

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 1 January 7, 2007

Joe Benton's Coals Of Fire

It was a lovely morning. Joe Benton sprang out the back door. "I'll have time to run to the brook before breakfast and see if my boat is all right," he said to himself. "We boys are to meet and launch her at nine o'clock, and the captain ought to be up on time."

So Joe hurried down to the cave where the precious boat was hidden. As he neared the place, he saw that someone had already been there! Hurrying to his boat he burst into tears at the sight of it. His beautiful little boat had a large hole in the bottom of it! Its colorful sails had been cut to shreds!

Joe stood for a moment, motionless with grief and surprise. Then, his face red with anger, he declared: "I know who did it! It was Fritz Brown. He was angry because I didn't ask him to come to the launching. But I'll pay him back for this!" Quickly pushing the ruined boat back into its hiding place, he went a little farther down the road. After stretching a piece of string across the footpath a few inches from the ground he carefully hid himself in the bushes.

Before long he heard someone coming. Joe eagerly peeped out to see if it was Fritz. Instead of Fritz, he saw that it was Cousin Herbert. He was the last person he wanted to see right now! Joe tried to lie very quiet; but

Cousin Herbert's sharp eyes caught a curious movement in the bushes, and, brushing them aside, he soon found Joe.

Joe did not answer right away when he asked what he was doing there. Finally he told him the whole story and added that he meant to get even with Fritz.

"What do you mean to do?" Cousin Herbert asked.

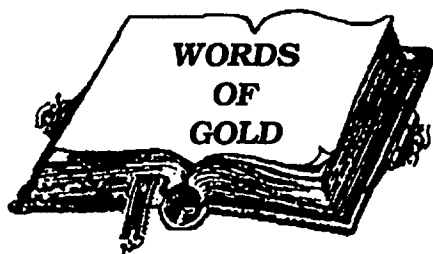
"Fritz carries a basket of eggs to the store every morning and I plan to trip him over this string, and make him smash all of them," Joe explained. Joe knew that he was not showing the right spirit. He expected Cousin Herbert to give him a good scolding. But to his surprise he said quietly: "Well, I think Fritz does need some punishment; but this string is an old trick. I can tell you something better than that."

"What?" cried Joe eagerly.

"How would you like to put a few coals of fire on his head?"

"What, and burn him?" said Joe doubtfully. "Now that's just the thing, Cousin Herbert. You see, his hair is so thick he wouldn't get burned much before he'd have time to shake them off; but I'd like to see him jump once. Tell me how to do it, quick!"

"If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink: For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head,



HOW TO TREAT AN ENEMY

9 Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

Matthew 5:43-46

them which despitefully use you, and persecute you:

The Message: Jesus gives us power to return good for evil and make friends of our enemies!

[illegible]

Let's



Talk . . .

Jesus' love is so strong it can give us a genuine love and concern for the person who has hurt us. It will make us willing to do anything we can to show them we forgive them and care about them. We can't do this on our own; our natural reaction would be to make them suffer. But Jesus can make us able to obey His commandment, "Love your enemies."

The love He gives us will melt all hatred and bring peace. Stephen showed this love by praying for his murderers, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge."

Saul was there, watching. He wasn't one of those throwing stones but the Bible says he was "consenting unto his death."

Not long after Stephen was stoned Saul was on his way to Damascus to arrest any believers that he could find. All of a sudden, just before he got to Damascus, Jesus appeared to him in a dazzling light from Heaven. This was the turning point in Saul's life. He repented of his sins and the Lord forgave him. He went everywhere telling others about Jesus and His wonderful love for sinners.

I am sure that Paul often thought of Stephen. No doubt his heart melted when he thought about his courage and great love for his murderers!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

Someone stole some very valuable hides from a man named Mr. Green. He told no one but his wife about it. They both believed that Joe, their neighbor was the thief.

The next week Simeon put an ad in the paper that said, "Whoever stole a lot of hides on Friday night, the fifth of this month, is hereby informed that the owner has a sincere wish to be his friend. If he was tempted to do this because he was so poor, the owner will keep the whole

thing a secret, and will gladly give him a chance to get money in a way that will be more likely to bring him peace of mind."

This strange advertisement caused a good deal of talk. People wondered if the thief would accept the friendly offer. Some said he would be a fool if he did, because it was plainly just a trap to catch him. But the thief knew who made the kind offer, and he knew Simeon Green was not a man to set traps to catch people.

A few nights later there was a timid knock at Simeon's door. He opened it, and there stood his neighbor, Joe Smith, with a load of hides on his shoulders. Without looking up he said in a low, humble tone, "I have brought them back, Mr. Green. Where shall I put them?"

Simeon said kindly, "Come in, Joe, and tell us how it happened. We will see what we can do to help you."

Mary Green knew that Joe did not have enough to eat so she quickly fixed him something. When he and Simeon came back from the barn she said kindly, "I thought a little warm supper would do you good, Mr. Smith."

Joe turned his back to her and said nothing for a moment. Then he exclaimed in a choked voice, "It was the first time I ever stole anything, and I have felt very bad about it. I don't know what made me do it. I did not think at one time that I should ever become what I am. But I began to quarrel and then to drink, and since I began to go downhill everybody gives me a kick. You are the first friends I have found—the only ones who have tried to help me!

—Adapted from *Stories for the Children's Hour*

QUESTIONS:

1. Let _____ be without dissimulation (pretense).
2. What are you to abhor (hate)?
3. What should you cleave to?
4. What should you do to those who persecute you?
5. Live _____ with all men.
6. How can we heap coals of fire on our enemy's head?
7. Be not overcome of _____ but overcome _____ with _____.
8. Love your _____.
9. _____ them that curse you.

and the Lord shall reward thee," said Cousin Herbert gravely. "I think that's the best kind of punishment Fritz could have."

Joe's face dropped. "Now, that's no punishment at all!"

"Try it once," said Cousin Herbert. "Treat Fritz kindly, and I am certain that he will feel so ashamed and unhappy he would far rather you had given him a severe beating."

Joe was not really a bad boy at heart; but he was now in an ill temper, and he said sullenly: "You said this kind of coals would burn, and they don't at all."

"You're mistaken about that. I have known such coals to burn up a great amount of rubbish—malice, envy, ill feeling, revenge, and then leave some cold hearts feeling as warm and pleasant as possible."

Joe drew a long sigh. "Well, tell me a good coal to put on Fritz's head, and I'll see about it."

"You know, Fritz is poor and he can seldom buy himself a book, although he loves to read. Now, you have quite a library. I'll leave you to find your own coal; but be sure to kindle it with love; no other fire burns so brightly and so long." With a cheery "good-by," Herbert jumped over the fence and was gone.

Before Joe had time to collect his thoughts, he saw Fritz coming down the road with a basket of eggs in one hand and a pail of milk in the other.

For one moment, the thought crossed Joe's mind: "What a smash it would have made if Fritz had fallen over the string!" Then he stopped, glad that the string was safe in his pocket.

Fritz looked uncomfortable when he first caught sight of Joe; but Joe said quickly, "Fritz, do you have much time to read?"

"Sometimes," said Fritz, "when I've done all my work; but the trouble is, I've read everything I can get hold of."

"How would you like to take my new book of travels?"

Fritz's eyes danced. "Say, would you let me? I'd be careful with it!"

"Yes," answered Joe, "and perhaps I've some others you'd like to read." Then he added, "Fritz, I would ask you to come and help sail my boat today, but someone has torn up the sails, and made a hole in the bottom. Who do you suppose did it?"

Fritz's head dropped, but after a moment he looked up, and said, "I did it, Joe; but I can't begin to tell you how sorry I am. You did not know I was so mean when you promised me the books."

"Well, I rather thought you did it," said Joe slowly.

"And yet you..." Fritz couldn't get any further. He rushed off without another word.

"That coal does burn," Joe thought. "I know Fritz would rather I had smashed every egg in his basket than to have offered him that book."

When the boys met at the appointed time, they found Fritz already there trying to repair the boat. As soon as he saw Joe, he hurried to give him a little flag he had bought for the boat with part of his egg money that morning. The boat was repaired, and the boys enjoyed sailing it.

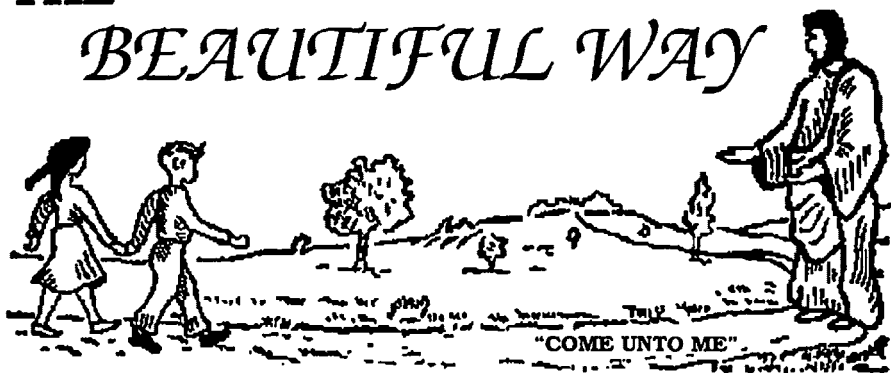
Joe found that the more he used this curious kind of coal, the larger supply he had on hand—kind thoughts, kind words, and kind actions. Joe's playmates, who saw that he was always happy, studied the secret, and when any trouble came up, someone would say: "Let us try a few of Joe Benton's coals." It was astonishing to see how quickly their hearts grew warm toward each other.

—Adapted from *Choice Stories for Children*

(Answers: 1. Love. 2. That which is evil. 3. Good. 4. Bless them. 5. Peaceably. 6. By feeding him when he is hungry and giving him a drink when he is thirsty. 7. Evil, evil, good. 8. Enemies. 9. Bless.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 2 January 14, 2007

Always Be Honest

Some years ago a father who had lost his wife lived in the slums with his little son, whom people nicknamed "Freckles." Their house was very small and there was no yard where the boy could play.

Usually Freckles had to stay home alone while his father was away working but one day his father took him along. As they were passing a pretty home with a spacious lawn the little boy tried to pull away from his father's hand. "What is wrong, Son?" he asked.

"I want to go on that nice green grass and play until you come back, Father," he said.

"Those people will not let you play on their lawn, Son."

As they walked on, Freckles kept looking back. When they got back to their dingy, slum home, he asked, "Daddy, why can't we have some grass and flowers and trees?"

Freckles' father faithfully read the Bible. He told Freckles about the beautiful things he would be able to enjoy in the better world to come if he would be a good boy.

"Will the birds sit in our trees and sing for us, too? Will Jesus let me have a little doggie to play with?" he asked. "And will there also be a nice Shetland pony for me?"

"Yes," came the assuring answer. "I am sure Jesus will give you all the

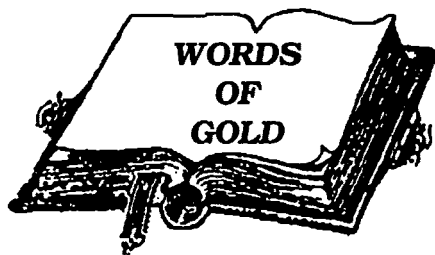
lovely things you need to be completely happy. Perhaps He will even have a nice Shetland pony for you and a fine swing in one of the trees."

Freckles never grew weary of hearing of this beautiful home. One night his father came home late. He had had a hard, long day. But little Freckles crawled up into his daddy's lap as usual and pleaded, "Daddy, please tell me again about Heaven."

The father pressed his little boy to his heart assuring him, "If you will be a good boy and always be honest and do right, then you will someday be able to go to that beautiful Home."

One evening the father came home so tired he was not able to eat supper. He was very sick. He pressed his little boy to his heart, and told him, "Dear Son, I may have to leave you, but God will always be near you. He will care for you if you will talk to Him often in prayer and always be honest. Never take anything that does not belong to you, Son. Someday you and mother and I will meet in that beautiful Home which I have told you about."

Four days later his father died. The world looked very dark to little Freckles. The house seemed dreadfully empty; but it was home. Then, a few days later, he was put on the street with his few belongings. Freckles could think of only one thing to do. He would sell newspapers!



ALWAYS BE HONEST!

Acts 5:1-11

1 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession,

2 And kept back *part* of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back *part* of the price of the land?

4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

5 And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.

6 And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried *him* out, and buried *him*.

7 And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in.

8 And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much.

9 Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband *are* at the door, and shall carry thee out.

10 Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found

her dead, and, carrying *her* forth, buried *her* by her husband.

11 And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

2 Corinthians 8:21

21 Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

1 Peter 2:11-12

11 Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by *your* good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

The Message: It pays to always be honest!

Questions:

1. What did Ananias and Sapphira sell?

2. What did they bring and lay at the apostles' feet?

3. Who had caused them to lie to the Holy Ghost?

4. Who told Ananias that he had not lied to men but to God?

5. What happened when Ananias heard these words?

6. How long was it before his wife came looking for him?

7. We are to provide for _____ things

8. What kind of conversation (conduct) are we to have among the people?

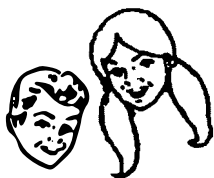
9. When men see your good works who will they glorify?

Verse to Memorize

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Matthew 5:16.

Let's



Talk . . .

Charles passed by the drug store and saw a sign in the window saying: "Boy Wanted, Apply in Person." He went in and told the druggist he would like to have the job.

The druggist gave him a job to do. After Charles had worked two or three hours the druggist went to see how Charles had done his work. The boy had found some boxes lying about and he had placed the bolts in one, the nails in another, and the screws in a third.

"And see what I found!" exclaimed Charles. "It was lying in the bottom of the chest." And he handed the druggist a five-dollar gold-piece. The druggist took the money with a smile. After sending Charles on a few errands he dismissed him for the day.

A few days later the druggist gave Charles a key and said, "You may come early in the morning and open the store, and do the sweeping and dusting."

At the end of the first week, when Charles received his pay envelope, he found the five-dollar gold-piece along with the week's wages.

One morning when Charles was sweeping the floor, he found a few pennies lying near the counter. He picked them up and laid them on the shelf, and told the druggist about them. Another day he found some pennies, a dime, and two nickels. These too he laid on the shelf, telling the druggist where he had found them. About a month later, when he was sweeping one morning, he found a bright, shiny new dollar. How he did wish he might keep it for himself!

"The druggist would never know it," whispered a tiny voice.

"But just at that instant, Bee Honest began to buzz around his ears. "Be honest! Be honest!"

"Yes," said Charles at last, "I will." He laid the dollar up on the shelf and when the druggist came in, he told him about it.

The druggist smiled. "You are an honest boy," was all he said. And at the end of the week, Charles found the shiny dollar in his pay envelope, besides his usual wages!

A few weeks later, the druggist began to give Charles large sums of money to take to the bank for him. "I have found that I can trust you, my boy," he would say.

Charles worked in the store all summer. When school opened again, he worked mornings and evenings. His tired mother did not have to take in so many washings now because Charles always gave her his money at the end of the week. After he finished school, the druggist gave him a steady job in the store, with good wages.

"Charles," said the druggist one day, "do you remember the day you sorted bolts and nails for me?"

"Indeed I do," answered Charles. "And I shall never forget how surprised I was when I found a five-dollar gold-piece at the bottom of the chest."

"I put it there on purpose," said the druggist. "I wanted to find out what sort of boy you were. When you brought it to me I was pretty sure that I had found an honest boy. But I wanted to be able to trust you with large sums of money, so I tested you still further. I left pennies and nickels and a dime on the floor; and last of all, a dollar. When you picked them all up, and laid them on the shelf, and told me about them I knew that I could safely trust you."

—Adapted from *A Hive of Busy Bees* by Effie M. Williams

He packed his few belongings in a small nook between two buildings, then seeing a newsboy, he asked how he could get some papers to sell. Soon he, too, stood at the street corner calling out, "Newspaper! Buy a newspaper, please."

He hardly sold enough to buy something to eat. One day a little dog came sniffing along. He looked starved and homeless. Freckles talked to him and even gave him some of the dry bread he had in his pocket. Soon the dog sat down and leaned against his new friend's legs. This pleased the boy very much.

That evening Freckles started for the little spot he now called home. The dog followed and crawled in with him. The two became fast friends. They slept together and Freckles shared his meager meals with him.

One day a well-dressed lady dropped her purse as she stepped into her car and drove away. Freckles picked it up and looked into it. There he saw many shiny dollars. Would he take some? "Oh, no," he said to himself. "They are not mine. I will run after the car. Perhaps I can catch up with it at the stoplight."

So he ran up to the car, waving the purse at the lady. "Oh, thank you!" she said, and tossed him a tip.

The lady was so impressed by the little newsboy's honesty she decided to adopt him. A number of weeks later, she drove up to the corner where Freckles was selling papers and bought all he had. Freckles was happily surprised.

Then she offered to give him a ride. Freckles hesitated, then told her, "Thank you, Madam, but I am only a newsboy. Besides, I have a little dog. He goes with me wherever I go. He is the only friend I have."

"I am glad you have a friend. Let Nip come too," she replied.

Freckles and Nip got in the car and the lady drove out of the busy

city. Freckles wished his father could be enjoying the ride with him, seeing the pretty houses and clean streets. Then they drove up a long hill and into a beautiful yard. As they neared the house he saw a swing in a tree, and beside the tree stood a Shetland pony.

The car stopped, and the lady opened the door. "Step out, Son, and enjoy yourself! This is your home. That Shetland pony will be yours, and Nip may stay too," she said.

Freckles looked around excitedly. Looking into her face, he asked, "Is this Heaven? If it is, please take me to my father."

Tears filled her eyes, as she answered, "I will do my best to make this a little heaven for you until Jesus comes to take us all to His great Heaven."

The kind woman took the lad into the house, washed him, and put new clothes on him. Then she said, "Freckles, my boy, you do not have to go back to selling papers. I am going to adopt you, and you will be my little boy."

"Oh! You talk just like my daddy did. How did you know that I prayed for a home?" asked Freckles.

"Shall I tell you how I knew?" she asked. Freckles listened to his new mother as she read, "The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry." Ps. 34:15. Then she added, "God heard your cries; and because you were honest, I was impressed to bring you home and adopt you as my boy."

—Adapted from *Choice Stories for Children*.

(Answers: 1. A possession (which was a piece of land). 2. A part of the price they received for the land. 3. Satan. 4. Peter. 5. He fell down and died. 6. Three hours. 7. Honest. 8. Honest. 9. God.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 3 January 21, 2007

A Cry For Help

My minister-father believed that God walked beside you day by day, lending you a hand whenever you needed it. He shared this faith with his four children.

I remember one summer night about nine o'clock when we were all returning from a day's outing in the family jalopy. Suddenly a car with glaring headlights swerved around the bend, sideswiping our car. My father, blinded by the headlights, veered off the road, crashed through a fence and came to a sudden stop. Our car was leaning precariously toward the right.

"Don't anyone move," Dad warned. "We don't know what's below us. Just sit still until someone comes to help. God is with us."

We scarcely dared breathe. We were even afraid to call for help. Dad said the noise might make the car lean still further.

My baby sister slept in mother's lap. Time dragged on. Cars whizzed by us on the highway. Nobody stopped even though our headlights were on.

When my little brother began to whimper, Dad said quietly, "Just hang on. Help will come. All of you pray."

Soon the baby woke up and started to scream. Mother couldn't quiet her. We heard a car drive by slowly, slam on its brakes and stop. Our ears

strained as a car door opened and then footsteps approached.

"Great guns!" a man exclaimed when he saw all of us in the car. "I'll go get help. There's a garage nearby." The tone of his voice frightened me as he added, "Don't anyone move!"

He disappeared but soon returned with another man and a tow truck. In no time at all we were safely back on the road.

"You're lucky to be alive. There's a river about thirty feet below that fence you crashed through," the garage man explained. "One little move in the wrong direction and you all would have been pitched right into it."

"If your windows hadn't been open," said our benefactor, "I never would have heard that baby and figured something was wrong."

"The Lord was with us," said my father.

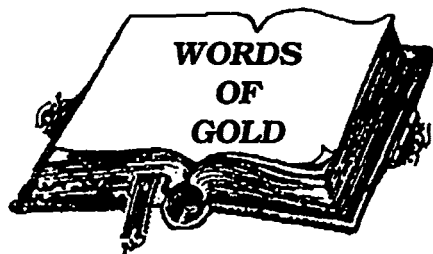
That night, and for many nights, our family prayers were words of gratitude to God for watching over us.

—Karin Asbrand *His Mysterious Ways*

The Widow's Son and His Bible

Years ago there was a pious widow who lived in the north of England. She had a large family—seven daughters and one son. She diligently taught them to love and obey God.

Her daughters accepted her wise



GOD HEARS YOU

Psalms 139:1-18

1 O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known *me*.

2 Thou knowest my downsit-
ting and mine uprising, thou
understandest my thought afar off.

3 Thou compassest my path and
my lying down, and art acquainted
with all my ways.

4 For *there is* not a word in my
tongue, *but*, lo, O LORD, thou knowest
it altogether.

5 Thou hast beset me behind and
before, and laid thine hand upon me.

6 Such knowledge *is* too wonderful
for me; it is high, I cannot *attain* unto
it.

7 Whither shall I go from thy spirit?
or whither shall I flee from thy pres-
ence?

8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou
art there: if I make my bed in hell,
behold, thou *art there*.

9 If I take the wings of the morning,
and dwell in the uttermost parts of
the sea;

10 Even there shall thy hand lead
me, and thy right hand shall hold me.

11 If I say, Surely the darkness shall
cover me; even the night shall be light
about me.

12 Yea, the darkness hideth not from
thee; but the night shineth as the
day: the darkness and the light *are*
both alike *to thee*.

13 For thou hast possessed my reins;
thou hast covered me in my mother's
womb.

14 I will praise thee; for I am fear-

fully *and* wonderfully made: marvel-
lous *are* thy works; and *that* my soul
knoweth right well.

15 My substance was not hid from
thee, when I was made in secret, *and*
curiously wrought in the lowest parts
of the earth.

16 Thine eyes did see my substance,
yet being imperfect; and in thy book
all *my members* were written, *which*
in continuance were fashioned, when
as yet there was none of them.

17 How precious also are thy
thoughts unto me, O God! how great
is the sum of them!

18 If I should count them, they are
more in number than the sand: when
I awake, I am still with thee.

**The Message: Remember—every
word we say here on earth is heard
in Heaven!**

QUESTIONS:

1. Who did David say had searched
him and known him?

2. What did God understand afar off?

3. He said God was _____ with
all his ways.

4. Who knew every word in David's
tongue?

5. Such _____ was too high for
David.

6. To what place could David go to get
away from God?

7. Can the darkness hide us from
God?

8. David realized that he was
_____ and _____ made.

9. David said God's thoughts were
_____ to him.

Verse to Memorize

"For *there is* not a word in my
tongue, *but*, lo, O LORD, thou
knowest it altogether."

Psalms 139:4.

Let's



Talk . . .

One New Year's Eve a number of men had gathered at a saloon to celebrate the occasion. They had been drinking steadily for some time and by now were getting pretty drunk. Among them was a minister's son, Samuel, who had gotten away from the godly influence of home.

The door opened and in trudged Joe, stamping snow off of his boots. The conversation quieted down when he came in. Taking advantage of this he said, "They're having a New Year's service over at the church tonight. I don't see any reason why we can't have one of our own. I'm sure we could have a lively one! We can all take a part in it."

He asked Eldridge the barber to say a prayer, which he did to the delight of all. Then they sang a hymn changing the words to make a mockery out of it.

Joe turned to Sam next. He knew he was a preacher's son so he said, "Now we will have Brother Sam bring us the message!"

But Sam well remembered how he had been taught at home that God is not mocked. He knew God was looking down on them right then. He tried to get away but the men grabbed him and put him behind a table to deliver his sermon.

Sam's early training put fear in his heart. He felt deeply convicted for the sin these men were committing. In a stumbling way he started to speak. "We are all on the broad road heading right for hell," he mumbled nervously. Then, taking courage he declared, "Tonight we all have the opportunity of breaking with our old sinful ways, turning to God and starting a New Year in our lives.

"As for me I have lived a very sinful life full of disappointments and giving in to temptations. The more I think of it," he continued, "the more I believe that God might have mercy and forgive me. I resolve right now to beg His forgiveness. I believe He sees that I mean it!"

Saying this, Sam dropped to his knees and began calling on God to have mercy on him. He humbly prayed for forgiveness for all the sins he had committed in the past. It was not long before he knew God truly had pardoned him. When he got up it was obvious that Sam was a new person! The first place he wanted to go was back home. He just had to tell his parents what a wonderful change God had made in his life.

God knows our innermost thoughts; we can't fool Him! If we really want to serve Him He will make a way for us. Man looks on the outward appearance but God looks into our heart. We cannot hide anything from God so there is no use trying.

Satan tries first to get you to think about something wrong. If he can get the evil thought into your mind he will then work to get it into your heart. From there the evil thought can soon become an evil deed. He works first through the head and then the heart before the evil thought is translated into an evil action.

This is why it is so important to reject any idea or thought as soon as you recognize that it is from the devil. If we stop it as it comes to our thoughts we won't have to worry about the actions becoming sin that we must then repent of.

When our sins are forgiven we have the comfort in knowing God is right with us. We can call to Him and He will help us when we are in trouble. The minister in our first story could confidently assure his family, "God is with us."

—Uncle Dale

counsel and gave their hearts to God. But her only son, Charles, was determined to live an ungodly life and do as he pleased. This grieved his mother deeply but there was nothing she could do to change him. Finally he decided to leave his home and go to sea.

Just before he left his mother gave him a New Testament. She had written his name in it along with her own. She solemnly and tenderly begged her son to keep it, and read it for her sake. Year after year passed and the mother did not hear from her boy. Wherever she went she made it a point to ask about the ship that her son had sailed on. She hoped that by chance she might hear some news of him.

On one occasion she met a sea captain. As usual she asked if he knew anything about this ship. He told her that he did know about the ship, and that it had been wrecked. He said he also knew a young man by the name of Charles and added that he was a very wicked boy. "It would be a good thing if he and all like him were at the bottom of the sea," he told the mother. Fearing that Charles had drowned without turning to God, the grieving mother said, "I shall go down to the grave mourning for my son."

Years passed. Then one day a ragged sailor knocked at her door to ask for food. The mother was always interested in talking to any sailor she met. This sailor told her about his many adventures at sea. He had been through many dangers and had been ship wrecked several times. But he said he had never been so dreadfully destitute as he was some years back, when he and a fine young gentleman were the only ones to survive a shipwreck.

