

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 1 July 6, 2003

Defying Danger

(Continued from last week.)

One morning while Mary Slessor was sitting on her verandah she was startled by a sound from the jungle that surrounded her hut. She listened carefully then quietly took off in the direction of the sound, just as an animal would hurry to find its young.

Following the sound she came to a young man who was badly injured. A log had fallen on him, paralyzing him. A Scots carpenter, working at a new house for Mary heard the cry too and followed the sound. Together they carried him back to his village.

Mary would not leave her patient. She gave him the best care she could but after two weeks he died.

As their custom was, the chief came in and viewed the dead body. Then he shouted his verdict, "Sorcerers have killed him! Bring the witch doctor!" When the witch doctor came he decided that a certain village was guilty of the young man's death. They must be punished! Immediately warriors went to this village where they captured a dozen or so of the men and women.

Mary was shocked to see these innocent people brought in as prisoners loaded with chains. They would be killed, one by one. Mary could not stand the thought of this!

Finally Mary had an idea of how she might change the people's views about death. She would honor the young man's corpse! She dressed it in bright colors and fine clothes and placed it right in the middle of the people. She did everything she could think of to show respect to the young man.

But the people seemed to not even notice as they continued their dancing and drinking. Meanwhile the prisoners were starving while for days the awful drunken party went on.

Mary and the brave Scots builder did not leave the scene at the same time. One or the other kept watch both day and night hoping for some way to save the doomed prisoners.

And day after day Mary pled and pled for the lives of these prisoners. "If only once this custom can be broken through," she thought, "there will be hope of stopping it."

Then, at last, one woman was chosen and led out to drink the poison cup. Watching her chance, Mary rushed to the prisoner and grabbed her! Quickly she dragged her away out of the circle and into her own house. She was safe there. Even the chief honored Mary's home as a sanctuary. The "white Ma" could not be touched!

Slowly, by twos and threes, the prisoners were released after days of strained watching and pleading. Last



A Winning Team

I Timothy 6:6-19

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

13 I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession;

14 That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:

15 Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Poten-

tate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;

16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

The Message: What you have cannot make you happy but being satisfied with what you have does.

Questions:

1. Godliness with _____ is great gain.
2. What did we bring with us into the world?
3. If we have ____ and _____ we should be content.
4. Who falls into temptation and a snare?
5. What is the root of all evil?
6. What six things should a man of God follow after?
7. What kind of fight will it take in order to lay hold on eternal life?
8. Who gives us all things to enjoy?
9. In what should we be rich?

Verse to Memorize

But godliness with contentment is great gain.

I Timothy 6:6.

Let's



Talk . . .

I once heard of a farmer who thought that he would really be content with the farm he owned if he just had all the adjoining land. But true satisfaction does not come from outward things nor from owning everything we can wish for.

We can read in the newspapers and hear on the radio about people who seem to have about everything their heart could wish for. Yet they are most unhappy. Some even commit suicide or take drugs that totally mess up their minds and lives. It is very sad to live like this.

There are others who never totally attain to wealth though they spend their entire life working, grasping and scheming, just trying to be rich. Verse nine of our lesson says, "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

Verse ten tells us that it is the love of money that is the root of all evil—not money itself. It is amazing what great evil the love of money can get us into. Just a few days ago I heard in the news about a preacher who was the pastor of a church. When they finally caught up with him he had robbed about five banks! So the love of money can cause us to lose our soul and our freedom too!

This preacher got no benefit from the money that caused him so much trouble.

Even as young as you are you have probably looked around and seen someone who seemed to be happy and content, always smiling a lot. You may notice that they don't have that much in worldly goods—their house is not the best; they are driving an older car and obviously don't have much money. You might wonder how they can be so happy!

Paul gave the answer in verse six. He said, "Godliness with contentment is great gain." This is the real winning combination! He urges all of us to be satisfied if we have food to eat and clothes to wear.

Then in verse eleven he warns us that we should run from the love of money and covetousness. We need to be so careful what we set our affections on! The things of the world are so fleeting. I have known of some people who have worked and skimmed and saved for their retirement years. Then, just when it looked like they had it in their grasp sickness hit them or some other disaster wiped out all their life savings.

Paul instructs us to follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience and meekness. This will lead us to the true riches and contentment.

As you get older you'll eventually be choosing your first car. You'll probably see some of the cars that look so "cool" but be sure and look at the price tag! Since you will have to have a job and be making your future plans, you will want to be sure that you don't get yourself tied up in heavy debt—that destroys contentment as quick as anything. Always remember, godliness with contentment is great gain, but keep things in the right order. To have real contentment the godliness must come first!

—Uncle Dale

of all the rescued woman was allowed to slip out alone into the forest. Thus the white "Ma" had her way.

Not long after this Mary was able to prevent another death penalty. One after another of those she had saved came to her secretly to thank her for her teachings of mercy. It touched her deeply to see the gratitude of these poor fear-ridden people!

One day Mary received a secret message saying that in a district far away a man of one village had wounded the chief of another village. Because of this the warriors of both villages were holding a council of war.

"I must go and stop it, else much blood will be spilt and many will be killed," said Mary Slessor.

"No, you cannot," replied her friends at Ekenge. "You have been ill and can scarcely walk. There are wild beasts lurking in the woods. The warriors are out and will kill you in the dark, not knowing who you are."

"I must go," she said and quickly made ready. Accompanied by two men with lanterns she set out through the darkness. At midnight she came to a certain village and asked the chief to provide her with a drummer so that people might know by hearing the drum that a protected person was travelling.

The chief was surly. "You are going to a warlike people," he said. "You are likely to get killed on the way. Anyhow, they would not listen to what a woman says."

Mary took this as a challenge. "When you think of the woman's power," she said to the chief, "you forget the power of the woman's God. I shall go on."

Turning, she disappeared into the darkness. The villagers thought she must be mad to defy their chief who had the power to kill her. She might be killed by ferocious leopards or by savages infuriated by anger and by

drink at any moment in the forest.

At dawn she came to the place where a large company of warriors were preparing to assault a village. She was too weary to walk, but her attendants shouted, "Run, Ma, Run!" She heard wild yells and the roll of war drums.

Running as fast as she could, she caught up with the maddened warriors and demanded that they desist from fighting. Stunned by her courage, they hesitated, while she walked boldly toward a regiment of fierce savages standing in the village ready to fight. Drawing near she called out, "I have come to help you settle this matter peaceably and justly. There is no need to shed many lives."

Just then, to her amazement, an old chief stepped toward her and knelt down at her feet! "Ma," he said, "we are glad you came. We admit that one of our drunken young men wounded the chief over there. It was an act in which the rest of us had no part. We are glad for you to speak with our enemy and help make peace."

Looking into the man's face, she saw to her joy that this was the very chief who was about to die several years before. It was a long, dangerous journey through the forest in the rain to nurse him back to health. She was so glad that she had gone! Now she could be a peacemaker between the two parties of wild savages. If she had not come many would have been killed.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Contentment. 2. Nothing. 3. Food and Raiment. 4. Those who would be rich. 5. The love of money. 6. Righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and meekness. 7. The good fight of faith. 8. God. 9. In good works.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 2 July 13, 2003

Conquering By Love And Courage

(Continued from last week.)

Mary Slessor, missionary to the cannibals of Africa became known as the White Queen of Calabar. She was indeed a queen—a queen ruling in love over savages in Africa.

Her work was well described when someone wrote, "In a land of 'death,' she brought a message of 'life.' To souls in deepest sorrow she brought a message of comfort and hope. To people dwelling in the habitations of cruelty she spoke of love and kindness."

This was a wild time for the missionary. Hardly a day went by without a serious crisis. Mary knew that she could not expect to change the lives of these savages immediately, but she could not merely stand back and watch these people do wrong! She got little rest and her health was bad. But she was always there when she was needed. Two incidents out of many will illustrate how she defied dangers and conquered cannibals with nothing but love and courage.

Whenever Mary heard of any trouble, she rushed to the scene. Usually two tribes would be ready to go to war. They passed around liquor, danced and yelled threats at the other

side. They were in war paint and their spears and shields glimmered in the sun. The skulls and scalps of earlier victims waved from poles.

Then just as the two sides were about to rush together, they saw a small, seemingly calm woman standing on a log between them.

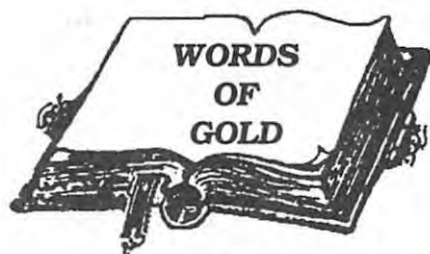
"Out of the way, Ma. We fight!" She ignored the shouting warrior.

"Out of the way. You die, too, white Ma. Move on!"

"Shoot if you dare!" she called back.

When the two sides came to remove her, Mary knew that she had won. She would scold them as children, plead with them to show mercy or suggest they move to the shade of a tree to talk. Mary knitted while they talked, and she got a lot of knitting done. After hours of talking the men were calmer and too tired to fight. They went home without bloodshed.

News of trouble might come too late for Mary to get there in time. If this happened, she would go to her table, pull out a fine piece of parchment, and quickly make big marks all over it. She then sealed this with wax and tied it with a great red ribbon. A runner sped this important document to where the fight was about to begin. Mary's scribbles were nothing but nonsense, but none of the Okoyong could read! The warriors



On The Winning side

Psalm 91:1-14

1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

2 I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

3 Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

5 Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

6 Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noon-day.

7 A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.

8 Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.

9 Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;

10 There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

12 They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

13 Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.

14 Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.

Romans 8:37-39

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Message: It is wonderful to have a leader that has never lost a battle!

Questions:

1. Who did the Psalmist say was his refuge and fortress?
2. He said, "In him will I _____."
3. With what will He cover those who trust Him?
4. What will be your shield and buckler?
5. He promised that no ____ shall befall those who trust in Him.
6. Who will He give charge over you?
7. Why did God say He would deliver him?
8. We are more than _____ through Him that loved us.
9. What can separate us from the love of God?

Verse to Memorize

Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Romans 8:37.

Let's



Talk . . .

I have muscular dystrophy. It is a disease that causes the muscles to slowly die. From my early childhood until I was about sixteen years old I seemed to be as healthy as any other child. After that I noticed a change in my ability to raise my arms over my head. Different things I was used to doing became very difficult because my muscles did not want to respond like they used to!

From early childhood I was taught to trust the Lord to heal my body as well as to save my soul. I got saved when I was about seventeen years old.

I knew this disease could eventually become very serious. In praying and thinking about it I decided to fully trust the Lord.

I want to relate one instance of how the Lord has honored this decision and helped me through the years. Years later, after I was married, I noticed that my food was not digesting. It would just lay on my stomach. I could tell that my stomach was not working as it should.

We started earnestly praying about it. We called the elders to come and anoint and pray for me as we are instructed in James 5:14. I did get some relief and as I would have trouble the Lord would touch me from time to time.

But then one day (I remember that it was near Christmas) something happened and my stomach just stopped working. I knew I was in real trouble. I got very sick and it seemed like I could get no relief. I

called the muscular dystrophy clinic and told them the symptoms and asked what they thought it was. They said it sounded like the stomach had stopped working. It didn't make me feel very good when they went on to explain, "You realize that the stomach is a muscle just like the muscles in your arms and legs—when they die they don't replenish themselves. So when your stomach stops working you will die not only from lack of nourishment but also from the poison in your system because of undigested food." They also said, "Even if you come to us there is nothing we can do except give you pain pills to ease your discomfort."

At that time we lived in Louisiana. The Assembly Meeting was going on here in Guthrie. Our brother-in-law and his wife had a new car. They offered to let us use that and agreed to keep the children if we wanted to try to make it to Guthrie to be prayed for.

We felt that would be the wise thing to do so my wife and I started for Oklahoma. On the way I got so sick that we had to stop for a motel that night. I got some relief so we started out the next morning and arrived about 11:30 a.m. during the morning service.

I'll never forget walking into the chapel and seeing dear old Bro. Cecil Carver in the pulpit preaching. He said, "Saints, here are the ones we have been praying for!" He stopped preaching and I went up to the altar. Several gathered around and laid hands on me and prayed. During prayer (it was so real) by faith I felt the soothing, healing touch of the Lord. I improved from that very hour.

I am seventy-two years old now. I still have physical problems but my stomach is not one of my problems!

—Uncle Dale

would spend the day puzzling over the important piece of paper sent by the "white Ma." They would still be studying the document when Mary arrived in person to settle the dispute.

After a time Mary realized that as long as the Okoyong had nothing else to do, they would get drunk and that always led to fighting. "Perhaps," she thought, "if they knew there was something better, this would stop."

Mary showed the chiefs her nicest possessions: some cloth, a teapot and an old sewing machine. The Okoyong liked what they saw. "You can have nicer things than this if you take the palm oil and yams to the traders," she told them.

"These things you have are very nice," said one chief. "But it is no good. Traders afraid to come here. No good for us to go to them. River gods kill us."

"I will go with you. You will be safe."

"No. Too much bad."

Mary told of the wonderful things down the river. Finally they agreed to go and loaded a canoe. The chiefs and warriors shook with fear as they set off towards Duke Town and Old Town.

King Eyo hosted a great feast for the visiting chiefs. He showed them the good things they could have if they gave up their old ways. He told them that the God of the "white Ma" was the true God. Eyo was kind to the poor, backward Okoyong chiefs. Before they left he gave them each presents, including some fine cloth. The Okoyong could hardly believe their good fortune.

As a result of these meetings, the Okoyong region was opened to outsiders. Mary had done what traders, soldiers and diplomats had been unable to do for four hundred years. There was now a reason for honest work. This experience was a turning

point in the life of the Okoyong people.

In time, many of the Okoyong accepted the gospel. Free of their pagan fears and drunkenness, they could now understand God's love for them. The idols disappeared from the villages and in their place small churches were built. A court system was established to settle disputes and Mary was made the first judge.

Civilization came more quickly to the Okoyong than it did along the coastal regions. For hundreds of years the white traders along the coast had tried to force the natives to change. It was not until the gospel changed the people's hearts that real progress was made.

On Sundays, Mary traveled around the neighbouring villages on foot, ringing a bell, and waited for people to gather. If they didn't, she would go in and find them. Then she would bring them to a meeting area, lay out a tablecloth, open the Bible and preach. Her first sermon in this way was on John 5:1-24, "He that hears my word and believes in the one who sent me has everlasting life, and shall not be condemned but pass from death to life."

She brought a message of life and hope to a people dominated by death.

Afterwards, people would ask her to visit their sick. She was also asked to act as a mediator in disputes. She was known as the "White Ma." A Foreign Missions Board report written around this time said of Mary, "Her labours are manifold, but she sustains them cheerfully. She enjoys the unreserved friendship and confidence of the people and has much influence over them." —The End

(Answers: 1. The Lord. 2. Trust. 3. His feathers. 4. His truth. 5. Evil. 6. His angels. 7. Because he set his love on Him. 8. Conquerors. 9. Nothing!)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 3 July 20, 2003

JAYA

(Jayapradha Kollipara is still living and ministering for her dear Jesus.)

Matthew Kollipara flung open the door, pausing only to kick off his shoes as is the custom in India. He entered hastily; "Where is that child?" he stormed.

"You speak of Jaya?" Samadamma, the short Indian mother questioned. "What has happened now?"

"I was talking with her school master. She tells me that she has had to spank Jaya again."

"And for what?" Mother asked. Putting the lid on the lamb stew, she raised up from her cooking place on the floor. "Has the child done something wrong?"

"Yes, very wrong. She has continued to speak of Jesus and I told her strictly, 'Never speak of Jesus again!' Where is she? I'm going to beat those crazy ideas out of her if it's the last thing I do."

"Your honor, I think not," Mother said politely. "Jesus has brought so much happiness to Jaya that she can not keep from telling others about Him."

"Sounds like you, too, are beginning to believe that nonsense. Samadamma, if you do, I tell you one

thing, I will send you away—send you away forever. I will only give you one rice field far away, and that is only so my children can have rice. But never again will you enjoy these comforts." He pointed around the room to things that represented luxury in India in 1950. "Never again will you have servants to wash your clothes, tend your rice paddies, and gather wood to cook your meals."

Mother bowed her head shyly. She sure didn't want to be put out of her home. How could she make it with two small girls? She knew that in India, once a girl is married she does not return to live with her parents. She must stay with her husband's people, even after her husband's death. If Matthew turned her out, life would be more miserable than death.

"Well, don't just stand there; tell me where she is."

"Probably in the rice field praying at your mother's grave."

"At my mother's grave?" He hurried away toward the rice field before Samadamma could answer.

An icy chill ran from his head down through his toes. "Is Jaya now worshipping my dead mother?" he muttered. "Has she turned away from Jesus and to the Hindu religion? Those proud Hindu priests demand food to be burned to the gods of stone while people are starving. Just yesterday I



Prayer

Acts 16:9, 16-18, 20, 22-30

9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.

16 And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us,...

17 The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.

18 And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

20 And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city,

22 And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them.

23 And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely:

24 Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.

25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and im-

mediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

27 And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.

28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.

29 Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas,

30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

The Message: Paul and Silas prayed for guidance and God sent them to Macedonia. They could sing at midnight, even in prison, with their backs bleeding because they knew God had sent them there.

Questions:

1. What appeared to Paul in the night?
2. What did the man of Macedonia ask them to do?
3. Where were they going when the damsel met them?
4. What did she say as she followed them?
5. What did Paul command the spirit to do?
6. Where did the jailer put them?
7. What were Paul and Silas doing at midnight?
8. What opened the prison doors?
9. What did the jailer ask?

Verse to Memorize

...T e effectua fervent prayer of a righteous man avai et much.

James 5:16.

Let's



Talk . . .

I have been thinking about the power of prayer and how God led Paul and Silas. They had been visiting the various churches, encouraging the saints in each congregation. But what they really wanted to do was to go to the people that had never heard the gospel before. With this in mind they made plans to go to Bithynia. They were surprised when God let them know that they were not to go there.

So, after talking things over Paul and Silas decided to go to Asia, preaching along the way. But the Spirit of God spoke to them very plainly saying they should not preach in Asia. Now they were puzzled! They wondered just where God would eventually lead them. Finally one night God spoke to Paul in a vision. He saw a man from Macedonia who begged him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

Do you remember ever having God answer prayer for you? When I was little my parents had each of us children pray in family worship. My prayers usually went like this, "Dear Lord, Help Daddy and Mommy, help me be good, help my brothers and sisters...."

But later I learned that I could ask God for what I needed and actually believe that He would answer my prayer. I learned that, just like I trusted my parents when they told me they would give me something, I could have the same confidence in God.

Sometimes I had to wait but I knew my parents would do what they said. It is the same way when we pray.

The Lord gives the answer to our prayer as He sees we need it. Sometimes He gives us something other than what we prayed for because He knows our need better than we do. And what He gives will always be better.

Paul and Silas obeyed God and went to Macedonia. They found where the people met for prayer and joined them. Everything went well until a girl possessed with an evil spirit began following them. Each day she would call after them, "These men are the servants of the most high God!"

One day Paul turned to her and commanded the evil spirit to come out of her. The girl immediately knew that she was at last free. But her masters were furious! They seized Paul and Silas and threw them into prison after giving them a brutal beating.

With their backs bleeding and their feet held fast in the stocks Paul and Silas could have wondered just where they went wrong to get into so much trouble. But they knew God had sent them there in answer to their prayer. And since they were right where God wanted them to be they were so happy they sang praises right there in jail even though it was midnight!

The other prisoners heard them. They were used to hearing moaning and curses, but not singing! Then a great earthquake opened the prison doors. The jailer was sure all the prisoners had escaped but before he could kill himself Paul assured him that they were all there.

The jailer's first response was, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

Look at the great deliverance that came from Paul and Silas praying for God to lead them. There is wonderful power in prayer. Though it may not look like the answer will come, keep looking to God expecting the answer. He still answers prayer!

—Uncle Dale

saw boys, skeleton thin, with sunken eyes and bony fingers watching hungrily as good food burned away into ashes. Will such nonsense ever stop?"

Mr. Kollipara thought he was doing his part to see that it was stopped. He had joined the Communist Party so he could help to end hunger. He thought they were getting India on the road to progress. They would put a stop to burning food and allowing sacred cows to roam the fields and destroying food that should fill the hungry tummies of children. They would put an end to all religions. He hated them all.

Thorn trees had been planted around his mother's grave to protect it. These had formed a thorny hedge that was impossible to go through without getting badly scratched. He circled the hedge, peeking between the stiff branches looking for Jaya. He saw her kneeling by the tombstone. Her hands were clasped together and lifted toward heaven. Her eyes were aglow as if seeing something far up in the sky. Then her lips began moving. He strained to hear what she was saying. Faintly he heard. "Oh, Jesus, I love You. I am willing to suffer for You because You suffered so much more for me."

Her prayer angered Matthew. "Why should my daughter suffer for something that isn't real?" he asked himself. "I will stop her. It is my duty."

Hoping to enter he took hold of a branch to force the hedge apart, but a thorn cut deep into his skin. He backed off and looked at his bleeding hand. Then he listened again.

"Please do bless my dear daddy," Jaya was praying. "Make a lot of rice to grow so he will have plenty to give to the poor. You know he loves to help them. And Father, sometimes he is sick. Oh, please don't let my loving daddy die. What would Mommy,

Vijaya and I do without a daddy? And Jesus do bless my schoolmaster. She didn't mean any harm when she spanked my hands with a ruler." Jaya looked down at her hands and rubbed the bruises, then continued praying. "She just doesn't understand me, Jesus, but help her to understand You. And the children that hit me, pull my hair and poke me with sticks, please, Jesus, help them to not hurt any other children."

Daddy walked slowly away. How could he punish such a caring, unselfish child? Then he remembered the many times he had been punished by his own father for giving rice to the hungry street children. He had always wondered why it was wrong to give a little rice away when his father had so much.

Two hours later while Daddy was in the field giving instructions to the servants, he noticed Jaya crawling through the hedge. His anger mounted again against the child who had brought him such humiliation. As soon as he had finished with the servants, he found Jaya. Catching her roughly by the arm, he held it tightly and slapped her face again and again. Sternly he said, "You have spoken about Jesus again. Now I demand that you stop praying. Yes, stop praying to Jesus or I will burn with hot coals those very hands that you clasp in prayer."

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. A vision. 2. Come and help them. 3. To pray. 4. "These men are the servants of the most high God." 5. Come out of her. 6. In the inner prison. 7. Praying and singing praises. 8. A great earthquake. 9. "What must I do to be saved?")

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 4 July 27, 2003

Standing Alone

(Continued from last week.)

Matthew Kollipara watched as his daughter, Jaya, crept carefully through the hedge of thorns that surrounded his mother's grave. He had heard her praying by the tombstone but he could not get to her because of the thorns. Now rushing to her he grabbed her roughly by the arm. "You have spoken about Jesus after I told you to never speak of Him again!" he shouted. "I demand that you stop praying to Jesus or I will burn your hands with hot coals!"

Seven-year-old Jaya turned her shy little face up and met her father's eyes. He saw the horror he had stamped there. "I have conquered," he thought with satisfaction. But what victory is there in conquering a small child who never fights? Suddenly a wretched feeling devoured him. "I know you think I am mean," he said, trying to ease his hurting conscience, "but I have to do it. I can't let my firstborn child ruin herself with this religious foolishness."

"I didn't mean to do any wrong, Daddy," Jaya said. "I just accidentally let it slip out. I'll try to be quiet."

"If you would just stop praying so much, Jesus wouldn't be on your mind all the time," he stormed.

"But Daddy, praying to Jesus is nice. It makes me feel so good."

"Hush, child, hush," he said and stomped away.

Monday morning Jaya picked up her first grade reader and slipped on her sandals at the door. "Be brave today; Jesus will help you," Mother said.

Jaya stopped at the gate to wave to her mother who stood watching from the door. She knew Mother still loved her. Everyone else acted like they hated her. They all seemed determined to tear her away from her Jesus, but she just couldn't give Him up. He had suffered so much for her. She thought Jesus knew just how she felt, for He, too, had once been without a friend. Now though, she and Jesus were best friends, so neither would ever again be alone.

The day passed without anyone pulling her hair, hitting her or poking her with sticks. Even the teacher hadn't scolded as often. Jaya believed Mother had been praying for her.

That evening Jaya ate a bowl of rice, helped wash the dishes and then hurried away to her favorite spot in the rice field. She crawled through the thick thorn bushes that surrounded her grandmother's grave. She imagined the grave to be a small temple, and it was very much like one. It had the concrete grave as a



Almost!

Matthew 25:1-13

1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

2 And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh

Hebrews 4:1

1 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

Acts 26:28-29

28 Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

29 And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds.

Romans 4:21; 14:5

21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

5 ...Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

The Message: There is no such thing as being "almost" saved!

Questions:

1. How many virgins were there?
2. What did they take with them to meet the bridegroom?
3. How many virgins were wise?
4. What did they take along with their lamps?
5. What did they all do when the bridegroom didn't come right away?
6. When were they called to go out to meet the bridegroom?
7. What had happened to the lamps of the foolish?
8. What happened while they were gone to buy oil?
9. Why should we be watchful?

Verse to Memorize

Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

Matthew 25:13.

Let's



Talk . . .

Jesus told the story about ten virgins, saying that five of them were wise and five were foolish. These virgins represent Christians, or those who profess to know and follow the Lord. All ten were waiting for the bridegroom, all ten had lamps that were burning and all were at the right place where the bridegroom was expected to appear at any minute. Then, as they waited, they all slumbered and slept.

The difference between the wise and the foolish became apparent when they were all jolted out of sleep at midnight. They heard the cry, "Behold, the bridegroom is coming! Go out to meet him."

Immediately they grabbed their lamps. The wise added more oil and trimmed their lamps to keep them shining brightly. The lamps of the foolish virgins had gone out. Then they realized they had forgotten to bring any oil to replenish their lamps! From this we see that the foolish virgins were almost prepared to meet the Lord. But when He actually came they were not ready. When they returned it was too late—the door had been shut. What an awful tragedy!

