

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 July 7, 2002

THE MAN WHO RAN AWAY FROM GOD

God said to Jonah, "Go to Nineveh, that wicked city, and tell them to stop being bad."

Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh. He wanted to run away. He thought, "If I go to Tarshish, God will not find me."

Jonah got on a ship that was sailing to Tarshish. When the ship was out on the ocean, God sent a big storm. The storm was so bad the sailors were very afraid. They cried to their gods for help but the storm did not go away.

The sailors threw things out of the ship to make it lighter. The shipmaster came down into the ship and found Jonah there, asleep! The shipmaster woke him up and said, "Why are you sleeping? Pray to your God that He will save our lives."

The sailors said to each other, "Let's cast lots to see whose fault it is that this storm is on us."

They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. They asked him, "What did you do? Where are you from?"

Jonah said, "I am an Hebrew and I serve the God who made the heavens and the earth." Jonah told them how he was trying to run away from God.

The men were very afraid when they heard that. They said, "What shall we do to make the storm go away?"

Jonah said, "Throw me into the ocean and the storm will stop."

The men did not want to do that. They tried to row the ship to land. Finally they prayed to God and said, "Please don't hurt us, God, for throwing Jonah into the ocean."

The sailors threw Jonah into the ocean and right away the storm stopped. The sailors feared God. They made a sacrifice to Him and said vows.

Jonah was in the water until a big fish swallowed him. God told the fish to do that. The fish took Jonah down deep in the water. Jonah prayed to God out of the fish's belly.

After three days God told the fish to spit Jonah out on dry land. God told Jonah to go and preach to Nineveh and this time Jonah did it.

—Joanna Booher



(Jonah said), I will pay that
I have vowed. Jonah 2:9.



Missing Paint

"Hum," said Dad to himself as he looked into his toolbox. "I thought I had my big flat screwdriver right here on this tray. I wonder where it is?"

Dad asked Jerry, Linda and Randy if they had his screwdriver but no one said they did. Surely Mother and baby Allen weren't using that screwdriver, so who had it?

Dad needed the screwdriver to open a can of blue paint that was for the porch rails. He went to get the paint. "Now where is that other can of paint?" said Dad as he picked up one can. "I need two cans of paint for this job and I know I bought two. What happened to the other can of paint?"

Again he asked each one of the children and not a one said they had it or had used the can of paint. When Dad went to get his paintbrush and it was missing, he knew then that someone had painted something somewhere.

Dad began to look around the garage, the yard, and the shed. Finally, he found all three things in the shed by Randy's bicycle. Dad saw that Randy had opened the can with the screwdriver and had stirred it like he had seen Dad do. Then he had dipped the brush into the paint and had tried to paint his bicycle blue. Dad shook his head as he saw the paint smeared on the guard cover and bike chain. He was upset that Randy had done such a thing and then lied about it all. Dad called Randy to the shed right away.

"Why did you take the paint without asking me?" he asked Randy. "You messed up your bike, wasted paint and then lied to me about it all. Why, Randy, why?"

Randy's face felt hot, his hands

sweaty, and his eyes filled with tears as he looked at his bike. "I-I didn't know what to do about it," he stammered. "I didn't want to tell you because I knew you would be upset and...and..."

"And so you thought the bike was hid and I would never find it?" asked Dad. "Randy, you should have asked me first and I would have told you that spray paint works better to paint a bike. Now your bike looks bad and my paintbrush has dried paint in it. Worst of all, you lied to me when I asked about the screwdriver and paint. Randy, if you would have asked me first or even told me about the paint when I asked, I would not punish you. But because you LIED to me, I will punish you. Never lie to me again. Understand?"

Randy did understand before he left that shed. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Where did God want Jonah to go?
2. What did God want Jonah to tell the people in Nineveh?
3. Did Jonah want to go to Nineveh?
4. Where was the ship going that Jonah got on?
5. Who sent the storm out in the ocean?
6. Whose fault was it the storm had come?
7. What happened when the sailors threw Jonah into the ocean?
8. How many days was Jonah in the fish's belly?
9. What did Jonah do when he got out?

LESSON TEXT: Jonah 1-3:3.

(Answers: 1. Nineveh. 2. To stop being bad. 3. No. 4. Tarshish. 5. God. 6. Jonah's. 7. The storm stopped. 8. Three. 9. Went to Nineveh like God said.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 July 14, 2002

WHAT HAPPENED TO NINEVEH

God spoke to Jonah the second time. God said, "Go to Nineveh and say what I tell you to say."

Jonah got up and went to Nineveh. The city was very big and it took him three days to go through it. Jonah walked through the city for a whole day, crying out to the people, "In forty days Nineveh will be destroyed!"

When the king of Nineveh heard this, he came down off his throne. He took off his fine robe and put on sackcloth and sat in ashes. He told all the people they must do the same thing. He told them they could not eat but should pray to God.

The king said, "No one can eat or drink, not even the animals. Everyone must stop being bad. Maybe then God will not destroy us."

The people of Nineveh did as their king said. They believed what Jonah said God would do. From the smallest person to the biggest they stopped eating and put on sackcloth.

God saw how the people of Nineveh were sorry and had stopped being bad. He decided not to destroy them.

When Jonah saw that, it made him angry. He prayed to God and said, "I knew that you would do that, God. That's why I wanted to run away. I knew that you were a merciful God and wouldn't destroy Nineveh. Just let me die then, Lord."

God said to Jonah, "Should you be angry?"

Jonah went out of the city and sat under a booth. He sat there to wait and see what would happen to Nineveh.

God made a vine to grow up by Jonah's booth. The vine was nice and shady. Jonah was very glad to have the vine.

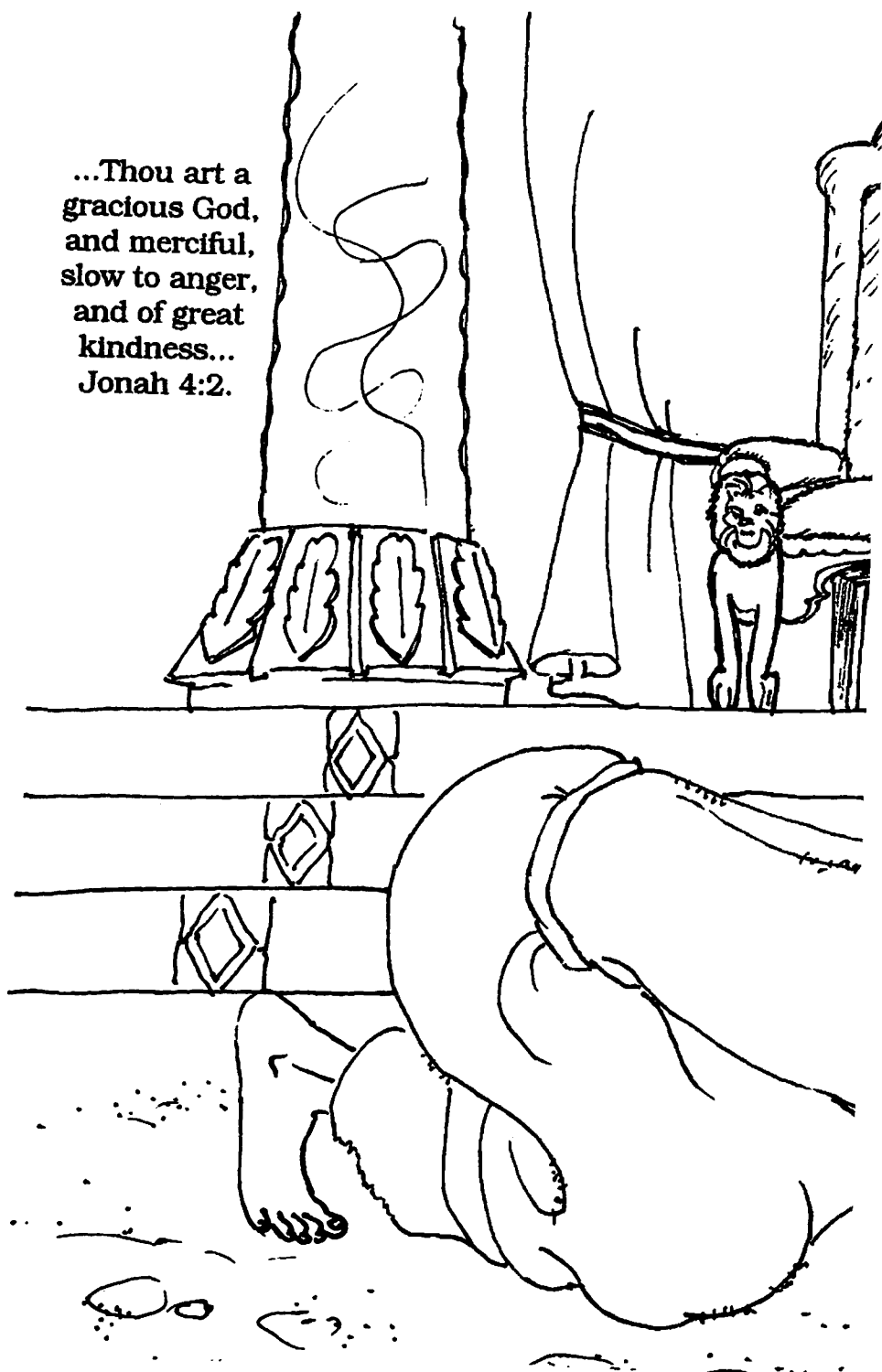
Then, the next day, God made a worm eat the vine. The vine died. Jonah did not have the shade anymore. He got very hot and angry. He said, "I wish to die."

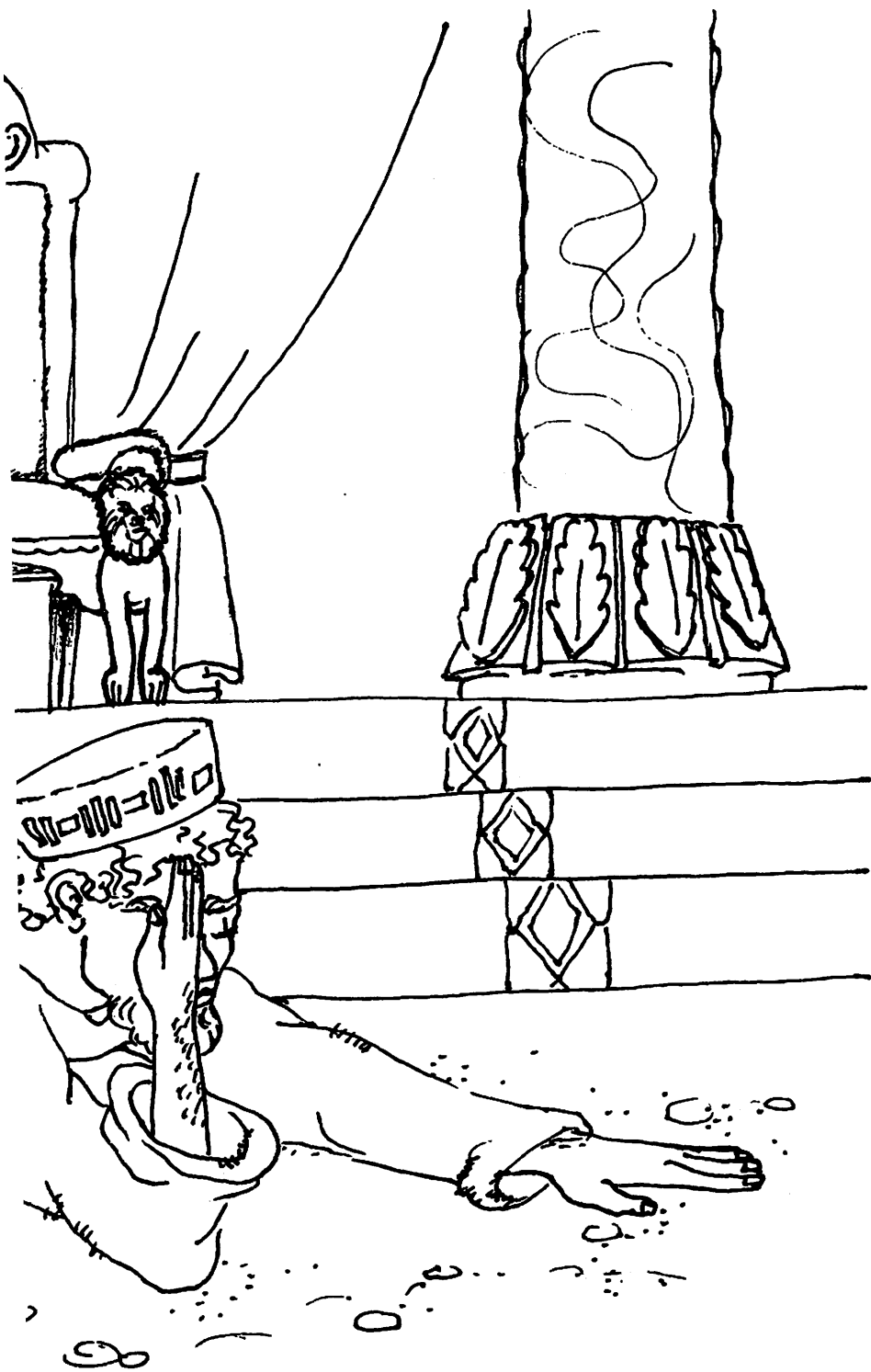
God said to Jonah, "Should you be angry about the vine dying?"

Jonah said, "Yes."

God said, "You didn't want the vine to die. Should you be angry with Me because I didn't let the 120,000 people in Nineveh die?" —Joanna Booher

...Thou art a
gracious God,
and merciful,
slow to anger,
and of great
kindness...
Jonah 4:2.





Pretend Witchcraft

Jerry, Linda and Randy were playing games with their cousins at a family reunion. They were tired of playing chase and wanted something more exciting.

"Let's play a Harry Potter game," suggested Sarah. Several cousins cheered and began to pick who they wanted to be in the game. Jerry didn't cheer and he looked at Linda who had kept quiet also. As the cousins began to organize the game, Jerry, Linda and Randy stood away from the group.

Soon Sarah noticed. "Hey, Jerry, Linda, come and join us! Don't you want to play?"

Jerry shook his head. "No, I think we will go and visit with the adults for a while," he replied.

"Oh, do you not like Harry Potter?" asked Sarah.

"What's wrong with him anyway?" Jerry and Linda glanced at each other. They knew what was wrong with the stories and games of Harry Potter but could they explain it so that Sarah would understand?

"We don't want to even pretend to practice witchcraft," said Jerry to his cousins. "Harry Potter is a wizard and we don't want to act like him." Sarah laughed. "My mother said we all have a little bit of Harry Potter in us. All of us feel like outcasts at some time or other."

"Oh, I find him rather adorable," said another cousin. "He only does good magic to help himself or others."

Jerry shook his head. "Sorry, but we won't play games about witches or wizards. There really are evil witches and wizards and we don't want to be like them."

Sarah shrugged. "Okay, if you all

don't want to play with us, you don't have to."

"What do you want to play, Jerry?" asked another cousin.

"We could play New Neighbors or Swat," said Jerry. "Those are fun games."

"How do you play Swat?" someone asked. Soon Jerry and Linda were explaining the game to the others who decided it would be a fun game to play.

Later, Sarah said to Jerry, "I'm glad you showed us how to play Swat. It was fun to play. Really you two are good sports to play with."

In his heart, Jerry thanked the Lord for giving him courage to stand against pretend witchcraft.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Did Jonah go to Nineveh like God told him?
2. What did Jonah say would happen to Nineveh?
3. Did the king believe what Jonah said?
4. Who did the king say could not eat or drink?
5. What did the king tell the people to stop doing?
6. Did God want to destroy Nineveh when He saw them being good?
7. Did Jonah like it that God didn't want to destroy Nineveh anymore?
8. What did God make grow over Jonah?
9. Was Jonah sorry when the vine died?
10. Shouldn't we feel sorry when people die?

LESSON TEXT: Jonah 3, 4.

(Answers: 1. Yes. 2. It would be destroyed. 3. Yes. 4. No person or animal. 5. Being bad. 6. No. 7. No. 8. A vine. 9. Yes. 10. Yes.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 July 21, 2002

THE SAVIOUR OF SINNERS

In the beginning, Adam and Eve disobeyed God. They sinned. God cannot let any sinners into heaven. All sinners will go to hell.

But, God promised that He would send someone to save sinners so they won't go to hell.

Years ago, in the land of Judea, God sent His angel Gabriel to a girl named Mary. Gabriel came to Mary and said, "Hail, you are highly favoured and God has blessed you more than all other women."

Mary wondered what the angel was going to say.

Gabriel said, "God is going to give you a son and He will be God's Own Son."

Mary was engaged to a man named Joseph. An angel came to Joseph and said, "Your fiancée, Mary, is going to have a baby. The baby is God's Son. He will save people from their sins."

The emperor, Caesar, commanded all people to go back to the city of their ancestors. He said they must pay their taxes there.

Joseph took Mary to Bethlehem to pay their taxes. While they were in Bethlehem the time came to have the baby. Joseph looked and looked for a place to stay but all the inns were full. Finally someone let them stay in a barn.

Mary had her baby boy. She named him "Jesus," wrapped Him in long strips of cloth, and laid Him in the trough that the animals ate out of.

That night, an angel came from heaven and surprised some shepherds. Glory shone around the angel as it said, "I bring you glad news. A baby is born tonight who is a Saviour. Go and see this baby."

After eight days, Mary and Joseph took little Jesus to the temple. A man named Simeon came up to them. He took Jesus out of their arms and held Him up. Simeon said, "Lord, now let me die because I have seen Your salvation, just as You promised I would."

As Simeon finished speaking, a woman named Anna came up to them. She thanked the Lord too. Then she went away and told other people about Jesus. She told them He was the Redeemer.

—Joanna Booher



Thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Matthew 1:21.



A Great Picnic

"Let's have a picnic!" Mother said to Dad one morning. "We don't have to go very far—just into the woods behind our house."

Jerry, Linda and Randy all cheered but Dad frowned at the idea. "Oh, that will take a lot of time and I'm tired in the evening after work."

"We will do all the work, Dad," said Linda. "All you will have to do is sit down and eat it like you do in the kitchen."

"I will have to walk a long ways there and back. Would you be able to carry me?" replied Dad with a wink at Linda.

"Oh, Dad, come on! You can ride the four-wheeler to the pond in the woods," said Jerry. "It isn't that far!"

Dad let out a mock sigh. "I guess I'm out numbered on this decision. Just remember to keep the promises you made about not working and riding there."

While Dad was at work, Mother fried chicken and baked beans, Linda made potato salad, Jerry peeled carrots and made a vegetable tray, and Randy fixed the lemonade. Allen was a happy baby and didn't stop the others from their work.

Finally, Dad came home to find supper already packed in the lunch basket and all the family ready for the picnic. They loaded things onto the four-wheeler and Dad drove it to the pond in the woods.

Mother spread out her red checkered tablecloth and set the basket in the center. The family gathered around with paper plates and plastic forks in their clean hands.

"Let us bow our heads before the Lord," said Dad. A quiet hush came over the family as Dad thanked the Lord for the food, his family, good health, and for the freedom to wor-

ship God in truth.

After prayer Mother said, "Today I read a letter written by a man in Afghanistan. He heard that Jesus taught love and that was new to him who only learned about war in the Muslim religion. He asked about this love of Jesus' and was given the book of John from the New Testament. It touched his heart when he read John 14:6 where Jesus said: 'I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh to the Father but by me.' This man got saved. Then his wife and children wanted to know about this love, and they got saved too. Now he said there is no more fighting and beating in his home, but the love of Jesus has made a sweet difference. It is the love of God that brings happiness and peace.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Why do people go to hell?
2. Does God want people to go to hell?
3. Whose son was the baby that Mary was going to have?
4. What did the angel tell Joseph that this baby would do?
5. Where did Mary and Joseph go to pay taxes?
6. Where was Mary's baby born?
7. Who did the angel tell the shepherds that the baby was?
8. Who did Simeon say Jesus was?
9. Who did Anna say Jesus was?

