

The Beautiful Way

Primaries
(USPS549-000)



Vol. 32 No. 3

July, Aug., Sept., 1981

Part 14

July 5

THE DONKEY TALKS TO BALAAM

Numbers 22:12-38

"Come and curse some people of Moab who came out of Egypt," Balak told the prophet Balaam. "I will give you money and honor." Balaam wanted to go, but God did not want him to go. At last Balaam got on his donkey and started to Moab. God was displeased. God sent His angel to meet Balaam, but Balaam did not see him. The donkey saw the angel with a fiery sword standing in the way. The donkey turned into a field. Balaam struck the donkey. As they went down the road there was a wall on each side. The angel came again. The donkey turned to one side and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall. Balaam struck the donkey again. Later, the angel stood in so narrow a place that the donkey just fell down. Balaam struck it again and again. Then the Lord let the donkey speak. It said, "What have I done that you struck me these three times?" Balaam said, "I struck you because you will not act as you should. If I had a sword in my hand, I would kill you." The donkey said, "Am I not your donkey that has always carried you? Did I ever disobey you before? Why do you treat me so cruelly?" Then Balaam saw the angel. He fell on his face.

Memory Verse: Be not wise in thine own eyes: Prov. 3:7

Blaming Brownie

Mother finished setting the table. Then she picked up Baby Alan and put him down beside Lara, who was seated cross-legged on the rug. She was putting together a puzzle.

"Watch the baby, Lara," said Mother. "I have to go to the basement and put some clothes into the dryer."

Lara nodded, but she kept on working her puzzle. Alan played with some toys nearby. Lara got up, almost stumbling over Brownie, the little dog that had been sleeping beside her. She poured herself a glass of grape juice from the pitcher on the table. Then she plopped down on the rug again to work her puzzle, forgetting that her mother had forbidden her to eat on the rug.

After taking a few sips of her juice, Lara placed the glass beside her. Then she remembered the baby. Turning around, she saw that he had crawled to the table and was reaching up for the corner of the tablecloth. "Alan!" she yelled, realizing that with just one tug he could pull the dishes down on top of himself. As she jumped up, she kicked the glass. Lara gasped as a large purple stain spread over the rug.

At that moment, Mother returned. She grabbed the baby, who was now crawling toward the purple stain, and asked, "What happened?"

"Brownie spilled my glass of juice," Lara replied. The moment Lara spoke she was sorry. How could she have lied and blamed Brownie?

"You shouldn't have set it on the rug," said Mother. "Help me clean it up. I have some spot remover that may work."

Lara helped Mother scrub the spot, and the cleaner took out most of the

stain. The accident was soon forgotten by everyone except Lara. She felt that she had a terrible stain on her heart. She had told a lie!

That night when Mother went to Lara's room to say good night, Lara could stand it no longer. "Mommy, I told a lie. Brownie didn't spill the juice. I did," she confessed. "Will you forgive me?"

"Of course I will. If you are sorry and tell Jesus so, He will forgive you, too," Mother replied.

"I'm so glad," declared Lara, letting out a relieved sigh. "I have already told Jesus that I'm sorry, and I've asked Him to help me not to lie anymore. I don't ever want to feel that awful inside again!"

—Sel.

Ready for Jesus

Are you willing, are you ready
With a consecrated heart,
To lay down your life for Jesus,
From all self and sin to part?

Can you say that knowing Jesus
Is the pearl of greatest price;
That with Him there's life in dying,
That there's gain in sacrifice?

What a Friend we have in Jesus!
What a treasure we can own;
Ready for His blessed coming,
Loving Him and Him alone.

—Leslie Busbee

Questions:

1. What did Balak want the prophet Balaam to do?
2. How did Balaam displease God?
3. Did Balaam see the angel?
4. What did the donkey say to Balaam?
5. What did the angel tell Balaam to do?

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Part 15

July 12

MOSES DIES

Deut. 31:1-3, 14, 15, 22-24; 34:1, 4-8

Moses was 120 years old. Moses told the people of God that he could not go with them into the land which God had promised to them. Moses said that he was too old, that Joshua would lead them over. The Lord told Moses to bring Joshua before the tabernacle. Moses told the people that Joshua would lead them to the Canaan land. The Lord appeared in a pillar of cloud. God wanted the people to know that He was with Joshua and would be with them as Joshua led them into the Canaan land.

Moses wrote the first five books in our Bible. He also taught a song to the people of God. One day Moses went up into a mountain. The Lord showed him the land that He was going to give to His people. God had promised the land to them. The Lord said to Moses, "I have let you see this land, but you will not go over into it." Moses died in the land of Moab. He was buried, but to this day no man knows where his grave is.

Moses told the people that God would go over before them and fight their battles. God would give them the land and they should not be afraid. God would not forsake them.

Memory Verse: God will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Deut.: 31:6b

Changing the Price

Some people in the next block were having a garage sale. There were all sorts of things around the garage. Little things were laid out on tables. Little pieces of paper with prices written on them were pasted to the things.

David and Randy looked over all the little things. There was a knife that Randy wanted. It had two blades and a little pair of scissors. But the price tag said twenty-five cents. Randy had only a nickel. He went on and looked at something else.

After a while Randy came back to the knife. Now the price tag said five cents! They must have changed the price, he thought. He paid his nickel and took the knife.

On the way home David ran up. "I sure helped you!" he said. "Those price tags came off easy. I took the one off the knife and put it on a little book. The price on the book was five cents, so I put that tag on the knife."

"That was the wrong kind of help," said Randy. "That was cheating. Now I will have to take the knife back."

"Don't be so silly," David told him.

Randy knew in his heart that he would always be sorry if he kept the knife. God would not be pleased with him if he kept it. So he went back to the garage sale.