"We were able to escape to a desert island," he told her. "Then, after seven days and nights, my friend died. Poor fellow, I shall never forget it." Tears

ran down the sailor's weather-beaten cheeks as he added, "He read day and night in a little book, which he said his mother gave him. It was the only thing he saved. It was his companion every moment. He wept for his sins, he prayed, he kissed the book and he talked of nothing but this book and his mother.

"Then, at the last he gave it to me, thanking me for helping him, and saying, 'Here Jack, take this book and keep it. Read it, and may it bless you—it's all I've got.' And then he clasped my hands and died in peace."

"Is all this true?" the mother asked, trembling with astonishment.

"Yes, madam, every word of it!" the sailor exclaimed as he pulled a little book from his ragged jacket. "And here's the very book, too!" He held up a much battered and time-worn book.

Anxiously the mother took the Testament. She recognized her own handwriting where she had written her son's name along with her own. Tears ran down her cheeks as she gazed at the little book. Yet she rejoiced at the good news that her son had been saved. She seemed to hear a voice which said, "Behold thy son liveth."

"Will you let me have the book?" the mother asked.

"No, madam," the sailor answered emphatically, "not for any money, not for all the world. He gave it to me with his dying hand. I have lost everything more than once since I got it, without losing this treasure. I will never part with it, till I part with the breath out of my body."

—Selected

(Answers: 1. The Lord. 2. His thought. 3. Acquainted. 4. The Lord. 5. Knowledge. 6. Nowhere. 7. No. 8. Fearfully, wonderfully. 9. Precious.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 4 January 28, 2007

An Old Bible

In a certain New England home, among the treasures that have been handed down from generation to generation from the Mayflower days, is a leather-bound Bible, which far antedates the historical Mayflower period.

In the year of 1555 Queen Mary sat upon the English throne with her Spanish husband by her side. You remember how she won the title of "Bloody Mary" because of her cruel persecution of all Christians.

There lived, during "Bloody Mary's" reign, a blacksmith in the village of Harrant whose small house adjoined his shop, with a fine garden in the rear. The blacksmith's most precious possession was a leather-bound copy of the Protestant Bible, even though Queen Mary had forbidden anyone to read that Book anywhere in her kingdom on penalty of death.

The blacksmith's wife was dead, and his little blue-eyed daughter spent hours that would otherwise have been very lonely, playing about her father's shop—watching the bright sparks fly upward from the great forge, and making believe they were jewels.

This little girl's name was Elsie.

One morning when she went into the shop after her tasks were done, she found father standing behind the door with his precious Bible in his hands, reading the sacred pages with

bent head. So intent was he in this that he did not hear her as she entered.

She was greatly surprised to see that when her father had finished reading he picked up a stick that stood behind the door and touched the heavy beam above the door with it. As he did this, a block of wood fitted on hinges fell forward, disclosing an opening in the beam just large enough to hold the Bible.

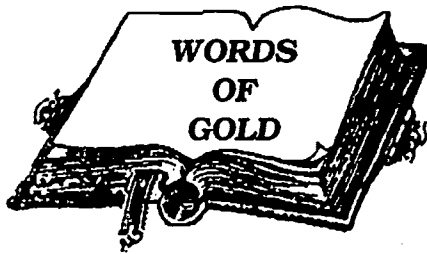
The blacksmith thrust the Book in the space and pushed the block into place, leaving no sign of the opening. Then he turned and saw Elsie staring at him with wide eyes of surprise.

"Little daughter," he said sternly, "how dare you spy upon me!" Elsie's blue eyes filled with tears and she said with sobs in her voice: "I was not spying, Father, but you did not hear me come in and I could not help seeing you hide the Holy Book. That is such a good place that I am sure that all of the Queen's soldiers could never find it."

"My dear child, see that you tell no one where it is," said the blacksmith, still sternly.

"Have no fear, Father," returned the child. "I love the good Book as you do and would guard it if necessary with my life."

These were dark days for the blacksmith of Harrant and all those who



THE EVERLASTING WORD OF GOD

Psalm 119:89

89 For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.

Isaiah 40:8

8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

Matthew 5:18

18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Matthew 24:35

35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

1 Peter 1:25

25 But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

Jeremiah 15:16

16 Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

1 Peter 2:2

2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

2 Timothy 3:16, 17

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

2 Peter 1:21

21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men

of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Psalm 119:11

11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Colossians 3:16

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Psalm 119:105, 130

105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

130 The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

The Message: The Word of God is the only safe foundation to build our life on. It will never change or pass away.

QUESTIONS:

1. For how long is God's word settled in Heaven?
2. The grass withers and flowers fade but what will stand forever?
3. What did Jeremiah say he did when he found God's words?
4. How is all scripture given?
5. It is profitable for _____, for _____, for _____, for instruction in _____.
6. Let the _____ of Christ dwell in you richly.
7. The word is a _____ to my feet and a _____ unto my path.
8. The entrance of thy word giveth _____, it giveth _____ to the simple.

Verse to Memorize

"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."

Matthew 24:35.

Let's



Talk . . .

Our Bible, the Word of God, is the most valuable book. For thousands of years God's words were handed down by word of mouth from one generation to another.

One day God called Moses up to a high mountain. There He gave him two stones on which He had written the commandments and laws that He wanted His people to obey. God's approval and blessings were always on people who read and obeyed His word. Along with commandments, God's Word contained many promises to everyone who obeyed them.

After Moses died Joshua and many others wrote the historical books of the Bible telling how God blessed His people and fought their battles as long as they served Him. Next we have the poetical books in our Bible: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon. Then, down through the many years following, God spoke to the prophets, telling them what to write so the people would know how to serve Him better. When the people disobeyed God, He often used these prophets to warn the people of the terrible trouble they would meet unless they repented of their wicked ways.

There was a space of more than four hundred years between the latest writings of the Old Testament and those of the New Testament. Then, after Jesus' death, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, James, Peter and others wrote down Jesus' words and told about His wonderful teachings. They told about the many times He

healed the people and helped those who were in trouble.

The Old Testament was originally written in the Hebrew language and The New Testament was written in Greek. About the year of 1388 the entire Bible was translated from Latin into English by John Wycliffe. Yet for many years the common people had no hopes of owning a Bible. In fact, as we read in our story, anyone who had a Bible could be taken to prison and even put to death.

Queen Mary was determined to return England to the Roman Catholic Church. Catholics believed that only the Pope could correctly interpret the Scriptures. They considered it a crime for the common people to read a Bible. They must accept what the Pope told them about God's Word. Queen Mary, the Pope and other Catholics knew that if the common people had Bibles of their own they would soon understand that Jesus had died to save them from their sins. They would learn that Jesus is their great High Priest, not the Pope. This would destroy the power of the Catholic Church over the masses of people.

Queen Mary reigned only five short years. During that time many people were killed because they would not conform to the Catholic teachings. Elsie's father was very possibly one of those who were killed. She and the neighbors who saved the precious Bible were risking their lives to protect it.

It is hard to imagine a time when Bibles were not available. Now anyone who wants a Bible can find a way to get one. If they have no money there are many places to get one for free. How thankful we should be for the privilege of reading God's Word at any time. Many have died so we might have this opportunity. Do you value your Bible? Do you read it often?

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

believed as he did. Emissaries of the Queen were sure that there was a Bible hidden somewhere in Harrant and the town was searched again and again. The people of the village stoutly refused to accept the Queen's religion, and since the blacksmith was the only one among them who could read he was thrown into prison.

Elsie's heart was very sad and she spent lonely days in spite of the kindness of her neighbors. Her rosy cheeks grew paler and paler when she remembered the hidden Bible and what her knowledge of it and her promise to her father might mean.

One day the soldiers came again to Harrant and searched every house. "We'll burn the house and shop of the blacksmith," Elsie heard them say. "In case a Bible is hidden there it will surely be destroyed."

As the soldier approached the house, the girl fled swiftly down the garden path and out upon the moor where she lay flat upon her face trembling amid the furze bushes.

She began to breathe more freely as she heard the soldiers marching away. Then the smell of burning wood struck fresh terror to her heart. She looked up to see that the thatched roof of both cottage and shop was already in a blaze.

Swift and sure as an eagle in its flight, she sped homeward past the departing soldiers, who in the approaching dark did not see the little figure who darted past them, and entered the burning shop.

The angry flames scorched her clothing and blistered her face and hands before she reached the beam above the door where the Bible was hidden. She seized it in a firm clasp and in a few moments staggered out the door. When she reached the garden again, she sank to her knees, suffering with keen pain and choking with the smoke that filled her lungs,

but with a prayer of thanksgiving on her lips.

Then to make sure that the Bible would be safe, she slipped off her woolen skirt and wrapped it in it and, digging in the garden soil with her blistered hands, buried it from sight. Then she crawled to the spring at the foot of the garden and tried to bathe her face and hands in the cool water.

There, an hour later, the villagers found her, unconscious from the awful ordeal through which she had passed. You may be sure that they went with her to the place where she had buried the Bible, and each man pledged to guard it with his life.

Of course, you know that times grew better in England and that the people gradually achieved more religious freedom. But perhaps you do not know that many years afterward, when Elsie's great-granddaughter followed her Puritan husband across the ocean to make her home on the lonely New England shores, she carried the Bible of the blacksmith of Harrant with her as a talisman for her new home.

—Gospel Herald

The Weakest Saint

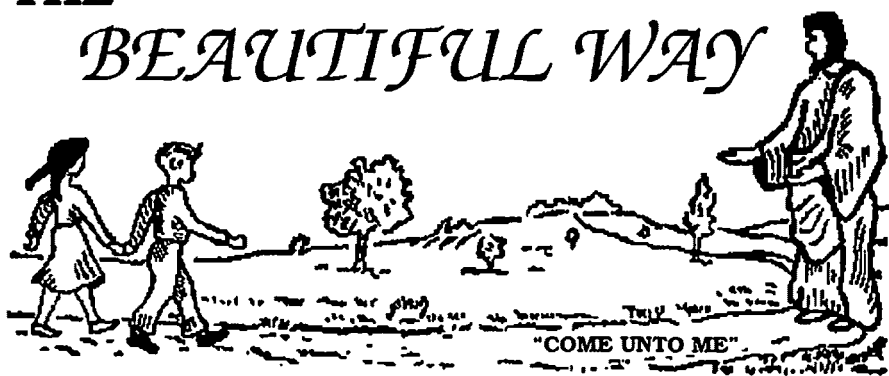
Little Mary knelt every night at her bedside and prayed. Mother stood nearby. One night little Mary prayed longer than usual. Finally she arose. "Mary," asked Mother, "why did you pray so long tonight?"

Said little Mary, "Today in church we sang a song that said, 'Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees.' I wanted to make him tremble longer!" —*Selected*

(Answers: 1. Forever. 2. The Word of God. 3. He ate them. 4. By inspiration of God. 5. Doctrine, Reproof, Correction, Righteousness. 6. Word. 7. Lamp, Light. 8. Light, Understanding.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 5 February 4, 2007

A Calendar for Courage

The gatekeeper at our mission compound limped into the kitchen doorway, bowed crookedly, and announced, "Hsieh si-mu, pastor's wife, here is his excellency, the colonel."

I held my breath. The colonel commanded the troops currently protecting this city of Shenkiu in Central China. It was January 1941; the invading Japanese were only a few miles to the east.

The colonel entered briskly and made his announcement: "The enemy is advancing into Honan Province. We have orders not to defend this city. You should find refuge in one of the villages outside."

I crossed my hands over the sleeves of my wadded e-shang and bowed politely, thanking him for his gracious concern for a "miserable" woman. As the colonel left the room, the icy January blast swept through the doorway. My baby cried.

Suddenly the enormity of our danger overwhelmed me. Our Margaret Anne was scarcely two months old, Johnny just over a year. My husband was 115 miles away. I looked at the little Daily Scripture calendar on the wall: January 15. Not until early February would he be back. How would I manage without him? How

would I make the myriad decisions that now crowded upon me?

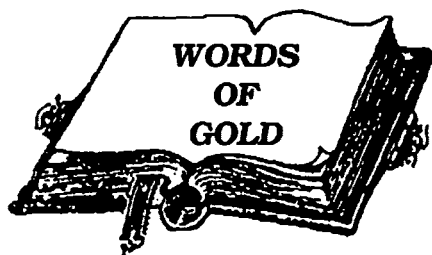
You see, I had not yet experienced the full wonder of God's power to guide us when all other guides fail. Nor did I guess that as His instrument He would use anything as prosaic as a calendar on a kitchen wall.

By mid-afternoon the army garrison in our little city was empty. The departure of the soldiers created panic. Families packed their goods and fled.

The elders of the church called on me before they left. "Come with us," they pleaded. "We will care for you while Pastor Hillis is away."

I looked at the concern in their eyes and I thought of the country homes to which they were headed. My husband and I loved these village homes because we loved the people in them. But they held death for Western babies, as too many little graves in our mission compounds showed.

How could I explain to these friends without offending that I could not take my children into their homes? Unheated, mud-floored huts, they crowded three and four generations together amid vermin and filth. Just a few weeks ago the six-month-old son of the nearest American family had died of dreaded dysentery.



The Powerful Word of God

Psalms 56:3-4

3 What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.

4 In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.

Genesis 50:21

21 Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them.

Psalms 119:9-11, 18

9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

10 With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.

11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

18 Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

2 Timothy 3:14-17

14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*,

15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be

perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

John 10:35

35 ...The scripture cannot be broken;

John 19:36-37

36 For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken.

37 And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced.

2 Peter 1:20-21

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as *they were moved* by the Holy Ghost.

The Message: In the beginning the world was created by the word of God. His word is just as powerful today; it will never fail.

QUESTIONS:

1. What time I am _____, I will trust in thee.
2. In _____ I have put my trust.
3. I will nourish you and _____.
4. With my whole _____ have I sought thee.
5. What did he hide in his heart so he wouldn't sin?
6. The scriptures are able to make us wise unto _____.
7. How is all scripture given?
8. What is it profitable for?
9. What cannot be broken?

Verse to Memorize

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful,..."
Hebrews 4:12.

Let's



Talk . . .

God spoke the word and the world and everything in it was created at His command. Our Bible contains God's word in written form and it is still as powerful as at the very beginning.

The pastor's wife in our story learned the power of the scriptures on her calendar each day. It was as if they were written particularly for her special circumstance. Those words gave her hope and courage, assuring her God was with her even in this deserted city. She was surrounded by grave danger and she was afraid. But God's word told her what to do—trust in God!

When there seemed to be no way to get food for herself and her children the scripture on the calendar told her, "I will nourish you, and your little ones." Joseph spoke those words many years before. He was promising to care for his brothers and their families if they would come to Egypt.

But the pastor's wife took these words as a special promise to her from God. She trusted Him to care for them and He did it in a wonderful way.

Our verse to memorize tells us the word of God is quick. That means it is alive. Our lesson tells us that "All scripture is given by inspiration of God." Although the writers of the Bible lived at different times and under different circumstances, it was God who, by His Holy Spirit, directed the writing. The Holy Spirit makes the words alive to us as we allow Him to apply them to our need.

During His time on earth Jesus proved that God's word was so powerful it could tear down the devil's strong

holds. By His word He raised the dead, opened the ears of the deaf, made the blind see, the dumb to speak and the lame to walk. He released many who had been possessed by the devil.

One day Jesus stood by the lake named Gennesaret teaching the people. More and more people came to hear. They crowded close to Him so they would not miss a word He said. Peter, Andrew, James and John had been fishing that day but they caught nothing so they pulled their boats to shore and got out to wash their nets.

Jesus stepped into Peter's boat. This made it easier for everyone to hear Him better. After teaching the people he told Peter, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

Peter told Him, "Master, we have toiled all night, and caught nothing. But at your word I will let down the net."

So Peter obeyed Jesus. When they let down the nets they caught enough fish to fill both boats so full they began to sink!

There is no limit to what God can do when we obey His Word as Peter did. Noah obediently built an ark because God told him to. People mocked and laughed at him for building the huge boat on dry land. But one day, many years later, the floods came as God said they would. Noah and his family were saved because he obeyed God's word.

Moses and the children of Israel faced the Red Sea with no way to cross over it. They could see Pharaoh and his army coming to capture or destroy them. Then, at God's word, Moses stretched his rod out over the sea. God opened a wide highway and the Israelites walked through the sea on dry land!

The word of God is just as powerful right now, in our life if we are perfectly obedient! That makes it most important for us to know the word of God so we can use it.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

No, my babies were chained to this kitchen where I could boil dishes, milk and water.

But these were not things I could say to Chinese friends. I bowed, I thanked them, I spoke of waiting for my husband's return—of watching the mission property—and I went to bed that night shaking with terror. When Johnny woke up whimpering in the cold, I took him into bed with me and lay awake a long time, listening to the wind rattle the waxed paper windowpanes and praying that my little boy would live to see his daddy again.

Next morning I was in the kitchen early to start the water boiling for Margaret Anne's bottle. Automatically I reached up to the wall calendar and tore off yesterday's date. The Scripture verse for the new day gleamed like sunlight. "What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee." (Psalm 56:3.)

Well, I was certainly afraid. I fulfilled that part of it. Now, indeed, was the time to trust God. Somehow the verse sustained me all through the tense day.

The city was being evacuated rapidly. Other church members came to invite me to their family huts. But the Scripture held me. I was not to panic, but to trust.

By mid-morning the next day the city was nearly deserted. Then the gatekeeper came to me, eyes blurred with fear. He must leave, he said, and begged me to find refuge with him in his village beyond the city.

Should I? What could I do without our gatekeeper? The deserted city would be an open invitation to bandits and looting.

It was noon before I remembered to pull the page off the little daily calendar on the wall. The tenth verse

of the ninth Psalm read, "And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee."

As I bowed my head over my noonday meal, my heart poured out its gratitude to God for these particular words at this moment.

My main concern now was food. All the shops in the town were boarded shut. Meat and produce no longer came in daily from farms. I still had the goats for the babies' milk, but the man who milked them had left for his village. Tomorrow I would have to try to milk them myself. I wondered if I could ever make the balky little beasts hold still.

I slept uneasily that night, wondering how I would feed my children, and sure of very little except that we should stay in the city and, somehow, trust God. The sound of distant gunfire woke me.

Before facing the goats, I fixed myself a bowl of rice gruel. Then I tore the old page from the calendar and read the new day's message. "I will nourish you, and your little ones," said the God of promise. (Genesis 50:21.)

The timeliness of these daily verses was becoming almost uncanny. With some curiosity I examined the back of the calendar pad. It had been put together in England the year before, but God in His all-knowing had provided the very words I needed, a year later, here on the other side of the world.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Afraid. 2. God. 3. Your little ones. 4. Heart. 5. God's Word. 6. Salvation. 7. By inspiration of God. 8. Doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. 9. The scripture.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 6 February 11, 2007

A Calendar for Courage

(Continued from last week.)

It is January 1941. A young missionary, his wife and two babies have come to central China to teach the people about Jesus. While the missionary is over 100 miles away news comes that a Japanese invasion is imminent. Kind neighbors insist that the young mother bring her babies and accompany them to their homes outside the city. This would expose her very young children to deadly diseases and unsanitary conditions that she feared almost more than the Japanese guns. After urging her to come with them, her friends leave one by one. Overwhelmed by the enormity of her peril she glances at the daily scripture on the calendar. The words of comfort and courage seem to leap out to her as if written specifically for this moment. Each day she finds the daily verse carries a timely message giving guidance, hope and courage. The story continues:

I was still eating the gruel when a woman stepped into the kitchen. She was carrying a pail of steaming goats' milk. "May I stay and help you?" she asked. "See, I have milked your goats."

Mrs. Lee had been our neighbor for years, but that morning I stared at her as though she had dropped from Heaven. She had no family living, she

explained, and wished to show her gratitude to the mission.

Late in the day a loud rapping at the gate set our hearts to pounding. Braver, Mrs. Lee was the one who went to open it.

Her face beaming, she returned leading our caller.

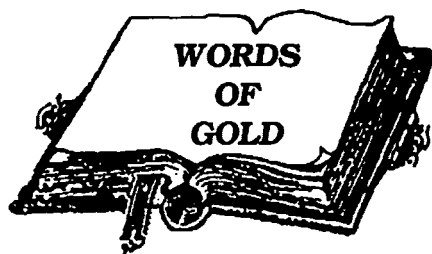
"Gee-tze! Gee-danf" she cried triumphantly. "Chicken! Eggs!"

A frail, black-robed country woman came in with a live chicken and a basket of eggs. "Peace, peace," she gave the customary Christian greeting as she bobbed to us shyly. Noise of the cannons had not kept her away when she remembered that the missionaries would be hungry.

The calendar promise had come true! God would see to it that our little ones were nourished! That night my heart was full of hope. To the sound of shells bursting in the sky I prayed that somehow God would spare this city and these gentle people whom we loved.

Next morning I rushed down to the little square of paper hanging on its nail and tore off the page. "When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for God is for me," the Scripture declared. (Psalm 56:9.)

But this time it was too much to believe! Surely it couldn't be right to take literally a verse chosen just by chance for an English calendar?



ENEMIES TURN BACK!

2 Chronicles 32:10-15, 17, 19-22

10 Thus saith Sennacherib king of Assyria, Whereon do ye trust, that ye abide in the siege in Jerusalem?

11 Doth not Hezekiah persuade you to give over yourselves to die by famine and by thirst, saying, The LORD our God shall deliver us out of the hand of the king of Assyria?

12 Hath not the same Hezekiah taken away his high places and his altars, and commanded Judah and Jerusalem, saying, Ye shall worship before one altar, and burn incense upon it?

13 Know ye not what I and my fathers have done unto all the people of other lands? were the gods of the nations of those lands any ways able to deliver their lands out of mine hand?

14 Who *was there* among all the gods of those nations that my fathers utterly destroyed, that could deliver his people out of mine hand, that your God should be able to deliver you out of mine hand?

15 Now therefore let not Hezekiah deceive you, nor persuade you on this manner, neither yet believe him: for no god of any nation or kingdom was able to deliver his people out of mine hand...how much less shall your God deliver you out of mine hand?

17 He wrote also letters to rail on the LORD God of Israel,...

19 And they spake against the God

of Jerusalem, as against the gods of the people of the earth, *which were* the work of the hands of man.

20 And for this *cause* Hezekiah the king, and the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz, prayed and cried to heaven.

21 And the LORD sent an angel, which cut off all the mighty men of valour, and the leaders and captains in the camp of the king of Assyria....

22 Thus the LORD saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib the king of Assyria, and from the hand of all *other*, and guided them on every side.

The Message: God can make even the mightiest enemies turn back when we pray!

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was Sennacherib?
2. Against what city was he fighting?
3. Who persuaded the people to trust in God?
4. What had Hezekiah taken away?
5. Who did Sennacherib rail against in his letters?
6. What did Hezekiah and Isaiah do?
7. Who did the LORD send?
8. What did he do in the camp of the king of Assyria?
9. Who saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem?

Verse to Memorize

"When I cry *unto thee*, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for God *is* for me."
Psalm 56:9.

Let's



Talk . . .

King Hezekiah lived about 2700 years ago, about 300 years after King David. He was king of the southern kingdom, Judah, and ruled in Jerusalem.

Hezekiah had heard that Assyria had captured Samaria, the capital of the neighboring northern kingdom, and its king. He heard about thousands of Israelites being removed from their homeland and relocated to Assyria in the northeast. He knew the enemy was moving closer. Assyria would surely now try to conquer the southern kingdom and his own city, Jerusalem.

And that is exactly what Assyrian King Sennacherib intended to do. He conquered many other Judean cities, slowly moving toward Jerusalem until he had it surrounded.

When Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come and intended to fight against Jerusalem, he appointed combat commanders over the people, and gathered them together to him at the gate of the city. There he encouraged them, saying, "Be strong and of good courage. Do not be afraid or dismayed before the king of Assyria and all the horde that is with him; for there is one greater with us than with him. With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God, to help us and to fight our battles." The people were encouraged by the words of King Hezekiah of Judah.

The king of Assyria sent a message to Hezekiah, saying, "Don't let your God in whom you trust deceive you to believe that Jerusalem will not be delivered into my hand. Were the gods

of the other nations which my fathers have destroyed able to deliver them?"

Hezekiah read the threatening letter. He knew his little army was no match for the powerful Assyrians. But he knew God was able to defend them. He took the letter and went into the temple. There he spread the letter out before the Lord and prayed. He asked God to help His people out of their trouble so all the kingdoms of the earth would know that He alone was God.

Then Hezekiah sent to the prophet Isaiah to find out God's will. Isaiah answered, "The Lord says that the king of Assyria will not enter Jerusalem, nor will he even shoot an arrow against it. He will turn back the same way he came. I will defend this city and save it."

That very night the angel of the LORD went into the camp of the Assyrians. One hundred eighty-five thousand soldiers died; among them all the leaders of the army. Sennacherib returned to his own land. So the LORD saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of King Sennacherib of Assyria and from the hand of all his enemies; He gave them rest on every side.

Through prayer Hezekiah armed himself with a power greater than the Assyrian army. He knew that God hears and responds to prayer. We can be sure of that, too. Sennacherib's fatal mistake was that he underestimated the power of God to help those who call upon Him!

When Hezekiah became king he restored the worship of God throughout his kingdom. He obeyed God, honored Him, and taught his people to do the same. This gave him the confidence to know that God would defend them against their wicked enemies.

It is important to have this confidence in God. Then, when trouble comes we can depend on Him to defend us and help us out of the trouble.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

As the gunfire drew closer, Mrs. Lee and I began to prepare the house for invasion. Any papers that might possibly be construed to have military or political significance must be hidden or destroyed. We searched my husband's desk and the church buildings. By nightfall the gunfire sounded from both sides of the city. We went to bed dressed, prepared at any moment to meet the Japanese invaders.

I awoke abruptly in the early dawn and strained my ears for the crunch of military boots on gravel. But only a deep stillness surrounded me. There were no tramping feet, no shrieking shells or pounding guns, only the waking murmur of little Johnny in his crib.

Misgivings warred with excitement as I woke Mrs. Lee and we went to the gatehouse, each carrying a child. She was the first to stick out a cautious head. "There is no one in the street," she told me. "Shall we go out?"

And then, we stepped through the gate and watched as the streets began to fill, not with Japanese soldiers, but with townspeople returning from their country hiding places. Had the Chinese won?

As if in answer to our question, we met the colonel. "Pastor's wife!" he greeted me with relief. "I have been concerned about you!"

Then he told us that the Japanese had withdrawn. No, they had not been defeated, nor could anyone arrive at a reasonable conjecture concerning their retreat. The enemy had simply turned back.

I stepped into my kitchen, eyes fixed on a little block of paper pinned to the wall. Oh, you could say it was just a calendar. You could say strangers had chosen those verses without any thought of China, or of the war

that would be raging when those dates fell due. But to me it was more than a calendar, and no stranger had picked those lines. To me it was the handwriting of God.

