

A RUSSIAN CAPTAIN FINDS JESUS

RICHARD WURMBRAND, A LEADER OF THE UNDERGROUND CHURCH IN COMMUNIST ROMANIA IN THE 1940S, MET A RUSSIAN CAPTAIN WHILE LIVING IN RUSSIA.

I LONG TO KNOW GOD BETTER. I LOVE HIM BUT DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM!

SINCE YOU HAVE NEVER SEEN A BIBLE BEFORE, LET ME READ TO YOU SOME OF THE WORDS AND PARABLES OF JESUS, GOD'S SON, WHO CAME TO EARTH TO GIVE SALVATION TO ALL WHO BELIEVE.

"SEEING THE CROWDS, HE WENT UP ON THE MOUNTAIN, AND WHEN HE SAT DOWN, HIS DISCIPLES CAME TO HIM. AND HE OPENED HIS MOUTH AND TAUGHT THEM, SAYING:

'BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT, FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN, FOR THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED.

BLESSED ARE THE MEEK, FOR THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH. BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR THEY SHALL BE SATISFIED."¹

"AND HE TOLD THEM MANY THINGS IN PARABLES, SAYING: 'A SOWER WENT OUT TO SOW. ...'²

¹ MATTHEW 5:1-6 ESV

² MATTHEW 13:3 ESV

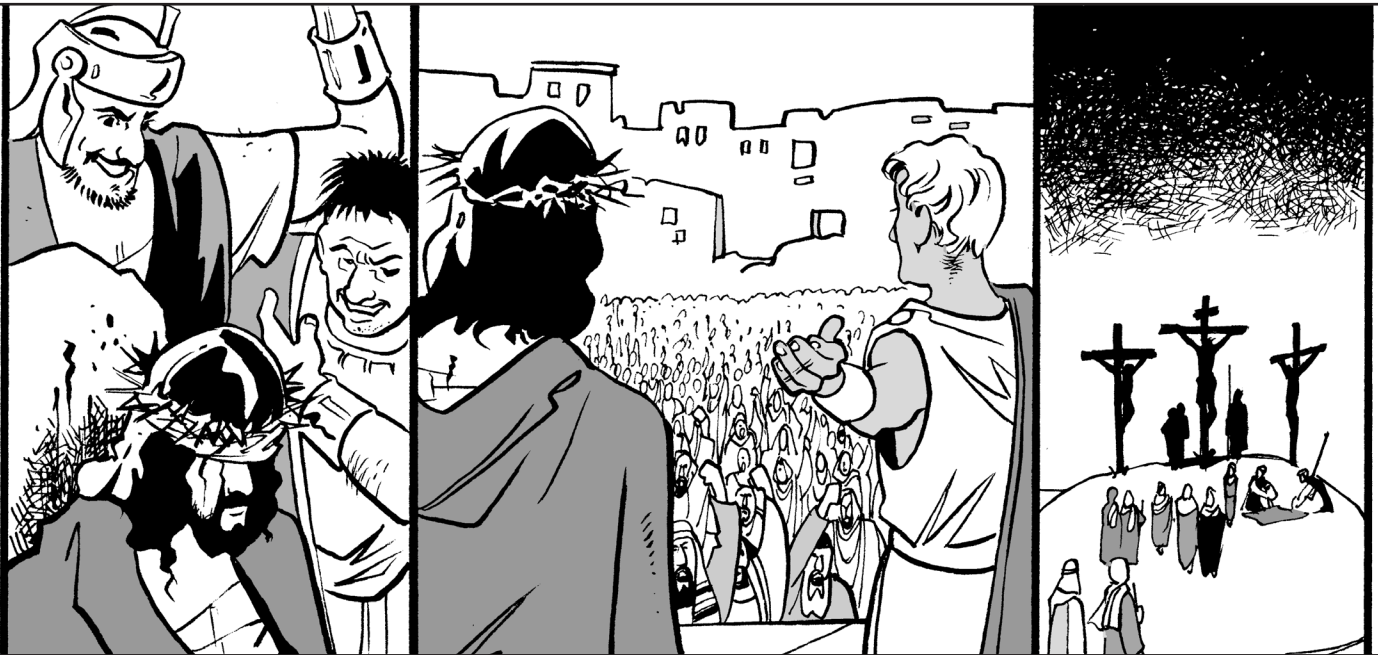
THE PEOPLE MUST HAVE BEEN SO HAPPY TO HEAR THE WORDS STRAIGHT FROM JESUS' MOUTH.

AFTER RICHARD READ MORE OF JESUS' PARABLES TO THE CAPTAIN ...

