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### The Marshall Keeble Story

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THE MARSHALL KEEBLE STORY

Story by Russ Marker

Research & Bible Consultant - Dan Harless

Screenplay by John E. Kirk

NO CHANGES IN THIS SCRIPT SHALL BE MADE  
WITHOUT THE EXPRESS PERMISSION OF THE  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

"THE MARSHALL KEEBLE STORY"

CAST

as	Marshall Keeble
as	First Policeman
as	Five Klu Klux Klansmen
as	Man (Colored Preacher)
as	Brother Hollie
as	Heckler
as	Two White Workers

Audience participants (Scenes 1 - 10, etc) (12 - 20)

Prisoner

More audience participants (Scenes 28 - 35)

1. MEDIUM SHOT EXTERIOR SMALL CHURCH BUILDING

From the building we hear Keeble preaching. His voice is faint. We hear night background noises.

KEEBLE:

...Some of you out there are too stubborn to change. You're like the old lady in Louisville, Kentucky, who believed what I was preaching. But, she didn't want to change from her church. She said she didn't believe in jumping from limb to limb....

2. MEDIUM CLOSE UP KEEBLE IN PULPIT INTERIOR CHURCH BUILDING

as Keeble continues.

KEEBLE: (Cont'd)

...I told her she was right providing the limb she was sitting on was a strong one. But if it was rotten it wouldn't be wise to remain there....

3. TIGHT MEDIUM SHOT OF DOOR TO CHURCH

We see a white man enter church building. As door opens we hear Keeble's voice increase in volume.

KEEBLE: (Cont'd)

When the limb is so rotten and it is cracking, friends.

4. MEDIUM SHOT OF AUDIENCE FROM PULPIT

and we see white man come through door and take seat in last row. Keeble continues and audience does not notice man. Several white people in audience.

KEEBLE:

...then its time to change. There is folks right here in this audience tonight trying to sit on the dead and rotten limbs of manmade creeds and disciplines and manuals.....

5. MEDIUM CLOSE UP KEEBLE as he continues.

KEEBLE:

...and those rotten limbs are crackin under you right now. You folks better change -- wise birds don't roost on rotten limbs. Now ----- Jesus said

5. Continued.....

KEEBLE: (Cont'd)

a long time ago, "Come unto me,  
all ye that labor and are heavy  
laden; and I will give you rest."  
The Lord is still asking us to  
come to him, just as he did so  
long ago.

We're going to sing a song of  
invitation and I pray for you  
to come and accept the salvation  
of Jesus Christ.

6. MEDIUM SHOT REVERSE

as congregation stands to sing.

7. MEDIUM CLOSE UP WHITE MAN FROM SIDE VIEW

as he steps to center aisle and walks to front.  
Singing continues.

8. 2 SHOT FRONT ON KEEBLE IS SMILING AT THE RESPONSE

as white man walks into shot position. Then Keeble's  
smile leaves as we see white man throw a punch that  
sends Keeble out of frame and to the floor. SINGING  
STOPS!! We hear exclamation from audience, then all  
is still.

9. MEDIUM CLOSE UP KEEBLE ON FLOOR. He is bleeding at  
mouth.

10. MEDIUM SHOT REVERSE TO BACK OF BUILDING

as we see man run up aisle to door. Several try to  
catch and stop him. He alludes all and exits as we

DISSOLVE TO: OPENING TITLES AND THEME. . . . .

11. LOOSE MEDIUM CLOSE UP HOLTON IN STUDY

He is standing at fireplace and speaks to camera.

HOLTON:

Welcome to the Herald of Truth. I'm  
Robert Holton, your host. A moment  
ago you saw an example of bigotry and  
prejudice in action. Two evils which  
beset so many in our time. The inci-  
dent was true and is documented.

DOLLY AND PAN WITH HOLTON TO CHAIR WHERE HE SITS

HOLTON: (Cont'd)

Marshall Keeble, noted Christian evangelist and educator, has spent a lifetime lifting himself above petty intolerance and hatred directed against him; to preach the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ across the length and breadth of these United States. Two events in the early life of this man were to chart his course of dedicated service to God - his baptism, at the age of 14 and his marriage at the age of 18 to Minnie Womak, daughter of the great negro minister, Samuel Womak.

Today, we want to look at some incidents in the life of Marshall Keeble - incidents not connected with particular time or place, but brief portions that demonstrate his humbleness, his wit, his love of his fellowman, and his dedicated mission of preaching New Testament Christianity.

One of the most outstanding virtues of this Christian gentleman is his forgiving spirit toward those who have afflicted persecution on his person through the years.

12. GROUP SHOT INTERIOR SMALL CHURCH

Several men have gathered about Keeble and the service is over. Keeble is wiping the blood from his mouth.

