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Toronto Bible College

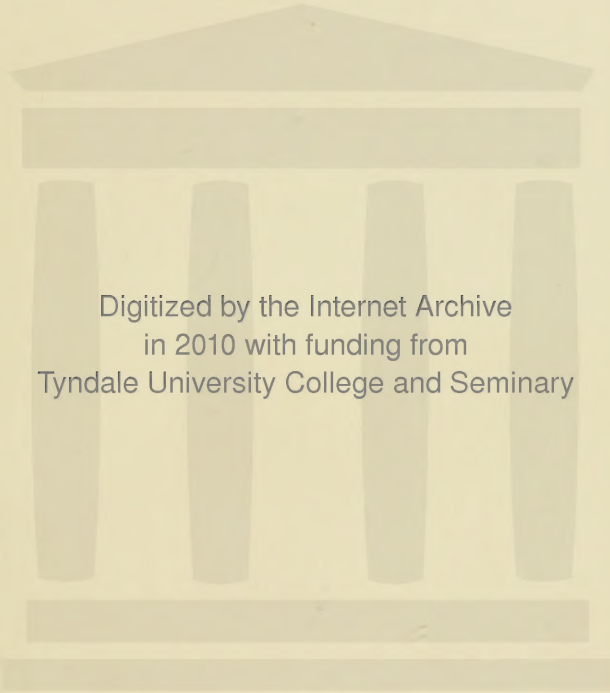
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Toronto Bible College



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THE ODOR OF THE OINTMENT

One of the most beautiful stories in the Gospels is the story of Mary's action in the supper room at Bethany when she broke her alabaster box at the feet of Jesus. Jesus had stopped at Bethany on His last journey to Jerusalem, with the shadow of the Cross falling already over His life. There they made Him a supper to do Him honor for the great miracle He had wrought in their midst a little while before. During the supper Mary brought her precious treasure and "anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair." Jesus was touched by the motive of her act and declared "It is a beautiful thing she has done to me" (Moffatt's translation). One of the eye-witnesses, who perhaps of all the disciples best understood what Mary meant, in telling the story many years afterwards, added this comment: "The house was filled with the odor of the ointment." (John 12: 3.) John remembered how the sweet perfume pervaded all the room where they were sitting, and then stole out into all the other rooms till all the atmosphere of the house was laden with its fragrance.

That widespread fragrance was the result of Mary's act. The story suggests the secret of fragrance in Christian life.

(1) There is the fragrance of spontaneous gratitude. A great joy had recently come into Mary's life. Her brother Lazarus had died and had been brought back to life. He was sitting there at the table with Jesus, sharing in all the happy fellowship of the supper. As Mary sat by, looking upon the scene, there came into her soul a fresh realization of the wonder of it all—her brother's new life, the new joy and happiness of their home. And all this they owed to the dear Friend who was now in their midst. The gladness of Mary's heart could not be contained, but broke out in this beautiful act of devotion.

The fragrance of gratitude will pervade our lives, like the odor of Mary's ointment, when we are mindful of what we owe to Him who has called us and all our fellow believers out of darkness into the light of life. Christ Jesus has created for us the eternal fellowship of Christian hearts. This fellowship deepens and sweetens all other human loves. It defies

death and looks out with joyful anticipation to all the bliss of eternity. And all that it means to us now, and will mean to us hereafter, we owe to the grace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(2) There is the fragrance of self-forgetting sacrifice. Mary broke her box and poured all the contents out. She did not stop to calculate the value of it, but sacrificed it all in lavish prodigality of love. If Mary had done what the disciples would have liked her to do, she would have carefully poured out just enough to serve for the time. Christ would have been anointed, and the rest might have been used for some other good purpose; but the fragrance would not have filled the whole house.

There are many good lives just like that. They perform all that is required of them faithfully. They are solid and useful members of the community. But somehow the broken-hearted never look to them for sympathy; men and women who have failed or fallen never turn to them for help. These lives do their bare duty. What they want is fragrance, the power to charm and to attract.

