

### **Black**

Black was new on the zone. He is loud and aggressive. He uses the n-word a lot in his speech. I was apprehensive about talking to him about Jesus. However, while I was at one of the recreation tables one day, I overheard him tell two other old men that he follows Jesus.

One night, I tapped him on the shoulder as he stood talking to BB. I told him that I needed to talk to him, and asked him to come over and sit on my bed. I had to struggle in order to hide my anxiety. I did not want my reluctance to show through in my voice.

I mentioned to him that I was enrolled in the FBI Bible class. I told him that we had an assignment to share our faith with 16 other prisoners. I reminded him of the conversation he had at the table the previous day, and I asked him if he minded talking to me about Jesus.

He appeared to me also to be nervous and apprehensive. He told me that he has accepted Jesus as his Lord and personal Savior. He told me that he was on-fire for Jesus while he was at the county jail. He told me that he struggles with his behavior. He said that the situation is like he has a devil on one shoulder telling him bad things, and an angel on the other shoulder telling him not to do wrong.

In response to my question about where he would go if he died that night, Black did not know where he would spend eternity. I told him that he can have the assurance of his eternal salvation, based solely on God's promises in Scripture. Black and I shook hands. He told me with a good deal of enthusiasm in his voice that he really appreciated me talking to him, and he told me that he wants me to talk to him some more.

This interview happened at night, so we were not able to read the Scriptures which promise salvation based solely on faith, but I told him that I would get-with him in the coming days and show him the Bible verses.

About a week later, Prince, Gerrard Buckner and I were sitting at one of the tables when Black walked-up. I told Prince I wanted to show Black some Scriptures, and Prince took him down the Roman road of salvation.

Black was at in-transit while he was at Unit 26. About two weeks after our initial encounter, Black was transferred off of the institutional grounds of Parchman. On the day of his departure, I told him that, wherever he went, there were going to be opportunities for him to do wrong, and there were going to be opportunities for him to do right.

I told him that God had His hand on his life!