

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 July 3, 2005

THE SPURNED INVITATIONS

"The Kingdom of God will be taken from you!" Jesus declared, "and given to a people who bring forth good fruits." The chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables and thought that Jesus was speaking about them. They thought about killing Him but so many people were gathered around Jesus and listening to him teach that they were afraid.

Jesus explained what He had told them through a parable. This parable was about a king who had arranged a marriage for his son. "Servant, go and tell those that I have invited to the supper that everything is ready. My oxen and cattle are prepared and all of the things are ready."

The servant returned with the news that they would not come. The king decided to try again. He sent out his servant with invitations.

Once again the servant was met with excuses. "I have just purchased a piece of property. I must see to it. Please excuse me," one of the guests refused.

"I have recently bought five yoke of oxen. I need to see to them," one declined.

"I have just got married. I cannot come," one excused himself.

These people treated the king's servants terribly and even killed them. When the king heard about this, he was furious. His armies were called to destroy the murderers. Their cities were burned up.

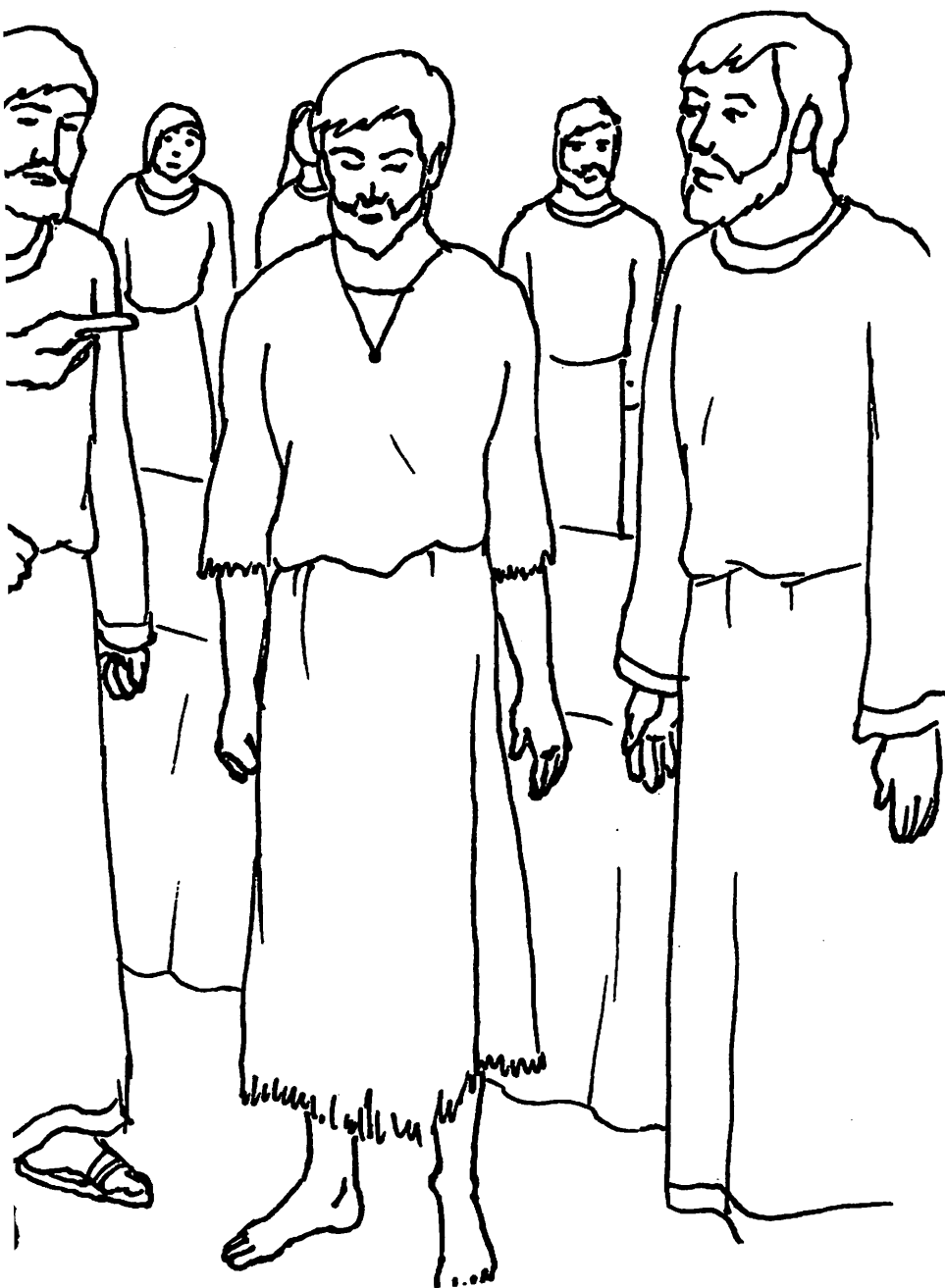
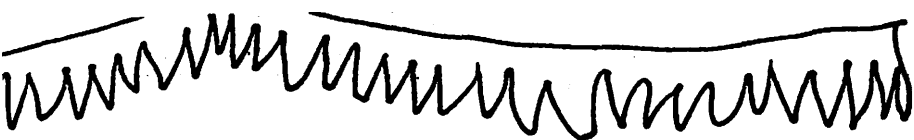
"The wedding is ready," the king said to a servant. "Those who were invited were not worthy. Go to the highways and invite whoever you find to come to the marriage."