"I paid a nickel for this knife, but someone had changed the price on it," he said. "It should have been twenty-five cents. Will you take it back and give me back my nickel? I don't have twenty more cents, or I would give it to you and keep the knife."

The woman looked surprised. She took the knife and gave Randy a nickel.

A man standing nearby asked Randy, "Did you change the price tag?"

"No sir!" said Randy. "My friend did it when I was not looking. He told me after I bought the knife. He thought he was helping me. His parents are not Christians. He did not know that he was cheating and would not please God."

"I will buy the knife for you," said the man. "Every time you look at it, remember that it pays to please God."

—Sel.

God Can Spell

"Do not cry; I'll take you home," said the farmer to the little girl when he found her in his meadow.

"I knew you would come. I was waiting for you," said the child, smiling and snuggling up close.

"Waiting for me?" asked the man. "What made you think I was coming?"

"I was praying you would," answered the little girl.

"Praying? When I first heard you, you were saying, 'ABCDEFGH.' What was that for?"

The little child looked up again and explained, "I'm just a little girl. I was praying all the letters of the alphabet and letting God put them together the way He wanted to. He knew I was lost, and He knew how to put them together better than I did."

Questions:

1. How old was Moses?
2. Did he tell the people that he was going to die?
3. Who did God choose to take the people into the Canaan land?
4. What did Moses see before he died?
5. Does anyone know where Moses is buried?

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Vol. 32, No. 3

July, Aug., Sept., 1981

Part 16

July 19

CROSSING JORDAN RIVER

Josh. 4:14-24

Moses had died. Joshua was the new leader of the Israelites. Joshua would lead the people into the Canaan land. God told Joshua that He would go with him and to not be afraid.

One day Joshua told the people to pack their things. They were going to move. Soon everyone was busy. The children helped, too. When everyone was ready to go, Joshua told the priests to carry the ark of the covenant on their shoulders. They were to go over the Jordan River. There was no bridge as we have today. How would they get over the river? Joshua told them to step into the water. When the priests, bearing the ark, stepped into the water, it stopped flowing. As they walked on, the waters backed up on one side. The people walked on, and the ground became dry under their feet. All the children of Israel crossed over.

Joshua told twelve men to pick up twelve stones out of the river bed. He told them to carry them over Jordan with them. He said that when they stopped to camp they should put the twelve stones in a heap. This was to remind them what a miracle God had done.

Memory Verse: Every word of God is pure. Prov. 30:5a

Freddie's Glasses

Freddie was only five years old, but he was having trouble with his eyes. His father said he must wear glasses. Without the glasses he could not see well. The glasses made everything look clear. But Freddie was afraid the boys at Sunday school would make fun of him.

When Sunday morning came and he walked into the Sunday school room, one of the girls said, "Hey, look at Freddie, he's wearing glasses."

"Yea," said Tom, "Here comes Freddie four eyes."

Everyone laughed but Freddie. He felt like crying. He did not want the children to laugh at his glasses.

"Children," the teacher said, "Let's be quiet now and listen to a story."

"Have any of you ever seen a bat that flies around at night?"

"Yes, I have," said James. "One time I went into a cave and there were some bats hanging on the ceiling."

"Was it dark in the cave?" asked the teacher.

"Yes, but we had flashlights," replied James.

"Why did you take the flashlights?" asked the teacher.

"We had to have the flashlights to show us the way."

"If the bats could see all right without flashlights, why couldn't you?" the teacher asked.

Everyone laughed.

"You see that James took a flashlight in the cave so he could see better," said the teacher.

"Suppose James had thought, 'Well, the bats don't have flashlights, so I won't take one, either.' That would have been foolish, wouldn't it?"

"Yes," the children said.

"Now, Freddie has a problem with his eyes. James used the flashlight to help him see in the cave. Freddie is using glasses to help him see. Just as James was smart to take a flashlight, Freddie is smart to wear glasses. We should never make fun of other people."

"Freddie," said Tom after class, "I'm sorry I laughed at you. I really think your glasses are kind of neat." —S.W.

A CHRISTIAN'S DRESS

"That women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair [or plaited], or gold, or pearls, or costly array." 1 Tim. 2:9; 1 Pet. 3:3, 4.

"And when thou art spoiled, what wilt thou do? Though thou clothest thyself with crimson, though thou deckest thee with ornaments of gold, though thou rentest thy face with painting, in vain shalt thou make thyself fair." Jer. 4:30.

"The rings, and nose jewels, the changeable suits of apparel, and the mantles, and the wimples, and the crisping pins." Isa. 3:21, 22.

"But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering." 1 Cor. 11:15.

Questions:

1. Who was the new leader of the Israelites?
2. Who carried the ark of the covenant on their shoulders?
3. What happened when the priests stepped into the Jordan River?
4. What did twelve men carry out of the river bed?
5. What did they do with the twelve stones?

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Part 17

July 26

THE WALLS FALL DOWN

Joshua 5:13, 14; 6:1-21

Joshua looked up and there stood a man with his sword drawn. Joshua asked, "Are you for us or against us?" The man said, "I am the captain of the host of the Lord." Joshua fell on his face before him. The captain of the host of the Lord said to Joshua, "I will give you the city of Jericho. Take all your men of war and march around the city. Have seven go before bearing the ark and seven trumpeters. Then march around it the second day, the third day, the fourth day, the fifth day and the sixth day. On the seventh day march around it seven times. Let the seven priests, who have seven trumpets, blow the trumpets with a long blast. The walls of the city will fall down."

Joshua did as the captain of the host of the Lord told him. Around the city they marched. No one made a sound with his mouth. On the seventh day the trumpets blew with a great blast. Joshua said to the people, "Shout, for the Lord has given you the city!" The walls of that great city of Jericho fell down. God gave them a great victory because they obeyed Him.

