

## New Carissa



After the New Carissa, a giant freight ship, carrying over 300,000 gallons of fuel ran aground in a storm, the crew was removed from the ship by helicopter. Deeply concerned about a possible oil spill, experts on shore considered all their options. One solution they considered was to build a road across the sand dunes and from there, a pipeline out to the ship to pump the oil off. However oil was already escaping her tanks. The experts involved decided on a speedier solution, they would burn the oil. Every bit of oil that they could burn would be oil that would never reach the shore.

Naval explosive experts placed the charges they hoped would ignite the oil. They had to work in a hurry because a storm—packing sixty-five mile an hour winds and twenty five-foot swells—was approaching. When the plunger was pushed, the explosives ignited, but the blast failed to penetrate the thick steel of the tanks. This first attempt to ignite the oil failed.

Stronger explosives were flown to the site. The storm stalled off the coast. This provided the naval experts the time to try it once more. This time the explosions ripped into the tanks and the oil was set a blaze, and the ship became a towering inferno of flames and black smoke. After five hours of burning the intense heat caused the ship to break in two. The ship burned for three days sending up flames as high as three hundred feet.

When the flames burned out, inspectors found 135,000 gallons of fuel left in the bow section. The fire had burned over 200,000 gallons of fuel but what was left still threatened to wreck the shore.

The failure to get rid of the oil by burning is like a bitter lesson that many people must learn about themselves. Once a person becomes convinced that God hates sins, the natural response of their heart is to try to balance out the evil that they have done by doing good. However, in the course of time, if they are honest with themselves, each one will make a startling discovery — despite all their best efforts they will find the black tendency in their hearts to do what is hateful in God's sight just as strong as it ever was.

This is exactly what the Bible says, "Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean thing? Not one!". Or "Though thou take thee much nitre, or wash thee with much soap yet is thine iniquity marked before me."

Self-reformation may provide a temporary false sense of comfort but before long that which is in the heart will come out and all the best efforts will be worth nothing. There is no power in men to make themselves more suited to the presence of God, but there is power in the Savior to make the vilest clean.

Men often think that they must make themselves fit before they turn to the Savior.

But God's way is just the opposite. He wants each person to come to the Lord Jesus in all their unfitness and blackness of heart and acknowledge that they are ruined and lost.

The Lord Jesus paid a great price for sin at the cross. He can forgive and cleanse the worst of sinners. God knows the sinfulness of our hearts far better than we do ourselves.

He knows the contents of our heart as well as he knows the number of stars in the sky or as well as he knows the workings of the smallest atom. He knows it like he knows all things in a perfect way. Notwithstanding, he very much desires for every person to come to him for the forgiveness of sins.

"Go so loved the world," the Lord Jesus said, and what is love but an earnest desire for the good of another, "that he gave his only begotten Son." If you need proof of God's unfailing love, here it is, He gave his only begotten Son.

If God poured out an ocean of love into your soul it wouldn't be a greater proof of his good intentions toward you than the fact that Christ died for you. "That whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3.16). That wonderful word "whosoever" means that no one in whole world is excluded from the invitation to believe on the Son and receive everlasting life.

Will you make some vain effort to make yourself clean? Or will you turn to the Savior and receive the gift of eternal life he offers?

**He that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out**

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