

## Useful to the Master

### The Life of Amy Carmichael

*The information in this message was taken from Iain Murray's biography of Amy Carmichael "Beauty for Ashes."*

#### Introduction: 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

- Amy Carmichael thought often, and wrote often of God's great love for her. This was her primary motivation in serving the Lord.

**Main Truth:** Amy Carmichael was an ordinary person who was driven by God's great love for her. The Master, our Lord, developed in her great abilities like devotion, selfless, service, submission, sincerity, and love. As she used those talents she was, indeed, useful to the Master.

#### 1. Meet Amy Carmichael

- A. Her birth and background.
- B. God's shaping of Amy for usefulness.

#### 2. God's leading of Amy to her life's work.

- A. A 7 year old girl named Preena arrives at the home where Amy is staying.
- B. Amy sought to love and help those captured and forced into "defiled devilry" (children taken and used as temple prostitutes).
- C. She adopted Indian dress (brown eyes).
- D. She educated the children, and started a hospital
- E. After an accident at 63, she wrote many books related to prayer and suffering.

#### 3. The tools that God uses are never perfect.

- A. Amy's method of seeking guidance was reckless.

#### 4. Featured marks of Amy's life and writing.

- A. The place of quietness in the life of a Christian
- B. Love

**Conclusion:** The same Lord has given talents to all His servants (you and I) and there will come a day when His assessment of those talents will be given. In Amy's words: *"To each is given a bag of tools / An hour glass and a book of rules, And each must build ere his work is done / A stumbling block or a stepping stone."* What are you building with the time, the tools, and the talents given to you?

## Questions for Thought and Discussion

- Was there a truth from this week's message that stuck out to you?
- In her poem "Before I Was" Amy writes *"And yet Thou lovest me, because, My Lord, Thou lovest me."* Discuss the importance and the power of God's love for us as a motivation for our service.
- At a fairly young age, Amy had the simple thought *"Nothing is important, but that which is eternal."* Discuss how this shaped the rest of her life, and how it ought to shape our lives.
- Amy's path to India went – 1. Planning to go to China...rejected – 2. Went to Japan for 15 months...left for health reasons – 3. Went to Ceylon (Sri Lanka)...went home because of Robert Wilson's stroke – 4. Went to India at the age of 27 never to return. Discuss why God did not make a mistake in allowing such a path. When are we tempted to believe that God is making a mistake in our life?
- "I would rather have two who came in earnest than a hundred who came to play...We have no time to play with souls like this."* Amy said this when she was encouraged to entertain girls, and simply give a mild dose of the Gospel. What does this statement say about her character and Biblical foundation? Is such a statement too extreme for the modern church in America?
- Try to remember and list some of the character qualities that God developed and used in the life of Amy Carmichael. How does God often develop character qualities in us?
- Discuss the importance of the featured marks of Amy's life and writing. Why are these so difficult to have? Why are these so necessary?

#### Thoughts for prayer:

- Pray that God would develop, and that we would use the time, the tools and the talents that He has given to us for the things that are eternal.