, if we cannot see the Lord’s clear hand of guidance, we may be out of fellowship with God. Conscious-known sin will keep one from living in the light of the Savior’s presence. Repentance and confession brings God’s forgiveness and will restore His light to our pathway. Obedience to the Lord’s known will keeps that light burning. Don’t let some transgression blow it out.

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In connection with the believer, we notice the following areas of His Ministry. He dwells in all believers. This is seen in John 14:17. “Even the Spirit of Truth whom the world cannot receive because it seeth Him not neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.” Also notice the following scriptures which prove this declaration.

ROMANS 8:9 “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ he is none of His.”

I COR. 3:16 “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you.”

I COR. 6:19 “What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?”

The Holy Spirit also bears witness as declared in the following verses of scripture.

ROMANS 8:16 “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our Spirit that we are the children of God.”

GAL. 4:6 “And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His sons into your hearts, crying Abba, Father.”

The Holy Spirit teaches us notice the following scriptures.

JOHN 14:26 “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

I JOHN 2:27 “But the anointing which ye have receive of Him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you, but as the same anointing teacheth you all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you ye shall abide in Him.”

The Holy Spirit also leads us. He does this by guiding unto all truth - John 16:13 “Howbeit when He, the Spirit of TRUTH IS COME, HE WILL GUIDE YOU UNTO ALL TRUTH: FOR HE SHALL NOT SPEAK OF HIMSELF: BUT WHATSOEVER HE SHALL HEAR, THAT SHALL HE SPEAK, AND HE WILL GIBE YOU THINGS TO COME.” He leads us also in the sense of controlling the movements of the Saved. This is taught in precept and by example in Acts 10-19-20. “While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto Him, Behold, three men seek thee. Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them doubting nothing: for I have sent them.” He leads us by directing in the selection of Christian leaders. Notice Acts 13:2 “As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.”

Now, let us notice some general statements about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of life - to overcome the Self-life. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God - in contrast to the impotence and incompetence of man. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit in contrast to the flesh. He is the atmosphere in which the child of God is to live. He is the medium through which we have fellowship with the Lord and each other. As the sap is the uniting power which unites every part of the tree, so the Spirit is the uniting power which enables believers to be of one accord with each other. The Holy Spirit is the in-let to the fullness of the glorified one. He is the secret worker who leads us into the fullness of the living Christ, and makes true, in our experience, what is true for us in Him.

The Holy Spirit is the safe-guarder of the Christian workers in life and labours. He makes the message of the gospel effective through the believers life. I Thess. 1:5 “For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance as we know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.” He gives joy amid suffering and makes affliction a means of gladness.

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ness - I Thess. 1:6 "AND YE BE-
CAME FOLLOWERS OF US AND OF THE LORD, HAVING RECEIVED THE WORD IN MUCH AFFLICTION, WITH JOY OF THE HOLY GHOST." He guards us by his presence - I Thess. 4:8 "He there fore that despiseth, despisethnot man, but God, who hath also given unto us His Holy Spirit." He also reminds us we are not to quench any flame which He has kindled in another. "QUENCH NOT THE SPIRIT." I Thess. 5:19

It's wonderful to know that you and I can be acquainted with and identified with the Holy One of the Ages, the Lord Jesus, and even though we are hindered, and find many opponents in our Christian pilgrimage, we have a Helper, that is certainly capable of giving us the victory if we simply learn how to follow his direction.