LESSON TEXT: Matt. 1:20, 21, Luke 1:26-35, 2:1-11, 21-38.

(Answers: 1. Because they sin.
2. No. 3. God's Son. 4. Save people from their sins.
5. Bethlehem. 6. In a barn. 7. A Saviour. 8. The Lord's Salvation.
9. The Redeemer.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 July 28, 2002

GOD'S SON GROWS UP

God sent His Son, Jesus, to earth as a baby boy. God made Mary his mother and Joseph his earthly father.

Joseph and Mary were not rich. They did not have very much money for buying things. Joseph was a carpenter in the town of Nazareth.

Mary and Joseph took care of their little boy. Jesus grew bigger and bigger. He turned two years old, he turned eight years old. God's grace was on him and God gave him wisdom.

Every year all the Jews came to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. At the Passover the Jews remembered how God brought all the Israelites out of Egypt long ago. When Jesus was twelve years old, Mary and Joseph took him to Jerusalem for the Passover.

When the Passover was over, Mary and Joseph started home. Jesus was not with them but they thought He was coming with their friends. That night Jesus did not come to them. Mary and Joseph did not know where He was. They started looking for Him. They asked their friends if Jesus was with them. Their friends said that He wasn't.

Mary and Joseph turned around and went back to Jerusalem, looking for Jesus on the way. After three days they found Him. Jesus was in the temple with the teachers and doctors. He was asking them questions and answering their questions. Everyone who heard Him was amazed at what Jesus said. Jesus was very wise.

Mary said to Jesus, "Son, don't You know that we have been looking for You? We have been worried."

Jesus said to them, "Why didn't you know where I was? Didn't you know I must be doing my Father's business?"

Mary and Joseph did not understand why Jesus said that.

Jesus went back to Nazareth with His parents and obeyed them. His mother thought about all the things she had been told about her son. Jesus grew older and wiser. Other people liked him and so did His father, God.

—Joanna Booher

Wist ye not that I
must be about my
Father's business?
Luke 2:49.





Camp Talk

Jerry and his family were camping in a tent by a big lake where the family liked to go boat riding. Though Jerry, Linda and Randy knew how to swim, Dad always insisted that they have life jackets on when they went out in the boat. Mother cooked such wonderful meals on the propane cookstove and in the evenings when they were all tired from play, Mother would read to them by lantern light. Oh, it was so awesome to be a close family by the lake!

Boaters from the other side of the lake would sometimes come by their camp and disturb their peace. The family was glad when these intruders would leave.

"I wish people would leave more clothes on when they go boating," said Jerry at the picnic table. "Some people look like heathens with tattoos all over their bodies and rings stuck here and there."

"I saw someone with purple hair today!" said Randy. "He had earrings on and one ring by his eyebrow. He looked like a clown!"

Everyone laughed, then Dad said, "It is really sad how people are ruining their bodies this way. Tattoos and body piercings are old customs that God told Moses to warn the Children of Israel against. (Lev. 19:28.) We don't mark our bodies like slaves to sin, but we belong to God and are free."

"Our bodies are the temple of God, aren't they, Dad?" asked Linda.

"Yes," agreed Dad. "We don't defile or mistreat our bodies because God's wants His Temple kept clean and pure." Randy nodded. "We don't drink beer or liquor or

smoke cigarettes or put drugs into our bodies either do we, Dad?"

"You're right," said Dad. "We are careful to eat good food and only drink healthy drinks that build strong bodies. Then we will have strength and ability to serve God."

"What about our minds?" asked Mother. "Should we be careful what we see and let our minds think?"

"I should say so!" declared Dad. "When we see people with little clothing on, let's turn our heads and pray for them. They need to learn the 'ABC's' Mother and I have tried to teach you all: A fear and reverence to God; Better care for their bodies; Consideration or respect for others. If you children will dress modestly and keep your minds pure, God will be able to use you in His Kingdom."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Where did God send His Son?
2. Who did God make Jesus' earthly parents?
3. Were Mary and Joseph rich?
4. Was Jesus ever a little boy?
5. Where did Jesus' parents take Him when He was twelve?
6. Where did Mary and Joseph find Jesus after three days?
7. Why were the people who heard Jesus amazed?
8. Whose business did Jesus think He should be doing?
9. Did Jesus obey His parents?

LESSON TEXT: Luke 2:39-52.

(Answers: 1. Earth. 2. Mary and Joseph. 3. No. 4. Yes. 5. Jerusalem. 6. In the temple. 7. Because He was so wise. 8. His Father's. 9. Yes.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 Aug. 4, 2002

THE PREACHER IN THE DESERT

There was a man named John who lived in the desert. He wore clothes made of camel hair and ate locusts and wild honey. John was the son of a priest and God was with John.

John preached to the people who came to see him. He said, "Repent of the bad things you have done. Do good instead. The Lord is coming soon. Whoever does not do good will be destroyed."

The people said to John, "What shall we do then?"

John said, "Whoever has two coats, he should give one to someone who doesn't have any."

The tax collectors came to John and said, "What should we do?"

John said, "Only tax people as much money as you are supposed to."

The soldiers came to John and said, "What should we do?"

John said, "Don't be mean to people. And be content with what you get paid."

John baptized many people who repented of the bad things they did. The people wondered, "Is John the Saviour?"

John said to them, "I baptize you with water, but Someone is coming after me who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit. He is much greater than me."

Jesus was about thirty years old now. He came to hear John. Jesus had done nothing wrong to repent of but He wanted to be baptized.

John said to Jesus, "I should be baptized by You."

Jesus said to him, "Baptize Me anyway. I should be baptized too."

So John baptized Jesus. As Jesus came out of the water the sky opened. John saw a dove come down out of the sky and land on Jesus. A voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son. I am very pleased with Him."

After this the Holy Spirit told Jesus to go away into the desert. Jesus did not eat while He was in the desert. He wanted to be closer to God, His Father.

The devil came to talk to Jesus in the desert. He tried to get Jesus to do something bad. But Jesus would not obey the devil.

After that God blessed His Son, Jesus, and gave Him great power.

—Joanna Booher





ing forth...fruits worthy of
repentance... Luke 3:8.

Methu and His Family

(A true story.)

In the countries of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Indonesia many Christians are persecuted by Muslim warriors who are fighting Jihad. These deceived warriors believe that Allah, their god, will reward them if they make every one become a Muslim. It is sad that the Muslim or Islamic religion is spreading so fast in our world today. People do not join because of "love" but they are forced to obey the Koran, which was written by Muhammad, their proclaimed prophet.

Methu and several other men tried to protect their village one afternoon when Muslim warriors circled around them. All afternoon the battle waged until 6:00 when the warriors broke through the family men's circle. The Muslims set fire to every house along the way to the chapel.

The village people ran into the jungle to hide. Some didn't make it and their screams made the others push deeper into the jungle. Methu took his wife, mother, son and daughter into the jungle. While they rested a moment, his mother said, "I feel we must pray to God for help! I am afraid death is near for us! Let us pray!" The entire family did pray to Jesus Christ and continued praying as they pressed deeper into the jungle.

Suddenly, a large number of Muslim warriors stood in front of the family. Methu wanted to protect his family but the men pulled him away and beat him. Later, he found his mother and son, Christien, both dead. His daughter and wife had been kidnapped. Methu sat down on the ground and cried. He cried for his loved ones and he begged God to give him strength to find his wife and daughter. In time the Lord brought

Methu and five friends to an island where he saw his wife and daughter. He burst into tears when he saw them—he was so happy. The Muslims took Methu and his friends to a guard post where they were told: "If you will forsake this Jesus and be a Muslim, you can have your wife and daughter back."

This was a terrible blow to Methu! He loved his family but he feared God and loved Jesus Christ. Life or death would be miserable without Jesus! He prayed with his friends who were also Christians, and then he chose Jesus over joining the Muslims and having his wife.

The Jihad leaders allowed Methu to see his wife and Christien to tell them he had chosen Jesus. His wife understood and told him to be brave. Some day their living God would work a miracle for them.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Was John rich?
2. Was God with John?
3. What did John tell people to do?
4. Who did John say was coming?
5. What did John do to the people who repented?
6. What did Jesus want John to do to Him?
7. What did the voice from heaven say?
8. Did Jesus obey the devil?
9. What did God give to Jesus?

LESSON TEXT: Matt. 3:13-17; Luke 3:2-23, 4:1-14.

(Answers: 1. No. 2. Yes. 3. Repent and do good. 4. The Lord. 5. Baptized them. 6. Baptize him. 7. "This is my beloved Son. I am pleased with him." 8. No. 9. Great power.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 Aug. 11, 2002

JESUS' DISCIPLES

John baptized people in the Jordan River. One day he looked up and saw Jesus coming. John said, "This is the Lamb of God that will take away people's sins."

Two of John's disciples heard John say this. They followed Jesus. Jesus said to them, "What are you looking for?"

They said, "Master, where do You live?"

Jesus said, "Come and see."

The disciples went and saw where Jesus lived. It was getting late so they stayed the night with Him.

One of the disciples was named Andrew. The next day, Andrew went and found his brother, Simon. Andrew said to Simon, "We have found the Messiah, the One who was promised by God to help us."

Andrew brought Simon to Jesus. Jesus said to Simon, "You will be called Peter now."

The next day Jesus found Philip. Jesus said to him, "Follow Me."

Philip found Nathanael. He said to him, "We have found the One who was promised."

When Jesus saw Nathanael He said, "This is an Israelite who is very honest!"

Nathanael said to Jesus, "How do You know me?"

Jesus said, "Before Philip found you, I saw you under the tree."

Nathanael said, "Master, You are the Son of God."

These men became Jesus' disciples. They went to a wedding at Cana of Galilee. Jesus' mother was there too. She said to Jesus, "The guests have run out of wine to drink."

Jesus said, "Woman, My time has not come yet."

Jesus' mother told the servants, "If Jesus tells you to do anything, do it."

Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the wine jars with water."

The servants filled the jars up to their brims.

Jesus said, "Pour out some of it now and take it to the ruler of this wedding."

The servants did. When the ruler tasted the water, it was not water. Jesus had turned it into wine! The ruler did not know this. All he knew was that this wine tasted very good.

When Jesus' disciples saw this miracle, they believed in Him. —Joanna Booher



We

found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the
prophets, did write, Jesus... John 1:45.



Staying With Jesus

(Continued from last week.)

Methu chose to live for Jesus instead of becoming a Muslim and getting his wife and daughter back. After he made this decision, the Muslim leaders let him see his family for a short while before he had to leave them.

It was very hard for Methu to leave Adel, his wife, and Christien, his daughter, but he believed God would work a miracle for them. After he kissed them, the warriors forced Methu and his five friends to leave the island.

Methu prayed every waking hour for Adel and Christien. He could not protect them but he knew God could. Adel was a faithful Christian who prayed also. In order to save her life and her daughter's, Adel was forced to live with a Muslim man and his family.

Adel wrote Methu a letter and told him she still loved him and was praying for a miracle that they would be united again as a husband and wife. The Muslim warriors had broken them apart because Methu and Adel were Christians, but in their hearts, they still loved each other. God wanted this husband and wife back together, also.

In the spring of 2001, Adel was able to escape the Muslim captors and secretly go back to their home village of Manado. Methu was so happy! He hugged and kissed his wife for a long time, then he asked, "Where is Christien?"

Adel replied, "She wanted me to escape though she was not able to."

Right away Methu made plans to rescue his daughter. He loved her and did not want her to marry

a Muslim man. The first time he tried to rescue her, things did not go well, but Methu did not give up. He prayed and he asked many other Christians to pray that he would get his daughter back home.

In July, Christians and Muslims were gathering in the village of Dama to talk. In such a large crowd, no one noticed Methu quietly sneak his daughter out of the gathering. The two of them ran to a departing boat and escaped!

Christien was free! God had worked a miracle for Methu and his family! Methu and his family pray for continued protection and they pray for the Muslim warriors that caused them so much harm. They know it is better to trust God and believe in Jesus Christ than to give in to evil doers. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

(The end.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What did John say Jesus was?
2. What did John say Jesus would do?
3. What did John's disciples do?
4. Who did Andrew bring to Jesus?
5. What did Jesus name Simon?
6. Who did Philip bring to Jesus?
7. Did Nathanael believe Jesus was the Son of God?
8. What did Jesus change water into?
9. Did Jesus' disciples believe in Him after they saw this?

LESSON TEXT: John 1:29-51.

(Answers: 1. The Lamb of God.
2. Take away people's sins.
3. Followed Jesus. 4. Simon.
5. Peter. 6. Nathanael. 7. Yes.
8. Wine. 9. Yes.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 Aug. 18, 2002

THE FAME OF JESUS

Jesus went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and His disciples. He went into the churches and preached to the people. He said, "God promised to send someone to help you. The time has come now. Repent and believe this good news."

The people were amazed at what He said.

In one of the churches there was a man who had a devil in him. The devil inside the man cried out, "Go away from us, Jesus. I know who You are. You are the Holy One of God!"

Jesus said to the devil, "Be quiet and come out of that man."

The devil came out of the man. The people who saw this were amazed. They said, "What kind of man is this Jesus? He can tell the devils what to do and they obey Him."

Jesus and His disciples went to Simon and Andrew's house. Simon's wife's mother was very sick. She had a fever. Jesus came to her and took her by the hand. He lifted her up and her fever went away.

That night many people in the city came to the door of Simon's house. They were sick or had devils in them. Jesus came out and healed each one of them.

The next morning, a long time before the sun came up, Jesus went out of the city. He went to a quiet place to pray to God, His Father.

Jesus' disciples came and found Him. They said, "Everyone is looking for You."

Jesus said to them, "I must go and preach in other cities too. That is why I am here."

A man who had leprosy came to Jesus. The leper said to Him, "If You will, You can make my leprosy go away."

Jesus felt sorry for the leper. He said to him, "I will, your leprosy is gone now. But, do not tell anyone that I made you well."

The man felt he just had to tell people. He told so many people that Jesus could not easily walk into the city anymore. If He came into the city it caused a traffic jam of people. So Jesus stayed in the desert places more often and let the people come out to Him.

—Joanna Booher

And he healed many that w
cast out many c



ck of divers diseases and
.. Mark 1:34.



The Boiling Water Accident

Tommy lived in a small apartment with his sister in a big city. He had never known his dad, and his mother died when he was five, so Eva worked long hours at a factory to keep their apartment and buy food.

Eva was at work the day Tommy tried to make macaroni and cheese for lunch. As he lifted the pan of boiling water from the stove, he accidentally spilled that water on his face and hand.

With screams of pain, Tommy staggered to the kitchen sink and tried to cool his face with tap water. He passed out from the pain and later his sister found him lying on the floor in misery.

"Oh, Tommy!" she cried as she lifted him into her lap. "You have melted the skin on your face! Here, I have some salve that should help it."

Eva cleaned and dressed Tommy's burns as best as she could. "It looks really bad," she said, "but we will pray that Jesus will heal it. I don't have any money to pay for a hospital visit, so, Tommy, you stay in the apartment and don't go out for a few days. We don't want the neighbors to see your face and hand so ugly."

Tommy nodded. He did not feel like going anywhere so Eva's instructions sounded okay to him at that moment. A couple days later, Tommy felt better and he was bored while Eva was at work. He went to the front door and opened it.

Looking down the hall, Tommy could see the elevator. If he just took a ride in the elevator one time, that shouldn't do any harm. Tommy slipped through the doorway, shut the door, and dashed down the hall to the elevator.

Tommy pressed the up button.

DING! Rang the elevator! Its doors slid open. Tommy was relieved to find the little box room empty. He stepped inside and the elevator doors slid shut. Tommy pressed number 13, and felt the elevator climb up, up, up to the top floor.

Suddenly, the elevator jerked to a stop on floor 9. The doors slid open and a mother and daughter stepped forward. Then the little girl saw Tommy. She pointed at him and screamed, "Ah-h-h! There's an ugly monkey in there!"

Guilt and shame swept over Tommy because he had disobeyed Eva, and now he was in trouble.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS

1. What did Jesus preach to the people?
2. What did the man in the church have in him?
3. Did Jesus make the devil go out of the man?
4. How did the people feel when they saw that?
5. What did Jesus do for Simon's wife's mother?
6. What did Jesus do for the people who came to Simon's house?
7. What did Jesus do out in the quiet place?
8. What did Jesus do for the leper?
9. Did people want to see Jesus?

LESSON TEXT: Matt. 4:14-17; Mark 1:14-15, 21-45; Luke 4:33-44; John 2:12.

(Answers: 1. Repent. 2. A devil. 3. Yes. 4. Amazed. 5. Healed her. 6. Healed them. 7. Prayed to God, His Father. 8. Made him well. 9. Yes.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 Aug. 25, 2002

WHO WILL BELIEVE IN JESUS?

Jesus went to Nazareth, where He had grown up. He went into the church and stood up to read the Scriptures. Everyone was looking at Him. They wanted to hear what He would say.

They said to each other, "Isn't this the carpenter's son?" They did not believe that Jesus could be God's Son.

Jesus said to them, "You have probably heard how I have healed people and cast out devils. You probably want Me to show you what I can do. But I know that you will not believe in Me. A prophet is not believed by his own people."

When the people in the church heard that, they became very angry. They took Jesus out of the church and carried Him to the top of a hill. They wanted to throw Him off the top of the hill. But Jesus walked right through the middle of them and went away.

There was a man named Nicodemus who was a ruler of the Jews. Nicodemus came to Jesus in the night to talk to Him.

Nicodemus said to Jesus, "Master, we know that God sent You. No one can heal people and cast out devils unless God is with him."

Jesus said to Nicodemus, "You must be born again if you want to go to heaven and see God."

Nicodemus said, "How can I be born again? Can I become a baby and be born again?"

Jesus said, "Your spirit must be born again. Your spirit is the part of you that you can't see. It's like the wind that we can't see but we know it's there. Your spirit must be made new and clean if you want to go to heaven."

Nicodemus said, "How can this happen?"

Jesus said, "Believe in Me. God loved the world so much that He gave His only begotten Son. And whoever believes in Him will not die but have everlasting life in Heaven. God did not send His Son into the world to send people to hell. People were going to hell already. God sent his Son into the world to save people from hell and make them able to go to heaven."

—Joanna Booher





That whosoever
believeth in him
should not perish
but have eternal
life. John 3:15.



Caring Advice

(Continued from last week.)

Tommy's burned face and hand caused other children to stare at him, shun him, or worse yet, tease him. He did not want to go to school, but his big sister, Eva, insisted he needed an education.

One day he pretended to attend school, but went to a big truck stop instead. There he found a corner booth and listened to the truckers talk.

"When I grow up," thought Tommy, "I want to be a trucker."

"Hey, bud, aren't you a little young to be out of school right now?" asked a slim, well-groomed trucker as he sat down across from Tommy.

"I-I have today off," Tommy lied.

"Oh, you do?" asked the trucker raising his eyebrow. "What is the holiday your school is celebrating?"

Now Tommy had lied once so he had to lie again to cover his first lie. "I think it is Holy Saint Patrick's Day," replied Tommy. The trucker laughed and said, "You're quite a monkey!"

Tommy became instantly angry. "You have no business calling me names!" he shouted.

"Ah, bud, don't get so ruffled up," replied the smooth-talking trucker. "I was a boy once too, you know, and everybody called me chicken legs because I was so skinny."

"You didn't like it either, did you?"