Memory Verse; Shout; for the Lord hath given you the city.
Joshua 6:16b.

The Quarter

Barry brought in the mail. "What is this brown envelope for?" he asked.

"I owe the mailman a quarter," his mother told him. "I will put the quarter in the envelope and put it in the mailbox tomorrow."

The next day after school, Buddy said, "I am going to the store to get one of those kites that looks like a bird. They are on sale today. Why don't you get one, too?"

Barry counted his money. "I have nearly enough," he said. "I just need twenty-five cents more. But Mother does not just give me money when I ask for it. And there is no time to earn it now."

"Can't you think of any place you can get a quarter?" asked Buddy.

Barry thought. "Maybe the mailman has not come yet," he said to himself.

Barry ran home. Mother was not looking. He took the brown envelope from the mailbox and put it into his pocket. Then he ran back to Buddy.

Halfway to the store, Barry stopped. "You are stealing!" a voice seemed to say to him. "Would you rather have a kite than please God?"

"You go on," said Barry. "I am not going to buy a kite today." Then he ran home. Maybe the mailman had not passed his house yet.

As Barry ran around the corner he could see his mother getting the mail from the box. The mailman was far up the street. "I'll put the envelope in the mailbox tomorrow," he said to himself.

But the little voice inside seemed to say, "You may forget it tomorrow. Give it to the mailman now."

"I'll be back in a minute," Barry said to his mother. He ran to catch up with the mailman.

"Here is a quarter of yours," He said. "I started to take it, but I knew God would not be pleased if I did."

The mailman looked surprised. Then he smiled. "I'm sure God is pleased with you now," he said.

Soon Buddy came by. "That bird kite was no good!" he said. "It would not fly at all." —Sel.

The ship *Albion*, full of passengers from America, was wrecked a number of years ago, on the coast of Ireland, and the news was that all on board had perished. A minister near Philadelphia on reading a list of the lost, found among them the name of one of the members of his congregation, and went immediately to inform the wife of the sad fact. She had been earnestly praying, during the voyage of her husband, and had received assurance of his safety amid great danger. Hence, to the astonishment of her pastor, after he had informed her of the shipwreck, and showed her the list of names of those who were lost, she told him that it was a mistake; that her husband had been in extreme peril, but was not dead. When the next tidings were received, it proved that her husband was among the passengers, and had been in great peril; but that he had escaped, and was the only one saved!

—*Prayer and Its Remarkable Answers*

Questions:

1. Who did Joshua see?
2. What did he tell Joshua?
3. Did the ark of the covenant go before the soldiers?
4. How many times did they march around the city?
5. What did they do to make the walls fall down?

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Part 18

Aug. 2

ACHAN SINS

Josh. 7:1-26

The Israelite soldiers went out to battle against Ai. They lost the battle. Joshua tore his clothes and fell down before the Lord at the ark of the covenant. The Lord said to Joshua, "Israel has sinned. Someone has stolen from Jericho and hidden it among his stuff. I will not bless you with sin in the camp."

Joshua said to the Israelites, "Get ready to come before the Lord tomorrow." In the morning each tribe came before Joshua and the Lord. Family by family walked before the Lord. Finally the tribe of Judah came before the Lord. Family by family came by. When Achan came before the Lord, Joshua took him. Joshua said, "My son, give glory to the Lord and make confession. Tell what you have done. Hide it not." Achan said, "I have sinned. I took a good garment and 200 shekels of silver and a wedge of gold. I hid them in the earth in my tent." Joshua sent messengers to Achan's tent. They took out the garment, silver, and gold. They brought it to Joshua. According to the words of the Lord, Achan, his family, his possessions, and the things he stole were burned.

Memory Verse: I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel.
Joshua 7:20.

The Hole

"I don't like Kevin! I wish I could do something really mean to him!" thought Butch. "I know! I will dig a big hole and get him to fall into it!"

He got a shovel and began to dig in the big field behind his house. The ground was soft, and he dug a deep hole. At last it was so deep he could not throw the dirt out any more. He had a hard time getting out.

"I must carry this dirt away," he thought. That was hard work, too. When Butch finished, he was very tired. He put some sticks and leaves over the hole to hide it.

The next day Butch tried to get Kevin to chase him. He wanted to run close to the hole. He hoped Kevin would fall in. But he never could get Kevin anywhere near that hole.

That was in the late winter. Now it was summer and all the boys had airplanes to fly outside. "May I go out in the field and fly my airplane?" Butch asked his mother.

"If you will stay out of holes and ditches," she said. "There's a lot of mud in the low places yet."

Butch had a good time flying his airplane. All the other boys were flying their planes, too. But Butch did not look where he was going. He forgot about the hole he had made. He fell in it. It was muddy in there, and the sides were too slippery for him to climb out. He called for help, and Kevin came and pulled him out.

Daddy was at home when Butch got there. "How did you get so muddy?" he asked. Butch told him all about it.

"It tells about you in the Bible," said Daddy.

"Where?" asked Butch.

"In Proverbs 26:27, it says, 'Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein,'" said Daddy. "IF we try to do bad things to others, we get the same things done to us."

"What I did was bad," said Butch. "I will fill up the hole. And I will be nice to Kevin after this."

"And don't dig any more deep holes in soft ground," Daddy told him. "The sides might fall in on you!"

—Sel.

TRUE POLITENESS

A little boy was sitting at dinner at a friend's house. He was too small to cut the meat for himself, and his mother was at the other end of the table, but a lady sitting next to him offered her help.

"Let me cut your steak for you," she said, "that is, if I can cut it the way you want it."

"Thank you," answered the little boy. "I shall like it the way you cut it, even if you do not cut it the way I like it."

—Sel.

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

If you have God's love in your heart it will help you to love others. It will even help us to love our enemies. We do not love the naughty things others do, but we love them.