HOLTON: (V.O.)

Following his assault, worship service was resumed and concluded a few moments later.

POLICE:

Mr. Keeble.....

13. REVERSE MEDIUM SHOT TO REAR OF CHURCH

as a policeman walks toward Keeble with assailant in hand.

13. Continued....

KEEBLE:

Yes suh.....

14. TIGHT GROUP SHOT HIGH ON

as policeman and prisoner join Keeble.

POLICE:

This man has been identified as the man who assaulted you awhile ago. If you will come with me to the station and swear out a complaint.....

KEEBLE:

(INTERRUPTING)

Oh, no suh. I couldn't do that.

15. CLOSE UP PRISONER He is hanging his head.

POLICE:

But this man hit you with these.....

16. CLOSE UP BRASS KNUCKS IN POLICEMAN'S HAND.

KEEBLE:

Yes, suh. I know what he hit me with.

17. MEDIUM CLOSE UP KEEBLE

as he continues.....

KEEBLE: (Cont'd)

...but that wasn't really him that hit me...it was the devil and I been hit by the devil many times.

18. 2 SHOT POLICEMAN AND PRISONER

POLICE:

Then you're not going to prefer charges -- make out a complaint?

KEEBLE:

No, suh. -- I've got nothing...

19. MEDIUM CLOSE UP KEEBLE

KEEBLE: (Cont'd)

against this man. I only hopes that he will obey the gospel some day!

20. CLOSE UP OF PRISONER

as he raises his head and looks at Keeble.

DISSOLVE:

21. SUPER OVER A MAP OF THE UNITED STATES SHOTS OF TRAIN  
WHEELS. HOLD DURING HOLTON VOICE OVER.

HOLTON: (V.O.)

Keeble's reputation as a great  
evangelist spread far and wide as  
he carried the message of Christ to  
the South - West - North and East.

22. EXTERIOR FRONT OF TENT WIDE SHOT

Four Klu Klux Klansmen are standing in front of tent  
with clubs in hand.

HOLTON: (V.O.)

But because of the color of his skin  
Marshall Keeble was often confronted  
with the spectre of racial discrimi-  
nation and prejudice.

23. INTERIOR TENT HIGH MEDIUM SHOT OVER HEAD OF KEEBLE

as Klansmen advance toward him.

24. MEDIUM CLOSE UP KEEBLE.

KEEBLE:

(HUMBLY AND RATHER SADLY)

I've been preaching for a long time  
and in many places...and I've always  
tried to preach to the needs of the  
people. (SMILES)

This is the smallest group, I  
believe, that I've ever spoken to.

25. TIGHT GROUP SHOT OF KLANSMEN.

KEEBLE: (Cont'd)

I can't even see your faces - but  
I want you to know that you are wel-  
come.

26. MEDIUM CLOSE UP KEEBLE (DIFFERENT ANGLE)

KEEBLE: (Cont'd)

This particular occasion calls to  
mind a passage of scripture from  
the 16th chapter of John which seems  
to me to be appropriate (OPENS BIBLE  
AND READS)



26. Cont'd.

KEEBLE: (Continuing)

"These things have I spoken unto you, that ye not stumble. They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the hour cometh, that whosoever killeth you shall think that he offereth service unto God. - And these things will they do, because they have not known the Father, nor me."

(HE CONTINUES MOS)

HOLTON: (V.O.)

That night in Georgia, Keeble gave one of the greatest and most moving sermons of his entire career.

27. HIGH SHOT OVER KEEBLE'S HEAD TO KLANSMEN

and we see three of them in process of taking off head pieces and dropping them and clubs to floor, as Holton continues. They sit down and the fourth Klanman exits in disgust.

HOLTON: (V.O.)(Cont'd)

So stirring was his theme, so wonderful his knowledge of God's word, and so sincere his approach that a spiritual change was brought about in the hearts of some who had come there as his enemies.

28. INTERIOR SECOND CHURCH BUILDING. MEDIUM CLOSE UP KEEBLE

as he is speaking (MOS)

HOLTON: (V.O.)

Wherever he went, Marshall Keeble had a capacity audience. Many who attended his gospel meeting were members of various religious organizations (denominations). There were ever present those who would try and discredit him.

KEEBLE:

(FROM PULPIT)

....And what was it that Peter told us to do? Why, children, it's recorded in the book of Acts, the second chapter and the 38th verse. "And Peter said unto them, Repent ye, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ..."

29. WIDE SHOT AUDIENCE

and we see colored preacher seated in foreground -  
as Keeble continues.

KEEBLE: (Cont'd)  
...unto the remission of your sins;  
and ye shall receive the gift of the  
Holy Spirit."

