

Among the Girls in the Police Station

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke: 19:10). These lost souls belonging to Jesus are scattered throughout the length and breadth of this world; and He wants them sought out and saved for Him. He has told us in Luke 12:21, 23, where we will find some of them: in the streets and lanes of the city; in the highways and hedges. He has really invited these poor souls to come into His house.

In this great city so full of vice and crime, there are several police stations. In these stations, men and women find shelter each night from the cold, wet streets. Some of them are trust into cells because of some offense; but Jesus has bidden us to visit these people, and has said that inasmuch we have done it unto the least of these, we have shown kindness to Him.

While attending the trials of these girls, my heart is touched to see them come before the judge, tell their story and pass away. Some are fined; some are discharged, while some cases are continued. One girl, I remember, had been accused of theft to the amount of twenty-five dollar. It was her first arrest and she stood trembling before the judge, her accuser by her side; and his look was anything but kind. After close examination it was found that the girl was innocent of the accusation and was of course discharged. Her look was not that of crime and vice which we so often see on these women's faces, and I followed the case up. The officer who had arrested her kindly assisted us in meeting her, and we found that she had been but a short time in this life of sin. After few sentences were dropped about Jesus and His love, and an appointment was made to visit her at her home. The call was made; but, like many other cases, her courage had failed her and she refused to see us. We cannot help but believe that at times she thinks of that meeting, and weekly letters of encouragement are written her. This is only one case in a thousand of those who need not only a kind look, a little act of courtesy, but a sister's love; and they must have it.

The Harrison Police Station Annex is an apartment for women only. In this place, women under arrest are kept for trial; here we also find women who seek shelter at night. Here is an excellent opportunity to do personal work; and the readers of the Life Boat no doubt would be surprised to hear that we often find young ladies of culture and refinement who have been compelled to come to this place for temporary shelter. At the present time in our home is a young lady, who, having been turned from her place of boarding because of reverses, had no where to go that night except to the Annex. She was sent to us, and in her brief story she remarked, "I would rather die than earn my living on the streets". She is a Christian young woman; so we see these people are not all bad that are found in these places. Several have been placed in good homes; others are with us at the present time proving efficient help in our various departments. This work brings great rewards here on earth; and I believe that choicest blessings received are realized while working with some soul personally.

Many of these girls would readily give up their life of sin if they had but one word of encouragement, if there was only one soul who would speak kindly to them, call them sister and treat them as such. Their hearts are not so hard, and Jesus still loves them; let us tell them of it.

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