

THE PRAYERS OF A MAN WE CALLED MISTER

A ONE PERSON
PLAY/NOVELETTE

BY

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Chapter 4

Now a rich young business person came up to him and said, "Mister, how can I become really prosperous?" And Mister said to her, "You know the way. What have you been taught? It takes money to make money. Believe and you shall receive. Turn your scars into stars. Take care of the pennies and the dollars will take care of themselves. God helps those who help themselves." And she replied, "These I have done since my youth." Then Mister said to her, "You lack only one thing. Go and love your enemies and you shall have real prosperity of un-measuring greatness."

And she went away very sad for she was a Republican and the government told her who to love and who to hate and her country was at war and her investments in the military industries were making much money for her.

When the companions saw this they said to themselves, "Who then can be prosperous?" And Mister, knowing their thoughts said to them, "What is impossible by human will is possible by prayer." And he picked up his sign and continued to walk.

Now they came to a camp on the shore of the Lake of Erie but they were not allowed in because they did not have the price of admission. And the companions asked him, "Teach us how to pray?" Immediately a large crowd had followed him and he directed his companions to take a boat out a little distance from the shore and he began to teach them about prayer.

He said to them, "Prayer is not something to be memorized, for if we say it by memory we still have not prayed. Once there was a city in a

Western European country. In this city lived two Bishops. One Bishop represented the Roman Catholic tradition and the other Bishop represented the Anglican tradition. Each Bishop had their own residence in the same section of town, on the same street, in fact, they were on adjoining lots.

The first Bishop built a massive house that had ten bedrooms and twelve restrooms. Not to be outdone, the other Bishop built a house that had twelve bedrooms and fifteen restrooms.

Yet neither of the Bishops had families to use the bedrooms nor did either of the Bishops entertain enough to require such a large house. But each built their homes to vie with the other. Which one was living out the prayer, ‘Give us this day our daily bread?’

Then Rocky answered, “No one.”

And Mister replied, “You are not far from understanding.”

“Do not pray for what you want,” he said. “You have no idea what you want and you wouldn’t be content even if you received it. Instead, pray that you will accept God’s answers and God’s will for your life. Pray that you will become more like God in your heart and in your life.

“Do not pray unless you are willing to become what God wants you to become. Do not pray for change, for you cannot change one thing except your own heart. Pray that you can accept God’s grace and pray for faith.

“Prayer is not something you do, prayer is something you are becoming.”

After he said this the crowd became disgusted and started to leave. Many said, “Who is this man to tell us how to pray?” And others said, “We do not want him to pray for us.”

And the companions in the boat said to him, “Mister, this boat is like the

saying: ‘Pray for safety, but row for shore.’”

And Mister said to them, “Get behind me, confused ones. That prayer is for the strong and the self-reliant. The prayers that I pray are for those who have no boat; for those who are too weak to row; for those who are swamped and all the rowing in the world will not get them to shore. If a woman had a boat and if she could row to shore, what would she need to pray for?” And the companions marveled at his faith.

And there came from the camp along the shore some people who claimed to be Mister’s brothers and sisters. And they said to his companions, “Let us take him away and put him in the hospital, for he is mentally ill and is crazy.” But Mister said to them all, “Why am I crazy for praying the way I have learned? Is it not those who claim to be my brothers and sisters the one’s who are mistaken?” And he would not go with them.

Chapter 5

As they were walking he told them these metaphors about prayer. “Who is it that prayer is for? Once there was a soldier who was shot and wounded and left for dead. And a General passed by, but he went on the other side of the road, for he did not want to bother himself with physical labor. And later, a famous reporter passed by, but she went to the other side of the road, for she did not want to report anything that would contradict what the public wanted to hear. But a terrorist saw the soldier and he left the confines of his bunker and went out and pulled the soldier to safety. He took the soldier to a hospital and said to the physician, ‘Do what you can and when I return I will

pay you for your labor.’ Then he left the soldier at the hospital. Tell me, which one was answering their prayers to God?”

And again he spoke to them, saying, “There were four men who went into a Mosque to pray. And the first one prayed, ‘Lord, kill my enemy and make the people of my enemy suffer.’ And this prayer was sickening to God and the prayer was immediately discarded and it bore no fruit what-so-ever. And the second man prayed, ‘Lord, release me from my debtors and those who seek to harm me.’ And this prayer was shallow in the eyes of God and God disregarded it after but a short while. And the third man prayed, ‘Lord, give me what I want for I am a good man.’ And God felt sadness welling up inside because this prayer, while sincere, and able to bear some fruit, was incomplete. But the fourth man knelt down in the Mosque and prayed, ‘Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ And God rejoiced at the aroma of this prayer an