I CANNOT KEEP STILL. I FEEL LIKE DANCING FOR JOY! WHAT WONDERFUL BEAUTY! HOW COULD I LIVE WITHOUT KNOWING THIS CHRIST?

AH YES, HE HAD MANY DISCIPLES, BUT NOT ALL PEOPLE WERE HAPPY. AFTER ONLY THREE YEARS OF HIS MINISTRY ... HERE, LET ME READ IT TO YOU.

"THEN PILATE TOOK JESUS AND FLOGGED HIM. AND THE SOLDIERS TWISTED TOGETHER A CROWN OF THORNS AND PUT IT ON HIS HEAD AND ARRAYED HIM IN A PURPLE ROBE. THEY CAME TO HIM, SAYING, 'HAIL, KING OF THE JEWS!' AND STRUCK HIM WITH THEIR HANDS. PILATE WENT OUT AGAIN AND SAID TO THEM, 'SEE I'M BRINGING HIM OUT TO YOU THAT YOU MAY KNOW THAT I FIND NO GUILT IN HIM.'



SO JESUS CAME OUT, WEARING THE CROWN OF THORNS AND THE PURPLE ROBE. PILATE SAID TO THEM, 'BEHOLD THE MAN!' WHEN THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND THE OFFICERS SAW HIM, THEY CRIED OUT, 'CRUCIFY HIM, CRUCIFY HIM!' SO THEY TOOK JESUS, AND HE WENT OUT, BEARING HIS OWN CROSS, TO THE PLACE CALLED THE PLACE OF A SKULL, WHICH IN ARAMAIC IS CALLED GOLGOTHA. THERE THEY CRUCIFIED HIM, AND WITH HIM TWO OTHERS, ONE ON EITHER SIDE, AND JESUS BETWEEN THEM."³



"NOW AFTER THE SABBATH, TOWARD THE DAWN OF THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK, MARY MAGDALENE AND THE OTHER MARY WENT TO THE TOMB.



AND BEHOLD, THERE WAS A GREAT EARTHQUAKE, FOR AN ANGEL OF THE LORD DESCENDED FROM HEAVEN AND CAME AND ROLLED BACK THE STONE AND SAT ON IT.

HIS APPEARANCE WAS LIKE LIGHTNING, AND HIS CLOTHING WHITE AS SNOW. THE ANGEL SAID TO THE WOMEN, 'DO NOT BE AFRAID, FOR I KNOW THAT YOU SEEK JESUS WHO WAS CRUCIFIED. HE IS NOT HERE, FOR HE HAS RISEN.



COME, SEE THE PLACE WHERE HE LAY. THEN GO QUICKLY AND TELL HIS DISCIPLES THAT HE HAS RISEN FROM THE DEAD.'

THEN JESUS SAID TO THEM, 'DO NOT BE AFRAID; GO AND TELL MY BROTHERS TO GO TO GALILEE, AND THERE THEY WILL SEE ME.'⁴



SO THEY DEPARTED QUICKLY FROM THE TOMB WITH FEAR AND GREAT JOY, AND RAN TO TELL HIS DISCIPLES. AND BEHOLD, JESUS MET THEM AND SAID, 'GREETINGS!' AND THEY CAME UP AND TOOK HOLD OF HIS FEET AND WORSHIPED HIM.

⁴ EXCERPTS FROM MATTHEW 28:1-3, 5-10 ESV



THE OFFICER KNELT DOWN AND PRAYED HIS FIRST PRAYER EVER.

BY MWS STAFF

EASTER TELLS ABOUT THE LIFE JESUS LIVED ON EARTH AND HOW HE BROUGHT SALVATION TO ALL MANKIND. HIS PURPOSE FOR US TRULY BEGAN WHEN HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD! BY DYING ON THE CROSS AND RISING FROM THE DEAD, HE CREATED A STRAIGHT PATH IN ORDER FOR US TO OBTAIN A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. WE MIGHT FEEL SAD TO REMEMBER HIS CRUCIFIXION, BUT WE CAN ALWAYS USE EASTER TO REJOICE THAT JESUS CAME BACK TO LIFE, FORGAVE US OUR SINS, OVERCAME DEATH, AND GAVE US ENTRANCE INTO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

A PRAYER TO PRAY: JESUS, THANK YOU FOR COMING TO LIVE AMONG US, AND TEACHING US HOW TO LIVE AND BE LIKE YOU. THANK YOU FOR TAKING ON THE BURDEN OF THE CROSS AND FOR OVERCOMING DEATH AND SIN, SO THAT WE CAN BE FORGIVEN AND HAVE THE ASSURANCE THAT WE, TOO, WILL LIVE ON AND BE CLOSE TO YOU. YOU TRULY ARE WONDERFUL!