"No, I didn't," agreed the trucker. "I do have to say I have long legs, but did not like the name calling. Are you having that same problem at school, bud?"

Tommy didn't reply.

The trucker leaned over the table and looked Tommy in the eyes. "Take my advice, bud. Ignore those thoughtless name callers and get your education. God created you special so do something good with your life no matter what fools say to you. Understand?"

Tommy nodded. "Good," continued the trucker. "I got to go now but you remember what I said."

After the trucker left, Tommy sighed deeply. Then he slid out of the booth and went home to think about what the trucker had said.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Where did Jesus grow up?
2. Did the people in Nazareth believe that Jesus could be God's Son?
3. Did Jesus know they did not believe in Him?
4. What happened when Jesus told them He knew they did not believe in Him?
5. Did the people throw Jesus off a hill?
6. Who came to talk to Jesus at night?
7. What did Jesus say Nicodemus had to do to see God?
8. What part of you has to be born again?
9. Who do we have to believe in to go to heaven?

LESSON TEXT: Luke 4:16-30; John 3:1-21.

(Answers: 1. Nazareth. 2. No. 3. Yes. 4. They got angry. 5. No. 6. Nicodemus. 7. Be born again. 8. Your spirit. 9. Jesus.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 Sept. 1, 2002

FOLLOWERS OF JESUS

One day Jesus was preaching by the lake. The people kept trying to get closer and closer to hear.

Jesus got into Simon Peter's boat and asked him to push it out a little from the shore. Jesus sat down and taught the people from the boat.

After Jesus was done preaching He said to Peter, "Let's go out into the lake so you can throw your nets out to fish."

Peter said, "Master, we have fished all night and didn't catch anything. But, since you say so, we'll do it."

They went out into the lake and threw their nets over the side. Suddenly there was a bunch of fish in the net. There were so many fish that the net started to break. Peter called for his partners, James and John, to come help him.

James and John came and helped pull the net of fishes into both boats. There were so many fish that the boats were about to sink.

Simon Peter was amazed at how many fish they had caught. James and John were too. Peter fell down on his knees in front of Jesus. He said, "Go away from me, Lord. I am a bad man."

Jesus said to him, "Don't be afraid. From now on you will catch men instead of fish."

Peter, James and John brought their boats to the shore. Then they left their boats and nets and followed Jesus.

Jesus walked past a tax collector. His name was Matthew. Jesus said to him, "Follow Me."

Matthew got up and followed Jesus. Matthew asked Jesus to come to his house to eat.

As Jesus ate with Matthew and his friends, other people said, "Why is Jesus eating with bad people?"

When Jesus heard this He said, "Well people don't need help. Sick people do."

Jesus had many people who followed Him. But, after praying to God, He chose twelve men to stay with Him. He called them Apostles. They were: Peter and Andrew, James and John, Philip and Nathanael, Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus and his brother Judas, Simon and Judas Iscariot.

—Joanna Booher





y forsook all, and followed him. Luke 5:11.

God Sees The Heart

(Continued from last week.)

Eva watched her young brother stare into space while his breakfast cereal became soggy in the milk. "What is wrong, Tommy?" she asked quietly.

Tommy jumped. "Oh, nothing," he mumbled, looking down at his bowl of Cheerios.

"Are you having trouble at school?" asked Eva. She patted his scarred hand. "I wish the children at school could see what a caring, thoughtful boy you are. Outward looks aren't as important as what is in the inside, Tommy."

"Oh, yeah?" Tommy blurted out. "Well, tell the guys at school that and see if they listen! You aren't the one called 'monkey face' by everyone who sees you! It's easy for you to say, 'Don't worry about your looks,' when you aren't ugly and told so every where you go!"

Tommy stood up. "I'm not hungry. I got to go."

Eva grabbed Tommy to give him a hug but he pushed her away. "You don't understand," he complained. "I don't mean to hurt your feelings—you're a great sis—but there's no hope for me and I'm sorry I'm such a problem...."

"Tommy, stop!" interrupted Eva. "I may not understand but Jesus does. Let's pray like Mother and Dad taught us to do. Jesus can work things out for you. He has helped us so much since Mother and Dad died. Give Jesus a chance...."

"Don't talk to me any more about Jesus!" retorted Tommy. "He is okay for you but He doesn't care a flip about me—I'm too ugly even for Jesus to love...."

"That's not true, Tommy!" cried Eva. "Jesus looks at your heart not

your face. He has a plan for you. Just give Him a chance...."

"There you are talking about chances again!" exclaimed Tommy. "I think I've given Jesus plenty of chances to change my face. He could have even stopped me from pouring that hot water on my face when I was younger but He didn't! Thanks for your help, sis, but don't talk to me about Jesus!"

With those words, Tommy shut the back door behind him, leaving Eva alone. She went to her bedroom and knelt beside her bed. "Dear Father up in heaven, please have mercy on Tommy and forgive him for what he said. Please work a miracle for him on his heart and his face."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What did Jesus get into to preach by the lake?
2. What did Jesus tell Peter to throw out into the lake to fish?
3. Did Peter want to do it?
4. Did Peter catch any fish when he threw his net out?
5. What happened to the boats when they pulled the fish in?
6. What did Jesus tell Peter he would catch now?
7. What was Matthew?
8. Did Jesus want tax collectors to follow Him?
9. How many apostles did Jesus choose?

LESSON TEXT: Mark 2:13-17; Luke 5:1-11, 6:12-16.

(Answers: 1. Peter's boat. 2. His net. 3. No. 4. Yes. 5. They were about to sink. 6. Men. 7. A tax collector. 8. Yes. 9. Twelve.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 Sept. 8, 2002

HOW DID JESUS DO THAT?

Jesus came to Capernaum again. When the people heard He was there they came to hear Him. They crowded into the house where Jesus was.

Four men came to see Jesus. They were carrying their friend who had the palsy. Their friend could not walk. They wanted Jesus to heal him.

The four men could not come through the door because there were too many people. The men went up on the roof. They took part of the roof off the house. Then they lowered their friend right down in front of Jesus.

When Jesus saw their faith He said to the man who had palsy, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

There were some Pharisees sitting there. They thought to themselves, "How does Jesus think He can forgive sins? Only God can do that."

Jesus knew what the Pharisees were thinking. He said to them, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? Is it easier to make someone well or to forgive their sins?"

Then Jesus said, "I want you to know that God's Son has power to make someone well and to forgive their sins."

Jesus said to the man who had palsy, "Get up. Pick up your bed and walk."

The man who had palsy and couldn't walk, stood up. He picked up his bed and walked out of the house. All the people saw it and were amazed. They said to each other, "We never saw anything like that."

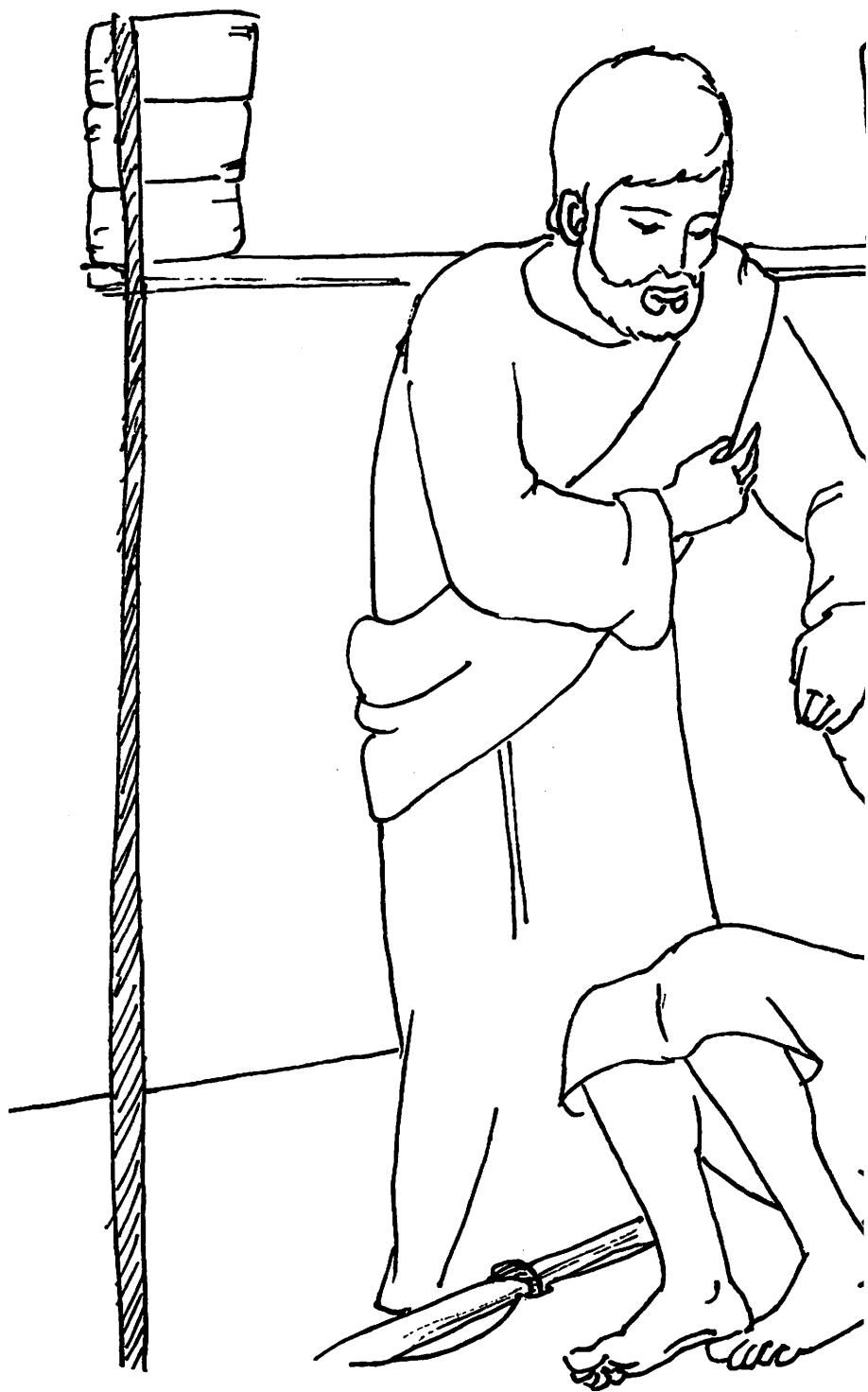
Jesus and His disciples went home. When the people heard He was there they came to see Him. They wanted Jesus' help. Jesus did not even have time to eat.

Jesus' relatives tried to make Jesus come and eat. They said to each other, "Jesus is beside Himself."

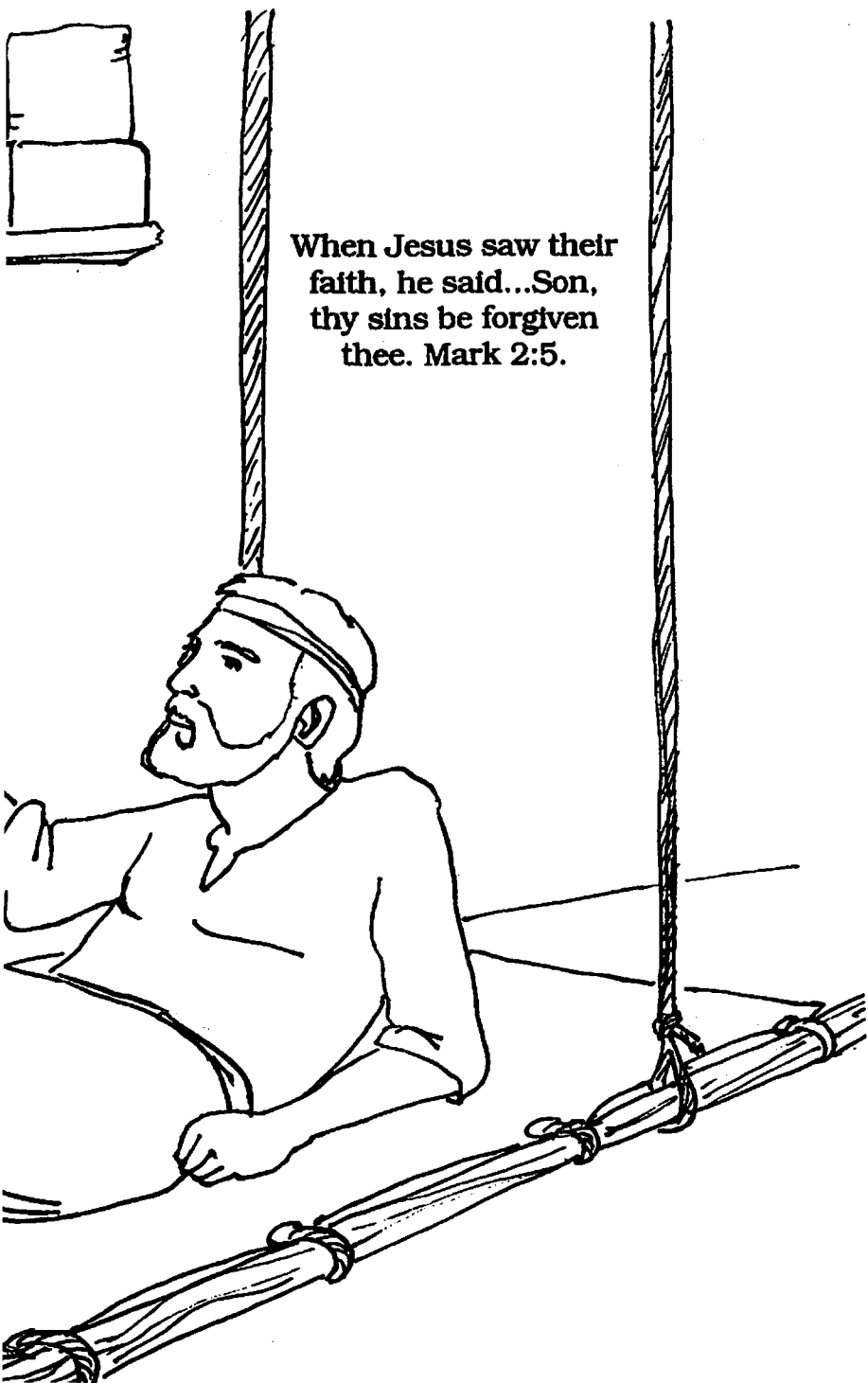
Some scribes came from Jerusalem. They said, "Jesus can make devils go out of people because He has a devil in himself."

Jesus said to them, "Can the devil throw himself out of someone? If a house is split into pieces, it will fall down. The devil cannot hurt himself or he will fall apart."

—Joanna Booher



When Jesus saw their
faith, he said...Son,
thy sins be forgiven
thee. Mark 2:5.



Boy Thoughts

(Continued from last week.)

Tommy left his sister praying for him as he walked to school. He did want to finish school to please his sister and then he remembered what that trucker had said to him. "Take my advice, bud," he had said. "Ignore those thoughtless name callers and get your education. God created you special so do something good with your life no matter what fools say to you."

As Tommy walked onto the school sidewalk, a couple of boys bumped into him. One turned around and glanced at Tommy. "Oh, hi, monkey face," he said with a grin. "Hope we didn't knock a banana out of your hand."

Both boys laughed at the crude joke and hurried on their way but Tommy stopped walking. He so dreaded another day of name calling and crude jokes at school! Did he really have to go to school to get an education? Why couldn't he learn on his own? Besides, he already knew that he wanted to be a truck driver. Why couldn't he learn about trucks at the truck stop and garage? He wasn't learning that stuff at school. With this reasoning, Tommy turned and ran toward the truck stop where he had met that trucker. He did not know what kind of truck that nice trucker drove—he didn't even know his name—but Tommy felt sure that trucker would be back again soon. He really wanted to talk to him more. Maybe that trucker would teach Tommy all about driving trucks if he helped the trucker unload his truck. Maybe he would be able to earn some money and help Eva pay for their food. These thoughts gave Tommy hope and an excited look in his eyes as he searched the rows of parked trucks.

Tommy was by the back dumpsters looking over three trucks when he heard voices. Two big teenage boys jumped in front of Tommy. "Whatcha doin' here, monkey face?" one demanded. "Ya ain't wanted here, ya know."

"I didn't come to see you," retorted Tommy. The rough talker grabbed Tommy by the shirt and yanked him forward. "Don't get smart with me," he spit at Tommy. "If you can be useful, you can hang around. If you make yourself a nuisance..." the boy dropped Tommy and ran a finger across Tommy's throat, "you're out of here. Do you understand me?"

Tommy nodded. He hoped his sister was still praying for him. Eva may not know what kind of trouble he was in, but maybe Jesus would help him for Eva's sake. —Sis. Connie Sorrell
(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What did the people do when they heard Jesus was in Capernaum?
2. What did the four men want Jesus to do for their friend?
3. Could they come through the door?
4. How did they get their friend to Jesus?
5. What did Jesus do for the man's sins?
6. Did the Pharisees think Jesus could forgive sins?
7. Was Jesus able to forgive sins and heal the man?
8. Can the devil throw himself out of someone?
9. Who made Jesus able to do what He did?

LESSON TEXT: Mark 2:1-12; 3:20-26.

(Answers: 1. Came to hear him. 2. Heal him. 3. No. 4. Through the roof. 5. Forgave them. 6. No. 7. Yes. 8. No. 9. God.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 3 Primaries (USP6549-000) Part 24 Sept. 15, 2002

THE POOR IN SPIRIT

Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." When people feel like they need help, God will help them get to heaven.

There was a man who was poor in spirit. He was a blind man who sat by the road to Jericho. He could not see to work so he begged for money for food. Jesus came down the road.

The blind man heard the people saying Jesus was coming. The blind man called out, "Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me!"

The people said to him, "Sh-sh-sh. Be quiet."

But the blind man would not be quiet. He kept calling out.

Jesus stopped in the road and told them to bring the blind man. Jesus asked the blind man, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

He said, "Lord, I want to see."

Jesus said, "Your faith has saved you. You can now see."

Right then the blind man's eyes could see and he followed Jesus, praising God.

There was another man who was poor in spirit. His name was Zacchaeus. He lived in Jericho. He was a rich tax collector.

When Jesus walked through Jericho, Zacchaeus wanted to see Him. But, Zacchaeus was short. There were many people all around Jesus. Zacchaeus could not see over them.

Zacchaeus ran down the road and climbed up a sycamore tree.

Jesus came down the road and stopped right under the tree. Jesus looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry up and come down. Today I must go to your house."

Zacchaeus quickly came down. He happily took Jesus home with him.

The other people said to each other, "That's bad. Jesus is going home with a sinner."