So the servants did as they were bid. However the king found one man who was a problem. He did not have on a proper wedding garment. "Why did you come without a garment?" the king asked. "Bind this man up and throw him into outer darkness where there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

—Monica Murphey



"...He saw a man which
had not on a wedding gar-
ment." Matthew 22:11.



Special Blessings

(Continued from last week.)

After the loss of their four sweet daughters, Horatio and Anna Spafford became more involved in helping the poor people of Chicago. The Great Fire that had swept through the city left many homeless or with bare shanties to live in. With their friend, Dwight Moody, and others, they started serving a noon day meal to the needy at a shelter. Horatio would lead the men in worship songs and prayer. Anna did the same with the women.

To release some of his sorrow, Horatio wrote many poems and some of them were set to music by his good friend, Philip Bliss. These songs were sung at jail services, in hospital rooms and at the new tabernacle the Lord had provided for them.

"You know, Anna," said Horatio. "We do not know how long we will live. How can we devote our precious hours to accumulating riches that can disappear in a moment?"

"We should not," Anna replied. "Let us give all our time, money and talents to the Lord. The more we give to Him, the richer we are in spiritual blessings."

The Lord was pleased with their dedication to His work, and in time He did bless Horatio and Anna. On November 16, 1876, Horatio Goertner Spafford was born to them. How they rejoiced over his birth!

Then two years later, Bertha Hedges Spafford was born to them. Oh, Anna and Horatio were so happy! Once again their arms held their own children and their Lake View home rang with laughter.

Often in the evening before bedtime, Horatio would carry his two chubby little darlings through the house and talk to them about their big sisters in Heaven. Little Horatio would lay his head on his father's shoulder and quietly listen to the stories about the Ville du Havre shipwreck.

"We know Jesus is taking good care of your sisters," said his papa. "They would love to see you and your baby sister, but they are happy in Heaven."

"Where is Heaven, Papa?" asked little Horatio.

"Away up beyond the clouds," replied Papa. "Someday Jesus will take us all there to live with Him. We want to be a complete family around the throne of God." Then Papa held his son and daughter closer to his chest. "Right now, I am so *happy* to have you and your sister in my arms! May the Lord make your lives a special blessing to others."

When little Horatio was four-years-old and his sister was two, their father had to take care of some business away from Chicago. "Take the children to visit our relatives in the country," Horatio told his wife. "The country life will be good for my three special loved ones."

Anna agreed. She and the children kissed Horatio good-bye as they left in a carriage headed to the country. The business trip went well for Horatio and he was singing a little song of his as he went toward his room to wash for dinner.

"Mr. Spafford," called the hotel clerk. "I have a telegram for you."

Immediately, Horatio opened the telegram and his hand trembled. Anna had brought the children back to Lake View sick with scarlet fever!

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What was the king sending out invitations for?
2. How did the ones the king invited respond?
3. How did the ones invited respond the second time?
4. How did they treat the king's servant?
5. What did the king do to the ones who refused his invitations?
6. Who was the servant told to invite instead?
7. What was improper about one of the guests?
8. What did the king say to do with the man?

(Answers: 1. His son's wedding feast. 2. They refused to come. 3. They sent excuses. 4. They mistreated him and killed him. 5. He had his armies kill them and burned their cities. 6. Everyone he met. 7. He did not wear a wedding garment. 8. To throw him into outer darkness.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 July 10, 2005

BURNING LAMPS

"The Kingdom of heaven," Jesus proclaimed, "Is like ten righteous virgins."

Jesus told a parable of how the Kingdom of heaven was like these ten ladies who were going to meet the bridegroom at a wedding. Five of these ladies were wise, but five of them were foolish. The foolish ones took their lamps and did not take any oil. The wise virgins took oil in their lamps.

While the bridegroom got ready, these young women slept. At midnight, there was a loud cry. "The bridegroom is coming! Go out to meet him!"

