



CLARION CALL

BY H. L. GREEN UNDER THE INSPIRATION OF
THE HOLY SPIRIT

SOUND THE ALARM: WAKE UP!

NEW BEGINNING & SHIFT WITHIN THE
BODY OF CHRIST

URGENT MESSAGE: RETURN TO GOD

It was a beautiful Sunday morning, with a warm breeze blowing, as people dressed in their Sunday best entered Selah Church to attend the 8:00 a.m. service. The choir could be heard outside as people approached the church. Ushers were holding the doors open for those entering as they showed them where to sit. Several men from security were directing the various cars to the parking lots down the street. People were talking while leaving their cars about the football game coming on at 1:30 p.m., where to eat after service, or why they were unable to attend Tuesday's prayer and Bible study. Some realized they had forgotten their Bibles, but remembered that Pastor John Doe's sermon message and reference scriptures would be shown on the projection screens.

On this particular Sunday, however, it would not be church as usual. A strange man was sitting on the sidewalk, directly across from the church, getting unwelcomed stares and finger pointing from people entering the church. Children were asking their parents, "What's wrong with that man? Why is he dressed like that? Why is he sitting out here?" Parents whispered and said "be quiet," while pulling their children closer and looking the other way as they entered the church. The man was sitting with his face between his knees moving

his mouth as if talking to himself or praying. Occasionally, he would lift up his head with an expression of sadness on his face, as he looked across the street at the church and the people entering. He appeared to be in his early 30's with thick brown hair, beard, and tanned complexion. He was wearing a green shirt, missing a couple of buttons, black jacket that was shabby looking and too big, black pants with brown patches, no socks, and black shoes with large holes on the side.

Around the corner from Selah Church lived a man named Gus, age 35. He had accepted Christ as his personal Savior a couple years ago, while visiting Selah Church, and joined immediately. He was on fire for the Lord reading his Bible daily, attending Tuesday's prayer/Bible study and classes at the Bible Institute. He also faithfully served on the evangelism outreach ministry. Gus was a man after God's heart. He looked forward to sharing the gospel and giving his personal testimony of being saved and delivered from a life of addictions, depression, and suicidal tendencies.

With Bible in his hand, Gus walked towards the church with expectancy in his heart, praising God and reciting the 23rd Psalm. As

Gus neared the church, he noticed the stranger sitting on the sidewalk and how people were staring and pointing at him as they walked by. Gus walked over to the man and asked, "Sir, are you okay?"



The stranger was surprised since everyone else just stared or crossed the street to avoid him. He spoke very softly. "I'm very grieved," he said.

Gus said, "Sorry to hear that. Please come join me across the street for service and afterwards allow me to take you to get something to eat so that we can talk about why you are so grieved."

The stranger replied, "I would love to go to church with you. However, I have tried to enter seven churches so far this morning and was either told to leave immediately or that I wasn't welcome inside. The church across the street was number seven."

Gus replied, "Why? Because of the way you are dressed?"

The stranger said, "I'm not sure as to why. The other six churches told me that I wasn't welcome. But, while inside Selah Church standing and praising God, two ushers came over to me and told me that I was too loud and disturbing other people as well as delaying the service from moving on. They said, if I didn't sit down and be quiet, that they would have to escort me out. This grieved me, so I left and came over here to sit down and pray that they would be forgiven for their actions. I have friends who had similar experiences and haven't attended church lately because they have not felt welcome. They also feel very uncomfortable with the stares and whispering that they have received because of their unkempt clothing. On occasion when they attended and sat down, a few people in the church would get up from their seats and sit elsewhere. Some people have even told them to move because they were sitting in the person's favorite seat." (*"Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it! ..."* Hebrews 13:2-3.) "Most of my friends are still hurt because, although their clothing isn't so-called 'Sunday best' their hearts were pure in searching for a church home with love, hope, and acceptance. I am praying that their faith will not cease and to not give up searching."

"Imagine if a farmer continually sold fruit with spots and blemishes from his harvest instead of fresh, ripe fruit. Would customers or wholesale food distributors come back for more? Therefore, if fruits of the Spirit is not shown in the children of God, how will souls be won and disciples made? My prayer is that the branches will abide with the vine to cultivate and bear fruit that will exemplify the love and compassion of Jesus Christ."