Questions:

1. What happened when the Israelites went out to battle?
2. What did Joshua do?
3. What did God tell Joshua was the trouble?
4. What did Joshua do the next day?
5. What did Achan do that was wrong?

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Part 19

Aug. 9

GIBEONS TELL LIES

Joshua 9:1-26

The Israelites were in the Canaan land. They took the city of Ai. The Gibeons were afraid the Israelites would take their city. They tricked Joshua. They put on old clothes and old shoes. They put old sacks on their donkeys. They took some dry moldy bread and old wine bottles. They came to Joshua and said, "We are your servants." Joshua asked, "Who are you and where did you come from?" They said, "From a far country. We heard about your God. We heard that He is mighty and that He brought you out of Egypt. Our elders told us to take hot bread from our ovens and new clothes for the journey. Now our shoes are old and our clothes are worn. Our bread is dry and moldy. We came to make peace with you. We want you to promise to let us live." Joshua believed them. Joshua promised that he would let them live. He did not ask counsel of the Lord. Three days later, Joshua and the Israelites heard that the Gibeons were their neighbors. They had lied to Joshua. Joshua called for the Gibeons. He asked them why they lied to him. They said they were afraid.

Memory Verse: Lying lips are abomination [hateful] to the Lord. Prov. 12:22a.

The Cookie Jar

"Oh, Grandmother! I like your new cookie jar!" exclaimed Shana. She stood and looked at the big brown bear. He seemed to be looking at her.

"I think he is trying to tell me something," said Shana.

"He is telling you to keep out until after dinner!" said Grandmother. "Then you may have all the cookies you want."

The telephone rang. Grandmother talked a long time. "She will not know if I take just one cookie," thought Shana.

After a while Grandmother came back into the kitchen. "Shana, I told you not to eat any cookies until after dinner!" she said.

"How did you know?" asked Shana.

"The bear told me," replied Grandmother. Shana looked at the bear. He was not looking at her now. She had put his head on backward!

"But no one saw me!" said Shana.

"Someone always sees us," her grandmother told her.

"Oh, do you mean God?" asked Shana.

"Does He always watch for us to do wrong so He can punish us?"

"No, dear," said Grandmother. "God does not want to punish us. He watches us because He loves us. He wants to help us do right. He wants to make us His children, so He can always help us. But we have to ask Him. We have to be sorry for the bad things we have done."

"Oh, I am sorry!" said Shana. "I am sorry I took the cookie when you told me not to. I am sorry because many times I don't mind Mother. I don't want to be bad, but something keeps making me do bad things. Will God take out the something that wants to be bad and help me to be good?"

"God will forgive you for the bad things you have done," said Grandmother. "He will make you different, so you will want to be good. There will still be times when it will be easy to do the wrong things. But you can always pray, and God will help you to do right. Do you want to ask God right now to forgive you and make you His little girl?"

When Shana got up off her knees, she said, "I feel so clean inside!"

—Sel.

The Boy Jesus

When Jesus was a little boy,
And played beside the street,
I know that when His mother called,
He ran on flying feet.
I know that when He saw a child
Too small or lame to run,
That He would stop His own swift feet
To help that little one.

I think He played at happy games
As children do today,
And that He played them fine and fair,
For that was Jesus' way.
And often in His Father's shop,
Among the clean, bright wood,
I know He sang and did His work
The very best He could.

—Sel.

Questions:

1. What did the Gibeons take with them from their home?
2. Did Joshua believe that they came from a far country?
3. Did he make a promise not to take their city?
4. What did he say when he knew they had lied to him?
5. Why did they lie to Joshua?

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Part 20

Aug. 16

JOSHUA DIES

Joshua 23:14-16; 24:1-31

Joshua was getting old. God had helped him drive out all of the other nations from the Canaan land. God had given the land to the Israelites. Joshua called the people together. He told them he was going to die. He reminded the people that God had been good to them. When they were slaves in Egypt, God sent Moses to bring them out. When the Egyptians followed them, God put darkness between them and the Egyptians. God took care of them in the wilderness. He led them to the Canaan land. God gave them a land that they did not work for. They came into a land that had vineyards and olive trees which they did not plant. Joshua told the people to put away any gods that they had and serve the true and only God. The people said, "We will not forsake the Lord to serve other gods, for He is our God." Joshua took a great stone and put it under an oak tree. Joshua said, "This stone shall be a witness unto us. When you see it you will remember that you have promised to serve the true God." Joshua let the people go to their homes. Joshua died at 110 years of age.

Memory Verse: We will serve the Lord for he is our God.
Joshua 23:18b

God Loves Bernardo

Bernardo crept up to the black iron gate that opened into the missionary's yard and lifted the latch. It opened at his touch, and he grinned. In his South American country, people kept the street gates locked, but the missionary probably didn't know that.

The little boy slipped inside, and the gate shut behind him. Quickly he ran up the walk, his bare feet not making a sound. Standing on tiptoe he pressed the doorbell. Then he crouched down on the steps and made himself appear as small as possible.

The door opened. It was the missionary, and he spoke to Bernardo in Spanish. "Hello. Can I help you?" he asked.

Bernardo hunched his shoulders and pretended to be crippled. It was a trick, for he was really a healthy boy. "Please, sir, will you give me some bread and some money? I am a poor, sick cripple," he said.

"Oh, you poor boy!" replied the missionary. "Wait here, and I'll see what I can find."

The door closed, and Bernardo smiled. The trick had worked.

In a few moments, the man was back. In his hand he carried a brown paper bag. "Here is some bread and fruit," he said. "And here are some coins. Give them to your mother to spend at the market."

"Thank you," said Bernardo, taking the bag and stuffing the coins into the pocket of his jeans.