—Margaret Hillis, **HIS MYSTERIOUS WAYS** Edited by Guideposts

One Rat

In England one little rat caused a dike to collapse in England. The rodent burrowed through the embankment of a canal. Soon water began seeping through. Slowly but surely, the original trickle became a sizable stream. Soon one bank collapsed and a 40-foot break-through let the water pour out in torrents. Three million gallons of water escaped and the canal was drained for seven miles.

As a result more than a million fish were swept away and a twenty-foot gorge was channeled through a nearby field. It took sixty men with bulldozers three weeks to shift thirty thousand tons of soil and repair the damages.

Just as one tiny rat caused this tremendous damage, so can one individual like you start a chain reaction that will either harm or benefit everyone. While it is true that "one sinner destroyeth much good" (Ecclesiastes 9:18.), it is also true that through a faithful life you may cause many to be saved. We may never fully know the far-reaching good that results from a seemingly insignificant prayer, word or deed. But God knows and that is what counts.

(Answers: 1. King of Assyria. 2. Jerusalem. 3. Hezekiah. 4. The high places and altars. 5. The LORD God of Israel. 6. Prayed and cried to Heaven. 7. An angel. 8. Cut off the mighty men, the leaders and captains. 9. The LORD.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 7 February 18, 2007

CUFF

True Story of a Negro Slave.

Cuff was a Negro slave who lived in the South before the Civil War. He was a joyful Christian and a faithful servant. His master, however, was in need of money and one morning a young planter, who was an infidel, came to buy Cuff. The price was agreed upon and the Christian slave was sold to the infidel. When parting with him the master said, "You will find Cuff a good worker and you can trust him; he will suit you in every respect but one."

"And what is that?" said the master.

"He will pray and you can't break him of it; but that is his only fault."

"I'll soon whip that out of him," remarked the infidel.

"I fear not," said the former master, "and would not advise you to try it; he would rather die than give it up."

Cuff proved faithful to the new master, the same as he had to the old. The master soon got word that he had been praying. He called him and said, "Cuff, you must not pray any more; we can't have any praying around here; never let me hear any more about this nonsense."

Cuff replied, "Oh Master, I love to pray to Jesus, and when I pray I love you and Missus all the more, and can work all the harder for you."

But he was sternly forbidden ever to pray any more under penalty of severe flogging. That evening when the day's work was done he talked to his God, like Daniel of old, as he had aforetime. Next morning he was summoned to appear before his master, who demanded of him why he had disobeyed him.

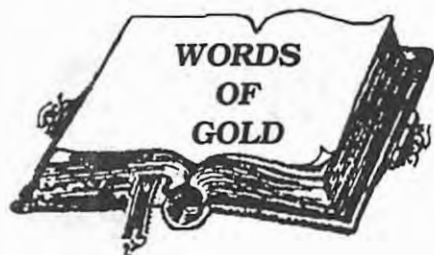
"Oh, Master I have to pray. I can't live without it," said Cuff. At this the master flew into a terrible rage and ordered Cuff to be tied to the whipping post, and his shirt off. He then applied the rawhide with all the force he possessed, until his young wife ran out in tears and begged him to stop.

The man was so infuriated that he threatened to punish her next if she did not leave him, then continued to apply the lash until his strength was exhausted. Then he ordered the bleeding back washed in salt water; and the shirt put on and the poor slave to be about his work.

Cuff went away singing in a groaning voice: "My suffering time will soon be o'er. When I shall sigh and weep no more."

He worked faithfully all that day, though in much pain, as the blood oozed out from his back where the lash had made long, deep furrows.

Meantime, God was working on the master. He saw his wickedness



FREE!

Acts 12:11-23

11 And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and *from* all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

12 And when he had considered *the* thing, he came to the house of Mary...where many were gathered together praying.

13 And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to hear-ken, named Rhoda.

14 And when she knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for glad-ness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate.

15 And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel.

16 But Peter continued knocking: and when they had opened *the door*, and saw him, they were astonished.

17 But he, beckoning unto them with the hand to hold their peace, declared unto them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, Go shew these things unto James, and to the brethren. And he departed, and went into another place.

18 Now as soon as it was day, there was no small stir among the sol-diers, what was become of Peter.

19 And when Herod had sought for

him, and found him not, he exam-ined the keepers, and commanded that *they* should be put to death. And he went down from Judaea to Caesarea, and *there* abode.

20 And Herod was highly displeased with them of Tyre and Sidon:...

21 And upon a set day Herod, ar-rayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them.

22 And the people gave a shout, *saying*, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man.

23 And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

The Message: Those in earnest prayer for Peter's release could not believe he was knocking at the door!

Questions:

1. How did Peter get out of prison?
2. Whose house did he go to?
3. What was taking place at this home?
4. Who came to the door when Peter knocked?
5. What did she do when she recog-nized Peter's voice?
6. Who did the people think it was?
7. Meanwhile what did Peter do?
8. What happened to Peter's guards?
9. Why did the angel of the Lord smite Herod with worms?

Verse to Memorize
 "For with God nothing
 shall be impossible."
 Luke 1:37.

Let's



Talk . . .

Peter went to sleep chained between two soldiers even though he knew Herod intended to kill him the next day. Then suddenly the angel woke him up and led him out of the prison. It was hard for Peter to believe that it was not all a dream! Surely he would soon wake up and find that he was still a prisoner doomed to death.

Finally the reality hit him. The Lord had sent His angel and delivered him out of the hand of Herod. He was free!

After considering what he should do he decided to go to Mary's house. Hurrying through the streets he saw a light in the window even though it was the dark hours of morning. Inside a group of Christians were still in prayer for Peter.

Peter approached the gate and knocked. Finally a young girl named Rhoda came and asked, "Who is there?"

To her amazement a voice answered, "It is Peter."

Rhoda was so surprised that she did not even stop to open the gate. She burst into the prayer meeting exclaiming, "Peter is at the gate!"

"You are crazy!" everyone answered. Peter was in prison. How could he be knocking at the gate?

"It is true! It is Peter!" Rhoda insisted.

"It must be his angel," someone decided.

Meanwhile, Peter stood at the gate still knocking. At last someone went to see who really was there. They were astonished to see that it was Peter himself! Clustering around him everyone began asking questions all at once.

Peter held up his hands for them to be quiet. Then he explained how the Lord had sent an angel to lead him out of prison.

It felt good to be out of the cold dark prison and in the comfortable home of a friend surrounded by his loved ones! But Peter knew he still was not safe. He was sure that Herod would send soldiers to find him as soon as he learned that he had escaped. So he said, "Go tell James and the other brethren what has happened." Then he went to another place to hide from Herod.

At daybreak there was much excitement at the prison. Imagine the soldier's bewilderment. The chains were still attached to their wrists, they were still right where they had been with Peter between them and everything else was just as it had been. But Peter had mysteriously vanished! The soldiers were still standing guard outside. There was no way that their prisoner could have escaped.

But God had intervened. The prayers of the saints were answered in a way far beyond what they had imagined or dared hope! Jeremiah wrote, "Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:" Jeremiah 32:17.

No one knew what had become of Peter. King Herod was furious when he heard that his prisoner had escaped. He called the guards and questioned them closely but they could tell him nothing—Peter had simply disappeared! Such an answer could not satisfy Herod. Finally he commanded that the guards be put to death.

While Cuff was praying, God was working on his cruel master. Cuff could hardly have imagined that his master was sending for him to come pray for him! Cuff, too, was set free in a miraculous way.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

and cruelty to that poor soul whose only fault had been his fidelity, and conviction seized upon him. By night he was in great distress of mind. Such was his agony at midnight that he awoke his wife and told her that he was dying.

"Shall I call in a doctor?" she said.

"No, no; I don't want a doctor—is there anyone on the plantation that can pray for me? I am afraid that I am going to hell."

"I don't know of anyone," said his wife, "except the slave you punished this morning."

"Do you think he would pray for me?" he anxiously inquired.

"Yes, I think he would," she replied. "Well send for him quickly."

They went after Cuff and found him on his knees in prayer. He supposed it was to be punished again.

He was taken to the master's room where he was writhing in agony. The master groaning, said "Oh Cuff, can you pray for me?"

"Yes, bless the Lord, Master, I've been praying for you all night," and he dropped on his knees and, like Jacob of old, wrestled in prayer. And before the breaking of day he witnessed the conversion of both master and mistress.

Master and slave embraced. Race differences and past cruelty were swept away by the love of God and tears of joy were mingled. Cuff was immediately set free. He never worked another day on the plantation. The master took Cuff and went out to preach the Gospel. They traveled all over the South, witnessing to the power of Christ to save to the uttermost. This is what the love of God will do for a person.

—Selected

CHIEF TARIRI

Chief Tariri, a Peruvian headhunter, was the chief of a whole tribe of headhunters. He was so fierce he had personally killed and decapitated ten other chieftains, plus an uncounted number of common jungle Indians. The heads of those ten chieftains decorated poles in front of his hut. The Peruvian army was terrified of him. They would not enter into his territory at all.

But two young Wycliffe Bible translators, Loretta Anderson and Doris Cos, armed with nothing more than the weapons of a translator—pens, pencils, and Bibles—pierced into the Peruvian jungle and headed for the camp of Chief Tariri and to what would seem certain death. But God protected them. Apparently, they appeared to be no threat whatsoever to the chief; he did not try to harm them.

They showed him a strange and unknown form of love that stirred his curiosity. They learned his language and began to speak to him about One who had loved the world with a love that had never been seen before; a love that took Him all the way to the stake and to death.

Finally, the heart of this hardened headhunter was softened by the power of the gospel of Christ, and he yielded his life to the Lord. He himself ultimately led about 200 of his tribesmen to Christ. Love and light had come into the darkness and blackness of Tariri's heart and had produced a light and a joy that had transformed his life.

—*What If Jesus Had Never Been Born?*
by James Kennedy

(Answers: 1. The Lord sent His angel and delivered him. 2. Mary's. 3. Many were gathered to pray. 4. Rhoda. 5. Ran in and told them that Peter was at the gate. 6. Peter's angel. 7. Continued knocking. 8. Herod had them put to death. 9. Because he did not give God the glory.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 8 February 25, 2007

FAITHFUL FRIENDS

It was a fine summer morning. Thirteen boys from the Southgate Christian School had looked forward to this day for a long time. Now, at last, the day had come for their day's outing in the mountains. As they waited they talked excitedly about what a wonderful day it was going to be and the many fun things they planned to do. Each had their lunch, packed in lunch boxes or paper bags, all ready for the journey. They were a noisy group each laughing and shouting to one another.

Finally they crowded into three cars driven by older friends and away they went as happy as could be. Higher and higher they climbed up the mountain road until at last they came to the beautiful forest where they all loved to go for special recreation. Here they all jumped out. The drivers waved good-bye and returned to the city.

Now they were alone—13 boys all ready for the greatest day of their lives.

They wandered among the trees down to the river and followed it to the lake. There someone suggested that they might as well eat since this was such a pretty spot. It didn't take more than one suggestion like that. All of them readily agreed and began opening their lunches.

There was silence for awhile. Everybody was too busy eating to talk. At last David, who was a leader among them, spoke up and asked what the others would like to do after lunch.

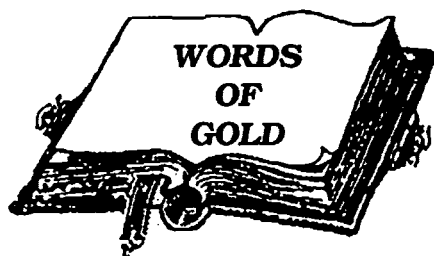
"Let's swing on the wild vines," they all called out together, and it was clear that this was what they wanted to do most of all.

"All right," said David. "Has everybody finished eating? If so, then let's be off to the vines."

You see, the boys had all been in this forest several times before, and they remembered that in a certain part of it there were some strange wild vines that not only grew around the trees, but actually spread from tree to tree until all were bound together as in some tropical jungle. Between the branches of some trees the vines would hang in great loops like the ropes of a swing, and the boys were not slow to recognize the fun they could have swinging from vine to vine, or just using one as a swing.

There were so many of these loops that there were plenty of swings for all of them and more to spare. Soon all thirteen boys were hanging on to the vines, swinging to their hearts' content.

It was such fun! Each boy tried to swing higher than the rest. If one of them did not like the swing he had



HYPOCRITES

Matthew 23:1-15

1 Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples,

2 Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:

3 All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, *that* observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.

4 For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay *them* on men's shoulders; but they *themselves* will not move them with one of their fingers.

5 But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,

6 And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues,

7 And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi.

8 But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, *even* Christ; and all ye are brethren.

9 And call no *man* your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.

10 Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, *even* Christ.

11 But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.

12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

13 But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in *yourselves*, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

14 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

15 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

The Message: You can have lots of religion without having an ounce of salvation.

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was Jesus speaking to?
2. Who sits in Moses' seat?
3. What was the motive of all the scribes' and Pharisees' works?
4. What rooms did they love at feasts?
5. What did they want to be called?
6. Why are we not to be called masters?
7. What will happen to the one who exalts himself?
8. The one that humbles himself will be _____.
9. What did they make for a pretence?

Verse to Memorize

"But be ye doers of the word,
and not hearers only,
deceiving your own selves."
James 1:22.

Let's



Talk . . .

I read about a man in Massachusetts who had a deep secret which he kept hidden from others for several years. No one suspected that there was anything wrong. Even his wife did not suspect that he had a problem. At home his behavior with her and his family appeared normal in every way!

Each evening he would come home from work and visit with the family for a while before sitting down and eating dinner with them. Then he would get up and go to his favorite chair with the newspaper.

But finally the day came when he felt like he couldn't take the strain any longer. After years of guarding his secret, he finally had to confess—he couldn't read! He had only been pretending!

Many people are like this in their spiritual lives. They appear to be Christians. They go to church quite regularly and act real pious at church. They make such a good impression that people think that they are saved.

The Pharisees were careful to look very religious and say long prayers out where people would be sure to see them. They studied the law for hours at a time and should have been the first ones to recognize that Jesus was the promised Savior. The very prophecies that they studied all foretold the events of His birth. But these men were hypocrites—pretenders. Jesus warned His disciples about them. He said, "Do as they say, not as they do!"

God only knows how many of us are like that. We know we want to go

to Heaven and we know what we need to do to get there. But we just don't want to pay the price. We feel like we can surely take a short cut. We may reason with ourselves, "Surely I don't have to be that strict!" and feel that it just takes too much effort to live a godly life.

But somewhere down the road God will cause something to show where we really are. The Pharisees were able to hide their true feelings for quite awhile but when they got the opportunity they were the ones who demanded that Jesus should be crucified.

In the fourth and fifth chapters of Acts it says that there was no one that lacked food or necessities because those who had houses or land sold them and gave the money to the apostles. The apostles then distributed the money to those in need.

Ananias and his wife, Sapphira, sold some property. They wanted the praise for giving as others were but they weren't willing to give it all. So they decided between themselves to pretend they were giving the full price—they would keep the rest for themselves.

But the Holy Spirit revealed this to Peter. When Ananias laid the money down he asked, "Ananias, why have you let satan persuade you to lie to the Holy Ghost and keep back part of the price of the land?" The penalty for Ananias' hypocrisy was sudden. As soon as he heard these words he fell down dead! Sapphira too fell dead when she lied to hide the fact that they had not given all the money.

It is a fearful thing to be a hypocrite. God sees our hearts and knows every thought we think. When we come to the end of our life wouldn't it be terrible to have the Lord say, "I'm sorry, I never knew you. Depart into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels."

—Uncle Dale

chosen, he just moved on and found a better one.

Sometimes a boy would climb quite a good way up a tree in order to reach one of the larger and longer loops, and then he would slide down till he reached the middle and swing until he was tired.

Presently David called out; "Look at that beauty over there," pointing to an unusually fine vine that drooped temptingly from one branch to another. It was fairly high up. Several made a rush to get to it first. David, however, was ahead, and making a great leap, seized the vine and was soon swinging away.

Suddenly, to their horror, they heard a terrible ripping sound as the vine broke loose from one of the trees. At that moment David was in the middle of a mighty swing and crashing down to the ground hit his head on a rock.

"Oh," exclaimed all the boys at once as they jumped from their swings and ran toward the place where David lay on the ground.

John was first to get there. He tried to help David get up. David did not move.

By this time all twelve boys had gathered around, looking down at David's limp form. Suddenly the dreadful thought came to them that he might be dead. No one said it, but each knew what the other was thinking. They shuddered as they saw the blood trickling from the wound on David's head.

"What shall we do?" exclaimed Jarrad.

"Someone had better run and get help," gasped Bert. But nobody moved. Then somebody else spoke. "Let us kneel down and pray for him," he said. "It is the best thing we can do."

"Yes," murmured the others very solemnly. "Let's pray."

There in that lonely forest these 12 boys knelt upon the ground around their friend, David, and asked God for help.

John prayed first, then Jarrad. Then another and another, until at last 12 had sent up a brief, halting petition to the great Heavenly Father, who they knew was a friend to all boys.

Now it may sound unbelievable, I know, but when the last simple prayer had been said, David began to move!

"Look!" they all cried at once. "He is not dead after all!"

One of them ran for some water. They bathed David's face. Soon he opened his eyes. Then they gave him a drink. By and by he sat up.

They all sat around telling David what had happened and how they had thought he was dead. When David was finally able to stand up, they partly carried him, partly led him back to the highway where they waited for a car to take him home.

Years have passed since then but when they get together they talk about this wonderful day. Sometimes when their own boys want to go alone in the forest they tell them about this experience when they went with their friends to the woods. Not one of them has ever forgotten that strange and beautiful prayer meeting in the forest.

Every one of them agrees with David that it is a fine thing to have 12 faithful friends to pray for you when you need help!

—Selected

(Answers: 1. The multitude and His disciples. 2. The scribes and Pharisees. 3. To be seen of men. 4. The uppermost. 5. Rabbi, Rabbi. 6. Because Christ is our Master. 7. He will be abased. 8. Exalted. 9. Long prayers.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 9 March 4, 2007

The Soldier and the New Testament

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword,..." Hebrews 4:12.

During the Crimean war (1855), it happened that a French regiment was ordered to Toulon in order to embark in a few days from that place for the scene of war. At the same time there happened to be an agent of the Paris Bible Society in that seaport, disposing of Bibles and New Testaments among the citizens. When he heard of the arrival of the regiment he realized that many of these young soldiers would very likely never see home again. Yes, most of them, in view of the bloody character of the war, would certainly meet their death and no doubt very few were prepared. Going to the colonel of the regiment he asked permission to speak to the men before they embarked, and to offer them the New Testament. The request was willingly granted.

One morning he pointed out the way of salvation to a group of soldiers who had gathered about him in the campground. He reminded them of how they could find light and counsel and comfort in God's Word if they would but ask the Lord Jesus with an earnest heart to open their eyes. One stepped up to him, a young man with

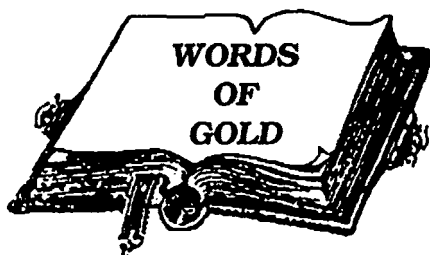
an expressive, intelligent countenance, and said: "I am deeply moved by your kind, earnest admonition. I see the necessity of providing myself with the Word of God, but, alas, I haven't a penny wherewith to purchase the costly treasure."

"Well," replied the agent, "that can be remedied. If you sincerely wish to have the New Testament, my Christian duty requires me to not let you go away unsatisfied. I will freely give you a copy, although I must pay for it myself."

Then he took a small Testament out of his leather pouch and handed it to the soldier, accompanying it with a prayer for the divine blessing. But how astonished and pained he was when the young man broke out in a loud laugh, saying: "I have caught you nicely, my good man! You ought to know that I am the chief clown of the regiment, and you can see for yourself how well I succeeded in leading you around by the nose."

"Give back the book," cried the agent.

"Oh, no, no; good friend," said the soldier. "I would be ashamed to commit such an outrage upon you in the presence of all these respectable witnesses. What would they think of you should they see you taking back with the left hand the present just bestowed with the right? No, we don't do



A GREAT CHANGE!

1 Corinthians 15:9

9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

Acts 7:58; 8:1-3; 9:1-8

58 And cast him (Stephen) out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

1 And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.

2 And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him.

3 As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.

1 And Saul, yet breathing out threatnings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest.

2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

3 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:

4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

7 And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man.

8 And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man:

The Message: There was a great change in Saul's life after he met Jesus on the road to Damascus!

QUESTIONS:

1. Why did Paul feel he was unworthy to be called an apostle?
2. Where did the men who stoned Stephen lay their clothes?
3. Why did the believers scatter out of Jerusalem?
4. What did Saul do to those of the church?
5. Why did he wish to go to Damascus?
6. What did he see as he got near Damascus?
7. What did the voice ask him?
8. Who was speaking to Saul?
9. What happened when Saul opened his eyes?

Verse to Memorize

"...Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief."
1 Timothy 1:15.

Let's



Talk . . .

Paul referred to himself as an apostle many times in his writings though he confesses he was not worthy to be called an apostle because he persecuted the church of God. Yet God saw that Paul had an honest heart. He truly believed he was doing God's will when he imprisoned and killed those who believed in Jesus. Paul's conversion from a murderous opponent to one who was willing to risk his own life to preach Jesus is proof of the power of the gospel. Nothing is impossible with God. He can take my life and yours and make us just like Jesus!

Paul, who is introduced as Saul in the scriptures, was born in Tarsus, one of the great cities of the Roman Empire. As a boy Saul left his home and came to Jerusalem to study the Law of Moses under Gamaliel, a famous teacher. Then, when Saul was older he became a strict Pharisee.

At that time more and more people in Jerusalem believed that Jesus was the Son of God. They did not keep the strict commandments as the Pharisees interpreted the Law. Saul was shocked. He felt that the followers of Jesus were disobeying the Law of God. He must stop them from spreading such a gospel!

In Jerusalem Saul mistreated many believers by having them arrested. Some were even put to death for their loyalty to Jesus. While Stephen, the first martyr, was being stoned to death Saul stood watching with satisfaction. Life became so miserable for the believers in Jerusalem

that many of them fled to other cities for safety. Wherever they went they faithfully told others the wonderful story of Jesus, their Savior.

This infuriated Saul. When he heard that there were believers in Damascus he went to the high priest for letters of permission to go to that city and search for followers of Jesus. He planned to kill them or bring them back to Jerusalem as prisoners.

So with the letters authorizing him to arrest any who believed in Jesus, Saul started towards Damascus with a few friends. It was about noon and they were so near the city that they could see the great wall surrounding Damascus. Suddenly a brilliant light brighter than the sun shone round about them. Saul fell to the ground. Then he heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked fearfully.

"I am Jesus Whom you are persecuting," He answered.

Saul asked, "What do You want me to do?"

Then the Lord instructed him to go on to Damascus. There he would be told what he must do. Meanwhile the men with him stood speechless, wondering what the voice and brilliant light could mean. When Saul got up he opened his eyes but he could not see anything. He was blind.

The young soldier in our story showed no fear of God or reverence for His word. The Bible agent warned him, "Young man, beware what you do for It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (Heb. 10:31.)

Those words and the agent's many prayers brought about a great change in the young soldier. The New Testament that he had mocked became his greatest treasure and comfort.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

such things in the French army. A present is a present, and so I will keep the book. Besides, it can be of good service to me, and without doubt that is what you wish. One does not always have paper on hand in camp, and this little book will be of excellent service in lighting my pipe."

Thereupon he saluted the agent after military style, but in the most comical manner, and went away laughing. He did not go, however, without hearing a warning voice; for the agent called after him in a solemn tone, "Young man, beware what you do for 'It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.'" Hebrews 10:31.

When the agent perceived that the others, in consequence of this sad scene, were likewise inclined to scoff he hastened away, sorely grieved.

Amid many tears he poured forth his heart in intercession for the young soldier: "O Lord," he sighed, "forgive him, for he knows not what he does. O my God, let some word upon which his eye may chance to fall when he opens Thy Holy Book, with its bone and marrow piercing power, penetrate the deepest depths of his conscience, and change his heart. Lord, Lord, enlighten his mind, convert him, save him!"

Soon after, the regiment sailed for the Crimea, and the agent also left Toulon to pursue his calling in other parts of France.

One evening, 15 months after the above incident, the Bible agent arrived at a small village more than a hundred miles from Toulon. Weary with the trying labors of the day, he sought nourishment and rest in an humble inn. Scarcely had he crossed the threshold, however, when he observed that some sorrowful occurrence must have recently taken place there. In the dining room 10 persons

sat at supper, but their expression betokened deep sorrow. In the kitchen, a still sadder scene met his gaze. The members of the family and the servants went about their work in silence. At the fireplace sat an aged woman with bowed head, and evidently in the greatest grief. The agent approached her and inquired with sincere sympathy of the cause of their grief, adding some words of comfort.

"Yes, I am in trouble, in deep trouble," cried the woman, while the tears coursed down her cheeks. "I thank you for the kind words you have just spoken. They have done me good here," and she laid her hand on her heart. "You ask the cause of my grief," she continued. "Alas, but a few hours ago, the joy, I may say, the pride of my life—my son—was consigned to the grave. And what a son!" Here her voice was choked with the deep emotion of her heart.

"Do not grieve so sorely, dear woman," said the agent, himself deeply moved. "Let me read a few words out of a Book which I never open without finding something which fits exactly to every condition in which I find myself." Then he drew a small New Testament out of his pouch, and read the words: "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them, which are exercised thereby." Hebrews 12:11.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Because he had persecuted the church of God. 2. At Saul's feet. 3. Because of the great persecution against the church at Jerusalem. 4. Had them put in prison. 5. To arrest any believers he found. 6. A light from Heaven. 7. "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?" 8. Jesus. 9. He could not see.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 10 March 11, 2007

The Soldier and the New Testament

(Continued from last week.)

The story this far: A Bible agent tells of giving a New Testament to a soldier who then said he would use its pages to light his pipe. The agent's parting words warned him of the danger of falling into the hands of the living God. The agent faithfully prayed for the soldier's salvation. Fifteen months later the Bible agent stopped at an inn and noticed the deep grief of those present. He offers words of comfort from his New Testament.

Scarcely had he read the passage when the woman arose from her chair, with a look of the greatest astonishment. But the young man, who did not seem to notice it, turned back a few pages and continued to read: "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:14-16.

