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### THE WEEKLY SERMON

### "A Wonderful Vision" by the Rev. W J. Watson

"Jesus answered them: Except corn of wheat fall into the ground and die it abideth alone, but if it die it bringeth forth much fruit."-John xii., 24.

Certain Greeks, we read in this passage, came to the disciples and said, "Sirs, we would see Jesus." It was a memorable incident; it suggests' the first opening consciousness of the Western mind to the fact that Christ had a mission and a message for them. The East had been present at the birth of Christ in the kings Proof and the Magi who brought gifts to the manger shrine; the West was to be present in His death. These men represented the intellectual leadership of of mankind. In all probability they were Greeks by birth and blood, but had moved out of the dark shadow of Grecian mythology and had become proselytes to the Jewish faith. Yet they retained something of the Grecian temper of intense intellectual curiosity, and so now finding themselves in Jerusalem where the Name of Jesus is on every lip, they come to the disciples and say, "Sirs, we would see Jesus," WHAT THE QUESTION MEANS

expected, perhaps to see the poet of of courts his Royal Highness reached the Galilean lake, the utterer of id- the hall of audience, behind the pilvilie truths about man, and about lars of which he sat enthroned among life, and about nature, the fashioner sirdars radiant with jewels. The of a poetry sweeter and more beaut- courtyard was thronged with manyiful than the poetry even of their hued magnificence. own greatest poets-for Christ was Afterwards their Royal Highnesses that; never man spake about nature visited the Albert Hall Museum, and about life as Jesus Christ spake. which is the South Kensington of Perhaps they expected to see the this part of India, for Jaipur is philosopher of the mountain-side, the famous centre of learning, noted for exponent of a scheme of life more its colleges and observatory. periect and more potential than any It was at Jaipur that the Prince very much interested in my two paer at whose world old abuses perish length. and the doors of time roll back upon destinies of mankind. Do we grasp all that the question grouse.

means? Is the question for you merely a question springing from intellectual curiosity? You are interested in religion, as you say, "up to a point." you feel the protom of Christ, and you would like to solve it ; nay, more, you feel something of the moral claim of Christ, and you would like to admit it. Let all that be granted, if it be true; but have you grasped this fact that to see Jesus is to see a vision so tremendous that it is impossible that life should ever be the same again to you after you have seen it? Christle tells you what it means. He tells you first that He is only to be seen in sacrifice. He is not seen till you seek Him on the cross. Do not think the words strange. It has happened to many of you never to know those nearest to you, never to know the sweetness of their heart and the sacredness of their love until God stretched them on a great cross of pain. And you do not know your Saviour see Him as He is.

THE PRICE OF REVELATION Not only so, but you only see the Christ through sacrifice in yourself. Listen to the words of St. Paul in another letter: "But when it pleased God to reveal His Son in me that I might preach Him among the Gent- board the vessel, it seemed worse iles, immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood." That was the I dared not tell the truth. For all I

the courtier and the brilliant men England before they left. of fashion died, self-crucified, and Lovola had to go out and live the feeling about as guilty as a man could had been revealed to Him. It came we are told to another great Spanish saint in another way, and the story is worth telling for its pathos. The man had come home from a brillian court festival with an empty heart, and as he entered the room in the darkness or the half-gloom, a ray of moonlight struck the figure of the crucific, and he looked and said. "Thou art the greatest lover of them

And the story is the same to all Jesus is seen only through sacrifice in ourseives. And, if it be true, that you have imperfect vision, a dim and clouded vision of Christ, so that He is little more than name, is it not because you have never really sacrificed anything for Him? Begin to make a sacrifice for Christ and He will begin to be revealed to

### A PRAYER.

Gracious Father, we pause at the end of the week's work and duties to speak with Thee. Sweet it is to sit at Thy feet and learn the heavenly wisdom. Give us new inspiration for the battle of life. If we feel weary, strengthen us : is care and anxiety press, relieve the burden. May we know what it is to-day to refresh ourselves in the living streams that make the heart truly glad. Make us kinder, nobler, more generous thought and deed. Let no selfish aim mar our character and influence but may we scatter seeds of kindness

