

Testimony of Mercy Jarman

I had the privilege of being brought up in a Christian home with godly, gracious parents whose example remains with me.

It was about the age of 13, I remember hearing a visiting minister preach concerning the second coming of Christ and I well remember literally trembling with fear as I listened, because I knew I was not a child of God. The effect of this sermon lasted a long time, but it was not accompanied with any repentance, nor did I then know myself as a sinner.

From time to time in the following years I would pray that God would make me a child of His. I remember praying about providential needs in my life such as a career, exams, marriage. Over time, the Lord deepened His work in my heart. Ezekiel 36:26 very much expressed my prayer “A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh and will give you a heart of flesh”. I had a real hunger, thirst and longing to be at the services and Sunday never seemed to come round quickly enough.

I remember hearing an address regarding whited sepulchres ([Matthew 23:27](#)) and I felt this very much described my state at that time and the Lord really used that to convict me. I had not rebelled against God or my upbringing, and I knew, as I thought, to keep the outside clean, but what about my heart? I received many encouragements under the ministry of my Pastor. I knew in my head the way of salvation but had no saving faith as yet.

I went to an anniversary meeting when the minister spoke from [Romans 10:14](#) explaining conviction, repentance and faith. This was a very great help to me which opened my eyes to what sin really was. I was convicted of my sin and brought to repentance, seeing myself as a guilty sinner before God.

Sometime afterwards in a meeting the minister, in his address, spoke about Thomas and quoted the words [John 20:29](#)

“Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed”.

I felt in a way to have been asking the Lord for some special assurance of Salvation “except I see I will not believe” but as he spoke, I realised my need to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ in saving faith.

Not long after this in a sermon my pastor was speaking about blind Bartimaeus, and it just seemed so descriptive of me spiritually. It was during the following week on reading this account again that it was made very precious to me and increased my prayer and longing that the Lord would come and clear my misty sight. I believe He answered this prayer the next Sunday when my pastor preached from *John 18:11*

“the cup my Father giveth me, shall I not drink it”

and as he spoke of Christ’s sufferings I felt melted down and my heart went out to the Lord in love and faith that it was done for me, such an unworthy sinner. I felt such love to the Lord but such a grief to see what my sins had cost Him. We closed the service that evening with the hymn

*“And did the Holy and the Just,
The Sovereign of this skies,
Stoop down to wretchedness and dust,
That guilty worms might rise? ...*

*... What glad return can I impart
For favours so divine!
O take my all, this worthless heart,
And make it wholly Thine.”*

It was in the last verse that baptism was laid on my heart as the first act of obedience the Lord required of me. During the following week I prayed that through the ministry the case of blind Bartimaeus might again be preached, but I was thinking this time that when he had received his sight, he followed Jesus in the way. I felt I needed a confirmation to be baptised.

Very shortly after this we had a visiting minister who preached the very subject, I truly felt humbled and blessed and could do no other than ask for baptism. I was baptised at Tamworth Road Strict Baptist chapel by my Pastor in 1973.

Since that time, I have much to thank and praise the Lord for. Many have been the ups and downs and failings and sins on my part, but the Lord has been merciful, gracious and faithful to His promises. I feel my experience has been like that of Lydia, whose heart the Lord opened.

I would like to acknowledge the Lord's goodness to me in providing a godly husband, John, and to us as a family as we have had the privilege and joy of seeing all of our three children follow the Lord and also a number of our grandchildren.

To Him be all the glory, honour and praise.