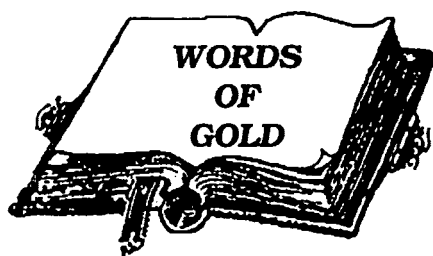
After hearing these words the woman hastened out of the kitchen.

but immediately returned with a small book in her hand. It was the legacy that her son had left; "the most precious," as he said, "that he could bestow upon them." The agent took the little book in order to see what it was. It was a New Testament of the same size and style as the one out of which he had just read. But it was badly soiled and much worn, and many leaves had been torn out. On the inside of the cover was the following inscription in large letters:

"Received at Toulon, — 23, 1855. I at first despised and badly used it, but afterwards read it, believed it, and found in it the salvation of my soul. J. L. Fusilier, company 4, of Linien's regiment."

Judging from the condition of the little book, evidently the young soldier had torn out leaves for the purpose of lighting his pipe, as he had boasted on receiving it at Toulon.

But this work of destruction, as his mother related, came to a close one evening before a battle in which his regiment was to take the dangerous position of advance guard. On that evening, he did not know why, solemn thoughts arose in his mind. Suddenly the words of the man of whom he had received the book fell upon his conscience like a thunderbolt. "It is a fearful thing to fall into



PRAY ALWAYS

Luke 18:1-14

1 And he spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

2 Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:

3 And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.

4 And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man;

5 Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.

6 And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.

7 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

8 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

9 And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:

10 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank

thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

The Message: God's command to pray always assures us He is always listening!

QUESTIONS:

1. What is a parable?
2. How often should we pray?
3. Who did not fear God or man?
4. What did the widow want the judge to do?
5. Why did the judge finally do as the widow asked?
6. What will God do for His own elect who cry to Him?
7. What two men went up to pray in Jesus' second parable?
8. Which thought he was better than the other?
9. Every one that exalteth himself shall be _____ and he that _____ himself shall be exalted.

Verse to Memorize

"...Men ought always to pray, and not to faint;..."
Luke 18:1.

Let's



Talk . . .

Even before telling the story of the unjust judge, Jesus immediately tells us the meaning of this parable—we ought to pray always. It is both a privilege and a duty to pray. It is a great honor to be invited to speak with God Almighty, the Creator and Ruler of the universe! Very few people are admitted into the presence of truly great people. If they are given this opportunity they must do so at the convenience of the dignitary. But God invites us into His immediate presence at any time, day or night. He knows how weak and helpless we are. He knows that as long as we are in the world we will face trouble, heartache and danger. For these reasons He tells us we should always pray. I Thessalonians 5:17 tells us, "Pray without ceasing."

Wisdom and humility both teach us that we are dependent on God for everything. Without Him we can do nothing. Since we are completely dependent on God we should always be in a spirit of prayer—continually lifting our hearts to God asking Him for help, guidance and, also, thanking Him for His many blessings to us. It is in this way that we are always praying.

Prayer strengthens us spiritually. Every time we truly touch God through prayer we receive real strength and increased faith.

When we have a need we should bring it to God in prayer. Our prayer may not be answered immediately. We are taught then to continue to pray until the need is met. God cannot be compared to an unjust judge—

He loves us more than we can realize and will give us the very best. If our prayers are not answered at once we must continue to pray, knowing that God has a purpose in the delay.

The Bible agent in our story prayed faithfully for the young soldier for years. God wonderfully saved him in answer to those continued prayers.

The following story shows how the prayer of faith waits on God: A minister was once holding a revival. An infidel came to the meeting to ridicule and hinder others from accepting God. Seeing his intent, the minister stepped up to him and asked, "Are you a Christian?"

"No," the infidel answered emphatically.

"Well, do you want to be one?" With a sneer the infidel answered, "I should say not!"

"Then shall we kneel and pray together?" asked the minister

"I do not believe in prayer," answered the infidel.

"Well, then, will you allow me to kneel and pray for you?"

"Yes, but it will do no good," replied the infidel sarcastically.

The minister knelt and poured out his heart in prayer for the infidel's salvation. When he got up the infidel remarked, "I don't feel any different at all."

"Wait," the minister answered, "Wait awhile. God works in His own time. Two years later the minister met the infidel again. "See, your prayers were not answered," the infidel told him.

Just don't get uneasy, the minister assured him. "We must not rush God."

After a few more years this same infidel went to another service. God had been dealing with him. This time he yielded to God and was wonderfully saved in answer to years of continued prayer.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

the hands of the living God."

"What if I should now fall into His hands," he cried in the anxiety of his soul. This thought haunted him, as he said, throughout the night. As soon as the morning dawned, he took the book, which now seemed to have become his accuser, out of his knapsack.

He drew it out in the expectation of finding nothing in it but fearful threats. How astonished he was, while leafing along, to run against such passages as the following: "For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that that the world through him might be saved." John 3:17.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:" Ephesians 2:8.

"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matthew 11:28, 29.

Especially did the last passage make a deep impression upon him. He revolved the words over and over in his mind, trying to discover their meaning, until the drum awoke him from his meditations.

He quickly put his Testament in the knapsack, took his place and rank in his regiment, and marched to meet the enemy. The engagement did not last long, but it was one of the bloodiest of the campaign. Our young Fusilier was among the many wounded that covered the field of battle. He was taken to a hospital where, for several weeks, he hovered between life and death. But the weeks were not lost to him. The Bible passages, which he had read by twilight on the morning of battle were, through the operation of the Holy Spirit, active and powerful in his heart. A new light

broke upon his soul, and he was soon able to testify, by his own experience, to the truth of the words of John 5:24: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

On being removed to another hospital further east, he suffered a relapse in consequence of which he was permitted to return to France. He arrived home about six weeks before the agent's visit. The well-soiled Testament was seldom out of his hand during his sickness. His mouth overflowed with earnest appeals to his mother and his friends, that they, too, might accept Christ and His salvation.

Even to his last gasp, he did not grow weary in exhorting all to accept the free grace of God offered us in Christ Jesus, and thus avoid falling into the hands of the living God.

While the agent listened to these words of the sorrowing mother, he could but lift his heart in prayerful thanks to the Lord, that his prayer for this young soldier had been so graciously heard, and so wonderfully answered.

And so he could comfort the sad mother in the joy of his heart, over the salvation of this soul, and entertain the fond hope that she would accept the same salvation—the salvation in which her son had found the forgiveness of sins, righteousness, peace, and the hope of everlasting life.

(Answers: 1. A story that teaches a lesson. 2. Always. 3. The judge. 4. Avenge her of her enemy. 5. So she would quit bothering him. 6. Avenge them speedily. 7. A Pharisee and a publican. 8. The Pharisee. 9. Abased, humbleth.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 11 March 18, 2007

The Winner!

Janet lay on her bed sobbing. "Mother," she questioned, "why did you ask me to stay with Daddy? He's so mean." She sat up and looked at her legs, rubbing the red and blue whelps from the whipping she had just received from him.

He was all right during the week. But every other Friday evening he came home drunk. Janet slid from the bed and on to her knees. "Oh, Jesus," she prayed, "please forgive me for being angry. And please tell Mother I'm sorry for not wanting to obey her just then. You know, Jesus, I love You. I love my mother, too, and want to honor and obey her even though she's in Heaven with You. It's just that Daddy's strong and it hurts awfully bad when he beats on me."

That night Janet dreamed that her mother walked into her room. "Janet, dear," she said, "Don't leave your daddy. Someday he will change."

Janet cheerfully made breakfast for her father but he was too sick from being drunk the night before to enjoy it. "I hope you get to feeling better," Janet said kindly.

When she went to school Monday, she wore long socks to cover up the bruises on her legs. She did this often.

One Saturday evening it was raining so hard the windows and doors of

the old house rattled. Janet felt alone and afraid in the storm. Suddenly she heard someone banging at the door. Immediately her father called, "Let me in! Let me in, don't you know it's raining?"

Janet hurried to the door, but not soon enough. Her father was angry. "Why didn't you open the first time I knocked?"

"I didn't hear you, Daddy," she said.

"I know why you didn't open the door. You didn't want me to come in. I'm your daddy, and you—" At this he ran toward her.

"No, Daddy, no!" Janet cried as she dashed into the kitchen. She unlocked the back door and slipped through just as he grabbed for her.

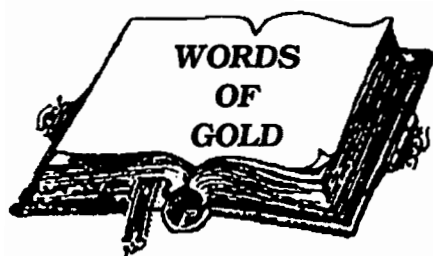
"Well, well," he laughed, "now you will see how I felt. Just stay out!" he stormed.

Janet heard him lock the door. There was no porch on the house, so Janet could only hover close to the wall.

At eleven o'clock that night the neighbor came home and saw her sitting on the front step. "What are you doing?" he asked.

"Daddy ran me out," Janet answered softly. "But he'll soon be asleep and then I'll go in."

"He can't do you like this," the neighbor stormed. "I'm going to call the police."



LOVE CONQUERS

2 Kings 5:1-11, 13, 14

1 Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man...but he was a leper.

2 And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife.

3 And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy.

4 And one went in, and told his lord, saying, Thus and thus said the maid that is of the land of Israel.

5 And the king of Syria said, Go to, go, and I will send a letter unto the king of Israel...

6 And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying ... I have *there-with* sent Naaman my servant to thee, that thou mayest recover him of his leprosy.

7 And it came to pass, when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he rent his clothes, and said, Am I God,...

8 And it was so, when Elisha the man of God had heard that the king of Israel had rent his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying,...let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel.

9 So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha.

10 And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in

the Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean.

11 But Naaman was wroth, and went away,...

13 And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean?

14 Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, ... and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

The Message: The little maid showed love to those who had captured her and told them about the one true God.

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was Naaman?
2. What was wrong with him?
3. Who had the Syrians brought back captive from Israel?
4. Who did she say could cure the leprosy?
5. Who sent a letter to the king of Israel?
6. What did the king do after he read it?
7. Who told the king to send Naaman to him?
8. What did he tell Naaman to do?
9. What happened when he obeyed?

Verse to Memorize

"But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you."

Luke 6:27.

Let's



Talk . . .

The Syrians lived in the country north of Israel. They sometimes attacked the cities of Israel and took anything they wanted from the Israelites in their raids. Sometimes they took people and even children for slaves.

In one raid a little girl was captured. She was taken, along with the other captives, to Syria. Here they were sold as slaves. Naaman, the rich captain of the Syrian army, saw the little girl and bought her to serve his wife.

No doubt the little girl's parents grieved over the loss of their little daughter and prayed for her safety. They would probably never see her again but they knew God would keep her safe though they could not. The parents did not know that God would use their little daughter to accomplish great good. She became a little missionary, though it was against her will.

Great trouble struck. Naaman discovered that he had the dreaded, deadly disease called leprosy! The king of Syria was very sorry when he heard the news. Naaman was a brave captain of his army.

The little slave girl, too, was very sad. She remembered Elisha, the prophet of Israel, who God used to do many miracles. She had faith to believe that Elisha would heal her master, Naaman. Bravely she told his wife, "If only my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would heal him of his leprosy."

Naaman would have gladly given all he owned to be well again. When

his wife told him what the little girl said he hurried to tell the king.

This was good news to the king. He wrote a letter to the king of Israel, asking him to cure Naaman. When Naaman delivered the letter to the king of Israel he was greatly troubled and tore his clothes to show his distress. He knew he could not heal Naaman and decided that the king of Syria was only looking for an excuse to make war against him.

But Elisha heard about Naaman and told the king to send him to his house. The king was relieved to direct Naaman there.

When Naaman and his servants came, Elisha did not even bother to go out to meet the great man. Instead he sent his servant to tell Naaman, "Go and wash in the Jordan River seven times. Then your leprosy will be gone and your skin will become new!"

This should have been wonderful news to Naaman. But Naaman was a proud man. He was used to being treated with dignity and honor. He was insulted that Elisha had not even come out to meet him. "Why should I bathe in that muddy river when I can bathe in the clear waters of our rivers at home?" he asked.

Naaman was ready to leave but his servants knew that dipping seven times in a river could never cure him. He must obey the prophet if he ever hoped to be well. Finally, at their persuasion, Naaman did as Elisha instructed. God honored his obedience and healed him!

The little captive maid proved that even a child in difficult situations can be a faithful witness for God. She let love conquer. Ignoring her own pain of being taken from her home she shared her knowledge of God's healing power so Naaman would not suffer. Her tragedy brought great good to Naaman.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

"Please don't do that," Janet begged. "He's nice when he isn't drunk."

"Well, come on in my house and get warmed up. Wife will find some dry clothes for you."

"I'm listening for Dad to start snoring any minute now. Thanks anyway."

At times like this Janet did feel like running away, but in her heart she loved her daddy. She just wished he would change. And, besides, she had promised her mother just before she died that she would stay with him.

Months passed. Janet noticed that her father was not as violent and would often go right to sleep when he came home. She wasn't sure if he was getting better or just drinking more.

One Saturday Janet's father came home drunk and demanded, "Where's my supper?" Janet filled his plate with the food she'd been trying to keep warm for him. He took a bite of mashed potatoes. "Yuck, these potatoes are cold. And you burned the peas. I'll have to go down to Mr. Forg's Bar and get something fit to eat," he said cursing her.

Anger, fear, and sorrow tore at Janet as she watched him leave. She was angry that he was going back to the bar and that he had used the food being cold as an excuse to go.

Thinking of how late it would be when he came home made her afraid. She always felt afraid when she stayed home alone late at night. "I'm afraid of him when he's drunk, and I'm afraid of staying alone," she mumbled.

She wanted to shout at the top of her lungs, "Why don't things change?"

As she went into the house, she remembered her mother saying, "Some-day he will change." It gave her a glimmer of hope. Finding her favorite book—a Bible story book, she read and waited.

For some reason she felt responsible to see that her father was safely home before she went to bed. Maybe it was because Mother always waited up for him. Maybe that was her way of trying to win him back from his sinful ways.

She read awhile, and then lay down on the sofa. When she awoke it was 11:30! Thoughts spun through her mind. He must have fallen and was too drunk to get up!

Out into the night she went to find him. She searched the street as she went to Forg's. Her heart beat fast as she slowly opened the bar room door. She hated the place because of what happened to her father when he went there.

"Looking for someone?" the bartender questioned.

"For my daddy, Lee."

"Over there on the floor."

"Oh!" Janet screamed, rushing to his side.

"Don't get excited. He's not hurt, just drunken sleep."

Janet knelt beside her father and rubbed his face.

"Who's there?" he mumbled.

"It's me, Daddy. I've come to help you home."

"Oh, Janet, what makes you come to me?"

"Because I love you."

Suddenly Lee was wide awake. "You love me—a poor miserable drunk? Everyone else despises me. Why don't you?"

"Mother taught me to love you. And often I dream of her. She always says, 'Janet, don't leave your Daddy. Some-day Daddy will change. He will get free from the power of drink. God will deliver him, and then how happy you will be!'"

That was Lee's last drink. Janet's love and courage had made her a winner!

—Sis. Charlotte Huskey

(Answers: 1. Captain of the host of Syria. 2. He was a leper. 3. A little maid. 4. A prophet in Samaria. 5. The king of Syria. 6. He tore his clothes. 7. Elisha. 8. Go wash in the Jordan seven times. 9. He was healed.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 12 March 25, 2007

Tom Never Left the Bars Down Again

There is a fine story that comes from a New England home of years ago. It is told by one of the boys concerned, grown to manhood. As he tells the story:

Once I saved Tom from a promised whipping for leaving down the bars when he went after the cows at milking time, thus giving the young cattle left in the pasture a chance to get out, of which they always approved. If they were on the back side of the lot when Tom got the cows he thought it unnecessary to put up the bars. It would be so short a time when the cows would be driven back. Father cautioned and reproved him several times, till finally he threatened to whip him if it happened again. Several weeks passed and he left the bars down again. The young cattle got into the corn, doing much damage.

The next morning Father said nothing, but went about his usual work. Tom was gloomy, there was an air of depression in the house and I was greatly troubled. I could not bear to have Tom whipped, nor could I blame father. At last I resolved to go and speak to him.

The sun was shining brightly and he was opening up some bales of hay in the meadow. I approached him slowly, for I did not feel sure of my

ground, and stood still without saying a word.

He looked at me and said, "Well, Joe, what is it?"

"I have come to speak to you about Tom, I do not want him whipped."

"I do not see how I can help it, my son. I cannot have my crops destroyed in this way, and I must keep my word."

"Father, didn't you read this morning in the lesson, 'He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, and by His stripes we are healed?'"

"Yes, what a boy you are to remember, Joe."

"Well, I will take half the blows you intend to give Tom."

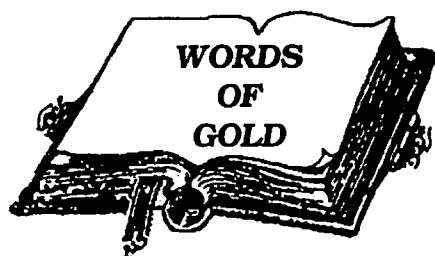
"I can't do that, Joe. Tom is the transgressor, not you," answered father, his face softening and his voice trembling a little. Then looking at me kindly, he asked, "Did Tom send you to me?"

"No, he knows nothing of my coming."

My father stood leaning on his pitchfork with both hands, looking down at the ground. At length he said, "Go and bring Tom."

I found him on the front porch with a sober face, trying to study. "Come with me, Tom, father wants you."

"I know what he wants," he said, turning a little pale. After a moment's



CHRIST SUFFERED FOR US

John 18:1, 3-8

1 ...Jesus...went forth with his disciples over the brook Cedron, where was a garden,...

3 Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons.

4 Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye?

5 They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he....

6 ...they went backward, and fell to the ground.

7 Then asked he them again, Whom seek ye? And they said, Jesus of Nazareth.

8 Jesus answered, I have told you that I am he:...

John 19:1-4, 6-11

1 Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him.

2 And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe,

3 And said, Hail, King of the Jews! and they smote him with their hands.

4 Pilate ... saith unto them, Behold, I bring him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in him.

6 When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him: for I find no fault in him.

7 The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.

8 When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he was the more afraid;

9 And went again into the judgment hall, and saith unto Jesus, Whence art thou? But Jesus gave him no answer.

10 Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?

11 Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.

The Message: The penalty for sin is death. Jesus took that penalty for us so we may have eternal life!

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was with the band of men and officers?
2. What did they carry?
3. What did Jesus ask them?
4. What happened when He told them who He was?
5. What did Peter do to the high priest's servant?
6. Who put a crown on Jesus and of what was it made?
7. Who found no fault in Jesus?
8. What did the chief priests and officers do when they saw Jesus?
9. What saying made Pilate more afraid?

Verse to Memorize

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 3:16.

Let's



Talk . . .

It is strange that the Jews could hate Jesus. He did nothing but good as long as He was with them. He healed their sick, He fed them in the desert, and He taught them the true way to serve God.

The religious leaders, the chief priests and scribes, were determined to do away with Jesus. They were the very ones who were supposed to teach the common people about God. And, although they appeared to be holy and to love God, in their hearts there was much evil. They loved the praise and honor of men more than they loved God.

The common people followed Jesus in great crowds listening gladly to His gracious words. They felt a commanding power in the words He spoke. He taught them with authority as He told them about God and how to serve Him. It was evident; He knew God personally! His messages told of the deepest truths, yet they were so amazingly simple that even the children could understand.

It made the Jewish leaders furious to see that multitudes of people gladly heard Jesus and followed Him about. They felt threatened; their power over the people was slipping away from them!

So they determined to find some way to kill Jesus. To take Him by force in broad daylight was out of the question. This could cause an uprising of the common people who loved and followed Jesus. These people would rather be stoned than to see Jesus killed! They wondered how they would ever capture Jesus. Not daring to

take Him in public, they did not know where to find Him in private.

Then, suddenly, the problem was solved! Judas, Jesus' own disciple, came to the chief priests. "What will you give me and I will deliver Jesus to you?" he asked. Quickly they offered him thirty pieces of silver to lead them to Jesus by night. Judas did not bargain for more. He seemed glad to take what they offered.

The chief priests could hardly believe their good fortune! They did not even send for Judas; they would never have thought to do that. Jesus' own disciple betray Him? Never! But here he was, volunteering to lead them to Jesus. The chief priests gladly agreed to pay him to do just that.

Judas knew where to find Jesus. He had often gone with the other disciples and Jesus into this garden to pray. Judas led the band of armed soldiers straight to this place. Jesus knew what was taking place. He knew the awful persecution and, finally, death that He must soon endure.

When Judas and the band of men came Jesus went out to meet them. They did not need their weapons to capture Him. Jesus had prayed through. His purpose in coming to the world was to die for the sins of the people. He was ready to suffer so we might be saved. "I am He," Jesus boldly volunteered. He answered with such power and courage the soldiers ran backward from Him and fell to the ground.

Later, after examining Jesus, Pilate told the Jews, "I find in Him no fault at all!" Yet, to please the Jews, he commanded Jesus to be cruelly scourged and then turned Him over to the soldiers who mocked Him. Then, dressed in a purple robe and a crown of thorns on His head, Pilate told the mob, "Behold the man!" At the sight of Jesus the chief priests and officers began shouting, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!"

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

hesitation he arose, saying, "I might as well go and have it done with."

As we walked along I thought it best to give him a little advice, for he generally did as the occasion served him. There was no knowing beforehand what he would do. "Now, Tom, you must not flare up or show any spunk; you must be humble and answer father's questions in a good kind of a way. You must not talk any, only answer his questions. I do not think he will be hard on you."

Father stood as I had left him. I can see him now after the lapse of so many years, with his back to the sun, leaning forward a little on the handle of his fork, looking down at the ground, one hand above the other and his chin on his hands and some forkfuls of hay scattered about him.

He did not seem to see us; he was lost in reverie. "Father," I ventured timidly. "Tom is here."

He looked up at us both quickly, then said, "Tom, do you remember these words in our Scripture lesson this morning: 'He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities, and by His stripes we are healed?'"

"Yes," answered Tom greatly surprised.

"What do you think these words mean?"

"That Christ suffered for us," replied Tom, his voice unsteady and his face blushing.

"Well, Joe offers to suffer for you."

Tom turned to me with a look on his face I shall never forget and exclaimed, "No, Joe, you shall not do that." Then flinging his arms around my neck, he kissed me and as quick as a flash, he stepped up to father and held out his hand, saying, "The stripes belong to me. Father, I am ready."

Tears were falling down father's face and for a moment he could not speak. Then he said, "No, Tom, I cannot punish anyone now. I do not think you will ever forget this day. If you do,

remember Joe's offer holds good. I love my children and I want to do to them all the good I can. But I must be obeyed, and this is one way of doing them good; you may go now."

Tom did not stir. He was evidently waiting for me, and yet, for some reason I could not explain, I hesitated, then stepping closer I said, "Father, I want to kiss you." He caught me in his arms, saying: "Oh, my boy," and kissed me.

Then taking Tom, who was ready, he said: "God bless you, dear Tom," and kissed him with swimming eyes. Then with great awe upon us we went to the house. Tom never left the bars down again.

—Selected

PARENTS OF TRUE LOVE

Children of Christian parents may feel they are being abused when they are only being disciplined according to God's principles. From reading the Bible we understand that parents are responsible to train their children to know and obey the laws of God.

While children are young they must obey the rules of their Christian parents. If they don't obey them, the rod and reproof must be used. The Bible says in Proverbs 29:15, "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame." When children become older, reproof, counseling and other methods are used to bring them under God's principles.

The next time the devil tempts you to think you are being abused, realize that your parents are trying to help you to become a better person.

—Sis. Charlotte Huskey

(Answers: 1. Judas. 2. Lanterns, torches and weapons. 3. "Whom seek ye?" 4. They went backward and fell to the ground. 5. Cut off his right ear. 6. The soldiers, thorns. 7. Pilate. 8. They cried, "Crucify Him, crucify Him." 9. That Jesus was the Son of God.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 1 April 1, 2007

The Colonel's Word Will Stand

During my military service in India, in those stirring times of mutiny and murder, I had in my regiment a little bugler who was too weak and delicate for the life he had to lead; but he was born in the regiment. His father had been killed in action, and then his mother died. After his mother died, his life was made miserable by the scoffing sneers and jokes of the men in the regiment.

When little Willie Holt was 14 years old, the regiment was bivouacking some miles from camp for rifle practice. I had intended leaving the lad behind, but my sergeant-major begged hard for me to take him along. "There is mischief in the air, Colonel," he said, "and rough as they treat the lad, his pluck and his patience tell on 'em; for the boy is a saint, Sir; he is indeed."

I had a rough lot of recruits just then. Before we had been out a fortnight, several acts of insubordination had been brought to my notice, and I had pledged to make an example of the very next offense by having the culprit flogged. One night the targets were thrown down and otherwise mutilated. On investigation the act was traced to occupants of the very tent where Willie Holt was camped.

In vain I appealed to them to produce the man, and at last I said, "If any

one of you who slept in number four tent last night will come forward and take his punishment like a man, the rest will get off free; but if not, there remains no alternative but to punish you all, each in turn to receive ten strokes of the cat."

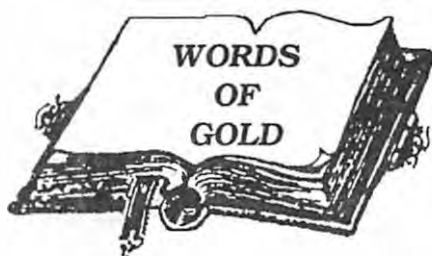
For the space of a couple of minutes dead silence followed; then the slight form of Willie Holt came forward.

"Colonel," said he, "you have passed your word that if any one of those who slept in number four tent last night comes forward to take his punishment, the rest shall get off free. I am ready, Sir; please, may I take it now?"

For a moment I was speechless, so utterly was I taken by surprise; then in a fury of anger and disgust, I turned upon the men, "Are you all cowards enough to let this lad suffer for your sins? For that he is guiltless you know as well as I." But sullen and silent they stood, with never a word.

Then I turned to the boy, whose pleading eyes were fixed on me, and never in all my life have I found myself so painfully situated. I knew my word must stand and the lad knew it, too, as he repeated, "I am ready, Sir."

Sick at heart, I gave the order, and he was led away for punishment. Bravely he stood with bared back, as one, two, three strokes descended. At the fourth a faint moan escaped his



JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

**John 19:12, 15-18, 29-30,
32-34, 36-42**

12 . . . Pilate sought to release (Jesus) . . .

15 But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him . .

16 Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away.

17 And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull...

18 Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.

29 Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth.

30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

32 Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him.