(Preacher raises hand)

30. MEDIUM SHOT KEEBLE OVER TOPS OF AUDIENCE HEADS.

KEEBLE:  
(HE PAUSES AND POINTS TO FINLEY)  
Yes, sir? Did you wish to ask me a  
question?

31. CLOSE UP MAN

MAN:  
I certainly do. You just got through  
quoting from Acts 2:38.

31A. CLOSE UP KEEBLE

KEEBLE:  
Yes sir?

MAN:  
Mr. Keeble, would you mind giving  
us that passage in the Greek?

KEEBLE:  
Greek, sir? I don't see why it would  
be necessary to discuss it in Greek.  
We have translations of the Bible  
given to us by some of the ablest  
Greek scholars in the world.

When we go to the store to buy some  
peanuts we can get them either one  
of two ways, shelled or in the hull.  
(HOLDS HIS BIBLE ALOFT)  
The Bible has already been hulled for us.

32. MEDIUM CLOSE UP MAN

as he turns and cast glances at members of audience.

MAN:  
(SMUGLY)  
Well, surely Mr. Keeble, you don't  
mind just quoting the passage in  
Greek?

32. Cont'd.

MAN: (Continuing)

I mean, for the benefit of the congregation here.

33. CLOSE UP KEEBLE SPEAKING TO AUDIENCE

KEEBLE:

How many in the audience know Greek?  
Raise your hands.

34. WIDE SHOT AUDIENCE

and we see men standing and looking for show of hands.  
There are smiles on the faces of audience.

35. MEDIUM CLOSE UP KEEBLE

KEEBLE:

Well, nobody here seems to understand Greek. So what's the use of discussing the scriptures in Greek? We'll stay with the English.

(HE CONTINUES NOW AS WE PICK UP HOLTON'S VOICE OVER)

HOLTON: (V.O.)

Thus, with the quick wit that has never deserted him, Marshall Keeble turned the tables on an unethical opponent who had tried to discredit him before his audience. Yet, he did it in a clean, good-natured way and totally without rancor.

36. MEDIUM SHOT EXTERIOR CEMETERY AND GRAVE.

Keeble is kneeling beside a fresh grave fixing some flowers.

HOLTON: (V.O.)

Like all other men, Marshall Keeble has known personal loss and grief.

37. TIGHT MEDIUM CLOSE UP KEEBLE looking down at grave.

KEEBLE:

That you, Minnie, for all you did for me. You were a faithful companion and devoted helper for 35 years.... you never let me down. (PAUSE)  
I won't let you down either. I'll carry on in the work of the Lord just as long as He wants me to.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

38. OMITTED

39. EXTERIOR MEDIUM SHOT OF TRAIN

as it comes into station, Keeble gets off and looks around.

HOLTON: (V.O.)

Through the years and after countless thousands of miles traveled over our nation in the cause of Christianity...and after thousands of baptisms, Marshall Keeble earned the love, admiration and respect of men of every race.

40. CLOSE UP OF SIGN "HOPKINSVILLE"

HOLTON: (V.O.)

He would receive invitations from far and wide

41. MEDIUM CLOSE UP KEEBLE

HOLTON: (V.O.)

...to come and preach and he would always try, as he still does, to honor those requests.

42. 2 SHOT FRAME

HOLLIS:

(LOOKS OFF OUT OF FRAME)

Brother Keeble? Over here.

(PAUSE)

Welcome to Hopkenville.

KEEBLE WALKS INTO FRAME

KEEBLE:

(STEPPING INTO SCENE)

Heavin', Brother Hollis. Nice of you to come down to meet me.

(THEY SHAKE HANDS)

HOLLIS:

It's a pleasure. I've looked forward to seeing you again, for a long time. I've a room all ready for you and it's not far from here. It's such a nice day, let's just walk.

42. Continued.

KEEBLE:  
That sounds fine to me.

HOLLIS:  
Here...let me take your bags.

Keeble:  
Well, now, I don't know. That might  
not look quite right for you to  
carry my.....

HOLLIS:  
(TAKING THE BAGS)  
Don't worry about it. After all,  
I'm a little younger than you  
are.

(THEY BOTH LAUGH AS THEY MOVE OUT OF SCENE)

(TRAVEL THIS 2 SHOT as they walk and talk)

KEEBLE:  
They don't have a church building  
in this town yet, do they?

HOLLIS:  
Not yet. But we're getting a tent  
put up today. We'll run out and  
you can take a look at it.

KEEBLE:  
Fine.

43. 3 SHOT EXTERIOR VACANT LOT

DISSOLVE:

Where two white workers are driving tent stakes. An  
uncouth type Heckler walks up. (Workers look up)

HECKLER:  
What's goin' up here?