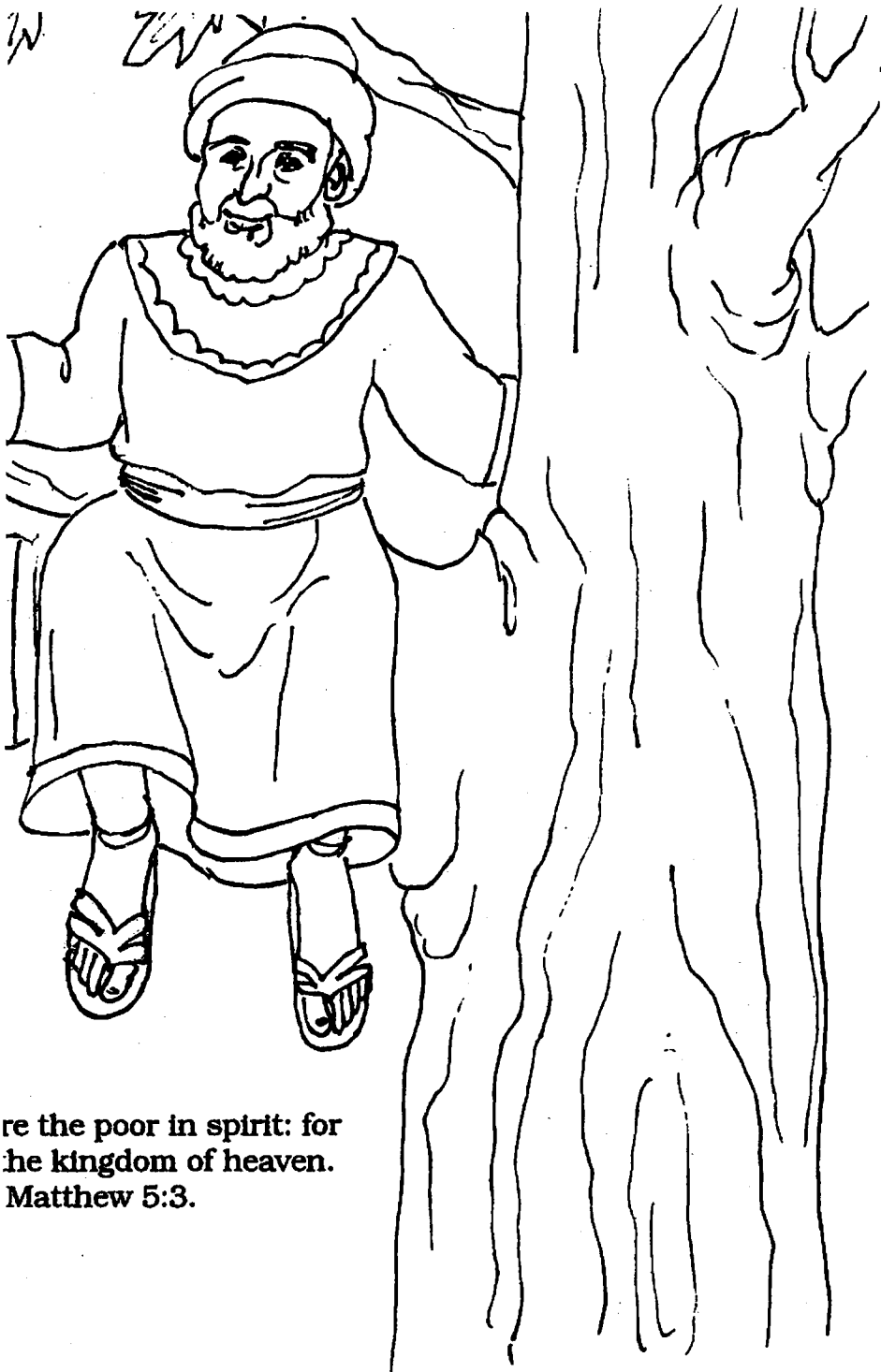
Zacchaeus said to Jesus, "Lord, I will give half my riches to the poor. And if I have taken anything from anyone that I wasn't supposed to, I will give him back four times as much as I took."

Jesus said, "Today salvation has come to your house. That's why I came, to look for and save those who are lost."

—Joanna Booher



Bles
thei



re the poor in spirit: for
he kingdom of heaven.
Matthew 5:3.

Bad Boys

(Continued from last week.)

"Are ya tired of school?" One of the two teenage boys asked Tommy.

"Why do you want to know?" demanded Tommy.

The bigger boys slapped Tommy's face. "Don't fire back at me, ya hear? I don't take nutton from nobody, monkey face. Are you good at climbin' like you look to be? Me an' Dudé here could use a partner in our business. Would ya like some green stuff to buy bananas or whatever ya eat? We could help ya out if yur tough enough to work with us."

Tommy's face stung with the slap and his ears burned from the boy's talk. He realized rough guys like these weren't making money honestly, but just how were they making money?

"Well, talk," demanded the boy. "We're wastin' time and money talkin' to ya if ya ain't goin' to help."

When the boys saw Tommy thinking about it, he said, "What's yur name?"

"Tommy."

"Okay, Tom, my man, what do ya think?"

Perhaps it was the bigger boy's better manner and the way he said, "Tom." Dudé even reached out his hand to Tommy. He never knew why he joined that robbery gang, but he did. After the two bigger boys would break the lock on the back of a truck, Tommy would quickly climb into the traillor and toss out valuable items to the others waiting outside. They would hide the items in a vacant house for a few days, then sell it to pawn shops or who-

ever they thought would buy what things they had.

Whenever Tommy would feel guilty about what he was doing, stealing from the trucker's load, he would think, "I'm making money to pay a doctor to fix my face. I'll quit this business as soon as I have enough green stuff to do the job. My sister will never know how I got the money. I hope she is still praying for me—I need all the help I can get."

His sister didn't know everything Tommy was doing, but she did notice his new bad attitude. Also, she received an alarming phone call.

"Tommy has been missing a lot of school lately. Do you know where he has been?" asked the school secretary.

Eva was disappointed in Tommy. She prayed to Jesus for him.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What did the blind man beg for?
2. Who did people say was coming?
3. What did the blind man want Jesus to do for him?
4. Did Jesus make the blind man see?
5. What did the blind man do after he could see?
6. What was Zacchaeus?
7. Did Zacchaeus want to see Jesus?
8. Did Jesus see Zacchaeus?
9. What did Jesus say had come to Zacchaeus' house?

LESSON TEXT: Luke 18:35-19:10.

(Answers: 1. Money for food.
2. Jesus. 3. Make him see.
4. Yes. 5. Followed Jesus, praising God. 6. A rich tax collector.
7. Yes. 8. Yes. 9. Salvation.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 Sept. 22, 2002

BLESSED ARE THEY THAT MOURN

Jesus said, "Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted." When people are sorry for their sins, God will forgive them.

A certain Pharisee asked Jesus to come to his house. Jesus went with the Pharisee and sat down to eat with him.

A woman came to the Pharisee's house to see Jesus. She came to where Jesus was and knelt at His feet. She started to cry and her tears fell on Jesus' feet. She wiped them with her hair. She had a box of sweet-smelling ointment. She poured the ointment on Jesus' feet.

The Pharisee saw the woman touching Jesus. He thought to himself, "Jesus must not be a prophet. If He were He would know that this woman is a bad woman. He would not want her to touch His feet."

Jesus knew what the Pharisee was thinking. He said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you."

Simon the Pharisee said, "Teacher, say on."

Jesus said, "There were two men who owed another man money. One of them owed him a lot of money. The other man owed him not as much. When it was time to pay their money back, neither of them had any. But, the man was nice and said, 'That's okay. You don't have to pay me back.'"

Now, which of the two men do you think was the happiest? Which one loved that man the most because he didn't have to pay the money?"

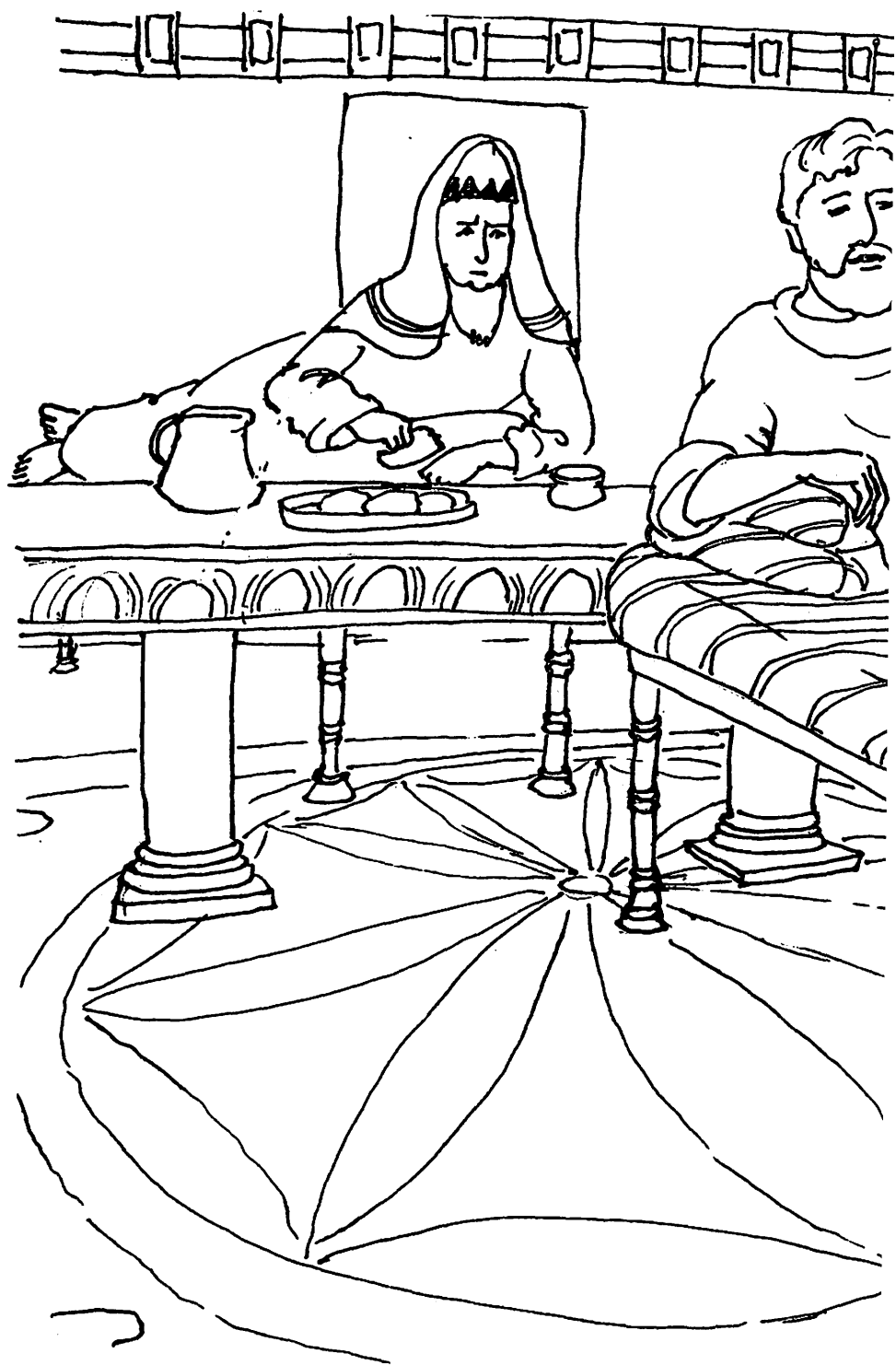
Simon said, "I suppose the one who owed the most money loved him most."

Jesus said, "You are right." Then he said, "Simon, when I came to your house, you were not very polite. You did not give Me water to wash My feet. You did not give Me a kiss of greeting. You did not anoint My head with oil. But, this woman has washed My feet with her tears. She has kissed My feet over and over. She has anointed My feet with ointment.

She has shown much love for Me. And so, I am forgiving her many sins."

Jesus said to the woman, "Your sins are forgiven. Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

—Joanna Booher





Blessed are
the poor in
spirit: for
theirs is the
kingdom of
heaven.
Matthew 5:3.

Caught

(Continued from last week.)

"Tommy, where are you going when you aren't in school?" Eva asked her younger brother that evening. Tommy didn't want Eva to know he was stealing from trucks, so he dodged the question. "I'm fishing," he replied.

"No, Tommy, there is no place around here to fish. Are you hanging out around that truck stop?"

"Why would you think I would be?" replied Tommy.

"Because I know trucks have always attracted you," said Eva. "Look, Tommy, I am working to buy you food, clothes and a place to live so that you can get an education, get a good job, and some day make it on your own. Don't be skipping school but remember what that trucker said to you: 'Ignore those thoughtless name callers and get your education. God created you special so do something good with your life no matter what fools say to you.' I hope you aren't running with the wrong crowd...."

"Lay off, will you," exclaimed Tommy as he walked toward the front door of their apartment. "I'm going for a walk so I can think. Sorry, Sis, that I've been such a problem for you."

"I don't mind helping you, Tommy," Eva was saying as he shut the door behind him. "Oh, Lord, please help my brother," she began to pray.

A few days later, Tommy and the two teenagers were again robbing from a truck trailer. Like usual, Tommy was inside the trailer handing out the goods to the others when the older boys saw a police car drive in by the trucks. Without saying a word, the two older boys slipped out of sight and raced away, leaving Tommy alone in the trailer.

Suddenly, a bright light shone into the trailer, catching Tommy by surprise. "Alright, boy, come on out of there!" commanded a deep voice.

A sick feeling swept over Tommy as he realized he was facing the police. He trembled as an officer pulled him down from the trailer and jerked him toward a police car. "We have been wanting to catch you thieves for some time," said the officer. "What is your name and where do you live?"

Tommy was leaning against the car, answering questions when his eyes caught sight of that trucker who had been so kind to him a few weeks ago. Tommy watched the trucker walk toward them and then he realized he had been robbing that trucker's trailer! Tommy's head bent down and a lump in his throat stopped his words.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who asked Jesus to come eat with him?
2. Who knelt at Jesus' feet and cried?
3. What kind of woman did the Pharisee know the woman was?
4. How many people did Jesus say owed a man money?
5. Did the man make the men pay him back?
6. Which man loved the man most after that?
7. Who showed more love to Jesus: the Pharisee or the woman?
8. Did Jesus forgive the woman for her sins?

LESSON TEXT: Luke 7:36-50.

(Answers: 1. A Pharisee
2. A woman. 3. A bad woman.
4. Two. 5. No. 6. The man who owed the most money. 7. The woman. 8. Yes.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 Sept. 29, 2002

BLESSED ARE THE MEEK

Jesus said, "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." God will bless the humble people and give them all good things.

There was a man in Capernaum who was meek. He was a soldier, a centurion in the Roman army. This centurion's servant got sick. The centurion heard that Jesus could heal people. He sent the elders of the Jews to find Jesus.

The elders said to Jesus, "Please come and heal our centurion's servant. The centurion is a very good man. He loves our people and has built us a church."

Jesus went with them. While they were walking, the centurion sent a message to Jesus. He said, "Lord, don't trouble Yourself to come to my house. I am not worthy of You coming. I don't even feel worthy to talk to You myself. Just say that my servant is healed and I know he will be."

Jesus was amazed. He looked around at the people and said, "I have not seen such great faith, no, not in Israel."

The Roman centurion's servant was healed in that same hour.

Jesus went to the seaside. A Greek woman came to Him and said, "Lord, please cast the devil out of my daughter."

Jesus did not answer her. The woman kept asking Jesus for help. Jesus' disciples said, "Lord, send this woman away. She is bothering us."

Jesus said to the woman, "I am not sent to help you. I am sent to help the people of Israel."

The woman fell down in front of Jesus. She said, "Lord, help me."

Jesus said, "It is not right to take away food from your children and give it to dogs." Jesus called the Greeks dogs.

The Greek woman was meek. She did not care if she was called a dog. She said to Jesus, "Yes, You are right. But, the dogs can eat the crumbs that fall under the children's table."

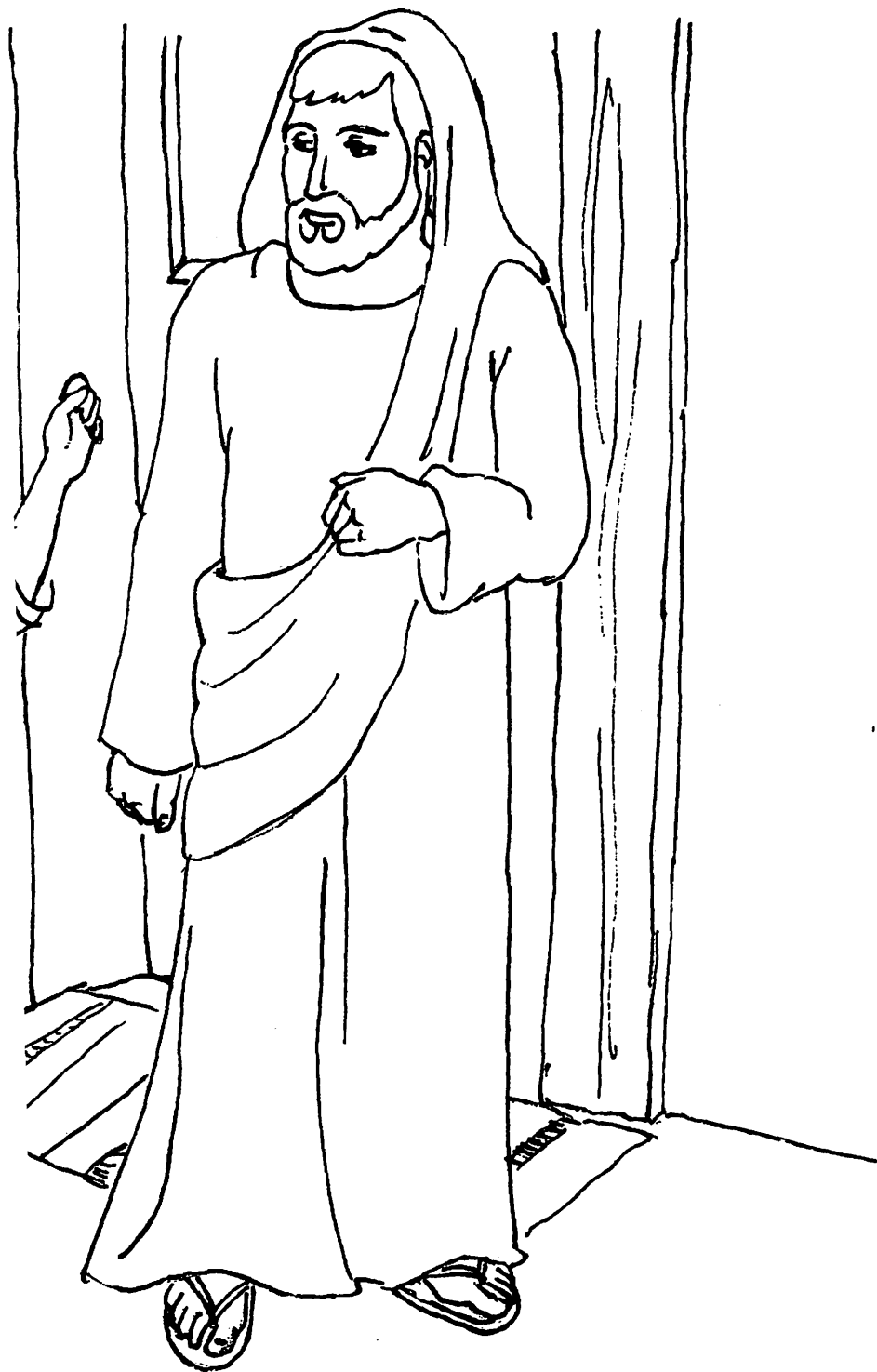
Jesus said, "O woman, you have great faith. You may have what you asked for."

The woman's daughter was made well that same hour.

—Joanna Booher

Blessed are the
meek: for they shall
inherit the earth.
Matthew 5:5.





Help At Last

(Continued from last week.)

"What is the trouble here?" asked the trucker of the police officer who was questioning Tommy.

"We caught this boy in your trailer handing out goods to a couple other boys," explained the officer.

"Oh, well, I happen to know this boy here," said the trucker. "We had a visit some time ago. Is there something I can do to help this situation?"

Tommy's heart thumped fast as he heard the trucker ask to take charge of him. His sister would have to be called (Poor Sis, thought Tommy) and a record would be filed about the robbery. Tommy really felt bad when Eva cried and apologized for what he had done.

"I will never again steal anything," Tommy promised his sister, the trucker and the police.

"God can help you with that promise," said Mr. Bill, the trucker, to Tommy later when they were alone. They were sitting in a booth at the truck stop, eating sandwiches.

Mr. Bill continued, "I should have talked to you more that first time I saw you, bud. Since then, I have prayed for you and it sounds like your sister has been praying also. Tommy, I'm sorry I called you a name that I should have known would hurt you. Please forgive me. Can I tell you my story?"

