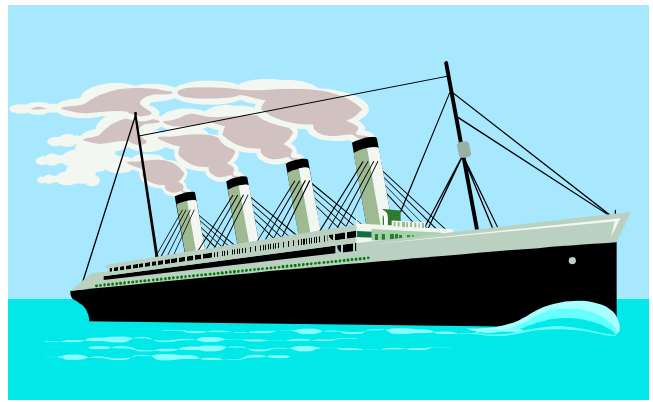


THE TITANIC

The Titanic - the name brings up so many thoughts of a fantastic ship.



Here is a real photo of the day the news hit Britain in April 1912 TITANIC DISASTER GREAT LOSS OF LIFE.

But what is unusual about this photo is, if you look at it closely, you will see it was signed by Millvina Dean. Millvina was the youngest survivor of the Titanic. Aged only 2 months she was wrapped in a sack and lowered with her mother and brother into a lifeboat by her father.

The Titanic was called the "unsinkable ship." There were those who said, "Not even God Himself could sink the Titanic."

Man had decided he was in charge of his own destiny. There was no longer any fear of the deep, dark oceans - for great liners could now sail on them with safety. The fear was gone - we read of Jonah this morning on the high seas. He fought his fear in those days.

But man now felt that his intelligence and wisdom could conquer the universe! This was the spirit of the day.

So, was it an unsinkable ship? The owners, the builders, and the news media, had all claimed that the Titanic was unsinkable. Man was saying, "We don't need God's protection. We've built an unsinkable ship!" Man was saying, "We don't need God's help. We don't need God at all anymore!"

But, a strange thing happened to that unsinkable ship.

It sank on its very first voyage out to sea. It became a parable to tell the world, "Maybe we still need God after all!"

On the night of April 14, 1912, the greatest maritime disaster in history began to unfold. The great Titanic, pride of the White Star Fleet, was approaching an iceberg.

First Officer Murdoch ordered the engines stopped, then reversed at the same time. This action caused the Titanic to turn to port. The iceberg glanced the side of the ship causing her plates to buckle and rivets to pop below the water line . The Titanic was doomed.

The first ever S.O.S from an Ocean Liner was sent out.

Although the California was only minutes away, the Carpathia, which was nearly 58 miles away, would be the first to arrive.

The unsinkable Titanic broke in two and went under with over two thirds of the people still on board.

Eventually 705 passengers and crew were rescued by the Carpathia, including Mallvina, her mother and her brother. 1517 people went to an icy grave that night.

For her maiden voyage the Titanic had received world-wide publicity as the world's largest and most luxurious ship ever. She was billed as the safest of all ocean-going crafts. Never before had a crew and passengers been so secure . No ship was as luxurious.

The Titanic had tennis courts, a gymnasium, ball rooms

It even had elevators (that was really something in 1912).

The Titanic had all of this, but not enough lifeboats !

They had a false sense of security.

The passengers on this ship were world-famous. There were men with incredible fortunes on board the Titanic.

There was John Jacob Astor, one of the world's most wealthy men. His fortune was estimated at \$150 million. There was Benjamin Gugenheim of the American Smelting and Refining Company, worth \$95 million. There was Isadore Strauss, the famous clothing merchant worth \$50 million. And another dozen men like him.

These brilliant men, as they walked calmly on that ship, were a sign to all that everything was secure. The Titanic had all of these wise and knowledgeable men. But not enough life boats.

They had a false sense of security. The Titanic was an expensive ride.

The best suites were reserved for over \$4,000 - over £2,500 That was big money then (it would be pretty big money even today).

These were the most expensive transatlantic accommodations ever offered. One would expect for that kind of price that everything would be taken care of. But, there were not enough lifeboats ! They had a false sense of security.

There was no ship that ever gave her passengers more confidence.

There was no ship that ever made her passengers feel more secure.

All seemed well as the Titanic sailed through the blue waters of the North Atlantic. But, they would soon discover that their sense of security was false. So came the time of testing.

On April 14, 1912 there were three warnings sent from the crow's nest that ice had been spotted. The first two messages were ignored.

Finally, the officer picked up the phone but it was too late.

A great portion of the passengers were drinking, dancing, gambling and having a great time, unaware that the ship would soon sink.

A group of gamblers went on deck to look around and returned to their cards to sink with the ship.

Even after they were warned, many went on to bed with confidence in the Titanic's ability to stay afloat. Others joked about the life preservers, with some actually putting the life belts on and dancing around the deck while others stood back and laughed.

