

“ THERE IS A LAD HERE ”

John 6. 9.

Possibly there were many little lads there, but one was marked out, and so it is now. I don't mind if it is a laddie or a lassie, I want you to feel that you are the very one of whom, and to whom, I am speaking just now. I wonder why the lad was found just where he was in John 6. A large crowd had followed the Lord Jesus, and this boy had evidently gone among them. Possibly his parents were there. I do not know. It may be you read this magazine, and read the Scriptures, because your parents wish you to do so. It is right to be obedient, but I hope you will have a further reason, even love to God, and His precious truth. If you came to a meeting at which I was telling of the Lord Jesus, I might ask, "Is there a lad here only because his parents have come? I long that he may be present because his heart delights to hear of the Lord Jesus." So will you put to yourself a question: "Why am I, 'a lad here,' reading about God's love?" Happy is the boy, and happy is the girl who can say, "I love Him because He first loved me" (1 John 4. 19).

I am so thankful that God takes an interest in those who are young. We need not wait till

grown up to be saved. If "there is a lad here" who feels himself a sinner, and who longs to know the Lord Jesus as his own Saviour, I can rejoice to say that my precious Saviour is waiting to welcome such. Some of us can delight to say that we were saved when young, and we wish to lead others to Christ in the days of boyhood and girlhood.

Hence we notice that Andrew (whose name means "man" or manly") saw the little lad, and there are still those who are older praying for the salvation of children. If any "Andrew" speaks to you about your soul, my dear boy, do not be offhand. Welcome his loving interest. And let the girls be grateful for those who were themselves girls many years ago who are glad to talk with younger ones of Christ. Ah, and elder Christian girls have a wonderful privilege, of becoming different from the world, and of walking with God that they may bring younger ones to Himself.

In John 6 the lad was noticed with his five barley loaves? Do not think of our large loaves, but rather "rolls," and the fish were only little ones. Possibly he had them for himself or for his brothers and sisters. I cannot tell, nor am I anxious to know. What I do know is that they were not worth much, and yet the Lord Jesus Christ was willing to use them. And I wonder if "there is a lad here" (or a girl), who has

something that the Lord can use. All of us can obtain earthly bread, but we cannot have that which is spiritual unless we are first saved.. And therefore, our longing is that some who read these lines may feel the burden of sin, and rest on the finished work and poured-out blood of the Lord Jesus, and **then** be used by Him. A boy can serve God among boys at school, and a girl among girls. Young people can sometimes reach other young people, when older ones cannot. Do not say, "If I am saved, I cannot do anything for the Lord Jesus." It is a wonderful privilege to please Him, and He takes those who are little and weak, and can multiply the "little" that they have. And the girls will remember how God used the captive maid in 2 Kings 5.

But it must be "bread." What I mean is that we must be saved, and seek to do God's will according to His word. For **His precious truth** is likened to bread. And a young Christian is to seek God's words, regularly, daily, constantly,—and how happily a child of God should welcome all that He has given. Never let a day pass without reading the Scriptures. Ask God to speak to your heart thereby.

It is important to see that **all** the five loaves, and the two fishes, were brought to Christ. If "there is a lad here" who has His so great salvation let him not keep back anything from the

Lord. Love gives all to Him, and is not proud of it. "Barley" seems to remind us of humility, in Scripture. And pride is one of the greatest dangers. If anyone is saved, how can he be proud? For what did we deserve? Nothing. Ah, salvation is by grace. And if "there is a lad here," or a girl, at present unsaved who longs to be saved, I would tell such once more the precious news,—The Lord Jesus has a full and warm welcome for any burdened sinner, **young or old.**

You're not too young to feel that sin
Will shut you out from God.
Can you His presence enter in
Without Christ's precious blood?

You're not too young to come to Christ,
He welcomes girls and boys:
His poured out blood for such sufficed,
And brings eternal joys.

You're not too young the Lord to know,
To love and do His will:
Saved boys and girls His path can go,
His holy words fulfil.

You're not too young to-day to die:—
What would that mean to you,
Unless to God you are made nigh?
His warnings are all true.

You're not too young to be concerned,
To-day God's voice is heard:
Let not His message still be spurned,
But heed His welcome word.

P.W.H.