

Lord Jesus Christ, hanging on the cross and looking at him in a way that seemed to say, "After what I have suffered, is this the way that you spend your time?" On four other occasions Lull had similar experiences. It just seemed that he could not go on in his selfish way of life. Christ had died that he might be saved. Should not his life count for the One who did so much for him?

"But how could my life count for Christ," Lull asked. "How could one who has lived in such sin as I have, be of any value in the service of the sinless Christ?" Like a flash, realization of the wonderful grace of Christ came into his heart. He saw that merely by simple faith he could receive Christ as his own, and that he could know that on the cross Christ had paid the penalty for his sin, so that he might be entirely free from its guilt.

Now Lull determined to devote his entire life to the service of his Lord. He began to consider how he might serve Him most effectively. The southern half of Spain was still controlled by Moslems, at this time. All of North Africa, Egypt and Syria was in their hands. Wave after wave of crusaders had recently endeavored to reconquer Palestine. Lull decided that this was the wrong approach and that an entirely different method was needed. These men were not simply enemies to be killed. They were men who might be redeemed through Christ, even as he himself had been saved. He must bring to them the message of salvation.

Immediately an obstacle occurred to him. How could he talk to the Arabs? For nine years he devoted himself to studying the Arabic language, gaining such a mastery of it that he could clearly express the most involved and complicated thoughts in exact and careful Arabic. Then he gave consideration to the problem, how could he show the superiority of Christianity to Islam.