

MISSIONARY TO CANNIBALS

As a child, a girl was brought up on stories of valiant missionaries who had worked among savages to bring them to Christ and had been eaten by cannibals. Her prayer was, “God, help me also to become such a missionary.” It was her dream to sacrifice herself for the worst of men.

In time, the dream faded. She matured, and by the age of 18, her prayer was, “God, give me a good Christian husband.” Her prayer was answered, and she was married. For six weeks, she was happy with him.

Then came Pearl Harbor, and the USA entered the war. Her husband was drafted into the army and was away from her for three years. He participated in battles on the front lines. In the end, he was gravely wounded and spent a year in the hospital.

When he finally returned home, he was no longer the nice, loving husband. In the war, there was drinking, searing, and womanizing. He, too, had fallen into those habits. One evening he came home drunk. His wife was sure he had come from another woman. Without one good word for her, he fell asleep on the couch. She went into another room and prayed with tears, “God, change my husband.”

She received God’s reply: “Why should I change him and not you?” “But there is nothing to be changed in me. I have belonged to you since early childhood.” God said, “Between you and me, there is a misunderstanding. I was always attentive to your prayers. I liked it when you offered yourself to be a missionary among cannibals. But, cannibals are scarce nowadays and far away in Africa or on some island. To ease your task, I brought a savage into your home. Be a missionary to him. I granted you a cannibal. Win him for the Kingdom.”

She went back to the other room, looked at her “cannibal”, and fell in love with him again. She decided her life’s task would be to restore him as a child of God and a loving husband. It took her a long time, but she succeeded. Now, they are both 90. He still brings her a flower every day to show his gratitude.

God gratifies us with difficult tasks to ennoble us. In the same way, God decided he wanted Jonah to give His word to the most rebellious. What he determines, He causes to come to pass. If Jonah would not come to Nineveh willingly, a sea monster would be used to propel him there. He spent his time in the fish’s belly praying and preparing thoroughly the sermon he would have to deliver to the Ninevites. In the end, he fulfilled his task, and God had mercy on Nineveh.

--Pastor Richard Wurmbrand