There are other characters, in many ways imperfect, perhaps, that touch us with an irresistible charm. They respond with ready sympathy to every need. They open up their hearts to the troubled and the tried. When there is work to be done, they cheerfully take the largest share; when there is a burden to be borne they are always ready to take the heaviest end. They are ever giving themselves away. It is not their way to dole out their ointment. They break their box and spend it all. And their lives are fragrant with self-forgetfulness and self-abandoning love. The most fragrant life in all the world, the one life that draws the toiling and the heavy-laden, the sinful and the sorrowing, is the life

that was broken on the cross for others in utter self-forgetfulness; and all who take up the cross to follow in His steps will have their lives pervaded with the odor of His Self-sacrifice.

(3) There is the fragrance of personal devotion. Mary's act was meant for the Lord Jesus alone. She was not thinking of the disciples or of any others who were present. But when she broke her precious box at the feet of her Lord she could not prevent the odor stealing all over the house and refreshing all who were in it with its gracious influence. When she ministered to Christ, she unconsciously ministered to other lives as well.

This is always true of acts like Mary's. Every deed that is done out of personal love and devotion for another carries with it a charm and fragrance of its own. The highest devotion of which our hearts are capable is devotion to the living Christ, and the sweetest and most widespread fragrance is that which flows from acts that are done for His sake. There is a quality about all that we do to please Him that gives a grace and dignity to things otherwise trivial and insignificant. The sweet savor of a life that is moved by this motive not only gladdens the heart of the Lord; it sweetens all the atmosphere about it, enriching and refreshing the souls of those who come under its influence.

The world's greatest need to-day is not aggressive Christianity, but attractive Christianity. It is not aggressiveness but attractiveness that wins men and women for Jesus Christ. "I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto Me." And the Church's greatest need is attractive Christians. Should we not learn to live with grateful, self-forgetful, personal devotion to our crucified and risen Lord? Then all the actions of our lives will carry something of the odor of the ointment.

THE NEW SESSION

The twenty-seventh session of the College will commence on Tuesday, Sept. 21st. It will open as usual with a devotional service at 10 o'clock that morning. Next day the regular classes will begin. Four hours a week will be devoted to a systematic study of the books of the New Testament, conducted by the Principal, who will also lecture once a week on the Geography and History of Bible Lands. Mr. Hanna will give two hours a week to the Messianic Teaching of the Old Testament, tracing the promise of Christ in type and prophecy, and two hours a week to the History of the Christian Church since the Reformation, including the History of the Missionary Movement. He will also give one lecture a week on the Principles of Teaching.

Dr. Weston, who is now a permanent member of the staff, will continue his course on Christian Doctrines, two hours a week, taking up this year the Ministry of Redemption, and Eschatology. He will also give two special series of weekly lectures for advanced students, one on Psychology and the other on Homiletics. In connection with the latter subject Dr. Weston will accompany the students from time to time at their Gospel services, so as to give them counsel in the practice of public speaking and the delivery of sermons.

Mr. Hyde, in addition to conducting a series of studies on the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit, will now take charge of the instruction of the students in Personal and Evangelistic Work, including the whole subject of personal deportment in Christian service.

Besides these classes, which will be all held in the mornings, there will be important work done in the afternoons. Mr. Hanna will continue his classes in New Testament Greek, both for beginners and for

advanced students. It is probable also that the Principal will have a class for beginners in Hebrew.

On Monday afternoon Dr. Withrow will take up the medical course which he began several years ago, but had to discontinue when called away to war service. He will give short courses of lectures on various medical subjects as follows: Anatomy and Physiology (11 lectures), Tropical Diseases (2 lectures), First Aid (6 lectures with demonstrations), Personal Hygiene (4 lectures each to men and women).

When the session gets under way it is intended to establish a class in English for the purpose of helping to train students in the better use of the English language. This class will be held at such a time as is found most convenient for those students who need to avail themselves of it, either some afternoon or some evening in the week.