"Here is something for you to read, too," continued the missionary. "It is the gospel of John, a part of the Bible. It is God's Book, and it is all true."

"Every word?" asked Bernardo.

"Yes, and it is about Jesus, who loves us. It tells us how we may go to heaven when we die," said the man.

Bernardo began to feel ashamed of himself. He straightened up to his full height and said, "Jesus doesn't love me. I'm not good. I only pretended to be crippled. I'm not sick at all."

"I know," said the missionary, smiling. "I was watching from an upstairs window when you came. Jesus saw you, too, but He still loves you and wants you to become a part of His family."

Bernardo looked puzzled. He couldn't understand why the missionary had treated him so kindly. Probably Jesus made the difference. He decided that he was going to come back to learn more about the One who knew all about him and still loved him! —Sel.

Jesus On Trial

The Saviour stands on trial today
Before us each and every one,
And whether He must go or stay
Is ours to choose—God's holy Son!
Shall we like those in Pilate's hall
Condemn Him to be crucified?
Or shall we let Him be our all
To walk forever by our side?
Oh, may today we all decide
To let Him be our Lord and Friend!
Our mortal pathway He will guide
And keep us 'til our journey's end.
—Leslie Busbee

Questions:

1. Did God drive out the people from the Canaan land?
2. What was in the land that God gave to the Israelites?
3. What did Joshua tell the people?
4. Did the people serve God?
5. How old was Joshua when he died?

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Part 21

Aug. 23

DEBORAH, THE PROPHETESS

Judges 4:1-14

After Joshua died, different men judged Israel. At one time Deborah, a prophetess, judged Israel. She dwelt under a palm tree.

The children of Israel did evil in God's sight. The Lord let them fall into the hands of King Jabin of Canaan. The children of Israel cried to the Lord. King Jabin was not good to them. He did many bad things. One day, Deborah sent for Barak. She asked him if the Lord had not told him to take an army and fight against King Jabin. Deborah told Barak that the Lord would deliver King Jabin's army into his hand. Barak said, "I will not go unless you go with me." She said, "If I go with you, the honor will not go to you, because the Lord will deliver the captain to a woman." Deborah went with Barak and the army. The army of King Jabin came to meet them. When they came to the place where they waited, Deborah said, "Up; for this is the day in which the Lord has given you the victory. The Lord has gone before you." Barak went out to meet the army. God caused the enemies to be confused. They ran all about. Barak won the battle.

Memory Verse: I will sing praise to the Lord God of Israel.
Judges 5:3b

Slippery Feet

One sunny morning Timmy went outside to play. This was the first time in several days he had been outside because it had been raining. Now the sun was out and the grass looked oh, so green!

"Now, Timmy," called his mother from the door, "Stay out of the puddles."

"Okay, Mom," he replied.

For a while Timmy rode his tricycle up and down the sidewalk, but then he decided to swing. He started toward his swing. "Oh, my," he thought as he suddenly stopped. "There is a big puddle of water right under my swing."

At first Timmy started to turn around and ride his tricycle again, but instead he stood and looked at the puddle. "If I can get in the swing without stepping in the water, I could swing and just keep my feet off the ground."

Timmy walked close to his swing and reached out for it. He couldn't quite reach it without stepping in the water. "I will stand on my tiptoes and get just in the edge of the puddle," Timmy thought.

Timmy tiptoed into the water and reached for his swing. Yes, he could reach it, but he couldn't get into it.

"Maybe I can hold onto the rope and swing my legs up onto the seat," Timmy said to himself.

Timmy grasped the rope tightly with both hands and swung his legs up. He swung out over the big puddle just hanging onto the swing. His feet were on the edge of the seat, but his shoes were slippery from standing in the water. As he tried to get into the seat, his feet slipped. Splash! He fell right into the muddy water. Oh, no! His clean shirt and jeans were all wet and muddy.

The door opened and Mother came out to sweep off the porch.

"Timmy!" she exclaimed.

Timmy was a big mess. His clothes were covered with mud, and water dripped from him.

"Timmy, why did you disobey me?"

"I didn't mean to, Mom," said Timmy.

"It wasn't my fault. I was going to swing, but somehow my feet slipped."

"Timmy, you can't blame this on your feet," Mother said. "Your feet may have slipped, but your eyes saw the water and you knew you shouldn't even go over to your swing today."

"I'm sorry, Mom," said Timmy with tears trickling down his face.

"Are you sorry that you disobeyed, or are you sorry that you fell into the water?" Mother said.

When people walk into temptation, they cannot blame it on their feet. When we see temptation we must turn away at once. —S.W.

What I can Do

Since Jesus gave His life for me,
His own I ever want to be.
With all I have I could not pay
For all His love to me each day.

Still I can give my little all,
And answer when I hear Him call,
And gladly I shall go and tell
Of Him, and that will please Him well.

Questions:

1. What is the name of the woman who judged Israel?
2. Where did she dwell?
3. What did she tell Barak to do?
4. Did he want to go to battle alone?
5. Who went with him, and did they have victory over the enemy?

The Beautiful Way

Primaries
(USPS549-000)



Vol. 32, No. 3

July, Aug., Sept., 1981

Part 22

Aug. 30

AN ANGEL VISIT

Judges 6:1-25

The children of Israel did wrong. God let another nation come into their land. The Israelites hid in dens and caves. The other people took their food, cattle, and sheep. The children of Israel cried unto the Lord.

One day Gideon was threshing his wheat. An angel of the Lord came. He said, "The Lord is with you because you are a mighty man." Gideon said, "Oh, my Lord, what has befallen us? Where are all the miracles that our fathers told us about? The Lord has forsaken us. This nation is doing us wrong." The Lord looked at him and said, "Go in your might and you will save Israel from this nation." Gideon said, "I am from a poor family." The Lord said to him, "I will be with you. You will smite this nation." Gideon said, "Show me a sign. Depart not until I bring you a present." Gideon brought out meat, cakes, and broth to the angel of God. The angel of God said, "Put the cakes and meat on that rock. Pour the broth over it." Gideon did as he was told. The angel of the Lord touched it with his staff and fire burned it up.

