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MEDITATION

By Rev. J. H. Dudgeon

Every Believer has untold riches. The word of God has told us that we are Heirs of God and Joint Heirs with Jesus Christ. This is a glorious truth which runs through the inspired word of God both in the Old Testament as well as the New; that God can meet man, come to man, the moment that man takes the right place before Him; and in perfect free, sovereign, unqualified grace meet every need, spiritual, temporal and physical. Every temptation that may cross our pathway, that victory is assured. He may have contentment, free from worry because we have the presence of Him Who is all and in all, the Mighty Conqueror.

But how many dear folks whose lives are characterised by conscious defeat and failure; they realize they are not growing in grave and the knowledge of God. They have seen others whose life is one of contentment, they have a peace in their daily life and God is so real to them; come what may, sorrow, sickness or even death they are not moved, they have no fear even if the battle is hard, they have attained the position the Apostle Paul declared "I have learned in whatsoever state I am therewith to be content" and also with Job of old who said "Though He slay me I will trust Him."

Why can I not? Why is it I get so flustered when things do not go my way? Is there a place, an Attitude of mind and heart where I too can find sweet peace and contentment and daily be victorious?

Yes, my dear friend there is a place, and it is for you. The poet in the Gospel song has put it right.

"There is a place of quiet rest
Near to the heart of God
A place where sin cannot molest
Near to the Heart of God."

When man as HE IS—Meets God as HE IS, there and only there is the answer to every question, to every problem and every difficulty of life.

New no progress can be made in the Christian life until we are in the right attitude before God. But progress is made in the Christian life conditions and attitude being right.

The Word of God has not only stated these facts, but has also given us examples of both of those folks we have just mentioned. So I want to bring to your memory three pictures presented in the scriptures of a home in the little village of Bethany where resided two sisters and a brother in the days of our Lord. It was such a home where our Lord used to visit as it was one of the brightest spots in His earthly life. He had no home of His own on earth. He had left the Ivory Palaces and came down to earth, because man had lost his way, came to seek and to bring him back to the Father, and eventually to a Home He was going to prepare for Him. But while here, He had no home of His own, but He had a home of Friendship, one of those places into which He could go and throw off all the restraint which is proper and necessary to one engaged in public ministry. I suppose all of us have homes outside of our own, where we can be quite "At Home" and feel no need of keeping up appearances, for the eyes that look upon us and the hearts that welcome us are the eyes and hearts of love. I know I have homes where I go in another city, where I am free to pull off my coat on a warm day, and throw myself on the couch and rest; I call it my home away from home. In this home in Bethany Jesus found such a place, and the Sacred Writer gives us an account of three of His visits there, with friends He loved, "For John 11:5 says "Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus."

The first picture recorded of these visits is found in Luke 10:38-42. Now a great many things are said about Martha and Mary, not so much about Lazarus, but the two sisters are very prominent in these narratives. There is excellencies in each of these women, and it would be difficult for us to do without our busy Martha's in our homes. But I want you to note that our Lord's estimate is that "Mary had chosen the good part which was not to be taken away from her."

I have a sermon on Martha I gave in two different churches. In the one I had to repeat it and was asked on a return visit to that city to give it again. In the other I stirred up opposition from the Ladies' Aid of my church they never got over it all the while I was there.

Now what sort of a woman was Martha? I would say she was a keen businesslike woman; just the woman to keep a house perfectly

straight in every detail. One of those women who if you received an invitation to visit there, you would be careful to remove your rubbers at the door, or you would see to it no mud was on your shoes, and when you sat in one of her easy chairs you would be careful to keep those dangling things straight, and not let them fall on the floor. A bustling woman, always eager to do things for everybody, forgetful of her own personality in her desire to do something for someone else.

Now Martha, being as it appears the head of this house, when Jesus came that day she was the one to greet Him, and give Him a welcome and soon after she is out to the kitchen to get dinner ready. She is so eager and active the one thought that the Master must have the very best that nothing must be left undone that will add to His comfort. Grand woman is she not?

Now what about Mary? What was she doing? Some people say that Mary just sat at Jesus feet and heard His words. Th great Bible teacher Dr. Campbell Morgan gives us new light about Mary. He draws attention to one little word recorded in the narrative which gives us that light. Look at verse 39, "She had a sister called Mary which also sat at the feet of Jesus and heard His word." You see Martha being the ruling spirit there. Lazarus is around somewhere; perhaps he carried in the wood and got a pail of water from the spring. But he is not mentioned here. But Mary is introduced as Martha's sister. Now see what Mary's position is. "She also sat—ALSO—is the word Dr. Campbell Morgan brings to our notice. I cannot but believe but Mary had something to do and when she got her work done she came in and sat at His feet. Why say also if she had no work, if she was a loafer. I believe she had taken her part in the work of the house and when she was through she came and sat down at Jesus feet. She did not allow things to rob her of this opportunity. She was a learner, and humbly she sat at His feet and in this position she not only could learn by Him but to learn OFF Him. Not only did she hear the truth from Him, but rather she found the truth IN Him. The place of quiet rest.