MISS SADIE LETHBRIDGE

Another member of the Bible College family has fallen on the field. Miss Sadie Lethbridge, '14, died in Honan, China, at the end of July, after a short illness. Her furlough was due next year and she had been planning to come home next summer. She had served in the Presbyterian Mission of North Honan for nearly six years, teaching and evangelizing. It was the house in which she and another member of the women's staff were living that was attacked by bandits last winter, when Dr. Menzies, coming to their rescue, laid down his life.

Miss Lethbridge will be remembered by those who were with her in the College for her bright and attractive Christian character and her enthusiasm in the cause of missions. It is a striking circumstance that she and her classmate, Miss Helen Miller, who died in Nigeria last January, should have been called home within a few months of

each other. Graduating together, they applied to the same Mission Board and expected to go out to the Honan field together. Miss Miller's breakdown in health prevented her going on at that time, and Miss Lethbridge went out alone. Now they are together before the throne.

PERSONAL NOTES

Miss Ruth Goforth '19, after taking a year's work in the Nyack Institute, New York, sailed for China in July.

Miss Constance Coomber '19, and Miss Mary Lagar '17, have reached South America and are now at San Pedro in the Northern Argentine.

Mr. Jack Proctor '16, who received his post-graduate standing last April, arrived in Capetown, South Africa, on the 30th of June, from which he had still a long journey to make to his field of service in the interior. His address will be Cangamba, via Benguela, Bie, Angola, Portuguese West Africa. He will be at the Muye Station of the South Africa General Mission.

Mr. Sidney Cooper '15, and his wife, are now established in missionary work in the Canary Islands. Their address is San Francisco Javier 34, Santa Cruz, Tenerife, Canary Islands.

Fifteen young men from the Bible College have been serving the churches of Canada in Home Mission work during the summer. Messrs. Dave McDonald and Melbourne Johnston are serving the Methodist Board in Northern Ontario and Alberta respectively. Mr. Morley Hall is at Dorion, Northern Ontario, under the Baptist Board. Mr. Lesslie Garrett is on an Anglican Mission in Manitoulin Island. Messrs. Roberts, Prior, Powell, Page, Billester, Windsor, Wilson, Simpson, Smart, Fieldus and Gerrard are on Presbyterian Mission fields in Saskatchewan. Most of these young men are returning to the College this fall.

"THAT I MAY KNOW HIM"

(An address given by Miss Katharine Kreick at the Graduation Exercises in April.)

Life is often spoken of as a book, and no matter which way we turn there is always some lesson we may learn. We are learning daily on our ordinary rounds; some of our lessons are difficult and are learned only after much toil and many failures; others are easier, while some are learned almost unconsciously. These may serve various purposes; they may help us to become better acquainted with our work; they may help us to know and understand our fellow-men better; and they may help us to know ourselves.

But I believe also that those of us who are followers of the Lord Jesus Christ have a lesson to learn and that our lesson is "that we may know Him." Christ in His great High-Priestly prayer desired that His disciples might know the only true God and Jesus Christ Whom He hath sent, and He said to those gathered around Him "search the Scriptures for in them ye think ye have eternal life and they are they which testify of Me." We may know Him through the study of the Word.

So here in the College as we studied the Word day by day we saw our God first of all as the God of creation, all-wise in His plans, all-powerful in carrying them out in the various forms in which we behold them around about us to-day, in the glory of the heavens, the beauty of the earth, the vastness of the sea, and the multitudes of creatures, with man as the crown of all created in His own image. His carefulness and concern are shown by the provision which He has made for the preservation of the work of His hands.

Then as time goes on and man violates his liberty and changes his relationship to his God, God is still

concerned. He is not leaving man to himself; He still cares for him. Again and again He intervenes in this way and in that, seeking to bring him back to Himself. He reveals His mercy in taking the poor and despised, and His might in making a nation of them. In His dealing with this nation we see Him to be longsuffering and of endless resources. Often they could see no way out, but God was able. In their experience we see Him working out His own plans with a movement which is slow, steadfast, certain.

