

## October 3, 2011, The Parable of the Night and the Birth of the Hymn Precious Lord

FYI - You may have seen this story about the hymn Precious Lord. But, have you thought about it like this:

### THE BIRTH OF THE HYMN "PRECIOUS LORD" AND THE WAY OF LIFE IN THE NIGHT

Back in 1932, I was a fairly new husband. My wife, Nettie and I were living in a little apartment on Chicago's south side. One hot August afternoon I had to go to St. Louis where I was to be the featured soloist at a large revival meeting. I didn't want to go; Nettie was in the last month of pregnancy with our first child, but a lot of people were expecting me in St. Louis. I kissed Nettie goodbye, clattered downstairs to our Model A and, in a fresh Lake Michigan breeze, chugged out of Chicago on Route 66.

However, outside the city, I discovered that in my anxiety at leaving, I had forgotten my music case. I wheeled around and headed back.

I found Nettie sleeping peacefully. I hesitated by her bed; something was strongly telling me to stay. But eager to get on my way, and not wanting to disturb Nettie, I shrugged off the feeling and quietly slipped out of the room with my music.

The next night, in the steaming St. Louis heat, the crowd called on me to sing again and again. When I finally sat down, a messenger boy ran up with a Western Union Telegram. I ripped open the envelope.... Pasted on the yellow sheet were the words: YOUR WIFE JUST DIED.

People were happily singing and clapping around me, but I could hardly keep from crying out. I rushed to a phone and called home. All I could hear on the other end was "Nettie is dead."

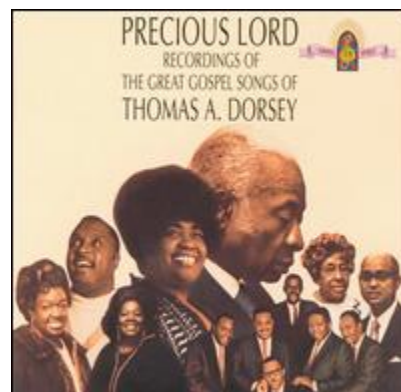
When I got back, I learned that Nettie had given birth to a boy. I swung between grief and joy. Yet that same night, the baby died. I buried Nettie and our little boy together, in the same casket. Then I fell apart.

For days I closeted myself. I felt that God had done me an injustice. I didn't want to serve Him anymore or write gospel songs I just wanted to go back to that jazz world I once knew so well. But then, as I hunched alone in that dark apartment those first sad days, I thought back to the afternoon I went to St. Louis. Something kept telling me to stay with Nettie. Was that something God? Oh, if I had paid more attention to Him that day, I would have stayed and been with Nettie when she died.

From that moment on I vowed to listen more closely to Him. But still I was lost in grief. Everyone was kind to me, especially one friend, Professor Frye. The following Saturday evening he took me up to Madam Malone's Poro College, a neighborhood music school. It was quiet; the late evening sun crept through the curtained windows.

I sat down at the piano, and my hands began to browse over the keys. Something happened to me then. I felt at peace. I felt as though I could reach out and touch God. I found myself playing a melody. Once in my head they just seemed to fall into place: 'Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn, through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light, take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.'

The Lord gave me these words and melody, He also healed my spirit. I learned that when we are in our deepest grief, when we feel farthest from God, this is when He is closest, and when we are most open to His restoring power.



And so I go on living for God willingly and joyfully, until that day comes when He will take me and gently lead me home.

Tommy Andrew Dorsey

Tommy Andrew Dorsey is not the well-known band leader Tommy Dorsey, from the 1930's and 40's. Thomas Andrew Dorsey was a black gospel musician who also penned the famous song "Peace in the Valley". He penned about 1000 songs and hymns. And he was born in 1989 in Villa Rica, Georgia, and he died in 1993 of Alzheimer's in Chicago. The band leader Tommy Dorsey was born in 1905 and died in 1956 from choking on food during his sleep. After eating a heavy meal, and then taking a heavy dose of sleeping pills, he choked to death in his sleep at the age of 51.

The point to this story is twofold. One is that the Lord guides us IF we will allow Him and actually pay attention to His still small voice that speaks to us. But, we get so consumed in the need to do the things of the world, that we block out what the Lord is calling us to step aside and receive. Such as He has been calling people to receive the knowledge of His Words because the destruction of the Great Tribulation and the plagues of the Darkness of the Night that immediately follows, is now at hand. He is calling out to us and telling us of the death that is coming to us, or even to our families, but we will not stop and take the time to be zealous to hear the Words of God that is telling us to come into the knowledge of. Yes, perhaps after the destruction of so many loved ones that is coming, you may still have a chance later to correct your path; such as becoming a martyr for not taking the mark of the beast. But, there will be loss, and will you be able to live with your grief. He will help you, as you see in this story of Thomas Andrew Dorsey. But, the loss is still going to be painful. Being a martyr is also not going to be easy. So, hear His Words and get prepared, for as it states clearly in John 5:24 that only if you hear (*Means Comprehend - see John 15:3, 8:47, and Lk. 24:44-45*) the Words of His Voice, and believe (*In the Covenant Promises*) in the Father (*Given in to His Words from before the Creation*) can you be assured of Eternal Life and also be assured that you and your family will pass through these coming judgments (*John 8:47*).