Memory Verse: The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. Psa. 118:6a

God's Care

"Do you think we'll make it, Daddy?" asked Rod anxiously as he looked out of the window of the small plane piloted by his father.

"Of course," replied his father. "We asked God to take us safely to San Felipe, and I'm trusting Him to do it."

"But it's been raining ever since we left the coast," said Rod nervously. "There are clouds all around us. How can you tell where we're going?"

"The plane's compass tells me which direction to go, and God helps me steer a steady course," replied Rod's dad. "Remember that 'the eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.' God will take care of us, Rod."

Rod felt better. He often flew with his missionary father to the South American jungle villages, but never before had they been caught in such a bad storm.

"Do you have plenty of gas?" asked Rod.

"That may become a problem," his father said. "This rough weather has made us take a longer route, and we may need to turn back to refuel before we can go on to San Felipe."

"Where will we land?" asked Rod.

"Son, you ask too many questions!" his dad remarked. "I don't know of any airstrip on our course from here to San Felipe. But we don't have to make the decision to turn back yet. Let's pray right now and ask God to show us what to do."

After they had prayed, Rod asked, "Daddy, don't you have a map that shows where the airports are?"

"Yes, and I've already looked at it. There aren't any that we can reach

without changing course," Dad replied.

"Daddy, here's a map right behind the seat. It looks newer than the one you have," said Rod.

"You're right. I'd forgotten about getting that new one a few days ago," Dad said.

Rod and his father scanned the map. "We are here," said Dad. "And look! We're very close to a small new airport! It isn't shown on the old map."

Just then, the sun broke through the clouds, and soon they sighted the landing strip. "Isn't it lucky that you had the new map?" asked Rod.

"It wasn't luck, son. That was God's care," said his dad. "Let us thank Him for His protection." —Sel.

We might try to hide things from others but God sees it all. We can't do wrong and get by. Stealing is sin, and God makes us feel badly in our hearts when we steal or lie. So be sure that you do not disobey God's law. It is sin to do wrong. Sin must be punished. Jesus has taken our sins and was punished on the cross for us. We must come to Jesus and ask His forgiveness for sin. We must believe that He has borne them for us. We must be sorry we have sinned. We must quit sinning. We do not want to sin anymore. Jesus will forgive us. We want to love Jesus and pray to Him every day to help us. —M. Miles

Questions:

1. What did the children of Israel do when they were in trouble?
2. Whom did the angel visit?
3. What did the angel want Gideon to do?
4. Did Gideon ask for a sign?
5. What was the sign given by the angel?

The Beautiful Way

Primaries
(USPS549-000)



Vol. 32, No. 3

July, Aug., Sept., 1981

Part 23

Sept. 6

GIDEON'S FLEECE

Judges 6:24-40

The Lord told Gideon to tear down his father's altar to the idol Baal. God said, "Build an altar to the Lord on top of a rock. Take one of your father's cows and offer it to the Lord." Gideon took ten men and did as the Lord said. He did it at night because he feared his father and the men of the city. When the men of the city arose and saw the altar to Baal torn down, they said, "Who did this thing?" They told Gideon's father, "Bring out your son, Gideon, that he may die." Gideon's father said, "Let Baal plead for himself, if he be a god."

The Spirit of the Lord came on Gideon. He blew the trumpet to call the soldiers. Gideon said to God, "I will put out a fleece of wool on the floor. If the dew falls only on the fleece and it's dry everywhere else, then I will know that you will save Israel by your hand." When Gideon arose, the fleece was wet and it was dry every where else. Gideon wrung out a bowl full of water from the fleece. Then Gideon said, "Be not angry with me, but let the dew fall every where else and the fleece be dry." And it was so that night. Gideon knew God would be with him.

Memory Verse: I will guide thee with mine eye. Psa. 32:8b

Tedra's Balloon

Michael and Tedra were at the zoo. They enjoyed watching the big elephants spray themselves with water. They liked watching the funny monkeys swing with their tails.

"Mother, may we have a balloon?" they asked.

"Yes," said Mother. "Here is enough money for two balloons."

The children raced over to the man who had a canopy of balloons over his head.

"I want a green one," said Michael.

"I want a red one," said Tedra.

The children held tightly to the strings as they watched their balloons float gayly in the air above their heads. Tedra was eating some popcorn. She held the box of popcorn in the hand that held the string.

"Oh, no!" she shouted, as her balloon began to go higher and higher into the air. She had let the string get away.

The children stood and watched the red balloon go higher and higher and get smaller and smaller.

"Will my balloon go up to God?" asked Tedra.

"No," said Daddy. "Your balloon will go very high and float with the wind, but the gas will slowly leak out of the balloon."

"How can the gas get out?" asked Michael. "The balloon is tied tightly."

"The gas can come right through the rubber of the balloon. The gas comes out bit by bit until the balloon will finally come down, until at last it falls to the ground."

"It's not fair that my balloon got away," whined Tedra.

"You should have held the string

firmly," said Daddy. "That is the way some people are with the Word of God. They do not let it go deep into their hearts so it slips away. Soon everything they know about God and His ways has leaked out of their hearts."

"I don't want to let God out of my heart," said Michael. "If He left, I might never get Him back again, just as Tedra will never get back her balloon."

—S.W.

Duane was only three years old, but when he and Mommy went to work for Jesus at the Print Shop, he was eager to help. He kept asking for something to do, so Mommy finally showed him how to fold the little *Beautiful Way* papers. Duane eagerly worked at his job, only pausing to comment, "We are doing this for Jesus!"