**Prayer — The Foundation For Church Growth**

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BEHOLD HOW JESUS LOVES

D. B. WRIGHT

TEXT: JOHN 11:32-46

INTRODUCTION:
A. Jesus is Love's Gift to mankind and for mankind. John 3:16
B. Jesus is the very essence of Love.
C. Jesus' death on Calvary is the superlative expression of His Love for Lost Sinners!
D. One of the sweetest expressions of His love that I have ever read, "He, such as He is, loved me, such as I am." C.H. Spurgeon
E. If the unbelieving Jews recognized His love for another how much more do those who have experienced it recognize it.
F. The more one knows Jesus and His love the more one cries out with Paul... "May be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height. And to know the Love of Christ which passeth knowledge..." Eph. 3:18-19a

I. BEHOLD THE MARVEL OF HIS LOVE FOR US.
A. No one ever has expressed it more correctly than the apostle Paul.
   1. I Timothy 1:15
   2. Gal. 2:20
   3. I Tim. 1:13a
B. Why did Jesus love mankind?
   1. Rom. 3:11b
   2. Isa. 53:6
   3. Rom. 3:23
   4. The very best of the men of God have cried out.
      a. Isa. 6:5a
      b. Rom. 7:14b
      c. I John 1:8
C. Marvel of marvels; wonder of wonders, that Jesus loves us.

II. BEHOLD THE ORIGIN OF HIS LOVE FOR MANKIND.
A. His love is 'SELF-CREATED' and SELF-SUSTAINED.
   1. Christ's love for mankind was not based on our love for Him.
   2. His love is not based on our feelings for Him.
   3. His love for us is not based on our spirituality.
   4. His love for us is not based on our achievements (spiritually or morally.)
   5. His love for us is not based on our personality.
   6. His love for us is not based on our faithfulness.
   7. His love for mankind is not dependent on our service.
B. God is Love! Jesus is God! Jesus Loves because He is Love.
   1. He had compassion on the multitudes of lost people because He is love.
   2. He had compassion on the blind beggar who sat by the road way expecting alms and had nothing to return...because Jesus is Love.
   3. He save the dying criminal and gave him the sweetest assurance mortal ears have ever heard because...He is Love and loves for Loves sake.
C. Behold How He Loves and Why He Loves!
   1. He loves for the right reasons.
   2. He loves with the right motives.
   3. His love is not measured by ribbons and bows, diamonds, and inheritance.
D. Someone has expressed it like this.
   1. Nothing between but love.
   2. This is based on Scripture which include words like these.
      a. He loved him. Text
      b. He love me. Gal. 2:20
      c. He love them. John 13:1

III. BEHOLD THE DURATION OF HIS LOVE - JOHN 13:1
A. He, as He is, loves people, as they are.
   1. He loved followers whom He rebuked many times with these words, "O Ye Of Little Faith."
   2. He loved the egotistical who sought the most prominent positions in His future Kingdom.
   3. He loved those who were hasty to "call fire down from heaven and consume" His enemies.
   4. He loved those who were weak.
   5. He loved one whom He called Satan.
   6. He loved those who slept while He prayed in agony.
   7. He loved those who out of fear for their physical lives "forsook Him and fled" in the hour of His betrayal and arrest.
   8. He loved and prayed for that one who cursed and denied Him and laid down His cross and returned to his ship and nets.

IV. BEHOLD THE NATURE OF HIS LOVE!
A. He loves eternally.
   1. He loves before one is saved.
   2. He loves in good times.
   3. He loved them to the end.
B. His Love is IMMUTABLE.
   1. Unchangeable.
   2. Everlasting.
C. His love for us is MATCHLESS.
D. His love is IMMEASURABLE.
E. His Love COVERS.
WHY ARE YOU HERE?

GEORGE CRAWFORD

Text: Matt. 26:50

Introduction:
This was the last night Jesus spent upon the earth before He was crucified. It was a busy night - a weary night - but all events on that evening were of utmost importance. While Jesus was praying and sweating drops of bloody sweat - Judas was leading the mob to the place of the prayer meeting. (Wonder what those followers really thought of Judas? Did this angry mob love him - talk about what a fine fellow he really is?) According to their arrangement - Judas had said - Vs 48 (notice the foolishness of words - hold etc). Jesus' question becomes our text - why are you here. Why attend S.S. - BTM - worship - any religious gathering? May this message cause each of us to THINK! Let us notice some motives.

