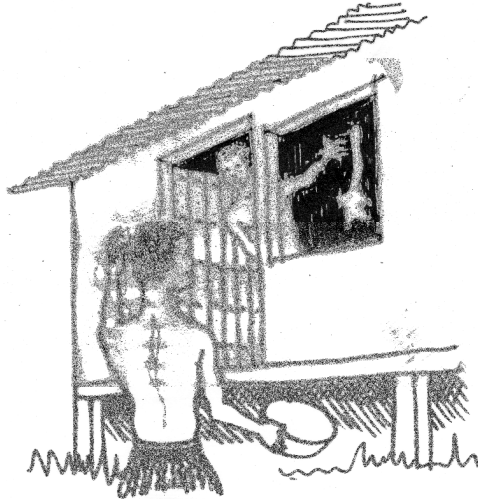


Bilivucu



Bilivucu had become a very keen Christian and he wanted everyone else in his village to become Christians.

“You really should follow the Christian way, my friend,” he would say. “My life has changed such a lot since I believed in Jehovah God. I have real peace in my heart now. Won’t you become a Christian, too?”

There was one man in the village who grew tired of Bilivucu constantly talking to him about being a Christian. One day, he got so angry that he grabbed the nearest thing he could find. It happened to be a cooking pot. He smashed it over Bilivucu’s head, sending him home with a very bad headache.

Bilivucu sat in his house wondering what he should do.

“I try to tell this man good news, and all he does is hit me over the head with a cooking pot,” he said to himself. “It wouldn’t be so bad if he hit me with a club. At least that’s a man’s thing. But to hit me with a cooking pot! That’s a woman’s thing. You shouldn’t hit a man with a woman’s thing.”

“I feel like hitting him with my old war club hanging there on the wall,” was his first thought. But then he remembered, “No, I’m a Christian now. I won’t hit back.”

He had hung the war club on the wall when he became a Christian to remind himself of what his life had been before that.

Now he was reaching out to take it off the wall and go and hit the man who offended him. But he stopped. There on the floor beneath the club was his Bible. He took that instead.

“Maybe God will tell me what to do through His word,” he thought.

He looked down a page and there his eyes fell on some words in Matthew chapter 5. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of God.”

As Bilivucu thought on those words his anger left him and his heart was filled with joy. Going out to his own kitchen he chose the best cooking pot he could find and went back to the house of the man who hit him.

In the Fijian way he arrived at the door and called out, “I’m coming in!”

The man inside recognised his voice and immediately reached for his club, thinking Bilivucu had come back for revenge. But Bilivucu entered with the new cooking pot, and said to the angry man, “I’m sorry I broke your pot on my head. I’ve brought you back a new one.”

The man was so amazed. “I was sure you had come back to fight me, Bilivucu. Thank you for the new pot. Being a Christian has changed you. It has made you a good man. Please would you teach me more about the Christian way? It must be a good way for me too.”

On another occasion a measles epidemic broke out in Bilivucu’s village. It had been brought into Fiji by men on trading ships, causing great loss of life to the Fijians.

“Your brother is very ill, Bilivucu, “some men reported to him. “They’ve begun to dig his grave because they think he will die soon.”

Bilivucu was reading his Bible and came upon the passage in James, “Is any sick among you, let him call for the elders of the church and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord, and the prayer of faith will save the sick and the Lord will raise him up.”

Bilivucu read the scripture and thought of his brother lying near death in his house. Then he took his Bible and a bottle of oil and ran to his brother’s house. He found him lying close to the fire and his face was deathly pale.

“You have been offering up pigs to your gods and they haven’t healed you. My God will heal you for nothing,” Bilivucu said to him. “Would you like me to speak to my God for you?”

The sick man agreed, so Bilivucu rubbed oil all over his body and knelt down beside the man to pray for his healing. Bilivucu hadn't even finished his prayer when the sick man suddenly threw off his covering, sat up and cried, "I am better! Your God has made me well!"

He turned to his wife who was sitting beside him. "Get a new sulu for me to wear. Get one each for yourself and the children. This will be a sign that our family has become Christian today."

Everybody was delighted that he and his household had become Christian that day. He asked Bilivucu to teach them to read the Bible and learn about the Christian way. Bilivucu's changed life and behaviour was such an example to people that God was able to work in many lives. Instead of fighting with one another, people started acting kindly to one another.

Adapted from: *Deep Sea Canoe*, Alan R Tippett, William Carey Library, Pasadena, California