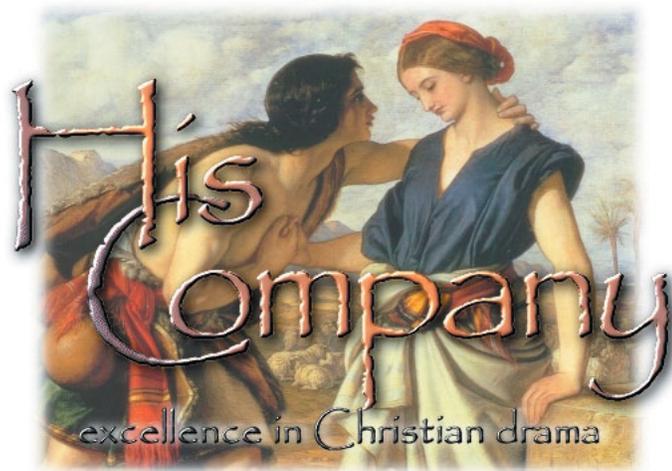


EVEN LOGIC

FROM *THE TWELVE*

by
David S. Lampel



The Time: Just after Pentecost

The Place: Jerusalem

5 *House lights down.*
 Stage lights up.

10 *Enter the wife of Philip, the apostle. She addresses the audience in a comfortable manner;*
 as if speaking to a good friend.

WIFE OF PHILIP

15 He has always been a practical man. I am given to flights of fancy, but not
 Philip. He always knows the value of every item, the location of every
 coin. That's why when faced with five thousand hungry mouths to feed,
 Philip saw right away the futility and inadequacy of their funds.

20 He failed the test, of course. Jesus knew how to feed that crowd of
 people. He knew that Philip's practical knowledge was a valuable tool,
 but was nothing compared to the knowledge of God's power to work a
 miracle. Philip never likes to commit himself until he is absolutely sure.
 So, when a number of Greeks came to him, seeking Jesus, he wasn't sure
 whether he should give them audience to the Master. It was Andrew who
 said, "Sure, why not?" And during that fateful, last meal with Jesus, when
 they were all struggling with the confusing words of the Lord, Philip cut
 right through to the bottom line: "Lord, just show us the Father, and it will
 be enough for us."

25 Later, Philip told me how disappointed Jesus had been with him. Jesus
 tried to explain that He was indeed separate from the Father because He
 was right there, in flesh, while the Father remained in heaven. But, at the
 same time, He and the Father were one, because He said: "He who has
 seen Me has seen the Father". Well, do you blame him? My poor
 husband. His reasoning, logical mind was being ripped apart by the
 30

words of Jesus. How could this be? It's impossible! To Philip's mind, all the evidence wasn't in. He didn't have enough evidence.

(pause)

35 Sure, I know it didn't speak well of him. It would have been better to just believe—to accept on faith, like a child, the words of Jesus.

(with resignation)

Philip was guilty—guilty of the sin of seeing Jesus by the standards of men. Philip's reality was the reality of men—of human logic.

40 But later, that logic—which was a gift from God—was used to bring him to faith. Because Philip finally had all the evidence. He put all the pieces together and came up with the truth—the inevitable truth of what Jesus had been saying. Jesus had called Himself the “Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world”, and had referred to His own blood as the
45 “blood of the covenant”. And then Philip remembered the scriptures, where Isaiah said, “He was wounded for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; He was chastened for our peace, and by His stripes we are healed, and God laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”

Philip watched from a distance as Jesus hung dying on the cross—hiding,
50 fearful that others would associate him with the one they had just crucified. And he was suddenly struck by the terrible—yet glorious truth of the scene.

(with growing intensity)

Here was not just another Jew dying at the hands of the Romans—not just
55 a good and decent man being unjustly executed. When Jesus cried out in His horrible dejection: “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?!” it was not just the cry of one suffering the misery of crucifixion. Suddenly, Philip realized that the pain from the nails through His flesh was nothing—nothing—compared to the agony from the sin. His spotless soul
60 was being crushed by the weight of our sin. He who knew no sin was taking that evil burden upon Himself. For us. All of us.

(quietly)

65 There are many roads to Christ. Some people do have that simple, child-
like faith. Some have an ugly past that no one but the Son of God could
forgive. Some are good, moral people who finally realize that that isn't
enough. Some, like my good husband, travel a road of cold reason and
logic. They seek the practical solutions. But all roads lead to the same
70 place. We all find our answer in Jesus. All roads must lead to Christ—
because He is the only way to the Father.

She exits.

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