33 But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:

34 But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

36 For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled. A bone of him shall not be broken.

37 And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced.

38 And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, . . took the body of Jesus.

39 And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight.

40 Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury.

41 Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden: and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid.

42 There laid they Jesus. . .

The Message: Jesus' great love for us caused Him to die on the cross. Our love for Him should compel us to gladly bear our cross for Him.

Questions:

1. Who sought to release Jesus?
2. What did the people cry out?
3. What did Jesus bear?
4. How many others were crucified with Jesus?
5. What three words did Jesus say just before He died?
6. Why didn't the soldiers break Jesus' legs?
7. Who pierced Jesus' side with a spear?
8. Who took the body of Jesus?
9. Who brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes?

**Ve se to Memorize
For these things were done,
that the scripture should be
fulfilled...
John 19:36.**

Let's



Talk . . .

God created man in His own image, with a mind and a will. He had a beautiful plan to have people who would willingly love and obey Him. He longed to be near them and talk with them. But this plan was shattered when Adam and Eve sinned. Their sin separated them from their holy and just Father; they could not stand in God's presence.

God was deeply grieved when sin separated Him from the people He had created. He knew there was one way that man could be set free from this awful sin. But it required the shedding of righteous blood. His only Son, Jesus, was the only One who could make such a sacrifice! Could He make such a tremendous sacrifice?

Jesus' home in Heaven—in Paradise with God His Father—was more beautiful and peaceful than anything we have seen or can even imagine. Would He be willing to leave the glory and splendor of Heaven to live among sinful men and endure their abuse?

Yes, they were willing! God loved us so much He was willing to offer His Son so we could be saved. He was willing to see Him suffer, to be separated from Him by our treacherous sins, so that He could make an atonement for us and release us from the devil's bondage. Jesus knew from the beginning what it would cost Him. But He and His Father loved us too much to leave us in the awful misery sin brought into the lives of men and women.

Jesus' first mission was to teach men how to please God, and finally to

give His very life to give them power to live such a life. The shedding of His righteous blood paid the price necessary to give us this power!

Jesus did not die an ordinary death. Every detail of His suffering and death had been prophesied many years before. The wicked mob did not realize that their actions were only fulfilling these prophecies—God was in control!

Jesus' clothes were divided among the soldiers; they cast lots to see who would get His coat. More than a thousand years before this, David wrote in Psalms 22:18, "They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture (coat)."

John, an eyewitness of the crucifixion, said that when Jesus was thirsty they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it to His mouth. God revealed this scene to David many years before. He prophesied in Psalms 69:21, "...and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink."

When the soldiers came to break the legs of those who had been crucified, they were surprised to see that Jesus was already dead. So, instead, a soldier pierced His side. Again, David had written this would be so. In Psalms 34:20, he wrote, "He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken." The prophet Zechariah wrote, "...they shall look upon me whom they have pierced..." Zechariah 12:10.

It was Jesus' great love for us that compelled Him to endure such shame and agony. He loves us so much He wants us to come to His beautiful home in Paradise where we will be with Him forever and ever. He has given us this written invitation: "In my Father's house are many mansions: . . . I go (to the cross) to prepare a place for you. . . I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:2, 3 —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

white lips; but ere the fifth fell, a hoarse cry burst from the crowd of prisoners who had been forced to witness the scene, and with one bound Jim Sykes-the black sheep of the regiment-seized the cat, as with choking utterance he shouted, "Stop it, Colonel, stop it, and tie me up instead. He never did it, but I did!" and with convulsed and anguished face he flung his arms around the boy.

Fainting and almost speechless, Willie lifted his eyes to the man's face and smiled such a smile! "No, Jim," he whispered, "you are safe now, the Colonel's word will stand." Then his head fell forward-he had fainted.

The next day I visited the hospital tent where the boy lay dying. The shock had been too much for his feeble strength. He lay propped up on the pillows; and at his side, half kneeling, half crouching, was Jim Sykes. I saw the drops of sweat standing on his brow as he muttered brokenly, "Why did you do it, lad? Why did you do it?"

"Because I wanted to take it for you, Jim," Willie's weak voice answered tenderly. "I thought it might help you to understand why Christ died for you."

"Christ died for me?" the man repeated.

"Yes, He died for you because He loves you. I love you, Jim, but Christ loves you much more. I only suffered for one sin, but Christ took the punishment for all the sins you have ever committed. The penalty was death, Jim, and Christ died for you."

"Christ has naught to do with such as me, lad; I'm one of the bad 'uns; you ought to know."

"But He died to save bad ones," answered Willie. "After you have sinned against Him He loves you so much that He came all the way from heaven, and suffered and died in your place, and now He is calling you. He wants to cleanse you from every stain of sin and

make you fit for His presence. He wants you to live with Him in glory. He was wounded for your transgressions, He was bruised for your iniquities, the chastisement of your peace was upon Him; God laid your sins all on Him. How can you resist such love as that?

"Dear Jim, listen! 'God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.' 'His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree.' 'He suffered for sins, the Just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God.'"

"But you can never enter heaven, Jim, unless you let Him cleanse you from all sin in His own blood. Nothing can ever enter there that is not just as pure and as perfect as He is. You must have a garment of spotless purity in which to enter the presence of God or you will be cast out of His presence into everlasting darkness and despair forever. The Lord Jesus is God's righteousness which He will give you the moment you are willing to receive Him. He says, 'He that heareth my Word, and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.' Won't you receive Him now?"

The lad's voice failed him, but he laid his hand gently on the man's bowed head.

After a little while we saw a strange light in his dying eyes, and with a happy cry he flung out his hands as if in welcome. Then gradually the weak arms dropped: the light faded from the shining eyes; and his spirit passed from earth to heaven.

—Adapted from a tract published by Faith Publishing House

(Answers 1. Pilate. 2. "Crucify Him!" 3. A cross. 4. Two. 5. "It is finished." 6. He was already dead. 7. A soldier. 8. Joseph. 9. Nicodemus.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 2 April 8, 2007

A TRUE STORY

In my younger days there lived in Omaha, Nebraska, a gentleman and his wife who were enjoying a happy married life. But sin overcame the husband, he proved untrue to his wife, and she found it out. She had loved him dearly and he had loved her, but now sin separated them. When she learned of this she said to him, "Leave, and don't ever let me see you again. I never want to see you."

He was man enough to deed his property over to her, reserving only enough to enable him to start a small business in Des Moines, Iowa, and then he left her. They had one little girl, Marie, and frequently she would ask her mother, "Where is Daddy? When will Daddy come home? Why doesn't he come home?" She must have surmised something which her mother never told her. Then she became very ill. Her rosy cheeks paled from day to day. The physician was called in.

Finally he said to the mother: "Madam, your little girl suffers from something that no human can remedy. Neither I nor any other doctor can do anything for her. She suffers from what we call a broken heart. She has a deep gnawing at her heart and medicine cannot help that. She

will leave you. Do all you can for her and give her anything she wants, for nothing you may give her will harm her and neither will anything help."

The mother was grief-stricken, but in an attempt to be cheerful she went to her little girl and said, "Marie, do you know what the doctor said? He said you could have anything you want. Just say the word and I will have you anything you may wish."

"Anything I wish?" she asked.

"Yes, anything you may want," responded her mother.

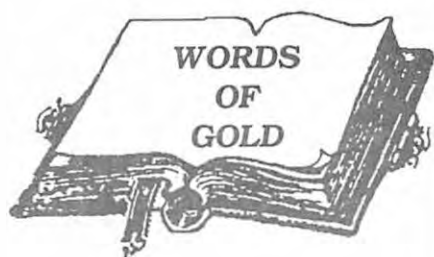
"Anything at all?" further questioned Marie.

"Yes, anything at all."

"Then I want Daddy."

Oh, that was unexpected. There was a tug of war between the mother's love for her daughter and her sense of the injustice she had suffered. But what mother can deny the wish to a dying darling? So a wire was sent to Des Moines. The husband received it, and at noon the next day he sat in a westbound Rock Island train. He arrived in Omaha that evening. He knew the way to the house very well, for he had walked those streets many times.

As he rang the doorbell, after having been away for two years, the maid answered. He said, "I am Mr. ____."



JESUS IS RISEN!

Mark 16:1-14

1 And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.

2 And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.

3 And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?

4 And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.

5 And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.

6 And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen: he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.

7 But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.

8 And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre: for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man: for they were afraid.

9 Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

10 And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept.

11 And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.

12 After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country.

13 And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them.

14 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

The Message: Jesus appeared to His disciples many times to let them know He was alive. He had risen from the grave!

Questions:

1. Who came to the sepulcher very early in the morning?
2. What had covered the door of the sepulcher?
3. What did they see when they entered the sepulcher?
4. Where did he say they would see Jesus?
5. Why did the women run from the sepulcher?
6. Who did Jesus appear to first?
7. What had Jesus done for her?
8. To whom did Jesus appear next?
9. Last of all He appeared to whom?

**Verse to Memorize
But now is Christ risen from
the dead...
1 Corinthians 15:20.**

Let's



Talk . . .

Easter is the day we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead. It fills our hearts with joy and love to think that Jesus' empty tomb means that the power of sin has been broken. We are free from its deadly grip and have a new life as we accept Him as our Savior.

But satan has succeeded in stripping the real meaning from Easter in the eyes of the world. They are caught up in a whirl of activities and customs that steal the true meaning of this important occasion. Instead of worshipping God for breaking the power of sin, people think only of new clothes, Easter bunnies, Easter eggs and other entertainments.

Mary Magdalene was the first to see Jesus after He arose from the grave. She hurried to tell the others but they did not believe her words. In the book of John it tells us that the disciples left the empty tomb but Mary could not leave.

She stooped again to look at the place where Jesus' body had laid. This time she saw two angels dressed in white. They asked her why she was crying. "Because they have taken away my Lord and I do not know where they have laid Him," she answered.

Then as she turned around she saw Jesus Himself standing nearby. He, too, asked her why she was crying. Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said. "Sir, if you have carried away my Lord, tell me where you have laid Him and I will take Him away."

Then Jesus said, "Mary!" Instantly she recognized that it was Jesus.

"Master!" she said in joyful amazement.

Jesus told Mary, "Go at once and tell My friends that I will ascend to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God."

Mary hurried to do as Jesus told her. But many did not believe her words.

That same day two disciples were sadly talking about Jesus' death as they walked along the road to Emmaus. Jesus caught up with them and asked, "What are you talking about that makes you so sad?"

"Are you only a stranger in Jerusalem to not know all that has happened there the past few days?" they asked in surprise.

When Jesus asked, "What things?" they told Him about the crucifixion. "We trusted that He was the One who would redeem Israel," they confided. Then they told Him how some women went to the sepulcher and found that it was empty.

"Ought not Christ to have suffered these things?" Jesus asked. Then starting with Moses He proved by the scriptures that Jesus was indeed the Savior they looked for.

When they got to Emmaus, the disciples still did not recognize Jesus. It was getting late so they insisted that He spend the night with them. When supper was prepared they sat down to eat. When Jesus blessed the bread their eyes were opened and they recognized who He was. Instantly He vanished out of their sight.

Jesus not only rose from the dead, He then ascended back up to heaven. He told the grieving disciples that His Father would send the Holy Spirit to comfort them. The good news of Easter is that, because Jesus rose from the dead and ascended back to heaven, the Holy Spirit will come into our hearts if we invite Him. He will be with us to teach us and give us power to always please God, just as Jesus did!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

"Oh yes," said the maid, "you are expected."

He was ushered in, and the nurse said, "I will get Marie ready." A minute or so later he was invited into Marie's bedroom, where the little girl was spending her last peaceful moments. As he walked in one door his wife went out of the other. She did not want to meet him. Bending over the bed, the frail little arms slipped around his neck as she said, "O Daddy, I am so glad that you came! I have waited and waited for you," and then he kissed those ashen cheeks and whispered his love into her ear.

Then, suddenly, she looked around in surprise and said, "Where is Mother? Bring Mother in."

The nurse replied, "I will tell your mother, Marie."

She stepped out and approached the mother saying, "Marie is calling for her mother." Again there was a tug at her heart. Should she appear in his sight? She could not deny the little girl's wish and so, without speaking to him, she came in and knelt by the bed, saying, "What is it Marie?"

The little hand fumbled around until it got hold of Mother's hand and pulled it down over the place where the little heart was beating. Then the other hand reached out and got hold of Daddy's hand and pulled that right down over the mother's hand. Marie did not say a word, but she placed her little hand on top of theirs and held them tightly. The husband found his voice first and said, "Wife, I understand what our darling means. She is asking us to be reunited. I know I deserve to be cast off forever, but for Marie's sake can't you take me back and give her joy?"

After a few moments his wife answered, "Yes, husband, you are my husband for Marie's sake. We will

forget the past." With that he leaned over and kissed his wife.

The doctor had said, "Marie must not be subjected to any excitement, for she cannot stand it." But that had been forgotten at this crucial moment of reunion. The mother, whose hand was nearest Marie's heart, suddenly said, "I don't feel her heart beating!" It had stopped forever. The joy of reuniting father and mother had been too much for the little girl; it had cost her her life. She had brought them together and then passed away.

But listen friends, a greater reconciliation than this was effected nearly 2,000 years ago at Calvary. As Jesus hung there on the cross—the Sinless One: Son of God and Son of Man, His heart ceased beating. But He joined forever the hand of God with that of Mankind.

And so the hand of God is still extended today, across that Sacrifice of Calvary, and the heart of God is yearning for you—offending sinner—to put your hand in His.

Won't you do it sinner, friend—won't you do it now? Or will you too despise Him, who was nailed to the cross for your sins and mine? There is a hell to shun and a heaven to gain!

Oh, soul, dear soul—where will you spend Eternity? "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." John 6:37

—Adapted from a tract published by Faith Publishing House

(Answers: 1. Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome. 2. A great stone. 3. A young man clothed in white. 4. In Galilee. 5. They were afraid. 6. Mary Magdalene. 7. Cast seven devils out of her. 8. Two disciples as they walked to Emmaus. 9. The eleven.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 3 April 15, 2007

A TRUTHFUL STORY

The train on which I was traveling one evening was going west. At a station, a little girl about eight years old came aboard carrying a small sack under her arm. She came into the car and deliberately took a seat. She then commenced an eager scrutiny of faces, but all were strangers to her. She appeared weary, and placing the sack for a pillow, she prepared to try to secure a little sleep. Soon the conductor came along collecting tickets and fares. Observing him, she asked if she might lie there. The gentlemanly conductor replied that she might, and then kindly asked her for her ticket. She informed him that she had none, then the following conversation ensued.

"Where are you going?" he asked.

She answered, "I am going to heaven."

"Who pays your fare?"

She then answered, "Mister, does this railroad lead to heaven, and does Jesus travel on it?"

He answered, "I think not. Why did you think so?"

"Why, Sir, before Ma died, she used to sing to me of a heavenly railroad, and you looked so nice and kind I thought this was the road. My Ma used to sing of Jesus and the heavenly railroad, and that He paid the fare for everyone; and that the train stopped at

every station to take people on board, but my ma don't sing to me any more. Nobody sings to me now, and I thought I'd take the cars and go to Ma.

"Mister, do you sing to your little girl about the railroad that goes to heaven? You have a little girl, haven't you?"

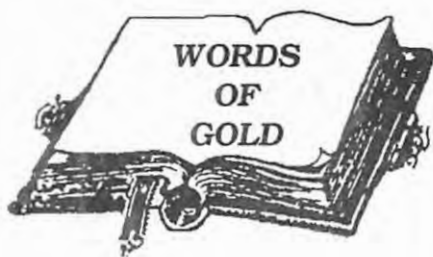
He replied, weeping, "No, my little dear, I have no little girl now. I had one once, but she died some time ago and went to heaven."

Again she asked, "Did she go over this railroad; and are you going to see her now?"

By this time all the persons in the coach were on their feet, and most of them were weeping. An attempt to describe what I witnessed is almost futile. Some said, "God bless the little girl."

Addressing herself once more to the conductor, she asked him, "Do you love Jesus? I do, and if you love Him, He will let you ride to heaven on His railroad. I am going there, and I wish you would go with me. I know Jesus will let me into heaven when I get there, and He will let you in, too, and everyone that will ride on His railroad—yes, all these people. Would you like to see heaven, and Jesus, and your little girl?"

These words so innocently and pathetically uttered brought a great gush of tears from all eyes, but most profusely from the eyes of the conductor. Some who were traveling on the



WHEN JESUS WAS TWELVE

Luke 2:22, 24; 39-52

22 ...they (Joseph and Mary) brought him (Jesus) to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord;

24 And to offer a sacrifice . . .

39 And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.

40 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover.

42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.

43 And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem: and Joseph and his mother knew not of it.

44 But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey: and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance.

45 And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.

46 And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.

47 And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

48 And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.

49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

50 And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.

51 And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

The Message: Jesus was intent on doing God's will even while He was young.

Questions:

1. Why did Joseph and Mary bring Jesus to Jerusalem?
2. What was the name of their city?
3. Jesus grew and waxed strong in _____.
4. He was filled with _____ and the _____ of God was upon Him.
5. What feast did Jesus' parents attend every year in Jerusalem?
6. How old was Jesus?
7. Who tarried behind in Jerusalem?
8. How long did they search before they found Him in the temple?
9. Jesus said He must be about whose business?

Verse to Memorize
For I came down from
heaven, not to do mine own
will, but the will of him that
sent me.
John 6:38.

Let's



Talk . . .

Jesus grew up in a town named Nazareth where Joseph earned their living as a carpenter. Nazareth was nearly seventy miles from the temple in Jerusalem. The people could not go there every week to worship God so they built a synagogue in Nazareth where they heard the books of Moses and the prophets read to them.

As soon as Jesus was old enough, Joseph and Mary sent Him to the synagogue to learn to read and write. He studied the Psalms and the writings of Moses and the prophets along with other young boys. No one had a Bible of their own so Jesus, like other Jewish boys, learned many verses by memory.

Once every year Joseph and Mary, in company with many other Jews made the trip to Jerusalem to attend the Feast of the Passover. When Jesus turned twelve years of age He was old enough to go with them. That first trip must have been a real adventure for Jesus. At Jerusalem they would have met people from every part of the land who had come to worship. There He would have seen the beautiful temple.

Jesus knew that God was His Father. He realized that He had a work to accomplish for God. He watched with deep interest as the people offered sacrifices and worshiped God, His Father. He listened intently to the chief priests and scribes as they spoke about God.

After the feast days were accomplished everyone started home. Mary did not see Jesus but she was sure He was with their friends or relatives so

she was not concerned. When evening came and she still had not seen Jesus, Mary and Joseph began searching for Him. Going from one group to another they asked if anyone had seen Jesus. The answer was always the same. No one had seen Jesus that day.

Joseph and Mary were very concerned, wondering what could have happened to Jesus. They could not go on; they turned back toward Jerusalem hunting for Him.

After three days they finally found Jesus. He was in the temple listening to the wise teachers and asking them questions and answering when they questioned Him. Everyone who heard Jesus speak was surprised at His understanding and answers.

Joseph and Mary were amazed to find Him talking to these wise men. Mary asked Him, "Son, why have you put us through all this anxiety? Your father and I have been searching for you for three days, not knowing what had happened to you!"

Calmly Jesus answered, "How is it that you sought me? Don't you realize that I must be about my Father's business?" Saying this, Jesus obediently went with His parents to their home in Nazareth.

Joseph and Mary could not fully understand what Jesus meant when He said He must be about His Father's business. But Mary remembered that the angel, Gabriel, had told her that Jesus would be great and He would be called the Son of the Highest. So she hid Jesus' words in her heart. She knew that some day she would understand.

When they returned to Nazareth Jesus was obedient and respectful to Joseph and Mary. He grew to be a noble young man. The Bible tells us that He increased in wisdom and had favor with God and men.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

heavenly railroad shouted aloud for joy.

She now asked the conductor, "Mister, may I lie here until we get to heaven?"

He answered, "Yes, my dear. Yes."

"Will you wake me up then, so that I may see my ma, your little girl, and Jesus? I do so want to see them all."

The answer came in broken accents, but in words very tenderly spoken, "Yes, dear angel. Yes. God bless you."

"Amen," was sobbed by more than a score of voices.

Turning her eyes upon the conductor, she asked him, "What shall I tell your little girl when I see her? Shall I say to her that I saw her pa on Jesus' railroad? Shall I?"

This brought a fresh flood of tears from all present; and the conductor kneeled by her side and embracing her, wept the reply he could not utter.

At this juncture the brakeman called out the name of the station. The conductor arose and requested him to attend to his (the conductor's) duty at the station, for he was engaged.

That was a precious place. I thank God that I was a witness to this scene, but I was sorry that at this point I was obliged to leave the train. We learn from this incident that even out of the mouth of babes God hath ordained strength; and that we ought to be willing to represent the cause of our blessed Jesus even in a railroad coach.

A few months after this occurrence I received the following from the conductor:

Elder Dosh:

I wish to relieve my heart by writing to you that the angel visit on the cars was a blessing to me, although I did not realize it in its fullness until some hours later. But, blessed be the Redeemer, I know I am now His, and He is mine. I no longer wonder why Christians are happy. Oh, my joy, my joy!

The instrument of my salvation has gone to God. I had purposed adopting her in the place of my little daughter, who is now in heaven. With this intention I took her to C. B. and on my return trip took her back to S., where she left the cars.

In consultation with my wife in regard to adopting her, she replied, "Yes, certainly, and immediately too, for there is a Divine Providence in this. Oh," she said, "I never could refuse to take under my charge the instrument of my husband's salvation."

I made inquiry for the child at S., and learned that three days after her return she died suddenly, without any apparent cause, and her happy soul had gone to dwell with her ma, my little girl, and the angels in heaven.

J. M. Dosh

—Adapted from tract published by Faith Publishing House

HONORING GOD

Charlie was going home with his uncle. All night they were on a boat that was furnished with tiny beds on each side of the cabin, called berths. When it was time to go to bed his uncle said: "Hurry and jump into your berth."

"May I first kneel and ask God to care for us?" asked Charlie.

"We'll be taken care of," said his uncle.

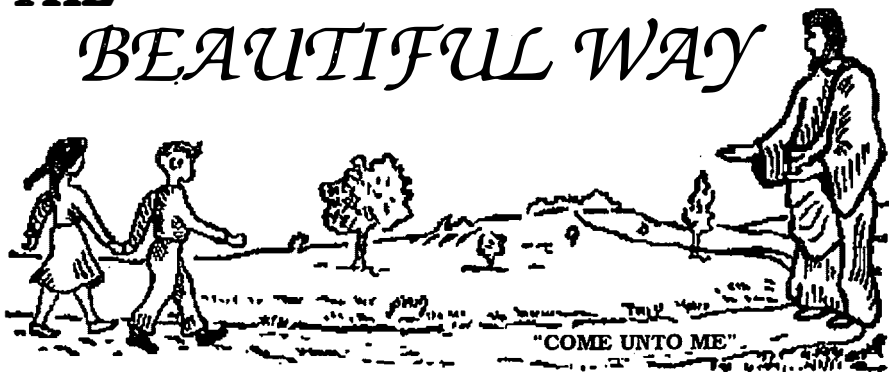
"Yes, but Mother always told me not to ever take anything without first asking for it"

Charlie's uncle had nothing to say to that, so Charlie knelt down, just as he did at his bed at home, and asked God to care for them through the night. That was honoring God. It took courage, but Charlie set a good example.

(Answers: 1. To present Him to the Lord. 2. Nazareth. 3. Spirit. 4. Wisdom, grace. 5. Passover. 6. Twelve. 7. Jesus. 8. Three days. 9. His Father's.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 4 April 22, 2007

SEVEN MEN WENT SINGING

One of the strangest experiences in my life is connected with war, says Nordenberg, an eminent engineer in Finland.

I offered my services to the government and was appointed to be an officer in General Mannerheim's army. It was a terrible time. We besieged the town. It had been taken by the Red Army and we retook it. A number of Red prisoners were under my guard. Seven of them were to be shot at dawn on Monday. I shall never forget the preceding Sunday. The seven doomed men were kept in the basement of the town hall. In the passage, my men stood at attention with their rifles.

The atmosphere was filled with hatred. My soldiers were drunk with victory and taunted their prisoners, who swore as much as they could and beat the walls with their bleeding fists. Others called for their wives and children who were far away.

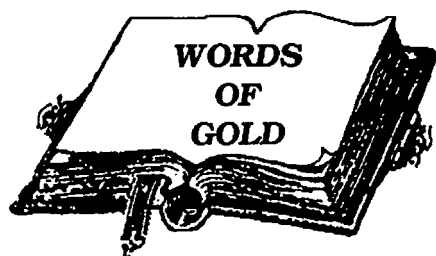
Then something happened. One of the men doomed to death began to sing! "He is mad," was everybody's first thought. But I had noticed this man, Koskinen, had not raved and cursed like the others. Quietly he had sat on his bench, a picture of utter despair. Nobody said anything to him—each was carrying his burden in his

own way and Koskinen sang, rather waveringly at first, then his voice grew stronger and died out, and became natural and free. All the prisoners turned and looked at the singer who sang.

"Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on His gentle breast,
There by His love o'ershaded,
Sweetly my soul shall rest.
"Hark, 'tis the voice of angels,
Borne in a song to me
Over the fields of glory,
Over the jasper seal"

Over and over again Koskinen sang that verse and when he finished, everyone was quiet for a few minutes until a wild-looking individual broke out with, "Where did you get that, you fool? Are you trying to make us religious?"

Koskinen looked at his comrades and his eyes filled with tears. Then he asked quietly, "Comrades, will you listen to me for a minute? You asked me where I got this song: it was from some gospel workers. I heard it three weeks ago. At first I also laughed at this song, but it got me. It is cowardly to hide your beliefs. The God my mother believed in has now become my God also. I cannot tell you how it happened, but I know that it happened. I lay awake last night and suddenly I felt that I had to find the Saviour and hide in Him. Then I prayed—like the



JESUS' BAPTISM

Matthew 3:1-7; 11-17

1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

4 And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.

5 Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan,

6 And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

12 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

13 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.

14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

The Message: Jesus came to earth to show us the way to heaven. It is safe to follow His example.

Questions:

1. Who came preaching in the wilderness?
2. What did he tell the people to do?
3. What were his clothes made of?
4. What did he eat?
5. The people were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their ____.
6. John said Jesus would baptize with the Holy ____ and with ____.
7. Who came from Galilee to be baptized by John?
8. What descended upon Jesus like a dove?
9. What did the voice from heaven say?

Verse to Memorize
... This is my beloved Son,
in whom I am well pleased.
Matthew 3:17.

Let's



Talk . . .

John the Baptist was actually one of Jesus' cousins, just six months older than Jesus. When John was about thirty years old he began preaching to the people who lived in the hill country of Judea. He told the people that they must ask forgiveness for the things that they had done that were wrong. Then God would forgive them and make them like a brand new person, all clean inside.