The second point of the story is that all these things that people and churches have stored up are worthless if they do not have the knowledge of His Words that God created before the Creation, for the Lord says in John 8:47 that (*In these Appointed Times like now when the knowledge of His Truth - His Words - have been received on the earth*), there is no excuse for our ignoring to be zealous for His knowledge of Truth, because the Father will not allow such people to stand before Him - meaning that they will not be allowed to receive Eternal Life, no matter if they call out for Jesus and His blood (*Heb. 10:25-31, and Deut. 18:18-19*). It does not matter if you are a preacher, a prophet, a healer, a demon remover, or an intercessor, this Law of God cannot be changed (*Mt. 7:21-23, Ps. 119:142, 9, 130, 160*).

Interesting? I hope so, for the time of our judgment has come. It is going to be terrible to go through the grief of knowing that we could have saved so many loved ones, but we did not cry out. Instead, we went on to the daily grind of business, or off to the football game, or the golf match, or the movie, not realizing the Lord has been calling and calling out the warning that the birth of 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3 is already in process.

One of the sad truths of the Parable of the Ten Virgins (*Mt. 25:1-13*) is that in the coming destruction the Precious Lord is no longer going to be available to reach out His hand to help those who would not be zealous to seek out and get filled with the knowledge of His Words (*Called also within the Bible as "His Truth"*) before the physical destruction of the Tribulation comes suddenly upon them, for the Lord promised that it will be suddenly (*Like within hours*). Because of the Commandment of the Father God Almighty, the Lord Jesus will not be able to help those who then come and seek this knowledge of His Words, for the Father promised in Luke 14:24 that He will not allow these who treated His Words without the highest honor that His Promises They carry deserve (*John 9:4-5, Amos 8:11*). It states clearly in the Parable of the Ten Virgins

that this unwise ones (*The Foolish Complacent Ones*) will want to gain it from the others, but they will not be able to give it to them.

When I read about Tommy Dorsey's death from choking on food in his sleep, it reminds me of the Parable of the rich fool. It also reminds me of so many of the church and the church leaders of this Day of Judgment, for they do not realize that they have not rightly divided the Word of Truth, and they are unaware that they have built great churches that do not have His food within them, and thus they have nothing of that Power of His Spirit that will enable them to pass through these Judgments of this, the Night of His Day. So, the Prophetic Words that we are seeing and hearing of in these days are clearly identifying that the Lord is saying that all the resources that has been gained in these churches will be lost, for the Judgment of His Word in them is coming upon them in this Night.

**Luke 12:13-21** <sup>13</sup>Then one from the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." <sup>14</sup>But He said to him, "Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?" <sup>15</sup>And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses." <sup>16</sup>Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. <sup>17</sup>And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' <sup>18</sup>So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. <sup>19</sup>And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry." <sup>20</sup>BUT GOD SAID TO HIM, 'FOOL! THIS NIGHT YOUR SOUL WILL BE REQUIRED OF YOU; THEN WHOSE WILL THOSE THINGS BE WHICH YOU HAVE PROVIDED?' <sup>21</sup>SO IS HE WHO LAYS UP TREASURE FOR HIMSELF, AND IS NOT RICH TOWARD GOD."

He warned in Is. 58:13-14 that we are to teach His Words and His Ways on His Sabbath Day. Have we? Sadly, the answer is "no". In many ways we are going to see so many choke on their food, for they did not know that eating bread with butter and honey in the Ways of His Words would have enabled them to know evil, and caused them to choose Good. As it is, have chosen to allow evil to stand, and we do not know His Words and the Ways of His Good. So, as the Lord recently said in a profound Prophetic Vision that the shepherds and the Sabbaths have become likened as a wart to Him.

Here is a writing about the reason of why Jesus proclaimed that He Came Eating and Drinking:

<http://www.153wordsofgod.com/PDF/IF%20JESUS%20WAS%20THE%20WISEST,%20WHY%20DID%20HE%20COME%20EATING%20AND%20DRINKING.pdf>

Here is an audio on why we should be very careful to learn why to drink milk wisely, and also the reason of why Gentiles are appointed to return milk to Israel, and the way that they are to do so:

<http://www.153wordsofgod.com/MP3/A%20Time%20to%20Drink%20Milk%20and%20Eat%20Meat%20Wisely.mp3>

Some sad, yet wise, food for thought.....

Floyd E. Taylor