Jesus told this parable and it is written in the Bible so we can see the importance of always following the ways He has set for us. If we turn to our own ways because they seem better or more reasonable we will not be ready to meet Him when He comes. You may hear people say that you don't have to be so strict and careful in the way you live. They may say, "I

don't believe the Lord really requires that," or "Unless you can show me right in the Bible that it says I have to do that I'm not going to do it!"

Is it worth it to take a chance or to figure you can somehow go an easier way?

Do you remember that in *The Pilgrim's Progress* the road Christian and Hopeful were walking got so rough they wished for an easier way? It wasn't long before they saw a road running right alongside the one they were traveling. It looked so inviting that when they saw a way they quickly crossed over.

But before long they realized the path had led them away from the right way. It looked like they would die in Doubting Castle but God had mercy and rescued them. The path was so close to the right one but it led them far away from the straight path into deep trouble. It looked almost the same but the end of it was far from right.

Don't try to find ways where you can almost make it. There are people who don't go to church but say they have lived a good life. They are quick to tell you that they have as good a chance of getting to heaven as those who go to church. God wants us to love Him enough to go all the way with Him. Hebrews 4:1 says, "Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it." Heaven is worth more than any sacrifice we must make!

Serve the Lord and keep your lives clean while you are young. Then you will not have to go back and make wrongs right and try to straighten up your past life. Start now and live for God all your life. You will never regret such a life. This is the secret of salvation and a life of peace and happiness! —Uncle Dale

floor, a little thatch roof, and the large tombstone at one end, which could be used as an altar. The hedge of thorns made perfect walls, and no one had yet found her secret entrance. Here she spent hours every day talking with her friend, Jesus, and no one bothered her.

"Here I am," she said, as she climbed the six steps to the top of the grave. "I've come to thank You for the pleasant day I had at school."

Then she went up the other set of steps to the tombstone and sitting down leaned her back against it. Looking up into heaven she whispered in awe. "How great and good You are! How beautiful is the world You made. Only You could make a tree, a flower, or the crow that just flew over or the parrot I hear squawking."

"And thank you, Jesus, for making the sweet fruit that I'm saving for the little beggar girl I met yesterday. Help Mother to let me go see her today. And Lord, please make my daddy believe in You. He says that there is no God. He says all the gods are dead. Show him that You are alive, please, God. And Jesus, I'll continue to do anything for You. Just let me know when You need me." Then Jaya got on her knees and began earnestly pleading and crying for her daddy to be saved; for sometimes he could not breathe and she feared he might die.

The next day when Jaya returned from school, she was crying. "I don't want to go to school ever again," she sobbed. "I told a little sick girl that Jesus could heal her and she asked me to pray for her. While I was praying the children threw rocks at us. Then the teacher came and she spanked me instead of spanking the naughty children."

Mother threw up her hands. "I'm so tired of this," she said. "I've a good notion to spank you too."

"But Mommy why should I get a spanking?"

"Because you can't keep quiet about Jesus. Remember Daddy may burn your hands when he comes home."

"Oh, Mommy, Mommy, please don't let him," Jaya wailed. "I promise to do better."

"I'll see what I can do, but I've had about all I can take of this trouble that you are causing. You run here and there, wherever Jesus wants. Why can't you just stay at home and play like other little girls?"

Jaya dried her tears, looked up into her mother's face and said, "Mommy, I love to pray for sick, hurting people. Why is that causing you so much trouble?"

Mrs. Kollipara threw her hands high again. "Imagine the worry of a mother whose seven year old girl is running from village to village."

"Oh come with me, Mommy. I'd be glad to have you. You'll see it isn't trouble to go for Jesus."

"And who would care for our home, and your little sister? What a strange child you are."

Jaya looked down at herself, then at her hands. "Why do you think I am strange? I look just like the other girls."

"Most girls your age are not so serious and-and..." Mother paused a moment then said, "Oh, honey, I'm sorry. It is nice you want to help the sick, but it does bring me trouble. And I just told you I couldn't stand any more."

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Ten. 2. Their lamps. 3. Five. 4. Oil. 5. Slumbered and slept. 6. At midnight. 7. They had gone out. 8. The bridegroom came then they all went in to the marriage and shut the door. 9. Because we do not know when Jesus will come.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 5 Aug. 3, 2003

Be As Other Christians

(Continued from last week.)

"Jaya you're causing me too much trouble helping the sick and poor; besides your daddy is getting angrier every day," Jaya's mother exclaimed.

"Why? He likes to help the poor," Jaya answered.

"Yes, he does. I may never have told you, but his father sent him away from home because he gave so much of their food to the poor. He lived away from his family and earned his own living. When he should have inherited Grandfather's ranch, he was given only a small piece of land."

"He has a lot of land now," Jaya said.

"Yes. God always blesses those who give to the poor," Mother answered.

"Grandfather didn't know that God blesses those who give to the poor?" Jaya asked.

"No, because his father, your great-grandfather, was a Hindu priest, and their family sacrificed a lot to the gods. When your grandfather was grown, he believed the gods would curse him if he didn't continue to sacrifice animals, birds and his butter. After sacrificing so much to the gods he didn't want your daddy giving more of their food to the poor. Your father has always loved people more than the Hindu gods or the real God."

"Then I am sure it will be all right with him if I help the sick," Jaya said with renewed confidence.

"But it isn't all right with him, so keep quiet or I'll beat you, too. Did you hear that?"

"Yes," Jaya answered, fighting back tears. Jaya hurried away to her little temple to be alone with Jesus. Throwing herself on the grave, she cried and cried. "Oh, Lord, I can't give You up. I can't stop telling others about You," she cried. "Help me know what to do and how to be nice to Mommy and Daddy. And please, Lord, stay with me, even if Mommy doesn't 'cause I'm staying with You."

"Then Jesus spoke, "Keep on telling people about my love, and praying for the sick. I will take care of Mommy and Daddy, and I will be with you and will heal the sick."

"Just one week later a gossip came and talked to Mother about Jaya. When Jaya came in from visiting a sick lady her mother was so angry that she got a shoe and hit Jaya on the head. Jaya threw her arms over her head to protect it.

Mother hit her arms again and again. Then she beat her back and her legs.

She beat Jaya until she was exhausted. "Mommy, don't tire yourself," Jaya said kindly. "I won't run away. You can beat me again after you have rested awhile."



God's Requirements

Acts 16:30-31

30 ...Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

Micah 6:8

8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Matthew 5:20

20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Luke 13:2-3

2 And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things?

3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

John 3:5; 4:24; 6:53; 8:24

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.

Acts 4:12

12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Ecclesiastes 12:13

13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

Hebrews 11:6; 12:14

6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

The Message: God knew we can never meet all His requirements. He sent Jesus to do that for us!

Questions:

1. On whom must we believe in order to be saved?
2. What three things does the Lord require of us?
3. We must be more righteous than whom, if we enter into the kingdom of heaven?
4. Since God is a Spirit, how must we worship Him?
5. How will we die if we do not believe in Jesus?
6. What is the whole duty of man?
7. Without _____ it is impossible to please God.
8. Who does God reward?
9. We are to follow _____ with all men and _____ if we hope to see the Lord.

Verse to Memorize

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.
Philippians 4:13.

Let's



Talk . . .

As you grow up there are things that you will want and actually need. One such need is to be able to drive. Your parents recognize this but they can't just hand you the keys and tell you that now you can drive. There are certain requirements to be met.

First you must be old enough. Next you must have a driver's license. To obtain a license to drive you must pass a written test to show that you know the traffic laws and a driving test to demonstrate your ability to safely handle a car.

For everything in life there is a price tag! To obtain anything there are requirements to be met; a price that you must pay.

Suppose you decide you need a college degree. Again there are requirements! First you must finish high school before you can even enroll in college. Then you must complete the prescribed course of study with satisfactory grades.

God is much wiser than even the wisest parent. A wise father would not hand a young child the keys to his car and let him take it for a drive. That could be a deadly mistake. So God, out of His great love for us, withholds those things that we are not mature enough to handle.

It is not God's will that anyone should be lost and spend eternity in hell. He is a loving Father and wants all of us to live with Him in heaven when we die. But no sin can enter heaven. There is a price to pay to live in God's holy presence. That price was far too much for any human to

pay; only Jesus could pay the price to save us from sin.

But that is just where our part begins. We must accept the salvation that Jesus paid such an awful price for. If your parents bought a car for you it would never do you any good until you accepted the keys and got in and drove it. The gift God offers is so much more valuable!

In the first verse of our lesson the jailer asked Paul and Silas what the requirements were to be saved. They told him that he must first believe in Jesus. When you truly believe in Him you will have a deep sorrow for ever disobeying Him—you will repent of your sins and ask Him to forgive you. He will gladly forgive and will even come and live in your clean heart.

When Jesus comes in He brings only good with Him: love, joy, peace and power to meet every requirement to live a happy, holy life! He will actually meet God's requirements for us as we carefully obey and follow Him.

Important decisions are just ahead of you. The choices you make will determine whether your life is blessed and happy or full of misery. They will even decide where you will spend eternity! Only God's wisdom can help you make the right choices. This is why it is so important to study the Bible. In it God tells us all His requirements and instructs us how to let Jesus come into our lives and fulfill them all.

When you buy a car you want to get the very best that you can afford. It is the same way in your experience of salvation. Obey every commandment and follow Jesus so closely that you can enjoy all the benefits of salvation. Your investment will pay rich dividends in a happy life here and heaven afterwards. —Uncle Dale

In a little while Jaya's father came home. Samadamma Kollipara saw an angry gleam in her husband's eye. "Jaya's got to stop this nonsense about Jesus," he said. "The guys at the meeting today were laughing about this little girl going around town telling the people that Jesus would take care of all their needs."

"I was so embarrassed when my friend Subbaya said, 'Poor little idiot, she thinks Jesus can do anything.' I sure hope they don't find out she's my little girl. Where is she? I've got to put a stop to this. Jesus isn't going to solve the problems of India. We Communists will do that. We'll make all men equal."

"She just went out. Probably she's praying again. God seems to show her everything, even when trouble is coming."

"Come Jaya, come," her father called as he neared Jaya's prayer temple behind the thorn bushes.

Jaya scrambled down off the platform and crawled through the thorn hedge.

"Here I am, Daddy," she called.

Without warning her father charged at her hitting her head with the big stick he held in his hand. Jaya hunkered over and stood still. She kept her teeth tightly clenched so she wouldn't cry out, and closed her eyes to keep from seeing the big stick. Thud, thud, thud, it sounded as he hit Jaya again and again.

"Stop, stop, stop," Daddy yelled. "Stop talking about Jesus; you embarrass me."

When he finally stopped beating on her he stepped back, took her chin in his hand and turned her face up toward his. Looking her in the eye, he said, "Remember, one of these days I'm going to put red hot coals in your hands. That is the worst punishment any parent can give a child, and you're going to get it if you aren't careful"

Jaya's back, arms and legs hurt, but the pain of the beating seemed small to what she imagined having hot coals in her hands would be. "Oh, Daddy," she said crying, "I want to obey you, but I can't turn away from Jesus. He has done so much for me."

"You don't have to give up Jesus. Just stop embarrassing me by talking about Him on every street corner. Be a normal Christian. Live like everyone else in the world and dress like everyone else does. You are so different. You spend too much time in prayer, and your dresses are way too long. There are other Christians in this town, which was named for your great-grandfather Kollipara. They smoke, drink, dance, go to the movies, and act like normal people!"

Jaya's daddy raised the big stick as if he would hit her again. Jaya tried to protect herself from another blow. Instead of hitting her he demanded roughly, "Now go play like other children do instead of always preaching and praying."

Then, tossing the stick into a bush, he hurried into the house. Jaya watched him shut the door. How could she play when she ached all over? She walked around to the other side of the house and leaned against the wall. Finally she went into the house to lie down.

Lying quietly beside her little sister Jaya remembered her sweet baby words. "Me loves you," she had told Jaya. As she touched her soft chubby hand Jaya was happy that some human loved her!

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. On the Lord Jesus Christ. 2. Do justly; love mercy; and walk humbly with God. 3. The scribes and Pharisees. 4. In spirit and in truth. 5. In our sins. 6. To fear God and keep His commandments. 7. Faith. 8. Those that diligently seek Him. 9. Peace; holiness.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 6 Aug. 10, 2003

No Secrets

As Mr. Kollipara, Jaya's daddy, raised the big stick again threateningly, Jaya braced herself expecting to feel another painful blow across her back. She had been praying at her grandmother's tomb, hidden by a thick hedge of thorns. When she heard her father call her she crept carefully through the thorn hedge to see what he wanted. Without warning her father rushed at her and began beating her with a big stick. "Stop talking to everyone about Jesus," he demanded. "You embarrass me!"

Mr. Kollipara had overheard some men making fun of the little girl who believed Jesus could do anything. He was so embarrassed that he determined to put a stop to her speaking of Jesus before the men found out that she was his little girl.

But instead of striking her again he demanded harshly, "Now go and play like other children do instead of always preaching and praying!"

Then tossing the stick into a bush he hurried into the house. Jaya watched until he had shut the door. How could she play when she ached all over? she wondered. Finally she walked around to the other side of the house and leaned against the wall.

For a while she watched two servant boys playing with a dragonfly.

They had tied a long thread on the dragonfly and were watching it fly away with the thread trailing behind. Before the thread was out of their reach, they caught it and brought the dragonfly back again. "I feel as that dragonfly must feel," she thought. "I would like to fly away and work for Jesus, but others keep beating me back." She went into the house to lie down.

When she entered she heard her mother saying angrily, "We can't send her back to school. It would just cause more trouble. She wasn't learning either, and the teacher doesn't want her there."

She overheard Daddy ask, "How long has it been since she has gone to school?"

"Over a year now," her mother answered.

"Is she learning anything here at home?"

"A little, but she doesn't have much time because people call often for her to visit the sick. When she isn't doing that, she is telling someone about Jesus or praying."

"She is just ruining her life, that's what she is doing!" Then after staring at the floor for a long time, Daddy added, "But maybe the school will have a different teacher next year. And hopefully, she'll have Jesus off her mind and can settle down and



Following The Crowd

Exodus 23:2

2 Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment:

Deuteronomy 12:30

30 Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them,...

II Kings 17:14-21

14 Notwithstanding they would not hear, but hardened their necks, like to the neck of their fathers, that did not believe in the LORD their God.

15 And they rejected his statutes, and his covenant that he made with their fathers, and his testimonies which he testified against them; and they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the heathen that were round about them, concerning whom the LORD had charged them, that they should not do like them.

16 And they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, and made them molten images, even two calves, and made a grove, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal.

17 And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, and used divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.

18 Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them

out of his sight: there was none left but the tribe of Judah only.

19 Also Judah kept not the commandments of the LORD their God, but walked in the statutes of Israel which they made.

20 And the LORD rejected all the seed of Israel, and afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of spoilers, until he had cast them out of his sight.

21 For he rent Israel from the house of David; and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king; and Jeroboam drove Israel from following the LORD, and made them sin a great sin.

The Message: We are always safe as long as we are following the Lord!

Questions:

1. We should not _____ a multitude to do evil.
2. Who did those who "hardened their necks" not believe in?
3. What three things did they reject?
4. What did they follow?
5. The Lord told them they should not do like whom?
6. What kind of molten images did they make?
7. They sold themselves to do _____ in the sight of the Lord.
8. Who was angry with Israel?
9. What did He do to them?

Verse to Memorize

Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.

III John 11.

Let's



Talk . . .

Matthew 15:14 says, "If the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch." There was a cross-country race held in Malaysia which was to cover a seven-mile course. The runners stood in order at the starting line and at the required signal dashed off—each one intent on winning the race.

Meanwhile the judges waited at the finish line ready to announce the winner. Two hours passed—plenty of time for all of the runners to cover the course—yet none of the runners had returned! The officials knew that something must have happened to them so they jumped in their cars and followed the route that the runners had taken.

Finally they found all of the runners. They were six miles away still running with all the strength they had left. But they were sprinting in the wrong direction! Many of the runners had already covered a distance of ten miles. Evidently the lead runner took a wrong turn at the fifth check point and all the other runners followed him!

This is typical of our lives. We play follow the leader without knowing where the leader is going. We do things simply because someone else does them. People might laugh at a person who wears their baseball cap backwards or that wears strange looking clothes, but if one or two more do it, before long it will become a trend.

Why do they do that? What makes people want to follow the crowd? It is because we naturally like to be like other people. We make our decisions because someone else has made the same decision before us. And while this is not always bad, it most certainly isn't always good.

The children of Israel are an example. God worked wonderful miracles for them and made it easy for the Israelites to follow Him. In the daytime He went before them in a pillar of a cloud and at night He led them by a pillar of fire. So even at night they could plainly see which way the Lord was leading. How could these people ever forget the mighty miracles and doubt God's love and care for them?

But before long they looked around at their neighbors and decided they wanted to be like them and worship their idols! This was a great sin. They knew it was God Who had delivered them. When they turned to the idols God could no longer protect them. He had to let them go. Soon the other nations overcame them and they were sold as slaves. When they finally repented and turned back to God; He was merciful and delivered them time and again. But it would have been so much better if they had always obeyed the Lord.

Each of us should know where we are going. Your children are not too young to know the Lord and His will. The Lord has a purpose for each of our lives. You don't have to wait till you are eighteen or older to let God lead you. Seek Him now. Then you will find more contentment and joy in life. You can find God right in your own life and He will be pleased to lead you in the right way to take you to heaven.

—Uncle Dale

study."

"She asked me today if she could go to Repalli. Some people there need to know about Jesus. At least that is what she says."

Mr. Kollipara was sitting on a mat on the floor. He looked very serious for a long time. Then he said, "Maybe I wouldn't be so embarrassed if she preached away from our home. I wouldn't have to face my friends and explain why she is doing these strange things. Get your things ready. We will take her!"

Day after day the Christians gathered in the streets of Repalli to listen to Jaya talk. Some brought their sick family members or friends for her to pray over. The hot India sun beat down on them so intensely they had to take shelter in the nearby homes to get refreshed. They were thankful when a woman who admired the Christians who were suffering to help others offered them her shady three acre mango orchard for the services.

Later Mr. Kollipara found out she was a communist. He thought it was very strange that he and the woman both claimed there was no God and yet they were both helping in the gospel meeting!

More and more people came to the services until the mango orchard was filled with praying Christians and people seeking help. One evening, after Jaya had talked and prayed for the sick all day, she lay down and went to sleep.

While she was asleep, a man came running to the brethren in great distress. "A scorpion, a scorpion bit me," he wailed. "Ah! Ah! Ah!"

The Christians began earnestly praying for the man. The more they prayed the more he cried. They prayed for an hour, but the man still complained of severe pain. "You must wake up Jaya," the people said.

"She is so tired, I don't want to

wake her," her daddy said.

"But this man is not getting healed. Do you want him to continue suffering?"

"Okay, okay," he agreed.

When Jaya came to the man, she did not pray. Instead she said, "You are not in pain and you have not been bitten by a scorpion."

The man hung his head and walked away in shame.

Mr. Kollipara remembered how he used to play those tricks on the Hindu priests, but they never found him out. But Jaya knew the secret. He wondered if it was because she was holier than other religious people, even than other Christians were.

After the meeting in Repalli Jaya wanted to go to Panamaru. "We cannot take you to Panamaru during these monsoon rains. Panamaru will be flooded and muddy," her daddy said firmly.

"But Daddy, Jesus says to go there," protested seven-year-old Jaya. "The brethren have already talked this over and prayed about it and they say, 'No.' We are taking you to Penmudi. There are many Christians there, and they want you to come. The ground is sandy and we will be able to get around easily. A horse and buggy are waiting to carry us."

"How can I go where Jesus does not send?" Jaya pleaded with her father.

"The brethren and I will take you to Penmudi. It is a better place. Let's get going."

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Follow. 2. The Lord. 3. His statutes, His covenant and His testimonies. 4. Vanity. 5. The heathen. 6. Two calves. 7. Evil. 8. The Lord. 9. Removed them from His sight.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 7 Aug. 17, 2003

The Cobra Bite

(Continued from last week.)

Jaya was only a little girl, just seven years old. One thing made Jaya different from other little girls, especially those who lived in India as she did. One day she had met Jesus and He became her best Friend. She spent hours talking to Him every day after that. Her favorite place for prayer was at her grandmother's grave. There, surrounded by a thick hedge of sharp thorns, she could tell Jesus all her problems and listen to His words to her.

One day she told her father that Jesus wanted her to go to Panamaru. Her father answered, "We cannot go to Panamaru. That city will be flooded and muddy after all the heavy rain. We will take you to Penmudi instead."

"But how can I go where Jesus did not send me?" Jaya pleaded.

"The brethren and I will take you to Penmudi. It is a better place. Let's get going."

Obediently she climbed into the back seat of the buggy beside her sister, Vijaya, and Mother who was holding baby Ratakumari. Daddy sat in the front seat beside the driver.

How great it felt to travel together as a family! Jaya remembered the many places she had gone alone and the many times Daddy had forced her to return home and had beaten her. Would

he ever do that again?

All went well until they got almost to Penmudi. Here they passed beside a small railroad station where a train was loading. "Daddy, where is that train going?" Jaya asked.

Without thinking he answered, "To Panamaru."

Instantly Jaya leaped from the buggy and ran to the station. Without hesitating she climbed into the train and took a seat near the window facing the buggy. "Stop! Stop!" Mother called to the driver.

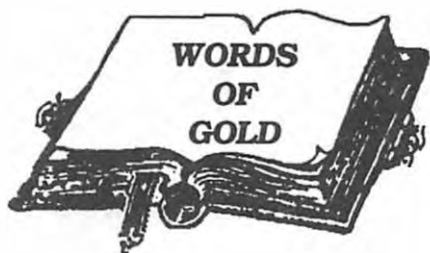
Before the horses could halt Daddy had jumped down and followed Jaya. "You must stop this," he said scolding her. "The brethren are your elders and they know best. You must submit to them."

Jaya's solemn eyes met those of her daddy. "Jesus needs me in Panamaru," she said.

Although Mr. Kollipara was still a red blooded communist, he was beginning to believe that Jaya knew where God needed her. Would he be keeping someone from getting help if he didn't take Jaya where she wanted to go? He loved to help people. He took a long look at her and then at the waiting buggy. "I will take you to Panamaru," he said.

Some of the Christians in their group went with them. Some turned back to Repall.

While they were riding on the train a rich young man was working in a rice



Getting Our Attention

Exodus 3:1-6

1 Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.

2 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.

3 And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.

4 And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.

5 And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.

6 Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.

John 1:45-51

45 Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

46 And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.

47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming to

him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!
48 Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.

49 Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.

50 Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these.

51 And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.

The Message: God wants to get our attention so that He can talk to us.

Questions:

1. Whose flock was Moses keeping?
2. Which mountain is called the "mountain of God?"
3. What appeared to Moses in a flame of fire?
4. Why did Moses turn aside when he saw a bush on fire?
5. Who called to him out of the bush?
6. Why was he commanded to take his shoes off?
7. Why did Moses hide his face?
8. Who brought Nathanael to see Jesus?
9. What great things did Jesus say Nathanael would see?

Verse to Memorize

And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.

Exodus 3:3.

Let's



Talk . . .

When Moses was young he lived as a prince in Pharaoh's palace. But he was troubled when he saw his own people, the Israelites, in slavery. He wanted to help them so one day he killed an Egyptian who was oppressing an Israelite. The next day he tried to stop a fight between two Israelites. One of them asked, "Are you going to kill me like you did the Egyptian yesterday?"

Realizing that Pharaoh would soon hear what he had done, he ran away and ended up in the desert herding sheep. So from being a wealthy prince he became a poor shepherd.

God needed to get his attention. So one day while herding his sheep he saw a bush on fire. He could not figure out what set it on fire so he went closer and watched it. Then he noticed that the bush wasn't burning up! As he got closer to see how this could be, God spoke to him right out of that bush and warned him that he was on holy ground. He must take his shoes off!

God used the burning bush to get Moses in a place where He could talk to him. Then He was able to tell him His plans, the things He wanted him to do and how He would strengthen him to do them. But all this happened after He got his attention. Wouldn't such a sight attract your interest also?

God has ways of turning our thoughts to Him. If you are not following Him, what is it going to take for Him to get your attention? Will it take something drastic and bad?

The first thing people do when they are involved in a bad car wreck or see that the plane is about to crash is to start praying and pleading, "Lord, have mercy!" But then if you're not careful you will keep putting God off until it may be too late for Him to save you.

Too late! Is this possible? Remember the story of the rich man and Lazarus. The rich man fared sumptuously while Lazarus was lying at his door begging for crumbs. Every day the rich man passed him as he went in and out. He had no time for him. The Bible doesn't say God was able to get his attention during his lifetime. But it does say that in hell he lifted up his eyes and called on God for mercy. He was in torment then and God had his full attention but it was too late to change his life.

How serious! God wants to reveal Himself to us and He uses various means. In Sunday school you read biographies of people, the decisions they made and see how God dealt with them. This is God teaching you through the lives of others. The ministers give us God's Word and instructions in their messages to us. The Bible is God's own letter to us personally—His way of speaking to us and guiding us.

God commands us to cast all our cares on Him. This is because He cannot get our attention when our mind is absorbed with troubles. While we are trying to work out our own problems He can't show us His plan and solution. Sometimes, in His love and mercy He takes drastic means to wake people up.

Whatever concerns one of God's children concerns Him. If we trust in Him, He will provide and take care of us. He has made provision for us throughout our lives and eternity as well!

—Uncle Dale

field outside the town of Panamaru. He was newly married and the only child of his parents.

Suddenly he fell lifeless at the feet of his servant.

"Help! Help!" the servant called. As the other workers rushed in to help, one shouted, "There goes a white cobra!"

"He's been bitten!" they cried.

"Hurry, bring his mother, she will tell us what to do."

"He must be taken to the best hospital," she said. "Load him into the cart and hurry him to the train station."

Carefully they laid him in the cart and hurried out of the field and down the road.

Jaya and the group of Christians had arrived at the train station a few minutes before the cart carrying the young man. Jaya was in the station praying and her daddy, Mr. Kollipara, was pacing up and down the long platform outside. His tall slender body, light colored skin and his prestigious clothing were deceiving. Thinking he must be a doctor, a man running ahead of the cart shouted, "Say, doctor! Help us save this man. A white cobra has bitten him!"

"I am not a doctor," Mr. Kollipara replied.

"We've got to get help quickly. How long will it be until the next train comes?"