Tommy nodded. No one had ever before apologized for calling him a monkey face.

Mr. Bill began his story. "I was born with cross eyes and saw two of everything. I was called a cross-eyed chicken because of my long legs. Everyone teased and picked on me so much that I didn't want to be with people. My mother was kind and good to me. She prayed for me but I didn't

think Jesus loved me so I tried to run away from her and God."

Tommy listened as Mr. Bill told how he was riding his bike when a car hit him. Unconscious for several days, in the hospital with two broken legs, Mr. Bill saw the Lord Jesus in a vision. The Lord touched his eyes and when he awoke, his eyes were healed.

"More important than healing my eyes, Jesus changed my angry, sad heart and gave me a reason to live," said Mr. Bill. "I graduated from high school and the Lord gave me a Christian wife, three children, and a good job. He can help you, Tommy. Would you like to ask Him for His help?" Tommy had a big lump in his throat when he nodded. Together they bowed their heads and prayed right then in that truck stop. —Sis. Connie Sorrell
(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What happened to the Roman centurion's servant?
2. Who did the centurion send to Jesus?
3. What kind of man did the elders say the centurion was?
4. Why did the centurion ask Jesus not to come to his house?
5. Was the centurion's servant made well?
6. Would Jesus talk to the Greek woman at first?
7. Would the woman go away?
8. Did the woman care if she was called a dog?
9. Did Jesus give the woman what she asked for?

LESSON TEXT: Luke 7:1-10; Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30.

(Answers: 1. He got sick. 2. The elders of the Jews. 3. A good man. 4. He did not feel worthy for him to come. 5. Yes. 6. No. 7. No. 8. No. 9. Yes.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 4 Primaries (USP6549-000) Part 14 Oct. 6, 2002

HUNGER AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." When people look for God and try to find out how He wants them to live, He will show them.

Jesus had some friends named Martha and Mary. He went to visit them. Martha was very glad to have Him. She fixed food for Him to eat. Mary sat at Jesus' feet and listened to Him.

Martha did not like it that Mary was just sitting there. She said to Jesus, "Lord, why don't you tell Mary to help me?"

Jesus said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are careful and troubled about many things. But one thing is very important. Mary is paying attention to that one important thing. She is listening to My words. She wants to know how to please God."

Jesus said, "Whoever hears the words that I say and does them, I will tell you what he is like. He is like a wise man who built an house. He dug down to a solid rock and built his house on it. When the rain and wind and waters came, they could not move his house because it was on the rock.

"But, whoever hears the words that I say and does not do them, he is like a foolish man. The foolish man built his house on just plain dirt. When the rain and wind and water came it washed the foolish man's house away."

Jesus told the people, "Don't worry about what you're going to eat or drink." He said, "Look at the birds in the sky. They don't grow food, but your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth more than birds?

"Don't worry about what you're going to wear. Look at the flowers in the fields. They don't sew clothes, but they're dressed more beautifully than King Solomon. If your heavenly Father dressed them so, won't He give you clothes?

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

~Joanna Booher

Blessed are they which
do hunger and thirst
after righteousness.
Matthew 5:6.





A Challenge Given

(Continued from last week.)

As Tommy prayed with Mr. Bill in that truck stop, he felt the big weight of sin roll away from his heart. With their heads bowed over the table and Mr. Bill's big hand over his, Tommy gained faith and courage in Jesus.

After prayer, Mr. Bill said, "Tom, I come through this way in my truck about every ten days or so. When I come, I will call and ask you if you are staying faithful to Jesus. He is your best friend, Tom, but you must be His friend also. Do you have a Bible?"

"Yes, sir, my sister gave me one a couple of years ago," replied Tommy.

"Good," said Mr. Bill as he took a New Testament from his shirt pocket.

"I want you to start reading in Matthew the fifth chapter. This is the beginning of the sermon on the mount. See all these verses that start with 'blessed'? That word means happy or joyful in the Lord. If you can say these verses from memory to me the next time I am here, I will have a treat for you."

Tommy's eyes sparkled. "I'll start memorizing it right away," he said. "Eva can help me."

"Yes, Eva is a good sister to you, Tom. Help her all you can because she works hard to pay the bills. Stay in school and remember that now you have Jesus for your friend. Ask Him to help you ignore the rude jokes other guys say about your looks. You know, Jesus was mocked and laughed at, but He did not run nor fight back. He had strength from God to stand quietly and do good like he was supposed to. That takes divine power to suffer wrong silently. Very few men have that strength of character but it comes when you call upon the name of Jesus Christ right

when the battle is hot. Tom, right when the guys call you names, you call upon Jesus in your mind and He will be your friend."

Tommy listened to every word Mr. Bill had to say. He walked with Mr. Bill to his truck and waved goodbye to him as his truck drove away. Then Tommy hurried home to find his Bible and begin memorizing.

Eva smiled when she saw the happy look on her brother's face. "My, you sure do look handsome with that smile on your face," she told Tommy. She patted his cheek as he passed by. "Tommy, you must have gotten saved." He nodded as he opened his Bible to Matthew five.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who did Jesus go to visit?
2. What was Martha doing?
3. What was Mary doing?
4. What kind of thing did Jesus say Mary was paying attention to?
5. Why did the wise man's house not move?
6. What will we be like if we do what Jesus says?
7. Does God feed the birds and give the flowers clothes?
8. Will God take care of us?
9. What did Jesus tell us to seek first?

LESSON TEXT: Matt. 5:6; 6:25-33; Luke 6:47-49; 10:38-42.

(Answers: 1. Martha and Mary. 2. Fixing food. 3. Sitting. 4. A very important thing. 5. Because it was on the rock. 6. A wise man. 7. Yes. 8. Yes. 9. The kingdom of God and His righteousness.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 Oct. 13, 2002

BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL

"Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy." Those who have mercy on other people will have mercy shown to them.

Jesus was in a church on the sabbath day. He saw a woman there who was sick and could not stand up straight. Jesus healed her.

This made the ruler of the church angry. He said, "There are six days in which people can work. They should not work on the sabbath day."

Jesus said to him, "You hypocrite, don't you take your cow out to give it water on the sabbath day? Why should not this woman be loosed?"

The ruler was ashamed and the people rejoiced.

A lawyer asked Jesus, "Master, how can I get to Heaven?"

Jesus said, "What do the Scriptures say?"

The lawyer said, "They say I should love the Lord with all my heart, soul, strength, and mind, and love my neighbor as myself."

Jesus said, "Go and do that."

The lawyer said, "Who is my neighbor?"

Jesus said, "A man went down the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. Some thieves jumped out and hit him. They stole his clothes and left him lying in the road. He was almost dead.

A priest came down the road. He saw the hurt man but he did not help him. He walked past him on the other side of the road.

A Levite came down the road. He did not help the hurt man either. He passed on the other side of the road.

A Samaritan came down the road. Samaritans and Jews did not like each other. But, the Samaritan felt sorry for the hurt Jew. He went to him and fixed up his sores. He put the Jew on his own donkey and took him to an inn.

"The Samaritan told the innkeeper, 'Here is some money to take care of this man. When I come back I will pay you more.'"

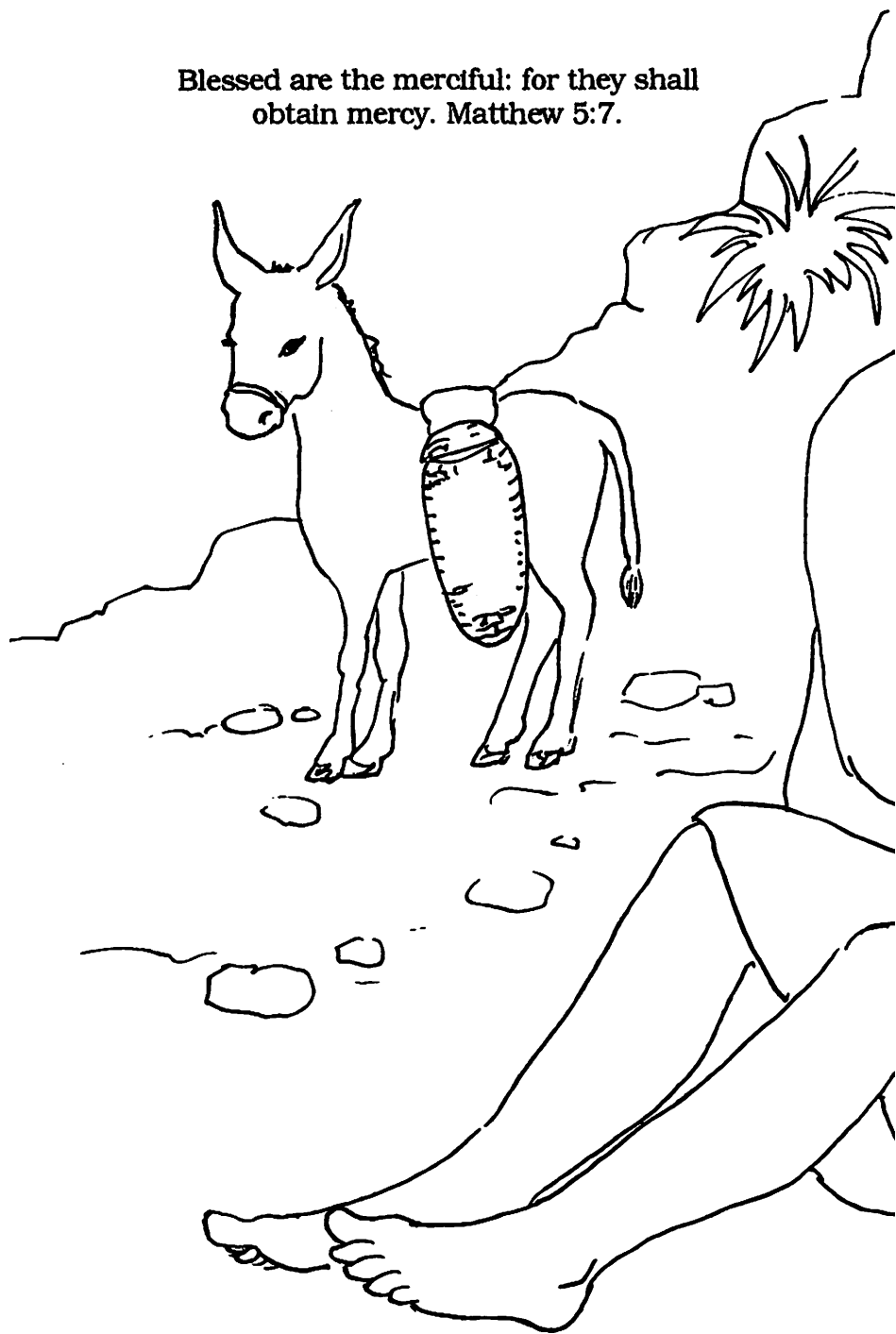
Jesus said to the lawyer, "Which of the three men was a neighbor to the hurt man?"

The lawyer said, "The Samaritan who showed mercy was his neighbor."

Jesus said, "Go, and do the same thing."

—Joanna Booher

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall
obtain mercy. Matthew 5:7.





Help From His Friend

(Continued from last week.)

Salvation changed Tommy's heart and now he had a Friend to help him. Eva had always prayed every morning before she left for work and now Tommy prayed with her. He was also working hard to memorize Matthew 5:3-12 so he could say it to Mr. Bill the next time he saw him.

After prayer, Eva hugged her young brother. "I will be praying for you while you are at school, Tommy. Remember what Mr. Bill said and call on the name of Jesus when you need Him. Ask Jesus to give you a song or a scripture that you may gain the grace and the victory over every trial. Be a strong man of God."

This time Tommy liked Eva's hug and words of encouragement. Jesus had taken the rebellion and bitterness out of his heart and he left for school with a song in his heart. "What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear..."

Most of the students ignored Tommy, but one boy liked to make life miserable for him. Ed would bump Tommy in the hall or call names to him in front of the other guys. Tommy tried to stay away from Ed as much as possible, but sometimes Ed seemed to be looking for Tommy.

"Hey, Monkey-Face, you look happy for some reason. Did your sis give you an extra banana this morning?"

A few chuckled at Ed's mean remark as Tommy turned his head to walk away from them.

Ed stepped toward Tommy. "Hey, Monkey-Face, I asked you a question. Mr. Ed, here, he wants an answer," Ed said as he raised up his head and thumped his chest.

In his mind, Tommy called on Jesus. "Help me, Jesus! I need a

scripture right now!"

A calm voice spoke to Tommy's mind. "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth..."

Ed's hand on Tommy's shoulder pulled Tommy around. "When I'm speaking to you, I demand an answer."

Tommy felt his old anger begin to warm up. "Jesus help me," he prayed to himself and a quiet warmth filled Tommy.

Tommy even smiled at Ed. "I am having a good day," he told Ed. "I hope you have a good day, too."

Ed burst out laughing. He was surprised at Tommy's words. As Tommy walked away from Ed, he thanked Jesus for giving him courage and words to say.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What did Jesus do for the woman who was sick?
2. Why did the ruler think Jesus should not have healed her?
3. Was it all right for Jesus to help someone on the sabbath day?
4. Who did the lawyer say he should love as himself?
5. What did the thieves do to the man on the road?
6. Did the priest help the hurt man?
7. Did the Levite help the hurt man?
8. Who was a neighbor to the hurt man?
9. What did the Samaritan show to the hurt man?

LESSON TEXT: Matt. 5:7; Luke 10:25-37; 13:10-17.

(Answers: 1. Healed her. 2. Because it was the sabbath. 3. Yes. 4. His neighbor. 5. Hit him and stole his clothes. 6. No. 7. No. 8. The Samaritan. 9. Mercy.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 Oct. 20, 2002

THE PURE IN HEART

"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." Those who live right and serve God with all their hearts will go to heaven and see God.

A man came up to Jesus and said, "Lord, I will follow You wherever You go."

Jesus said to him, "Birds have nests to sleep in and foxes have holes to sleep in, but I do not have a place to sleep."

Jesus said to another man, "Follow Me."

The man said, "Let me first go and bury my father and mother."

Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their dead. Go and preach about God's kingdom."

Another man said, "Lord, I will follow You, but first let me go and say goodbye to the people in my house."

Jesus said, "Anyone who wants to follow Me, and then changes his mind, is not fit to be part of God's kingdom."

A rich young man came up to Jesus. He said, "Good Master, what should I do so I may go to heaven?"

Jesus said, "Why do you call me good? Only God is good. But, if you want to go to heaven keep the commandments."

The young man said, "Which commandment?"

Jesus said, "Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honour your father and mother; and, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

The young man said, "I have done all those things since I was little. What else do I need to do?"

Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go and sell the things that you have. Give the money to the poor. You will have riches in heaven. Then come and follow Me."

The young man had many riches. He did not want to get rid of them. He sadly walked away.

Jesus said, "How hard it is for rich people to go to heaven. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to go to heaven."

These men did not want to serve God with all their hearts. But, that is the only way to get to heaven.

—Joanna Booher



Blessed are the pure in
heart: for they shall see
God. Matthew 5:8.



Strong In A Trial

(Continued from last week.)

At school, Ed continued to tease Tommy and call him Monkey-Face. This still hurt Tommy but now he had Jesus to give him courage. Tommy's happy look puzzled Ed.

Tommy was walking down the hall past a classroom door when he over heard a teacher's voice saying, "Ed, you must learn how to add and subtract numbers before you learn to multiply. If you can't do this grade of math, we will need to put you back a grade until you memorize the addition and subtraction tables."

Tommy would have laughed at this news before he was saved, but instead he felt sorry for Ed. It would be so embarrassing to go back to third grade! Suddenly, Ed walked out of the classroom and saw Tommy.

"Hey, you, Monkey-Face. What are you so happy about?" Ed demanded in his rough voice.

Tommy wanted to ignore Ed like he always tried to do. "Jesus, help me," he prayed silently. Then Tommy did something that even surprised himself. He turned to Ed. "I'll pray for you, Ed. Jesus can help you with your math."

An angry frown came over Ed's face. "So you were spying on me, Monkey-Face! I'll get you for that!"

Ed grabbed Tommy by the shoulders. His right fist went up to hit Tommy in the face.

"Stop! Ed, don't you hit Tommy!" ordered the teacher as he knocked Ed's fist. "Ed, do you want me to expel you from school for hitting?"

Ed shook his head and Mr. Talmon continued. "I have noticed how you tease and pick on Tommy all the time. That needs to stop. If you can't treat Tommy nicer, we will

take away some of your lunch time. You could spend that time learning math also."

"That's not fair!" exclaimed Ed. "I need time off like everyone else has!"

"Not everyone spends their time off teasing and name-calling someone else," said Mr. Talmon. "You need to learn manners and math. We will talk to the principal about this right now. I am sure he will agree. Tommy, you go on to lunch and, Ed, you come with me."

Tommy hurried away. Lunch would be more pleasant without Ed's name-calling and teasing. "Thank you, Jesus, for helping me," he prayed, "and help Ed with his math also."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What kind of heart must we have to see God?
2. Did Jesus have a place to sleep?
3. Who did the second man want to bury?
4. What did Jesus tell him to go and preach about instead?
5. Who did the third man want to say goodbye to?
6. Did the rich young man want to go to heaven?
7. What did Jesus tell the rich young man to sell?
8. Did the rich young man do as Jesus said?
9. How much of our heart must we serve God with?

LESSON TEXT: Matt. 5:8; 19:16-24; Luke 9:57-62.

(Answers: 1. A pure heart. 2. No. 3. His father and mother. 4. The kingdom of God. 5. The people in his house. 6. Yes. 7. His riches. 8. No. 9. All of it.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 Oct. 27, 2002

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

"Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." Those who make peace will be called God's children.

The Pharisees did not like Jesus. They wanted to get Him in trouble. One time, Jesus was teaching the people in the temple. The Pharisees brought a woman to Him.

They said to Jesus, "This woman is an adulteress. Moses' law says she should be stoned to death. What do You say?"

Jesus did not start a fight. He just knelt down and started writing in the dirt.

The Pharisees kept asking Him. Jesus stood up and said, "If any of you have never sinned, you can throw the first stone at her."

Jesus knelt down and started writing in the dirt again. The Pharisees knew they had sinned before. One by one, they walked away.

Jesus stood up and saw that no one was left except the woman. He said to her, "Where are the men who wanted to stone you? Did no one want to kill you?"

The woman said, "No one wanted to kill me, Lord."

Jesus said, "I don't want to kill you either. Go, and don't sin anymore."

Another time the Pharisees came to see Jesus. They wanted to get Him in trouble. They said, "Master, we know that You don't honor one person more than another. So, is it right for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

Jesus did not argue. He just said to them, "Show me a penny."

They showed Him a penny.

Jesus said, "Whose picture is on this penny?"

They said, "Caesar's."

Jesus said, "Give the things that belong to Caesar to Caesar. And give the things that belong to God to God."

Jesus said to the people, "You have heard that if someone knocks your tooth out, you can knock their tooth out too. But I say: don't fight back when people do wrong things to you. If someone smacks you on one cheek, turn to him the other cheek also. Do good to the people who don't like you."

—Joanna Booher

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall b



ed the children of God. Matthew 5:9.



Reporting

(Continued from last week.)

Tommy was excited to hear Mr. Bill's voice on the phone. "I'm here at the truck stop, Tommy. Want to have supper with me?"

"I'll be right there!" exclaimed Tommy. He put down the phone and called to Eva, "I'm going to see Mr. Bill! I'll be back after supper!"

Eva smiled as her brother shut the front door behind him. "Thank You, Jesus, for saving my brother's soul," she prayed. "Now I don't worry about him skipping school or stealing. He prays with me and attends church without complaining. Thank You, Jesus, for changing Tommy's heart and attitude."