By showing the people their sins and teaching them they needed to ask forgiveness he was preparing the people for the message Jesus Himself would bring them. He knew that Jesus was the promised Savior and his mission was to prepare the people's hearts to receive Him.

John lived a very simple life. He lived in the desert; he didn't have a place to call home. His clothes were made from camel's hair. His food was locusts and the wild honey he found in the desert. John knew God would supply all his needs. Nothing was as important to him as fulfilling the work God sent him to do.

John did not go into the cities but stayed near the river Jordan. When people heard that John was in the area they would come from all over to listen to him and get baptized. Soon people from all over Judea and the surrounding areas flocked to hear him preach. Many people did repent of their sins as John instructed them.

The people who came to John to be baptized wondered if he was the

Saviour they had waited for. John told them, "I am baptizing you now with water. Very soon someone much greater than me will come whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

John continued to preach and baptize people until one day Jesus came to be baptized. John was shocked. How could he baptize Jesus the Saviour of the world?

"You should be baptizing me!" John told Jesus. "I cannot baptize you, Lord."

Jesus replied, "It's important that I do this now. I am ready and I want to be an example to others and show them that it's important."

So John took Jesus and baptized Him. He placed his hand on His back and laid Him down into the water till He was covered and brought Him back up again. As soon as Jesus was baptized the sky opened up and the Holy Spirit came like a beautiful white dove and landed right on Jesus' shoulder. Then a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, I love Him and I am pleased with Him."

When Jesus died, He was buried. But He rose again! Baptism is just like that. When we go down into the water we are telling the world that we have been forgiven of our sins. Under the water we testify that we are dead to our old life which is now buried. Then, as we are brought up out of the water, we witness that we are a brand new person to God!

Baptism is so important that Jesus made sure that it was the first thing He did when He started His ministry. One of the last things He told His disciples before He was taken up into heaven was, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:" (Matthew 28:19) —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

thief on the cross—that Christ would forgive me and cleanse my sinful soul and make me ready to stand before Him whom I shall meet soon.

"It was a strange night," continued Koskinen. "There were times when everything seemed to shine around me. Verses from the Bible and from song books came to my mind. They brought a message of the crucified Saviour and the blood that cleanses from sin and of the home He has prepared for us. I thanked Him, accepted it, and since then this verse has been sounding inside me. It was God's answer to my prayer. I could no longer keep it to myself! Within a few hours I shall be with the Lord, saved by His grace."

Koskinen's face shone as by an inward light. His comrades sat there quietly. He himself stood there transfixed. My soldiers were listening to what this Red revolutionary had to say.

"You are right, Koskinen," said one of his comrades at last, "if only I knew that there is mercy for me, too! But I have reviled God and trampled on all that is holy. Now I realize that there is a hell and that is the proper place for me."

He sank to the ground with despair depicted on his face. "Pray for me, Koskinen," he groaned, "Tomorrow I shall die and my soul will be in the hands of the devil."

And there these two Red soldiers went down on their knees and prayed for each other. It was no long prayer, but it opened heaven to both, and we who listened to it forgot our hatred. It melted in the light from heaven, for here two men who were soon to die sought reconciliation with God. A door leading into the invisible stood ajar and we were entranced by the sight.

Let me tell you shortly that by the time it was four o'clock all Koskinen's comrades had followed his example

and begun to pray. The change in the atmosphere was indescribable. Some of them sat on the floor, others talked of spiritual things.

The night had almost gone and day was dawning. No one had had a moment's sleep. "Sing the song once more for us, Koskinen," said one of them. And you should have heard them sing! Not only that song, but verses and choruses long forgotten came forth from their memories as buds in the sunshine. The soldiers on guard united their voices with them.

The town clock struck six. How I wished I could have begged for grace for these men, but I knew it was impossible.

Between two rows of soldiers they marched out to execution. One of them asked to be allowed once more to sing Koskinen's song. Permission was granted. Then they asked to die with uncovered faces—and with hands raised to heaven they sang.

"Safe in the arms of Jesus, Safe on His gentle breast."

When the last lines had died out, the lieutenant gave word, "Fire!" and the seven Red soldiers had fought their last fight. We inclined our heads in silent prayer.

What had happened in the hearts of the others I do not know; but so far as I was concerned I was a new man from that hour. I had met Christ in one of His disciples and I had seen enough to realize that I, too, could be His.

Dear reader, repent, believe, and trust God. Go singing into heaven also.

—Adapted from tract published by Faith Publishing House

(Answers: 1. John the Baptist 2. Repent. 3. Camel's hair. 4. Locusts and wild honey. 5. Sins. 6. Ghost, fire. 7. Jesus. 8. The Spirit of God. 9. "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.")

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 5 April 29, 2007

THE DEVIL'S CONVENTION

Those in attendance included: Malice, Envy, Pride, Greed, Sinful Pleasures, etc.

"Now my good imps, what have you done today to weaken the Church of God?"

"We have been very busy today, making empty seats in church houses," began one.

"Nothing could please me better," answered their king.

"I persuaded one man that he had a headache and kept him from a sermon that might have changed his whole life," said one.

"I induced one good man to slip to his store and fix up his books," said another.

"Good!" said the king. "He'll soon give up public worship altogether."

"I was able to get one pure young man to attend dances, card parties, and questionable movies," said one imp.

"Hallelujah!" roared Satan. "Work all you can, and stir up sinners to visit Christian people on Sunday and make them think they must stay at home and entertain them. And instead of a plain simple dinner Sunday, make people think they must have something extra, so some of the family will

have to stay away from church services and Sunday school. You can work this on the people who think they are very devoted."

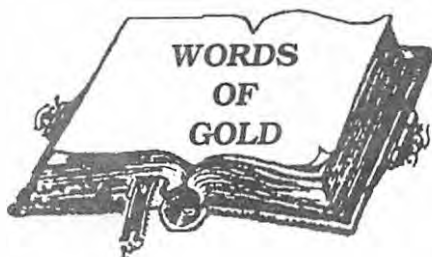
"I made several poor women who were hungry for God's Word stay at home to repine over trials. I just said to them, 'Oh, these well-to-do people don't care for you; you can't wear fine clothes, so I wouldn't go where I was looked down upon,'" said the imp labeled Pride.

"That is one of the best ways to cheat poor people out of heaven that I know of," answered the king with approval.

"I induced a good many men and women to believe they were not strong enough to attend church services," said one called Indifference. Of course, all these folks will be at their business on Monday, even if they feel worse."

"Very good," said Satan, with a sulphurous grin, "a Sunday headache is one of the best excuses for absence from church services."

"I am the weather imp," said one fellow. "I go around making people believe it is going to rain, or that it is too cold, too damp, or too hot to venture out. It is enough to make even your gloomy majesty laugh to see these same people start out the next day in the worst weather imaginable. One would think it a sin to carry an um-



THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

Luke 4:1-17

1 And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,

2 Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered.

3 And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread.

4 And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

5 And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

6 And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me: and to whomsoever I will I give it.

7 If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.

8 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

9 And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence:

10 For it is written, He shall give his

angels charge over thee, to keep thee:

11 And in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

12 And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

13 And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season.

14 And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.

15 And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all.

16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up . . .

The Message: If we resist the devil as Jesus did, he will flee from us.

Questions:

1. Who was full of the Holy Ghost?
2. Where did the Spirit lead Him?
3. How many days was He tempted of the devil?
4. What did He eat during that time?
5. What did the devil tell Him to do to the stone?
6. Who is the only One we should worship and serve?
7. Why did the devil want Jesus to jump off the top of the temple?
8. Thou shalt not ____ the Lord thy God.
9. Jesus returned in the power of the ____.

Verse to Memorize
. . . Resist the devil, and he
will flee from you.
James 4:7.

Let's



Talk . . .

After Jesus' baptism, He was led by the Spirit of God into the wilderness. Here, all alone, He spent His time thinking about the great work He had to do on earth and talking to His Father about it in prayer. All this time He did not eat but after forty days He became very hungry!

Then, while He was weak and hungry, the devil came to try to get Him to do wrong. He told Jesus, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones be made into bread."

Even though Jesus was very hungry, He refused to obey the enemy. He would rather suffer hunger than use God's great power just to please Himself or to prove that He was God's Son. Instead He would gladly trust His heavenly Father to care for His needs. He rebuked the devil by saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'"

When He could not get Jesus to obey him in the first temptation, the devil tried again. He took Jesus up on the roof of the temple and said, "If You expect people to believe that You are really God's Son, You must show some great signs. Now jump off and trust God to protect You from getting hurt. In the Scripture He has promised that His angels will not let any harm come to You."

Satan hoped Jesus would be tempted with this easy way to gain attention and get many followers. But Jesus' only desire was to do God's will. So, even though the devil had used words of Scripture, Jesus

did not obey him. He knew that the Scriptures forbid a person to do anything foolish and then expect God's angels to help him. He reminded the devil, "It is said, 'Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.'"

Finally on a high mountain the devil showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world. "These great kingdoms are mine," the tempter boasted, "and I can give them to anyone I choose. I will give them to You if You will fall down and worship me."

Jesus did not weaken. He answered, "Get thee behind me, satan: for it is written, 'Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve!'"

At last the devil left Jesus alone. God sent His angels from heaven to take care of all His needs. He had won a great victory over the devil. Now, filled with the Holy Spirit, He was ready to do His Father's work.

That work was for Him to set the example for us to follow. All His life Jesus did only those things that pleased God. He spoke the words God gave Him to speak and spent long hours talking to His Father. Then He died on the cross to atone for our sins. After His resurrection He returned to His Father and sent the Holy Spirit back to live in our hearts to instruct and empower us to live without sin as He did; a life pleasing to God.

I'm sure the devil has come to you many times tempting you to lie, to steal or to disobey. You may have yielded to the temptation and sinned. But the good news is that the power of the devil has been broken. When you confess your sins and give your heart to Jesus He will, by His Holy Spirit, come and make your body His temple. He will guard the door of your heart and give you power to say "No!" to every temptation the enemy presents!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

brella and wear rain coats to meeting."

"You are doing finely, my imps," his majesty said warmly. "Preachers may work and pray over their sermons all week, but there will be no results in preaching to empty seats. Your plans are excellent, but I might suggest another good point. All preachers have human imperfections—some fault or manner of speech. Get Christians to criticize their pastor, especially before their children. If you can stir up a spirit of fault-finding against the preacher, or among the members, it will help empty seats. If the seats are empty, the minister will preach to no purpose.

"See the result of your labor in the Churches today. Not only did the people who stayed at home lose a blessing, but each empty seat did its work against the Lord's kingdom. A little imp in each empty seat surely can put the damper on a fervent preacher. He made unusual preparation and went with his heart aglow, but the empty seats chilled him and he did poorly.

"It isn't a smart preacher, nor a rich congregation, nor a good location, that makes a successful church. It is the church members always being there who draw in the unconverted. As soon as a Christian begins to stay at home for one excuse or another, I know I have a 'mortgage' on his soul which if he does not pay off, I will foreclose on the judgment day.

"Now one last word," said Satan as he was closing the convention, "get the Christians to say something unkind to the preacher—anything true or untrue. Tell him the truth if necessary, that hurts! But say it in an unkind manner so that you get him discouraged. One preacher discouraged is worth a host of laymen discouraged. If you can only work those lines too, it will greatly augment our growing number of empty seats. Tell him he's long-winded, that he rambled in his talk,

you know, anything—but just get him discouraged—that will take the 'fire' out of him. Once that's done it won't take the 'fire' long to go out in the people in the pews. Then it won't be long before we can close another church!"

—Selected

THE DEVIL'S BEST TOOL

It was once announced that the devil was going out of business and would offer all his tools for sale to whoever would pay his price. On the night of the sale they were all attractively displayed, and a bad-looking lot they were. Malice, hatred, envy, jealousy, sensuality, and deceit, and all the other implements of evil were spread out, each marked with its price. Apart from the rest lay a harmless-looking wedge-shaped tool, much worn and priced higher than any of them.

Someone asked the devil what it was. "That's discouragement," was his reply.

"Well, why do you have it priced so high?" "Because," replied the devil, "it is more useful to me than any of the others. I can pry open and get inside a man's consciousness with that when I could not get near him with any of the others, and when once inside I can use him in whatever way suits me best. It is so much worn because I use it with nearly everybody, as very few people yet know it belongs to me."

It hardly need be added that the devil's price for his tools, especially discouragement, were so high that they were never sold. He still owns discouragement and is using it today.

The devil would, if it were possible, rob Jesus of His royal family. Beware of his devices.

—Adapted from tract published by Faith Publishing House

(Answers: 1. Jesus. 2. Into the wilderness. 3. Forty. 4. Nothing. 5. Make it into bread. 6. The Lord thy God. 7. To prove that He was the Son of God. 8. Tempt. 9. Spirit.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 6 May 6, 2007

CHRIST'S ATONEMENT

A young English woman married a man in government service. Her husband was a light-hearted young man who smoked, drank, and gambled. As the years went on, he was promoted in service and had large responsibilities, but he became a hardened gambler and drinker.

As her husband went deeper into sin, she, through anxiety on his account, became deeply anxious about her soul, and as a lost, guilty sinner cast herself and all her burdens on the Saviour and became a new creature in Christ, with one burdened desire—to bring her husband to Christ. For 13 years she prayed with never failing faith that the Lord would convert him. Every Sunday she would ask him to accompany her to services, and he as often refused. He would sometimes say that if she would go with him to some worldly place that he would go to church with her 40 times. Her invariable reply was, "As much as I long to have you with me, I could not bring reproach on my Saviour by going where He could not be."

On the Sunday before Christmas she repeated her invitation, when he laughingly said, "You have not converted me yet, old woman." She immediately threw her arms around his

neck, and said, "No, and I never can; but the Lord Jesus Christ can convert you, George." From that time he became very uneasy, but more determined to resist his wife's entreaties.

On Christmas Eve he went with some of his companions to a dinner. After the dinner, he went home to take his usual Christmas gifts to his wife and children. When he was distributing them he found that for the first time since he was married he had forgotten a gift for his wife. He was utterly at a loss to account for this and said to her, "I've never forgotten you before; now you may ask what you like, and I will give it to you." She quietly and earnestly said, "Come with me to the meeting tonight—that will be my gift."

"Oh, no," he said, "I cannot do that; ask for some gift." But she was firm and reminded him of his promise. When the time came for his wife to go to the meeting, she waited for him.

The children asked, "Do you think father will go with us?"

"Yes," she said, "your father never broke a promise to me." He had returned, and overhearing this remark, it made him feel very uneasy. When they started he went with them, to the great joy of his wife. At the church door he turned and left them, intending to go back to his companions and cards,



JESUS' NEW FRIENDS

John 1:35-49

35 . . . John stood, and two of his disciples;

36 And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!

37 And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

38 Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?

39 He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.

40 One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

41 He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

42 And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

43 The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me.

44 Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

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.

The Message: John knew Jesus was the Son of God. He was glad to have his disciples follow Jesus.

Questions:

1. Who was standing with two of his disciples?
2. What did he say when he saw Jesus?
3. What did the two disciples do?
4. One of the two was _____.
5. Whose brother was he?
6. What did Jesus name him?
7. Who lived in the city of Andrew and Peter?
8. Who did he bring to Jesus?
9. What did Jesus say when He saw him coming?

Verse to Memorize
And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.
John 1:37.

Let's



Talk . . .

God told John the Baptist that he would see the Spirit descend and rest upon the One who was the Son of God. Then, as he and Jesus were coming up out of the water after he baptized Jesus, the heavens opened and the Spirit of God, in the form of a dove, came down and rested on Jesus' shoulder. As if to remove all doubt, a voice from heaven then said, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

John was convinced. He said, "I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God!"

The next day John and two of his disciples were standing together when Jesus walked by. Looking at Him, John said, "Behold the Lamb of God!"

After hearing John say so many wonderful things about Jesus the two disciples were anxious to know more about Him. As Jesus walked away they followed Him. When Jesus noticed the two men following he asked, "What do you want?"

"Master, where do You live?" they asked.

"Come and see!" Jesus invited them. So they walked on with Jesus, listening to His wonderful words of wisdom. They had never heard a man speak as Jesus did! Andrew, one of the two, was so excited about what he heard that he ran to find his brother, Simon Peter. They had both believed that John the Baptist was a prophet of God. They had listened to him often and followed him wherever he went.

But already Andrew was sure that he had found a teacher even greater than John. As soon as Andrew saw Simon he called out, "Come with me.

We have found the Messiah!" Together they hurried back to Jesus.

When Jesus saw Simon He said, "You are Simon the son of Jona but you will be called Peter."

Peter was very surprised! He had never met Jesus yet He knew his name. Now he was just as eager to follow Him as Andrew was.

The next day Jesus started back to his home in Galilee with His three new friends. As they walked along they met Philip who lived in the same town as Simon and Andrew.

Jesus told Philip, "Follow Me." And he did.

As they walked along Philip, too, marveled at the wise words Jesus spoke. He was convinced that Jesus was surely the promised Savior. He could not wait to tell his friend, Nathanael. As soon as he found him he told him, "We have found the One Moses and the prophets wrote about, Jesus of Nazareth!"

But Nathanael knew that the Scriptures said that the king of the Jews would be born in Bethlehem. So he asked Philip, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?"

Philip wasted no time trying to convince him. "Come and see!" he insisted.

Nathanael doubted that his friend's words were true but since Philip insisted, he followed him to where Jesus was.

When Jesus saw Nathanael, He said, "Look, an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!"

Nathanael was astonished. "How do you know me?" he asked.

"Before Philip called you," Jesus said, "I saw you under the fig tree."

Now Nathanael was amazed! How could Jesus have known where he was and what he was doing? At once he believed that Jesus came from God. Joyfully he exclaimed, "Master, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

"Do you believe just because I saw you under the fig tree?" Jesus asked. "You shall see greater things than these!"

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

but something compelled him to return to his home. There were pictures hanging on the walls, and his eyes fell on a representation of Christ on the cross. It attracted him, and smote him to the heart. The words which his devoted wife had so often read in his hearing came afresh to his memory: "He was despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him. . . . But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." Isa. 53:3-5. The past, with a wasted life, and the future with an awful eternity rolled in like billows over his soul. Here in this One who was despised, rejected, wounded and bruised, appeared the only hope of true peace now, and true joy hereafter.

He looked and looked, until it seemed to him as if it were Christ Himself hanging on the cross, and He said to him, "I died for you."

"For me, Lord?" the wondering man replied, and then and there, in agony of soul, he called on the Saviour to save him and to put away from him forever the taste for liquor and the desire for all sin. Like "the chief of sinners" he "fell to the earth" (Acts 9:4), and upon his knees in his own house, with no one near but God, he acknowledged his "manifold transgressions and mighty sins" (Amos 5:12), and accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour. He believed on Him, "who was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification" (Rom 4:25), and rose from his knees a free man, with Christ as his Saviour and his mighty Deliverer.

That very night he wrote checks paying off all his gambling debts and ceased playing cards. He never tasted liquor again, and he who had smoked 20 cigars a day never smoked another.

His deliverance was complete. The gospel demonstrated itself in his life. On that memorable Christmas Eve, the occasion of his new birth, he went to his old companions and told them what the Lord Jesus had done for him. They thought he was joking, and laughed at him. They tempted him to their utmost to drink with them, and when he was firm, they emptied their glasses over him and he walked out wet with the liquor. Then they followed him home with offensive songs and jeers.

Surely if God can save a drinking, swearing, smoking, gambling sinner of the deepest dye, and make him a "new creature" in Christ, He can save anyone, even you. Burdened, weary, sin sick soul, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." (John 1:29). Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and obtain eternal life. God is able to save the worst sinner, and He is both able and willing to save you.

—Selected

—Adapted from tract published by Faith Publishing House

WHO ARE YOU?

A story is told about the little daughter of the Queen of England. This little girl was walking one day in a garden and some one met her who did not know her. They said to her, "Who are you?"

The child replied, "I am only a little girl, but my mother is the Queen of England."

If someone should ask you who you were, could you say, I am only a girl, or boy, but God is my Father?

(Answers: 1. John. 2. "Behold the Lamb of God." 3. They followed Jesus. 4. Andrew. 5. Simon Peter's. 6. Cephas (a stone). 7. Philip. 8. Nathanael. 9. "Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!")

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 7 May 13, 2007

A REMARKABLE EXPERIENCE

While rounding up some cattle late on Wednesday evening, J. C. Sterrett, a young man, was thrown from his horse and into the creek. The fall injured his spine, paralyzing his body below the waist. He fell on his knees in such a way that he could keep his head above the water only by supporting himself with his elbows on the side of the bank as long as he had strength to do so.

Hour after hour he lay in the icy water, suffering agony from his injury, calling for help and vainly trying to extricate himself with his hands, which closed again and again in the soft mud that defied his grip. His only companion was his faithful shepherd dog, Ring, who remained near, barking and whining, but could not help his master.

Lying in this painful position, the brave young fellow managed to take from his pocket a memorandum book and by the aid of his flashlight, write a farewell message to each of his brothers and sisters, his sweetheart, and his mother. He speaks of fainting away two or three times while writing, and finally, as the dawn began to break in the East, he became exhausted and sank beneath the surface of the stream. The body was

found by a search party. His dog was standing watch over him. The bundle of notes, tied with a string, was found on the ground. The letter to his mother, Mrs. Boyd Sterrett of Des Moines, IA, follows:

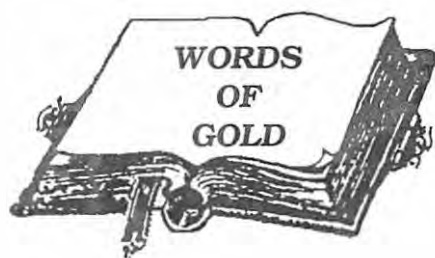
The Letter

Dear Mother: If you were only here tonight! I am lying in the creek in Bracewell's pasture and can't get out. The water isn't very deep and I will try to fight it out until somebody hears me. Oh, if I had only listened to you and not ridden the grey until I got a saddle blanket! God bless you, Mother, I would be better off if I had always listened to your advice.

Don't worry about me, for I sure feel that God is with me tonight. Oh, Mother, I am so thankful that I was brought up in a Christian home. Dear brothers and sisters, live so you can always be prepared to die when you get in a place like this and think maybe you can't get out.

All of your sins come up before you, but if you pray for God to blot them out, they will leave, and peace and happiness comes in their place.

I'm feeling better now; the water doesn't seem as cold as it did, only my head gets so dizzy sometimes I forget everything and seem to fall asleep awhile. Oh, if I could only get out of here I would do more towards bringing others to Christ.



JESUS' FIRST MIRACLE

John 2:1-11; 13-16

1 And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there:

2 And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.

3 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.

4 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.

5 His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.

6 And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.

7 Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.

8 And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it.

9 When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom.

10 And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.

11 This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and mani-

festeth forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

13 And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem,

14 And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:

15 And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;

16 And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.

The Message: Jesus' followers were even more certain that He was the Son of God after they saw this miracle.

Questions:

1. What was taking place in Cana of Galilee?
2. Who were called to attend?
3. Who told Jesus that they had no wine?
4. What did Jesus tell the servants to fill the waterpots with?
5. The governor of the feast tasted it and said they had saved the good _____ till last.
6. This was the beginning of Jesus' _____.
7. Who believed on Jesus?
8. What did Jesus find in the temple?
9. What did He do?

Verse to Memorize
... many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did.

John 2:23.

Let's



Talk . . .

There was to be a marriage at Cana of Galilee. Among the many guests invited were Jesus, His mother, and His disciples. The wedding feast lasted several days. Before it was over they discovered they had no more wine.

Jesus' mother found it out and told Jesus. She was sure He could help some way. Then she told the servants to do whatever Jesus told them.

Pointing to six stone waterpots sitting nearby, Jesus told the servants to fill them with water. They obeyed, filling them to the brim. "Now pour out some and take it to the governor of the feast," Jesus instructed. It was the duty of the governor of the feast to taste everything before it was served to the guests.

The servants picked up one of the waterpots and carefully began pouring into a cup. They had filled the waterpot with water but when they poured some out it was not water—it was wine! They were amazed and quickly carried the cup to the governor of the feast.

The governor did not know anything about the waterpots full of water. The servants watched his expression carefully as he took a sip. To their surprise he declared that it was very good wine—much better than what they had already served!

At once the governor called the bridegroom. "At other wedding feasts the best wine is served first," he told him. "But you have kept the best wine until the last!"

Jesus' disciples saw everything that had happened. They, too, were

amazed that Jesus had turned water into wine. Now they were even more convinced that He was, indeed, the Son of God.

It was again time for the feast of the Passover so Jesus and His disciples went to Jerusalem. People from every part of the land were there to keep the feast. When Jesus entered the temple court it was more like a crowded noisy market place than a house of prayer. Nothing about it would make a person feel like praying. Men had brought live oxen, sheep and doves into the temple to sell for sacrifices. These animals only added to the noise and confusion.

The money-changers sat at small tables. Every Jew over twenty years old had to give a piece of silver money called a half shekel to the priests. Those who came from distant countries brought the kind of money they used in their homeland. Since half shekels were the only coins the priests would take, all other coins had to be changed for half shekels to pay the priests. Every person had to pay to have his money changed into temple coins.

Seeing people making a market place out of His Father's house made Jesus very angry. He took small cords and tied them together to make a whip. With this whip He drove all the animals and their keepers out of the temple. He turned the money-changer's tables over and let the coins go rolling across the floor. Angrily He ordered, "Take these things away. Do not make my Father's house a market place!"

This made many of the Jews angry. They asked Jesus, "What sign do You show that You have a right to do such things?"

Jesus answered, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." Jesus meant the temple of His body. He knew the Jews would help kill him. He was foretelling that in three days He would rise from the dead.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

My legs are paralyzed and I can't reach anything with my hands.

Maybe somebody will see my flash-light and come. I'm going to keep up as long as I have strength. I do want to see you all so much. There is a verse that keeps running through my head and it is so beautiful. "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

I suppose this writing will all be useless if I get out, but somehow I don't feel like I will. The roads are so bad and it looks so stormy and I have yelled until I can't make a sound above a whisper.

I'm cramping awfully bad again. I'm getting so tired holding myself up to write. I must rest again. My back is hurt someway. I can't write much more.

I want to bid you all good-bye. God bless you all. Good-bye. It is getting light in the East and old Ring has come to me. He is barking on the bank and tries to reach me and lick my hands. He knows I am in trouble.

Well, Mother dear, it will soon be over. I'm in a hurry to go now. My suffering will be over forever.—Joy.