"It just left," Mr. Kollipara answered.

The mother came weeping behind the cart. The workers were crying and shouting. Mr. Kollipara, trying to comfort the mother said, "Don't worry so. There is a madam here who can help you."

"Where is she?" they cried desperately.

He went into the station to find Jaya. She was not there. Looking around, he saw her standing beside her mother at the far end of the long platform.

"There she is," he said pointing to Jaya, "the one in the long red dress

with a cross on it."

"That little girl?" they questioned.

"Yes, she will help you."

The throng of excited people and the ox drawn cart carrying the young man moved on down the platform which was as long as a city block.

"Why did I say that?" Mr. Kollipara questioned himself. "I'm always getting myself in trouble trying to help others! Jaya's prayers cannot heal a man with a cobra bite." He watched to see what she would do. He could not see for the throng that surrounded her and the cart, so he walked up closer.

Now he could see his little girl lying across the broad chest of the unconscious man. She was silent but her daddy knew she was praying. His wife, with baby Ratakumari in her arms, was kneeling near the man's head. A light rain was falling. He backed away hoping no one would find out that they were his family. He feared that persecution would follow when the young man died.

An hour passed. Nothing had happened; neither had Jaya said a word. Some were beginning to ask, "Who is this little girl? Is she a faith healer or a fake?"

Mr. Kollipara remained silent. Some of the Christians were also becoming alarmed. He paced the platform trying to act unconcerned but his heart beat fast and wild.

"I wouldn't be in this mess if I hadn't listened to that stubborn child," he thought. "Why did I let her lead me here?"

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. His father's-in-law. 2. Horeb. 3. The angel of the Lord. 4. To see why the bush did not burn up. 5. God. 6. Because he was standing on holy ground. 7. He was afraid to look at God. 8. Philip. 9. Heaven open and angels ascending and descending.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 8 Aug. 24, 2003

Miracle In Panamaru

(Continued from last week.)

A young man in India was bitten by a cobra. Quickly his servants put him in a cart and headed for the train station. Jaya and her family had just arrived ahead of them. Seeing the young man in such great need Jaya knew why God had directed her there. Going to him she silently prayed for God to heal him.

The man lay lifeless in the ox cart, seemingly lifeless. Jaya and her mother continued to pray. Her father, Mr. Kollipara, anxiously paced back and forth on the train station platform. It had been a whole hour and there was no sign of life in the victim. He could not help wondering what would happen when the people found out the man was dead—that Jaya's prayers had not saved him!

When the train finally returned Mr. Kollipara was relieved to hear a man say, "Let's take him on to the hospital!" But then he heard the young man's mother saying, "Wait until the maiden is through praying." Mr. Kollipara trembled with fear.

Two hours later the train returned. A new surge of emotion ran through the angry crowd. "Take him to the hospital! This madam is not helping," the angry men of Panamaru shouted. "What can this little girl do to cure a cobra bite?"

The man's mother demanded, "Don't touch my son! I have given him to Jesus. Jesus will take care of him." Spurred by the mother's decision, Mr. Kollipara shouted, "People, people, have faith in God. In the blessed book, the Bible, there is a story of Naaman. He was very sick with leprosy. You all know about leprosy. It is the disease that destroys a body bit by bit until finally the victim dies.

"Well, Naaman had leprosy, but a little girl told him to go to the man of God and be healed. He went to see the man of God and was told to dip seven times in the muddy river Jordan to be healed. At first he thought that was foolish. But his servant encouraged him, so he went and bathed in the Jordan and he was healed. I know you think praying is foolish but have faith. God can do anything!"

How surprised he was to hear himself preaching. He wasn't even a Christian but he knew the Bible stories. He had studied the Bible often to argue against the Christians.

He was calmer now so he walked back down the platform to where he could see Jaya and his wife. They were still praying. Jaya prayed silently. He heard his wife groaning.

Listening carefully he could hear her saying, "Whatever, Lord Jesus, if we live or die." Now he knew that she



Christ's Forethought

John 21:2-14

2 There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples.

3 Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a-fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.

4 But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus.

5 Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No.

6 And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.

7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea.

8 And the other disciples came in a little ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits,) dragging the net with fishes.

9 As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread.

10 Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught.

11 Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken.

12 Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord.

13 Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise.

14 This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead.

The Message: When we follow Jesus and come to difficult places we don't have to despair. He has already been there before us!

Questions:

1. What did Peter tell the other disciples with him?
2. How many fish did they catch that night?
3. Who stood on the shore the next morning?
4. What did He ask the disciples?
5. What did He tell them to do?
6. What did Peter do when he heard it was Jesus?
7. How did the other disciples get to shore?
8. What did Jesus invite the disciples to do?
9. How many times had Jesus now shown Himself to His disciples?

Verse to Memorize

**I go to prepare a place for you.
John 14:2.**

Let's



Talk . . .

We had some dear friends who lived in Louisiana. We were there for a camp meeting so they invited us to stay at their place. They had a beautiful apartment at the back of their home and showed us how easily I could get around in it with my electric scooter. But I also noticed, since I am not the best driver on a scooter, the quality of the furniture close to where I would be turning. Then they checked the way I'd need to take to get into each room and especially to the refrigerator!

But it was after we actually moved in and started making the twists and turns past the beautiful furniture that I started getting a little nervous. I was afraid I might not be able to make the turn! In one particularly close place I was trying to be very careful to not scrape the furniture. But in making my maneuver I looked a little closer. Right where it was so tight I could barely make the turn I noticed a scratch was already there.

You see, the lady of the house was also confined to a wheel chair and had already gone through the same places to show that it could be done.

I rested a lot easier after that, knowing that my scratches wouldn't be distinguishable from those already on the furniture. Also I knew she would understand since she had to struggle through the same tight spots.

I got a good lesson from that experience, comparing it with our journey through life. There are times that I may be troubled or worried about the future. It's easy to wonder

how long we will be able to have the freedom we have now or worry about the terrorist attacks we hear so much about since we don't know when or where they might strike again. Or, who knows, someone might poison our drinking water. Or how about if I get really sick, can I really truly trust in God? Am I strong enough to endure? See how many questions can arise! We get in a dither trying to figure out what to do.

We must put our faith in Christ. Many times, while He was here on earth, He showed how He planned ahead for His followers. One example is when He sent the disciples to prepare a place for them to eat the last supper. Somehow in His great wisdom He had it all planned out. All the disciples had to do was to follow His orders.

Jesus tells us in the Bible, "I go to prepare a place for you." We can be assured that not only in heaven but all along the way, He has a place prepared for us. He has a plan for our life but it can only work out as we yield to Him. The plan for our life will not work unless we are serving Him. Sinners are not able to hear His voice as He tries to guide them because their heart is not open to Him.

In Romans 8:28 it says, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God." That is a very precious promise! Let's be sure we do our part. Give your heart to the Lord and let Him save you from your sins. Every day ask Him to guide you and show you His will. He is able to not only make us understand what He wants us to do but also give us a desire to do it.

He has already mapped out the way to heaven and prepared it for us. But He has not promised to tell us what we will meet way ahead of time—sometimes He guides just a step at a time.

—Uncle Dale

also feared something evil might happen to them.

He heard people poking fun. "The little girl is probably dead too," a man said. "The poison from the snake has probably gone up into her body."

All afternoon friends heard about the accident and many came to offer comfort to their kind friends. Fear that some of these people might recognize him as a Communist made Mr. Kollipara more nervous. Every day he lived in constant fear of being caught and jailed. Sometimes he even wore women's clothing to disguise himself. He knew that some of these men here would be glad to have him arrested because he had said that God had power to heal.

At five o'clock many field workers came in the drizzling rain to see what was going on. The growing crowd was too much for Mr. Kollipara. He began trembling violently. A man offered him a blanket. "Thank you," he said and wrapped the blanket over his body pretending he was cold. But that didn't stop his shivering.

And then it happened. The mob turned on him. "Our friend has lain here five hours," they shouted. "By now the poison has surely killed him and you are to blame that he didn't get help!"

The sick man's mother saw what was happening. She stepped up on the platform and demanded, "Don't beat this man yet. Jesus can heal my son. I have never seen such faith in Christians." Then looking up into heaven she said, "Jesus, will you help my boy?"

Unknown to the wild crowd, Jaya was moving her hands down the man's body. When she touched his ankle the man groaned. Then he called out, lay still a moment, then rolled over and sat up. The crowd immediately left Mr. Kollipara and gathered around the cart. Instantly the Christians became

their heroes and Jaya a living god. They lifted her into the cart and told her mother to climb in beside her.

Now Mr. Kollipara had courage to claim his family. Proudly he walked beside the cart as they went to the youngman's home to eat and rest. The Christians, too, who had remained so silent, praised God as they followed.

It is a Hindu custom to wash the feet of a god or an holy man in a silver platter. As soon as they reached the home, a servant brought out a silver platter and bowed before Jaya. "No, no," cried her father boldly, "She is not a god. She is just my little girl. Some day she will die as all humans die."

"From this day forward, our family shall be Christian," announced the young man's father. "We are no longer Hindus."

"Yes," agreed his mother, "our son will eat the chicken dinner the servants are preparing with us and he will sleep in a bed as usual. We are no longer bound to the heathen custom that a person bitten by a cobra should not eat or sleep in a bed."

The people in the village saw the young man working as if nothing had happened to him. They knew Jesus had healed him. Some of them became Christians and this was the beginning of a great revival.

Although Mr. Kollipara did not get saved, he and his family stayed in this home for nine months so that Jaya could minister to the people. Many new believers were added to the Church of God in Panamaru.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. "I go a-fishing." 2. None. 3. Jesus. 4. "Children, have you any meat?" 5. Cast their net on the right side of the ship. 6. Jumped in the water and swam to shore. 7. In a little ship. 8. "Come and dine." 9. Three.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 9 Aug. 31, 2003

How Jaya Met Jesus

(Continued from last week.)

Jaya was glad to be home after staying in Panamaru for nine months. After putting her things away she went quickly to her prayer temple among the thorn bushes. She loved to meet Jesus there.

Little did she know that she would soon be coming to this little hide-away again to escape her father's beating. He knew God worked a miracle through Jaya's prayers and he was proud of her in Panamaru. But he was still ashamed of her around his relatives and his communist friends. He could not stand to hear them call her his "crazy child." Then just the sight of her made him furious. He would fly into a rage for no reason at all.

One day while she was crying in her secret praying place Jesus said to her, "Don't cry. I am your Friend and will always be with you. There are many people who must hear about Me through your testimony."

Soon she heard a servant call, "Jaya, come. You have visitors."

A stranger and many neighbors were waiting when Jaya entered the house. "This teacher is a Christian and she wants to hear how Jesus appeared to you," Mother said.

Jaya stood still and silent. She was usually thrilled when people asked

her to talk about Jesus but she couldn't imagine a school teacher wanting to know about Him.

The teacher asked kindly, "Won't you share your story with me and also pray for my brother who is very sick?"

Conquering her anxieties Jaya answered, "I love to tell about my Jesus. Two years ago Mommy, Daddy and I started out to visit a friend. It was very hot, and we went into that little Christian chapel to wait for the bus. They sat down and I gathered some leaves and was playing with them behind the pulpit.

"Suddenly a bright light flashed. Looking up I saw a bleeding Person with outstretched hands. Blood was spilling from His head, His hands, His feet and His side. I had never seen such a heart-rending sight.

"He did not look like any of the Hindu gods that I had seen. As I looked the Person began speaking. He said, 'Jayapradha, I am Jesus Christ Who created everything. I took the form of man and gave My life's-blood to show My everlasting love to men. I died for their sins but I also rose again. I am alive and give peace, holiness and eternal life to those that love and believe in Me.

"The promise of eternal life sounded almost too good to be true. Most of the Indians believe a person must struggle



Gratitude

Luke 17:12-18; 7:37-43, 47

12 ...There met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off:

13 And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.

14 And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.

15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God,

16 And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.

17 And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?

18 There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.

37 ...A woman in the city, which was a sinner...brought an alabaster box of ointment,

38 And began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.

39 Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.

40 And Jesus...said...Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee....s

41 There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.

42 And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?

43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged.

47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.

The Message: Gratitude is recognizing and being thankful for God's many blessings to us every day.

Questions:

1. How many lepers were there?
2. What did they say to Jesus?
3. To whom did Jesus tell them to go and shew themselves?
4. What happened as they went?
5. How many turned back to thank Jesus?
6. What nationality was he?
7. With what did the woman wash Jesus' feet?
8. Which debtor loved the creditor most?
9. Why were the woman's many sins forgiven?

Verse to Memorize

**O give thanks unto the LORD,
for he is good: for his mercy
endureth for ever.**

Psalm 107:1.

Let's



Talk . . .

In Jesus' time people were afraid of lepers. They did not want to catch this terrible disease. Since leprosy shows in the skin, lepers could not hide their illness from the community. As soon as it became apparent, the lepers were shunned and forced to leave their homes and live away from other people.

Imagine what it would be like if you had a happy home, a wife and several children, and you suddenly discover a spot of leprosy one morning. You know it will only be a matter of time until other spots appear. It will be impossible to hide this hideous disease for long!

This discovery is only the beginning. The more you think what this will mean, the more dreadful it becomes. There will be intense suffering and horror as you see your body rot away a little at a time. But even more dreadful is the thought of leaving your precious family and loved ones! You cannot bear to break the awful news to your wife. How will your children understand? Who will support them?

Then, when you are forced to leave your home, your only companions are other lepers who are as miserable as yourself. Day after day you have nothing to do but think about your wretched situation. As you long for your home and loved ones your misery deepens knowing they miss you and desperately need your help. The future offers you no hope.

Then a rumor comes floating around. People are talking about a great Prophet who is teaching not too far from you.

Some who heard this good news may have scoffed at the very idea. Others may have refused to believe saying, "Whoever heard of such a person? I've never seen anything like that in my whole life!"

But there were ten lepers who did believe that there just might be hope. They had nothing to lose but their misery—they hurried to find this great Teacher. Then, seeing a great throng of people they realized that they had found the One they were looking for. Not daring to come closer because it was against the law, the ten stopped and cried pitifully, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

Jesus heard their cry of distress and told them simply, "Go show yourselves unto the priests."

They could have wondered, "What for? We are lepers!" But by faith they turned to go see the priest and as they went they were healed. How wonderful! What a miracle had happened! One of them stopped and returned to Jesus, praising and thanking God for His healing. I'm sure all of them were grateful but only one actually returned to show his thanks.

How grateful are you? Are you thankful for the many blessings in your life? What do you think would happen if tomorrow morning just before Mom came in to wake you up you would jump out of bed, get dressed, clean up your room then go down to breakfast. Then when you get through you turn to your mom and say, "Mom, thanks so much for a good breakfast. Now you go sit down—let me do the dishes right quick!"

Then just before you head out to school you turn and throw your arms around your Mother and say, "Mom, I sure do appreciate you! You work so hard to make my life happy. Now I want you to wake me up an hour earlier tomorrow morning so I can help you more." At that point she probably would want to check and see if you have a fever! —Uncle Dale

hard through many lives to get eternal life.

"Then Jesus said, 'I gave My blood for you, also. You must be a witness for Me wherever I send you, and I will always be with you.'

"When Jesus said this, I began crying. My father heard me cry and came to me asking, 'Why do you cry? Are you hungry? Do you want some bread?'

"I am not hungry, but look, Daddy, Jesus is giving His blood for us,' I said pointing to the vision.

'There is nothing here,' my daddy said. 'You must have seen a picture like that and it is working on your mind. There is no God and no Jesus, so don't cry.'

"Although I had always been very shy around my daddy, I said boldly, 'Yes, there is. Can you see the color of the air?' I didn't wait for him to answer, I said, 'No one can see the air. Yet we do not say there is no air. Neither can we say there is no Jesus just because we cannot see Him. But believing in Him we experience His holy life.'

"I was surprised at what I was saying and I could tell by the look on Daddy's face that he too was surprised. But I continued speaking, 'Jesus has asked me to go and be with a Christian sister.' Then I told him her address and he wrote it down.

"By this time, many people had gathered around us to listen. When I finished talking some of them were crying; some got saved.

"After we finished visiting the people we were going to see, my father took me to the address that God had given to me and we found the Christian sister. My Jesus gave me His grace to witness for Him in that village. Then we came home and I began telling my aunts, uncles, cousins and neighbors whatever God put in my heart to say.

"Usually when I talked I would cry.

I would either be feeling sorry that Jesus suffered so much for me, or I would be feeling so happy that I could not keep from crying. Soon all my family began saying that I had lost my mind."

Jaya finished her story and they were just ready to pray when her daddy came walking into the yard. "Mr. Kollipara is here," a neighbor whispered. "He doesn't like Christians, we'd better leave."

Some went out the back door—others greeted Mr. Kollipara respectfully and excused themselves.

Mother introduced the Christian teacher, saying that she had come to seek help for her sick brother.

"And why do you seek help here?" he questioned the teacher.

"I hear that God heals people after your little girl prays for them," she said.

"How can you, an intelligent, educated woman believe such? If your brother is sick get the best doctor in town. If that doctor cannot help, then take him to Madras. There are many fine doctors in Madras."

"I should like for the little girl to first tell me if my brother will live or die. Why should I spend money for a doctor if he is dying?"

"You are crazy," Mr. Kollipara blurted out. "The little girl does not know if your brother will live or die." He trembled, thinking of the beating he might receive from the town's people if her brother would die without having received medical help just because Jaya said he would live.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Ten. 2. "Have mercy on us." 3. To the priests. 4. They were cleansed. 5. One. 6. A Samaritan. 7. Her tears. 8. The one to whom he forgave most. 9. Because she loved much.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 10 Sept. 7, 2003

Daddy Is Healed

(Continued from last week.)

A Christian schoolteacher heard that God healed people when Jaya prayed for them. She had a brother who was desperately ill so she went to ask for Jaya to pray for him. When she told Jaya's father what she wanted he asked, "How can you, an intelligent, educated woman believe in prayer? If your brother is sick get a good doctor for him. How could this little girl help him?"

The teacher looked Mr. Kollipara straight in the eye and said, "Sir, your little girl has just told me my brother's condition. What she said is just what the X-ray showed. I believe God has spoken to her about my brother. How else would she know his sickness?"

"What?" Jaya's daddy asked.

"The little girl is saying it right," the teacher said again. "She is saying just what the medical doctor said. And she has never seen my brother."

That night while Jaya and her mother were sleeping soundly, Daddy could not sleep. "Is there a living Jesus?" he questioned. "If not, how did Jaya know about the sick man? But how can I believe that Jesus is God? All my life I have vowed that I would never believe in God! Yet how can I not believe when I've seen so many miracles?" These questions and

many more rolled over and over in his mind. "What would my communist friends say if they found out I've been persuaded by a little girl?" This was the question that tormented him more than any other.

Daddy sat down Indian style on the floor at the low table and began eating his breakfast. He hadn't slept much the night before so he was cross. "Jaya," he snarled, "You must go back to school. This new teacher is a Christian, she will not beat you as the other one did."

Jaya trembled. The bruises on her back where he had beaten her with a belt were still tender. She hoped what she had to say wouldn't bring on another lashing. "Most loving Daddy," Jaya protested meekly, "every day I have calls to visit the sick. Have you not heard that people from far away cities are coming for me? Can I please work for my blessed Jesus and not go back to school?"

"You are wasting your time and your life," he thundered. "Who will want to marry you without an education? No one, I tell you, no one! I'll have to sell everything I have to pay a dowry to get a man to take you."

"I don't want to marry, Jesus will take care of me."

"How foolish you are. A woman without a child is cursed. Do you want to be cursed?"



Twisting The Truth

Deuteronomy 4:1-5; 9-14

1 ...Go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers giveth you.

2 Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish aught from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

3 Your eyes have seen what the LORD did because of Baal-peor: for all the men that followed Baal-peor, the LORD thy God hath destroyed them from among you.

4 But ye that did cleave unto the LORD your God are alive every one of you this day.

5 Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the LORD my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it.

9 Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;

10 Specially the day that thou stoodest before the LORD thy God in Horeb, when the LORD said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children.

11 And ye came near and stood un-

der the mountain; and the mountain burned with fire unto the midst of heaven, with darkness, clouds, and thick darkness.

12 And the LORD spake unto you out of the midst of the fire: ye heard the voice of the words, but saw no similitude; only ye heard a voice.

13 And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, even ten commandments; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone.

14 And the LORD commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and judgments, that ye might do them in the land whitherye go over to possess it.

The Message: We must never try to change God's laws or twist the truth to suit ourselves.

Questions:

1. Who gave Israel the land they were to go in and possess?
2. They were warned to not do what two things to God's commandments?
3. What did the Lord do to those who followed Baal-peor?
4. Who were kept alive?
5. To whom should they teach the things they had seen?
6. Who spoke to them out of the midst of the fire?
7. How many commandments did God give?
8. On what did God write these commandments?
9. What did the Lord command him to teach?

Verse to Memorize
Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish aught from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.
Deuteronomy 4:2.

Let's



Talk . . .

Imagine a mother has worked hard on a nice dinner for the family. She has it about ready to set on the table when little Joseph comes through the door looking mischievous. He has one hand in his pocket where he has a little frog hidden! She tells him, "Joseph, run upstairs and tell Sherrill that it is time to eat and that she needs to come downstairs." He heads right off to do that.

A few minutes later Sherrill comes running in crying. Joseph had gone in to her bedroom and waved the little frog under her nose. Then he told her that mom had said if she wasn't at the table in thirty seconds she would be grounded. She would not get to go out to play in the evenings for a whole week!

Now imagine how very frustrated mom could feel! She worked so hard to provide a good meal and a pleasant time for the family to be together. And now things are in a mess! The family is all torn up because she was misquoted and the message she sent was twisted into a threat.

That doesn't seem to be as bad as when people and churches try to change the Word of God and even its meaning. When you talk to them about living for the Lord and following His commands, they may excuse themselves by saying, "Oh, He doesn't really expect us to do that!" They choose to follow their own opinions without even looking in the Bible and using it as their guide.

Some justify themselves by saying, "Things have changed since the old days. We are living in modern days."

The Bible definitely teaches divine healing but many reject it. Exodus 15:26 says, "I am the LORD that healeth thee" and James 5:15 teaches us that, "The prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up." Yet some say, "Then why did God put doctors here and give them such wisdom?"

At such times I imagine God feels like the misquoted mother. Also look what confusion is created when the truth is twisted or not given fully. God has great blessings for us but they are the result of strictly believing and obeying all His commandments.

We need to be very careful to study God's Word and know exactly what it teaches. Otherwise we will misrepresent God by giving our own opinions instead of His commandments and actually tell untruth.

It is sad, but many churches give motivational speeches to make you feel good each Sunday or discuss current events instead of preaching the truth from the Bible. Much that is told the people is just the speaker expressing his own opinions. This is actually changing the Word of God and taking out of it the power to change men's lives as God intended. Too many preachers fear that the plain truth will not be attractive and they won't be able to draw the crowds. But God is looking for quality more than quantity.

We should be thankful for those who are willing to obey God and preach all the truth even if some are offended because they do not want to measure their lives by the Bible. We should support them with our prayers and strict adherence to the truth that they teach. —Uncle Dale

"I am willing to suffer anything for my Jesus," Jaya answered.

"Then go away. I never want to see you again! You cannot eat today nor tomorrow. I should have burned your hands two years ago when you first started this foolishness," he said angrily. Then, jumping up, he flew out of the house without finishing his breakfast.

Jaya was thankful he hadn't touched her. But she wondered why he didn't like for her to love Jesus. She ran away to her secret prayer place to talk with Jesus about it. There alone, surrounded by a hedge of thorns so no one would bother her, she talked with Jesus for a long time. Then she sat quietly and Jesus talked to her. "I want you to go to Yerrapalem," He told her. "The people there need to know about Me. Tell your daddy what I have said to you."

Going to another village and telling the people about Jesus was Jaya's delight but she was afraid to tell her daddy that Jesus told her to go to Yerrapalem. He might beat her until she couldn't walk, or not let her sleep or eat with the family EVER again.

Two hours later Jaya crawled out of the thorn hedge and went to the house to wait for her daddy to come home to eat. To her surprise he had already returned and was lying on his sleeping mat. He was pale and looked sick. "What's wrong, Daddy," she asked

"I can't hardly breathe," he said between gasps. "I have terrible pain in my chest."

"Oh, Daddy I will pray for you!" Jaya exclaimed.

He shook his head. "Prayers do no good," he said.

"How can he say that after seeing so many people healed?" Jaya questioned silently. "Why doesn't he believe?"

"He's just been to the best doctor in town. The doctor gave him an injec-

tion and pills. Neither have helped a bit," said her mother who kneeled beside him.

"Doctor-no help-prayer-no help," Daddy said slowly.

Jaya rubbed her daddy's arm and cried. She couldn't bear thinking of losing her daddy even though he was often angry with her. When he wasn't angry he was good. Sometimes he took her where she wanted to go. What other father would stay nine months in Panamaru so she could work for Jesus? What would the family do without a daddy? But the worst of her fears was that her poor daddy could not go to heaven.

"Why-you-cry?" he asked. "I'm not dead."

Jaya knew she shouldn't cry. Mother had told her many times that Indian people think it is bad to cry while a sick loved one is still living. "After they die is the time to cry," she had often said; but Jaya couldn't keep back her tears.

Mr. Matthew Kollipara braced himself to resist her pleading to pray. But how could he, she was crying so hard. "Then-pray-if that's-what-will-make-you-happy," he said.

Jaya began praying, and how she did pray! She prayed until the pain was gone. Daddy lay very still and quiet a long time. Finally he said, "I will never beat you again for praying. This healing has made a believer out of me. You may go whenever and wherever you think God wants you to go. I will not stop you."

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. The Lord. 2. Add or diminish. 3. Destroyed them. 4. Those that held to the Lord. 5. To their sons and their sons' sons. 6. The Lord. 7. Ten. 8. Two tables of stone. 9. Statutes and judgments.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 11 Sept. 14, 2003

The Shepherd Children

Jesus told Jaya that He wanted her to go to Yerrapalem because the people who lived there needed to know about Him. As Jaya left her place of prayer she wondered how she could ever tell her daddy or get his permission to go.