All through, too, we see that He is of purer eye than to behold evil, and that He cannot look upon iniquity. He is righteous, therefore they must offer up sacrifices for their sins and must suffer for their transgressions. But our God is pleased to reveal Himself to us also as a God of love. These are just a few glimpses into the heart of God. The Scriptures testify of Him. And then as we behold His glory by the Word we also read that "we all with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." Looking upon Him with open hearts through the Word, we cannot help but reflect His image in some small degree in our own lives. Just as the tiny dew drops on the grass in the early morning reflect the glory of the great sun above, so, I believe, the saints mirror their Lord, each in the way that He chooses, and by their lives, again, we learn to know Him. By the lives of some we are reminded that He is steadfast, by others that He is pure, by others true, and by others loving, gentle, compassionate, wise, watchful; and many other characteristics, which speak to us of Him, are shown forth by the lives of His own because "He liveth in us."

In the experience of our own lives, too, does He very graciously reveal

Himself. When first we heard the Gospel and responded, we rejoiced in salvation, but we find that there is something better than salvation, there is a Saviour. We have experienced deliverance in times of trial and difficulty, and are grateful for help in time of trouble; but there is something more than mere help; there is a Friend, One all-sufficient, One "that sticketh closer than a brother." In illness we find in this Friend a Physician, in perplexities and difficulties a Counsellor, in darkness a Light, along unknown pathways a Guide; and so does He become all things to us, and our varied experiences as we view them become mirrors reflecting Him, that we may look upon Him and learn to know Him.

We are grateful for the opportunity to study the Word, for the privileges of fellowship which this College affords, and for the knowledge we have gained of our Lord by seeing Him reflected in the lives of our instructors and fellow-Christians. We are thankful, too, for the varied experiences He brings us through, because they all help us to know Him better; and to know Him better is to love Him more, serve Him more faithfully, and wait more patiently for that time when we shall see Him "no more through a glass darkly, but face to face, when we shall know even as we are known." Till then our continued lesson and our desire, like that of the apostle, will be "that we may know Him."

HIS PRESENCE

By Miss Inez Botterell

Once in a while as I have been late for our morning prayer meeting, I have stood just outside the door and marked the faces of the worshippers raised in adoration and petition to the great Unseen One, the Most High, perfect in beauty, unblemished

in purity, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto. As I have stood there, almost overcome, for they "wist not that their faces shone." I have thought "How mysterious and yet how real."

You remember the two as they walked to Emmaus, how Jesus joined them, and how He questioned them in His usual compassionate way, "What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another as ye walk and are sad." We can picture their surprise at His ignorance, and imagine with what vividness they would relate the story of His own wonderful life and death, and how even their own hearts would be lightened in the telling about those who claimed to have seen the risen Christ. "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded to them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself." Now they reach the village and request that He "abide . . . for it is toward evening." We recollect their words after Jesus had made Himself known to them and disappeared, "Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked with us by the way and while He opened to us the scriptures?"

Have we not had the same experience? How often have we repeated and claimed "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst." Has not that been the something? Suppose that something had been removed, how inane and foolish everything would have seemed. If the dear ones with whom we come in contact had been at enmity with God, would we have had that fellowship one with another? "I in them and Thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one." It is glorious to think that He is in the midst of two or three. We know that. But is He not with each of us individually, near us, watching over us, walking with us, best of all **within us?**

We may be away from the two or three, away from one another, and the uplifting influences and kindly actions, away from the patient teaching of our consecrated instructors, but not away from Jesus. Remember the words of Mr. Bailey, telling of his experiences in Africa—"Sometimes Jesus seemed so real^{es} that I got off the path so that He might have it as He walked beside me."

As we go into the world where selfishness, love of pleasure, godlessness and vice are given such a large place, and, later, as some of us take our positions to represent Him in the midst of the filth, darkness, and gross immorality of heathenism, can we not rest in the assurance that in the centre of our being is the very life of the Son of God. Let us recall Mr. Trumbull's illustration of the little boxes. First a box of ordinary pill-box size labelled "God," inside that a smaller one labelled "Christ," again a smaller box, "You," and inside a card "All things." All things are yours and ye are Christ's, and Christ is God's. "I am the vine, ye are the branches." Oh, we know that He is with us individually, but sometimes in the midst of our work, when we seem to be called upon for one thing after another, we do not realize this Presence.