After awhile he began to frown and Mommy could tell that he was puzzled over something. Sure enough, before long he asked, "Mommy, when we get these all done, will we take them up to heaven and give them to Jesus?"

"Oh, no," Mommy replied. "We will give them to a whole bunch of people so they can learn all about Jesus and someday go to heaven." This is what it means to work for Jesus—to tell everybody we can that Jesus loves us!

—C. L.

Questions:

1. Who tore down Gideon's father's idols?
2. What did Gideon's father tell the men of the city?
3. Why did Gideon blow the trumpet?
4. Was the fleece dry and the ground wet?
5. What did it mean when the fleece was dry?

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Vol. 32, No. 3

July, Aug., Sept., 1981

Part 24

Sept. 13

SOLDIERS ARE TESTED

Judges 7:1-7

Gideon and his people pitched their tents near the well so the bad nation would not see them. The Lord said to Gideon, "You have too many soldiers. I do not want Israel to say they won the battle. I want them to give me the glory. Tell every soldier who is afraid to leave the army and go home." Twenty-two thousand went home. Only ten thousand were left. The Lord told Gideon that there were still too many soldiers. God said, "Gideon, bring all the soldiers down by the water." Gideon brought the soldiers down by the water. The Lord said, "Tell the soldiers to get a drink from the creek. Every soldier that lapped with his tongue as a dog lapped, him shall you set on one side. Every soldier that bowed upon his knees to drink, set him on the other side." The soldiers all got drinks. Gideon put the men on the two sides. There were three hundred who bowed upon their knees to drink the water. The Lord told Gideon to take those three hundred soldiers, and let the others go back home. God wanted Israel to know that He had fought their battle.

Memory Verse: Blessed is the man that maketh the Lord his trust. Psalm 40:4a

A Missionary's Life

Dana lay on the living room rug and turned the pages of the photo album. Some of the photos had been sent from Africa, and they showed her brother preaching inside the thatched roof chapel. "I feel sorry for Bert and Linda, don't you?" she asked her father.

"Why do you feel sorry for your big brother?" he asked. "According to Bert, he and his wife have just had the best years of their lives."

Dana shook her head. She had been to a missionary service that morning and had heard her brother tell about his life in Africa. It didn't sound like fun to her! Their home wasn't in a modern city; it was in the bush country with a small tribe. The city was a day's journey from their home, and during the rainy season, the roads were rivers of mud.

Their home was a simple building. It was built on stilts high off the ground in order to protect them from wild animals and floods. Linda mentioned that the walls of their house had to be rebuilt often because the termites ate almost everything. Once they stored some books in a box, and months later when they opened it, all they found was dust!

There was also a food problem. Nearly everything came from cans, including powdered milk and eggs. The only time they had fresh meat was when a native killed a wild pig, some other wild animal, or a bird. Sometimes when they visited their converts, they even had to eat monkey meat!

Dana remembered, too, their little baby, Lisa, who had lived only a year. She died of jungle fever. Poor Bert and Linda!

"Daddy, do you remember when we met Bert and Linda at the airport?" asked Dana. "They were both tired, and Linda was sick. After four years all they had were the clothes they were wearing and a few dollars. Do you call that a good life?"

"I guess you didn't listen well this morning, Dana," said Daddy. "Bert explained why he and Linda were so happy. He said, 'My meat is to do the will of him that sent me' " (John 4:34).

"You mean that Bert is a missionary because God wants him to be one?" asked Dana.

"Yes. You see, Dana, a Christian can't be truly happy unless he obeys God," said Daddy. "Bert and Linda wouldn't have it any other way." —Sel.

—o—

A little boy had to be punished for saying bad words. His sister said that Mother was "unlearning" Freddie the bad words. I should think that was a great deal harder than learning them. There is a better way to "unlearn." It is the squirrel's way. When he gets a bad nut he does not fill his mouth with it and then make a wry face and spit it out. He just throws it away without tasting it. It is easier to keep sin out of the heart than to put it out.

—o—

Questions:

1. Did Gideon know that God was going to help him win the battle?
2. What did he tell the soldiers to do who were afraid?
3. What did the soldiers do at the water's edge?
4. What ones did God tell Gideon to take with him?
5. Why did God want such a small army against a big army?

The Beautiful Way

Primaries
(USPS549-000)



Vol. 32, No. 3

July, Aug., Sept., 1981

Part 25

Sept. 20

THE SOLDIER'S DREAM

Judges 7:8-15

Gideon took the three hundred men, some food, and their trumpets. The other men went back to their tents. The enemy had a big army. They were like grasshoppers in the valley. There were so many that one could not count them.

The Lord said to Gideon, "If you are still afraid, take your servant, Phurah, and go down close to the enemy camp and listen to what they say." Gideon took Phurah and slipped down by the huge army. Suddenly they stopped. They heard two soldiers talking. One soldier said to the other, "I had a dream. I dreamed that a cake of barley bread tumbled into our army and came into a tent. As the bread hit the tent, it fell and overturned." The other soldier said, "That is nothing but the sword of Gideon. He is a man of Israel. God has told him that he will give our army into his hand." Gideon and Phurah hurried away. They fell on their faces and worshipped the Lord. Gideon knew that God was going to help him win the battle. God didn't need big numbers to win a battle. He only needed someone who would obey Him and have faith in Him. Gideon told his three hundred men not to fear.

Memory Verse: I will teach you by the hand of God. Psa. 27:11

God Answers Prayer

It was the breakfast hour at the London Orphan Home. Mr. Mueller glanced down the long table lined with hungry, noisy boys and girls. He raised his hand and waited until the children got quiet. "Children, we have only enough food for today, and we have no more money," he said. "Let us pray, asking God to send what is needed."