But God had already made a way to get his permission. When Jaya got to her house she found that her daddy was very sick. She could not keep the tears back as she knelt beside him and did what she could to make him comfortable. Finally he consented for her to pray for him though he knew it would do no good.

Jaya poured her little heart out to her loving Jesus asking Him to please heal her dear daddy. And He did just that! Lying very still he realized that all the pain was gone. "This healing has made a believer out of me," he told Jaya. "You may go whenever and wherever you think God wants you to go. I will not stop you."

So Mr. Kollipara gladly took Jaya to Yerrapalem when she had told him that Jesus needed her there. She felt grand walking beside her tall, strong daddy. The hot sun beat down on them but she hardly felt it. Sharp stones pierced her feet but they seemed as nothing. It was almost like she was floating.

"You look beautiful in your red dress that my friend made for you," he said. "You know we communists love red."

Jaya felt disappointed when her daddy called himself a communist. He had said, "My healing made a believer out of me." Now she realized that he believed there was a God but he had not committed his life to Jesus. Sometimes people sent a messenger to take Jaya to pray for a sick person. Sometimes God would tell her to go to a village and would show her a vision of the house where she should go. Today she had no certain place to go. When they got to Yerrapalem she said, "Well, Daddy, this is the place God has shown me to come. I will be here when you return."

"I cannot leave my eight-year-old daughter on the streets of a strange village," her daddy protested.

"Jesus has always protected me," she said.

"I know that, but you always stay in a home."

"I must find a place to pray," Jaya said. "God will show me where to go." "I saw a cave in the mountains," Mr. Kollipara answered, "I will leave you there because I have to hurry on to get my business done. The God you serve will care for you."



Our Shepherd

**Psalms 23:1-2; 25:9;
48:14; 73:23-25**

1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters.

9 The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.

14 For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death.

23 Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand.

24 Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.

25 Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.

Isaiah 30:21; 42:16; 48:17-18

21 And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

16 And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.

17 Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.

18 O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea:

Luke 1:76-79

76 And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;

77 To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins,

78 Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us,

79 To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The Message: We are not capable of making it safely to heaven without God's help!

Questions:

1. Who did David say was his shepherd?
2. In what kind of pastures did he lie down?
3. What kind of waters did He lead him by?
4. Who will He guide in judgment and teach His way?
5. How long will God be our God?
6. How long will God be our guide?
7. Who promised to lead us in the way that we should go?
8. What would have been like a river if they had followed His commandments?

Verse to Memorize

**Teach me thy way, O LORD,
and lead me in a plain path,
because of mine enemies.**

Psalms 27:11.

Let's



Talk . . .

David, who wrote several of the verses in our lesson, was a shepherd boy. All day he led his father's sheep over the hillsides finding the greenest pastures for them. He loved every sheep and watched over each one carefully.

One day a hungry lion roared into the flock of sheep and seized a lamb in his giant jaws. David was on the lion in a flash striking it with all his might. The lion dropped the lamb but turned on David, snarling fiercely. David grabbed the lion by his beard with one hand while knocking it senseless with the other. Then he attacked the lion with all his might until finally the beast lay at his feet dead. David carefully scooped the lamb up in his strong arms and carried it back to safety where he nursed it back to health.

While he watched the sheep David realized that people are like the simple defenseless sheep. The devil is like a roaring lion looking for anyone he can devour. (I Peter 5:8.) We are no more a match for the devil than that little lamb that David rescued. We must have a good Shepherd to protect us.

David's sheep would become so intent on looking for the most enticing and tender grass that they would soon be in great danger without knowing it was near. But David was watching and would quickly herd the wanderer back to safety. This is a good illustration of the way the Lord watches over us. We are not able to see the dangers all around

us. God sees every trap and will keep us out of harm if we keep our eyes on Him and follow Him carefully.

What do you think would happen if a sheep would say, "Now wait a minute. I am tired of this nonsense of getting pulled back every time I see greener grass! I'm going to get out on my own and find my own pasture."

"Just look at that stretch of green grass over there—I'm sure it will taste much better than this scraggly stuff I'm eating. I can do better than this! I'll just slip off and the shepherd won't know anything about it. I won't be gone very long—I'll just try that pasture out a little bit and then I'll sneak back before it gets too dark. He'll never miss me!"

Of course we know what would happen. Without the shepherd's guidance and protection the wayward sheep would soon be dinner for a lion or whatever hungry beast that lurked out of sight just waiting for the sheep to get off by itself.

Like the sheep we soon wander into trouble and danger without the guidance of our good Shepherd. We fall an easy prey to the snares and traps of the devil because he knows how to entice us. The way he offers looks so much better, like the greener pasture does to the wayward sheep. But he doesn't let us see the awful pit of sin we will fall into or his own savage treatment of those who follow him.

This is why it is important to learn to follow the Lord while you are young. As soon as you realize that you have done wrong, this is the time for you to come to Jesus asking forgiveness and accepting Him as your Savior and Shepherd. Then you will have Him to guide and protect you all through your life. He alone can safely lead us to heaven!

—Uncle Dale

After Daddy left, Jaya went inside the cave and prayed. While she was praying some little shepherd children heard her. "Who were you talking to?" they asked when she came outside.

"I was talking to my Jesus," she answered.

"Who is Jesus?" they asked.

"Jesus is the Son of God," she answered. Then she told them the story of God's love. She told them about Jesus being treated cruelly and dying so that everyone could be saved. "He died on the cross so that we could live good. If we live good, after we die we will go to heaven," she said.

"Go to heaven?" the children asked. "I thought we must be good through many lives if we expect to go to heaven," said a boy named Ramesh. "Or die in the sacred city of Varanasi," added a girl named Kumari.

"How could anyone be good enough to go to heaven when they die?" questioned another Hindu girl. "Mommy says that if I'm good, maybe I won't be so poor in my next life."

"You see, Jesus is a Spirit," Jaya explained to the children. "He lives inside of me, and He wants to live inside of you, too. If you let Jesus live inside of you, He will make you good." "I want to be good," Ramesh said.

"So do I," added Vani a girl about Jaya's age.

"Then ask Jesus to come into your heart and He will make you good." The children bowed and prayed with Jaya.

When it was lunchtime, each child opened his little pouch of rice and began eating. "You have no food?" Ramesh asked.

"No," Jaya answered.

"Have some of my rice," Ramesh said, placing some rice in the palm of her hand. Each of the children gave her a little bit of their rice. When all the rice was gone, Vani asked, "Are you still hungry?"

"I am very hungry," answered Jaya. "I have eaten only a little bit today, and I walked from my village a long ways away."

"We know where wild fruit grows," the children all said at once. Anxious to make sure Jaya had enough to eat they hurried away to find the fruit. Then one by one they returned each bringing a fruit that Jaya had never tasted before. "Oh, thank you, thank you," Jaya said. "The fruit is very sweet and good."

That evening about the time the sun goes to the other side of the world, the shepherd children said good-bye to Jaya and herded their goats and sheep back into the village. She watched them descending the mountain until they were out of sight.

"This is a very lonely place," she said to Jesus, "but I know You were very lonely sometimes, and You know how I feel. And if You would, please, dear Jesus, do keep any wild animals from sharing this little cave with me. I would rather just You and I stay here."

Exhausted from the long hard day, Jaya curled herself in a corner of the cave and fell asleep. The shepherd children awoke her the next morning on their way to pasture their sheep and goats. "Come with us," they called, "and tell us more about Jesus."

Jaya followed the children to a grassy place. While the animals grazed they sat down and she talked with them again about her dear Jesus. At lunch they again shared their rice and gathered more fruit for her.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. The Lord. 2. Green. 3. Still waters. 4. The meek. 5. For ever and ever. 6. Unto death. 7. The Lord. 8. Their peace.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 12 Sept. 21, 2003

Mercy For The Poor And The Rich

(Continued from last week.)

While in prayer Jesus told Jaya to go to Yerrapalem and tell the people there about His love to them. This time Jesus did not tell her a house to go to so when she saw a mountain cave she told her daddy that she would pray there. Her father hated to leave her without a home to stay in but she assured him Jesus would tell her where to go and what to do. So, leaving her in the cave he went on to attend to his business.

While Jaya was praying some shepherd children heard her and asked who she was talking to. Jaya told them about her Friend, Jesus. When they came to feed their sheep the next day they invited her to go with them and tell them more about Jesus.

That night Jaya curled up in a corner of the cave and slept. The next day she again talked with the children and shared their lunches. Again just before sunset the children herded their animals home.

Jaya watched them disappear down the mountain. Then she bowed and began praying. "Jesus," she said, "when I am home I love to be alone with You, but tonight I do wish that I had a people friend. But You know what is best for me."

While she was praying she heard a noise outside. Going to the mouth of the cave she saw Ramesh, the shepherd boy, running up the mountain. Vani, Jyothi, Prasad, some strange children and several adults were following him "There is the cave," he shouted, "and the girl is standing inside. Do you see her?"

The people gathered at the cave entrance and began excitedly telling Jaya about the change in their children. "My boy likes to help with the work now," one mother said.

"My girl is now kind to her younger sister," another mother was saying. Each seemed to have a different story to tell, but all were happy about the changes in their children.

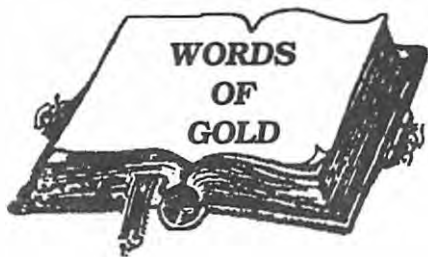
"Now we want you to tell us about Jesus," a father said. "You must come down into the village and stay with us. We will share our huts and our food with you."

"Yes! Yes!" the children cried.

"Thank you, Jesus, I knew You would take care of me." Jaya said, as she happily followed them down the mountain.

The next morning, Jaya explained to the mothers that Jesus was not a god of wood or stone. He was a living God and would hear and answer when people prayed to Him.

Every night Jaya had a little service and said whatever Jesus put in her mind. Usually she could not remember



The Care Free Life

Matthew 6:25-34

25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to-day is, and to-morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Philippians 4:6-7

6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

I Peter 5:7

7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

The Message: When we give all our troubles to God we have no reason to worry.

Questions:

1. Who feeds the birds?
2. Can you make yourself taller?
3. Consider the _____ of the field.
4. They are more beautiful than _____ in all of his glory!
5. Who clotheth the grass of the field?
6. Why shouldn't we worry about what we will eat, drink or wear?
7. What are we to seek first?
8. How should we make our requests known to God?
9. What will the peace of God do for us?

Verse to Memorize

But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Luke 12:7.

Let's



Talk . . .

Too many people get the wrong idea about the Christian life. They know they want to be saved and go to heaven but they really don't want to turn loose of the world. They feel there is something too hard about being saved. Because of this they can't really enjoy the world or the Christian life because it is impossible to serve two masters. Yet many are trying to do just that!

The Bible tells us not to worry about anything. Instead of worrying we are to tell God our needs and bring all our requests to Him in prayer. "Your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things," Jesus assures us. So first seek to please Him and He will give you everything you need! So our business is to obey God and then just trust Him to handle all our needs and concerns. Then look what a carefree life we can have!

At your age you don't have a lot of worries. You may be greatly concerned about your grades and how to be good or other things important to you. But later in life you will have more important obligations. You will be responsible for supporting yourself and maybe a family; providing food, clothes and a place to live.

Jesus is talking about these concerns. Though they are such a heavy responsibility He tells us to take no anxious thought about them. God knows what we need and has obligated Himself to provide for us if we trust Him to do so. He wants us to

live a happy carefree Christian life because we have such a wonderful heavenly Father who cares for us!

I've noticed crows and hawks on dreary days sitting on the telephone poles and wires looking for something to eat. Watching them I can't help thinking how terrible it would be to not know where you would get your next meal! But the Bible tells us that God Himself takes care of them and somehow He feeds them. They have no way of storing up food yet they make it through the cold winters. In the spring they raise little ones and God makes a way to feed them too!

Of course this does not mean that we are to sit down, fold our hands and say, "Lord, now You said You'd take care of me. This is what I need for You to do for me." For example it would be foolish to ask God to help you make a good grade in your schoolwork when you do not take the time to study! We must do our part to the best of the ability God gives us. Colossians 3:23 says, "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men."

This is why we must live a good Christian life. Then we can come with confidence and ask His guidance and help. If we seek God and His righteousness first He promises to supply every other need!

—Uncle Dale



*Said the robin to the sparrow,
"I would really like to know
Why those anxious human beings
Rush around and worry so."*

*Said the sparrow to the robin,
"Friend, I think that it must be
That they have no Heavenly Father
Such as cares for you and me."*

—Elizabeth Cheney



what she had said when people asked her later. All she knew was that Jesus gave her a lesson for the time. People from different parts of the village called for her to teach them.

Fortwo months eight-year-old Jaya stayed in the village and lived with the poor children. Her daddy came from time to time and checked on her. During this time Vani became her special friend, just like a sister. It kept Jaya from feeling so lonesome for her own sister, Vijaya. Whatever Jaya needed Vani got for her.

Not all the people in the village wanted to hear about Jesus. Sometimes when Jaya walked from place to place the evil children threw rocks or sticks at her; some called her names. Many of the adults would not speak or even smile when she would speak to them.

When Matthew Kollipara came to take her home she was talking to a large crowd. "These are new believers," she told him.

"What a great many," he exclaimed. Then he gave Jaya a big hug and whispered in her ear, "You are doing more to change India than all the educated men in the whole Communist party." Jaya giggled and snuggled close to her daddy.

"It isn't me, Daddy," Jaya answered, "It is my dear Jesus. The little shepherds working near the cave started all this. That cave was the place Jesus wanted me to go."

Jaya said good-bye to all her new friends. She especially hoped that God would let her see Vani again.

How proud Mr. Kollipara felt to have such a special child. He walked her home, singing and whistling all the way. Jaya could see he was happy, and she was happy also to be going home again to see Mother, Vijaya and her baby sister.

After Jaya and her daddy returned home from Yerrapalem he treated her very good. So one day she ventured to

ask, "Daddy, are you a Christian now?" "Of course not," he stormed, "And don't talk to me about it. Just because I have humbled myself and will take you places doesn't mean I believe in your foolishness." Jaya couldn't understand such strange behavior.

A few weeks later, a well-dressed gentleman peeked over the high fence and asked, "Is this the home of Jaya Kollipara?"

"It is," answered the servant who was sweeping the yard.

"Permit me to speak with her father, please."

The servant disappeared and in a moment reappeared with Mr. Kollipara.

"Kind sir," the gentleman said, "I have come to invite your little girl to speak in a Christian convention at Mudenepalli. We are expecting many people and they are eager to hear the little girl of whom they have heard. May I inform my people that you will kindly accept this invitation?"

"It would be my pleasure to accept this invitation for my daughter, but I never tell her where to go nor when to return. After she prays, she will give you an answer. Will you come in and spend the night in the home of your humble servant?"

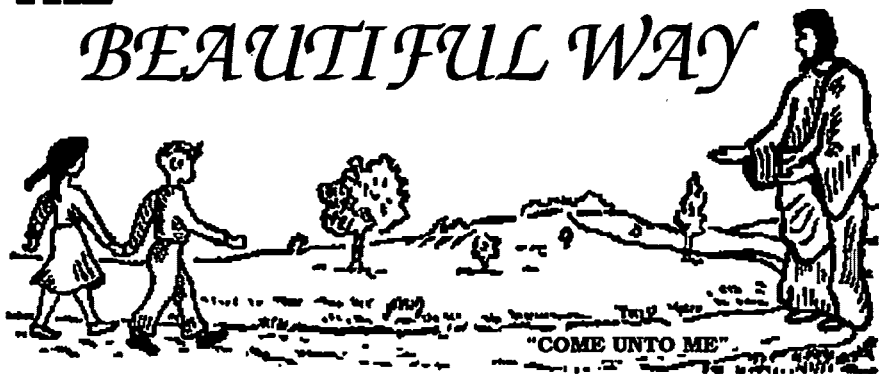
Jaya, who was playing with her dolls in the shade of the fence, was listening to the conversation. "Thank You, Jesus, that my daddy now loves the Christians," she whispered. "Thank You too that he lets me work for You."

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. God. 2. No. 3. Lilies. 4. Solomon. 5. God. 6. God knows we need these things. 7. The kingdom of God and His righteousness. 8. By prayer and supplication with thanksgiving. 9. It will keep our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 13 Sept. 28, 2003

Boys Start A Revival

(Continued from last week.)

A well-dressed gentleman came to Jaya's home and asked her father if Jaya would speak in a Christian convention at Mudanepalli. "We are expecting many people," he said, "and they are eager to hear the little girl of whom they have heard such wonderful things."

Jaya was listening to the conversation. As soon as her father took the gentleman into the house, she ran away to her secret prayer place and prayed a long time. At the end she said, 'Jesus, I'm always ready to do anything You wish. Just tell me what to do.' He let her know that He wanted her to go to Mudanepalli.

When they arrived in Mudanepalli a large crowd of Christians had already gathered. Jaya stood bravely in front of 1,000 people and opened her mouth. The Holy Spirit filled it with a message that touched the hearts of believers and unbelievers. When she finished talking, a hundred people were praying at the altar.

A very poor man, Mr. Yesudas, came to the meeting in Mudanepalli. He and his family had been saving money for a year so that Jaya would come and have a meeting in his home. The last day of the convention, he came to Jaya's father and asked, "Will

the little girl please come to my town and preach to my people. We have enough food for a three day meeting."

Mr. Kollipara looked at Mr. Yesudas' ragged clothes and doubted that he could supply for a meeting. Not knowing just what to say, he said, "I'll need to talk to Jaya and the other brethren before I can make a decision. I will tell you tomorrow."

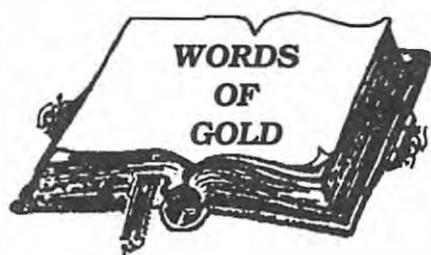
That night he and the brethren talked about it. "This man is so poor and thin, he may be accustomed to eating only two spoonfuls of rice a day. He may think that is all we eat," remarked one brother.

"At least he understands that he is responsible to feed all those who come, even if it is only a little," said another.

"This man is surely very poor, but how can we disappoint him and his family who have worked hard to save for this meeting?" asked another.

Another brother quoted Luke 4:18, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised."

"When John's disciples asked Jesus if He was the Saviour, He said: 'You will know me by what I do, The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the



The Power Of Praise

II Chronicles 20:1, 3-4, 12, 14-15, 17, 19, 20-22, 24

1 ...The children of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and with them other beside the Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle.

3 And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

4 And Judah gathered themselves together, to ask help of the LORD:...

12 O our God...we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee.

14 Then upon Jahaziel...came the spirit of the LORD in the midst of the congregation;

15 And he said,...Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's.

17 Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you.

19 And the Levites,...stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with a loud voice on high.

20 And they rose early in the morning,...and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of

Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.

21 And...he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever.

22 And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments...and they were smitten.

24 And...they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped.

The Message: When the battle is the Lord's, praise and singing are the most powerful weapons!

Questions:

1. Who came against Jehoshaphat to battle?
2. Who did Jehoshaphat seek?
3. What did he proclaim throughout all Judah?
4. Why did Judah gather together?
5. The prophet said, 'The battle is not yours, but ____.'
6. Who stood up to praise the Lord with a loud voice?
7. Who did Jehoshaphat appoint to go before the army?
8. What did the singers say?
9. How many of the enemy soldiers escaped?

Verse to Memorize

By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

Hebrews 13:15.

Let's



Talk . . .

One day Jehoshaphat heard that not just one king and his army, but three or four, were massing their forces together to fight against him! In a matter of a few minutes his situation became desperate. He knew that his little army looked like children compared to all of the mighty warriors coming against them!

In looking at this story we can learn a real lesson that teaches us how to get the victory whether we are in a great battle or just facing the problems in our everyday life. It is a wonderful example of the power of praising God and His great ability to save us. He is not limited by traditional methods and often delivers us in surprising ways when we trust Him fully!

Jehoshaphat's approach to his trouble is a good pattern to follow. He was greatly alarmed at the prospects of facing such a dreadful army. He could have gathered his army and weapons and begun intensive drilling on how to defeat the enemy or at least how to survive the attack. But he knew he had no chance against this great enemy. Only God could help them!

No doubt his first thoughts were, "What do I do?" He made the right choice—he told God all about his great trouble. He had been faithfully serving the Lord, so he set himself to seek His advice as to what he should do. But he didn't stop there. He called all the people together and proclaimed a fast. They would not eat until they knew God had heard their prayer!

As they fasted and prayed Jehoshaphat reminded the Lord how they had obeyed Him. He reminded Him of His promise to hear if they called to Him when they were in trouble. It is good for us to know the Word of God and to be well acquainted with His promises. When we find a promise we can stand on it!

God was pleased that they chose to trust in Him. It wasn't very long before He spoke through a prophet telling them, "Don't be afraid because of this great multitude. This battle is not yours. I will fight for you!" The Levites were so encouraged and certain of victory that they stood up and began praising the Lord with loud voices right then!

The next morning they got up early to head for the battle. Turning to the singers and those that were praising the Lord so boldly the day before, Jehoshaphat informed them that they would go on in front of the soldiers. They would be the first to face the formidable foe! "Go forward with your trumpets," he may have told them. "Don't worry—the soldiers will be backing you up!

So the singers took their place in front of the army. Then, as they marched forward singing praise to God for His promise of victory, the enemy began to fight one another! When Jehoshaphat and his army got to the battlefield all they saw were dead bodies—none had escaped!

You, too, face battles daily that you are not strong enough to fight on your own. Like Jehoshaphat you can come to God with confidence when you have been obedient to Him. Then study God's promises. Nail down the one that assures victory in this trial. Now you can praise God, even before the battle, knowing He will not fail to give you a great victory!

—Uncle Dale

deaf hear, the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them,' added a short brother. Jesus truly wants the poor to have the gospel" they all agreed.

"And Jesus will heal the sick and deliver the captives if the Christians give the gospel to the poor," Jaya's father said. "When Jaya was only seven-years-old she was preaching to the poor people. Some parents brought a little boy who had sores all over his body. Jaya prayed for him and Jesus healed the sores. He healed me too. That's why I have the bottle of medicine in my pocket that I never had to take." He took the medicine from his pocket and showed it to the men.

Then they asked Jaya if she wanted to go. "I am ready to go wherever the people want to hear about Jesus," she answered.

The next day the brethren loaded an ox cart with their luggage and put nine-year-old Jaya on the seat. As people at the convention watched them loading up, more and more Christians joined the group. When the ox drawn cart finally left Mudanepalli and started on the dusty road to Avyrlagads, forty people were walking behind it singing songs of praise to God.

When they arrived in Avyrlagads where Mr. Yesudas lived, he led them to a place that looked more like a stable than a home. The house had only posts and a thatch roof. Many brethren burst into tears when they saw the pitiful condition, and realized how much the family was sacrificing to have a gospel meeting. Those who had criticized felt very ashamed. "How sad, how sad," they said. Others were tormented with fear of what they might suffer in this place.

Mr. Yesudas politely introduced the forty brethren to his wife and six boys. All of the boys were under fourteen years of age. "These four boys,"

he said pointing to the four older ones, "have worked as slaves for one year so we could have this meeting."

"Working as a slave is terrible. Every day the slave must do whatever the master wants. After the master's family has eaten until they are full, he gets only the food left over. One slave must babysit the family cow or cows. This slave sleeps with the cows, cleans up their droppings, gives them a bath every day, sees that they have plenty of food and that they are kept safe from danger. Often the slaves work long hours in the hot sun and usually have very little to eat."

"This family has given all for Jesus," said one brother. "God will surely give a revival."

Many people gathered for the first day of the meeting. After everyone had finished eating all the food was gone. "What shall we do for tomorrow?" the brethren were asking each other.

The next morning a rich neighbor sent plenty of food for breakfast. The servant who delivered the food handed Mr. Yesudas a note. It read: "Yesterday as I was taking a walk I heard the gospel message. I want to help so I'm sending this food." —Your neighbor

At lunchtime the lady sent another cart full of food. The meeting, which had been planned for three days, continued five days and the rich woman supplied three meals every day for all the people who attended.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. The children of Moab and Ammon. 2. The Lord. 3. A fast. 4. To ask help from the Lord. 5. God's. 6. The Levites. 7. Singers. 8. "Praise the Lord for His mercy endures for ever." 9. None.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 1 Oct. 5, 2003

God Answers Prayer

(Continued from last week.)

"Come sit on my lap and be my little girl while you can." Mr. Kollipara said to eleven-year-old Jaya. "You are growing up so fast and will soon be getting married and leaving me forever."

Jaya lived in India. There it was a custom for girls to marry while they were still very young children. Jaya was thankful she had not been forced to marry. She had been working for Jesus, going wherever He sent her since she was only seven-years-old. Her only desire was to continue to help people know her Jesus.

"I'm not old enough to get married," Jaya answered.

"Your mother was younger than you are when we were married. But she wasn't as pretty as you," he said teasingly to Jaya.

Jaya tucked her head shyly and added. "Remember, Daddy, I'm never going to marry. I'm going to always stay with my dear daddy and we can travel together preaching the Gospel." Then leaning her head on his chest and patting him on the cheek she added. "How wonderful that you now love Jesus!"

"It took a lot to convince me that God existed and that Jesus was real. I was so proud and wanted to run my own life. Can you forgive me for beat-

ing you and trying to force you to give up Jesus?"

"Oh yes, Daddy, I had forgiven you years ago," she said as if she was very old. "We'll just work together for Jesus from now on. We have somewhere to go right now, Jesus told me today that we should go to Thativar."

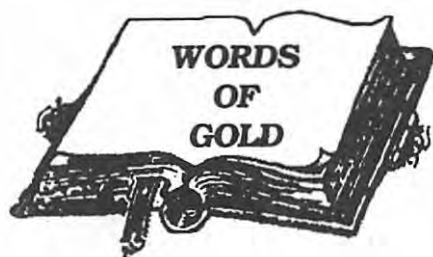
"Thativar, so far away? Child, do you realize how difficult it is to travel during the rainy season? These monsoon rains can put a stop to all travel. How will we ever get there?"

