

365Stories

40. Like Patrick ? or like Jesus ?



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In an evangelical mission welcoming the homeless, tramps and alcoholics most of the time, Patrick had a spectacular encounter with the Lord Jesus. His change did not fail to be noticed by all who lived around him. At the degree of alcoholism where he was, he really needed a miracle. So that, from one day to the next, he would give up alcohol. This change of life was notable : leaving all his longings, his behavior testifying of a life of christianity of great quality. All around him were amazed to feel his heart and see his total availability to serve others He remained twenty-four hours around the clock at the mission, and accomplished the most ungrateful needs with joy and a magnificent smile. Nothing could stop him ! Nothing could discourage him ! That an alcoholic next to him dirtied a place by vomiting, was the first to become clean.



Can you image the state of the bathrooms a place where the the tramps and drunkards come those who are not yet born again !

Patrick was always there to keep the place in a perfect state. And not oly did he do, but his whole attitude showed his recognition for his new life and for the opportunity he had to be able to serve.

He was really ready for anything ! With love, he welcomed the newcomers coming into the mission, whether they are clean or not, whether they are drunk or not. Some were so drunk that they could not get undressed alone.

Who helped them ? Always Patrick, full of solicitude and compassion.



One evening, during an evangelistic meeting, the head of the mission was preaching the gospel to the numerous people present. At these meetings, most of the men remained inert, seemingly not understanding all that was being said to them. Just until one day, they too had a personal encounter with the Lord. That day, while the director of the mission was giving an altar call. One of them stood, crying, he he came forward and got on his knees. Convicted of sin in a strong particularly way, he cried out : "Lord, Lord ! I beg you, make me like Patrick ! I want to be like Patrick !" And he was crying more beautifully. The pastor leaned down to him and said : __My friend, I think it would be better to ask God to make you like Jesus !



The man raised his head, looking astonished and doubtful and asked :

___is Jesus as wonderful as Patrick ?

This man didn't know Jesus. But he saw someone that resembled Him to such a point that he wanted to be like him.

Of course, with Patrick as a reference, the next step for this man, was to go directly to Jesus.

The Bible asks us to be examples



The Bible asks us to be examples for those who follow us. For example in 1 Timothy 4 verse 12, Paul said to Timothy : Show yourself an example of those who believe in speech, conduct, love, faith, faithfulness and purity.

Do we know how to be such examples ?