I. WHY SOME ATTEND.
A. Some attend their place of worship because of fear.
1. Afraid of what priest - preacher - or people will say. Some of course are taught that the priest has their destiny in his hands - better confess up - pray up - pay up - or he will consign them to torment.
2. Some use another method of fear - if I take not the sacrilege each Lord's day - I'll be lost all week & eternity.
3. Bible puts it this way "Fear not him that is able.
4. When people quit fearing - quit serving - if serving out of motive of fear.
B. Some are motivated by DUTY.
1. Good to feel a personal responsibility to the duty the church has elected you to.
2. If you meet that class - sing in the choir - just out of duty, when you no longer feel that duty - you quit.
3. Known parents who raised children - provided a better term - for their children just out of a sense of DUTY.
4. When that duty was no longer there - either separated or lived together miserably.

C. Some motivated by profit.
1. Why Judas was "here" - 30 pieces of silver.
2. Did you know some join largest church of their choice because of profit for their business?
3. When church is no longer profitable to their business they quit being "here" or "there" - this is a very selfish motive - Not what can I get out of it, but what can I put in it.

II. WHY SHOULD I BE HERE?
A. The lasting motive is LOVE. "If ye Love Me - what words!"
1. Without love - may speak like Apollos an eloquent man & mighty in the scriptures (Acts 18:24) - become as sounding brass (little tin horn) - clanging cymbal.
2. Without love - may sing like angels did at creation. That too will be sounding brass & tinkling cymbals
4. Love never fails, it endureth all things.
5. I Cor. 13:4-7.
B. Love is the Word - Love is the motive for serving Christ.
1. Love will make the young Christian "be here" - it will make the growing Christian "be here". It will make the mature Christian "be here". If you are complaining you are not loving.
2. We will be here because we LOVE Jesus, His Word, His People, love to pray and be prayed for, and are also loved by GOD'S PEOPLE.

III. HOW CAN I HAVE THIS LOVE?
A. Begins with the new birth - born from above.
1. Like begats like. When you are born from above you receive a nature like God's nature. The "Love of God" is shed abroad.
2. You received a nature you did not have before. Jesus said to the unsaved Jew, "I know you, you have not.
B. I have been born again. Why don't I love like I should?
1. Love must be EXERCISED, EXPRESSED, CULTIVATED.
2. Every child of God has this love, but not all express it, exercise it, and cultivate it. It is like having a bright shiny new automobile. You keep it polished, show it to friends, full of oil & gas, and call a taxi instead of using your new car.
C. How can I exercise this love of God?
   By Doing Good
1. Pray often enough - learn to enjoy praying.
2. Give often enough - learn to enjoy giving.
3. Read & Study your Bible often enough 
   Learn to enjoy it.
4. Attend services enough - learn to 
   enjoy it. What services do you 
   not attend? You say you don't 
   enjoy it - some do - WHY?
5. Too many exercise LOVE just enough 
   to be miserable.
6. PUT CHRISTIANITY INTO PRACTICE & YOU 
   WILL ENJOY IT.

Conclusion: So, Friend, why are we here?
A. What is your motive
B. My appeal to you is let Jesus come into 
   your life. Let him be Boss as well as 
   the Savior.
C. Railroad engineer saved and joined a 
   church. He asked "What are my orders?"
D. Dying engineer with clutched paper in 
   a wreck said "Somebody gave me the 
   wrong orders."

A NEW BEGINNING

by
JOHNNY WILLIAMS

TEXT: Genesis 13:1-4

INTRODUCTION:
A. Review the setting of Genesis 12.
B. Let's all start this New Year with:

I. A NEW LIFE.
A. John 1: 12-13, "But as many as received 
   Him, to them gave He power to become 
   the Sons of God, even to them that 
   believe on His Name: which were born 
   not of blood nor of the will of the 
   flesh, nor of the will of man, but of 
   God."
B. Commanded by Christ - John 3:3.
C. Obtained by faith - Eph. 2:8-9.
D. At the moment of repentance-Lk. 13:1-5.