### WITH THE PRINCE IN INDIA

### Marvellous Scenes of Beauty

Out of the twenty-five cities and towns of India chosen for the Prince and Pricess of Wales to visit six have already been honored with the royal presence. Since they first set foot on Indian soil practically every moment of their time has been busily occu- welfare. pied. At Bombay the Prince laid the foundation stone of the Alexandra vealed my secret, or whether it was Dock, which, when completed, will be only supposition on his part, but he one of the most important public looked at me pretty hard for a moworks in the city. The dock is part ment, and then laughed outright. of a scheme of improvements to cost "You may not know it," he said, £5,000,000. At Udaipur his Royal "but when all's said and done, you're Highness went big game hunting and a jolly lucky fellow." bagged one antelope, three hyenas, and four wild boars. The Maharajah before I replied. of Jaipur had prepared for his royal visitors a brilliant welcome, and the reception at the place showed that

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is found in the many testimonials of those who have tried Shiloh and been cured. Mrs. Archie Taylor, "I bought a bottle of Shiloh's Consumption Cure and found it very beneficial. I have two children and they had a terrible cough. I gave them everything I could think of, but they got no better until one evening my husband bought a bottle of Shiloh. We gave it to the children when they went to bed, and they slept all night. It cured them completely. I shall always keep it in the

the Prince has not exhausted the What did they expect to see? They splendours of the East. By a series

philosophy uttered in the schools of shot his first tiger. His Royal High- tients." Athens-for Christ was that also; ness got a galloping shot under the I thanked him, and, to show how He was a teacher in whom dwelt the near shoulder, and finished the quarry very much better I felt, sprang out of gift of wisdom. Perhaps they ex- off with a second shot. The tiger was bed and began to dress. True to his pected to see the triumphant reform a splendid beast, just under 9 ft. in promise, my breakfast was brought

There was a respite from ceremon- it on the chart-room table. Just as a golden hinge, disclosing a new and les at Bikanir, the Prince indulging finished the doctor reappeared, and, happy feature-for Christ was that in small game shooting with the after a little conversation, we left also, the great Master of the social Maharajah of Bivanir. The Prince of Wales accounted for 207 sand deck together. Here we found the

(Continued from Page 4.)

thoughtfulness of the officers and passengers. The latter, though anxious to hear our story from my own lips, refrained from bothering me with questions; and thinking quiet would conduce to my recovery, allowed me to have the use of that end of the deck unmolested. As soon as I could do so, I enquired once more after Miss-Maybourne, and was relieved to hear that she was making most satisfactory progress towards recovery. After dinner the Captain came up, and seating himself in a chair beside me, asked a few questions concerning the foundering of the Fiji Princess, which information, I presumed, he required for his log.

"You have placed Mr. Maybourne till you see Him on the cross. Mere very deeply in your debt," he said, admiration for Christ, it counts for after a little further conversation: nothing; but when you see the Christ | "and I don't doubt but there will be upon the cross, the pathos of it, the many who will envy your good forheart-break of it, then you begin to tune in having conferred so signal a service upon his daughter. By the way, you have not told us your own

My heart gave a great jump, and for the moment I seemed to feel myself blushing to the roots of my hair. After the great kindness I had already received from everyone on than ungrateful to deceive them. But knew to the contrary, my name might It came to Loyola, and instantly have been proclaimed everywhere in

> "My name is Wrexford," I said "Any relation to the Wrexfords of

> Shrewsbury?" asked the Captain with mild curiosity. "Not that I'm aware of." I answered. "I have been living out of Eng-

