



Volume XXXVI

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THERE IS A RIVER—Rivers have always been important to man from the very beginning (the Garden of Eden had a river running through it). Rivers became chief sources of transportation with cities developing on their banks. Today rivers provide water for farmlands, electric power for industries, minerals for mining, fish for eating, etc.

The two largest rivers in the world are the Nile in Africa (stretching 4,187 miles) and the Amazon in South America (running some 4,000 miles). The Nile rises in central Africa and flows northward into the Mediterranean. The Amazon flows from the Andes Mountains through the tropical jungles of Brazil into the Atlantic Ocean. In the U.S. the largest river is the Mississippi (winding 2,348 miles).

Rivers usually begin in the mountains or hills, with the source generally a small spring or melting glacier. As a river develops in size, it wears itself a channel, the bottom of which is known as the bed and the sides the banks. River areas wear away soft rock, leaving hard rock areas forming rapids. In high elevations the drop of a river is called the falls. The speed of a river falling can actually cut out deep ditches and canyon areas. The speed of such torrents may reach 40 mph. A river flowing slowly into the sea builds up land areas at its mouth called a delta. The Mississippi and Nile have large delta areas.

Pollution is a major problem in rivers around the world. In the name of progress we are destroying rivers used for drinking, fishing, recreation, etc. I am privileged to live near a beautiful river, the Bon Secour, here in South Alabama. A brief glance at the river can remove stress, inspire fishing, and even remind me of the marvels of creation. Throughout the Bible many rivers are mentioned—even one in the new Heaven.

In Revelation 22:1,2 it mentions a pure river of water proceeding out of the throne of God (God even lives by a river!). This river I do want to see! Oh, it is one thing to travel and behold the rivers of the world, with their beauty and size, but to visit the very abode of God is a must! The Lord Jesus made this possible with His visit to earth (He loved the water). By His sacrificial death on the cross, a door to God was made. Jesus said, "...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). Many years ago I found that way by trusting Jesus Christ to be my Saviour. I am looking forward to seeing His river and gathering with YOU there.

Shall we gather at the river
Where bright angel feet have trod?
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing by the throne of God.
Yes, we'll gather at the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river.
Gather with the saints at the river,
That flows by the throne of God.

Psalm 46:4, "There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the Most High."

"...a net...cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind." Matthew 13:47

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NAUTICAL EXPRESSIONS/ BIBLICAL APPLICATIONS—

FEND OFF—To fend a boat or ship is to prevent her from striking against another vessel or object that may endanger her. Hence a fender is an object used to soften the blow. (Like the protrusions on the sides of a car over the wheels.) We use it more commonly today in the sense of keeping something away (COVID19), or even a verbal one. Ephesians 6:10,11, "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Whole armor (fend off).

FROM STEM TO STERN—An expression for all-inclusive or very thorough. It first came from a nautical "stem" or very front of a ship and "stern" or very back of a ship. Then "from stem to stern" means the entire ship. John 13:8,9, "Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head."

GIVE ME SOME SLACK—An expression that originated during the docking of a ship. One would alternately tension the line in your hands and then release. When at the dock the boat that is tired must have slack in the rope to compensate for the tide. As the tide would fall, a boat tied tightly could pull the dock down or damage parts of the boat (give her some slack). The term is also now used synonymous with "give me a break". 2 Peter 3:9, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

1 Timothy 1:15,16, "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show forth all long-suffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting."

GROUND SWELL—A slow by sudden increase in the height of seas. It is caused by undulating (up and down) water from a far away storm. Many times I've noticed this while working in the coastal areas of the Gulf of Mexico. Upon research I found out a storm was coming from out in the middle of the Gulf (slow rising seas). Acts 27:13,14, "And when the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their purpose, loosing thence, they sailed close by Crete. But not long after there arose against it a tempestuous wind, called Euroclydon." The ground swells (seas) of God's wrath are mounting. Perilous times are upon us; evil men are waxing worse and worse; the storm is approaching; all will sink except those who have the promise of the "coming" deliverer. 1 Thessalonians 1:10, "And to wait for his

Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come."

HAND OVER FIST—Originally the expression came from the act of quickly climbing the rigging of the old sailing ships "hand over hand" or "hand over fist", the fist being the hand gripping the rope. Today it is used to mean to go forth rapidly in some endeavor. Luke 19:6, "And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully." Revelation 22:20, "He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus." 1 Samuel 21:8, "...the king's business required haste." We should be hasty in rescuing those who are perishing in sin.

SEA LION & SEA GULL—The sea lion is probably the clumsiest animal in the world. He likes to bask in the sun all day, and when he moves he is exceedingly sluggish and awkward. It has often been wondered how this animal manages to secure his favorite food, wild sea fowl. Sea gulls are so wild that it is difficult even for man to get within gunshot of them.