Inside the cafe, Mr. Bill hugged Tommy before they sat down at a booth to eat.

"How are things going for you, Tom, since Jesus has become your friend?"

"Great!" exclaimed Tommy. "Eva and I don't fuss like we used to and I'm making better scores in school."

"What about Matthew 5:3-12, can you recite those scriptures to me?"

"Yes, sir!" Tommy then quoted those verses for Mr. Bill.

"Great job!" said Mr. Bill when Tommy finished. He took out a small box from his pocket. "This is for you, Tom, to celebrate your new life in Christ and for memorizing the scriptures."

Tommy's eyes shone as he reached across the table to receive the little box. Carefully, he opened it. "A new watch!" he exclaimed. "Oh, thank you, Mr. Bill! It even glows in the dark!"

"Yes, and it has a compass on it also," said Mr. Bill. "See this needle right here will always point to the north by magnetic force. So you will

be able to tell which direction you are going by the way the needle points." Mr. Bill showed Tommy how it worked. "You know, Tom, if we keep focused on Jesus like this needle does on the north, then we will never be lost spiritually."

Tommy nodded. "Jesus has already helped me a lot at school," he said. He told Mr. Bill about Ed who called him names more than the other guys. "I told Ed I would pray for him about his math, and I do," said Tommy.

Mr. Bill smiled. "Tom, my man, you are truly learning the ways of the Lord," he said. -Sis. Connie Sorrell
(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What did the Pharisees want to get Jesus into?
2. What did the Pharisees say should happen to the adulteress?
3. What did Jesus kneel down in the dirt and do?
4. Did the men throw stones at the woman?
5. Did Jesus throw stones at the woman?
6. Did Jesus tell the Pharisees not to pay taxes?
7. Whose things did Jesus say to give to Caesar?
8. Did Jesus tell the people to fight other people?
9. What will we be called if we are peacemakers like Jesus?

LESSON TEXT: Matt. 5:9, 38-39, 44; 22:15-21; John 8:2-11.

(Answers: 1. Trouble. 2. She should be stoned. 3. He wrote. 4. No. 5. No. 6. No. 7. Caesar's things. 8. No. 9. Children of God.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 Nov. 3, 2002

BLESSED ARE THE PERSECUTED

"Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." The people who get in trouble for doing right will go to heaven.

King Herod had married a woman named Herodias. But, she was really his brother's wife. It was wrong for him to marry her.

John the Baptist told him so. This made Herodias mad. She got King Herod to put John the Baptist into prison.

One day, King Herod had his birthday party. Herodias' daughter danced for King Herod. King Herod said to her, "I will give you anything you want, even if it is half of my kingdom. I promise."

Herodias told her daughter what she should ask for. She said, "I want John the Baptist's head on a plate."

King Herod did not want to kill John the Baptist. But he had promised, so he had to. John the Baptist was killed because he did right.

On a Sabbath day, Jesus saw a man who was born blind. Jesus spat on the ground and made clay. He put it on the man's eyes and said, "Go and wash your eyes in the pool of Siloam."

The man went and when he had washed his eyes he could see. The people were amazed. They brought the man to the Pharisees. When the Pharisees heard about it they said, "The man who healed you must be a sinner. He worked on the Sabbath."

The man said, "I don't know if he is a sinner or not. One thing I know. I was blind. Now I see."

The Pharisees said, "Tell us again how he made you well."

The man said, "Do you want to be His disciples too?"

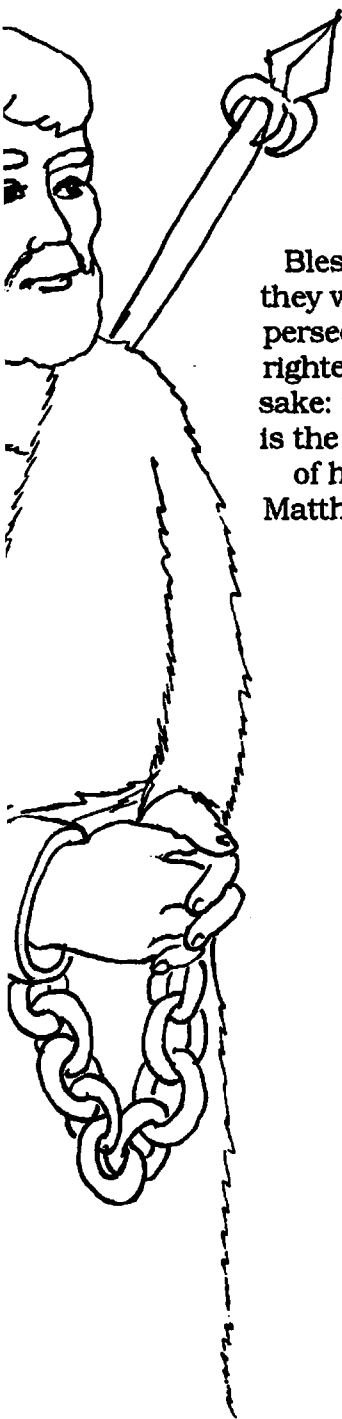
The Pharisees said, "We are Moses' disciples. We don't know where this other man came from."

The man who had been blind said, "If this man were not from God he could not have made me see."

The Pharisees said, "You are a sinner and are you trying to teach us?" The Pharisees put the man out of the church because he believed Jesus was from God.

—Joanna Booher





Blessed are
they which are
persecuted for
righteousness'
sake: for theirs
is the kingdom
of heaven.
Matthew 5:10.

A New Plan

(Continued from last week.)

Tommy showed Eva the new watch Mr. Bill had given him. "See how this needle always points to the north? Well, Mr. Bill said that if we always keep focused on Jesus, we will never get lost spiritually. He said I am doing the right thing by praying for Ed. Now I'm going to memorize Matthew 5:43-48 because those scriptures are where Jesus tells us to pray for our enemies."

"That's good, Tommy," said Eva. "When others call us names it usually is because they don't feel good about themselves. Ed may be having trouble with other lessons besides math and so to think better about himself, he picks on you. That is the wrong way to do it, but often bullies take that way. When you return evil with good, you will win the victory at the end."

The next morning at school, Tommy remembered what Mr. Bill and Eva had said when in the hall Ed grabbed him by the shirt collar.

"Are you praying for me, Monkey-Face?" Ed sneered. Tommy nodded. "Pray for yourself, Monkey-Face, because you need help. I don't like Christians."

In his mind, Tommy prayed for wisdom. Jesus gave him strength and calmness to say, "I haven't been a Christian too long. I didn't like Jesus Christ for a long time until a good Christian trucker showed me the love of Christ. Now I know myself how real Jesus is."

To Tommy's surprise, Ed let go of his shirt collar and asked a question. "So you hang around at the truck stop? My folks say that's a bad place to be and to stay away from there."

"I don't go there any more until Mr. Bill calls and tells me that he is

there. Would you like to meet him sometime? He's a really cool guy."

"Well, maybe," Ed said. "My folks may not let me."

"If my sister, Eva, called your mom, maybe she would let you come then?"

Ed shrugged. "Try it," he said and walked away.

Tommy was so excited that evening as he explained to Eva how he told Ed about Jesus. Eva agreed that she would call Ed's mother and invite him to visit with Mr. Bill the next time he called for Tommy.

That night it was easier for Tommy to pray for Ed and he asked for his salvation.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Was it right for King Herod to marry his brother's wife?
2. Who told him so?
3. Who was mad at John the Baptist?
4. What did Herodias tell her daughter to ask for on a plate?
5. Why was John the Baptist killed?
6. What day did Jesus heal the blind man on?
7. What did the Pharisees think Jesus was?
8. Who did the man who had been blind think Jesus was from?
9. What did the Pharisees put the man out of who had been blind?

LESSON TEXT: Matt. 5:10; 14:3-11; John 9:1-34.

(Answers: 1. No. 2. John the Baptist. 3. Herodias. 4. John the Baptist's head. 5. Because he did right. 6. The Sabbath. 7. A sinner. 8. God. 9. The church.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 Nov. 10, 2002

THE SOWER

Jesus told the people a story. He said, "A man went out to sow seed in his field. He threw a handful of seed over the dirt. Some of it landed in the road. Birds came and ate it.

"Some of the seed fell on hard, stony ground. The rain came. The seed started to grow. The sun came. The seed did not have long roots that would find water. The seed dried up.

"Some seed landed on dirt that had weeds and thorns growing in it. The seed started to grow. The weeds and thorns grew too. The weeds and thorns would not let the seed get enough water and sunshine. They died.

"Some of the seed fell on good, soft dirt. The seed was watered by the rain. The sun came and warmed it. The seed started to grow. There were no weeds to choke it. The ground was deep enough for its roots to go down. The birds couldn't eat it for it was buried. The seed grew and grew. It became a whole field of wheat or something useful to people."

Later, Jesus' disciples asked Him, "Tell us what the story meant."

Jesus said, "The man is like a preacher telling God's words. Some of the seed fell on the road and was eaten. Some people are like the road. They hear the Word but the devil comes right away and takes the Word out of their minds.

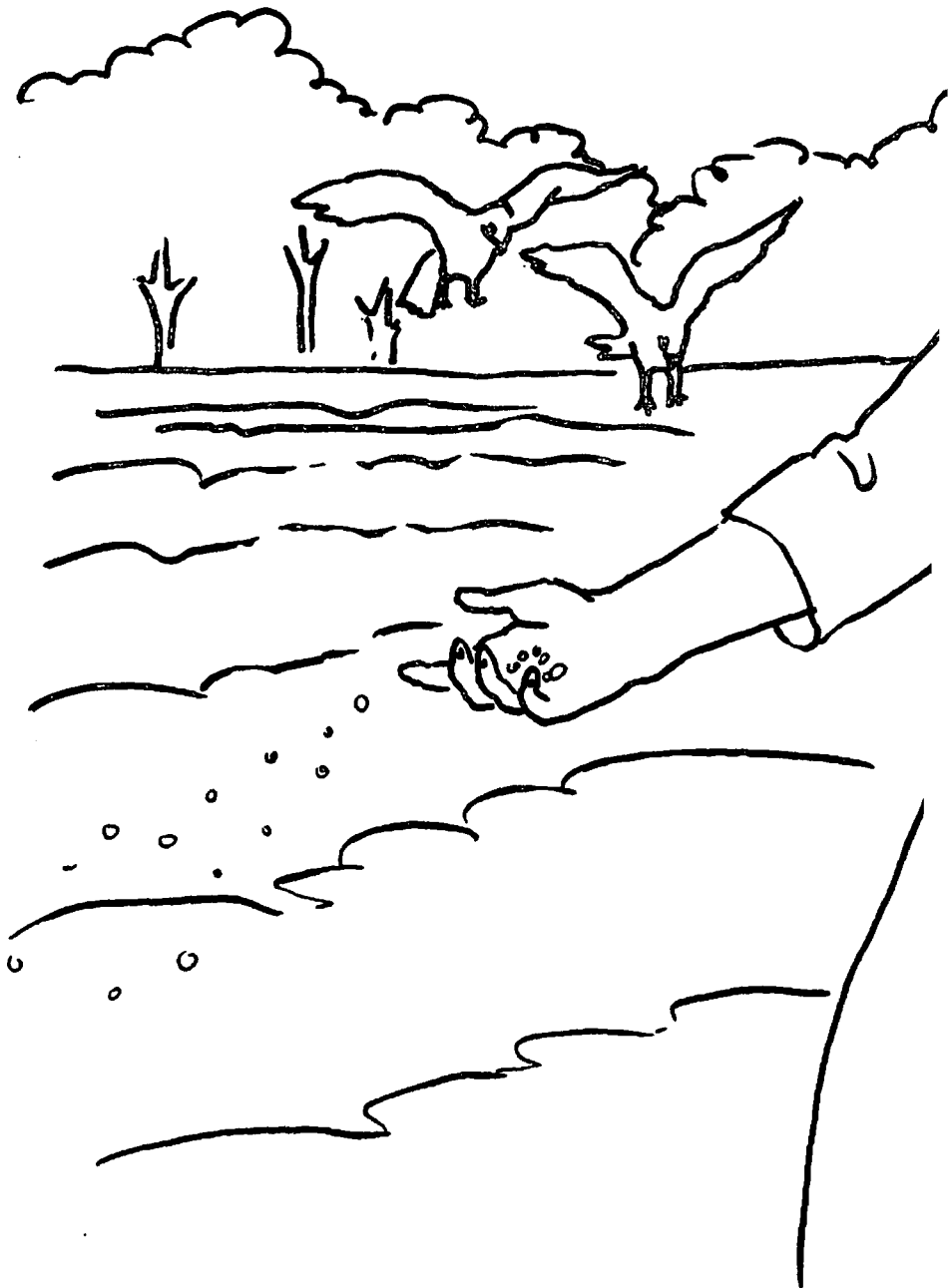
"Some seed fell on the stony ground. Some people are like stony ground. They hear the Word and plant it in their heart. They try to do right all by themselves. But then bad things happen to them. The bad things make them stop trying to do right.

"Some seed fell on the ground that had weeds in it. Some people care about too many things here on this earth. Soon they have no time to do what God wants.

"But the seed that was sown on the good ground are those people who have made their hearts soft. They want to hear what God says. They ask for His help to do what His Word says. God makes them good people who can help other people."

—Joanna Booher

They which are sown on good ground...hear the
receive it, and bring forth fruit... Mark 4:





Praying Together

(Continued from last week.)

Tommy hasn't been a Christian very long and already he has grown more like Jesus. After telling Ed about Jesus and Mr. Bill, Tommy noticed Ed didn't call him Monkey-Face but just said, "Hi." Tommy was memorizing Matthew 5:43-48 to say to Mr. Bill.

In a few days, Mr. Bill called to invite Tommy to the truck stop. Tommy explained to him about Ed. "Sure he can come with you," said Mr. Bill. So Eva called Ed's mother to invite him. "I don't know," said Mrs. Benit. "I will have to talk to Ed's dad about it."

After Eva hung up the phone, she said, "Keep praying for Ed. You have already planted a seed of love in his heart and Jesus can use it to change Ed."

Tommy was excited as he ran to the truck stop. Again Mr. Bill hugged him before they sat down to eat. "I can see you are happy this evening," said Mr. Bill. "What's the reason?"

Eagerly, Tommy told Mr. Bill about Ed and how he was able to tell Ed about Jesus. "He wants to come and meet you," said Tommy. "Would that be okay?"

"Sure," said Mr. Bill with a smile. "Have you memorized those scriptures? It sounds like you are doing what Jesus said, 'pray for them which spitefully use you, and persecute you.' Wasn't Ed the worst one to call you names at school?"

Tommy nodded. "Yes, and I can say those scriptures because I have really found them to be true."

Mr. Bill was pleased to hear Tommy quote all his assigned verses. He didn't give Tommy a gift, but

Tommy felt rewarded already.

Before they parted, they had prayer together. Mr. Bill prayed that Tommy would continue to have courage to tell others about Jesus. He prayed for Ed, his salvation, and for his math troubles.

"Be patient with Ed, Tom," said Mr. Bill. "He may still treat you badly sometimes, but just continue to pray for him. Jesus is using you to show him love. Stay focused on Jesus and He will give you the strength and courage to see you through when things are going wrong."

"Thanks for your prayers," said Tommy. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What was the man sowing?
2. What did the birds do to the seed on the road?
3. What happened to the seed that had no long roots?
4. What did the weeds not let the seed have?
5. What happened to the seed on the good dirt?
6. What does the devil do to the word that some people hear?
7. What do some people do when bad things happen?
8. What do some people care about more than doing what God wants?
9. Why does God want to make us good people?

LESSON TEXT: Mark 4:1-20.

(Answers: 1. Seed. 2. Ate it. 3. It dried up. 4. Water and sunshine. 5. It grew. 6. Takes it out of their minds. 7. Stop trying to do right. 8. Things here on earth. 9. So we can help others.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 Nov. 17, 2002

PEACE, BE STILL

One evening, Jesus and His disciples got into a boat to cross the lake. A storm came. The wind blew hard and the waves got higher and higher. The water splashed into the boat.

Jesus was asleep on a pillow. His disciples came to Him and said, "Master, don't you care that we may die?"

Jesus got up and said to the wind and the waves, "Peace, be still." Right away the wind stopped and the water became still.

The disciples were amazed. They said, "What kind of man is this that even the wind and water obey Him?"

At the other side of the lake Jesus got out. A man came running toward Him. The man had an unclean spirit. He lived around the graves of people and wore no clothes. People had tried to tie him up before. They had even put chains on him, but the man broke the chains.

Jesus said to the unclean spirit in the man, "Come out of this man."

The bad spirit said to Jesus, "Have you come to torment me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?"

Jesus said to the spirit, "What is your name?"

The spirit said, "My name is Legion, for we are many spirits in this man. Please, don't send us out of the country."

There was a herd of pigs eating close to the lake. The bad spirits said, "Jesus, if you make us go out, send us into the pigs."

Jesus said, "Go."

The devils went out of the man and went into the pigs. The pigs acted crazy. They ran right into the lake and drowned. The men who were taking care of the pigs saw it. They came with the whole town to see Jesus.

They saw the man who had had unclean spirits in him sitting in front of Jesus. The man was wearing clothes and had his right mind.

The man wanted to go with Jesus when he left. Jesus said to him, "Stay here and tell people the good things God has done for you." The man did as Jesus told him. All the people marvelled at what God had done.

—Joanna Booher

He said...Peace
there v



still. And the wind ceased, and
great calm. Mark 4:39.



The Math Drill Game

(Continued from last week.)

Ed would not speak to Tommy at school but Tommy still prayed for him. One morning Tommy was walking to his classroom when he saw a paper lying on the floor. To be tidy, Tommy picked it up. He stood still when he saw the name and grade on the paper. Ed had made a bad grade in math!

Quickly, Tommy tucked the paper in his math book and went to class. All morning he prayed about what he should do with the paper. It belonged to Ed, but if he gave it to Ed, would that make Ed mad that he had it?

"Take it to Mr. Talmon, the math teacher," said the Lord to Tommy.

"That's a good idea!" agreed Tommy. When he saw Mr. Talmon at his desk, Tommy handed him the paper. "I found this on the hall floor, Mr. Talmon. I think Ed might need it."

"Why, thank you, Tommy! I will give it to him," said Mr. Talmon. "You know, Tommy, you're good in math. Do you think you could help Ed sometime?"

"I-I don't know," stammered Tommy. "Ed probably wouldn't like my help."

"We could make it a team thing," said Mr. Talmon. "You and Ed could be a team and I have four other boys who need help that I could put a good math student with. That would make ten boys and five teams, right?"

"I-I guess so," said Tommy.

Mr. Talmon rubbed his chin in thought. "We will have math drills and only the slower math student may answer but the helper can give him the answer. Yes, I believe that would work. Tommy, are you game?"

"If Ed doesn't mind," nodded Tommy.

Ed did mind at first, but the other boys liked the idea so he soon gave in. The boys went to Mr. Talmon's room during the last part of lunch break. Mr. Talmon would have a treat at the end of the game which the boys really liked.

Tommy and Ed became friends and in time Ed met Mr. Bill at the truck stop.

"Tom has been telling me about your math games," said Mr. Bill to Ed. "Sounds like you guys are a winning team."

"Yeah, Tom has helped me a lot," said Ed. "I'm sorry I used to treat him so badly."

"Let's forget the past," said Tom, "I'm just glad you're my friend now."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What did Jesus and the disciples get into to cross the lake?
2. What came while they were on the lake?
3. What was Jesus doing during the storm?
4. What did Jesus tell the wind and waves to do?
5. Did the wind and waves obey Him?
6. What was in the man who came running to Jesus?
7. Was Jesus able to make the bad spirits leave the man?
8. What was the man doing after the bad spirits left him?
9. Did the man tell people the good things God had done?