I wonder why this is. We realize His presence by faith, do we not? "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." We must take time to be holy. I have quoted God's word, "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." He says so. Now we are to be used by Him as lights in the darkness, as salt in its preserving and sweetening qualities. If we are not in communication with the Power House, we are not fulfilling our office. Our Father knows us thoroughly, having made us, and remembering that we are dust, and even if we are obliged, like Mary Slessor of Cala-

bar, to go out into the woods and chop down trees, or attempt to do so, to be alone with God, we must do it. That is His plan for us, that is his way of building us up in the faith, in the same way as food is His plan for providing for our bodies, and I am fully convinced that only by this means can we continually realize His presence.

The adversary knows this and acts accordingly,—as a beautiful angel of light he comes. He knows that we understand the necessity for Bible study and prayer; he concedes the fact that we have been taught that the first fruits are for the Lord and that our day must begin with Him; he grants that before retiring we should seek the protection of the sheltering wings, but at other times when we know that our faith is becoming rather feeble, and the still small voice says, "Come ye apart with Me and rest awhile," he hints, "Now this is your only chance for a little friendly chat with a dear one," "You must get that letter written, it will help your friend," "You need a little physical rest at this particular time," and he makes you feel extremely tired.

Does not the Book say, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength"? I have observed this, that when we deny ourselves, or even refrain from doing some work apparently for the Lord, He has always made up for it. In time, as in everything else we do for Jesus, "Give and it shall be given you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over." Let us plan our time under His guidance and He will supply our spiritual need of food. He is with us, let us realize His presence.

The long, long day would be dreary,
And the restless night so sad,
Were it not for a thought of comfort
That has made my spirit glad.

And this is the thought most precious.

That a loving unseen friend,
Is tirelessly watching o'er me,
And will till my life shall end.

So close, oh, so close beside me,
Doth this veiled presence stand.
It seems sometimes, I can almost feel
The soothing touch of His hand.

And the days when I am weakest
Are the days He draws most near,
And whispers low to my weary heart,
His tenderest words of cheer.

Some day, some day I shall see Him,
He will bid the veil remove,
And bear me away in His own dear arms
To the glorious home above.

LOVE TOKENS

One thing that makes the work of the Bible College so satisfying to those who are seeking to carry it on is the spontaneous expressions of appreciation that come from those who are in the best position to know it. Shortly after the close of the last session, the mother of one of the students, sending a donation to the College funds, wrote to the Principal as follows. The small packet to which she refers contained a number of English gold and silver coins, which were the first earnings she had received as a young girl in giving her first violin lessons:

"L. has so much enjoyed his work at the College, and is already looking forward eagerly to next term, when he hopes to resume his studies. My object in writing to-day is to send the enclosed small packet, which I want you to place in the College treasury. The scrap of paper will tell its own tale. My dear old mother has kept it all these years, and now that she is very near to the "Beautiful Gate" my sister sends it back to me. I am so glad it can go to the College which is proving such a blessing to so many."

Time Table - Day Classes, Twenty-seventh Session, 1920-21

HOURS	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9-10	New Testament Mr. McNicol	New Testament Mr. McNicol	Messianic Teaching Mr. Hanna	New Testament Mr. McNicol	New Testament Mr. McNicol
10-11	Church History Mr. Hanna	Devotional Service Mr. McNicol	Bible Lands Mr. McNicol	Church History Mr. Hanna	Messianic Teaching Mr. Hanna
11-12	1. Personal Work Mr. Hyde 2. Homiletics Dr. Weston	1. Principles of Teaching Mr. Hanna 2. Psychology Dr. Weston	Christian Doctrine Dr. Weston	Person and Work of the Holy Spirit Mr. Hyde	Christian Doctrine Dr. Weston
2-3					
3-4	Medical Subjects Dr. Withrow	New Testament Greek Mr. Hanna	Missionary Society Meeting	New Testament Greek Mr. Hanna	

Devotional Exercises and Roll Call at 9 o'clock each morning.