The seal seems to realize that it would be a waste of time to attempt to crawl upon the gulls as they rest upon the water and catch them unawares. So he watches until the gulls are soaring slowly through the air, close to the waves. Then the seal dives into the sea and swims underneath the water for some distance from the point at which he dived, and allows merely the tip of his great nose to appear above the water.

Remaining in this position, he gives his enormous body a rotary motion so that his nose describes a circle on the surface of the ocean. He does this so skillfully that to the gull his nose looks like a small fish. This catches the gull's eye and it at once darts down with the speed of an arrow, aiming straight for the little dot. The seal sees it coming and sinks a few inches, and as the gull strikes the water with tremendous force the seal's jaws close upward and the gull disappears.

Many a swirl is made in the water of life by Satan to lure in mankind. Beneath the surface of sin you will always find the real sea lion! 1 Peter 5:8, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour".

STARVING WITH FOOD AT HAND—On June 2, 1960, an 8-year-old boy, Walter Sedor, was found sitting on a rock three quarters of a mile from Tarton Lake, Manitoba. He had been stranded there for fifteen days after he and his father suffered a plane crash in which his father was instantly killed.

For fifteen days the boy had been without food and his emaciated and weakened condition showed that starvation would shortly have overtaken him. One of the tragic aspects of this accident was that there was no need for the boy to be hungry, for near the plane was a survival kit containing 24 days' rations. It had been thrown clear when the plane crashed but the lad was unaware of what it contained.

Many people today are like young Walter Sedor. They are lost in the wilderness, not of the north country, but of doubt and fear, and their starved souls suffer from malnutrition, hunger and starvation while right beside them is a survival kit with abundance of the bread of life to nourish their starving souls. The Bible contains the daily rations we need, but so often it lies unopened and unused and we remain unaware that it contains the Bread of Life for which our souls hunger.

How unfortunate it was that little Walter Sedor hadn't opened that survival kit and satisfied his hunger. But it is even more tragic when mature adults fail to avail

themselves of the Bread of Life which is theirs—simply by opening their Bibles and feasting on the Word of God.

MY FAINTING LOOK

"...consider Him...lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds"(Hebrews 12:3).

My heart was heavy, I must say
I looked upon my weary way.
I saw the roughness of the road,
And felt the burden of my load.
My **DOWNWARD** look gave no relief
For weary toil and earthborn grief.

I looked **AROUND** on either side,
I sought for help to stem the tide
Of weariness that seemed to rise,
But all I found, to my surprise,
Were others in the selfsame plight,
Bewildered in the stormy night.

I looked **ABOVE**—I saw no more
The sordid things I'd seen before.
No more with tears my eyes were dim,
I saw my Lord and none save Him;
And faith returned with hope and love,
And grace sufficient from **ABOVE!**
--Winifred B. Mitchell, wife of Capt. David Mitchell

THE CUP THAT COULD NOT BE FILLED—For plenty of reasons, Sir Thomas Johnstone Lipton (1850-1931) was thankful for an abundant business life. As a youngster he started out just like a lot of other boys, working at the local grocery store. But Lipton, unlike most other boys, saved his pennies and on his 21st birthday, opened his first Lipton Tea Store in Glasgow, Scotland.

The Lipton Company grew rapidly to a chain of 400 shops throughout the United Kingdom. These included jam factories and bakeries. The company he headed that bore his name acquired extensive tea, coffee, cocoa and fruit orchards, plus rubber estates in India and Ceylon. He also expanded his empire to Canada and the United States, including a meat packing house in Chicago.

At the end of his productive 81 years, he left his fortune to hospitals in his native Glasgow, and founded a trust fund to provide wholesome meals to the poor. But there was one big dream in Lipton's life which never did come true. The man who had filled millions of teacups with his renowned Lipton tea, could not get the one cup he really coveted. Renowned as a yachtsman, he tried five times to win the highest award of international yachting, the America's Cup, but never did manage to come in first!

Editor's note: Now I have a connection with my favorite drink—tea (most of the time iced tea), in knowing that Mr. Lipton also loved the sea! (I've had some tea that tasted like sea water!)

PRACTICAL SAYINGS—This time we give some funnies that consist of just a small saying. By the way, this humor is meant to laugh at, not to take seriously, even though a small truth may be seen. No offense is meant to anyone!

--Those who complain the most about the way the ball bounces are often the ones who dropped it.

--Chewing gum proves you can have motion without progress.

--When I looked at the two candidates for election, I was thankful only one could get elected.

--A person who can smile when they've done wrong has probably just thought of someone he can blame.

--The idea of daylight savings time came from an old Indian chief who cut off one end of his blanket and had it sewn on the other end to make it longer.

--Where you go in the hereafter depends on what you go after here.

--A weather reporter lost his job because his forecast was never accurate. When interviewing for another position, he was asked why he left his former job. His reply was, "The climate didn't agree with me!"