Every head was bowed while Mr. Mueller asked God to bless the food. He thanked the heavenly Father for His blessings and prayed that more funds would be sent at once. "We know that you are the same yesterday, today, and forever," he prayed. "We are putting our trust in You."

"Do you think that God will send money for food?" asked Amy, a new girl at the home.

Henry, the boy on her right, gulped a mouthful of porridge before he replied, "Of course He will. He always sends us what we need."

"Doesn't He know how much food we have left?" asked Amy.

"Sure, He does," Henry replied.

Amy spooned up her porridge while she puzzled over the answers. "But if He already knows what we need, why do we have to ask Him?"

Henry frowned, but Cheryl, an older girl on Amy's left, answered kindly, "The Bible says, 'Ask, and it shall be given you.' God wants us to prove our faith in Him by asking."

"What is faith?" asked Amy.

"Faith is believing for sure that God will answer," replied Cheryl. "Just wait, Amy. God never fails us."

Breakfast was over, and the children scattered to their various tasks. As Amy

helped to stack the bowls, she thought about her strange new home. She wondered how God would answer the prayer of Mr. Mueller.

That afternoon, a lady left a package at the home. It was a gift of money, sent by her daughter several days before. Mr. Mueller told the children about it that evening. "God had the money for us all the time," he said, "but He delights in the prayers of His children."

This incident happened over a hundred years ago. Since then, many people have heard about George Mueller, the man of faith, and his wonderful orphanage.

God has not changed. He loves us, too, and He still hears and answers the prayers of His children. —Sel.

I Want To Be A Man

There's never too much work to do,
Because, of course, you see,
When I grow up, and even now,
A man I want to be.
A man, you know, must ready be
To help in any way,
And if I want the name, it means
To work as well as play.
A man's supposed to help the weak—
A woman, girl, or man;
So now I think's the time to start
To help whene'er I can. —Sel.

Questions:

1. What did Gideon's 300 men take?
2. Why did Gideon and his servant go down to the enemy camp?
3. What did one soldier tell another?
4. Did Gideon know that God had put fear into the enemies' hearts?
5. What did Gideon do when he heard the soldier's dream?

The Beautiful Way

Primaries
(USPS549-000)



Vol. 32, No. 3

July, Aug., Sept., 1981

Part 26

Sept. 27

THE BATTLE IS WON

Judges 7:16-25; 8:22, 28

Gideon divided the three hundred men into three groups. Each man had a trumpet and a pitcher. In each pitcher was a lamp. Gideon said, "Watch me as we go down to the enemy camp. Do as I do. When I blow the trumpet, all of you blow your trumpets with me. Then yell, 'The sword of the Lord and of Gideon.' "

Gideon and his men slipped down to the enemy camp in the night. One hundred men were on each side of the camp. Suddenly they blew their trumpets. They broke their pitchers that had lamps in them. They cried with a loud voice, "The sword of the Lord and Gideon." The enemy soldiers were afraid. Every where they looked, they saw light and Gideons' soldiers. They ran here and there to get away. The enemy soldiers began to kill each other. They were so afraid they didn't know what they were doing. As they fled, other soldiers of Israel ran after them. Gideon sent messengers to Ephraim saying, "Come down and help us." All the men of Ephraim came down and helped fight the enemy. The Lord won a great victory for Israel.

Memory Verse: He will deliver thee in six troubles. Job 5:19

Memory Verses

"Do you know your memory verse for tomorrow, Brad?" asked Mrs. Smith one Saturday evening.

"No, the one for this week is too long. I decided not to learn it. I always forget them later anyway," Brad replied.

"You wouldn't forget them so easily if you had them well memorized," replied his mother. "Going over a verse only a few times on Saturday night doesn't really fix it in your mind."

"I don't know why I need to learn the verses, anyway," said Brad. "I can always look in the Bible when I need a verse."

"A person doesn't always have a Bible handy when a verse is needed, but when a person really learns a verse it will be with him all the time," Mother said. "Did you hear what the missionary said at church last Sunday?"

"No, what did he say?"

"He said that when he was a boy, he went to Sunday school every Sunday and learned a great many Bible verses. As he grew older, he began to do things that displeased God. Little by little he got further away from God.

"One day he became very sick and thought that he might die. Then one of the Scripture verses that he had learned came to him. It was, 'Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me' (Psa. 50:15).

"The young man did call on God and was forgiven of his sins. When he was well again, he felt that God wanted him to be a missionary. He has now spent five years in Africa telling people about God."

"I know what you mean, Mother," said Brad. "One day I forgot to do my

homework, and I wanted to copy Terry's paper. Then I remembered the verse 'Thou God seest me' (Gen. 16:13). I knew that He didn't want me to copy and would know if I did wrong. So I didn't copy. My teacher gave me an F for not doing my homework, but I felt good inside anyway."

"Yes, it is very good to memorize Bible verses for they will lead you in the way you should go," said Mother. —Sel.

A VILLAGE LAD

Kuppan is a village lad of eight. His father is a man in easy circumstances, with ambitions for his young son who studies in our village school.

A day of special sacrifice came around as days will come. The father called the young lad to him and said, "Son, delight of my eyes, you must offer the coconut to the gods today."

Kuppan replied: "No, my father, I will not offer to the gods."

"Delight of my eyes, I do not want you to be a Christian."

"Father, I have decided to be a Christian."

"Son, if you will not be a Christian, I will put you through college and give you fine clothes and money."

"No, Father, I belong to Jesus Christ, and will serve Him only."

So time after time this little chap stood the test and served his God.

—Sel.

Questions:

1. Did Gideon divide the 300 men into three groups?
2. What did they take with them as they went to the enemy camp?
3. What did they do when they blew their trumpets?
4. What did the enemy soldiers do?