"When God says 'go' He will get us there," Jaya said confidently.

"Well then little Miss Faithful, we shall leave tomorrow. Get your trunk packed."

Jaya packed clothes for herself and her daddy in the metal trunk that he had purchased to make her traveling easier. The trunk was now two years old but as strong as ever. Rain fell all night and was falling when Jaya and Daddy walked to the bus stop. Later in the day they changed to another bus. After they had ridden a long ways on that bus, they boarded a train that went within five miles of the village. When Jaya and her father stepped off the train the rain had stopped.

Mr. Kollipara hoisted the heavy trunk on his broad shoulders and they started on the five mile trail to the village. The trail led through many rice fields. Jaya was short for an eleven



He Purposed In His Heart

Daniel 1:4-12, 14-15, 17

4 Children...skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science,...whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.

5 And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king.

6 Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishaël, and Azariah:

7 Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishaël, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego.

8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

9 Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.

10 And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which are of your sort? then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king.

11 Then said Daniel...

12 Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink.

14 So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days.

15 And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat.

17 As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

The Message: When we purpose to be true to God in the small temptations He will give us strength to overcome in great trials.

Questions:

1. What did the king want to teach the children who were skilful and wise?
2. What did the king appoint for them daily?
3. What were they to do after three years?
4. What four children of Judah were chosen?
5. What did Daniel purpose?
6. Who had God brought into favor with the prince of the eunuchs?
7. How long did Daniel ask him to prove them?
8. What did he ask to be given to eat?
9. How did they look after this time?

Verse to Memorize

But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself...

Daniel 1:8.

Let's



Talk . . .

As Christians we know we must guard against the big sins such as immorality, murder and hatred. But we also need to realize how important it is to be very careful about what is considered to be the lesser things. It's easy to shrug our shoulders and say, "That doesn't matter."

I remember several years ago when our children were small. We had gone to town to do some shopping. After we got back home we noticed one of the children playing with a new toy which we didn't remember buying. He wasn't trying to hide it and upon questioning he said he just picked it up at the store.

It was just a little toy, costing just a few cents. But we knew what this could lead to if it wasn't dealt with. So we took time with him, instructing him about the wrong of taking something that did not belong to him. Then we went back with him to the store and he apologized to the storekeeper. After going through this embarrassment and humiliation he realized that what he had done was wrong. I don't think he has ever done that again!

The Bible instructs, "Thou shalt not steal." A thief usually starts by just taking little things that do not belong to him.

Daniel was taken captive and carried from his home to the great city of Babylon. He was taken to live among those who did not know the true God. He could have been killed like several others but instead God gave him favor with his captors.

When the king commanded that young men should be chosen from the captives who were wise and strong, Daniel and three of his friends were chosen. The king was willing to give them special treatment and food from his own table for a space of three years to make sure that they were perfectly healthy.

But Daniel knew God would be displeased if he ate the king's meat. He could have easily reasoned, "Now this is a command of the king that I must obey. The Lord will understand!" Or he could have eaten a little, just enough to satisfy him. That would be like offering thanks for the food at a big restaurant. We might bow our heads and act like we are scratching our nose or rubbing our eyes while we say a fast "Lord bless this food. Amen!"

Daniel didn't do that. Verse 8 says Daniel "purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat." That meant that he had his mind made up even before he went to talk to the prince of the eunuchs.

If you will learn this lesson while you are young and purpose in your heart that "I will not tell a lie even a little white one," or, "I will not steal, not even a penny," or, "I will not let myself get angry and if I do any of these things I will make it right immediately!"

Also if you do anything that you know is sin don't give up the Lord. Instead ask Him to forgive you right then. He will bless you with a happy, contented life! You will be able to sleep at night without guilt. When you are in church and the preacher is telling about the awfulness of sin and the horrors of hell you will feel so good. You can say, "He is not talking about me because I have that all taken care of! Be faithful in the little things!"

—Uncle Dale

year old, and the water in the paddy fields came up to her knees. She held her white dress up out of the water and carefully followed her daddy. Suddenly she slipped and fell. One side of her dress was covered with mud. A little farther on they passed an irrigation canal. Daddy set his trunk on the bank and helped Jaya wash the mud from her dress. They walked a little ways on the trail and she fell again.

"How can this child know what she is doing?" Daddy questioned as he again washed the mud from her not-so-white dress. Jaya was so happy that her daddy was there to help her that she never complained.

The water caused their feet to become very soft. From time to time when Jaya's sandals slipped off, sharp rocks cut through the soft skin.

When they arrived at the village of Thativar, Mr. Kollipara asked a man standing by the road. "Are there any Christians in town?" He directed them to Sis. Holy's home.

"Everyone in this city is Hindu except for Bro. Eleza and me," Sis. Holy said as she washed Jaya's bleeding feet with warm water. When she had patted them dry she fetched castor oil and rubbed it tenderly over them.

Sis. Holy fussed and fumed over them all the time that they were in town. She cooked food, made beds for them, washed their clothes and treated them like long lost relatives.

Jaya and Mr. Kollipara prayed for God to show them what to do so that the people of Thativar would become believers. God started a revival fire.

One important city official who was a Hindu had a court trial. Hearing that the Christian's God answered prayers, he came and asked them to pray.

They prayed.

He won.

Then he began telling the people, "You know the Christian's God really helps people." Soon people began

bringing the sick. Others brought those possessed with devils. One doctor brought his mother who had a curse put on her. She was very sick and had a demon. After praying, God sent the devil out of her.

As this news spread, people from far away began bringing the sick in ox carts. It was amazing even to Jaya that so many were healed. At the end of each day Jaya prayed, "Oh God, You are so good. You do so many wonderful things. I can never thank You for everything."

The people in India like to give food or drink to others. They are following a Biblical principle although they may not know it. For the Bible says, "Whoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward."

Now a constant stream of people were coming to Sis. Holy's door inviting Jaya and her daddy to eat in their homes. One day as they were walking back to Sis. Holy's hut, Jaya said to her daddy, "This is wonderful! We've eaten five breakfasts this morning."

"All because of the goodness of God," Daddy said. Then he teasingly added, "Don't get so fat you can't walk back to the train station. Remember it's five long miles."

For many weeks the people kept coming for prayer until almost every person in the village of Thativar was saved.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. The tongue (language) from his own table. 3. Stand before the king. 4. Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. 5. To not defile himself with the king's meat or wine. 6. Daniel. 7. Ten days. 8. Pulse and water. 9. Fairer and fatter than those who ate the king's meat.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 2 Oct. 12, 2003

Jaya Becomes A Lady

(Continued from last week.)

While Jaya and her daddy, Mr. Kollipara, were leading a revival in Thativar, she spent much time in prayer. In her secret prayer place behind Sis. Holy's hut, she talked with Jesus as freely as other children talk to a close friend. Sometimes Sis. Holy would think she was sick or asleep and would peek in on her, but she always found Jaya alive and well. She was either glowing like an angel or crying with compassion for others.

Mr. Kollipara was a businessman. When he wasn't helping in the gospel work, he was buying and selling or making business deals. Sometimes while selling he told stories of the times he had tricked the Hindu priests by hiding their gods. When they couldn't find their gods, he would say, "You serve helpless gods, a man has more power than they have. I serve a God so powerful He can't be hidden nor destroyed."

Sometimes he told how he had worked many years with the communist party trying to help the poor. He would end his talk by saying, "I have discovered that Jesus can do more for the poor in an instant than I could do in a lifetime, so I'm working for Him."

One day Jaya said, "Daddy, Jesus is saying, 'Go home, go home.'"

"Do you think something serious has happened to Mamma or your sisters?"

"I do not know why Jesus is saying, 'Go home,' I just know He is, and we must go."

"Well, maybe God is through with you here for most of the villagers have become Christians," Daddy answered. "And when we came Sis. Holy and Bro. Eleza were the only Christians in town," Jaya said excitedly.

When the people heard they were leaving, they came begging: "Please don't go. Live herewith us. We will see that you have everything you need. Please, please, stay just awhile longer and teach us more about Jesus."

Daddy turned to Jaya and said, "Maybe we should stay awhile longer."

"Jesus says, 'Go home,'" Jaya insisted. "We must go now." No amount of begging could change Jaya's mind. She was going home.

The day they left, men, women and children walked with them to the train station. Only those who were too old or too small to make the trip and a few remaining unbelievers stayed in the village. All along the five mile trail among the rice fields they sang hymns and praises to God.

The Indians cried, waved and shouted God's blessings on their little evangelist as the train carried her away. Jaya watched from the window



No Prejudice

James 2:1-9

1 My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.

2 For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;

3 And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:

4 Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

5 Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

6 But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?

7 Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?

8 If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

9 But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

Galatians 3:26-28

26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

I Chronicles 17:7-8

7 Now therefore thus shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the Lord of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, even from following the sheep, that thou shouldest be ruler over my people Israel:

8 And I have been with thee whithersoever thou hast walked, and have cut off all thine enemies from before thee, and have made thee a name like the name of the great men that are in the earth.

The Message: God is no respecter of persons and neither should a Christian have prejudice against any person.

Questions:

1. Should brethren have respect of persons?
2. What example does our lesson give of being partial?
3. Who has God chosen?
4. What are some things rich men do?
5. What is the royal law?
6. What is the sin studied in this lesson?
7. Are all races of people the children of God?
8. From where did God call David to be king of Israel?
9. Who made David's name like the name of great men?

Verse to Memorize

But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

James 2:9.

Let's



Talk . . .

In the Bible prejudice is called "having respect of persons." Prejudice is suspicion, intolerance or irrational hatred of other races, religions, regions or occupations. It is not based on facts. It is unfair judgment that does not give a person the chance to earn respect. We all know that respect is earned by a person's attitude and conduct. That is why one person is respected more than another. A father supplies for his family and earns their respect. A minister gives wise counsel and earns respect. A friend helps when needed and is respected for it. Prejudice doesn't allow a person this chance to earn respect.

All people, even strangers, should be respected as a person who is a creation of God with the hidden potential of being a real saint. Christ loved the most unlovable persons and gave His life for them also.

God sometimes calls great leaders from among the outcasts. John Newton, who wrote "Amazing Grace," was once a slave trader. George Washington Carver lived in a time when the blacks had very few opportunities. Most people were so prejudiced they would not give him a fair chance, but he found some people who respected him.

God had chosen him for a special work and he worked hard to accomplish it. Carver developed several hundred industrial uses for peanuts, sweet potatoes and soybeans and developed a new type of cotton known as Carver's hybrid. His dis-

coveries were a great blessing to the southern farmers.

The apostles taught that God has no respect of persons, and that it is a sin to have such prejudice.

The following story is a good example of how God is no respecter of persons. —Charlotte Huskey

One More Time

In a manufacturing town in Scotland a young lady began teaching a Sunday school class of poverty-stricken boys. The most unpromising youngster was a boy named Bob.

After the first two or three Sundays he did not return so the teacher went to look for him.

Although the superintendent had given Bob some new clothes, they were already worn out when the teacher found him. He was given another new suit, and he came back to Sunday school. But soon he quit again, and the teacher went out once more to find him. When she did, she discovered that the second set of clothes had gone the way of the first.

"I am completely discouraged about Bob," she told the superintendent. "I guess we must give up on him."

"Please don't do that," he pleaded. "I believe there is still hope. Try him one more time."

They gave Bob a third suit of clothes, and this time he began to attend faithfully. It wasn't long until he became a Christian and eventually even taught in that same Sunday school!

This obstinate, ragged boy, who for a time seemed so unreachable, was Robert Morrison. He became the first Protestant missionary to China. He translated the Bible into Chinese. Now many millions of people can have the Word of God.

—Selected

until the train made a turn that blocked them from her sight.

A few days later when Jaya awoke she saw her mother and the servant scurrying about in a hurry. "What is happening?" she asked.

"The time has come to celebrate that our little girl is now a young lady," her father answered. "Your grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins have been anxiously awaiting this celebration. They will soon be here."

Jaya turned her face toward the wall and said, "Thank you God for sending me home so our family would not be disappointed."

As soon as the uncles got together they started talking about getting Jaya married. "Matthew, you have made a big mistake in not forcing Jaya to study," one said.

Another uncle bragged, "Both my girls are finishing high school. I won't have to pay much dowry. But you—you'll have to pay a high dowry to get Jaya a husband."

"But she doesn't want to get married," Jaya heard her daddy say.

"Her younger sisters will want to get married. You surely don't think any family will let their son marry a younger daughter before Jaya is married? It is unheard of in India."

"Someone may," her daddy answered. You all thought we would be stranded away from home and not get to have this important celebration, but you see, God didn't let it happen."

"Yes, this has really made a believer out of me," her mother's brother said.

"Jaya always said, 'God will not bring a reproach on His people,'" her father told them.

Then the uncle added, "This Christ you all serve does seem to know everything. I can't say that for the Hindu gods. And by the way, I did bring the

palm leaves for her bed."

Jaya knew what that would mean. She would have to stay on a special bed made from these palm leaves for the next ten days while others served her as if she were a queen. On the tenth night, at midnight, she would be carried outside and placed on a special wooden stool. Then the palm leaves would be burned. On the eleventh day the ladies would give her a special bath and shampoo her hair. The bath water would be thrown on the palm ashes, and Jaya would be an official young woman.

But today, and for those next nine days, she must eat the food others would bring, beans, rice and brown sugar and sit like a lady, while her friends presented her with gifts and anointed her with butter. (Butter is a product from the cow and is believed to bring special blessings.) Jaya was happy but wondered how she could stay away from her secret prayer place for eleven days.

The eleventh day was the grand day of the feast. Most everyone in the village of Kollipara came to wish her well. They ate the mutton and rice that the servants had prepared for them. Jaya finished up all the rituals of touching salt and grain and she thanked God again that He had led her home at the right time.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. No. 2. If a rich man would come to church he would be given a good seat while a poor man would be told to sit on a stool. (Word-ing will vary). 3. The poor who are rich in faith. 4. Oppress the Christians, take others to court and blaspheme God's name. 5. "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." 6. The sin of prejudice or having respect of persons. 7. Yes. 8. From following sheep. 9. God.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 3 Oct. 19, 2003

A New Friend

(Continued from last week.)

Not long after Uaya gave her heart to Jesus He began directing her to people who needed to hear the Gospel. Although she was only seven-years-old at the time, she knew Jesus' voice well and always obeyed Him promptly. Soon people from all over heard about how Jesus worked through her to heal the sick and tell the way to be saved.

"Another letter for Jaya," said the servant as he handed it to Mrs. Kollipara. "Letters are coming to her from all over India."

"And most of them are asking her to teach about Jesus," Jaya's mother exclaimed. "Isn't it wonderful that so many people are learning about our precious Saviour? And to think that God has chosen our 'crazy girl' to do it!"

"That's how we all felt about her but she has proved to us and to the world that she isn't crazy at all. She just had so much of God's wisdom that we could not understand her."

Jaya was beside the well washing the rice. Mother carried the letter to her. Jaya opened the letter, and read:

Dear Little Maiden,

Will you please come to our home and teach my family and our village about Jesus. You may stay in our

home, and we will see that you are taken care of....

"May I go?"

"I am so glad you asked our permission."

"Oh, Mother, I never meant to be disrespectful when I used to go away without asking. I—I just loved my Jesus so much I wanted to follow Him real fast."

"Yes, I know, and if Jesus says to go, your father and I are willing. We know now that God is guiding you. But be sure God is saying, 'Go,' for my family and our friends are pressing your father to make you attend school and get an education. He's about ready to do it."

Hurriedly Jaya went to her secret prayer place among the thorn bushes. "Jesus, I love You more than anyone but I don't want to cause my daddy trouble. Shall I go?"

The answer was "Yes," so she packed her metal trunk and promptly went to the village and found the home of the woman who had invited her.

The woman was very nice, but when she was away her children would criticize and make fun of Jaya. Soon the neighbor children were also saying, "We don't want to hear what you have to say. You aren't old enough to teach us." Day after day Jaya only smiled when the children teased and persecuted her. How she wished to



Drifting

Luke 15:11-24

11 And he said, A certain man had two sons:

12 And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.

13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.

15 And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

16 And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

17 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee.

19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on

his neck, and kissed him.

21 And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:

23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry:

24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

The Message:
Finding the path
of least resis-
tance is fine for
water but not for
Christians.

Questions:

1. How many sons did the man have?
2. Which son asked his father for his portion of goods?
3. Where did this son go?
4. How did he waste his substance?
5. What happened after he had spent all he had?
6. What kind of job did he get?
7. What did he decide to do?
8. Where was he when his father saw him?
9. What did the father do?

Verse to Memorize

**How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation;...
Hebrews 2:3.**

Let's



Talk . . .

It all began as just an innocent adventure. It was such a beautiful sunny morning. The boys decided, "Why not get the canoe out and explore the old river?" It is true that they knew there were dangerous places in it. And they had heard that way on down there somewhere the river dropped off into a giant waterfall.

Of course it would be certain death if they went over the falls and some people had done just that. They considered that possibility but decided that it wouldn't happen to them. They were young and strong and they had a good boat.

So they pushed off from the shore. For awhile they paddled along contentedly near the shoreline. But it wasn't long before they decided the river was too calm here. They were ready for more action!

One of them suggested, "Let's go on out toward the middle!"

When they got a distance from shore they reached a current strong enough to propel the boat along. "Now this is neat!" they congratulated each other. "The water is moving us along so nice we don't even have to paddle. We can just lay back, take it easy and enjoy the scenery!"

So they drifted along enjoying the ride. But after awhile they realized the current was much stronger and their boat was picking up speed. One of the boys looked toward the distant shoreline. He felt a little anxious about being so far out and suggested, "Maybe we'd better get closer to the bank!"

His companion looked around and replied, "Oh no, we have plenty of

time. We can pull closer to shore later. Let's just enjoy this good ride." Later when they glanced toward the shore they could see people waving at them. They were calling to them but they were so far away they could not make out their words. They looked around and realized, "Maybe we ought to change our course!" But about that time they noticed something just ahead that looked interesting. "Let's wait a little while," they decided. "We can change anytime we want to. Those folks just don't realize how strong we are. Besides this adventure is exciting!"

After awhile they saw a sign warning them that they were headed for great danger. This caused them to finally decide that it was time to head for safety.

So they each grabbed an oar and began rowing with all their might. It was then that they realized that the current was too strong for them. In spite of all their effort to resist, the current was propelling them downstream faster and faster. Now they could hear the distant roar of the falls!

They realized too late that they could not possibly make it back to shore in their own strength. They started praying, "Oh God, help us!"

Someone saw their plight and notified the pilot of a helicopter. He was able to arrive just in time to lower a line so they could be rescued. They had drifted along until almost too late, but for them help had come from above just in time.

In thinking about it, how many don't take advantage of the help God offers from above? The pleasures of sin are so fleeting. Satan will try to just rock us to sleep to get us to put off salvation until one day we will find out it is too late. How many older people do you see that get saved?

—Uncle Dale

escape and be alone with her Jesus, but everywhere she went they followed.

The woman was gone most of the day for there was much work to be done in the rice fields and she was helping her husband and the other workers. For protection against her persecutors, Jaya followed the woman to the field. There she found some trees and snuggled into a thicket. There was happiness, alone with her loving Jesus. Bowing in prayer, she said, "Oh Jesus, I love You, and I'm willing to suffer for You. But Jesus, I don't like what these children say to me. It makes me feel so-o-o bad. Isn't there somewhere else I can stay? Are there some other people in this village that want to know about You? Can I do something else?" Jaya remained a long time in prayer.

Finally Jesus gave her the answer, "Have a street meeting."

"I will need someone to help me sing songs," she told Jesus. Knowing that He would provide singers, Jaya began planning for an evening street meeting.

News spread about the meeting and a young man came to Jaya. "I will play music to attract the people," he said. "Then I will sing gospel hymns."

"Wonderful!" Jaya exclaimed.

Then she noticed a package of cigarettes in his shirt pocket. "Forgive me, but I didn't ask your name," she said rather shyly. "My name is Paul and I am twenty-five years old," he answered. "What is your name?"

"My name is Jayapradha Kollipara, but everyone calls me Jaya. You live on the other side of the village?" she asked.

"Yes, there are some Christians living over there."

"Paul, are you a Christian?" she asked.

"Yes," he said proudly, "I'm a fourth generation Christian. My great grand-

father, my grandfather, and my father were Christians."

"How wonderful that you have saved parents!" she exclaimed. "My father's grandfather was a Hindu priest. My mother's people were also Hindus and devoted to worshipping snakes. My dear mother used to walk fourteen miles just to worship in a special cobra temple. Thanks to my Jesus, they are now both Christians. But I didn't ask if you were born in a Christian home. I asked, 'Are you a Christian?'"

"Of course I'm a Christian," he answered more boldly.

Jaya looked Paul straight in the eye. God says, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death," she said. "Are you free from sin?"

Without saying a word, Paul jerked the cigarettes out of his pocket and crushed them. "I need a personal experience with Jesus," he admitted. The meeting started right then when Jaya prayed with Paul until he was saved. Now Paul sang the gospel from his heart.

Many came to hear the gospel and were saved. The street meeting turned into a great revival in the village.

Jaya made many new friends in the village, ones she would remember for a long time. She returned home happy that she had again obeyed Jesus.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Two. 2. The younger son. 3. To a far country. 4. On riotous living. 5. There was a mighty famine. 6. He fed swine (pigs). 7. Go to his father. 8. A great way off. 9. Ran to him and kissed him.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 4 Oct. 26, 2003

Remembering God's Blessings

(Continued from last week.)

Sad news was awaiting Jaya when she returned from another preaching trip. Vani had gotten married. She was the shepherd girl who had been so nice to Jaya when she was alone. A few weeks after their wedding her husband had died!

Being a widow was about the worst thing that could happen to an Indian girl. In the olden days many devoted wives burned to death with the body of her husband as it was being burned. Today the country's laws will not permit such actions. But once in a while a widow will do it. She chooses death, rather than the cruel abuse often received from in-laws. The custom is that a widow stay with her husband's family until death. Some families so strongly resent having to support their son's widow that many have caused "accidental death" to get rid of her. Jaya hoped nothing like that would happen to dear Vani.

Most Indians believe God causes a husband to die because he is displeased with the wife. The widow's own family, as well as the family of her husband, treat her with scorn. Some have a special ceremony in which she is covered with a cloth, meaning that

no one wants to see her face. Also a widow must wear only dull clothing. Jaya knew Vani loved brilliant colors and bright flower prints.

Jaya had seen widows suffering. How she hated to think that kind, loving Vani, only twelve-years-old, would now be so rejected. Jaya rushed away to her place of prayer. As she worked her way among the thorn bushes a thorn tore into her arm. "Ouch, you ugly thorn. Don't you stick me," she cried. Then she thought of a different thorn that was piercing Vani's heart. "Oh, Jesus," she prayed, "please comfort Vani. Help her know that You can turn her troubles into blessings."

As Jaya prayed for Vani, she remembered times that God had turned her troubles into blessings. She was only seven-years-old and Jesus had sent her to a certain village. Entering the village she heard a woman wailing and saw a great crowd of people surrounding a hut. "What is happening?" Jaya asked.

"These parents have already buried five children and their only living one is very sick," she was told.

Quietly Jaya entered the hut and prayed for the child. Jesus healed the child. Then many people wanted to hear about Jesus, so they built a large arbor and nearly the whole village came to hear Jaya talk. Then is when



He Paid Too Much For His Whistle

I Kings 12:1, 3-13

1 And Rehoboam went to Shechem: for all Israel were come to Shechem to make him king.

3 ...And all the congregation of Israel came, and spake unto Rehoboam, saying,

4 Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee.

5 And he said unto them, Depart yet for three days, then come again to me. And the people departed.

6 And king Rehoboam consulted with the old men, that stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, and said, How do ye advise that I may answer this people?

7 And they spake unto him, saying, If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants for ever.

8 But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men...

9 And he said unto them, What counsel give ye that we may answer this people, who have spoken to me, saying, Make the yoke which thy father did put upon us lighter?

10 And the young men that were grown up with him spake unto him,

saying, Thus shalt thou speak unto this people that spake unto thee, saying, Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou it lighter unto us: thus shalt thou say unto them, My little finger shall be thicker than my father's loins.

11 And now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke: my father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.

12 So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had appointed, saying, Come to me again the third day.

13 And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the old men's counsel that they gave him.

The Message: There is a reward for your actions whether they are good or bad.

Questions:

1. Who went to Shechem?
2. Why had all Israel come to Shechem?
3. What did the people say they would do if he made their yoke lighter?
4. How long did he ask them to wait for an answer?
5. With whom did he consult first?
6. What did he do with the counsel of the old men?
7. With whom did he consult next?
8. How did the king answer the people?

Verse to Memorize

For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

Ecclesiastes 12:14.

Let's



Talk . . .

Ben was his name. He was about seven-years-old at the time that he learned a lesson that he remembered the rest of his life. In fact it was so indelibly stamped in his memory that it served to keep him from more serious mistakes down through the years!

One day Ben went downtown and passed the window of the toy store. Stopping to look at the displays he saw a beautiful whistle that caught his eye. He made up his mind then and there; he wanted that whistle. In fact he just had to have that whistle! Hurrying home he went right to his room. Taking his money from the place where he had it hidden, he rushed back to the toy store. Then putting all of his money on the counter he let the clerk know that he wanted that whistle but that he would pay that amount for the whistle and no more!

The clerk looked at the pile of money for awhile then seeing Ben's determined look, he agreed. "All right," he said, "I'll let you have it for that amount of money!"

Ben left the store feeling like he'd gotten an awfully good deal. He went his way happily blowing his whistle. In fact you could tell he was coming because you could hear his whistle before he came in sight!

But along came his older brother sometime later. He asked Ben where he got his new whistle. Then he asked him how much he paid for it. He didn't say too much right then but he soon went to the toy store

himself to check the price of a whistle like Ben's.

Then he came back and started laughing at Ben. By demanding to pay his own price for the whistle he had paid more than what they were even asking for it! Of course everyone who heard about his "bargain" laughed at Ben. Soon they had Ben in tears. He didn't like the whistle near as much since he found out he had paid far too much for it. But from this experience he learned a lesson that served him well for the rest of his life. Remembering what he'd done made him carefully consider what he was about to do. He would ask himself, "Will this be worth the price I'll have to pay?"

