



# Family Altar Newsletter

## Roloff Evangelistic Enterprises

### THE SHORTEST TESTIMONY EVER GIVEN

BY LESTER ROLOFF

In Mark chapter 14, we find the shortest testimony and the most costly testimony that's ever been given. There never has been a testimony that cost what this testimony cost. Read with me: *And the high priest stood up in the midst, and asked Jesus, saying....Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? And Jesus said, I AM: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.* —Mark 14:60-62

"I AM." That's the greatest truth that was ever spoken. That's the testimony that brought our Savior to the old rugged cross. That's the testimony that gave me hope—both present and future. That's the testimony that gave Moses the power to go before Pharaoh and the authority to lead the children of Israel out of bondage. "I AM has sent me to you," was Moses' testimony of God's present help for His people. Isaiah's ministry was also marked by this testimony: *"Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and His redeemer the LORD of hosts; I AM the first, and I AM the last; and beside me there is no God."* —Isaiah 44:6

I don't think Jesus blinked an eye when the high priest stood up in the midst and demanded a testimony. He calmly faced the old priest and said, "I AM—You asked me a question, and I'm not ashamed to admit Who I am. I am the Christ, the Son of the Blessed. Whatever the results will be, let them be. I must tell the truth.—I AM." That's the testimony of the ages right there. That's the richest three letters and two words that were ever penned in the Word of God. What if Jesus had looked at the priest in the courtroom and said, "Well, I was, but not anymore." No, He said, "I AM."

He's the I AM Who set the children of Israel free. He's the I AM Who kept old Pharaoh from killing them. He's the I AM Who protected Moses. He's the I AM Who went into the fiery furnace with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He's the I AM Who locked the lions' jaws. He is the

I AM—present tense! He didn't say, "Well, I'm trying to be, or I wish to be." No, He said "I AM." And that testimony brought His death.

After Jesus had been raised from the dead, He told His disciples in Matthew 28, *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things, whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I AM with you always..."* Isn't that a wonderful promise? We can claim the I AM. We can go win souls to Christ and teach them God's commands. We can do all of this while counting on His presence. The I AM will be right along with us until our mission is complete.

Jesus told the truth about Himself. He gave a testimony when it cost Him, and we are called to do the same. May we never forget Who He is. If His testimony isn't costing us, then we are in trouble. Christ gave His life to help others. Living for the great I AM demands that we give of ourselves to meet the needs of those around us. Isaiah chapter 58 says: *Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy reward. Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and He shall say, Here I AM...* —Isaiah 58:6-9

Fasting for the burdens of others and helping the destitute are life habits of those who make the glory of the Lord their reward. That's when we hear Him say, "Here I AM." But we see this testimony turned around in the life of Cain: "Am I my brother's keeper?"

## Shortest Testimony, continued

Cain was a religious man. He went to the same church his brother did. He took a gift. He went to worship, just like his brother did. But things didn't turn out well for Cain because he didn't go by faith (Hebrews 11:4). His reward wasn't the glory of the I AM. "Am I my brother's keeper?" That's the talk of a dead church, of a dead denomination.

Sombody asked, "Can you help us with the poor folks?" The religious answer, "Am I my brother's keeper?" The Christian says, "I AM my brother's keeper!" He's glad to admit it. Who is going to keep him if we don't keep him? Cain took no responsibility for his brother—He knew he had already killed him. This is the first experience of religious persecution, and it started within the family. At that time there were only four people on earth. Cain asked, "Am I my brother's keeper?" That's religion for you. Religion never starts a mission of mercy. It is mercenary. The world will promote religion, but it will persecute Christianity. It's always been that way, and we must understand that.

I want to give you something to think over. True Christianity never persecutes the heathen. True Christianity never persecutes religion. But True Christianity will always be persecuted by both. The flesh always persecutes the Spirit. The Spirit is kind, sweet, patient, and gentle. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, and peace. The briefest and greatest testimony brought the death of the best Man Who ever lived. While some people think Jesus was crucified because of the testimony of others, the Bible is clear that He died under His own testimony. Finding rest in the I AM means we don't have to fret over the testimony of others because we already have a testimony worth dying for. We can practically love others because we've heard from the One who holds the keys: ***"I AM He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."*** —Revelation 1:18

## Memorials

### We remember and honor:

**Beulah Bennette**

*by Scott, Naomi, & Sophie Watson*

**Jillian Caruso**

*by Kathryn McMeans*

**Max Hardy**

**Marvin L. Burhenn**

*by Cecil & Carol Burhenn*

**Laura Kane**

*by William Kane*

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Your memorial gift to the Roloff Evangelistic Enterprises helps us continue to share the message that "Christ is the Answer." We will send an appropriate card to the bereaved on your behalf (the amount of the gift is not disclosed). To donate, complete and enclose this form, or visit [roloff.org](http://roloff.org).

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# Mailbox

“I have been listening to podcasts and music on Spotify for several years but never realized Brother Roloff is on there! I’m excited that the *Family Altar Radio* podcast is on Spotify and will be listening there.” –S.B.

“I still love listening to Brother Roloff after forty-three years!” –C.P.

“Just a note of thanks to let you know that Brother Roloff’s preaching not only blesses my soul, but has also helped my health. I listened to him say that the body finds healing in fasting and drinking enough water with lemon. His words sunk in, and I have had improved health by drinking eight cups of water a day.” –T.W.

“I have known of your ministry for many years. It has been such a blessing. I am 85. Pray for me as I pray for you. God Bless.” –M.D.

“The preaching of Brother Roloff has inspired me to drink more water, eat more vegetables, and memorize scripture. He inspires me to be more Christ-like. I thank God for empowering his preaching, and thank you for airing it.” –W.T.

“The *Family Altar Radio* App by the Roloff Evangelistic Enterprises is amazing! I’m so thankful for this resource! Everyone should download this and have strong, uncompromising, Biblical preaching at their fingertips!” –A.R.

“I thank God for your ministry. I was a worst case scenario, backsliding Christian, and it was through your broadcasting of Brother Roloff that God convicted my heart and called me back like the prodigal son of Luke 15. Love you guys.” –S.D.

“I really enjoyed the tract entitled, *Pursued by Hope*. Brother John Downs is a blessing and true man of God.” –P.M.

“Thank you for your dedication to promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ.” –T.W.

“I found the *Family Altar Radio* App earlier this year, and I have been listening to Brother Roloff very often. The Lord has used his preaching to really change my life and draw me closer to Him. The program has been a huge blessing to me. Thank you to everyone involved in this ministry.” –M.N.