LESSON TEXT: Mark 4:35-41; 5:1-20.

(Answers: 1. A boat. 2. A storm. 3. Sleeping. 4. "Be still." 5. Yes. 6. Unclean spirits. 7. Yes. 8. Sitting at Jesus' feet. 8. Yes.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 Nov. 24, 2002

THANKS AND GIVING

Jesus told a story to the people. He said, "There was a rich man who had fields. His fields grew very well and soon he had lots of food.

"The rich man thought to himself, 'What should I do since I have so much food? I know what I'll do, I'll tear down the barns I have and build bigger ones. Then I'll have a place to store all my food so I'll have plenty for a long time. I'll say to my soul, Soul, you have much food to last for many years. Take it easy. Eat and drink and have a good time.'

"The rich man was selfish. He did not think of sharing his food with people who were hungry."

God said to the rich man, "You are a foolish man. Tonight you will die. And then who will have all the things you were trying to keep for yourself?"

This is what happens to people who want to be rich here on earth. They can lose all their riches because they did not store them in heaven.

Jesus said, "Give to the people who have need."

Jesus went through Galilee and Samaria. He came into a certain village. Ten lepers saw Him. Lepers were not allowed to come near other people. The lepers stood far away and called out to Jesus.

They said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us."

Jesus said to the ten lepers, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." It was the law that if anyone got better from leprosy, they had to let the priests look at them to make sure they were well.

The ten men did what Jesus said. As they turned to go, one of them looked at his sores. His sores were gone. The man turned around and praised God with a loud voice.

The man came and fell down in front of Jesus. He said, "Thank You, Jesus."

Jesus said, "Weren't there ten lepers that I healed? Where are the other nine? Only this Samaritan came back to give thanks to God."

Jesus said to the man, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

—Joanna Booher

There are not found that ret
glory to God, save this strang



to give
ke 17:18.



Tom's Thanksgiving

(Continued from last week.)

Now that Ed was Tommy's friend, he didn't mind going to school so much. Even Eva was more pleasant to be with at home. Also, Tommy felt better about himself.

"Jesus has really made my life better," Tommy said to Eva one cool evening. "I don't know how I can pay Him back."

"Live for Him," replied Eva. "You have been telling others about Jesus and bringing souls to Jesus is the best payment you can give to Him."

"I'm still praying for Ed to get saved," said Tommy. "He prays with Mr. Bill and me at the truck stop, but he hasn't said he wants to be saved."

"Don't give up, Tommy. Jesus makes you strong and good-looking on the inside. That goodness is what made Ed your friend. He needs Jesus to wash away the ugly sin in his heart and give him a new look on life."

Tommy nodded as he sat down beside his sister on the couch. "Do you think Jesus has made my face look better?" he whispered.

Eva took Tommy's chin in her hand and looked over his face. "Tommy, the scars on your face are lighter. Your nose seems to be growing out more too. I think the goodness of Jesus is healing you on the inside and outside." Then Eva kissed Tommy's cheek and they hugged each other with love.

Later, in the truck stop with Mr. Bill and Ed, Tom said, "When we pray, Mr. Bill, I want to thank Jesus for all the good things He has done for me. I'm thankful for my sister and her love for me. She helps me so much and takes me to church every Sunday. Then I'm thankful for you,

Mr. Bill. Thanks for taking time with me to tell me about salvation and how to live right.

Thanks, Ed, for being my friend. Most of all, I thank Jesus for changing me on the inside and out."

Ed saw the happiness on Tom's face. "You know, Tom, you make me want to be saved."

Mr. Bill leaned over the table toward Ed. "This is a good time to get saved, Ed. We can pray with you now if you want to."

Ed nodded. "I want to look happy like Tom does," he said. There in the truck stop booth, all three bowed their heads and prayed to the Saviour of mankind.

-Sis. Connie Sorrell
(The end.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What did the rich man have a lot of?
2. What did the rich man want to make to store his food in?
3. Was the rich man going to give to hungry people?
4. What did God say would happen to the rich man that night?
5. Where should we store our riches?
6. What should we do for people who have need?
7. What did Jesus do for the ten lepers?
8. What did the Samaritan do when he saw he was well?
9. Should we be thankful for what God gives us?

LESSON TEXT: Matt. 5:42; Luke 12:16-21; 17:11-19.

(Answers: 1. Food. 2. Bigger barns. 3. No. 4. He would die. 5. In heaven. 6. Give to them. 7. Healed them. 8. Thanked Jesus. 9. Yes.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 Dec. 1, 2002

THE GIRL WHO CAME BACK TO LIFE

A man named Jairus came to Jesus. He fell down at Jesus' feet and said, "I have an only daughter who is twelve. She is dying. Please come to my house and heal her."

Jesus went with Jairus. As they went many people followed them and got in their way.

There was a woman who had been sick for twelve years. She had spent all her money on doctors. The doctors could not help her. The woman just got sicker.

This woman came in the crowd around Jesus. She thought to herself, "If I can just touch Jesus' clothes, I will be well." So, she reached out and touched His clothes. Right away, she was perfectly well.

Jesus stopped and turned around. He said, "Who touched Me?"

Jesus' disciples said, "There are people crowding all around You and You are wondering who touched You?"

Jesus said, "Someone touched Me. I can feel that healing has gone out of Me."

The woman was trembling. She came and bowed down at Jesus' feet. She told Him what she had done and how she was well.

Jesus said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace."

Jairus' servants came to him and said, "Your little girl has died. Don't bother Jesus any more."

Jesus heard what they said. He said to Jairus, "Don't be afraid. Only believe."

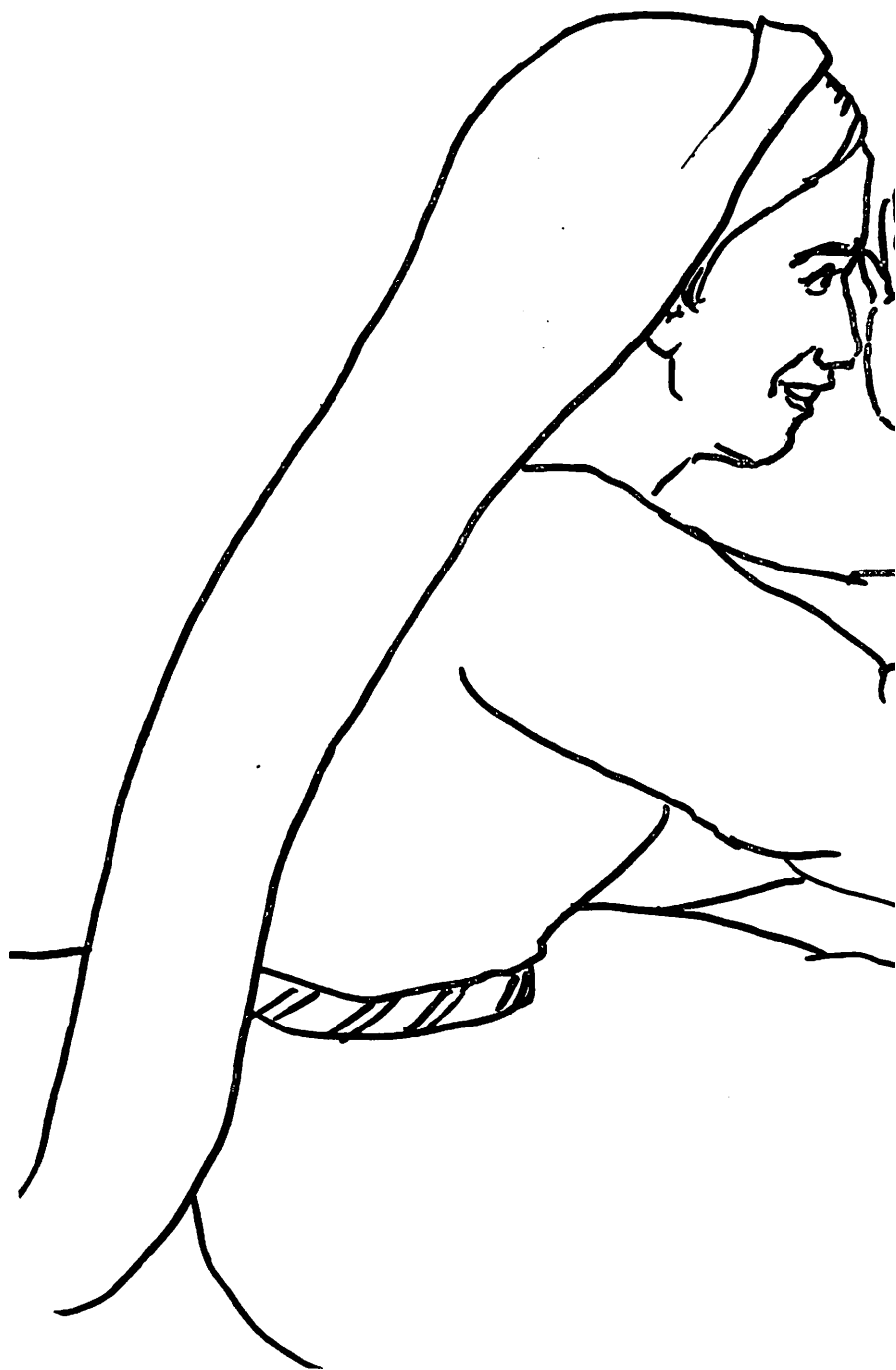
Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and went to Jairus' house. Many people were there crying because the girl was dead. Jesus said to them, "Why are you crying? The girl is not dead. She is only sleeping."

The people laughed at Jesus. They knew the girl was dead.

Jesus made them all go out. He took Jairus and his wife and Peter, James and John. He went into the room where the little girl was. He took her by the hand and said, "Maid, arise."

The little girl got up and walked to her parents. They were amazed. Jesus told them to give her something to eat.

—Joanna Booher



And straightway the damsel
arose, and walked. Mark 5:42.



First Snow Of Winter

Saturday morning Jerry, Linda and Randy woke up to find a white earth outside. Five or six inches of snow covered the ground and snow drifts were bigger yet.

"Let's get dressed and go sledding!" exclaimed Jerry.

Eagerly the children put on their coats, hats, scarves, boots and gloves. "Only stay outside one hour," said Mother. "Then all of you come back inside for a while. I will have breakfast ready by that time."

"Okay, we will," agreed the three as they eagerly pulled open the back door. Soon they had their sleds out of the garage and were crunching up a nearby hill. With shouts of fun and laughter, Jerry, then Linda, and Randy would jump on a sled and rush down the hill—snow spraying behind the sled.

One hour went by very fast but the children's stomachs' reminded them it was time to go home for breakfast. As they passed an older neighbor lady's house, she called to them from her front door.

"Could you children help me a minute?" said Mrs. Lloyd. "I need someone to take these three letters to my mailbox."

"Oh, yes, we can do that for you," said Jerry. Linda and Randy waited while Jerry took the letters from Mrs. Lloyd, walked to her mailbox, and put them inside.

"Thank you very much!" said Mrs. Lloyd. "Would you be able to get my mail for me later after the mailman brings it? I can't walk in the snow very well."

"We will do what we can to help you," replied Jerry.

At home they pulled off their boots and left them outside because they were too wet and dirty to come in-

side. Mother had made a big breakfast of sausage gravy, biscuits, scrambled eggs and orange juice or milk.

"What a wonderful breakfast, Honey," said Dad as he sat down at the table. "Children, let's bow our heads and thank the Lord for His goodness to us."

Dad said the blessing and everyone said, "Amen," when he finished.

"Mrs. Lloyd asked me to put three letters in her mailbox," Jerry told his parents. "She wants us to get her mail later when it comes."

"That is good of you, Jerry," said Dad. "We need to see about our elderly neighbors when there is snow and ice on the ground. I will check to see if she needs anything from town. I could get something for her while I am there." —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What did Jairus want Jesus to do for his little girl?
2. Did Jesus go with Jairus?
3. Who got in their way?
4. What did the sick woman want to do to be well?
5. Was she made well when she touched Jesus' clothes?
6. Did Jesus know she had touched Him?
7. Was Jesus glad that she was well?
8. What happened to Jairus' little girl while they were coming?
9. What did Jesus do for the little girl who had died?

LESSON TEXT: Mark 5:22-43.

(Answers: 1. Heal her. 2. Yes. 3. People. 4. Touch Jesus' clothes. 5. Yes. 6. Yes. 7. Yes. 8. She died. 9. Made her alive again.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 Dec. 8, 2002

THE THIRSTY WOMAN

Jesus went through Samaria. He sat down by a well because He was tired. A Samaritan woman came with her waterpot to get water.

Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."

The woman said, "Why are you asking me for a drink? You Jews don't talk to us Samaritans."

Jesus said to her, "If you knew who I am, you would have asked me for a drink. I can give you living water."

The woman said, "The well is deep and you don't have anything to get water with. How can you give me water?"

Jesus said, "Whoever drinks from this well will still get thirsty. But I can give you water that will make you never thirsty again. The water that I give will make you live forever."

The woman said, "Sir, give me this water. I don't want to have to keep coming here."

Jesus said, "Go and bring your husband."

The woman said, "I don't have a husband."

Jesus said, "You have told the truth. You have had five husbands. But the man you have now is not your husband."

The woman said, "I can see that You must be a prophet. You Jews say that we should go to church in Jerusalem but we like to go to church here."

Jesus said to her, "Pretty soon you won't go to Jerusalem or here for church. The people who really want to serve God must serve Him with their spirit and in truth. That's how God really wants people to serve Him."

The woman said, "I know that the Christ is coming. When He comes He will tell us everything."

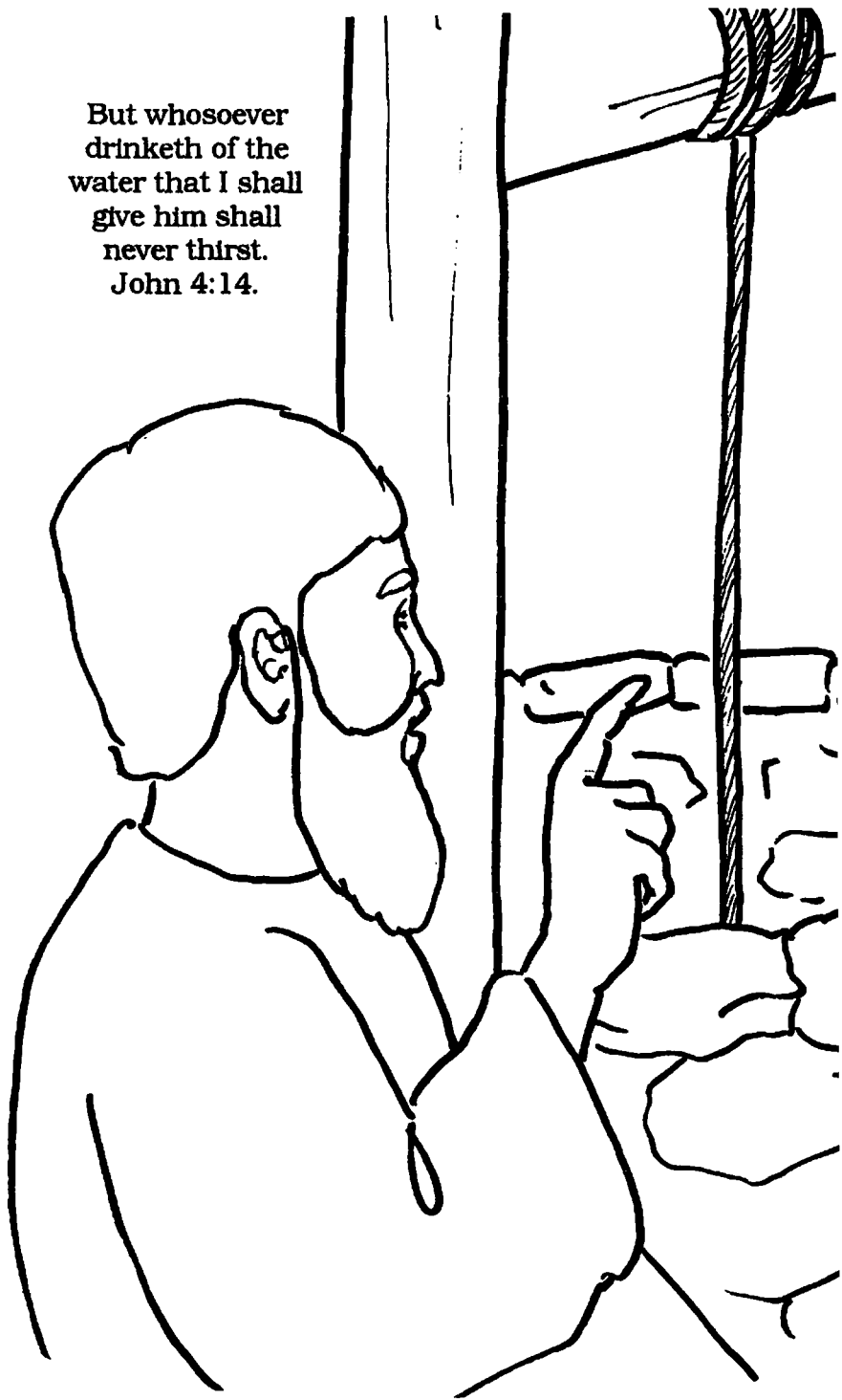
Jesus said, "I am Christ."

The woman left her waterpot and went into the city. She said to the men, "Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did. Isn't He the Christ?"

Many of the people heard her. They believed Jesus was the Christ because the woman said so. The Samaritans came out to see Jesus. They asked Him to stay and teach them. Jesus did and many more Samaritans believed He was the Christ.

—Joanna Booher

But whosoever
drinketh of the
water that I shall
give him shall
never thirst.
John 4:14.





Recording A Special Gift

"Mother, did you send our Christmas list to Grandma?" Linda asked as she came into the kitchen where Mother was cooking supper.

"Yes, I did," replied Mother. "Remember that you won't get everything on your list."

"Oh, I know that," said Linda. "I am thankful for whatever Grandma and Grandpa buy us. What should we get for them this Christmas? It is always so hard to buy for them because they have everything they need, it seems."

"Well, I have been thinking about a gift for them," said Mother. "Would you children be willing to record a tape for them? You could sing songs and tell stories. That would be a gift they couldn't buy at the store and I think they would love it."

Linda's eyes shone with excitement. "That's a good idea!" she exclaimed. "I'll tell Jerry and Randy about it and we will get some songs and stories ready right away!"

The boys liked the idea also and that evening the family planned and practiced for the recording. While Jerry read the Christmas story from Luke the second chapter, Linda and Randy had sound effects to add to the story. They sang *Silent Night* and *Away In The Manger*. Then Linda quoted a poem about the Three Wise Men who brought gifts to baby Jesus.

When the cassette tape was finished, they were all excited about it. "I hope Grandpa likes it, too," said Randy. "I said one poem just for him."

"I'm sure he will be glad to hear it," said Mother. "Let's wrap the tape in some Christmas paper so it will be ready to take when we go Christmas Eve."

On the road to their grandparent's house Christmas Eve, the children talked in their van about the tape they had made. "They seem to have forgotten their wants for Christmas," said Dad to Mother with a wink. Then to his children he said, "It really is exciting to give someone something, isn't it?"

"It is fun to give and to get things," replied Randy honestly.

Dad laughed. "I guess you're right. We need to give love and feel loved. Both are important."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What kind of woman came to the well?
2. Did Jews talk to Samaritans?
3. Did Jesus talk to her?
4. What did Jesus say He could give the woman?
5. Did the woman want to live forever?
6. How did Jesus say God wants us to serve Him?
7. Did the woman believe Jesus was the Christ?
8. Who did the woman tell about Jesus?
9. Did more people believe Jesus was Christ?