We must learn the difference between learning about the Christ and learning of Christ. We may be good Theologians but poor Christians. Let us learn from Mary. How impressed she is with His superior wisdom. See how absorbed she is. She knew it was dinner time, but she found something better than a meal.

But let us go back to the kitchen where Martha is. She is looking worried and distracted, perhaps the fire would not burn; the biscuits did not rise, the fine Angelcake fell flat in the oven. She cannot get through the work as she hoped to, besides she is getting tired, and now she is fretful. She is cumbered with things. They have got her. First she is cumbered. Then she feels cross with her sister who is sitting in with Jesus. She no doubt thought "What right has she to be in there and I having so much to do"; then note (Oh I would say it softly) she gets cross with Jesus and she goes in and says "Dost Thou not care that my sister hast left me to serve alone?" Angry with her sister and finally reflecting upon the Master putting the blame on Him for her weariness.

Oh you dear soul; we know you love the Lord and you did want to serve Him well. But things have got you. Dinner has got you.

She forgot that service was only accepted as it is filled with communion with the Lord. No amount of service will make up for the loss of this inward fellowship with Christ; this hidden life of love in which Christ and the consecrated heart are bound together in a holy intimacy.

Oh the host of folks in Martha's condition. They love the Lord, but things have got them. They say they run their home. No the home runs them. They say they run their business on their farm. No they run them. There is something better than service. Mary found it. Have you? And you?

(In my next article we will see the next two visits of Jesus to this home).

R. H. Kane

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NEWTONBROOK

Sunday School meets at 10 a.m. every Sunday in Newtonbrook United Church. The attendance during the summer has been very gratifying.

The morning service next Sunday, August 16th, at 11 o'clock will be conducted by the pastor Rev. A. H. Halbert. You are invited to worship with us at these services.

"A Sabbath day well spent
Brings a week of content,
And strength for the toil of tomorrow.

But a Sabbath profaned,
Whatever may be gained,
Is a sure forerunner of sorrow."

To Christ the Sabbath was a day set apart from the secular week, a holy day for a holy purpose. If Christ needed it, surely we need it.

Master Bobbie Connor has returned home after spending a month's vacation at Eden Mills near Guelph.

Ex-Reeve Earl Bales has been promoted from Lieutenant to the rank of Captain. He is commanding "C" Company, Queen's York Rangers 1st American Division stationed at Aurora.

Rev. and Mrs. A. H. Halbert returned home on Thursday evening from Alcona Beach.

Ontario The Good

While residents of Ontario often like to think of themselves as the "non plus ultra" of themselves among the Provinces of the Dominion, a report tabled in the House of Commons at Ottawa relating to prosecutions by the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, would seem to send a different slant. It is reported that of the 150 prosecutions undertaken by the Board, more than half have been in Ontario. Provincially the prosecutions were as follows: Ontario 96, Quebec 22, British Columbia 9, Saskatchewan 8, Nova Scotia 8, Manitoba 6, New Brunswick 1 and none in Alberta or Prince Edward Island. A breakdown of the offenses charged shows that breaches of rent regulations have been the most flagrant with 105 cases. There were 28 prosecutions for hoarding and other rationing infractions; 14 in respect to price ceilings and 3 for other offenses.—Oshawa-Whitby Times-Gazette.

Crops throughout the district are down badly which means a great deal of extra work in harvesting.