> land for many years, and have no

knowledge of my relations." "It's not a common name," continued the skipper; "that is why ask. Sir George Wrexford is one of our directors, and a splendid fellow. I thought it was just possible that you might be some connection of his. Now, if you will excuse me, I'll be off. Take my advice and turn in early. I'm sorry to say we're carrying our full complement of passengers, so that I cannot give you a proper berth; but I've ordered a bed to be made up for you in my chart-room, where you

manage to make yourself comfortable there it is quite at your service." "It is very kind of you to put yourself to so much inconvenience." I answered. "I fear by the time we reach Cape Town I shall have caused you a

have been all day to-day. If you can

considerable amount of trouble." "Not at all! Not at all!" the hospitable skipper replied, as he rose to go. "I'm only too glad to have picked you up. It's our duty to do what we can for each other, for we none of us know when we may be placed

in a similar plight ourselves." After he left me, I was not long in following the good advice he had given me; and when I had once reached my couch, fell into a dreamless sleep, from which I did not wake until after eight o'clock next morning. Indeed. I don't know that I should have waked even then, had I not been disturbed by the noise made by someone entering the cabin. It proved to be the doctor.

"How are you feeling this morning?" he asked, when he had felt my "Ever so much better," I replied. "In fact, I think I'm quite myself

again. How is Miss Maybourne?" "Still progressing satisfactorily," he answered. "She bids me give you her kind regards. She has been most constant in her enquiries after your

I don't know whether my face re-

I sighed, and hesitated a momen "I'm afraid you're mistaken," I said. "Luck and I have never been companions. I doubt if there is a man in this world whose career has been more devoid of good fortune than mine. As a boy, I was unlucky in everything I undertook. If I played

cricket, I was always either bowled

for a duck's egg, or run out just as

I was beginning to score. If there was an accident in the football field, when was playing, I was invariably the ufferer. I left Oxford under a cloud, ecause I could not explain something that I knew to be a mistake on the part of the authorities. I quarrelled with my family on the same misunderstanding. I was once on the verge of becoming a millionaire, but illness revented my taking advantage of my opportunity; and while I was thus elayed another man stepped in and orestalled me. I had a legacy, but it

brought me nothing but ill-luck, and has finally driven me out of England." tune has turned." he said. "A beautiful and wealthy girl falls overboardtom-you save your own and the same time; and, just as a terrible fate you, won't you?" seems to be going to settle you for rescue you. Now you have Miss May- duced to the prominent people of the bourne's gratitude, which would colony was the very last thing in strike most men as a more than de the world I wanted. My desire was to sirable passession, and at the same time you will have her father's."

"And, by the peculiar irony of fate, both come to me when I am quite powerless to take advantage of them." "Come, come, you mustn't let yourself down like this. You know very well what the end of it all will be, if you spend your life believing yourself to be a marked man."

"You mean that I shall lose my reason? No, no! you needn't be afraid of that. I come of a hard-headed race that has not been in the habit of stocking asylums."

"I am glad of that. Now what do you say to getting up? I'll have your breakfast sent to you in here, and after you've eaten it, I'll introduce you to some of the passengers. On

to me by a steward, and I partook of the cabin and proceeded out on to the majority of the passengers promenading, or seated in their chairs. Among them I noticed two clergymen, two or three elderly gentlemen of the colonial merchant type, a couple of dapper young fellows whom I set down in my own mind as belonging to the military profession, the usual

number of elderly ladies, half a dozen younger ones, of more or less fascinating appearances, and the same number of children. As soon as they saw me several of those seated rose and came to meet us. The doctor performed the necessary introductions, and in a few minutes I found myself seated in a comfortable deck-chair receiving innumerable congratulations on my recovery. Strange to say, I did not dislike their sympathy as much as I had imagined I should do. There was something so spontaneous and unaffected about it that I would have defied even the most sensitive to take offence. To my astonishment, I discovered that no less than three were personal friends of Miss Maybourne's, though all confessed to having failed in recognizing her when the boat came alongside. For the

the doctor's suggestion, ventured to accompany him down to the saloon for lunch. The King of Carthage was a finer vessel in every way than the ill-fated Fiji Princess. Her saloon was situated amidships, and could have contained the other twice over comfortably. The appointments generally were on a scale of great magnificence; and, from what I saw at lunch, the living was on a scale to correspond. I sat at a small table presided over by the doctor, and situated near the foot of the companion ladder. In the pauses of the meal I looked round at the fine paintings let into the panels between the ports, at the thick carpet upon the floor, the glass dome overhead, and then at the alley-ways leading to the cabins at either end. In which direction did Miss Maybourne's cabin lie, I wondered. The