After the man spoke, Gus said, "I am touched by your words and saddened by what you and your friends have experienced from various churches worldwide. Especially the church across the street where I am a member. No church should judge, turn away, or show favoritism to anyone because of their clothing, prayers or worship to God." Gus then read James 2:2-4 to the stranger – *"...suppose someone comes into your church dressed in fancy clothes and expensive jewelry, and another comes in who is poor and dressed in dirty clothes. If you give special attention and a good seat to the rich person, but you say to the poor one, 'You can stand over there, or else sit on the floor'—well, doesn't this discrimination show that your judgments are guided by evil motives?"*

"Yes, I am familiar with that scripture," the man replied. The man then quoted the following scripture to Gus from when Jesus answered the Pharisees and their teachers of religious law: *"Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners and need to repent"* (Luke 5:31-32).

Gus tried once again to invite the man to go back inside Selah Church with him. He then reached for the stranger's arm to help him get up off the sidewalk. However, as he was reaching to help him, the stranger stood on his own. He was about 6' 8" - much taller than he looked while sitting down on the sidewalk curb. As Gus, who is 5' 8," looked up at him, the man began taking off his jacket and pulled back his shirt sleeves stretching out both of his arms towards him. Gus noticed the horrible scars on both of the stranger's wrists and wondered to himself if that was why the man wore a big black jacket over his shirt on such a warm day. All of a sudden, the man's clothing changed into a regal long white robe and his eyes were now shining as bright as the morning sun. Everything around them seemed to stop and Gus' heart burned as the stranger spoke to him now with a strong deep voice.

“My son, I have visited seven churches today and only you have reached out to me with love and compassion. Many churches are grieving the Holy Spirit, worshipping with their lips, but their hearts are far away. I look at the heart, while man is looking at outward appearances - titles, degrees, and positions. Many have turned away from me, forgetting their first love and what they have been called to do for the kingdom of God. The church has become rebellious and disobedient! They are offering strange (wrong, unholy) services and music to me that is self-serving. During these last days, I’m looking for someone to stand in the gap and warn the people as to the urgency of the day. My church has lost its focus on the Great Commission command to GO reach the lost and make disciples and love one another. They have become stagnant, lukewarm, and complacent. Just like it was up until the day Noah entered the ark, people are drinking and carrying on. While some churches are busy with conference meetings, itchy ear sermons, and competing for the largest membership/church. What good is light that stays inside instead of going where there is darkness? What good is salt when it loses its saltiness? There is sin in the church; some are strutting around with pride, arrogance, favoritism, jealousy - lovers of pleasure and money, while a multitude of souls are being neglected, hurt, discouraged and taken advantage of.”

“In these last days, I will pour out my Spirit on men and women alike—my sons and daughters will prophesy with boldness. Therefore, Gus, you are precious in my sight and have been chosen for a time such as this.”

Gus’ strength left him as he fell to his knees, weeping with his head to the ground.

“My son, I am giving you an urgent message to warn the Body of Christ.”

“Repent and Come Back to Me Now, While There is Still Time! Judgment Will Begin With the Family of God. A Shift Has Begun within the Body of Christ! Give Me Your Hearts! Return to Your First Love, the Lord Your God - For He is Gracious and Merciful. He is Not Easily Angered. He is Filled With Kindness and is Eager Not to Punish. Return to Me with the Fervent Prayer, Love and Work That You Had in the Beginning. Come Fasting, Weeping and Mourning. You Have Been Commanded to GO, Spread the Gospel and Reach the Lost! I Am Coming Back Quickly as a Thief in the Night – REPENT and Return to Me!”

Immediately, Gus’ strength returned to him. He stood up and looked around, realizing that he was now standing alone. He began to wonder if he had imagined all that he had seen and heard. But, he knew everything had happened just as he witnessed, because his heart still burned and he felt an urgent boldness within. He then crossed the street and rushed to the entrance of Selah Church to warn Pastor Doe and the congregation. As he opened the church door, he prayed that they would listen and take heed to the Lord’s warning of repentance while there is still time.

ARE YOU LISTENING?

"For the time has come for judgment, and it must begin first among God's own children. And if even we Christians must be judged, what terrible fate awaits those who have never believed God's Good News?" 1 Peter 4:17

"Repent; turn around and return to God, that your sins may be erased, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord" Acts 3:19

“,, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions. In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on servants — men and women alike” (Joel 2:28-29).

His servant,

H. L. Green

Email: hlgreen2000@yahoo.com

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