



# TRANSFORMER

"...be transformed by the renewing of your mind." (Rom. 12:2)

October 1, 1989

The little boy sat bolt upright and still in the rough wooden chair, but his mind was very busy.

This was his weekly hour of revolt.

The kindly lady who could never seem to find her glasses would have been terribly shocked if she had known what was going on inside the little boy's mind.

"You must love Jesus," she said every Sunday, "and God."

The little boy did not say anything. He was afraid to say anything; he was almost afraid that something would happen to him because of the things he thought.

Love God! Who was always picking on people for having a good time and sending little boys to hell because they couldn't do better in a world which He had made so hard! Why didn't God pick on someone His own size?

Love Jesus! The little boy looked up at the picture which hung on the Sunday-school wall. It showed a pale young man with no muscle and a sad expression. The young man had red whiskers.

Then the little boy looked across to the other wall. There was Daniel, good old Daniel, standing off the lions. The little boy liked Daniel. He liked David, too, with the trusty sling that landed a stone square on the forehead of Goliath. And Moses, with his rod and his big brass snake. They were righters - those three. He wondered if David could whip the champ. Samson could! That would have been a fight!

But Jesus! Jesus was the "Lamb of God". The little boy did not know what that meant, but it sounded like Mary's little lamb, something for girls - sissified. Jesus was also "meek and lowly," a "man of sorrows and acquainted with grief." He went around for three years telling people not to do things.

Sunday was Jesus' day; it was wrong to feel comfortable or laugh on Sunday.

The little boy was glad when the superintendent rang the bell and announced, "We will now sing the closing hymn." One more bad hour was over. For one more week the little boy had left Jesus behind.

Years went by and the boy grew up.

He began to wonder about Jesus.

He said to himself: "Only strong men inspire greatly and build greatly. Yet Jesus has inspired millions; what he founded changed the world. It is extraordinary."

The more sermons the man heard and the more books he read the more mystified he became.

One day he decided to wipe his mind clean of books and sermons.

He said, "I will read what the men who knew Jesus personally said about Him. I will read about Him as though He were a character in history, new to me, about whom I had never heard anything at all."

The man was amazed.

A physical weakling! Where did they get that idea? Jesus pushed a plane and swung an adz; He was a good carpenter. He slept outdoors and spent His days walking around His favorite lake. His muscles were so strong that when He drove the moneychangers out, nobody dared to oppose Him!

A kill-joy! He was the most popular dinner guest in Jerusalem! The criticism which proper people made was that He spent too much time with publicans and sinners

(very good fellows, on the whole, the man thought) and enjoyed society too much. They called Him a "wine bibber and a gluttonous man."

A failure! He picked up twelve humble men and created an organization that won the world.

When the man had finished his reading, he exclaimed, "This is a man nobody knows!

"Someday," said he, "someone will write a book about Jesus. He will describe the same discovery I have made about Him, that many other people are waiting to make." For, as the man's little-boy notions and prejudices vanished, he saw the day-to-day life of Him who lived the greatest life and was alive and knowable beyond the mists of tradition.

So the man waited for someone to write the book, but no one did. Instead, more books were published that showed the vital Christ as one who was weak and unhappy, passive and resigned.

The man became impatient. One day he said, "I believe I will try to write that book myself."

And he did.

-The Man Nobody Knows

Bruce Barton

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#### ANNOUNCEMENTS;

##### THANK YOU

- To everyone for the consistantly higher weekly contributions. It is encouraging to see us pull together in this way. Let's keep up the cheerful giving, so that we can continue funding the good works that God wants us to do in LaGrange.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - There will be a congregational meeting on October 8 immediately following morning services. Our visitors will be dismissed first. Please bring questions, thoughts, and ideas you'd like to share with the congregation.

##### TEACHERS

- Please leave Bibles in auditorium so we can use them during worship service. Thank you.

MCC BIBLE LECTURESHIP - Remember the 1989 MCC Bible Lectureship beginning Oct. 1 (today) through Thursday evening, Oct. 5. If interested in going, see Dean.

##### PRAYERS

- Gay Ray fell the other day so is a little sore.
- Linda Schooster, June's sister, is having a lumpectomy.
- Joe Fry, Patty (Hostetler's) father-in-law, fell off a ladder and broke his back.
- Dean & Thelma's daughters and their families in Charleston.
- Nannie Hall still having some problems.
- Remember these and any not mentioned who are in need of our prayers at this time.

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