

Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn



Sir Watkin was rich. He owned so much land! Most of North Wales belonged to him. Some rich people are good and kind. Some love the Lord Jesus Christ. But some do not. Sir Watkin did not and he was not kind.

Sir Watkin was a magistrate. He could send people to prison if they had done wrong. He could make them pay a fine if they had broken the law. Sir Watkin used this power to harm Christians.

At that time, if Christians met to worship they had to have a licence for their chapel. They could not meet in any old building like a barn. This was the law. But only if the meetings had quite a lot of people. Just a very few people could meet anywhere. Sir Watkin often fined Christians who met in barns to worship. They had no licenced chapel because they were too poor.

Once Sir Watkin got caught out doing this. He fined some people in Wrexham for meeting. But the number of people was too small. They were not breaking the law.

The Countess of Huntingdon was a Christian lady. She heard what Sir Watkin had done. She was an important lady. She knew the right people to go to. The law had not been broken so Sir Watkin was made to give the money back. How angry Sir Watkin was!

Sir Watkin owned land and houses near Bala. The farmers and the people who lived in the houses were his tenants. They paid rent money to Sir Watkin. He owned the houses they lived in and the land they farmed.

Good preaching had come to Bala. Many of Sir Watkins tenants were now Christians. Sir Watkin was still angry about giving back that money. "None of these Christian people shall live in my houses any more," he said.

Soon the Christians near Bala heard about what Sir Watkin had said. "What shall we

do?" they said. "We will have no where to live if Sir Watkin turns us out!" They knew what Sir Watkin was like. He was not a man to change his mind. So they held a prayer meeting. What a wise thing to do! They knew that God would take care of them even if they were turned out of their houses and farms. After the meeting they felt sure that God had heard them in their trouble.

A few days later news reached Bala: Sir Watkin was dead! He had fallen from his horse while he was hunting and the fall had killed him. We know that God does not always kill his enemies like this. Sometimes they seem to do well and God's children seem to suffer. But even then God orders everything for the good of his children in the end.

Sir Watkin's life, like any other, was in God's hands. Who owned the great lands now? They belonged to a little baby who was Sir Watkin's heir! No one near Bala would lose their home.