

## *Paul Chaubey - One Time Robber and Murderer*

*The Story of Paul Chaubey as written by C.E.Wigg. (Bible teacher from Tasmania) - Abridged*

In an area near Lucknow in North India, lived a Brahmin family by the name of Chaubey. From what I understand the “Brahmins” are the highest caste, preachers and priests of the Hindu religion. As a family they were comparatively rich, quite religious, and had a large house where the worship of Hindu idols was daily carried out. One of the sons took a bad turn in life becoming a greedy violent man until he finally became king of a band of gangsters.

He married a Brahmin girl and had two sons, joining them in the daily worship when at home. At times, with his gang, he sought the blessing of the idols before committing a crime. Once the crime had been successfully carried through, he returned to the temple to make a thank offering of part of the proceeds from the crime.

But the Mighty God was watching that man. He set His love upon him and determined to make him a trophy of His matchless grace.

He was not troubled by the fact that the gang he led stole and murdered, and by his own confession, committed at least 28 murders, many of them committed by himself. Despite having committed many murders and stealing so much property, he never spent time in prison. If caught they would bribe the policemen. This was considered business expenses. If they found an honest policeman, and were brought to the court, then they would have to give the judge more money, but this was just bad luck.

After committing one crime they were caught, and because the police man was honest he had to go to Court. The case was heard in the town of Basti. While on his way to the court, he saw a man with a shoulder bag hanging from his shoulder, a Bible in one hand and some tracts in the other.

Though he was feared by all in that town, yet this christian brother offered him a tract. When he was asked what it was he told him it was a paper that would tell him about the one true God. The gangster put the tract into his pocket, then began to reproach the christian.

“What one true God?” he asked, “I have a thousand gods, if one of my gods fail I turn to another, if your God fails what do you do?” The Christian simply told him that his God never failed, that He could not fail, and that he would never need to turn to another. Becoming angry when he heard these words, he snatched the evangelist’s Bible and threw it on the ground, grabbed the tracts that were in the other hand and threw them into the air. He then put his hand into his pocket and felt the revolver that he had there, and threatened the evangelist, telling him that if he came there again and found him there he would shoot him, and ordered him to get out of the town.

The court hearing was adjourned for fourteen days so he returned home where he boasted to his wife of what he had done. To His surprise his wife did not laugh with him, but rebuked him, telling him that he had no right to treat the evangelist as he had done. She told him that the man was a servant of some god, and that he had done no harm to him, so he was wrong in treating him as he had done. He then put his hand into his pocket and produced the tract, telling his wife that the man was spreading religious propaganda, telling about some one true God and giving away papers. His wife then asked him if he had read the paper, and when he told her he had not, she told him that he should do so, that it might do him some good. This was a challenge to him which he could not resist, so he did read the tract.

Fourteen days later he returned to Basti to attend court again. He was angered to find the same evangelist still there. Furiously he reminded the evangelist of the threat he had made two weeks before. The christian replied: “You told me that if you found me here again you would shoot me. I told you that I served the Lord Jesus, that He is my King, and He has not told me to leave this place. I must remain until He tells me to go. You can shoot me if you wish, but first let me tell you about the one true God, because He loves you.”

Calming down the criminal told the evangelist that he had read the paper which had been given to him, and it informed him of a God who can forgive sins, but that “No God could forgive him, because he was just too bad”. The evangelist then told him that God is able to forgive the vilest sinner, that He had forgiven the Chief of Sinners

who was worse than any criminal, and that God was able to righteously forgive him also. The felon told me in his own words: "I entered that prayer hall at 10:30 in the morning, and when I came out at 4:30 in the afternoon, I came out a new man".

How could this possibly come about? The evangelist shared with him the Gospel of Christ, which "Is the power of God unto salvation, to every one who believes" (Rom. 1:16). There the man learned that there is only one true God and that He is our Creator. He created us for Himself and created us in such a way that we cannot find true peace, satisfaction, or fulfillment, apart from Himself. He learned that though he was a very wicked man, yet he was not alone, for all have sinned, that we all have a sinful nature, and because of this we cannot pay for our own sins, nor can we earn the salvation of God.

However, God loved each one of us because we are His creatures, and so that we might be delivered from the penalty, and punishment due to us because of our sins, He himself became man. His law demanded that as it was man who had sinned, it was man that should pay the penalty, but that it was only a sinless man who could be our substitute. So in wonderful love, He who created man, humbled Himself and became a man. "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1 Tim. 1:15).

When he heard all these things the gangster saw himself no longer as a gangster king, but a lost and guilty sinner. He came to the feet of the Lord Jesus in true repentance, put his faith and trust in that risen Savior, and received Him into his heart and life, and at that moment his many sins were forgiven by the blood of the Lord Jesus. He was born again and became a "new creature" in Christ.

Once all this was settled, then it was that he learned why that evangelist was so thin. For fourteen days that dear man had been fasting and praying for the criminal's conversion.

He now returned to his home and asked his wife to make him a cup of tea. She was very surprised and wondered if he had made a mistake, telling him that he never drank tea, he only drank brandy. When he insisted she made the tea for him, and he told her that never in his life had a cup of tea tasted so nice as it did that day. He then asked his wife to come and to watch what he was about to do. He took every bottle of brandy he had and smashed them, that was a thing of the past. Thus he showed that he had really received a new life, he was now in Christ, and the old things were passing away.

However, though he was completely changed, his wife did not like the change. The poojah (a ritual in honour of the gods) ceased. He was now a christian praying to God who was now his Father, and to the Lord Jesus, who was now his Savior.

After a time his wife took their two sons and left him. He found out where she had gone, and then went to see her. He demanded that she hand the boys over to him which she did under pressure.

Now that he was a christian he had a greater problem. He had ruled over a gang and he knew enough about each of them that could make them hang for their crimes. He called them all together, told them what had happened to him, that he had been saved and was a new creature in Christ, that he could not continue with them in a life of sin and crime. He told them that he was a threat to each of them because of what he knew about them, that they could shoot him then and there if they chose. However, he promised that if they allowed him to live, he would never divulge to any living soul the things that he knew about them.

Later he was baptized, and this made the Brahmin community angry. The Lord Jesus asks all those who trust Him as Savior, and confess Him as Lord, to testify to their faith in Him by being baptized to the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. This is done by their being immersed in water, thus identify themselves with Him in His death, burial, and resurrection.

In Hindu circles this public act of faith and obedience often provokes great opposition and hostility. Hindus do not object to one believing in any god, or in no god, so to them to believe in Jesus is just believing in one more god. However, if one is baptized, it means that the person has broken caste and thus are outcaste, and this makes

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them very angry and will often result in the person being rejected by their family, disinherited, and literally cast out.

This is what happened to brother Paul Chaubey because he was from a Brahmin family. It made his family and community very angry, and they decided to kill him. When taking his baby son John to the hospital for treatment they ambushed him and stabbed him forty times.

His would-be murderers then left him and the baby, thinking that he was dead. However, others found him, and rushed him to hospital where his wounds were treated and his life was saved. He continued in that area, staying with his mother, but she was still a Hindu, and poojah was practiced in that house each morning.

He began to give his testimony at meetings, and to preach the Gospel as best he understood that wonderful message. He continued to serve the Lord, looking to Him to supply his daily needs, going from house to house as a Christian witness and with Christian literature. When I last met him, together with his son John, they had covered thirteen villages surrounding Madras. In one village he had been beaten up but felt no bitterness towards those who had treated him thus, realizing that he was just reaping what he himself had done.