

Walton Carter - Journal Extracts from 1821 - Transcribed

PM Magazine 1822/11

SUNDAY May 27. Preached at ASHTON, upon the steps of the cross. This is the first time of us preaching here. The people appear very hard.

Saturday June 31. Preached at Astley Bridge, in the open air, to about two thousand people; and although it poured down rain all the time, the people stood unmoved. The Lord was with me, and some sinners were awakened. Praise the Lord.

Sunday July 1. Preached at Bolton Moor to about two thousand people. The Lord was present, and the people were blessed while I was speaking of the glory of Christ's Church. In the afternoon, preached at the stocks, at Bolton, to about four thousand people; and the Spirit of God moved upon them. Many were awakened, and a number followed me to one of our friend's houses. I prayed with them and joined ten of them in a class. Some of these were seeking the Lord, and others had found him to the joy of their souls. Praise the Lord. In the evening, preached at Hay Brow, about half a mile from Bolton, to about three or four thousand people. And, while speaking of the necessity of forsaking sin, and flying to Jesus for mercy, numbers were in tears; rich and poor were affected.

July 2. This morning joined three in a class in one house who are piously devoted to God. In the evening, preached in a large timber yard, to about three thousand. The Lord was with me in a wonderful manner. There was a mighty shaking among the people. Oh! how did I feel for sinners while they were convicted on every hand. One young man was so deeply wrought on that he fell down: but was supported by two persons till I had done speaking.

July 3. Visited the people from house to house, and preached at the Vitriol houses to about two thousand people. The word reached many hearts; It was a powerful time. Made a covenant with the people, and joined sixteen; some of whom were seeking the Lord, and others were made happy. Praise the Lord,

July 4. Went to see a friend; a man and his wife came in who were seeking the Lord. We went to prayer, and, after wrestling with God for some time, we sung a hymn; and while singing, the man found the Lord to the joy of his soul. In the evening, preached at Astley Bridge to a large company of people who received the word with gladness. After preaching, joined three, who were seeking the Lord. July 6. Attended the Committee at Manchester.

Sunday July 8. Preached at Newton in the morning, and at two at Staley Bridge to a large and attentive congregation. Many were in tears, and evident good was done. In the evening, preached at ASHTON to a very large and attentive congregation, and had much liberty and much good was done. But while I was preaching the constable* came, and took down my name, and desired me to desist; which I refusing to do, he knocked me down, and I fell off the Cross steps amongst the people: but, praise the Lord I fell amongst good Samaritans. After this, he took hold of my coat collar, shook me, and tore my coat. Here the crowd was ready to take up arms for me; the people, on seeing the constable use me so ill, came forward in a body, and had he attempted to take me to prison, (as he threatened,) no doubt something serious would have happened. All this time, the people cried, "Preach,—Preach." When the constable was gone, I resumed my place, and finished the discourse with much liberty, to an increased congregation of people.

July 12. I was summoned before the magistrates at Oldham, for preaching at Ashton on the 8th instant. Brother Gibson also was summoned to appear, together with several more of our friends who were with him, and with me when preaching there. We went together to Oldham, but charges were brought only against brother Gibson and myself; we were charged with having disturbed the peaceable inhabitants of Ashton. We told them, our Lord had given us a commission to preach the gospel to poor sinners, and we did not choose to desist, that we did not regard bonds and imprisonments for Jesus's sake; but should rejoice if we were counted worthy to suffer for his name's sake. The magistrates said, complaints had been made and they must do their duty; and asked us if we would find bail, we said, "No." We were then put into the care of the constable till our commitments could be made out. We waited at an Inn, till near ten o'clock at night. They then

sent for us, and said, they could not think of sending us to prison; and offered to take our own bail to appear at the sessions. I told them I had to preach and could not spend my time there. But if they would appoint us a time we would attend; which they did. And we then parted in the most friendly manner.

July 15. Went to open Rochdale. Three of our society went with me. We sung up the street at one o'clock and collected a great many people. But rain coming on very heavy I was obliged to desist; but resumed my place at five, and preached to a very large and attentive congregation. Some were affected, and I have heard since, were brought to God.

Sunday July 22, Attended a camp-meeting at Bolton. Much good was done, many were brought to the Lord. There was about twelve thousand people.

August 19. Preached in the room at Manchester at half-past ten. A barren time. At two preached at the Cross, A good time. At six preached in the room; had a good time; 4 souls were savingly brought to God. Praise the Lord.

Sunday August 26. Attended a camp-meeting at the Water Houses. There was much profitable speaking, and five souls were brought to God. Praise the Lord.

WALTON CARTER.

* The constable had been a member of the Old Methodist society, but had left it and become a backslider, ED.

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SEPTEMBER 2, Preached at Bolton, in the Wood-yard, and had a good time. After I had done, joined two to a class, who came to me earnestly seeking salvation. Gave brother Cupit's class their tickets. At one o'clock preached at the stocks to a very large congregation, and the power of God was felt, many cried aloud for joy.—Praise the Lord, I have since heard that many were truly awakened. At five, preached at Hay Brow. A good time; joined four to our society who were earnestly seeking salvation.

Sept. 3, In the afternoon, visited a few of our members and prayed with them. In the evening preached in the large room which is just fitted up, to about eleven or twelve hundred people; and truly the Lord was with me, and the people gave glory to him. Many were awakened to a sense of their danger. I joined twelve to the society; some of whom were seeking the Lord, and some had found him to the joy of their souls. Then gave tickets to three classes. The people are alive to God.

WALTON CARTER

Reference

Primitive Methodist Magazine 1822/11; 1822/45