Sterrett often expressed a desire to lead others to the Lord Jesus. When he returned from the Army at the close of the war, he told his mother he felt like he should go out in the world and work to bring souls to Christ. Whether he ever had the joy of seeing a friend won for the Lord, we cannot say, but we believe his desire has been fulfilled in a manner he never conceived of. Like Samson, he has accomplished more for God in his death than in his life. His testimony, given in the hour of weakness and dissolution, has reached more persons and with greater effectiveness than most Christians influence in a lifetime.

"God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform." He gave Joy

Sterrett the strength and the very means he required to leave a message. Who can fail to see in all circumstances, that God has spoken? He is "longsuffering, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (II Peter 3:9).

My reader, God is speaking to you. He has controlled all the chain of events that worked together to bring this message to you at this moment. Then hear, and your soul shall live. (Isa. 55:3). — Adapted from tract published by Faith Publishing House

THE EAGLE AND THE TRAP

A hunter one day shot a large eagle. The bird measured seven feet two inches across the wings. When the sportsman went to examine his prize he was astonished to find one of the eagle's claws held firmly in a powerful trap, to which was attached a steel chain five feet long. Trap and chain had many marks of vicious blows from the eagle's beak, showing how he had endeavored to free himself from them.

While they had not been heavy enough to prevent his flying, they had so impeded and wearied him as to be the cause of bringing the great bird within reach of the hunter's rifle.

Many big boys and girls with good capabilities and bright prospects are brought within reach of the guns of the Enemy by some chain—passion, appetite, instability, etc.—which has held them down and they have been caught in the devil's coils and lost eternally. Beware! —F.J.R

(Answers: 1. A marriage. 2. Jesus and His disciples. 3. His mother. 4. Water. 5. Wine. 6. Miracles. 7. His disciples. 8. Those who sold oxen, sheep and doves and the moneychangers. 9. He drove them all out of the temple.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 8 May 20, 2007

A THRILLING STORY FROM ALASKA

I was born in Jefferson County, NY, in 1834. In 1897 I went to Alaska to mine for gold. As I was sledding my personal effects and grub and mining outfit, my eyesight began to fail. I had noticed that my eyes were not good about two weeks before.

Finally I came across a deserted cabin. I stopped in this cabin and let the crowd go by, as they expected to find plenty of gold. What hardships men will undergo to find the gold which perisheth!

With my bedimmed eyes, I thought it wise to rest a few days in hopes that my eyesight would improve. But to my surprise and dismay, my eyes kept getting worse, and after 30 days my sight was gone, and there was no apparent reason why I was blind. My eyes were not inflamed, neither did they pain me.

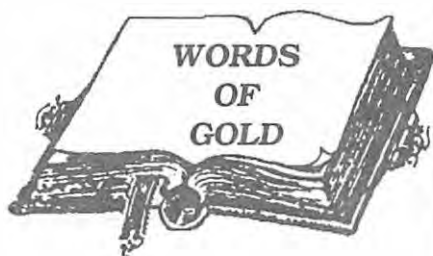
My sad affliction led me to think and wonder about what would become of me. I was alone, had little fuel, and I did not expect anyone to come to the cabin. Deep snow had covered every trail, and there I was, shut out from the world, alone, and blind. There was nothing left for me to

do but to remain, eat up my provisions, lie in my cot and keep from freezing. I just waited to see what would turn up.

A panorama of my past life went before me. I was compelled to think, and I also discovered that I was cornered; there seemed to be no way out. I did not believe I would ever see again. I felt that if I could only die and never be found, it would be a relief. Twice in my life before I had been given up to die but this was worse; I wanted to die and could not. I was yet well in body, except that I was poor, old, and blind.

I had a wife and one son in Denver who were depending on me. I had made one last effort to make another stake, and had failed. All hope had fled; no one could see the cabin. I did not think it possible for anyone to come my way; there was no smoke to lead anyone to my cabin door. I was completely lost to all the world. Oh, the horrors of being lost! To be lost in this world is frightful, but oh, to be lost in the world to come—FOREVER!

In this loneliness, this lostness, I began to feel the need of God and of a Saviour. My mother's sweet face came up before me, and I remembered her prayers with vivid imagination, although she had been dead 40 years.



NICODEMUS

John 3:1-17

1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God . . .

3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

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.

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

9 Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?

10 Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?

12 If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?

13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

The Message: Although he came at night, Jesus was willing to teach Nicodemus about the kingdom of God.

Questions:

1. Who was Nicodemus?
2. When did he come to Jesus?
3. He knew that Jesus was a teacher from ____.
4. What must a person do to see the kingdom of God?
5. Did Nicodemus understand Jesus' words?
6. What did he ask Jesus?
7. Jesus called him a ____ of Israel.
8. What did God give so anyone who believed in Him could be saved?
9. God did not send His Son to ____ the world.

Verse to Memorize

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16.

Let's



Talk . . .

Nicodemus, a rich Pharisee and a ruler among the Jews believed that Jesus truly was sent from God. Most of the Pharisees were very proud. They refused to believe that either John the Baptist or Jesus were teachers sent from God.

But Nicodemus was not like the other Pharisees. He had heard Jesus teach the people who had come to worship during the Passover. Right then he knew that Jesus was no ordinary teacher—He was sent from God!

Other Pharisees only wanted to find fault with Jesus. They were not interested in learning from Him as Nicodemus was. One night he went to the place where Jesus stayed to talk with Him.

Nicodemus told Jesus, "Master, we know that You are a teacher come from God. No man could do the miracles You do unless God was with Him."

Jesus wanted Nicodemus to know about the kingdom of God. He said, "Unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

This puzzled Nicodemus. He asked, "How can a man be born after he is grown up? Can he become a tiny baby again?"

Jesus did not mean that a man would be born again in body but in heart. He said, "Unless a man is born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. Do not be surprised when I say that you must be born again. The wind blows. You hear it and you see what it does. Yet you do not see the wind itself. You cannot tell

where it comes from or where it goes. That is the way it is with those who are born again."

Nicodemus thought about Jesus' words. No one could see the Spirit. Yet a person whose heart was changed, born again, would act as if he had the Spirit of God in his heart. It would be as if he were a new person!

Then Jesus told Nicodemus the wonderful words that still give us hope and comfort: "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Many people have been "born again." We usually say that they "got saved." In his booklet, *From Darkness to Light*, Bro. Mart Samons tells about the night he got saved. He says: "When I fully repented, the most wonderful thing that I had ever experienced happened to me. I will never forget that night. The Lord took all that load away. It felt so good, I started to laugh. I don't know how long I laughed, but I was the happiest man in the whole world!

"I went home that night, November 7, 1957, a new man. I had been smoking ever since I was just a boy. I never could give up cigarettes even though I had tried several times. I had smoked one just before I went into the chapel that night. As I was on my way home, they came to my mind for the first time since I had gotten saved. I had them in my coat pocket. I took them out, rolled down the window and threw them out. I never desired to smoke one since.

"Another wonderful thing happened that night. My wife was sick all that day and two of the children. My wife said about the time I got saved, even though I was ten miles away, all the pain left her. When I came into the house the lights were out. Before she ever saw me, she said, 'You got saved tonight.' What a mighty God we serve!"

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

She was a woman of faith, and always believed that God answered prayer. I remembered how she used to pray in the barn way back on the hay where we could not see her. She was the only one in the family who prayed. How I wished that I could believe as she did!

I then began to think about praying myself. That was about all that was left for me to do, except to starve and die. I asked God to help me, to send someone to deliver me. I prayed all day and all night, until I went to sleep. I felt better when I was praying, but no answer came. I continued to pray for three days and three nights constantly, except when I would sleep a little. There was no answer, so I became discouraged.

Finally my eyes were turned upon myself. I knew that I was a sinner. I tried to think of something else, but my mind would revert to my own wretched condition, and involuntarily I would begin to pray again. I was cut off from all earthly assistance; I could only call upon God. My past life stalked before me like a ghost: the years of unbelief, and doubt, and sin.

Perhaps this was why God did not answer my prayer. I began to think that I was completely cut off from God. Memory was active. "Am I lost from God?" I wondered "Why pray more? I am a lost man, and God will not hear me." I felt that all hope was gone.

Finally, I began to repent of my past life. I saw that I had made an awful mistake; my feelings overcame me for a time. What a sad hour that was to me! But hope, like the rays of the sun, came to my rescue again. I said to myself, "I will not give up. I will pray again." I determined to ask God to answer so that I might know that He heard me. If He would do so, I would believe on Him the rest of my life.

My sight came to me in the twinkling of an eye; I could see as well as ever! It was sudden—so sudden that it fairly surprised me. I was not looking for such an answer. I was entirely overcome, and for a time I forgot everything.

"Oh," I exclaimed, "God has heard and answered my prayer! This is the most wonderful thing I have ever heard of. God must be here!" It seemed that I could feel His very presence. "Yes, yes, God is surely here, for, He has given me my sight; there is no mistake about it. I am sure that I was blind, but now I can see. Oh, this is wonderful!" If I had only known about this wonderful God, I would have served Him all the days of my life.

I began to get happy. I shouted as loud as I could: "Glory to God!" I danced around that old cabin and praised God. I got the door open and got out and on top of the hard snow. The sun was shining. The whole woods seemed alive; the treetops were clapping their hands, and everything seemed to be praising God. My spiritual eyes had been opened; I was looking upon a new world.

While nature seemed to dance, glisten and sparkle, the blessing in my own soul was more wonderful. I was filled with the glory of God—such peace, such ecstasy, is simply beyond language to describe. My whole life was changed in a moment. I found the richest mine in Alaska—an inexhaustible mine. The more I take out the more there is left; the deeper I dig, the richer the vein! —S.M. Rugg
—Adapted from tract published by Faith Publishing House

(Answers: 1. A ruler of the Jews. 2. At night. 3. God. 4. Be born again. 5. No. 6. "How can these things be?" 7. Master. 8. His only begotten Son. 9. Condemn.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 9 May 27, 2007

LOVE COVERETH

Fred Bates wanted to be a Christian. The pastor had called on two occasions to speak with Fred concerning his soul. Each time Fred had shown deep interest but had failed to take the deciding step. Every Sunday evening he was in church and listened attentively. Oncemore the minister was calling at the Bates' home and this time at Fred's own request.

"Mr. MacArthur," Fred began, "there is one thing that stands in my way of accepting Jesus Christ as my Saviour. It has been there all the time, but not until the last few days have I been able to bring myself to the place where I could tell you what it is.

"Fifteen years ago," Fred continued, "I was working for a certain firm. I was only 17 at the time. I liked my work, and everything went well for about six weeks, when one day I noticed that the men with whom I worked seemed to avoid me and would stand in groups talking amongst themselves. About two o'clock I was told I was wanted in the office. I found that not only the president wished to see me, but there were five other men present. The president was standing with his hand on the open safe door.

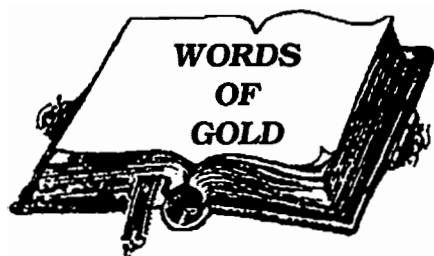
"He said, 'Mr. Bates, I'm sorry for you, but if you will confess and return

what you have taken, I'll drop the matter at once.' I was dumbfounded.

"Confess?" I said. 'What shall I confess? I have taken nothing nor have I, to the best of my knowledge, done anything that requires a confession.'

"The president looked in surprise at me and was about to speak when the manager of the firm stepped to the center of the floor and addressing the president said, 'It's no use wasting time on him. He's evidently an old hand at the game.' A few words more were exchanged among the men, and though I pleaded with them to tell me of what I was accused, they refused to answer my question. After being given another opportunity to confess and being unable to give them any satisfaction, I was placed in a patrol car and taken to the city jail. There I was charged with larceny, but the details were not told me.

"How I suffered that night in jail, God only knows! The next day I was given a hearing and then it was that I discovered that \$2,600.00 had been stolen from the safe in the office, and that I was accused of the theft. A detective had discovered that the money had been taken from the safe the day before I was arrested. The only people in the office at that time



LIVING WATER

John 4:10,11; 13-26

10 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

11 The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?

13 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:

14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

15 The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.

16 Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither.

17 The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband:

18 For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.

19 The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.

20 Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and yesay, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.

21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye

shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

23 . . . the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

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

25 The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.

26 Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.

The Message: As water quenches our thirst and refreshes our bodies, Jesus, the living water, purifies our heart and satisfies every desire. We no longer thirst for the pleasures of the world.

QUESTIONS:

1. What kind of water did Jesus tell the woman He would give her?
2. Jesus said it would be a well of water springing up into what kind of life?
3. Why did the woman want Jesus to give her this water?
4. Who did Jesus tell her to call?
5. How many husbands had she had?
6. The woman perceived that Jesus was a _____.
7. True worshippers worship God in _____ and in _____.
8. The woman knew that _____ was to come.
9. What did Jesus tell her?

Verse to Memorize

. . . Jesus stood and cried, saying,

If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

John 7:37

Let's



Talk . . .

One day as Jesus and His disciples walked toward Galilee, He became so tired He sat down on a well to rest. His disciples left Him there and went into the city to buy food.

Soon a woman from the city came to get water. She knew at a glance that the strange man sitting there was a Jew. Since Jews paid no attention to Samaritans, she passed by Him and lowered her water jar into the deep well. When the water jar was full, she pulled it up again.

Just as the woman was ready to start back to the city, Jesus said, "Give me a drink."

The woman was surprised. She said, "Since you are a Jew, why do you ask a Samaritan woman for a drink? You know the Jews have nothing to do with the Samaritans."

"If you knew who asks you for a drink," Jesus answered, "you would ask Him to give you living water."

The woman did not understand. She said, "Sir, this well is deep and you have nothing to draw the water up with. How could you give me living water?"

"Whoever drinks of this water becomes thirsty again and must come back for more," Jesus answered. "Whoever drinks the water that I give will never be thirsty again. The water that I give springs up into everlasting life."

Now the woman was really interested. She did not know that the living water was Jesus' free gift of salvation to all people. She said, "Sir, give me this water so I won't have to come here to get water any more."

Jesus told the woman to go call her husband but she told Him that she had no husband. He told her He knew she had been married five times and was now with a man who was not her husband.

The woman was surprised that this stranger knew all about her. "Sir, I believe you are a prophet," she told Him. She did not want to be reminded of her sins so she tried to start an argument about religion. She said, "We Samaritans worship here, but you Jews say people should go to Jerusalem to worship."

Jesus did not argue. Instead He explained that God planned to bring salvation through the Jews. "God is not found in only one place," He said, "for God is Spirit. Those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth."

The woman had never heard such wonderful words. She said, "I know the Messiah, the Christ, is coming from God. When He comes, He will tell us everything."

Jesus told her, "I am He!"

Just then the disciples returned with food. Leaving her water jar by the well, the woman ran to tell her friends about this wonderful stranger. When she reached the city she ran through the streets telling the people about Jesus. "Come see a man who told me all the things I ever did," she said. "Is not He the Christ?"

The people were so curious that they decided to see this man for themselves. They went back to Jacob's well with her.

Jesus talked with the Samaritans about the things of God. They invited him to stay and teach them more, and Jesus agreed.

Jesus taught the people for two days. As they listened, many believed. Then they told the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you told us but because we have heard for ourselves. We know this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world!"

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

were the president, the manager, the office girl, and I. I had been summoned to answer a telephone call only to find the party had not waited. While I was there the president had been called to the shipping department with the manager. It was evident, they thought, that I had taken the money. The manager, accompanied by a detective, had gone to my boarding house, had searched my room in my absence, and had discovered the money bag under my mattress, but no money was found. They searched my room for letters telling of my past, but found none. It was evident to me that the few letters I had received from a friend of mine in my home town had been previously destroyed. They said I had succeeded very well in hiding my trail!

"I need not tell you about the days I awaited trial. Suffice it to say that I was found guilty by the court and sentenced to hard labor in the state penitentiary for a term of not less than five years. I was dazed. I could neither eat nor sleep. The injustice of the whole matter almost drove me mad. It was only when I was threatened with solitary confinement that I came to myself and realized that it would be better for me to make the best of my plight.

"Five years later I once more became a free man. I had mapped out my program while in jail. I had sworn that I would find the man who stole the money and placed the blame on me and that his life would pay for his crime. My heart was bitter. In a short time I discovered that the manager of the firm for which I had worked had resigned his position shortly before my release and that two months previous to his resignation the office safe had been entered at night and a large sum of money stolen.

"This confirmed my conviction that the manager was the thief in both instances. At once I began a search for him. I found he had deserted his wife and gone to Mexico where I went in search of him. He was a gambler, and it was no easy matter to find the places where he stayed; but once I got on his trail, I found plenty of men who had seen him and who had been fleeced of all their money.

"After two years of futile searching I tired of my task, came north to St. Louis, and found employment. Stopping in front of a window display one evening on my way to my room, I felt, rather than saw, a man stop back of me and look at the display. Then a voice that I recognized at once said, 'That's some display, isn't it?' Without a moment's hesitation I turned and leaped at the man's throat, and then everything turned black. He had slugged me. I woke up in the hospital two days later, and when I was able to return to my room I found that he had not only taken my purse with over a hundred dollars that I had saved, but, by means of an address on a letter in my pocket, he had gone to my room and had stolen my clothes and traveling bag. These I recovered from a pawn shop a few days later with the aid of the police. But the man had succeeded in getting away safely.

"Once more I took to the trail and this time with something more deadly than my fists. I trailed him for over a year from one city to another, but always arrived too late.

(To be continued)

(Answers: 1. Living water. 2. Everlasting. 3. So she would not have to come to the well to draw water. 4. Her husband. 5. Five. 6. Prophet. 7. Spirit, truth. 8. Christ. 9. "I that speak to thee am he.")

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 10 June 3, 2007

LOVE COVERETH

(Continued)

Fred Bates is telling a minister how he had served five years in prison for a crime he did not commit. When he was released he vowed to find the man who committed the crime and blamed him. He had hunted him for years, determined to get revenge.

"I finally gave up the hunt, settled down and established a home of my own. I am happy, but I cannot forget the past, and my heart longs for revenge whenever I think of that man. I wonder sometimes if one who hates as I hate and longs for revenge as I long for it can ever be saved. I know that if that man should enter this room this moment I would kill him. I cannot feel otherwise."

Fred had finished his story and both men sat for a moment in silence.

"I presume if I had gone through such an experience as you have just told me that I would feel much the same as you do," the minister said. "But Fred, have you ever stopped to think that Jesus Christ suffered, too, for crimes He had never committed? If you will accept Him as your Saviour He will change your heart. 'Love covereth a multitude of sins,' and once that love of God fills a man's heart and life, his hatred gives way to love."

"I believe you," responded Fred, "but it is just what I don't want. It seems I am not willing to give up the desire to have revenge."

The minister leaned towards Fred. "What would you do if you were to meet this man who had caused you so much suffering?"

"I'd kill him," answered Fred with a flash of anger.

"Then what?"

"I presume that I'd be arrested and tried for the crime and possibly die in the electric chair."

"And what about your wife and son? What about your soul?" the minister continued. "Can't you see you'd lose everything by such an act—your dear wife, your only son, your home, your soul, your joy, peace, everything! And what would you gain? Here you are in your own home with a loving wife and a darling child. The best years of your life are yet before you. But you would sell it all for the sake of revenge. Fred, is it worth it?"

Suddenly the front door opened, and little feet were heard coming through the hall. A childish voice called, "Daddy! Daddy!" Both men heard it and tears came to the eyes of both. Fred leaped to his feet and cried out in anguish of soul. "No, no! It isn't worth it," and sobbing, dropped to his knees on the floor.



JESUS HEALS!

John 4:46-5:9

46 So Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee, where he made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was sick at Capernaum.

47 When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judaea into Galilee, he went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and heal his son: for he was at the point of death.

48 Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.

49 The nobleman saith unto him, Sir, come down ere my child die.

50 Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way.

51 And as he was now going down, his servants met him, and told him, saying, Thy son liveth.

52 Then inquired he of them the hour when he began to amend. And they said unto him, Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.

53 So the father knew that it was at the same hour, in the which Jesus said unto him, Thy son liveth: and himself believed, and his whole house.

1 After this . . . Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

2 Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool . . . having five porches.

3 In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk . . .

4 For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had.

5 And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years.

6 When Jesus saw . . . he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?

7 The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool . . .

8 Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.

9 And immediately the man was made whole . . .

The Message: Jesus came to heal the sick as well as to save people from their sins!

Questions:

1. What had Jesus done at Cana?
 2. What was wrong with the nobleman's son?
 3. What did he want Jesus to do?
 4. What did Jesus tell him?
 5. When was the son healed?
 6. Where did Jesus go next?
 7. How long had the man been unable to walk?
 8. Why didn't he get into the pool?
- What did Jesus tell him?

Verse to Memorize

**...he cast out the spirits
with his word, and healed
all that were sick:
Matthew 8:16**

Let's



Talk . . .

A certain nobleman had a son who was very sick. When he heard that Jesus was in Galilee he went to find Him. He had heard much about Jesus and was sure He could heal his son. When he found Him, he pleaded with Jesus to come and heal his son. Without His healing touch his son might die!

Jesus told him, "Except you see signs and wonders you will not believe that I am sent of God."

"Sir, come at once before my son dies!" the poor father begged.

Jesus felt sorry for the distressed father. He told him, "Go back home. Your son lives."

The nobleman believed Jesus' words and started back to Capernaum. He felt sure that his son was well. Jesus had said he was!

As the nobleman approached Capernaum, his servants came running to meet him. "Your son lives!" they told him excitedly.

"What time did he begin to get better?" he asked.

They told him and it was at the very hour Jesus had said, "Thy son liveth," that his fever left him!

After this Jesus went to Jerusalem. There was a pool there where many sick people waited in the shade of five porches. At times the water of this pool moved strangely. The people believed that the first person to step into the water after it moved in this way would be healed.

So it was no wonder that many sick, crippled, and blind came to wait for the water to move. Some had been coming here for a long time, hoping to be healed when the water was troubled. Since only the first person

into the water was made well, many people were always disappointed.

As Jesus walked beside the pool He saw a man who had been sick for thirty-eight years. Jesus felt sorry for him. Looking down He asked him gently, "Would you like to be healed?"

The man answered, "Sir, I have no one to help me into the water when it is troubled. Before I can get there, someone else steps in."

"Rise, take up your bed and walk!" Jesus told him.

It all happened so suddenly! But the moment Jesus spoke the man felt strength filling his body! He took his bed up as Jesus said and thankfully walked toward home.

The Jews looked at him strangely as he walked along carrying his bed. They told him, "It is the Sabbath. It is against the law for you to carry your bed today."

"The one who healed me said, 'Take up your bed and walk,'" the man told them.

"Who told you to do this?" they demanded. The poor man did not know because Jesus disappeared in the crowd as soon as He healed him.

Later when the man who had been healed went to the temple to worship God Jesus found him and said, "Now you are well. Sin no more lest something worse happen to you."

At once the man knew it was Jesus who had made him well. He felt so happy and thankful that he told everyone how Jesus had healed him at the pool of Bethesda.

This only made the leaders more angry! Not only had the man carried his bed, but he had been healed on the Sabbath. They thought it was more important to keep the Law than for a sick man to be made well again. When the Jews found out it was Jesus who had done this on the Sabbath they persecuted Him.

But Jesus answered them, "My Father is at work and I work."

These words made the Jews furious! They wanted to kill Jesus. He had not only broken the Sabbath but He also said that God was His Father!

— Sis. Nelda Sorrell

Six months later a man knocked at the Bates' door and asked for a cup of coffee.

"Have him come in and eat breakfast with us," Fred called to his wife.

A moment later the stooped form of a poorly clad figure entered the kitchen, rubbing his hands in an effort to warm them. And Fred recognized the man for whom he had sought in vain for years. To all appearances the man had not recognized Fred. For a moment Fred's hands were clenched, and then they relaxed.

Following the morning meal Fred led in the morning family devotions. As they arose from their knees Fred turned towards the man and said, "I don't presume you remember me, Mr. Murly?" For a moment the man stared at Fred, and then the changed expression upon his face made an answer unnecessary. The man at once became uneasy, and Fred, noticing it, said, "Have no fear, Murly. I'll not harm you. Sit down." Reluctantly the man obeyed, while Fred took a chair and sat opposite him.

"Mr. Murly," Fred began, "I am a Christian only six months and you can be thankful that I am. Had you appeared here six months ago as you have this morning, I would probably have taken your life without a moment's hesitation. But God has planned it otherwise, and I am glad for both of us that He did so."

Then he told the man of Christ, and pleaded with him to accept Jesus as his Saviour from sin.

"Tis no use, Mr. Bates," the man replied. "I am a hardened criminal and there's no hope for a man like me. I've committed so many crimes in my time that if I were to live for a hundred years I could not serve enough years to atone. I'm sorry I sinned against you as I did and, for some reason or other, since I came in here I regret the sinful life I have lived. But I'm getting old.

Disease has laid its hands upon me because of my sins, and my days are few. I shall have to finish as I began."

Fred pleaded with the man to accept Christ, but the man insisted that there was no hope for him. Assured of Fred's forgiveness, the man left the house, but not before Fred once more prayed for him and placed in his hands several bills that would help him to find food and shelter at night.

Two months later a letter came.

"Dear Mr. Bates: After leaving you two months ago I became more and more disgusted with my life and longed for the change of which you spoke to me. One night I staggered into a mission, and although I didn't believe He'd do it, Jesus Christ pardoned and accepted me. Oh, the joy of that moment! But oh, the regret of my life!

"After that, I decided to tell the authorities of my past life, with the result that I have been committed to prison for life. I have also written to the firm and have told everything so as to clear your name. Since I came here I have broken down completely in health and the doctor says it is only a matter of a few weeks at the most. But I wanted to let you know that your kindness to me after the terrible crime I committed against you is responsible for my change of heart. But for you, I would now be sinking into hell. God bless you! How I wish I had always lived a clean, upright life. Oh, believe me, 'the way of the transgressor is hard,' and apart from Jesus Christ there is no real joy in life. Good-bye. Murly."