greater part of the morning I remain-

ed chatting in my chair, and by mid-

day felt so much stronger that, on

doctor must have guessed what was passing in my mind, for he nodded his head towards the after-alley on the starboard side, and from that time forward I found my eyes continually reverting to it. Luncheon over, I returned to the promenade-deck, and, after a smoke -the first in which I had indulged since we left the island-acted on

the doctor's advice, and went to my

cabin to lie down for an hour or so. When I returned to the deck, afternoon tea was going forward, and a chair having been found for me, I was invited to take a cup. While I was drinking it, the skipper put in an appearance. He waited until I had finished, and then said he would like to show me something if I would accompany him along the deck to his private cabin. When we reached it, he opened the door and invited me to enter. I did so, and, as I crossed the threshold, gave a little start of surprise, for Miss Maybourne was

there, lying upon the locker. "Why, Miss Maybourne!" I cried, in complete astonishment, "this is a pleasant surprise. I had no idea you were about agin. I hope you are feeling stronger."

"Much stronger," she answered. "I expect I shall soon be quite myself again, now that I have once made a start. Mr. Wrexford, I asked Captain Blockman to let me see you in here for the first time, in order that I might have an opportunity of expressing my gratitude to you before we face the passengers. You cannot imagine how grateful I am to you for all you have done for me since that awful night when the Fiji Princess went down. How can I ever repay you for

"By becoming yourself again as quickly as possible," I answered; ask no better payment." I thought she looked at me rather a strange way as I said this; but it was not until some time later that I knew the reason of it. At the time I would have given worlds to have spoken the thoughts that were in my mind; but that being impossible, I had to hold my tongue, though

my heart should break under the strain. We were both silent for a little while, and then Miss Maybourne took my hand, and I could see that she was steeling herself to ask some question, and was not quite certain what answer she would receive to "Mr. Wrexford," she began, and there was a little falter in her voice

as she spoke, "you told me on board

the Fiji Princess that you were going

to South Africa to try and obtain em-

ployment. You must forgive my say-

ing anything about It, but I also gathered from what you told me that you would arrive there without in-fluence of any sort. No., I want you to promise me that you will let pa

ward, Miss Maybourne," I answered,

"Who knows that better than I? you dive in, and rescue her. I have show my gratitude in some way. Papa heard about that, you see. The ship would be so glad to give you letters you are traveling by goes to the bot- of introduction, or to introduce you personally to people of influence, and girl's life. Then, as if that is not then there is nothing you might not enough, you try your luck a third be able to do. You will let him help

If she could only have known what she was asking of me! To be intronot only attract as little attention as might be, but also to get up country and beyond the reach of civilization as quickly as possible

However, I was not going to make Miss Maybourne unhappy on the first day of her convalescence, so I promised to consider the matter, and let her know my decision before we reached Cape Town. By this compromise I hoped to be able to hit upon some way out of the difficulty before then.

From that day forward the voyage was as pleasant as it would be possible for one to be. Delicate as was our position on board, we were not allowed for one moment to feel that we were not upon the same footing as those who had paid heavily for House. their accommodation. The officers and passengers vied with each other in showing us kindnesses, and, as may be imagined, we were not slow to express our gratitude.

Day after day slipped quickly by, and each one brought us nearer and nearer to our destination. As the distance lessened my old fears returned upon me. After all the attention I had received from our fellow-travelers, after Miss Maybourne's gracious behavior towards me, it will be readily imagined how much I dreaded the chance of exposure. How much better, I asked myself, would it not be to drop overboard while my secret was still undiscovered, than to stay on board and be proclaimed a murder-

er before them all? On the evening prior to our reaching Cape Town I was leaning on the rails of the promenade deck, just below the bridge, when Miss Maybourne left a lady with whom she had been | We can supply you with conversing, and came and stood beside me. The evening was cool, and for this reason she had thrown a lace mantilla, lent her by one of the passengers, over her head, and had draped it round her shapely neck. It gave her an infinitely charming appearance; indeed, in my eyes, she appeared the most beautiful of all God's creatures-a being to be loved and longed for beyond all her sex.

