

From These to Those! #2

September 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you again for your prayers, kind encouraging words and contributions to this ministry. In July, I wrote about Jesus confronting Peter about lost sheep (those). This month I am using the confrontation of Jesus with the rich man and His Disciples listed in Mark 10 to show God's great love for lost humanity (those). God is NOT impressed with expensive religion: He is burdened with ministering to the hurting, the downcast, the guilty, the POOR!

*“And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth. Then Jesus beholding him **loved him** (the rich), and said unto him, **One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.** And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions. And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved? And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible. Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, **with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.**” (Mark 10:17-30)*

Jesus did not ask the rich man to give Him the money nor did He direct him to give it to His disciples or drop it in the temple collection box: He instructed this man to give his wealth to the poor. This man was a devout reverent (kneeling) Jew and was raised knowing and obeying the law of Moses but lacked the true meaning of God's love and concern for lost humanity. God sent (invested) His Son for lost humanity and proved that His interest is not in buildings and elaborate speeches. *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”* (John 3:16)

Jesus' dialogue with His disciples concerning riches caused them to be *“...astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved?”* Brothers and Sisters this shows how we humans can be devoted and even actively following Jesus BUT miss the true meaning of Christianity!! The Widow's two mites; a cup of cold water; a lad with loaves and fishes; a man in a ditch; a fatherless child; a neglected widow; an underserving human: all about true Christianity. What must we do to really inherit eternal life? Keep His commandments; including righteousness and display love and concern for others even though it will bring persecutions from the world, from family and from a lukewarm religious system of our day.

Our investment in others will not go unnoticed by God. Jesus declared to His shocked Disciples: *“There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold **now in this time**, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, **with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.**”* Give; and it shall be given unto you! Luke 6:38

Following Jesus is no luxurious lifestyle and will lead the true follower to the poor (in possessions and in spirit). Jesus did not have money to pay His tax; Jesus did not have anywhere

to lay His head; Jesus had to borrow a colt to ride on; Jesus left no money with His Disciples upon His departure; Jesus told this rich man: **One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.**

The Poor of this world along with the Fatherless and Widows have a special place in the heart of God and should have a special place in the hearts of His people!

*“Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, **to the poor the gospel is preached.**”* (Luke 7:22)

“And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house.” (Luke 19:5) *“And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, **the half of my goods I give to the poor;** and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.”* (Luke 19:8)

*“For some of them thought, because **Judas had the bag,** that Jesus had said unto him, Buy those things that we have need of against the feast; or, **that he should give something to the poor.**”* (John 13:29)

Brothers and Sisters do not forget about “those” as you pass through this life. Forget about a million dollar church building and give something to the poor! *“Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and **poor,** and blind, and naked:”* (Revelation 3:17) This was a church!!!!

Madagascar

Only 6.8% of Madagascar's fokontany (people) have access to clean and fresh water, the Islanders don't have money to keep their livestock clean and healthy because they barely have any money to do it for themselves. Madagascar is one of the world's poorest countries in the world. (80% live on less than \$2 a day)

Two dollars a day!



“And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing

every sickness and every disease among the people. (Success) But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. (Failure) Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; (Statistics) Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. (Remedy)” (Matthew 9:35-38)



“And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said,

*This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? **So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.**”* (Luke 12:15-21)

The greatest investment in this life is in souls (people) (rich and poor)!!! Jesus beholding him loved him!

Thank you for caring and sharing,
Brother Jack M. Skinner

Go forward in what God is leading you to do in life

By Ronnie Floyd | Fox News (August 2018)

William Whiting Borden



In the early 1900s, 16-year-old William Whiting Borden graduated from The Hill School in Pottstown, Pennsylvania – a prestigious boarding school known for sending its alumni to Princeton University. He was an heir to the Borden family mining fortune, and had a clear path to wealth and success set before him.

But before Borden began his Ivy League education at Yale University, his parents sent him on a yearlong trip around the world as a graduation present.