In our lesson Rehoboam had the kingdom and he had the wise men to give him counsel. If he had followed their wisdom he could have won the hearts of the people and they would have served him faithfully. Instead he took the young men's recommendation and it was bad advice. He didn't take time to consider the cost. And it cost him the kingdom and he almost lost his life. He paid too much for his "whistle!"

Let's consider ways we may pay too much for our "whistle." Perhaps you have the temptation to just try sin for awhile to enjoy the pleasures that look so enticing. "I won't go deep in sin," you promise yourself. "I just want to enjoy it for awhile. I definitely plan to be saved—but not just yet. I don't want to be lost!"

Have you ever seen a fly get into a spider's web? It looks like he could easily break the web and get out. But the first thing you know the spider gets close enough to throw another loop of web over him. Pretty soon he is bound. Even people who know they are soon going out into eternity often feel that it is just too hard to break out of the web they've gotten caught in!

—Uncle Dale

the real trouble started. The village leader was a communist and hated Christianity. He gathered trouble-makers and disrupted the meetings. He told them to capture Jaya and put her in a well. "We'll see if there is a God that can get her out of the well," he told them.

Some Christians heard about the wicked plan and hid her in a strong house. Inside the sturdy wall she could hear the angry men chanting, "We're gonna get her. We're gonna kill her!" Just remembering about it made Jaya shiver. When they had finally given up and were returning home in the dark, God caused several of them to fall and to be badly hurt. Jaya could still see the excited faces of the boys who told her about the men falling.

When the village leader got to his home, he found his infant baby at the point of death. The doctor who was there could do nothing that helped the child. Some suggested that perhaps God had allowed the sickness because he was persecuting God's children.

"It couldn't be," he had said. "There is no God."

But others thought God had healed the child for which Jaya had prayed. "Go ask forgiveness. Maybe that little girl will pray for your baby too," the grandfather advised.

"I can't do that," the father had said. "The brethren will punish me for tearing up their meeting." However his father had come and asked her forgiveness Jaya remembered. She would have gone immediately to pray for his grandchild, but the brethren thought it was only a trick. When they saw that she was determined to go, about two hundred Christians went with her. God instantly healed the baby and the communist leader became a Christian and had a red dress made for Jaya.

"That was five years ago," she said to herself. "The dress is far too small. But it reminds me of that time God changed my troubles into a blessing." Then she remembered many other troubles that had changed into blessings.

"My loving Jesus," she began praying again. "Please turn these troubles of my friend Vani into great blessings... Amen."

Jaya worked her way carefully back through the thorn bushes and went to the house hoping to help her mother with the evening meal. As she walked in she noticed the meal was all ready and there was a letter on the table.

The letter was from Mr. Yesudas. Quickly Jaya read it aloud:

Dear Little Maiden,

Thank you for coming to Avyrlagads and preaching the gospel. The revival, which started when you were here, is still flaming. Many are getting saved. My four older boys are also boldly announcing the Good News.

The dear neighbor who so graciously supplied food for our meeting is still supporting the work here.

Thank you for your effort.

Your humble servant,

—Mr. Yesudas

When Jaya finished reading Mother gave her a little hug. Jaya knew that she too was happy that many were getting saved and that God was using others to preach His Word.

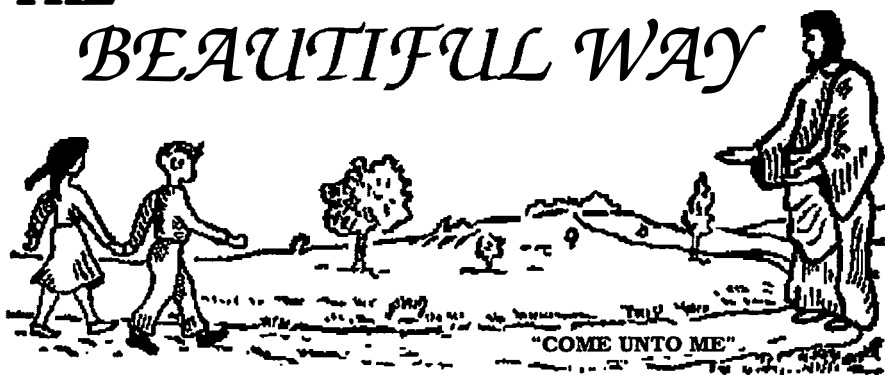
But Jaya couldn't believe she had spent all afternoon praying and remembering God's blessings!

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Rehoboam.
2. To make him king. 3. Serve him. 4. Three days. 5. The old men. 6. Forsook it. 7. The young men. 8. Roughly.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 5 Nov. 2, 2003

Leaving Home

(Continued from last week.)

It was raining when Jaya awoke. Her mother was calling, "Get up, get up." Jaya had heard the rain during the night and from the looks of the sky it would be raining all day again.

It was the time of the monsoon rains. The food supply of India depended a great deal on this rain. Jaya was thankful for the rains but somehow this morning it added to the gloom she felt. Mother too looked very sad. She did not serve breakfast with her usual cheery smile. Daddy ate rapidly and left.

After helping with the breakfast dishes, Jaya hurried away to her secret prayer place. Surely something was terribly wrong. After a good long visit with her Jesus Jaya felt better. She knew Jesus would take care of everything.

On her way back to the house, she met Mother at the edge of the rice field. Mother was crying. "My child, my child, your father is very upset," she sobbed. "Your uncles and grandfather talked with him yesterday. They say he must force you to make something out of yourself. They say you are wasting your life running around talking about Jesus."

"Mommy. I'm not wasting my life.

I'm helping many people."

"I know, Jaya, and so does your daddy. But what they say is also true. What will you do when you are old if you have no children to care for you? How will you have children unless some man will marry you? And what decent family will want their son to marry a girl who hasn't finished the first grade?"

"Don't worry about me getting married. God will take care of me."

"Both families are pressuring your father very hard. He's about to go crazy. He says if you would go away then the pressure would be off him." "No. Mommy!" Jaya protested.

"Oh, Jaya, I do hate to see you go but I think it would be best."

"But where would I go? All the brethren are poor. This season of the year some of them have hardly anything to eat. Which of them has food enough for another mouth?"

"Your Jesus will take care of you. He always has."

"But Mother, I'd miss all of you and my home, and most of all my prayer place and my daddy dear. Dear Daddy, how could he wish that I go away?" Jaya covered her face and cried.

"I know it will be hard but it's better to go away in peace than by force."



How Are You Building?

I Timothy 6:9-12, 17-19

9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

Luke 6:47-49

47 Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like:

48 He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the

flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.

49 But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

Psalm 127:1

1 Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

The Message: Be very careful to build upon a good foundation!

Questions:

1. What happens to those who are determined to be rich?
2. What is the root of all evil?
3. Paul named six things we should follow after. How many of them can you name?
4. What are we fighting to lay hold on (obtain)?
5. The rich should not trust in their riches but rather in Whom?
6. Who gives us richly all things to enjoy?
7. Those who hear and do Jesus' sayings are like the man who laid his foundation on what?
8. Those who do not hear are like the man who built without what?
9. If the Lord does not build the house they labor in ____ that build it.

Verse to Memorize

But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

I Timothy 6:11.

Let's



Talk . . .

Harry Truman was just an ordinary man most of his life. It was in the last few months of his life that he became famous.

As a young man Harry enlisted in the Army. He was an airplane mechanic and learned to fly. He was fortunate to have no crashes.

After the war he married. It was illegal to make or sell whiskey but Harry lived out in the hills where it was easy to hide his operation. He began making his own whiskey and was soon making lots of money. But he got in trouble with outlaws like himself and he had to leave that place to save his life. He and his young family went into hiding at Spirit Lake in Washington State. Here he bought land on a mountain side.

This was beautiful country. Harry decided to build a big lodge and rent rooms to the many tourists who came to enjoy the scenery. Now it seemed he had achieved his life's dreams. He was making lots of money and after marrying three times he had finally found a wife he loved.

Then one day there was an earthquake. That gave him a scare but he soon forgot it. When there was another earthquake, the scientists discovered that the quakes were caused by an active volcano. The more they checked, the more alarmed they became!

They roped off the area around the mountain to keep tourists out of danger and told the residents to get out because the mountain was going to explode. But Harry refused saying, "No, it has never erupted. I'll be all

right." After doing all they could to get him to safety they gave up and left him behind.

One day there was a small eruption which did little damage. Harry was convinced that was all of it. He still would not leave. Then a day or so later at 8:32 in the morning there was another earthquake much like the ones before. But this one opened the side of the mountain causing a titanic explosion of superheated water and molten rock. A black, inky waterfall consisting of the boiling mass of rock raced down the mountainside burying Harry beneath hundreds of feet of molten rock and lava!

He had waited too long. Probably he figured that he would be able to see lava start to ooze down the mountainside. Then a news helicopter would surely come in and scoop him up at the last minute. Instead there was a searing blast which propelled the boiling rock at 300 mph! One scientist speculated that Harry had only enough time to turn his head after he heard the explosion before he was buried beneath tons of lava!

Each of us is facing the end of our life. When our life ends it may not be as dramatic as Harry's but, like him, we don't know the exact day or time. What preparation are you making to be ready to face eternity? The scientists could predict disaster through their observations and tests and gauges. We have God's own Word, the Bible, to warn and instruct us.

Too many people believe the devil when he tells them that the life of a Christian is dull and just for old folks. In reality living according to God's plan for us is the most fulfilling and exciting life possible! Then after a healthy, happy and contented life He will take us to heaven to live with Him throughout all eternity!

—Uncle Dale

"Then I will go," Jaya said, determinedly. She kissed her mother. They walked to the house together, Mother was wiping tears with a corner of her sari. Jaya was stumbling over the rough road. Jaya packed a few clothes in her metal trunk that Daddy had bought to make traveling for the Lord easier. Tears blinded her eyes and her legs felt weak as water. Suddenly she ran out the door, across the yard and the rice field and into the thorn hedge. She flew up the two sets of stairs and threw herself down at the foot of her grandmother's tombstone that she had used so often for an altar.

"Oh, Jesus," she cried, "Do I have to leave this place, my home, my family, my dear Daddy that has helped me so often? How could he change so much? What will I do? Where will I go?" Jaya cried and prayed for a long time.

When she had finally calmed down. Jesus kindly said, "My dear Jaya, I have a place prepared for you. Just follow Me as you have done before."

Jaya returned to the house and finished packing her trunk. She kissed her sisters and mother and said goodbye to the servants. Struggling under the weight of her trunk she trudged away from her home not knowing when she would again see it. It had never before looked so lovely. Only she and Mother knew the ache in her heart for she had left on many trips. She set her trunk down at the bus stop and went looking here and there at familiar things that she might not see for a long time. While she was looking the bus came and left.

Now the rain was falling again. Jaya dragged her trunk into a roadside temple and sat down on it to wait. She hated to leave her hometown. For this reason the delay was sweet. But to get to the village where

God was sending she would have to go on the bus, then on a train and then walk three miles from the train station. Carrying the trunk those three miles would certainly be a challenge. "Jesus, please let me get there while there is light," she prayed. "I might step on a cobra walking in the dark." While Jaya was imagining what it would be like to be bitten by a cobra, a honeybee stung her on the eye. The pain shot over her face. Now she hurt outside as well as inside but she laughed thinking of how she'd look with a swollen eye.

Two hours later another bus came. She rode to the train station and got on the train. It had stopped raining when Jaya stepped off the train. But in the direction of the village it seemed to be raining. Behind her the sun was setting in the west. Out across the muddy fields she could see the rows of palm trees that lined each property.

A mile down the trail Jaya punctured her bare foot on a fallen palm branch. She sat down to nurse her foot. "I'm just a homeless, miserable girl," she said picking the mud away from the cut and rubbing her eye. "How can I carry my trunk with a wounded foot?"

She gazed into the sky as if waiting for God to answer. That is when she noticed the sun sinking in the west. Spurred by fear of the coming darkness, she jumped to her feet.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. They fall into temptation. 2. The love of money. 3. Righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience and meekness. 4. Eternal life. 5. The living God. 6. God. 7. A rock. 8. A foundation. 9. Vain.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 6 Nov. 9, 2003

A New Home

(Continued from last week.)

Jaya could not bear the thought of leaving her home. But if it came to a choice between doing that or giving up her Jesus, she would gladly leave. She went once more to her favorite place of prayer. "Oh Jesus," she cried, "do I have to leave my home and family? Where will I go?"

"I have a place prepared for you," Jesus answered comfortingly. "Just follow Me as you have done before."

As Jaya was struggling to get her heavy trunk up on her shoulder she heard the caw of a crow and the chatter of a parrot. The birds are happily doing God's will, Jaya thought, so I will too. She then remembered the vision she had of Jesus' bleeding, wounded body. "Oh, my Jesus, You suffered so much for me. I have to suffer so little for You," she said. Suddenly the pain in her foot and eye seemed so small.

Just before the darkness settled Jaya struggled into the village. The poor villagers were happy to have her. They seemed to not notice her mud splattered, torn dress, nor her uncombed hair. Whole families lived in small huts so some sisters made Jaya comfortable in one corner of the little Lutheran chapel. "Are you afraid?" a sister questioned.

"Angels are all around," Jaya answered. It always helped her to boldly testify.

The next morning a field worker brought her some rice as he went to work. That evening another farmer brought a bowl of yummy warm rice for her supper. Twice every day the villagers brought Jaya rice or beans; sometimes fruit or bread. Every evening they came to hear her talk. The believers were much encouraged by Jaya's talks. Soon there were new Christians.

When the overseer of the Lutheran church saw how effective Jaya's messages were he tried to persuade her to join the Lutheran church. "I do not need to join a church. I am already in Christ," Jaya told him.

One curious old lady and her little granddaughter came to visit Jaya. She asked if Jaya was an orphan. "I have good Christian parents," Jaya told her, "but my uncles and grandparents think I should either get married or be studying a profession. Daddy sent me away, to please them." The old woman got close to Jaya's face and looked at it carefully, "Why don't you get married? You're quite pretty."

"I can't get married when there is so much work to be done for Jesus." Then the old lady pointed her long finger at Jaya and said, "You are prob-



Judas Iscariot

**Matthew 26:14, 47-49, 57;
27:3-10**

14 Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests,

47 And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people.

48 Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast.

49 And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him.

57 And they that had laid hold on Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled.

3 Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders.

4 Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that.

5 And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

6 And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood.

7 And they took counsel, and

bought with them the potter's field,
to bury strangers in.

8 Wherefore that field was called,
The field of blood, unto this day.

9 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued, whom they of the children of Israel did value;

10 And gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord appointed me.

Proverbs 13:15; 14:12

15 Good understanding giveth
favour: but the way of transgressors
is hard.

12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

The Message: Sin will take you farther than you plan to go.

Questions:

1. Who went to the chief priests?
2. Who came with Judas from the chief priests?
3. What sign did Judas give to let the soldiers know who Jesus was?
4. Who was the high priest?
5. When did Judas repent?
6. What did he do with the silver pieces?
7. After he did this and left the temple what did he do?
8. Why couldn't the chief priests put the money in the treasury?
9. What did they buy with the money?

Verse to Memorize

...The way of transgressors is hard.

Proverbs 13:15.

Let's



Talk . . .

Judas Iscariot was a faithful disciple, not a betrayer, when he was first chosen by Jesus as one of the twelve—one of the group that was constantly with Jesus. In reading his story you wonder what would make him turn traitor after he had followed Jesus so closely for years.

Surely Judas must have had a black heart to have been with Jesus day after day for almost three years and then betray Him! During this time he had seen Him going among the people, always doing good for them. He had seen the sick healed of all kinds of sickness; he'd even seen dead people raised to life! How could Judas turn such a Friend over to His enemies who hated Him and wanted to destroy Him just because they were jealous?

Let's just check Judas out a little bit and see what we can find. Back when Jesus first chose him he had some very good qualities. He seemed to be well educated and well thought of by the disciples and others. He was a good businessman as they chose him to be treasurer and gave him the job of looking after the money and buying the supplies. Jesus knew all things and He seemed to trust him. So what happened to make him turn traitor?

Judas seemed to just naturally love money. Through this weakness he somehow let satan plant wicked thoughts in his mind. He became more and more interested in the money and lost interest in spiritual things. His mind was so much on money until a scheme began to de-

velop in his mind. The chief priests were looking for a way to get Jesus. Maybe this was something he could turn into a little cash!

He didn't really mean to hurt Jesus. After all, he'd seen Him turn water into wine and do many other miracles. Why, he'd even seen Him escape from the Jew's hands before. Surely He would do it again! Then, Judas reasoned, he would gain thirty pieces of silver in the deal.

But things just didn't go as he planned. Instead of Jesus slipping out of His enemies' hands by performing some great miracle, He submitted and was led away!

Judas didn't really mean for things to go this far. Seeing how things were totally different than what he'd planned he repented. He wanted to undo this terrible tragedy! He tried to return the thirty pieces of silver but the chief priests would not accept them. Throwing the coins on the floor Judas rushed out and ended his own life by hanging himself!

Judas considered himself a good man but he just let satan take control. And after it was too late he realized what a terrible thing he had done. Instead of repenting like Peter and getting forgiveness he went out and hanged himself!

There is a lesson in this. Judas' troubles all started with small things. At first his thefts were so sly that the other disciples did not even realize that he was stealing money. But one little sin after another and a few evil thoughts brought Judas to the place that the Bible says satan actually entered into him!

We must be very careful to guard our heart or satan will take over. First he will try to slip in evil thoughts. If this succeeds he will then get you to do things that you know are not right. He gets you to do more and more bad things until finally you feel there is no hope for you—you have gone too far.

—Uncle Dale

ably just a rebellious, headstrong girl and don't want to marry the man your daddy has picked out for you. Yeah, I know how these young folks are now-a-days."

Jaya sat cross-legged on her mat facing the old woman. The old woman crouched beside the doorway. "I guess I have caused my parents a lot of sorrow," Jaya admitted.

"I knew it," answered the old lady as she rose and stepped out the door. The little girl made no move. After her grandmother was a good way from the door she said, "Tell me about when you were a little girl."

"When I was a little girl," Jaya said very thoughtfully, "I would sometimes walk away without telling anybody where I was going. Sometimes my daddy would hunt me for days. When he would find me he would be very angry! Very often he beat me. Sometimes he locked me in a tiny room for days and gave me only a few crumbs to eat."

"Why were you so disrespectful?" the little girl asked.

"I didn't know I was being disrespectful. You know everyone should obey God rather than obey man. I must have thought I wouldn't get permission to obey God so I need not ask. I really don't know what I thought."

Jaya stared out the door for awhile then she added, "It's no wonder people called me Mr. Kollipara's little crazy girl."

"One time when I was about nine-years-old, I had running sores all over my legs. I begged Jesus many times to take them away but He didn't. After a long time my mommy and daddy took me to a doctor and he said I needed some shots. I said to the doctor, 'You are a good doctor but my Jesus is greater and He will make my legs well.'"

"The doctor looked puzzled and frowned. Then my daddy said, 'Pay no attention to her, she is a foolish, crazy girl. Give her the medicine she needs.'"

"When the doctor turned to get the medicine I flew out the door like a frightened cheetah."

"You ran away?"

"Yes, and when Daddy found me at home he stormed, 'Even the doctor said you are crazy. And you're not eating or drinking until you are willing to take that shot.' Then he locked me in a room."

"I fell on the floor and cried, 'Lord, why is it that You heal other people but You haven't healed me?'"

"Jesus came to me and said, 'Do not fear. I will heal you.' When I woke up the next morning there were no sores on my legs. I waited to see what Daddy would do. When he saw that the skin on my legs was smooth and tan again he fell on his knees and begged God and me to forgive him."

"Is that really true?" the little girl asked cocking her head to one side.

"All true," Jaya answered.

While they had been talking Jaya saw many ladies passing in front of the chapel. Peeking out the door she saw the women were entering and leaving the big, beautiful home nearby. "What has happened?" Jaya asked a woman who was walking sadly away.

"Haven't you heard?" the woman asked. "Their little grandson is dying. The demons are choking him to death." The little girl jumped to her feet and hurried away.

"Shall I go pray for the baby?" Jaya asked Jesus.

"Go," He answered.

God healed the baby. Then the rich family took Jaya to live in their home.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Judas Iscariot. 2. A multitude (of soldiers) with swords and slaves. 3. A kiss. 4. Calaphas. 5. When he saw that Jesus was condemned. 6. Threw them down in the temple. 7. Hanged himself. 8. It was the price of blood. 9. A field to bury strangers in.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 7 Nov. 16, 2003

Escaped A Murderer

(Continued from last week.)

Jesus assured Jaya that He would prepare a place for her to stay although she must leave her own home for His sake. When she reached the village where Jesus directed it was almost dark. The people were glad to see her but they were all very poor. That night she slept in a little chapel.

When Jaya heard the grandson of some rich people was dying she asked Jesus if she should go pray for him. "Go," He answered. After prayer God healed the baby. The people were so thankful they took Jaya to live in their home.

Some time later Jaya told the lady with whom she was staying, "Jesus is saying, 'Go preach to the people in the next village.' I will be back when God is through with me there."

Jaya knew no one in that village and had nowhere to stay, but when night came a nice looking lady said to her, "Will you please be a guest at my house tonight?"

Jaya didn't notice the strange look on the peoples' faces when she accepted the invitation. Neither did she notice the curious boys who followed her to the woman's house and waited in the darkness to see in what room Jaya would be placed. When the boys saw a light in the upstairs room, they hurried away to tell their friends,

"The girl is sleeping in the death room!"

Jaya was so tired from the long walk she laid down on the cot that had been prepared for her. She was thankful just to have a place to rest.

"Goodnight," the lady said sweetly.

"Goodnight," Jaya answered. "I'll be up early in the morning."

During the night when everything was very dark Jaya was awakened by a woman's voice. "I'm going to kill you!" it said.

Jaya shut her eyes tightly. For an instant she was shaking all over and her teeth were chattering. Then she remembered that Jesus had said, "Go where I send you, Jaya, and I will always be with you." She opened her eyes and saw angels hovering around her.

"You cannot hurt me," she said to the horrid woman. "Jesus won't let you. He says, 'Go away from my servant now!'" Instantly the woman left. The next morning Jaya prayed for a long time as she usually did. While talking with Jesus she heard voices outside. When she looked out there was a crowd of people looking up at her. Thinking that they wanted to see her she called out the window, "I'll be right down."

The crowd was amazed! The people talked among themselves excitedly. "Her God is stronger than our Hindu gods," a ragged boy yelled.



Remember

Ecclesiastes 12:1

1 Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

Psalms 20:7; 63:4-7; 103:17-18

7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God.

4 Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name.

5 My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips:

6 When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches.

7 Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.

17 But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;

18 To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.

Nehemiah 4:14

14 And I looked, and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Be not ye afraid of them: remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses.

Jonah 2:7

7 When my soul fainted within me I remembered the Lord: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple.

Isaiah 62:6

6 I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence,

I Corinthians 4:17

17 For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.

The Message: Remember God now while you are young. This will protect you from evil and assure you a blessed and prosperous life.

Questions:

1. Who should we remember?
2. When should we remember Him?
3. Instead of trusting in chariots or horses Whose name should we remember?
4. How long does the mercy of the Lord extend?
5. This mercy is upon them that _____ Him.
6. What did Jonah do when his soul fainted?
7. Who should not keep silence?
8. Who did Paul send to bring the church into remembrance?

Verse To Memorize

**Remember now thy Creator
in the days of thy youth,...
Ecclesiastes 12:1.**

Let's



Talk . . .

Solomon, who wrote, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth" was the wisest man who ever lived, so we should consider what he says. When Solomon was young he loved the Lord and worshiped Him. Out of all David's sons God chose Solomon to be king when David died.

One night after Solomon had first become king the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Ask what I shall give thee."

Young Solomon answered humbly, "I am but a little child. I don't know how to govern this great people. Give me an understanding heart to judge Your people so that I may discern between good and bad."

God was so pleased He told Solomon, "Because you asked for wisdom instead of long life, riches or power over your enemies I will give you your desire and all the other also. I will make you wiser than any man who ever lived or who ever will live. In addition I will give you riches and honor. If you always obey Me I will also give you a long life."

Like Solomon young children should ask God to give them wisdom and understanding so they can always please Him. You are not too young to listen carefully to what each preacher has to say. This is God giving instructions on how to be blessed and lead a happy life. Keep your Bible with you and read the scriptures as the preacher gives them out. The Lord will be greatly pleased and will help you understand what is said. It is good to take notes as you listen. You can look at them later and

it will help you remember what God said through the message.

When I was young I was like many of you—I would wait until the last thing to find a memory verse. Then I would try to learn it well enough to recite. Thankfully not every one is like I was. Some of you have several verses well memorized and can tell where they are found in the Bible.

Memory verses are very valuable. In Psalms 119:9-12 David wrote, "How will a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. I have followed after You with my whole heart. Don't let me disobey Your commandments." Then he added, "I have hid your word in my heart so that I will not sin against You." David knew the power of having God's Word stored in his heart by memorizing verses of Scripture.

Solomon stresses that NOW is the time to remember your Creator. Young minds are active and strong. If they are trained to memorize the Word of God they will have a great treasure stored up in their memory bank. When they are old or in trouble they can draw from this source of strength and power. Jesus said that the Holy Ghost would bring His words back to our memory. He can only do that if we first have them in our memory!

Daniel and his three friends were captured and taken to a strange land with strange customs. The king wanted to make them great leaders in his kingdom. He changed their names and tried to change their customs and make them serve his gods. But they remembered God. They had learned very young that He was the one true God and they were never to bow down to any other. They dared to defy the king in order to obey their God. God did not forget them. When He delivered them so miraculously even the king exclaimed, "No other God can deliver like this!"

—Uncle Dale

"Quiet," scolded an old man with vertical marks painted on his forehead. "It's just that she is a worshiper of the protector god."

"Fourteen people have been murdered in the room where you slept," the people told Jaya when she came out.

Jaya raised her eyes toward heaven and said, "Oh, thank You Jesus Christ for protecting me."

"Christ is your God?" an old man asked. "You are Christian?"