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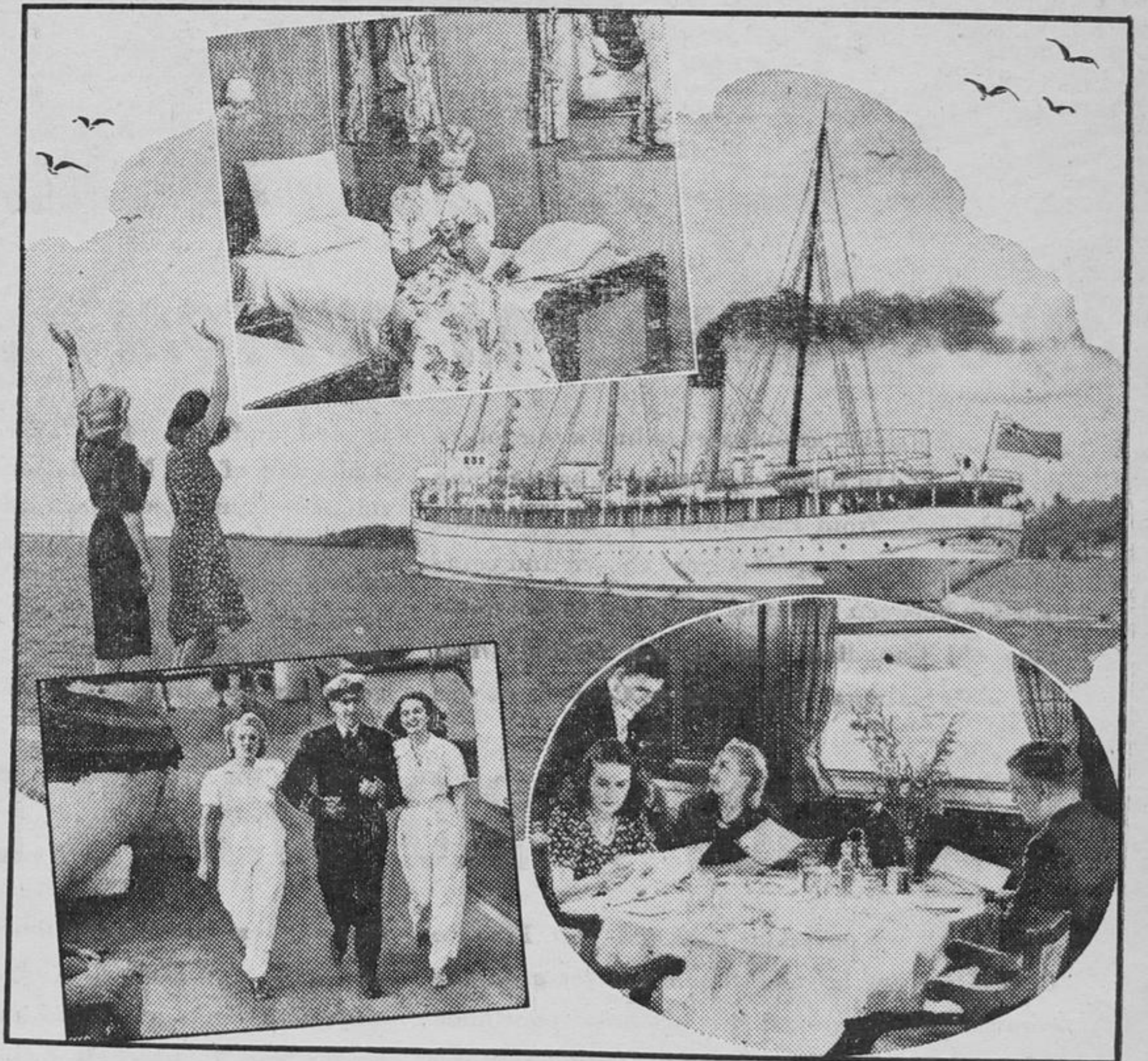
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Inland "Ocean" Cruise on Great Lakes



The ocean voyage is a pre-war luxury now denied vacationists who favor shipboard life; wartime hazards and the fact that all ocean shipping is engaged in vital supply service render pleasure cruises at sea out of the question. But Canadians are fortunate inasmuch as they have an excellent and realistic substitute right on their front doorstep: the Great Lakes.

Great Lakes cruises by the Canadian Pacific Great Lakes Steamship Service provide a holiday that is different, offering as it does the tang of open water and the incomparable relaxation and friendliness of boat travel. The sailings of the Canadian Pacific ships from Port McNicoll to Port William also afford an attractive alternative route for part of a trans-Canada trip.

The Canadian Pacific Steamships Keewatin and Assiniboia ply the 542 miles between Port McNicoll and Fort William in slightly over a day and a half. A third gleaming white ship, the C.P.S. Manitoba, calls at Owen Sound. All three are famous for their luxurious appointments and the high calibre of their cuisine and service. All are equipped for a wide variety of deck sports.

There are two eastward and two westward sailings each week during the regular season, June 17 to September 16, and after the latter date special sailings are frequently arranged to handle freight shipments, and accommodations are made available then for a limited number of passengers. During part of the journey, the boats follow the shoreline with

its enchanting scenery, but at other times are completely out of sight of land. On the eastern leg of the trip, the ships pass through beautiful Georgian Bay and emerge into Lake Huron, 207 miles long and 101 miles wide, second largest of the Great Lakes. The St. Mary's River, which is the international boundary at that point, and the Sault Ste. Marie Canal, lead to Sault Ste. Marie and into Lake Superior, largest body of fresh water in the world.

A Canadian Pacific voyage through the Great Lakes carries the traveller along water-routes famous in Canadian history from Indian days down through the pioneering years of the first French explorers, missionaries and colonists.