

BARNEY'S BARREL

In the heart of a great city lived a little boy by the name of Barney Morden. Barney was very poor, and hungry, and did not know what it meant to have someone love him. His father and mother had been very wicked people and because of the kind of lives they lived went to an early grave. The only home that Barney knew was a large barrel that stood in the alley behind one of the great stores. Barney sold papers on the busy streets in the day time, making only enough money to partly satisfy his hunger. When night came, Barney would go to his barrel and curl up on an old coat and try to forget that he was lonesome, and cold and hungry.

One cold winter night Barney was wandering along the dark gloomy street looking at the things in the shop windows, when he heard the strains of sweet music. In following this sound Barney came to a store building that was flooded with light and on the window he saw these words, "GOSPEL MISSION"—"WELCOME." Barney thought it might be warm inside, so he opened the door a wee crack and there he could see a lovely lady before a large audience of people, singing "Jesus Paid It All." Barney crept through the door and found a place at the end of the back seat. Soon a kind looking man came to the front of the room and talked to them and read to them out of a book which he called "God's Precious Word." He told them that their hearts were filled with sin, for "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God," and that all of them needed to let the Lord Jesus wash the black sin out of their hearts and make them white as snow. For the first time in his life Barney heard of the wonderful Lord Jesus and of His death on Calvary. The man made the way of salvation so simple and so plain that when the invitation was given at the close of the service, many came to the front of the room desiring to accept the Lord Jesus as their personal Saviour. Among this group of people, unnoticed by many, was little Barney. He knew he was a sinner and he wanted the wonderful Saviour to wash him white as snow and to save him so he could go to live with Him in heaven. When most everyone was gone, the kind man saw Barney and told him more about Jesus, and Barney accepted Him as his very own. The man gave Barney a little Gospel of John and he went back to his barrel. Barney was a changed boy from that day on. Now he let the light and love of the Lord Jesus shine out from his heart to all whom he met.

As the cold winter days came on, Barney shivered with the cold, for he did not have clothes to keep him warm. He was so very cold at night in his barrel, and finally he became dreadfully ill. He was so sick that he could not leave his barrel, so lay there suffering and sobbing. Finally a policeman chanced to pass through that alley, and heard the sobbing, and when he came to the big barrel found our little sick boy. He lifted him in his arms and carried him to a great city hospital where they bathed him and placed him in a comfortable white bed between clean white sheets and warm blankets. They brought Barney warm delicious food, and watched over him until he fell asleep. The next day when the nurses asked Barney if there was something he would like to have, he asked them to bring him a Bible and read him some more about Jesus who died for him. The nurses were unsaved and did not love the Lord Jesus, so they did not grant Barney's request. When the Doctor came to see Barney late that night he found him very weak and although they worked hard to help him and to make him more comfortable, they knew that the little boy did not have long to live. The doctor and the nurses had learned to love Barney, and now that they knew he could not get well they were willing to do everything they could for him. When Barney asked again for a Bible they brought it and read as he directed about the Heavenly Father's love for us being so great that He was willing to send His only begotten Son to die on Calvary that whosoever was willing to believe on Him should not perish but have everlasting life. Finally, there at Barney's bedside, the Doctor and the two nurses knelt and accepted the Lord Jesus as their very own Saviour. Barney died that night, but he went to be with the One who had paid it all for him. There in Heaven Barney found his name written in the "LAMB'S BOOK OF LIFE." He found a beautiful golden Crown waiting for him. It was the soul-winner's crown. In that crown were three shining stars, one for each of the nurses and one for the doctor. Then, too, he saw the BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR, the Lord Jesus. Barney could never have reached Heaven if the Good Shepherd had not reached down and lifted him up when he was a poor little sin-sick lamb, and washed him white as snow.

The Illustrated Gospel Story Booklets

The Illustrated Gospel Story Booklet series is designed for the purpose of meeting the great need today for "eye-gate" means and materials that are evangelistic and scriptural. We are looking unto the Lord Jesus Christ to make them effective in your hand. May the Holy Spirit control the occasion, the purpose and the persons using the booklet, to the end that God's truth will make a lasting impression upon the hearts of the children, in whom we are vitally interested.

Other booklets in color:

"Jimmie and the Atheist."

"Crippled Tom."

"The Little Red Hen."

"Miss Bump"

"Snowflake"

"Louise's Prayer"

"Little Boat Twice Owned."

"The Wise Little Bird."

"His Hands."

"Joann and Ruthie"

Only the teacher handles the booklet. When telling the story, hold the booklet in your hand so you can turn to the page which illustrates the point in the story. You will find these booklets very useful in homes, in Sunday Schools, in Bible classes, in hospital visitation, in Daily Vacation Bible Schools, in sick rooms and in testifying to your visitors. We desire to encourage mothers to use them to introduce their own children to the Saviour. Our hearts yearn to see parents take greater interest in giving the Gospel to their own children. May God grant it.

Your Friends in Christ Jesus,
Mr. and Mrs. Floyd McCague
1 Cor. 3:6, 7.

DIRECTIONS FOR USING "BARNEY'S BARREL"

PAGE 1: Show him as you tell the first paragraph of the story.

PAGE 2: Use with "Barney came to a store building."

PAGE 3: Show with "He opened the door a wee crack."

PAGE 4: Use with "He told them that their hearts were filled with sin."

PAGE 5: Show with "Let the Lord Jesus wash the black sin out of their hearts."

PAGE 6: Use with "The kind man saw Barney and told him more about Jesus."

PAGE 7: Show with "Now he let the light and love of the Lord Jesus shine out from his heart." Directions are given on page 15.

PAGE 8: Use with "Finally a policeman chanced to pass through that alley."

PAGE 9: Use with "And watched over him until he fell asleep."

PAGE 10: Show with "at Barney's bedside the Doctor and two nurses knelt."

PAGE 11: Use with "Barney died that night."

PAGE 12: Show with "found his name written in the Lamb's Book of Life." Directions appear on page 15.

PAGE 13: Use with "a beautiful golden crown waiting for him."

PAGE 14: Show with "He saw the Bright and Morning Star."

PAGE 15: As directed, place heart with picture of Christ on page 7. Cut out Rom. 3:23 and paste on black sheet, and I John 5:7 on red sheet, page 5. Cut out and paste Lamb's Book on page 12.