"Yes," Jaya answered.

"But you look just like a person," a little girl said.

Jaya laughed. "I am a person," she said. "When I was a little girl like you, Jesus came into my heart and He has been my Helper and Protector ever since."

"Will you please come to my house and tell us more about this Jesus?" a tall Indian man asked.

Many people's hearts were opened to believe in Jesus because the power of God protected Jaya from the murderer.

News of this great power spread to other villages. People from far away came and learned how to have Jesus as their Saviour. There was a great spiritual awakening in that part of the country. Hundreds accepted the Christian faith. Jaya was happy she had obeyed the Lord.

When Jaya arrived at the new home where she had been staying, she was surprised to see her father sitting in the courtyard. "My daddy! My daddy!" she cried running with her arms wide open.

Daddy returned her hug and said, "I've come to take you home."

"I'm ready to go," she said. "My trunk is already packed."

"We thank God for sending your daughter here," said the woman of the house. "Our little grandson is alive because she prayed. But I also understand your frustrations for she is a very odd child indeed. She does mysterious, daring things if she thinks God

is leading her to do it. If she were my child I'd be a nervous wreck trying to keep up with her."

"I'm glad you understand," Mr. Kollipara said. "I hope God does and will forgive my sudden outbursts of anger."

Daddy carried the trunk and Jaya chattered happily as they walked the three miles to catch the train. She told him how she had struggled through the mud carrying the heavy trunk, her foot sore and eye swollen. Being with her Daddy again caused all troubles to vanish.

Vijaya Kumari was waiting at the gate for Jaya. "How my little sister has grown," Jaya said, giving her a tight hug.

"Why did you stay away so long?" Vijaya asked. Jaya shrugged her shoulders. "I'm glad you got back today for tomorrow we are going to cousin Jyothi's wedding."

Jaya couldn't say a word for she thought it could mean more trouble. "What's wrong?" Vijaya continued. "Aren't you excited? We will get to see all our uncles, aunts and cousins."

"I just don't feel very well," Jaya said as she struggled inside.

"Mother, Mother," Vijaya called, "Jaya is back but she's sick."

"My child, my child," Mother said running to Jaya. "I have prayed for you every day."

"I knew you would," Jaya said bursting into tears. For a long while they wept together. Finally Mother asked, "You've been sick?"

"No, Mother, God has kept me well and blessed many souls to be saved. I'll tell you about it after we eat. Right now I'm hungry for my mommy's cooking."

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. God. 2. While we are young. 3. The name of the Lord our God. 4. From everlasting to everlasting. 5. Fear. 6. He remembered the Lord. 7. Those who make mention of the Lord. 8. Timotheus.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 8 Nov. 23, 2003

Home Alone

(Continued from last week.)

The first night at home again Jaya could hardly go to sleep. She wanted to look at everything—the low table in the other room where she had eaten many meals with her family, the old pictures that hung on the walls. She wanted to look forever at her mother and sisters. She wanted to hear her daddy snoring. But most of all she wanted to communicate with her Lord in her secret prayer place. When everyone was asleep she crept out of the house and across the rice field. Rice that was being planted when she had left was now tall. She loved the feel of it brushing against her legs. The moon shining on the thorns helped her keep from getting scratched up as she worked her way through the hedge.

"Jesus, You have helped me many times before when I prayed here on this grave," she said, kneeling at the tombstone. "Please take away this fear that Daddy will again send me away from home after we return from Jyothi's wedding."

Jesus took away the fear and told her not to go to the wedding or to other family gatherings. "If you stay away your daddy won't have so much pressure." Jesus told her. As Jaya

watched her family and the servants leaving her heart yearned to go along to be a part of the family. She watched until they were out of sight then she hurried away to her place of prayer. "Oh Jesus," she prayed "please take away this loneliness." Suddenly Jaya was not alone; angels came to visit her!

Stacked high alongside the house were bundles of wood to be used for cooking. When Jaya was hungry she tried hard to get a bundle down to use to build a fire. They were too high and too heavy so she ate some cold leftover white rice. After eating she looked all around the house and over her daddy's rice fields for sticks. She found none. That evening she ate more cold leftover rice.

The next day she decided to go out and hunt for wood like she'd seen the little poor girls do. She went with them into a large field. Some of the girls had sharp machetes and climbed into the trees and began cutting off limbs. Jaya knew the landowners did not like the children cutting limbs off their trees, so she would not do it. She walked away singing a hymn and looking for sticks on the ground.

Before long she heard the gruff voice of a man shouting. "Get out of my fields." In a moment the man was beside her. "Why didn't you run away like the other girls did?" he asked.



Sin Has Its' Consequence

Joshua 7:1-5, 7, 10-12, 19-21, 25

1 But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for Achan...took of the accursed thing: and the anger of the Lord was kindled against the children of Israel.

2 And Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai...saying, Go up and view the country. And the men went up and viewed Ai.

3 And they returned to Joshua, and said unto him, Let not all the people go up; but let about two or three thousand men go up and smite Ai; and make not all the people to labour thither; for they are but few.

4 So there went up thither of the people about three thousand men: and they fled before the men of Ai.

5 And the men of Ai smote of them about thirty and six men...wherefore the hearts of the people melted, and became as water.

7 And Joshua said, Alas, O Lord God, wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jordan, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us?...

10 And the Lord said unto Joshua, Get thee up;...

11 Israel hath sinned,...

12 Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies,...

19 And Joshua said unto Achan, My son,...tell me now what thou hast done; hide it not from me.

20 And Achan answered Joshua, and said,...

21 When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it.

25 And Joshua said, Why hast thou troubled us? the Lord shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones.

The Message: Confessing your sin is good but not committing sin in the first place is so much better!

Questions:

1. Who sent men to spy on Ai?
2. How many men did they think they needed to smite Ai?
3. How many men actually went to fight Ai?
4. How many men did the men of Ai kill?
5. Why couldn't the children of Israel stand before their enemies?
6. Who had committed the sin?
7. What did he take?
8. Where did he hide his loot?
9. What happened to Achan and his family?

Verse to Memorize

**Depart from evil, and do good;
and dwell for evermore.**

Psalms 37:27.

Let's



Talk . . .

I once knew a young man who I will call Jerry. He had a wife and a young son. They got in a real financial bind and he needed money real bad. He felt like he needed it right now!

The more he thought about his problems and what to do about them the more desperate he became. Many people in that condition are just right for Satan to start putting evil thoughts and plans in their life. That's what happened to Jerry.

While out driving around one night he saw a service station that was still open. He checked it out carefully noticing that there was only one attendant on duty to take care of the station. He had his wife and little boy in the car with him so he took the car down the street and parked where it would be hidden. Then he walked back and went into the service station. As the man came up to him he pulled a gun and robbed him.

Jerry thought this would be a good way to get money but the man didn't have all that much. And as he was leaving the station he looked around and saw the attendant grab a gun. He hadn't planned on this! Now he was in real trouble—it was his life or the man's. He wheeled around and fired. His aim was too good. He killed the man.

Now he was in real deep trouble. He tried to run away and hide but after a few days the law caught up with him. After a trial he was found guilty and put into prison. Some months after this some of the saints

visited the prison and had service. As Jerry listened to the message he was convicted and repented of his sins. God forgave him!

But sin still left its mark on Jerry's life. Among other consequences, he still had to serve his prison term. His wife married someone else so he lost both his son and his wife.

As I read the story of Achan I was impressed by his confession. He told Joshua, "Indeed I have sinned against the Lord" but it was not until he was forced to do so.

Maybe by his words and confession he received forgiveness from God. But look at the trouble Achan's sin had caused. Thirty-six men died and Israel lost a battle because Achan disobeyed God's commandment. Therefore even if he was forgiven he must still pay for his actions.

From this and other experiences I am convinced that we must face the consequences of our sins. The Bible confirms this. Galatians 6:7 says, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

If we have lied or mistreated someone or stolen or broken the law we must repent and ask for forgiveness to be clear before God. God is so merciful He does forgive us. But we still must make right any wrong we have done.

It is wonderful to know God has forgiven us after we have made confession and restitution. But that does not mean that there will not be consequences for our sins. That to me is the reason that saying, "No!" to sin in the first place is the very best way. Remember, if you never let sin into your life you will not have the scars to contend with. Bro. Samons once said that there were some things that he did while in sin that left scars that still bothered him years later!

—Uncle Dale

"Oh, sir, I wasn't doing any harm, so why should I run?" she answered with a smile.

The man took a hard look at Jaya then said, "I know you. You are Mr. Kollipara's crazy girl. He doesn't want you out gathering wood with these 'untouchables.'"

Jaya wanted to say, "I'm not crazy and these girls aren't 'untouchables.' They are very loving and touchable." But she just said, "Sir, my family is away and I can't get the big bundles of wood down from the high stacks, so I was hunting a few sticks to warm me some food."

"Come with me," he said, and took Jaya to his house and filled her arms full of firewood.

As Jaya was carrying the wood home, one of the girls came running up to her. "What did he say about your daddy not wanting you to be with us?"

"He is very wrong about my daddy," Jaya told the girl. "My daddy loves all people, well, that is except some religious leaders. He says, 'The Hindu priests are not good because they feel superior to the poor and because they brag about having much wisdom.'

"My daddy used to play tricks on the priests," Jaya continued. "One trick he loved to play was to take a young man from the untouchable caste, clean him up, put some nice clothes on him and bring him to the priest. There he was introduced as the son of some outstanding and well known priest of another part of India. The local priest felt so highly honored that the son of such a man would come to visit him that he would fall at the feet of the young man wash his feet and pour the dirty water from the foot bath on his own head as holy water." "Really?" the girl asked. Jaya nodded and they laughed together.

"After a few days my daddy would bring the untouchable, in all his rags, back to the priest and say, 'This is the man whose feet you washed. He is an untouchable.'

"If you priests have the wisdom you brag about you would not have been so easily fooled," my daddy would tell them," Jaya told the girl.

"So you are my friend?" the girl asked.

"Sure," Jaya answered.

"Good-bye, Jaya."

"Good-bye."

When her family returned they brought news that Vani, another of Jaya's poor friends, was now studying at a Christian trade school. "May I go and visit Vani?" she asked Jesus. Jesus said "Yes," and so did her daddy. It had been four years since they had seen each other. Jaya was surprised how getting married at ten and becoming a widow so young had changed Vani.

After the usual greeting Jaya asked, "Do you remember a little girl that came to your village to preach the gospel and you took care of her?"

"Yes, I do," Vani answered.

"I am that girl," Jaya answered.

"Really?" Vani asked. "I never thought I would see you again!" They talked for a long time that night about those days in the village.

Jaya returned home again happy to know Vani wasn't a miserable widow like so many she had seen.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Joshua. 2. Two or three thousand. 3. About three thousand. 4. Thirty-six. 5. They had sinned. 6. Achan. 7. A garment, some silver and gold. 8. In the dirt under his tent. 9. They were stoned and burned with fire.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 9 Nov. 30, 2003

Preachers Are Saved

(Continued from last week.)

One evening Jaya was sweeping when a man called to her from the street. "Does Jayapradha Kollipara live here?" he asked.

"Yes, I will call my father," she answered and hurried inside to find him. As soon as her father came to the door the man began to explain why he had come.

"My master is a witch doctor," he said. "He wishes Jayapradha to meet with him." Jaya, standing nearby, heard what the man told her father. Immediately she ran to her place of prayer. She knew she could not speak to a witch doctor unless God helped her. Kneeling at her grandmother's grave where she had talked with God many, many times she prayed to again know His will.

"Shall I go?" she asked.

"Go, it will bring glory to My name," God answered her.

When her Christian friends heard she was going they hurried in to warn her. "He may cast a spell on you, even kill you," one said.

"Witch doctors have mighty power through evil spirits," another warned. "Please, don't go," a good friend begged.

"You think the witch doctor is stronger than God?" she asked. "God can protect from anything."

"If you are determined to go," the preacher said, "I am going along to help."

The witch doctor's servant left and came again with many carts to carry the people. Jaya, her family, the preacher and other friends went. Traveling in the slow ox-drawn carts took many days. At last the group of Christians arrived at the witch doctor's house. "I will go in first," said the preacher.

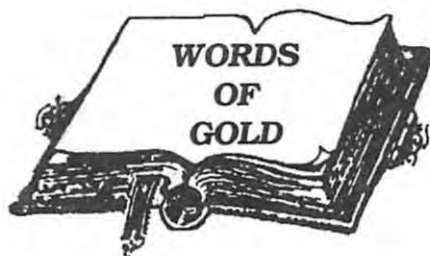
As soon as he opened the door he turned white. "Don't come in," he said to Jaya in a frightened tone. "There are men standing shoulder to shoulder all around the room. Each man has a big stick in his hand."

"I must go in," Jaya said. "God sent me here."

"No," he warned.

"I must," she said with authority. He moved inside just enough to let Jaya through the door. When she stepped into the room the men bowed before her. At the same instant the preacher yelled out. Jaya turned to see a wild woman holding the preacher by his hair. She went directly to the woman and said, "Jesus demands you devils to come out of this woman." Immediately the woman surrendered and the man got out of her grip.

"Ay, ay," said the preacher. "I am a big strong man and I couldn't handle that woman. But this girl has rooted



The King No One Liked!

II Chronicles 21:5-6, 12-20

5 Jehoram was thirty and two years old when he began to reign, and hereigned eight years in Jerusalem.

6 And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, like as did the house of Ahab: for he had the daughter of Ahab to wife: and he wrought that which was evil in the eyes of the Lord.

12 And there came a writing to him from Elijah the prophet, saying, Thus saith the Lord God of David thy father, Because thou hast not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat thy father, nor in the ways of Asa king of Judah,

13 But hast walked in the way of the kings of Israel,...

14 Behold, with a great plague will the Lord smite thy people, and thy children, and thy wives, and all thy goods:

15 And thou shalt have great sickness by disease of thy bowels, until thy bowels fall out by reason of the sickness day by day.

16 Moreover the Lord stirred up against Jehoram the spirit of the Philistines, and of the Arabians, that were near the Ethiopians:

17 And they came up into Judah, and brake into it, and carried away all the substance that was found in the king's house, and his sons also, and his wives; so that there was never a son left him, save Jehoahaz,

the youngest of his sons.

18 And after all this the Lord smote him in his bowels with an incurable disease.

19 And it came to pass, that in process of time, after the end of two years, his bowels fell out by reason of his sickness: so he died of sore diseases. And his people made no burning for him, like the burning of his fathers.

20 ...And he...departed without being desired. Howbeit they buried him in the city of David, but not in the sepulchres of the kings.

The Message: Make others happy wherever you go: not whenever you go!

Questions:

1. What is the king's name in our lesson?
2. How old was he when he began to reign?
3. How long was he king?
4. Whose daughter was his wife?
5. He did ____ in the eyes of the Lord.
6. What prophet wrote a warning to him?
7. Who would smite him and his people with a great plague?
8. Which of his sons were left after the enemy carried the others away?
9. What does verse 20 say that tells us the people did not like this king?

Verse to Memorize

**...Them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.
I Samuel 2:30.**

Let's



Talk . . .

I was reading an interesting story a few days ago. It was about King Jehoram of Judah. He is known as the king who "departed with no one's regret." How would you like to have the words, "We were glad to see him go" written on your gravestone?

Jehoram had a promising life ahead of him. God had blessed his father, the good king Jehoshaphat, and made him very rich. He gave gifts of silver, gold and precious things to all his sons. In addition he made Jehoram king over his entire kingdom since he was the oldest. If worldly possessions could do it he had everything to make him happy and successful.

Jehoram was thirty-two years old when he became King of Judah, and he reigned for eight years. His life story could have been very different if only he had followed in the steps of his godly father and grandfather. But Jehoram chose to walk in the ways of the wicked kings of Israel. He married Athaliah the daughter of King Ahab of Israel and worshiped her pagan gods. This caused the people of Judah to turn away from the Lord also.

As soon as he became king Jehoram killed all his brothers so that there would be no one to threaten his authority. His wicked wife, Athaliah, may have influenced him to commit this horrible crime. Years later she killed everyone who had any right to the throne so she herself could be queen!

The Lord was merciful for awhile but finally He brought brutal judg-

ment on Jehoram. The great prophet Elijah even sent a letter warning him about the awful mistake he made in not following the godly ways of his father and grandfather. He enumerated Jehoram's many sins and explained the punishment he would suffer if he did not repent. But Jehoram ignored it all!

So the Lord stirred up the Philistines and Arabs to attack Jehoram. They carried away everything of value in the king's palace, including his sons and his wives. Only his youngest son escaped being killed by the enemy.

Then Jehoram was struck down with an incurable disease which caused him great misery. He died wretchedly, in great pain, within two years. His kingdom was almost destroyed and his people faced enemies from every direction when he died. Although he was buried in Jerusalem the people refused to give him the honor of being buried in the royal cemetery.

In spite of all God had done for him it seemed Jehoram was determined to be as evil as he could. But there comes a time in everyone's life when they meet God. God had even sent warning from a great prophet but still Jehoram did not repent. Finally God looked at Jehoram's evil life and influence and said, "That is enough!" The very worst thing that can happen to you is to have God turn against you!

Tragically, Jehoram's influence did not die with him. Our life and actions not only affect us but all those around us! Remember even as young as you are you are having an effect on others for good or bad. What you sow you will reap, and the crop that is produced is always much more than the few seeds you plant. And remember, you cannot reap a good crop if you have planted bad seeds!

—Uncle Dale

out the devil by her simple prayer. I need the experience with Jesus that she has."

The preacher humbled himself in repentance and God saved him. Together the Christians presented the gospel to the witch doctor and his many followers before returning to their own village.

Meanwhile a message from Paul had come while the Kollipara family was away.

It said:

"I am a true born again Christian, thanks to you, Jaya. Every day Christ becomes more real to me. I feel He is calling me to serve Him as a minister of the gospel. Will you please ask God to lead and direct my life as He has yours?" -Paul

At the same time, far away in the city of Nelur, the program committee of the Lone Star Baptist Church was discussing speakers for their next convention. "I have heard that Jayapradha Kollipara attracts great crowds wherever she goes," one man said.

"That is wonderful. We need someone to bring in the people," another said.

"We already have the main speakers who will attract the crowds," the chairman said. "We need a speaker for the Women's Meeting."

"Yes, a speaker who will cause our women to be better wives," another agreed.

"Then Jayapradha is that person," said several men who had heard people praise Jaya. "Her name is on the lips of Christians everywhere who speak the Telugu language."

"Then we shall send for her."

When Jaya arrived at the convention and presented herself to the director he frowned at her. "You are Jayapradha Kollipara?" he asked.

"Yes sir," she answered.

"I thought Jayapradha Kollipara was an elderly woman, but you are

just a little girl. I am disappointed you are so young."

"I am fifteen sir; a young lady," Jaya corrected him politely.

"What advice can a little girl have for mothers and grandmothers? Let me see your speech."

"Sir, I never write my speeches."

"Let me get you a paper and pencil.

I must see if it will be appropriate for the hundreds of women who have come so far to be in this convention."

"Please sir, all I need is a quiet room so I can ask Jesus what He wants me to speak."

"Listen to me little girl, you were to be the main speaker tonight for the women and we must not disappoint them. I don't want you to be disappointed either so I will give you ten minutes to speak."

That evening when Jaya stepped behind the pulpit to speak Jesus stood beside her. She spoke for three hours. Even after such a long sermon many people came to the altar.

After the meeting that night the director came to Jaya. "I'm sorry," he said. "God is really with you. Will you stay and preach again? And also we beg you to become a member of our organization."

"Just as I can preach only what Jesus tells me, I can only be joined to Christ," Jaya said.

The next night a young man who loved the world came and got real salvation. Every day he brought more and more of his teenage friends. Many of them were saved. God shook the whole town. Many professed Christians and preachers were also saved in that meeting.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Jehoram. 2. Thirty years old. 3. Eighty years. 4. Ahab's. 5. Evil. 6. Elijah. 7. The Lord. 8. Jehoahaz, the youngest. 9. "He departed without being desired.")

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 10 Dec. 7, 2003

Alone In Madras

(Continued from last week.)

(Madras is the Hollywood of Southern India.)

On the fourth day of February 1964, while Jaya was praying in her room at Nelur, God showed her another place to go. "Don't be afraid, for I am always with you," God said. "Go now and speak with your parents and tell them I have another trip for you to take."

Her mother, father and sisters were in the adjoining room packing their trunks and bags. The convention was over; it was time to return home. Jaya went to them as God told her and said, "Daddy, I must talk to you and Mother." Mr. and Mrs. Kollipara were both now truly convinced that Jaya was not crazy but that she was a special and unusual servant of Jesus. They sat down on a cot facing Jaya. Vijaya was holding their new baby brother, Victor. She sat down on the trunk. Two year-old Rata climbed into Father's lap. "God says that I must go to Madras," Jaya told her family.

"Oh!" Mother exclaimed. "It is such a wicked city! Hundreds of vile movies are produced there. And, honey, do you know they do not speak our language?"

"God says that there I will meet an American couple who will love and

care for me as if I am their own daughter," Jaya continued without answering her mother's question.

"They will take me to America."

"America?" Vijaya and Mother exclaimed at the same time. "We would never see you again!" Daddy lowered his head and shook it from side to side.

"I think Jesus will let me come back," Jaya said, trying to comfort them and herself.

When Daddy lifted his head tears were streaming down his face. "Jaya," he said, "You are my firstborn, my right hand. I am not like some Indians who do not appreciate their daughters. I love you as if you were a first-born son! I—I—I feel so badly about the way I have treated you. Why was I so bullheaded? Why did I let pride keep me from helping you more? I—I—I can't undo all the hurtful things I did to you—all those times I tried to take you away from Jesus."

"I forgave you long ago," Jaya said.

"I know you have. But the memory hurts so deeply and the chance to make up for it by helping you is gone too if you go so far away! But I really want you to go wherever God sends you."

"What message will you take to America?" Vijaya interrupted. "They send missionaries to teach us and you can't speak English. Who will understand you?"



The Tongue

Psalms 141:3

3 Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.

Colossians 4:6

6 Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

James 3:2-13

2 For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.

3 Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body.

4 Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.

5 Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

7 For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind:

8 But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.

10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.

11 Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?

12 Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.

13 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

The Message: The tongue can cause the greatest joy and blessing or it can be used to inflict the worst sorrow and trouble upon yourself and others.

Questions:

1. Who should we ask to keep the door of our lips?
2. Why should our speech be always with grace?
3. Who is a perfect man?
4. Why do we put bits in horses' mouths?
5. How are the great ships steered?
6. What is a little member that boasts great things?
7. What is a fire and a world of iniquity?
8. What can no man tame?

Verse to Memorize

A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

Proverbs 15:1.

Let's



Talk . . .

Do you remember the story of the boy who herded sheep for all the villagers? One day he became bored and lonesome. To amuse himself he took a great breath and yelled at the top of his voice, "Wolf! Wolf! The Wolf is chasing the sheep!"

The villagers came running up the hill to help the boy drive the wolf away. But when they came to the shepherd boy there was no wolf at all. He laughed to see them so excited.

"Don't cry 'wolf' when there's no wolf!" the villagers warned him.

Later, the boy cried out again, "Wolf! Wolf! The wolf is chasing the sheep!" To his delight the villagers again ran up the hill to help him drive the wolf away.

Later he saw a REAL wolf prowling about his flock. He was so terrified he jumped to his feet and yelled, "Wolf! Wolf!" at the top of his lungs.

This time the villagers didn't come. They knew that he was only trying to fool them again! At sunset everyone wondered why the shepherd boy hadn't brought their sheep home. They went up the hill and found him crying.

"There really was a wolf here! The flock has scattered! I cried out, 'Wolf! Why didn't you come?'"

An old man tried to comfort the boy as they walked back to the village. "We'll help you look for the lost sheep in the morning," he said. Then he added, "Nobody believes a liar—even when he is telling the truth!"

God gave us a wonderful gift when He made our tongue. With our

tongues we can tell others how much we love and appreciate them and we can share our concerns. Most importantly we can pray and praise God. This is making the right use of our tongue. If you have ever lost your voice temporarily you know how thankful you are when you can speak again!

Along with this we must realize that satan has a tongue too. You see what happened when Eve listened to him. Because she chose to do as he said instead of obeying God the awful curse of sin entered into the world.

You can probably remember many times when your tongue got you into trouble. It is easy to slip into the bad habit of exaggerating and saying things that are not true. Expressions such as, "I laughed my head off!" or "I was scared to death" are exaggerations. Telling something that is not true and then excusing yourself by saying, "I was just kidding" is using your tongue for the devil.

The shepherd boy could have told the neighbors he was "just kidding" when he called, "Wolf! Wolf!" but it was still a lie. Revelations 21:8 names several sins and then concludes: "...all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone:..."

In Matthew 12:34 Jesus says, "...out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." In other words what we say usually shows what is already in our heart. If you have hatred in your heart it will be very hard for you to hide it. But when you let Jesus into your heart He will make it clean and pure. Then your words will be sweet also. Jesus died to break the power of the devil and sin in our lives. So even though the tongue is an "unruly evil" that "no man can tame" yet Jesus can give us power to control it. —Uncle Dale

"I asked the Lord the same questions," Jaya answered. "God says that He will take care of the language. I am to tell the Americans that God loves them and that He is coming back soon." The family talked for a long time.

The next morning Jaya watched through blinding tears as her family left the convention without her. "Jesus, I love You but this is awfully bitter," she said. "And I don't know a person in Madras. Where will I stay tonight?" She hurried back into the room and knelt where she had knelt when God gave her the sermon that turned things around at the convention.

"Can you doubt My care after what I have just done in this city?" God questioned.

"No," Jaya said jumping to her feet and getting her bags packed.

At the train station in Nelur, a woman came to Jaya. "Hello there, Miss Kollipara. Where are you going?"

"I am going to Madras," Jaya answered.

"I am so glad for I am also going to Madras. I attended your meeting and God healed me of heart trouble. I'm going to Madras to visit my daughter. Will you please come to our place before you go where God is sending?"

"Yes, I will be happy to stay with you," Jaya said as she silently praised God.

When they arrived in Madras a group of Christians were planning a revival and praying for God to send a speaker. They asked Jaya to share her experiences with them. For weeks Jaya met daily with them to have prayer meeting for the revival. In the evening she preached. God sent a real revival in the church. When that revival was finished they moved into a public place and continued the revival. Thousands came to hear the gospel. Some workers said that one night around two

thousand people came to the altar for prayer.