"And so to-morrow, after all our adventures, we shall be in Cape Town," she said. "Have you thought of the promise you gave me a fort-"What promise was that?" I asked, though I knew full well to what she

"To let papa find you some employment. I do hope you will allow

him to do so." I looked at her as she stood beside me, one little hand resting on the rail and her beautiful eyes gazing across the starlit sea, and thought how hard it was to resist her. But at any cost I could not remain in Cape Town, Every hour I spent there would bring me into greater danger. "I have been thinking it over as I promised," I said, "and I have come

to the conclusion that it would not be wise for me to accept you offer. I have told you repeatedly, Miss Maybourne, that I am not like other men. God knows how heartily I repent my foolish past. But repentance, howzation as far and as quickly as possible. For this reason immediately we arrive I shall start for the Transvaal, and once there shall endeavor to carve out a new name and a new life for myself. This time, Providence helping me, it shall be a life of honor." "God grant you may succeed!" she said, but so softly that I could scarce | than I.

"May I tell myself that I have your good wishes, Miss Maybourne?" I asked, with, I believe, a little tremor in

"Every good wish I have is yours," she replied. "I should be worse than ungrateful, after all you have done for me, if I did not take an interest

Then I did a thing for which it was long before I could forgive myself. Heaven alone knows what induced me to do it: but if my life had depended on it I could not have acted otherwise. I took her hand in mine and drew her a little closer to me. "Agnes," I said, very softly, as she

turned her beautiful face towards me, "to-morrow we shall be separated, perhaps never to meet again. After to-night it is possible, if not probable, that we shall not have another opportunity of being alone together. You don't know what your companionship has been to me. Before I met you, was desperate. My life was not worth living: but you have changed it allyou have made me a better man. You have taught me to love you, and in that love I have found my belief in all that is good-even, I believe, a faith in God. Oh, Agnes, Agnes! I am not worthy to touch the ground you have walked on, but I love you as I shall never love woman again!" She was trembling violently, but

she did not speak. Her silence had the effect, however, of bringing me to myself, and it showed me my conduct in all its naked baseness. "Forgive me," I whispered; "it was

vile of me to have insulted you with this avowal. Forget-and forgive, if you can—that I ever spoke the words. Remember me only as a man, the most miserable in the whole world, who would count it heaven to be allowed to lay down his life for you or those you love. Oh, Agnes! is it possible that you can forgive me?"
"I have nothing to forgive," she said, looking up into my fare with those proud, fearless eyes that seem-

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stain. I want to get away from civili- "I am proud beyond measure to think

When I heard these precious words, could have fallen at her feet and kissed the hem of her dress; but I dared not speak, lest I should forget myself in my joy, and say something. for which I should never be able to atone. Agnes, however, was braver

"Mr. Wrexford," she said, "you have told me that you love me, and now you are reproaching yourself for having done so. Is it because, as you say, you are poor? Do you think so badly of me as to imagine that that could make any difference to me?" "I could not think so badly of you if I tried." I answered.

"You have said that you love me?" "And I mean it. I love you as I believe man never loved woman before-certainly as I shall never love Then, lowering her head so that I

could not see her face, she whisper-"Will it make you happier if I say that I love you?"

Her voice was soft as the breath of the evening rustling some tiny leaf, but it made my heart leap with a delight I had never known before, and then sink deeper and deeper down with a greater shame.

"God forbid!" I cried, almost fierce ly. "You must not love me. You shall not do so. I am not worthy even that you should think of me." "You are worthy of a great deal more," she answered. "Oh, why will

you so continually reproach yourself?" "Because, Agnes, my conscience will not let me be silent." I cried "Because, Agnes, you do not know the shame of my life. "I will not let you say 'shame." she replied. "Have I not grown to

How little she knew of me! How little she guessed what I was! We were both silent again, and for nearly five minutes. I was the first to speak And it took all the pluck of which I was master to say what was in my

know you better than you know your-

"Agnes," I began, "this must be the end of such talk between us. God knows, if I were able in honor to do so, I would take your love, and hold you against the world. But, as things (Continued on Page 3.)

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