LESSON TEXT: John 4:4-42.

(Answers: 1. A Samaritan woman. 2. No. 3. Yes. 4. Living water. 5. Yes. 6. With our spirit and in truth. 7. Yes. 8. The men in the city. 9. Yes.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 Dec. 15, 2002

DO AS JESUS SAYS

As Jesus went through Galilee a ruler came to him. The ruler said, "Lord, please come down and heal my son. He is about to die."

Jesus said, "You will not believe in Me unless I do miracles."

The man said, "Lord, come down or my child will die."

Jesus said to the man, "Go home. Your son is well."

The man believed Jesus. He did as Jesus said. He went home. As he was going his servants came and met him. They said, "Your son is well."

The man asked them, "When did he start to get better?"

The servants told him, "It was about the seventh hour yesterday."

The man knew that it was at that very time that Jesus had said, "Your son is well." He believed in Jesus and all the people in his house believed too.

Jesus went to Jerusalem. There was in Jerusalem a pool of water called Bethesda. Many sick people lay around this pool. At a certain time an angel from God came down and made the water move. Whoever was the first to get into the water after it moved became well.

Jesus came to the pool. He saw a man who had been sick for thirty-eight years.

Jesus said to him, "Do you want to be well?"

The man said, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the water when it moves. While I am trying to get there someone else gets in before me."

Jesus said, "Get up. Pick up your bed and walk."

Right away the man was made well. He did as Jesus said. He picked up his bed and walked. That day was the sabbath day.

The Jews saw the man carrying his bed. They said to him, "It is wrong for you to be carrying your bed on the sabbath."

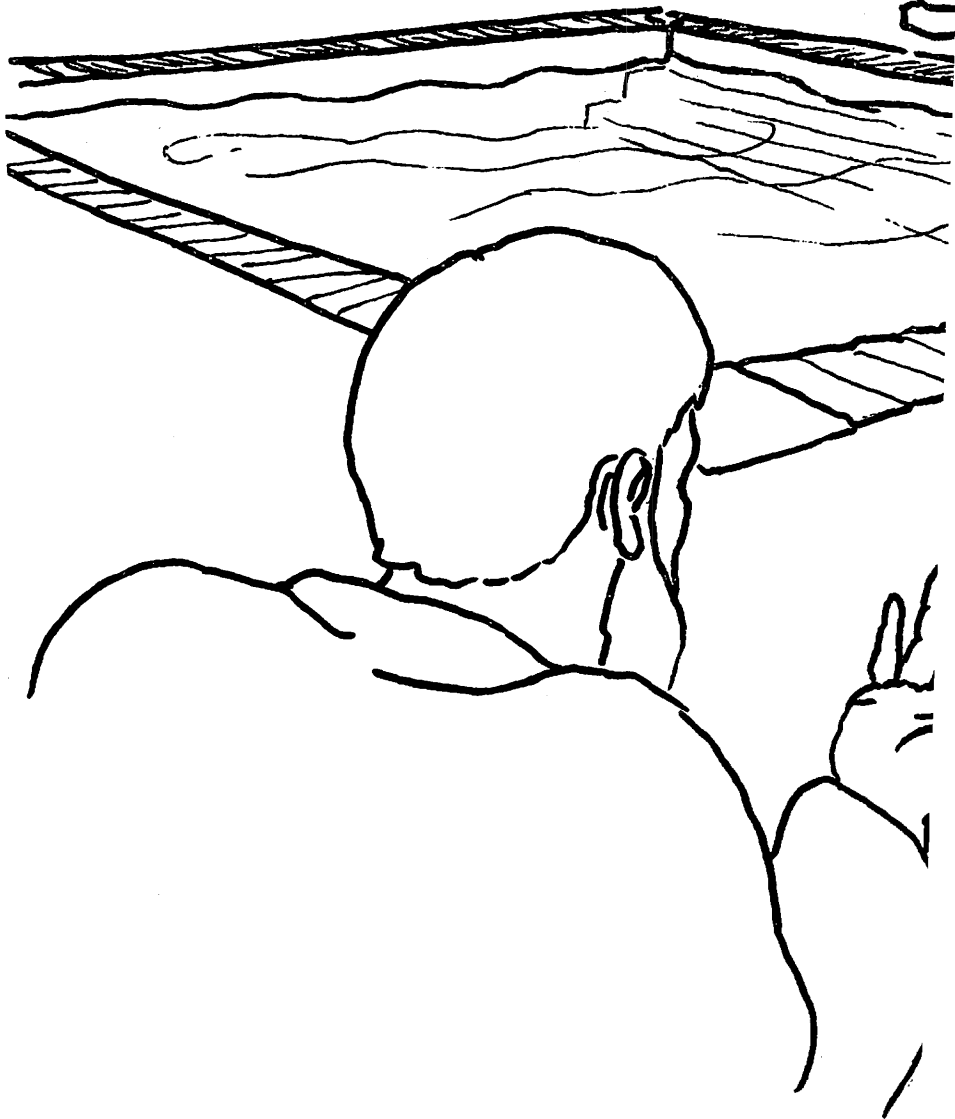
The man said to them, "The man who made me well told me to pick up my bed and walk."

The Jews asked him who had made him well. The man did not know who it was.

Later, Jesus found the man in the temple and said to him, "You are well now. Don't sin anymore or something worse may happen to you."

—Joanna Booher

Rise, take up thy
bed, and walk.
And...the man...took
up his bed, and
walked. John 5:8-9.





The Greatest Gift Of All

In family worship, Mother read to Jerry, Linda and Randy about the children in China who hear the story of baby Jesus from American missionaries. Chinese children can not attend Sunday school freely like Americans because it is against the law in China. Even missionaries are arrested if they are caught teaching about Jesus.

"What can we do to help the children in China?" Linda asked her mother.

"First of all, we need to pray for them that the Lord will help them. Then we can send Christmas Care packages to them through the Voice of the Martyrs. If we will get a shoebox and fill it with simple toys and basic clothing articles, then VOM men and women are willing to risk their lives to take these to Chinese children. Also, we need to give money to pay for a Chinese New Testament to be tucked into each shoe box. In this way, children in China can learn about Jesus and celebrate His birth."

"Oh, let's make the boxes!" exclaimed Jerry and Linda together.

"What kind of toys do they need?" asked Randy.

"Okay, we need to get four big shoe boxes," said Mother. "I will make a box for baby Allen to send. We can put small balls, colors and a color book, and a doll or car for a girl or boy. Linda can put in her box girl's underclothes and the boys can put boys' underclothes in theirs. We wrap the lid separate from the big box so that the VOM staff member can check each box

and put the New Testament in it."

"It also says we can put a picture of ourselves in the box," said Jerry who was reading over his mother's shoulder.

Eagerly, the children started on their projects. In a couple of days, they had everything ready to take. Even baby Allen had his picture tucked in his box.

"Before we take these boxes," said Mother, "We should pray over them and ask Jesus to bless the ones who will receive them. We want them to see the love of Jesus and accept Him as their Saviour."

Together the family prayed for the Chinese children who need Jesus to give them hope and peace in their lives. Giving the Love of Jesus is the Greatest Gift of all.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who did the ruler say was sick?
2. What did Jesus tell the ruler to do?
3. Did the ruler do as Jesus said?
4. Was the ruler's son made well?
5. What kind of people lay around the pool called Bethesda?
6. Did the man who had been sick thirty-eight years want to be well?
7. Did the man do what Jesus told him to?
8. Was the man made well?
9. What did Jesus tell the man not to do anymore?

LESSON TEXT: John 4:46-53; 5:1-14.

(Answers: 1. His son. 2. Go home. 3. Yes. 4. Yes. 5. Sick people. 6. Yes. 7. Yes. 8. Yes. 9. Sin.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 Dec. 22, 2002

HIS NAME IS JESUS

In the beginning was JESUS. JESUS was with God in the beginning. JESUS was God. Everything was made by JESUS. Nothing was made without him.

Over two thousand years ago, King Herod ruled Judea. In that time God sent His special messenger angel, Gabriel, to earth. Gabriel came to a girl named Mary and said to her, "Hail, you are blessed among women."

Mary was afraid and wondered what this angel would say.

Gabriel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. God has favored you. You are going to have a baby and you will call Him JESUS. God's Holy Spirit will give you this child. That is why this son will be called God's Son."

Mary was engaged to a man named Joseph. An angel came from God to Joseph also. The angel said, "Joseph, the baby Mary is going to have is from God's Holy Spirit. You will name this baby JESUS and He will save people from their sins."

The emperor of that time, Caesar Augustus, made a law that everyone must go back to their hometown to pay taxes. Joseph and Mary were both from Bethlehem so they went there. Mary was soon going to have her baby.

There were many people in Bethlehem and Joseph could not find an inn for them. Finally, someone let them stay in a stable where the animals were kept.

That night JESUS, God's Son, was born on earth. Mary wrapped her little baby in swaddling clothes and laid Him in the manger.

Shepherds came to see JESUS. They said that angels had appeared out of heaven to tell them about this baby. The angels said, "Glory to God and peace to men."

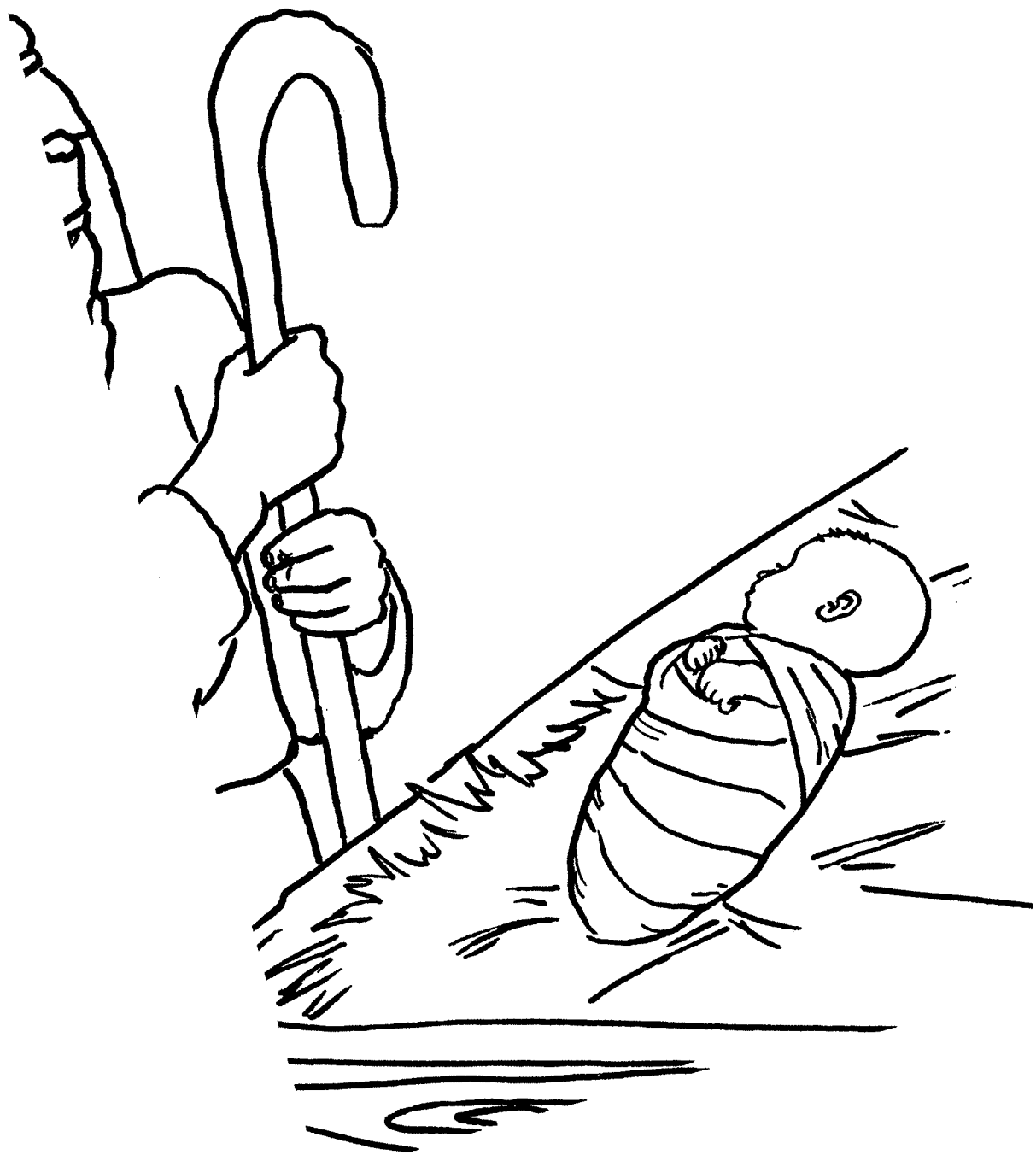
Rich and wise men came from far away to see JESUS. They said they had followed a star that moved in the sky. The star was a sign that the King of the Jews was born and it stopped right over where JESUS was.

JESUS was God, come to earth as a person. JESUS was God's Son and did what God said. He died for our sins. JESUS is King forever in heaven.

—Joanna Booher

In the beginning was the
Word...and the Word was
God. John 1:1.





Big Family Christmas

Grandpa and Grandma were happy to see Jerry, Linda, Randy and baby Allen. Like usual at Christmas time, their house smelled of baked pumpkin pies and roasting turkey. Oranges, apples and nuts were in a big bowl in the center of the dining room table and a poinsettia was at each end on the white lace table cloth.

Friendly talk and laughter filled the house as aunts, uncles and cousins learned what was happening in each other's lives. The children circled around the mound of packages stacked neatly in the corner of the living room. Each child knew that one gift had his or her name on it so a grand search was underway to find "my" gift.

Finally, Grandma called out, "Time to eat!" As everyone gathered into the kitchen, Grandpa looked about his family with gratitude in his heart. "Let us give thanks unto the Lord for He is good," said Grandpa. Quiet peace slipped into the room as old and young alike bowed their heads before the Lord of lords and King of kings.

Grandpa thanked the Father for sending His son, a little humble baby, who later died on a cruel cross for the salvation of souls. "May we each one know You as our personal Saviour," prayed Grandpa, "and give You the gift of our lives in service to You. Amen."

Soon everyone had heaping platefuls of food and they ate and ate and ate. Later in the evening the family sat down in the living room near the stack of gifts.

"It is time to read the Christmas story," said Grandpa as he opened his faithful, tattered Bible to Luke,

the second chapter. Grandma lit two candles and set them by Grandpa. Someone turned off the other lights and Grandpa read by candle light. Actually, Grandpa nearly had the verses memorized as he read about the ride to Bethlehem, the stable, the manger, the angels in the sky and the shepherds' visit to see baby Jesus.

After the reading, they sang Christmas songs and prayed again. At last, Grandpa began to hand out the gifts. Jerry, Linda and Randy were excited when they handed Grandma and Grandpa their small package. "Oh, you all sang and talked on a cassette tape for us!" exclaimed Grandma when she opened it.

"We will treasure this personal gift that you made us!"

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. How long has Jesus been alive?
2. Is Jesus God?
3. Who created everything?
4. Where did the angel come from that came to Mary?
5. Who did Gabriel say Mary was going to get her baby from?
6. Where was Jesus, God's Son, born?
7. Who did the shepherds say had appeared out of heaven?
8. What did the wise men say had stopped right over Jesus?
9. Where is Jesus now?

LESSON TEXT: Matt. 1:20-21; 2:1-2, 9-11; Luke 1:26-35; 2:1-18; John 1:1-3.

(Answers: 1. Since the beginning. 2. Yes. 3. Jesus. 4. From God. 5. God's Holy Spirit. 6. In a stable. 7. Angels. 8. A star. 9. In heaven.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 Dec. 29, 2002

THE LUNCH THAT WENT A LONG WAY

Jesus had twelve disciples He called "apostles." He sent them out two by two to preach in other cities. He gave them power to cast devils out of people and heal people.

The apostles went into many cities. They preached that people should repent of their sins. They cast out devils and anointed people with oil and healed them.

When the apostles came back from preaching, Jesus said to them, "Come into a quiet place away from the people and rest."

Jesus took His disciples across the sea of Galilee to a desert place. Many people saw Him leaving and went around the sea. They met Jesus and His disciples on the other side. Jesus saw the people and felt pity for them. He began to teach them many things.

The day passed and it was late. Jesus' disciples said to Him, "Send the people away. They need to go into the little towns to buy food."

Jesus said, "Give the people food to eat."

The disciples said, "Even if we had thirty dollars to spend for food it wouldn't be enough." There were five thousand people there.

Jesus said, "How many loaves of bread do you have?"

Andrew said, "There is a little boy here who has five loaves of bread and two fishes. But what are they among so many?"

Jesus said, "Make the people sit down."

Jesus took the loaves of bread and fishes. He thanked His Father for the food. He broke the bread and fishes and gave them to His disciples. His disciples gave them to the people. Jesus kept giving out more and more bread and fish.

The people ate and ate until they were full. Jesus said to His disciples, "Pick up all the pieces that the people couldn't eat. Let's not waste it."

The disciples picked up all the scraps and filled twelve baskets with them. The people were amazed at this miracle that Jesus did. They said, "This is surely that prophet that God promised to send."

—Joanna Booher

And
we



did all eat, and
ed. Mark 6:42.



The Lord's Goodness

It was late at night and all the family was in bed. They had already prayed together. Mother had tucked Randy and Allen in their own beds. She had talked with Jerry while he was in bed, but Linda had her bedroom door shut so Mother just called "good-night" to her.

The tick of the grandfather clock in the hallway echoed through the warm house as the heater turned on and off. Cold wind blew about the house and whistled through cracks around doors or windows. Now and then a tree branch from an oak tree brushed against the house.

Mother laid in bed thinking about the day, the past week, the past year and how the Lord had blessed them. Jesus had healed Dad when he was sick, saved Jerry from sin, blessed Linda with new friends, helped Randy in school and gave them baby Allen to love. All the family was healthy and growing in the goodness of the Lord. What a mighty God to serve! With thanksgiving in her heart, Mother was just dozing off to sleep when...BANG! BANG! BANG!

Someone seemed to be pounding on their front door! Mother sat straight up and listened carefully. BANG! BANG! BANG!

There was the pounding again!

Quickly Mother sprang out of bed and went to her bedroom door. Listening closely, she heard noises coming from Linda's bedroom! Someone was in Linda's bedroom! As Mother hurried toward Linda's room, she picked up the iron from the ironing board in the hall. She would smack whoever it was on top of his head!

When Mother swung open Linda's door, she found her daughter stand-

ing on her bed, hitting her closet door with a broomstick handle.

"What is going on in here?" demanded Mother.

"Oh, Mother, I heard rattling papers in my closet and when I looked, I found this thief eating my Christmas candy." Then Linda hit the closet door with the broom. BANG! BANG! BANG!

"You get out of there, you sneaky mouse! I won't have you eating my candy!"

Mother just put down the iron and laughed. "Thank you, Lord," she said, "for protecting my family from real harm and dangers."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What did the apostles preach to people and tell them to do?
2. Who gave the apostles power to cast out devils and heal?
3. Why did Jesus take the apostles across the sea to a quiet place?
4. What did the people do when they saw Jesus crossing the sea?
5. What did Jesus feel for the people?
6. What did the disciples think Jesus should do to the people when it was late?
7. What did Jesus think they should do for the people?
8. How many loaves and fishes did the little boy have?
9. Was Jesus able to feed the people with that?

LESSON TEXT: Mark 6:7, 30-44; John 6:1-14.

(Answers: 1. Repent. 2. Jesus. 3. To rest. 4. Followed him. 5. Pity. 6. Send them away. 7. Feed them. 8. Five loaves, two fishes. 9. Yes.)