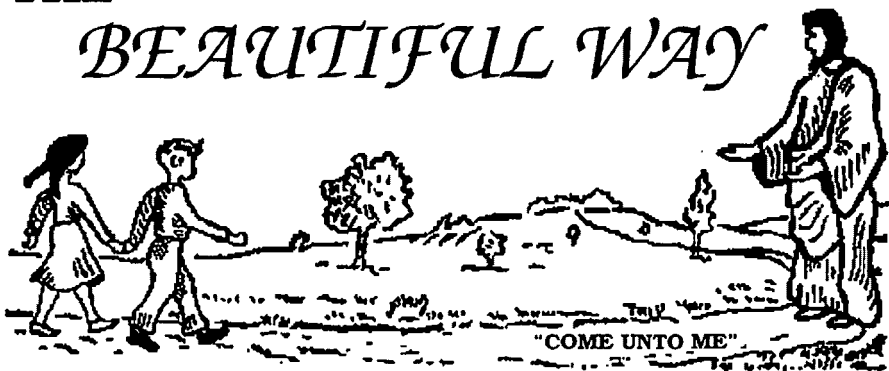
—S. Paul Weaver

Adapted from tract published by Faith Publishing House

Answers: 1. Made water into wine. 2. He was sick. 3. Come and heal his son. 4. "Go thy way thy son liveth." 5. At the time that Jesus said, "Thy son liveth." 6. To Jerusalem. 7. Thirty-eight years. 8. He had no one to put him in. 9. "Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.")

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 11 June 10, 2007

GOOD NIGHT OR GOOD BYE, WHICH?

Dr. Langdale, of NY, told of a devout Christian businessman who was struck by an automobile and hurried to the hospital. He was informed that he had only about two hours in which to live. His faith was implicit in the goodness of God and in future life. To him death was only a gateway leading to a higher world.

He had his family called and thus addressed them: "Wife, you have been to me the greatest woman in the world. Through sunshine and shadow we have walked together. You have been my inspiration in everything I have undertaken. Especially has this been true in reference to my religious life. Many times I have seen the Spirit of God shining in your face. I love you far more than I did the day you became my bride. Good night, dear, I'll see you in the morning. Good night."

"Mary, you are our firstborn. What a joy you have been to your father. How glad I am that you have looked so much like your mother. In face and spirit you have always reminded me of her. I see in you the sweet, beautiful young woman who left her home to become the builder of mine. What a Christian you are! Mary, you will

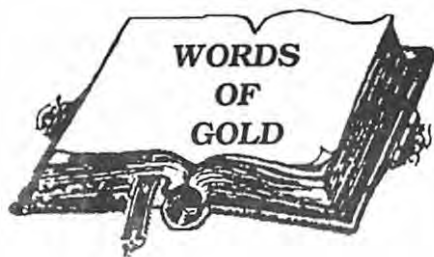
never forget how your father has loved you. Good night, Mary, good night."

He then turned to his eldest son. "Will, your coming into our home has been an unmixed blessing. You were a manly boy. You have become an exemplary man. You love God and His Church. How proud I am of such a son! You will continue to grow in every Christian grace and virtue. You have your father's love and blessing. Good night, Will, good night."

Charlie was next. Charlie had fallen under evil influences and had grievously disappointed his father and mother. The dying man skipped him and spoke to the youngest child, a beautiful young girl.

"Grace, your coming was like the breaking of a new day in our home. You have been a song of gladness, a ray of light. You have filled our hearts with music. When not long ago, you surrendered your life to Christ, your father's cup of happiness was full and overflowing. Good night, little girl, good night."

He then called Charlie to his side. "Charlie, what a fine promising boy you were. Your father and mother believed you would develop into a great and noble man. We gave you all the opportunities that we gave the other children. If there has been any difference, you yourself must admit



A BIG CATCH!

Luke 5:1-10

1 And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret,

2 And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets.

3 And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.

4 Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.

5 And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.

6 And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.

7 And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.

8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees . . .

10 . . . And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.

Mark 1:21-27

21 . . . on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught.

22 And they were astonished at his doctrine . . .

23 And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out.

24 Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.

25 And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him.

26 And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him.

27 And they were all amazed . . .

The Message: Just as Peter caught a multitude of fish when he obeyed Jesus, later, three thousand were saved when he preached one day.

Questions:

1. Why did the people press upon Jesus?
2. What were the fishermen doing?
3. Whose ship did Jesus get in?
4. What did He tell Simon to do?
5. What did Simon tell Him?
6. How many fish did they catch?
7. Where did they go on the Sabbath day?
8. Who cried out?
9. What did Jesus say to him?

**Verse to Memorize
And he saith unto them,
Follow me, and I will make
you fishers of men.**

Matthew 4:19

Let's



Talk . . .

As Jesus taught the people by the lake of Gennesaret a great crowd gathered on the shore. They were so eager they kept pressing closer so they could catch every word He spoke. Jesus saw two boats pulled to shore. The fishermen had left them to wash their nets.

One of the boats belonged to Peter. Jesus stepped into it and asked him to move it just out from shore. There Jesus spoke to the people. After teaching them, he told Simon, "Move out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

"Master, we have fished all night, and we have caught nothing," Simon told Him. "But because You say I will let down the net."

So, rowing a distance out from the land, they let down their nets once more. This time many, many fish swam into their nets and were caught. The net became so heavy that Simon and Andrew could not pull it out of the water. Quickly they motioned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. Simon, Andrew, James, and John pulled with all their might. They had never caught so many fish! Soon both boats were so full that the boats began to sink.

Falling at Jesus' knees, Simon cried out, "Leave me, O Lord! for I am a sinful man."

Jesus did not intend to leave Simon. He answered, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men."

When they brought their boats to land, they left their fishing business to follow Jesus.

So Jesus, with the four fishermen, returned to Capernaum. On the Sabbath they went to the synagogue where Jesus taught the people. They were

surprised at His teaching. He spoke with great authority!

But there was a man in the synagogue who had a very bad spirit. The unclean spirit made the man call out, "Let us alone! What do we have to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Are You come to destroy us? I know You are the Holy One from God."

Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit saying, "Hold your peace, and come out of him."

After the unclean spirit tore the man and cried with a loud voice it came out of the man as Jesus commanded. The people were greatly surprised. They had never before seen anyone with such power. They said to one another, "What is this? What new teaching is this? Jesus commands evil spirits with authority and they obey him!"

Jesus and the four fishermen left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon and Andrew. There they learned that Simon's mother-in-law was sick with a fever. They brought Jesus to her. Taking hold of her hand, he lifted her up. The fever left at once. She got up and helped get the meal.

That evening when the sun had set people came from all over the city bringing those who were sick or possessed with devils for Jesus to heal them. Jesus healed many that night.

When the last group left Simon's house, Jesus lay down to sleep. But a long time before daylight He got up quietly and left the city. He found a place where He could be alone to talk with His heavenly Father.

At daylight more people came to Simon's house, asking for Jesus. Simon and his friends went to look for Him and found Him at His place of prayer.

"Everyone is looking for You," they said.

Jesus answered, "Let's go into the next towns. I must preach the kingdom of God in there also."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

that the difference has been in your favor. We have done the best we could for you, Charlie. But you have disappointed us. You have followed the broad and downward way. You have not been guided by our advice. You have not heeded the warning of God's Holy Word. You have not heeded the call of the Saviour. But I have always loved you, Charlie, and I love you still. God only knows how much I love you. Good-bye, Charlie. Good-bye! Good-bye!"

Charlie seized his father's hand and between his sobs cried out, "Father, why have you said 'Good night' to the others, and 'Good-bye' to me?"

"For the simple reason, Charlie, that I will meet the other members of the family 'in the morning,' but by all the promises that assure us of a reunion and give me hope of having them with me again, by those statements of God's Word I can have no hope of seeing you 'over there.' It's good-bye, Charlie, good-bye."

Charlie fell on his knees by his dying father's bed and cried out in the agony of his soul, praying God to forgive his sins and allow him the hope of meeting his father again.

"Do you mean it, Charlie? Are you in earnest?"

"God knows I am," said the heart-broken young man.

"Then God will hear you and save you, Charlie, and it is not 'good-bye,' but 'good night.' Good night, Charlie, good night. I am so grateful to God that it is not 'good-bye,' but only 'good night.' Good night, my boy." And he was gone.

Charlie became a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ and looked forward to the time when he would hear his sainted father exclaim, "Good morning, Charlie, I'm so glad the night is gone and the day has come. Is it not a glad, great hour? Good morning, Charlie, good morning."

Members of the same home circles: husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, loved ones, when the shadows fall and you go to sleep, to those who love you, will it be, "Good-bye" or a short "Good night?" — Adapted from tract published by Faith Publishing House

ONE RAT

In England one little rat caused a dike to collapse in England. The rodent burrowed through the embankment of a canal. Soon water began seeping through. Slowly but surely, the original trickle became a sizable stream. Soon one bank collapsed and a 40-foot break-through let the water pour out in torrents. Three million gallons of water escaped and the canal was drained for seven miles.

As a result more than a million fish were swept away and a twenty-foot gorge was channeled through a nearby field. It took sixty men with bulldozers three weeks to shift thirty thousand tons of soil and repair the damages.

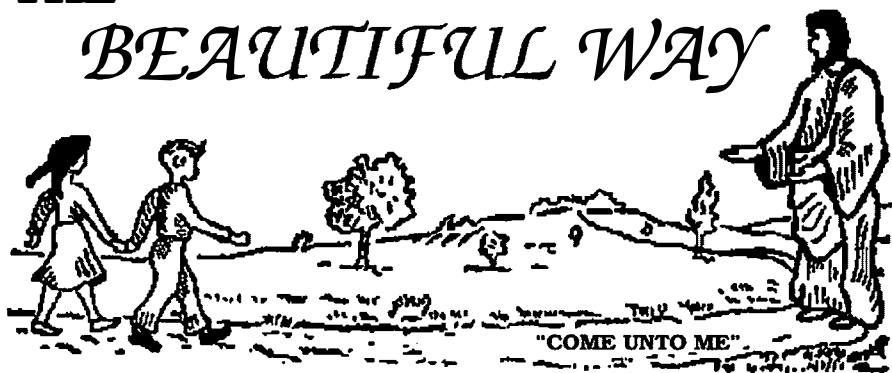
Just as one tiny rat caused this tremendous damage, so can one individual like you start a chain reaction that will either harm or benefit everyone. While it is true that "one sinner destroyeth much good" (Ecclesiastes 9: 18, it is also true that through a faithful life you may cause many to be saved. We may never fully know the far-reaching good that results from a seemingly insignificant prayer, word or deed. But God knows and that is what counts.

"To them that love God, all things work together unto good." (Romans 8:28.)

(Answers: 1. To hear the word of God. 2. Washing their nets. 3. Simon's. 4. "Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught." 5. They had fished all night and caught nothing. 6. A multitude. 7. To the synagogue. 8. A man with an unclean spirit. 9. "Hold thy peace, and come out of him!")

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 12 June 17, 2007

MAKE IT SO PLAIN THAT I CAN GET HOLD OF IT

On the sixteenth day after the battle of Gettysburg, I entered the room where a young wounded colonel, my son, was apparently near death. As I entered, he aroused from his stupor, beckoned me to his bedside, and threw his feeble arms about my neck.

"Oh, Father, how glad I am to see you! I was afraid you would not come till it was too late. I am too feeble to say much, although I had a great many things to say to you. You must do all the talking. Tell me all about dear mother and sister."

I soon perceived by the appearance of those in the house that there was no hope of his recovery. But as I could no longer bear the agony of suspense, I at last inquired of the doctor, "Doctor, how long do you think he can live?"

"Not more than four days. He may drop away at any hour."

"Have you, or has anyone told him of his real condition?"

"No. We left the painful duty for you to do, as we have been expecting your arrival for several days."

As I entered the room with the dreaded message of death pressing on my heart, the eyes of my son fastened upon me. "Come, sit by my side, Father. Have you been talking with the doctor about me?"

"Yes."

"What did he tell you? Does he think I shall recover?"

There was a painful hesitation for a moment. "Don't be afraid to tell me just what he said."

"He told me you must die."

"How long does he think I can live?"

"Not to exceed four days, and you may drop away any hour."

With agitation he exclaimed, "Father, is that so? Then I must die! I cannot! I must not die! Oh! I am not prepared to die now. Do tell me how I can get ready! Make it so plain that I can get hold of it. Tell me in a few words, if you can, so that I can see it plainly. I know you can, Father, for I used to hear you explain it to others."

"My son, I see you are afraid to die."

"Yes, I am."

"Well, I suppose you feel guilty."

"Yes, that is it. I have been a wicked young man. You know how it is in the army."

"You want to be forgiven, don't you?"

"Oh, yes! That is what I want. Can I be Father?"

"Certainly."

"Can I know it before I die?"

"Certainly."

"Well now, father, make it so plain that I can get hold of it."

At once an incident which occurred during the school days of my son came to my mind. "Do you remember when you came home from



JESUS CALLS A PUBLICAN Luke 5:18-32

18 And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before him.

19 And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus.

20 And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.

21 And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?

22 But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answering said unto them, What reason ye in your hearts?

23 Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk?

24 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house.

25 And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God.

26 And they were all amazed, and they glorified God, and were filled with fear, saying, We have seen strange things to day.

27 And after these things he went forth, and saw a publican, named Levi, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he said unto him, Follow me.

28 And he left all, rose up, and followed him.

29 And Levi made him a great feast in his own house: and there was a great company of publicans and of others that sat down with them.

30 But their scribes and Pharisees murmured against his disciples, saying, Why do ye eat and drink with publicans and sinners?

31 And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician: but they that are sick.

32 I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

The Message: Jesus came to save every sinner who repents.

Questions:

1. What was wrong with the man who was brought to Jesus?
2. How did they get him to Jesus?
3. Jesus told him his sins were _____.
4. Who said Jesus blasphemed?
5. How did Jesus prove He had power to forgive sins?
6. The people said they had seen _____ things that day.
7. What was the publican's name?
8. What did he do when Jesus called him?
9. Jesus said He came to call _____ to repentance.

Verse to Memorize
I came not to call the
righteous,
but sinners to repentance.
Luke 5:32

Let's



Talk . . .

Many people wanted to see Jesus when they heard of the wonderful things He had done. One day so many people came to the house where He was staying not another person could get inside the door. About that time some men brought their sick friend in his bed. They knew Jesus could heal him, but how could they get their friend to Him?

As Jesus healed the sick and preached about the kingdom of God to the houseful of people, they heard strange noises overhead. Someone was taking the roof off! Then they saw a man lying on a cot being lowered from the ceiling. The sick man's four friends looked down anxiously to see what Jesus would do.

The people in the room also wondered what would happen. Then they heard Jesus say, "Son, be of good cheer, for your sins are forgiven!"

They were shocked! They knew God could forgive sins, but they did not know that Jesus was the Son of God. The scribes and Pharisees who had come to find fault said in their hearts, "Who is this Jesus who pretends to forgive sins? None except God can do that!"

Knowing their thoughts Jesus said, "Why do you think evil of me in your hearts? Is it easier to tell the man that his sins are forgiven, or to tell him to rise up from his bed and walk? But that you may know I have power on earth to forgive sins too—Jesus said to the man—"Arise, take up your bed, and return to your own house."

Immediately he got up, rolled up his bed, and started for home as he glorified God. The people were so surprised that they did not know what to think. Some were afraid, all were amazed. They glorified God. As they hurried home, they said to each other, "We have seen strange things today!"

The Jews hated and despised the publicans who worked for the Roman government. It was their job to collect the taxes levied by the Roman government from the Jews. Often the publicans took more money than the government charged. Although not all publicans robbed the people, because some did, the people thought all tax collectors were dishonest. For that reason the people called them sinners.

One day as Jesus walked through Capernaum He saw Levi (Matthew) sitting at a table collecting tax money from the people. Jesus knew that Matthew had a good heart. He would make a good disciple. He told him, "Follow me." Gladly Matthew left his money table and followed Jesus.

Matthew wanted his friends to see Jesus and hear His words. So he gave a great banquet and invited many friends who were also tax collectors. Jesus and his disciples were the guests of honor.

They had not been invited, but the proud scribes and Pharisees gathered in the courtyard of Matthew's house. They watched the dinner party and talked to each other about what they saw. They criticized Jesus for being with these publicans and sinners. They asked Jesus' disciples, "Why does your Master eat and drink with publicans and sinners?"

Jesus heard what the proud Jews had said. He answered, "Those who are well do not need a doctor, but the people who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous people, but I have come to call sinners to repent."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

school one day and became very angry and abused me with harsh language because I had occasion to rebuke you?"

"Yes, Father, I was just thinking it all over a few days ago as I thought of your coming to see me. I felt so badly about it that I wanted to see you and once more ask you to forgive me."

"Do you remember how, after the violence of your anger subsided, you came in and threw your arms about my neck and said, 'My dear Father, I am sorry I abused you so. It was not your loving son that did it. I was very angry. Won't you forgive me?'"

"Yes, I remember it very distinctly."

"Do you remember what I said to you as you wept upon my neck?"

"You said, 'I forgive you with all my heart,' and kissed me. I shall never forget those words."

"Did you believe me?"

"Certainly. I never doubted your word."

"Did you then feel happy again?"

"Yes, perfectly, and since that time I have always loved you better than ever before. I shall never forget how it relieved me when you looked upon me so kindly, and said, 'I forgive you with all my heart.'"

"Well, now, this is just the way to come to Jesus. Tell Him, 'I am sorry,' just as you told me, and ten thousand times quicker than a father's love forgave you, He will forgive you. He says He will. Then you must take His word for it just as you did mine."

"Why, Father, is this the way to become a Christian?"

"I don't know of any other."

"Why, Father, I can get hold of this. I am so glad you have come to tell me how." He turned his head upon his pillow for rest.

I sank into my chair and wept freely, for my heart could no longer

suppress its emotions. I had done my work and committed the case to Christ. He, too, I was assured, had done His. The broken heart had made its confession, had heard what it longed for, "I forgive you," and believed it. I soon felt the nervous hand on my head and heard the word "Father" in such a tone of tenderness and joy that I knew the change had come.

"Father, my dear father, I don't want you to weep any more. You need not for I am perfectly happy now. Jesus has forgiven me. I know He has, for He says so, and I take His word for it, just as I did yours."

The doctor came in and found him cheerful and happy. He looked at him, felt his pulse, which he had been watching with intense anxiety and said, "Why, Colonel, you look better."

"I am better, Doctor. I am going to get well. My father has told me how to become a Christian, and I am happy. I believe I shall recover, for God has heard my prayer. Doctor, I want you to become a Christian too. My father can tell you how to get hold of it."

My son, the colonel, did live, and lived for Christ. I was made a better man and a better evangelist by that scene, where this dear son, struggling with his guilt and fear of death, was led to Jesus and found the pardon of his sins. I there resolved never to forget the charge he made me in his extremity, "Make it so plain that I can get hold of it." —Selected

—Adapted from tract published by Faith Publishing House

(Answers: 1. He had palsy. 2. Through the roof. 3. Forgiven. 4. The scribes and Pharisees. 5. He healed the man. 6. Strange. 7. Levi. 8. He left all, got up and followed Him. 9. Sinners.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 13 June 24, 2007

THE PERSISTENT PARTNER

My partner and I were going from house to house in an area where very few attended church hoping to share the gospel with them. I had become quite calm in approaching a person or home while working for the Lord.

All went well until one day we came to a place to which we afterwards referred as "the home of the cursing woman." At this place we were met at the door by a young woman who seemed pleasant enough until she knew we were Christian workers and that we would like to have her read our literature. She slammed the door and began to curse. I had never heard a woman use such language before. While she was cursing inside the house, my friend knelt down and prayed a short prayer, slipping some tracts under the door as he started to leave.

As we started away my friend said, "Pretty tough place, don't you think? We shall go back there this same hour next week."

"You mean you shall," I broke in.

"I mean we shall," he replied.

That same hour of the same day of the next week we went back. The young woman opened the door and saw us. She started her same line again. "I'll shoot you if it's the last

thing I do, if you ever come back here again with that religious stuff," she declared, as she slammed the door with a mighty crash! We knelt and prayed, then slipped some tracts under the door and left.

"How about going back again?" my friend asked as we went away.

"I hardly think it can get any worse," I answered, "and I should like to see if she ever will change her attitude."

About the same hour of the same day of the next week we were knocking at her door again. She opened the door and looked us over. I wondered as I tried to read her expression if she was more amused than angry, and sincerely hoped she might be. Then her curiosity got the better of her, and she said, "Well, I will swear to creation!"

I expected her to start in at any minute. But instead she asked, "What kind of fellows are you, anyway?"

My friend told her in a remarkably nice manner that we were saved from sin by the grace of God and that we would like so much to help her into the Kingdom of God.

She told him that she had no disposition whatever to get religion, but that she was glad we had returned. She wanted to tell us that our coming to speak to her on such a subject had made her awfully nervous and that was why she used such



JESUS HEALS A WITHERED HAND

Matthew 12:1-14

1 At that time Jesus went on the sabbath day through the corn; and his disciples were an hungred, and began to pluck the ears of corn, and to eat.

2 But when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto him, Behold, thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the sabbath day.

3 But he said unto them, Have ye not read what David did, when he was an hungred, and they that were with him;

4 How he entered into the house of God, and did eat the shewbread, which was not lawful for him to eat, neither for them which were with him, but only for the priests?

5 Or have ye not read in the law, how that on the sabbath days the priests in the temple profane the sabbath, and are blameless?

6 But I say unto you, That in this place is one greater than the temple.

7 But if ye had known what this meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless.

8 For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.

9 And when he was departed thence, he went into their synagogue:

10 And, behold, there was a man which had his hand withered. And they asked him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days? that they might accuse him.

11 And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out?

12 How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days.

13 Then saith he to the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it forth; and it was restored whole, like as the other.

14 Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council against him, how they might destroy him.

The Message: Jesus taught that it was proper to show mercy and help those in need on the Sabbath day.

Questions:

1. When did Jesus walk through the corn field?
2. Who was hungry?
3. What did they do?
4. Who said they had done something unlawful?
5. I will have mercy and not _____.
6. What was wrong with the man Jesus saw in the synagogue?
7. Jesus said it was lawful to do well on the _____ days.
8. What happened when the man stretched his hand out?
9. What did the Pharisees want to do to Jesus?

Verse to Memorize
As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.
Galatians 6:10

Let's



Talk . . .

The Pharisees became Jesus' bitter enemies because He had healed people on the Sabbath day. They followed Him, watching everything He did and listening to His words, just to find fault with Him.

On one Sabbath Jesus and His disciples walked through a corn field. The disciples were hungry so as they walked along they pulled off ears of corn and ate them. When the Pharisees saw this they told Jesus, "It is against the law to gather food on the Sabbath. Your disciples have broken that law."

Jesus reminded them of what David did. When he found out Saul was determined to kill him he had to run for his life. He had no food or weapons and did not dare go back in the city to get them. The only place he could think of to get help was at the tabernacle of God.

Ahimelech, the priest, was surprised to see David, especially since he had come running in all alone. He knew he was a brave captain; it seemed strange to see him alone. So he asked, "Why are you alone?"

Now David did not want anyone to know he was running from King Saul. He was afraid they would report him to the king so he told the priest that he was on a secret mission.

David asked Ahimelech for the bread that was being replaced by fresh. He knew this bread had been dedicated to the Lord and only the priests were to eat it but he desperately needed something to eat. Ahimelech hesitated but he felt David was worthy to be helped. He gave him

five loaves of the showbread. God did not punish David for this. He knew David wanted to do what was right and was only in this situation because Saul had done him wrong.

Then Jesus reminded the Pharisees that the priests and the Levites did much work on the Sabbath. In the morning they had to kill the animals that would be offered for sacrifices, and then prepare the sacrifices. That evening they had to repeat the process.

Jesus told them that God is more pleased when they showed mercy to someone in need than He was with all their sacrifices. "The Son of man is Lord even of the Sabbath," He said.

Jesus went into the synagogue and there He saw a man who had a withered hand. The Pharisees watched him closely. They hardly knew what Jesus would do next. The people followed him so willingly that the Pharisees were afraid. They tried to think of clever questions to trick Jesus.

"Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" they asked.

Jesus answered, "If any of you have a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, do you not get it out? A man is much more valuable than a sheep! Why then is it not lawful to do good on the Sabbath?"

The Pharisees said no more, but their faces showed how angry they were. Jesus was sorry their hearts were so hard. To the man with the withered hand Jesus said, "Stretch out your hand."

The man obeyed and immediately his hand was healed. The Pharisees were so outraged that they left the synagogue and met to plan a way to kill Jesus.

Jesus knew what the Pharisees were planning. He went out and great crowds followed him. He healed all the sick among them and charged them to not tell the great things He had done.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

strong language on our previous visits. She then kindly requested that we stay away and not approach her on that subject again.

I knew no more than to suggest that if she would permit us to step inside and offer prayer maybe the Lord would fix up her nerves and she would be all right. It seemed to amuse her to think we would offer the same thing as a remedy that had made her sick.

"No," she replied, "I do not think that will help. At least your prayers have not helped my nerves so far." Then in a rather soft tone of voice she said, "I do not want to be unkind (and that was certainly news to us), but if you are really concerned about me, please don't talk to me any more about that, for I have felt simply dreadful the past two weeks."

We asked her if she would not at least accept and promise to read some of our literature. She said, "I will not promise to read it, but I will take it to keep you from poking it under the door."

As we went away I suggested that since she had asked us so kindly not to come back, it seemed a bit cruel to return. But my friend knew more about dealing with humanity than I did, and he said that deep down in her heart it would be a disappointment to her if we failed to return and help her into the Kingdom of God.

Consequently, the next week we made our fourth call at that home. The young woman opened the door and greeted us in a kindly manner. She said she was glad we came, for she wanted to apologize for the way she talked to us the first time we came to the door. My friend told her that we gladly forgave her, but that the Lord had heard all she said and that she should ask Him to forgive her. We then asked permission to step inside and pray. She said we might if we would make it short. We agreed. As

we started to leave after prayer, I asked her if we might return and pray with her the next week. "It would be mighty kind of you," she answered.

We went away feeling that a hard battle had been almost won and that victory was sure if we held on in faith for our subject.

Before we knocked on the door on our fifth visit, it swung open. The young woman greeted us by saying, "Come in. You are a bit late, are you not?" We told her it was about the usual time.

Then she again asked us to forgive her for the way she had treated us. We assured her we did forgive her and urged her to pray. She was soon on her knees crying as if her heart would break, as she confessed her sins to the Lord and pleaded for mercy.

The light of heaven soon broke in on her soul and she was truly made a new creature. She urged us to come back the next Sunday and insisted that if we could talk to her husband he would get saved. We went, but he was not at home.

The following Sunday we made our seventh visit. Her husband was there. She greeted us by saying, "Come right in, fellows, he's ready to pray right now." He glanced at us and nodded when she presented us to him, and then slumped down on his knees by the side of the bed. He made all kinds of confessions and begged humbly before the Lord for mercy. He was soon genuinely converted.

—J. W. Montgomery

—Adapted from tract published by Faith Publishing House

(Answers: 1. On the Sabbath day. 2. His disciples. 3. Picked ears of corn and ate them. 4. The Pharisees. 5. Sacrifice. 6. His hand was withered. 7. Sabbath. 8. It was made well. 9. Destroy Him.)