

A Diamond in the Sand



A twenty-five year old man stepped onto a shovel, pushing it into the sandy riverbank. When he turned it over, what he found would change his life forever. In the shovelful of sand, he uncovered a diamond the size of a computer mouse. It measured 182 carats one of the largest diamonds ever found!

The man who discovered it had lived all his days in abject poverty. He hardly ever possessed more than enough to stay alive. Like most of his fellow countrymen in Guinea, he lived under the burden of poverty.

Whether this man can escape the poverty which engulfs him waits to be seen. Neighbors of the man marveled that he wasn't robbed and murdered the first night he spent at home after finding the stone. When government authorities got news of the incredible diamond, they had the stone confiscated, and the man hidden away so he wouldn't be such an easy target for crooks.

They informed the media that the finder of the diamond was entitled to keep a percentage of the worth of the stone. It was not disclosed how big of a percentage the man could keep. However, since the diamond would be worth millions, even a small percentage would doubtless seem like a fortune to someone who was all their life accustomed to poverty. If he managed to get it and keep it, his life would be a real rags to riches transformation.

Did you know that, to escape hell and enter into heaven, we must have a rags to riches transformation? Incredible as it sounds, it is true. Every one of us, whether we are rich or poor in this world's goods, must experience such a change on a spiritual level in our lives.

Each person needs to realize that all their righteousness is as filthy rags and accept the salvation that is so richly offered through the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are all as unclean thing and all our righteousness is as filthy rags, is the judgment God has passed on all mankind. In Gods sight we are all sinners dressed in filthy rags, unfit to ever enter his presence. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Not a single one of us will ever make it into heaven in our natural state. God is holy and must judge sin. One sin is enough to sink a sinner in hell for eternity. Dont be fooled by taking sin lightly. It is the weightiest matter known to man. Weighty enough to sink multitudes into hell if they fail to repent and believe on the Lord Jesus.

To repent means to pass the same judgment on yourself that God has already passed on you. In short it means to realize that you are unfit for his presence and on the road to hell. It is only when one realizes their lost and ruined condition that they will ever see their need of the Savior who died on Calvary for them.

Look onto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God and there is none else. When a sinner repents and looks to Christ for salvation he will take away their filthy rags and give them the true riches of his salvation.

What are some of the riches that he gives with his salvation? Here is a verse that speaks of them. Christ Jesus who of God is made unto us, wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. These are all qualities that in our impoverished state as sinners we are totally bereft of. But let a person take Christ as their Savior and all these qualities in their perfection and super-abundance will be theirs through the blessed Savior.

Wisdom: in him are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. All the efforts of this worlds philosophers never devised a way for a sinner to be cleansed from their sins and made fit for heaven, but God through Christ not only devised a plan but carried it out. Before the foundation of the earth was laid, God knew His Son would become a man and die for his creatures sin, as the one way those sins could ever be put away. It was God in his supreme wisdom that made such a plan, while his perfect love carried it out. We can enjoy all the benefits of that wisdom when we make Jesus Christ ours through faith.

Righteousness: in our sinful condition, God describes even the best of us as having only filthy rags for righteousness. However let a person believe in Christ and the work he did on the cross, and they will be made the righteousness of God in him the moment they believe. For he hath made him to be sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. Dont think that you can be made righteous some other way such as by law keeping, or religious observances. No matter how sincere you are in these things they will never make you righteous. They cant do it. There is no power in them. Instead they will only bring you into bondage to what the Bible calls weak and beggarly elements. Why go on in such abject poverty when Gods grace is so rich and free, and he is so willingly to account you righteous the moment you believe on his Son? The only way to be justified or accounted righteous is through faith in Christ. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

Sanctification: this word means to be set apart to God. The Lord Jesus is the light of the world, and without a real faith in him, people are set apart to sin, darkness, and headed towards hell. But when a person turns to Jesus Christ for salvation, God will forgive their sins and set them apart for his special care for time and eternity. When the apostle Paul was converted on the road to Damascus the Lord Jesus spoke to him direct from glory and gave him a special commission to the gentiles. He was to go to them in order to open their eyes and to turn them from the power of Satan unto God, that they might receive the forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among them that are sanctified by faith in me. The

forgiveness of sins and an inheritance in heaven only belong to those who are set apart by a faith in Christ.

Redemption: redemption means deliverance with power. Death had such an overwhelming power over us through sin that it was going to bring us all down into an everlasting hell. Jesus Christ went into death, and conquered it for us, rising out of the grave. In his victory over death he became our great redeemer. Believe on his name and redemption will be yours. Death and hell will have no more claim on you. Then you can say like Job of old, I know that my redeemer liveth. For the believer trusting in Christ, the powerful enemy of death has been completely destroyed forever.

When a person repents and believes on the Lord Jesus Christ they go from the utter poverty of being a sinner, to possessing eternal life and all the riches that come through faith in Christ. They are riches that no thief, nor murderer, nor government of man can ever take from them. Every sinner who trust in the Lord Jesus has passed through a rags to riches transformation. Wont you take him as your Savior so that you can leave the rags and ruin of sin behind, and possess the riches of salvation through Christ?

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.