One of them was a bank robber. He had been caught and punished severely many times. One time he was punished by putting straight pins under his fingernails. Even that punishment did not break him. He was so bound by Satan that he continued to steal.

God delivered this man at that meeting! He began preaching while Jaya was still in Madras.

A Hindu woman who had much jewelry was also saved in that meeting. She sold her jewelry and built a church. There the converted bank robber preached the gospel.

Another listener of this open air revival was Paul Gupta, director of the Hindustan Bible Institute. He was a converted Hindu. At that time he did not believe that God used women to preach. But when he heard Jaya he was convinced that God was at least using her. One day when he and a visiting American missionary were finishing breakfast he said, "Would you like to meet that girl who is preaching at the revival?"

"Yes, why, yes," answered Mr. Bustin. He too believed that women should keep silent in the church according to the scripture found in I Corinthians 14:34 which says, "Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law."

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. The Lord. 2. So we will know how to answer every man. 3. The man who does not offend in the words he speaks. 4. So they will obey us. 5. With a very small helm. 6. The tongue. 7. The tongue. 8. The tongue.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 11 Dec. 14, 2003

Coming To America

(Continued from last week.)

At the Hindustan Bible Institute Jaya was introduced to an American couple, Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Bustin. After the last convention God had told Jaya that she must go to Madras. There she would meet a couple who would take her to America. "Is this the couple who will take me to America?" Jaya wondered as she studied the couple in front of her.

Mr. Bustin said nothing about America. He was interested in hearing how God was working in India. Mrs. Bustin sat at his side writing as Jaya told them about God healing many, many people. Some were healed of cancers, heart trouble, poisonous bites, boils, devil possession, witch doctor spells and many other troubles. She told of the hundreds of Hindus who had become Christians after seeing these miracles. She related the story of the Catholic priest who got saved and other professed Christians who had been born again. Then she told of her Communist father who had been so bound by pride that he abused her. Now he was winning his friends to Jesus.

Mr. Giri listened carefully as Jaya spoke in Telugu. Then he would signal her to stop, and he would tell the same story in English to the Bustin's.

"I think these experiences should be written and published so other young people can know how God is working," Mr. Bustin said. "Do you mind if I print a book?"

"I want God to be glorified," Jaya said. "I don't want any glory. I am only a little servant of my great Jesus. Neither do I want anyone making money by writing about what only God can do."

"I will do my best to bring glory to God and not you," he promised. "And I will not make money on the sale of this booklet."

Jaya was getting more and more calls to speak after the big Baptist convention and the outdoor meeting in Madras. Churches from all over the country were writing letters, sending telegrams and calling on the telephone. All that year and the next Jaya traveled, not only to villages but to large cities. The Catholics, Lutherans, Baptists, Methodists and many other denominations invited her. Many tried to persuade her to join them. A Catholic priest said that the pope had sent a special invitation to her.

She ministered to both the rich and the poor. Important politicians, doctors and lawyers came to her for prayer or counsel. Jaya always said, "I have no wisdom of my own. If God tells me something for you, I will tell you. If God says nothing, there will be no



An Angel's Visit

Luke 1:5-8, 10-13, 17-22

5 There was...a certain priest named Zacharias,...and his wife...and her name was Elisabeth.

6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

7 And they had no child,...and they both were now well stricken in years.

8 And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course,

10 And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense.

11 And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

12 And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

13 But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

17 And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias,...to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

18 And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years.

19 And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand

in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings.

20 And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.

21 And the people waited for Zacharias, and marvelled that he tarried so long in the temple.

22 And when he came out, he could not speak unto them: and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple: for he beckoned unto them, and remained speechless.

The Message: God sent John to prepare the people for the promised Savior. He was like a signpost pointing to Jesus.

Questions:

1. What kind of people were Zacharias and Elisabeth?
2. What were the people doing while Zacharias was in the temple?
3. What appeared to Zacharias?
4. What did the angel tell Zacharias?
5. Why didn't Zacharias believe the angel's message?
6. What was the angel's name?
7. Why could Zacharias not speak?
8. How long would he be without speech?
9. Why did the people marvel?

Verse to Memorize

And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias,...to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

Luke 1:17.

Let's



Talk . . .

The Scriptures tell us that Zacharias and Elisabeth were both righteous before God. They had never done anything spectacular to cause men to honor them but they were strict and punctual in their service to God. God honored that. When He needed someone dependable whom He could trust to bear His special messenger, He chose them.

Hundreds of years before God spoke through prophets saying that He would send a messenger to the world before He sent the Messiah. This Messenger would prepare the people to accept Jesus as their promised Savior. Zacharias and Elisabeth's son was to be this special messenger!

Zacharias was just an ordinary priest. He lived in a remote village far from the splendor of the beloved temple in Jerusalem. He was old now. All his life he had quietly served the people of his village. Each year when the lots were cast to see which priest should burn the incense in the temple, Zacharias no doubt hoped that he would be chosen.

Incense was burned twice each day in the temple but there were so many priests that some were never chosen. It was very rare for a priest to be chosen more than once in his entire lifetime. But now, in his old age, Zacharias had been chosen to go to the beautiful temple and offer the incense!

Zacharias and Elisabeth had never had a child though their constant prayer for years had been that God would give them a son. Now they

were too old. They had given up all hope for a child.

But nothing is impossible for God! He heard all their prayers down through the years. Now He would give them their desire!

So while Zacharias was offering the incense in the temple God sent an angel to tell him the good news. Of course, Zacharias panicked when he saw an angel standing by the altar!

"Don't be afraid," the angel assured him. "I have come to tell you that your prayers have been heard. You and Elisabeth will have a son!" The angel even told him that his son's name was to be John, which means "a gift of God."

Zacharias could not believe the good news. "How will I know that what you say is true?" he questioned. "I am an old man and my wife too is old."

"I am Gabriel," the angel answered. "I stand in the presence of God. He has sent me to tell you this good news. Because you did not believe what I told you and asked for a sign to prove my words true, you will not be able to speak another word until the child is born." Then the angel disappeared.

When Zacharias finally came out of the temple he could only motion to the people. They wondered why it had taken him so long but he could not say a word. They supposed that he had seen a vision.

After some months Elisabeth's neighbors and relatives heard that she would soon have a child. They were amazed and rejoiced with her. When it was time to name the baby they supposed he would be named after his father. Elisabeth told them he was to be named John. Making signs to Zacharias they asked him what his name should be. He wrote that his name was John and immediately he was able to speak!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

advice." She instructed each one to turn from idol worship and vain earthly pride and to humbly serve Jesus.

When the day came that the book was printed and distributed in America the people wanted to meet Jaya and hear her speak. "We will send plane tickets for you, your wife, Jaya and a translator," a Christian wrote to Mr. Bustin. He had already been working for months trying to get a visa for Jaya. Finally the visa came through.

Jaya wrote her family all about it. They came to visit her before she went so far away. "I had a vision and I saw you and Mr. and Mrs. Bustin in the big airplane going to America. But you had no translator," her mother told her.

"Mommy," Jaya said, "airplanes are very big. The translator was probably in the back of the plane. Ask God to give you another vision and maybe you will see him."

"Honey," mother said very seriously, "I think you will be going without a translator."

"Oh my! what will I do in a country of strange giants and no one to speak my language?" Jaya said as fear gripped her.

"Are all Americans giants?" Rata asked.

"The ones I know are," Jaya answered. "The immigration officer was a big, big one. And he was so gruff. He asked, 'Why do you want to go to America when you can't speak English?'"

"What did you say?" Vijaya asked.

"I said, 'Don't worry, you give me the visa and my God will give the language.'"

"Why did you say that?" Vijaya asked.

"I don't know. Maybe because I feared he wouldn't give it unless I could speak English. It sure was a lot of trouble to get."

When the day of departure finally came Jaya boarded the big plane without a translator. She and Mr. and Mrs. Bustin communicated in their homemade sign language. It was difficult to try to communicate so instead Jaya snuggled down into her seat and went to sleep. She had been accustomed to riding on hard seats in bumpy, noisy trains and buses. The plane ride was like riding on a cloud! How surprised Jaya was when she got off the plane and saw all the normal-sized people! Mr. Bustin was motioning for her to come but she couldn't help gazing about at all the strange sights.

It was Thursday when they arrived in America. Four days later Jaya was taken to church. She felt so happy she just wanted to praise God! The pastor motioned to her to speak if she wished. The Spirit of God came upon Jaya and she spoke in English for thirty minutes! She did not know what she was saying. But this was not unusual for many times when she preached Jesus spoke through her and she was unable to recall what she had said. From that time on she was able to speak English.

Mr. and Mrs. Bustin treated her just like she was their own daughter. For nine months they took her to many churches in different states. God always enabled her to speak His message to the Americans in their own language that they could understand!

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. They were both righteous. 2. Praying. 3. An angel. 4. His wife would have a son. 5. Because he and his wife were old. 6. Gabriel. 7. Because he did not believe the angel's words. 8. Until his son was born. 9. Because Zacharias was in the temple so long.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 12 Dec. 21, 2003

Back To India

(Continued from last week.)

"Mother, Mother, I'm home again!" Jaya called as she ran toward the house.

Father paid the taxi driver that brought them from the airport and carried her luggage in. Mother met her at the gate with arms open. Tall Vijaya and little Rata and Victor followed right behind.

"How you all have changed!" Jaya exclaimed as she gave Mother a tight hug. Then she squeezed one sister in each arm, and wrapped one leg around Victor. "You are a big brother now," she said picking him up. "How old are you?"

Victor held up three fingers.

"You have changed a lot in the past nine months too." Mother said. "And how did you like America?"

"It is a beautiful, spacious country and Mr. and Mrs. Bustin treated me wonderfully, but I was so-o-o homesick for India and my family," Jaya said as she kissed each sister again.

"You weren't afraid of the giants?" Rata asked, her eyes wide.

"The people were not giants as I had thought," Jaya replied.

"How long will you be home?" Mother questioned.

"Well I've promised to travel with some missionaries and be their trans-

lator after they have rested a few days," Jaya answered.

"Come on in," Mother said. "The servants have a real Indian meal ready for you; spiced potato curry, chicken and hot roti."

Jaya looked all around the room. Her little red dress hung on the wall. "My dress!" she exclaimed. "I have such memories of that dress!"

"Oh, Jaya, I must tell you," Father said, "I'm preaching in the home of the communist that gave you that dress. God is blessing the believers in that village."

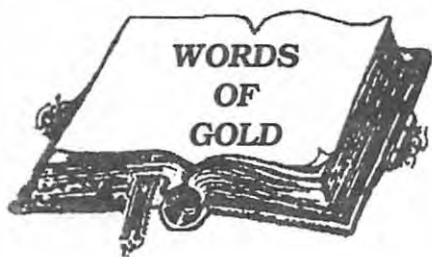
"Daddy, how wonderful that God has called you to be His servant!" Jaya exclaimed.

"I am so unworthy," Father said as they were getting seated on bamboo mats around the low table.

"At a convention over in Nellore District a woman told me a story about you," Mother told Jaya as they were eating. "She said that some rowdy boys threw stones and hit you. You picked up the stones and said, I thank the people who threw these stones for these stones are garlands to me. They are very costly diamonds. Why only three? Give me four hundred stones for my father stoned people when he was a communist. I will gladly pay his debt." Jaya, do you remember that?"

"Yes," Jaya answered.

"You were a much persecuted little



Born This Day A Savior

Luke 2:8-20

8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

12 And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

14 Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men.

15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

16 And they came with haste,

and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.



The Message: Be sure to keep Christ in your Christmas.



Questions:

1. Why were the shepherds spending the night in the field?
2. What made them "sore afraid"?
3. Who was born in the city of David?
4. When the angels went away, where did the shepherds go?
5. Who did they find there?
6. After they had seen baby Jesus what did they tell the people?
7. What kind of a world would we live in if Jesus had not come?
8. What is more important to you, Jesus or your gifts?

Memory Verse

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:11.

Let's



Talk . . .

I am sure that all of you look forward to Christmas. When I was a little girl my folks were poor, but they usually had some fruit or candy for us and sometimes little gifts. And we always enjoyed the sacks with candy, fruit and nuts that the Sunday school gave us.

We loved to sing the Christmas carols at school. We were taught that we should love the great Gift, which was God's Son, Who came to this world as a little baby. God gave a Gift first, and that is why we give and receive gifts.

Boys and girls don't ever forget why we have Christmas. I know that many of your neighbors seem to have forgotten. They mostly think of decorating a tree, getting gifts and having a big time on that day. But I feel that it would be very, very wrong for you and me to think of Christmas in that way.

If Jesus had not been born there would be no Sunday school for you to go to. Jesus brought love and kindness to the world. There are places in the world today where they do not know about Jesus. Instead people go to witch doctors who often make them do terrible things. These witch doctors have power to have people tortured or even killed because they think they have been the cause of trouble in the tribe. Some mothers throw their babies into the river for the crocodiles to eat. It is a dark, cruel place to live where Jesus is not known. Today you want to thank God that America knows about Jesus.

But we need to pray that our nation will not forget about Jesus. It is

sad to see how many people do not love or serve Jesus. Our nation will have great troubles, even more than they have today, because so many do not love Jesus and accept the peace and goodwill that He brought to the world. You can do your part by loving Jesus with all your heart.

—Aunt Marie

(Taken from December 25, 1966
Beautiful Way.)

Years ago there was a Christmas card titled, "If Christ had not come." The card showed a minister who had fallen asleep in his study on Christmas morning. As he slept he dreamed that Jesus had never come to the world.

In his dream he found himself looking through his home, but there were no little stockings in the chimney corner, no Christmas bells or wreaths of holly, and no Christ to comfort, gladden and save. He walked out on the street, but there was no church with its spire pointing to heaven. He came back and sat down in his library, but every book about the Savior had disappeared.

The doorbell rang and a messenger asked him to visit a poor dying mother. He hurried to her bedside, sat down and said, "I have something here that will comfort you." He opened his Bible to look for a familiar promise but it ended at Malachi and there was no gospel and no promise of hope and salvation! He could only bow his head and weep with her in bitter despair.

Suddenly he woke with a start, and a great shout of joy and praise burst from his lips as he heard the choir singing in the church close by: "O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold Him, born the King of Angels, O come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord."

Let us be glad and rejoice today, because "He has come."

—Adapted from *Streams in the Desert*, December 25.

girl." Mother added.

"I learned a lot through all my childhood troubles," Jaya said. "Everyone needs problems. They help sweeten people. Even Christ learned to obey through the things He suffered."

"I praise God every day that you stood faithful all those years. Let's see, you were scoffed and scorned for about ten or eleven years, I think. And at the same time God was doing many miracles through you. How could people, especially me, be so blind?" her father said sadly.

"Don't think about the hard times," Jaya admonished. "Look at the great things God is doing."

"Yes, I praise God every day for His mercy to me," Father said. "Say, I visited Paul not so long ago, too. The Christians in his village have built a church and Paul is the pastor."

"Daddy," Vijaya interrupted, "tell Jaya about our plans for an orphanage."

"Yes, yes," added Rata clapping her hands.

"Your mother and I have decided to build an orphanage on the land where my grandmother's grave is. We'll root out all those useless thorn trees and there will be plenty of space."

Jaya just stared into her plate. "Aren't you happy to help the poor children?" Rata asked.

"Oh, I love to help the poor. It—it—it's just that—that Jesus has met me among those thorn bushes so many times. It's kind of sacred to me. It has been my refuge for many years. I was wishing to go out there many more times."

"We know it means much to you," Mother said. "But God has other plans for you now."

"You aren't planning to get me married are you?" Jaya asked suspiciously.

"No, no," Daddy said with a

chuckle. "I haven't found a young man worthy of my daughter."

Jaya was happy Daddy felt the way he did about her but curious to know what plans Mother was talking about for she knew that God revealed many things to Mother.

"I suppose my wishes are very selfish," Jaya answered.

In a few days the American missionaries came for Jaya. Together they traveled by bus, by train, by plane to cities and villages all over Andhra Pradesh. Jaya listened to the missionaries speaking English. Then she gave the same message in Telegu so the people could understand.

In one city Jaya remembered having met a most unusual man several years ago. To be in this man's presence was like being with one of the apostles. Thousands of India's poor had come to know Jesus as he traveled by foot over the mountains, across hot deserts, around the shores of the Gange River, through steaming valleys and into busy cities. No suffering seemed too great to endure if he could only preach the gospel to the people. When Jaya met him he was on his deathbed. He told her, "I am so glad you came. I wanted very much to see you before I die. I have a son who is proud and sinful. He will not submit his life to Jesus. Will you please pray for my son and keep praying until you know that he is saved?"

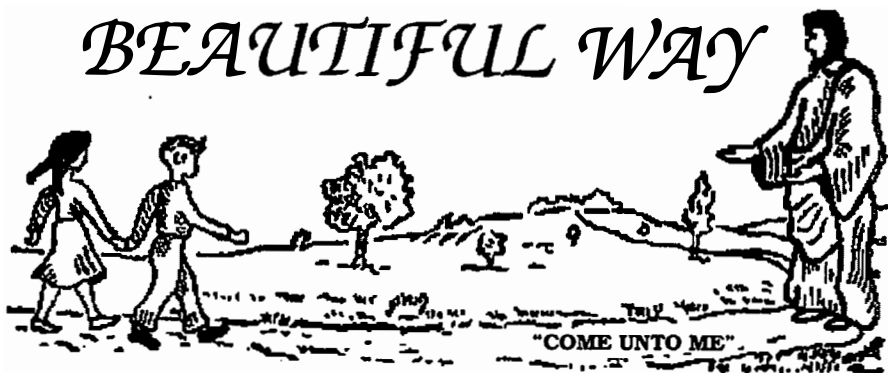
"I will be glad to pray for him," Jaya had promised, and she was still praying for him.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. To keep watch over their flocks. 2. The angel of the Lord appeared to them. 3. Jesus. 4. To Bethlehem. 5. Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. 6. Everything the angel told them about Jesus. 7. Answers will vary. 8. Jesus.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 13 Dec. 28, 2003

To America Again

(Continued from last week.)

Jaya was glad to be back home in India. For nine months she had been far away in America. Her stay there had been interesting and God used her to help many people yet she still missed her family and native land.

But Jaya did not have much time to spend with her loved ones. Missionaries from America needed her as a guide and interpreter. With her help they could take the gospel to the people of India in their own language. Jaya and the American missionaries visited churches and mission stations all over Andhra Pradesh. Then they went back to the large, busy city of Madras. Here the missionaries talked with Jaya. "The church in Australia is begging for you to come," they told her. "Would you pray about going?"

Jaya prayed. She thought Jesus said, "I want you to go back to America." Jaya told the missionaries that God did not want her in Australia but she said nothing about going again to America.

"Then will you pray about going to New Guinea for they too are begging for you to help them."

Jaya prayed again but the only message she got was, "Go again to America."

"I cannot go to New Guinea," she told them.

"We will take good care of you," they promised. "We will buy your plane ticket and do everything for you."

"I cannot go unless Jesus sends," she said.

Jaya waited for Jesus to open the way for her to go to America. When the time was right she received a letter from a stranger. It said:

Dear Jaya,

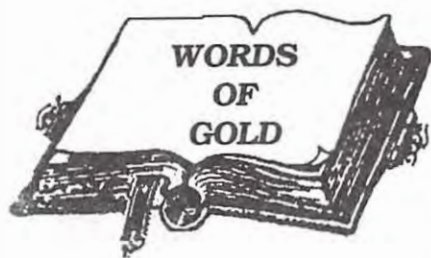
You probably do not remember me. I do remember you. You spoke at a meeting. I was there and felt God's presence with you. I am seventy-one years old but still able to work. One day while I was on the job Jesus spoke to me saying, 'Invite Jaya Pradha Kollipara to come to America again. Also send her a ticket.'

I promised the Lord I would as soon as I could. It seemed like Jesus came and stood by my side giving me much strength to work. I felt again like a young man and was able to earn this money pouring cement.

Enclosed is a check for your expenses. Please come as soon as you can."

Jaya showed the letter and check to her friends and told them God had said, "Go."

Mr. France helped her apply for a missionary visa so she could stay



God's Love For Man

Hebrews 1:1-3

1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Ephesians 1:3-10

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

8 Wherein he hath abounded to-

ward us in all wisdom and prudence;

9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

The Message: God speaks to us through his Son, Jesus Christ.

Questions:

1. In olden days through whom did God speak to people?
2. Through whom does He speak to people now?
3. By who were the worlds made?
4. Christ is the express image of Whom?
5. Who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings?
6. When were we chosen to be holy?
7. By Whom were we predestinated to be adopted as children of God?
8. Through Whom do we have forgiveness of sins?
9. Will Christ gather together the saved in heaven and on earth?

(Answers: 1. The prophets.
2. Jesus. 3. By God and His Son, Jesus. 4. God. 5. God.
6. Before the foundation of the world. 7. Jesus Christ. 8. Jesus.
9. Yes.)

Verse to Memorize

**God...Hath in these last days
spoken unto us by his Son....
Hebrews 1:1-2.**

Let's



Talk . . .

"No thanks, I don't smoke," Aaron said as Tom passed around a carton of cigarettes offering one to each of the seventh grade boys.

"Why don't you smoke?" asked Derek.

"It isn't pleasing to God," Aaron answered.

"Who is God?" Josh questioned.

"God is the supreme power that created the universe," Derek said before Aaron had a chance to answer.

Looking more puzzled Josh asked, "How could a person know what he does is displeasing to such a supreme power? I mean how could anyone communicate with an invisible power?"

"We feel wind and electricity. Isn't that communicating?" Aaron said.

"Ah, that's crazy," Tom said. "Besides my Dad smokes and he's a Christian. He goes to church every Sunday and I do too when he makes me."

"But how do you know what God likes or dislikes?" Josh questioned Aaron, for he thought Aaron knew more about religion than any boy in the class. "Does God talk to people?"

"Let's get out of here, I hate discussions about religion," Tom said as he walked away. The other boys followed leaving Aaron and Josh alone.

"God has many ways in which he speaks to people," Aaron said. "Abraham, Moses and Paul heard God's voice speaking to them. Gideon, Lot, Mary and the parents of Samson were visited by angels who brought each one a message from God. When God's people were traveling through the wilderness, God showed them when to move by a pillar of fire by night and a cloud in the day. When the cloud

moved the people knew it was time to move. God spoke to Daniel and Joseph by dreams or visions."

"Did you learn about these by reading the Bible? Josh asked.

"Yes, you can read about them in the Old Testament part of the Bible. In the olden days God gave His messages to the people through special men called prophets such as the ones I have mentioned. Of course there were many more. However, after Jesus came to live on the earth God is speaking to people through Jesus."

"Do you mean that Jesus talks to you like I am talking to you?"

"Well, no. He talks to me when I read His words in the New Testament. Sometimes I have a question and what I read gives me the answer. That is Jesus talking to me."

"I hoped you would say, 'I hear His voice.'"

"My heart hears His voice and it's just as real as if my ears heard it."

"I think it would be easier to know God's messages if someone told them to us."

"Jesus is telling us God's messages every time a person reads His words in the Bible. Jesus usually said things easy to understand. Often if a person says they cannot understand Jesus' words it is because they do not want to do what He says to do,"

Aaron explained, "If people would believe that God is love and that all He tells us to do is for our good then it wouldn't seem so hard. Christ gave His life for us because He loved us. Then He chose us to be His children. He redeems us from sin, blesses us and prepares us a home in heaven where we can be together with our friends and family forever."

"That's great! I wish I believed it like you do. You're the nicest guy I know," Josh answered as the two boys walked away toward their class.

—Charlotte Huskey

(Taken from the December 6, 1992 *Beautiful Way*.)

longer. After securing different letters and official papers the visa was granted.

Again Jaya said good-bye to her beloved family and country and flew to America.

After being there for several months, a letter came from her father. Hastily Jaya tore it open and began reading.

Dear Jaya,

God's great blessings be on you forevermore. We hope you are well and adjusting to the many changes and that God is comforting you when you are homesick.

God has blessed me, His humble servant, with another son, Michael. Your mother is doing fine, also your sisters and Victor.

We are getting the land ready to build the orphanage. We have the thorn trees all cut down now and will be starting the building as soon as we have funds. We have decided to call it, THE WAY OF TRUTH AND LIFE REFUGE. There is a little albino girl whose parents do not want her. We will take care of her.

Last month when I went away for the convention I had an unusual experience. While at the train station a young man carrying a Bible came into the room where I was sitting. I guess he noticed that I had my Bible open on my lap. He came right over and asked if I was a Christian.

As we were talking he said, "My mother is a Christian and tried for years to get me to be one. But I thought movies, dancing and drinking were too hard to give up. I became a real drunkard before God saved me. She would tell me over and over, 'Son, you owe your life to God.' I paid no attention to her until one day she said, 'Son, don't you remember when you had those awful, painful boils all over your body and God healed you?'"

"I did remember the terrible pain and how I instantly stopped hurting. That put me to thinking that I wouldn't be alive except for God's mercy, so I surrendered to Jesus.

"Now I'm preaching the gospel in Paramaru."

"Paramaru?" I said. "How long ago were you healed?"

"Oh, let's see," he said, thinking a while. "I was just a boy. A little girl prayed for me when I was healed. About the same time, a married man was healed after a white cobra bit him."

"That was my little girl," I said. "Our family stayed with that family for several months," I said.

"Oh, is that you? I thought I had seen you some place. And you are a preacher now?"

"Yes. I'm on my way to a convention at Mudeneppalli. How are the Christians in Paramaru?"

"The church is growing real big," he said. "They now have ten preachers in the church."

I wanted you to know that God is blessing in Paramaru...

Letters from home were bitter-sweet. It was good to hear from her beloved family and country, but she was sorry they were so far away. Many times Jaya wished she could fly away to her people. But at those times angels comforted her. The Holy Spirit had taught her many years ago to be content in whatever place and situation God put her.

Often she remembered the many places she had traveled over India and found herself in difficult situations. God had always been her support in those times. He was her strength and support in this strange land of America, also.

(To be continued next week.)

(Look for "Answers" on page 2.)