WORKER:  
We're puttin' up a tent.

HECKLER:  
What for?

44. MEDIUM CLOSE UP FIRST WORKER

FIRST WORKER:  
An evangelist coming in today. Gonna  
hold a meetin' for the colored people.

45. CLOSE UP HECKLER

HECKLER:  
Gonna preach to the Negroes huh?  
That's a waste of time.

WORKER:  
Yeah? How do you figure that?

HECKLER:  
I reckon I know somethin' about  
the Bible.

46. 2 SHOT HOLLIS AND KEEBLE walking to group.

HECKLER: (Cont'd)  
And according to it, the savior  
himself said to preach to all the  
nations.

47. 2 SHOT WORKER AND HECKLER

HECKLER: (Cont'd)  
And the negroes ain't no nation.

WORKER:  
Now, that's a silly idea if I ever  
heard one.

HECKLER:  
All right. If you don't believe me,  
you just read the 19th verse of the  
28th chapter of Matthew.

WORKER:  
What does it say?

48. MEDIUM WIDE SHOT OF GROUP

as Keeble and Hollis join them.

KEEBLE:  
(CUTTING IN)  
Matthew 28:19? I'll tell you  
what it says. It says: "Go  
ye therefore, and make disciples of  
all the nations, baptizing th....."

49. 2 SHOT KEEBLE AND HECKLER as Heckler turns to Keeble.

HECKLER:  
(CUTTING HIM OFF)  
You see there? It says all the nations.  
(HE HAS SAID THIS TO THE WORKER)

50. MEDIUM CLOSE UP KEEBLE

KEEBLE:

(PUZZLED)

That's right. All the nations. That's what it says.

HECKLER:

Exactly what I was tellin' them.

51. OVER THE SHOULDER SHOT OF WORKER 3 SHOT

WORKER:

(TO HECKLER)

Tell him what else you was saying.

HECKLER:

(A BIT EMBARRASED. LOOKING TO WORKER AND INDICATING KEEBLE)

Is this the... (TURNS TO KEEBLE) Are you... the man that's going to preach here?

52. CLOSE UP KEEBLE LOOKING AT WORKER

KEEBLE:

(SMILING)

Yes, I am. Marshall Keeble's the name.

53. MEDIUM CLOSE UP WORKER

WORKER:

(TO KEEBLE)

Brother Keeble, this man was just saying as how it was a waste of time to preach the gospel to people of your race. He said your people ain't a nation.

54. MEDIUM CLOSE UP HECKLER

HECKLER:

(WITH BELIGERENT FALSE COURAGE)

Well, that's right! You just said the passage from Matthew yourself. It says to make disciples of all the nations. And the colored people ain't a nation!

55. CLOSE UP KEEBLE TURNING TO HECKLER:

KEEBLE:

(SOFTLY)

I think perhaps you've forgotten what Mark says. Mark says to preach to every creature.

55. Cont'd. KEEBLE: (Cont'd)  
(HUMBLY) I'm a creature.

56. CLOSE UP HECKLER

HECKLER:  
Well, I.....uh.....I.....

DISSOLVE:

57. INTERIOR HOLTON STUDY.

He is seated in same chair as opening. MEDIUM CLOSE UP

HOLTON:  
And so once again, with quiet dignity and a firm knowledge of the scriptures, Marshall Keeble had proven himself the better man, not only spiritually, but mentally as well. He bore no grudge against his insulter...for retaliation for a wrong has never been a part of him.

DOLLY BACK SLIGHTLY AS HOLTON GETS UP FROM CHAIR AND WALKS TO CENTER OF THE ROOM.

Today, at the age of 82, Marshall Keeble still preaches. He has never accepted local work with any congregation but has always been an evangelist, taking the gospel to wherever he thought it was most needed.

It is not unusual for him to have over one hundred additions to the church during one meeting. On several occasions there have been well over 200!

By actual count Marshall Keeble has baptized over 30,000 of his people, during his career. Quite a remarkable accomplishment! And it is estimated that he has baptized an equal number from the white race.

What is it that makes this man so effective in his work; what qualities are there that make him one of the outstanding evangelists of his time?



57. Cont'd.

HOLTON: (Continuing)

B. C. Goodpasture, editor of the Christian publication, Gospel Advocate, answered that question when he wrote:

(READS FROM A PAPER)

"Marshall Keeble's keen logic, his unstudied and apt illustrations, his irresistible flow of humor, his ability quickly to grasp and handle unexpected situations, and his knowledge of the Bible.

"But perhaps the secret of his power and success is to be found in his humble and prayerful walk with God." He has often said of his work: 'The power is in the gospel - not in Keeble.'"