II. A NEW LOVE.
A. For Christ - Eph. 6:24, "Grace be with 
   all them that love our Lord Jesus 
   Christ in sincerity.
B. For Christians - I Thess. 3:12, "And 
   the Lord make you to increase and 
   abound in love one toward another, and 
   toward all men, ever as we do toward 
   you."
C. For the Church - Psa. 84:10, "For a day

in thy courts is better than a thousand. 
I had rather be a door keeper in the 
house of my God, than to dwell in the 
tents of wickedness."

III. A NEW LOYALTY.
A. To a walk - Col. 2:6, "As ye have 
   therefore received Christ Jesus the 
   Lord, so walk ye in Him."
   Eph. 4:16, "Walk worthy of the vocation 
   wherewith ye are called."
B. To a warfare - I Tim. 6:12, "Fight the 
good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal 
life, wherein thou art also called 
and hast professed a good profession 
before many witnesses."
   Also Eph. 6:12.

IV. A NEW LANGUAGE.
A. Pure - Tit. 2:8, "Sound speech that 
cannot be condemned."
B. Polite - I Peter 2:1, "Wherefore laying 
   aside all malice, and all guile, and 
hypocracies, and envies, and all evil 
   speakings."
C. Praising - Heb. 13:15, "By whom therefore 
   let us offer the sacrifice of praise to 
   God continually, that is, the fruit of 
   our lips, giving thanks to His Name."

V. A NEW LABEL.
A. Acts 11:26b, "And the disciples were 
   first called Christians in Antioch."
B. Reflects an attitude - a concern.
C. Reflects a goal - the converts.

VI. A NEW LEADERSHIP.
A. Acts 2:36, "Let all the house of 
   Israel know assuredly, that God hath 
   made that same Jesus whom ye have 
   crucified, both Lord and Christ.
B. Surrender to His rulership-Jn. 15:1-5
C. Surrender to His reasoning.

VII. A NEW LIBERTY.
A. II Cor. 3:17, "Now the Lord is that 
spirit: and where the Spirit of the 
   Lord is, there is liberty."
B. Let the Spirit of God reflect through 
you.
B. Let the Spirit of God release through 
you.
C. Let the Spirit of God reign through 
you.
D. He must be first Resident in you.
A FORMULA FOR PERSONAL WORK

MUNCY HARRIS

TEXT: John 4:3-39

INTRODUCTION:

A. In Christ's encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well of Sychar, He has set for us the supreme example in the "how to" of personal work.

B. Look with me into John chapter 4 beginning with verse 3 for the formula.

Please notice, as you read, the fact that Jesus had to overcome many difficulties in winning this woman. In verse 6 we find that He had to overcome the weariness of His body. Then in verse 9 we see that He had to overcome racial prejudice. Verses 10-14 indicate that He had to overcome the spiritual blindness of the woman. In verses 16-18 we find that He had to overcome the difficult nature of her sins. Verses 20-24 indicate false worship. Then in verses 25-26 we see that He had to overcome a lack of faith on the part of the woman. And, finally, He had to overcome the indifferency of His disciples in order to win this woman.

But, in spite of these difficult situations, the woman was saved! Jesus overcame these difficulties by practicing personal work in the midst of His daily activities. He was moved by an inner urge to witness to this woman. He took advantage of what appeared to be a small opportunity. He used a simple approach by drawing a parallel between her physical thirst and spiritual thirst. He did not argue with her but He led her to a recognition of her sins and thus showed her the need of a Saviour. Jesus not only won her to salvation but also to service, verse 39.

Many times in our soul winning efforts we also must overcome many difficulties before a person can be won to the Lord but Christ's example of endurance and patience should be an encouragement to each of us to "not become weary in well doing..."