Others refused to put the life preservers on because they said they didn't want to get dirty and mess up their gowns.

Some were urged to get into the boats and they said, "Why should we get into the boats and go out into the cold night, when we'll just be coming back on board in a few minutes?"

Many of them laughed when the porters and stewards tried to warn them that the ship was going to go down.

So came the day of judgment

Friends, many today are laughing at this old-time religion.

Many today are laughing at the thought of meeting Christ. They have confidence in themselves. They don't need God. They don't need religion.

Someone asked John Jacob Astor, "Man, where is your life belt?"

Mr. Astor replied, "I didn't think I'd need it."

Many today have a false security based on what they see in the world.

But, at the Great White Throne judgment, they will stand before God and the question will be asked "What did you do with Jesus?"

They will say, "I didn't think I'd need Him."

MORE COULD HAVE BEEN SAVED.....

Many of the people would have been saved had they got into the lifeboats.

Lifeboat after lifeboat pulled away from the ship with only 10, 12, 15, when they had a capacity of nearly 60.

Many of those boats pulled away with only a few people in them.

This was not because they didn't have room for more, but because people wouldn't believe and get in them. They wouldn't believe that the ship was going to sink.

MORE CAN BE SAVED FROM HELL

There are many today who would take Christ as Saviour if they really believed that there was any need.

If they only knew that they were headed for an eternal Hell, they would accept Jesus. If they only knew they could miss Hell and gain Heaven, they would accept Jesus. There would be many more in our churches today who would be saved if they really believed what the Bible says about eternity.

Mallvina's father went back to help others and he gave his life for his family, making sure they were in a lifeboat. Eyewitnesses say that the parting of families on that fateful day was horrible. Women were torn from their husbands. Children were literally snatched from their parents' arms and in many instances, thrown into the lifeboats, as Mallvina was.

Husbands and wives stood clutching each other as the ship went down. One eyewitness said that a man was holding onto his 12 year old son. He said he didn't know how many people came and begged the man to let the boy go and let him get into the lifeboat.

Every time that man tried to push his son away, the little boy would grab him around the waist and hold on so tightly that no one could pull him away. That dad and that little boy went down together to an icy grave.

When I read that eyewitness account, I thought to myself, "Can you imagine the love that that father had for that son, to hold him like that and to go down beneath the waters together!"

Then, I realized that he didn't love that son as he should have.

If he really loved that boy, he would have literally thrown him into the lifeboat to save his life.

. THERE WERE THOSE CLOSE BY WHO DID NOT HELP!

THE CALIFORNIA WAS ONLY MINUTES AWAY

Did you know that there was another ship only minutes away when the Titanic went down? Later the captain of the California was asked why he didn't come to the rescue of a ship in distress.

He said, "I didn't realize the ship was sinking." He was then asked why he didn't hear their cries for help. He didn't hear their cries.....

YOU ARE CLOSE TO SOME WHO ARE SINKING

Many in this area, in Aberdour, in Rosehearty in Fraserburgh are sinking into Hell with a Christian only a few feet away.

But, the church is asleep ! Wake up, Church! Lost men and women all around us are dying and going to an eternal Hell! Unless we come to their rescue, it will be too late!

THE CARPATHIA WAS ON ITS WAY

Most sources agree that the Titanic collided with the iceberg at 11:40 pm and finally sank at 2:40 am. Out in the darkness, there was no moon that night, the people waited for help. They wondered if anyone had heard their distress signals. They wondered if anyone would arrive to help.

Then, at 4:10 am, only one and a half hours later, the Carpathia began picking up the first of Titanic's lifeboats.

JUST AS RESCUE WAS IMMINENT FOR THEM, IT IS FOR YOU

During the darkest of nights, when all hope seems lost, help is only a prayer away. God is there to reach out and pull you into the warmth of His loving arms. Like the lights of a ship approaching from the distance on a dark sea, He brings hope into troubled lives.

Jonah cried to the Lord and the Lord heard him. He saved him. When the disciples were scared in the boat on the Sea of Galilee, they suddenly realised that their boat would sink if they didn't call to the Lord. Don't you care if we die ? they shouted.

Jesus calmed the waves and said to them, Why are you frightened ? Have you still no faith ?

Our Titanic parable this morning should make you think of your own life, Where are you and your family when the waters rise ? When the troubles pile up ?

Have faith - call on the Lord - he will be there for you.

He is the light in the darkness of the deepest and darkest storm. Millvina was the youngest survivor of the Titanic. Will you be a survivor, too, to the end of your days with our Lord as your captain and saviour of your life ?

He will pilot you across into lands and seas unknown - he has his lifeboat of eternal life - more can go into it, it's up to you to believe and trust.

You can trust your unknown future to a known God.

AMEN

Let us pray : Heavenly Father be our captain and our pilot. We trust you in our lives even when the waves are high around us and the water deep and dark. Help us to reach out our hands, get into the ship of life and be saved !

AMEN

WE HAVE HEARD A JOYFUL SOUND - JESUS SAVES (repeat)