

The Unavoidable Question.

by Gareth Evans

Gareth Evans shares his journey of confronting the question of what to do with Jesus, leading to his transformative experience of salvation.

Scripture: Psalm 51:10, John 11:25, Romans 10:9, Ephesians 2:8, Revelation 3:20

Topics: "Personal Testimony", "Salvation Experience"

Description

Gareth Evans shares a personal testimony of his journey to accepting Jesus Christ as his Savior after initially struggling to understand the significance of Jesus in his life. Through encounters with believers and a pivotal moment in a chapel service, Gareth comes to grasp the essence of the Gospel - Jesus' resurrection and offer of eternal life to those who believe in Him. Despite avoiding the question for weeks, Gareth finally surrenders to Jesus, seeking forgiveness and inviting Him into his heart, leading to a transformative experience of salvation and joy that remains with him.

Transcript

I had been invited to Betty Bishop's home where she, and her husband Vince, held a weekly meeting for teenagers. It was my first visit, having been invited by my sister. Though I knew none of the songs they sang, I was familiar with most of the Bible stories to which the young speaker referred.

After the closing prayer, I was invited into the kitchen where soft drinks and cookies were being prepared. I assumed Betty wanted me to carry the heavy tray of refreshments into the meeting room, so was taken aback when she asked me the question, "Tell me, Gareth, what will you do with the Lord Jesus Christ?"

I had no idea what she meant! What could I do with him? He had died 2000 years ago.

I attended the meeting again the following week as I enjoyed the first time, but when Betty said she wanted to talk to me about something, I pretended to be busy for I still had no answer to her question. The same thing happened each week and she must have become quite discouraged by my avoiding her.

Five weeks later, one of the other boys present, invited a group of us to attend a small chapel in the adjacent village, where his brother was to present the Sunday evening message. Austin Evans had left school just a couple of years before so he was known to me by name, though we had never spoken together. It was my first time in church for many years, little realising how it was to change my life.

I remember nothing of the service but Austin and I began to talk afterwards. We talked about school, my plans for university, my career possibilities, and then he asked me a question. "Tell me, Gareth, what will you do with the Lord Jesus Christ?" Exactly the same question I had been trying to avoid for the past five weeks!

Of course, by now I had come to understand that the crux of the Gospel is that Jesus rose from the dead and that He now lives. To those who embrace His atonement for them on the cross, recognising their sinfulness and His willingness to forgive, He gives eternal life. My own mother had died when I was thirteen and I had no difficulty in believing in life after death, often 'talking' to my mother when I needed her comfort. That evening, after returning home, I talked to the risen, living Lord Jesus.

"Lord, if you are real and if you can hear this prayer, please forgive me my sin and come into my life." I then recited a little chorus I had learned at Betty's home. "Into my heart, into my heart, come into my heart Lord Jesus. Come in today, come in to stay, come into my heart, Lord Jesus. Amen."

Nothing spectacular happened and it was not until four days later that the joy of salvation began to flood my being. That joy has never left me and today, I know with absolute assurance, that He answered my prayer.

I had been able to avoid Betty with her question but I could not run away from the Lord. In His time, He asked me the question again through another of His servants. Coincidence? I think not!

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