Earlier in his life, Borden had come to Christ through the great ministry of D. L. Moody. While traveling the world, something happened that no one expected. As Borden crisscrossed through Japan, India, Syria, Turkey and other countries, he was moved by the spiritual and physical needs of people around the world.

Borden wrote a letter to his parents and informed them he wanted to spend the remainder of his life as a missionary. Upon hearing the news, one of his friends remarked that becoming a missionary would be tantamount to throwing one's life away.

Upon his return, Borden went on to Yale and graduated. He then studied and graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary. When his ministry preparation was completed, he boarded a ship to Asia to serve among Muslims in China's Gansu province.

Along the way, he stopped in Cairo to learn Arabic and study Islam. In Egypt, Borden contracted spinal meningitis. Less than a month later, he was dead. He was only 25 years old.

When word of Borden's death reached the U.S., the news made national headlines. One of his biographers described the impact of the news as "a wave of sorrow" that swept across the world.

Don't hold back; don't choose the easy path; and don't live cautiously.

Borden had walked away from his fortune to take the Gospel of Jesus to the nations of the world. Most regarded his death as a tragedy; however, God took the tragedy and did something far greater than Borden could ever do himself.

When young men and women read Borden's story in the newspapers of America, it inspired them to leave all they had and give their lives to reach the nations with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

It's rumored that at key points in his life, Borden wrote a series of phrases in his Bible. While he struggled with his desire to become a missionary against his father's heavy disapproval, he wrote: "No Reserves."

Toward the end of his time in Yale, where he had started a Bible study attended by three-quarters of the school's student population, he wrote: "No retreats." And as he lay dying of spinal meningitis in Cairo, he wrote: "No regrets."

At a surface level, his life and death may seem like an unfortunate mistake – some may even consider it a waste. But God had other plans.

God used Borden's life and death to call thousands and thousands of young men and women to leave all they had and give their lives to reach the nations with the Gospel. God did greater things through Borden's story than He may have ever done with his life in China.

We can all get in a mode of playing it safe in life. We tend to retreat from things that are hard or unpleasant. But when we look back over time at the opportunities we didn't take, we often have many regrets. How will you live this week? I challenge you to live like William Borden: with no reserves, no retreats and no regrets.

Don't hold back; don't choose the easy path; and don't live cautiously. Go forward in what God is leading you to do in life. Go forward with God. Live life to the fullest. And when this week (life) is over, have.....

WHATEVER IT TAKES
by Lanny Wolfe

*There's a voice calling me
From an old rugged tree
And He whispers, "Draw closer to Me;
Leave this world far behind,
There are new heights to climb,
And a new place in Me you will find."*

C (1)

*Take the dearest things to me,
If that's how it must be,
To draw me closer to Thee;
Let the disappointments come,
Lonely days without the sun,
If through sorrow more like You I'll become.*

*Take my houses, my lands,
Change my dreams, change my plans
For I'm placing my whole life in Your hands;
And if You call me today...
To a place far away
Lord, I'll go, and Your will obey.*

C (1&2)

"No regrets."

Chorus:

(1)

*For whatever it takes to draw closer to you, Lord,
That's what I'll be willing to do.
For whatever it takes to be more like You,
That's what I'll be willing to do.*

(2)

*I'll trade sunshine for rain
Comfort for pain –
That's what I'll be willing to do –
For whatever it takes for my will to break,
That's what I'll be willing to do.
That's what I'll be willing to do.*

*"I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive."
(Acts 20:35)*

It may cost more money to show love here in United States of America than it does in Madagascar but the reward in helping a child cannot be compared to any feeling life can offer with all its glamor and pleasures! As it has been said, One stands no taller than when they stoop to help a child! *"But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven."* (Matthew 19:14) *"It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones."* (Luke 17:2)



I love you all; poor, rich, young, old!

Brother Jack M. Skinner

You may think this Thank You Letter is a plea for money for Madagascar but my intent is for you to look on the fields around "you" and let God speak to your heart!!! John 4:35