All of the virgins woke up and got their lamps ready. Then the foolish virgins realized they had made a mistake. "Give us some of your oil. Our lamps are out," the foolish virgins pled to the wise.

"We will not! Then there will not be enough for us. Go to the merchants and buy some oil for yourself," the wise virgins advised.

So the foolish virgins went out to buy their oil. While they were gone the bridegroom came. The ones that were ready went in with him to the marriage. The door was shut.

When the five foolish virgins returned from buying their oil, they found that they were shut out.

"Lord, Lord, open the door for us," the foolish virgins cried.

"I do not know you," the bridegroom answered.

"Watch. You do not know the day or the hour when the Son of man will return," Jesus concluded this parable. Jesus often advises us, in the Bible, to watch and pray because no one knows for sure when He will come back. In one place, Jesus says that He will return as a "thief in the night." —Monica Murphey

"And while they went to buy,...the door was shut." Matthew 25:10.





Adding Treasures In Heaven

(Continued from last week.)

Horatio Spafford rushed to his hotel room and gathered up his belongings. He was at the train depot ready for the next train bound for Chicago. He had to get back to Anna and his precious son and daughter who were sick with scarlet fever. The train did not seem to move fast enough to Horatio.

At Lake View, Horatio found Dr. Hedges with his wife caring for their two very sick children. Because scarlet fever is contagious, other friends did not want to come into their home and risk catching it themselves. Besides, a heavy snowstorm was blowing huge snow drifts and making travel difficult.

Horatio took Anna in his arms as he looked upon their four-year-old son. Little Horatio lay motionless, struggling for every breath. His father choked back the tears as he asked, "Is there any thing more we can do for him?"

"Pray," replied Dr. Hedges. "Only Jesus can help him now."

Through the night Horatio and Anna took turns holding their little son. They prayed for him. Before the cold February morning came, little Horatio went to be with Jesus. He was happily singing with his four older sisters in heaven, but on earth his parents were crying. How they would miss his sweet little voice! Sadly, they tucked away his little wooden horses.

Prayerfully, Horatio and Anna cared for their two-year-old daughter. The Lord had mercy upon them and he healed little Bertha. By springtime she was still weak but able to sing and play again.

Taking up his pen, Horatio wrote a hymn of praise:

Long time I dared not say to Thee, O Lord, work Thou Thy will with me, But now so plain Thy love I see—I shrink no more from sorrow. So true, true and faithful is He, Kind is my Saviour; Alike in gladness and in woe, I thank Him who hath loved me so.

A few years before in their travels over seas, the Spaffords had met a professor who talked to them about visiting Jerusalem and the Sea of Galilee. He had made it sound so interesting that Horatio became interested in visiting Israel. However with all the business work he had to do and with Anna so involved helping with the poor, they had not had the time to travel to Israel.

One morning Horatio said, "Anna, I believe we ought to take a trip. Let's make plans to visit Jerusalem. Let's go where Jesus, the Man of Sorrows, lived. Perhaps we will find peace there."

Anna was tired and weary. She prayed for the Lord to give her strength to prepare for the long journey. Maybe they would relax in Jerusalem. She packed plenty of clothes for herself, her husband and for two little daughters. Baby Grace had been born to them that summer. Remembering her trip with four happy girls a few short years ago, Anna again boarded a ship to cross the Atlantic Ocean.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What did Jesus liken the Kingdom of heaven to in this parable?
2. What were these virgins preparing to do?
3. What did the five foolish virgins not do?
4. What did the five foolish virgins ask the wise at the appearing of the Bridegroom?
5. What did the wise virgins tell them to do?
6. What happened while they were gone?
7. What did the Bridegroom tell them?
8. What two things does Jesus advise us to do?

(Answers: 1. Ten virgins. 2. Meet the bridegroom. 3. Not bring oil for their lamps. 4. To give them oil. 5. Go buy some oil. 6. The bridegroom came and the door was shut. 7. That he did not know them. 8. Watch and pray.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 July 17, 2005

THE BURIED TALENT

Jesus likened the Kingdom of heaven to a man who was preparing to travel to a far country. The man called his servants to him and entrusted each servant with some of his goods. One servant received five talents. He entrusted another servant with two, and another with one. To each servant he gave what he felt he could trust them with. Then the man left on his journey.

While the man was gone the servant that received the five talents made five more. The servant that had the two talents made two more talents. The servant that received one talent dug a hole in the earth and buried it.

After many days the employer of the servants came and asked about his property.

"Lord, you gave me five talents. I give these back to you along with five more," the servant with five talents said to him.

"Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a few things so I will make you a ruler over many things," the man said to his servant. "Come and receive the joy of the Lord."

"You gave me two talents; here are two more besides those," the next servant said.

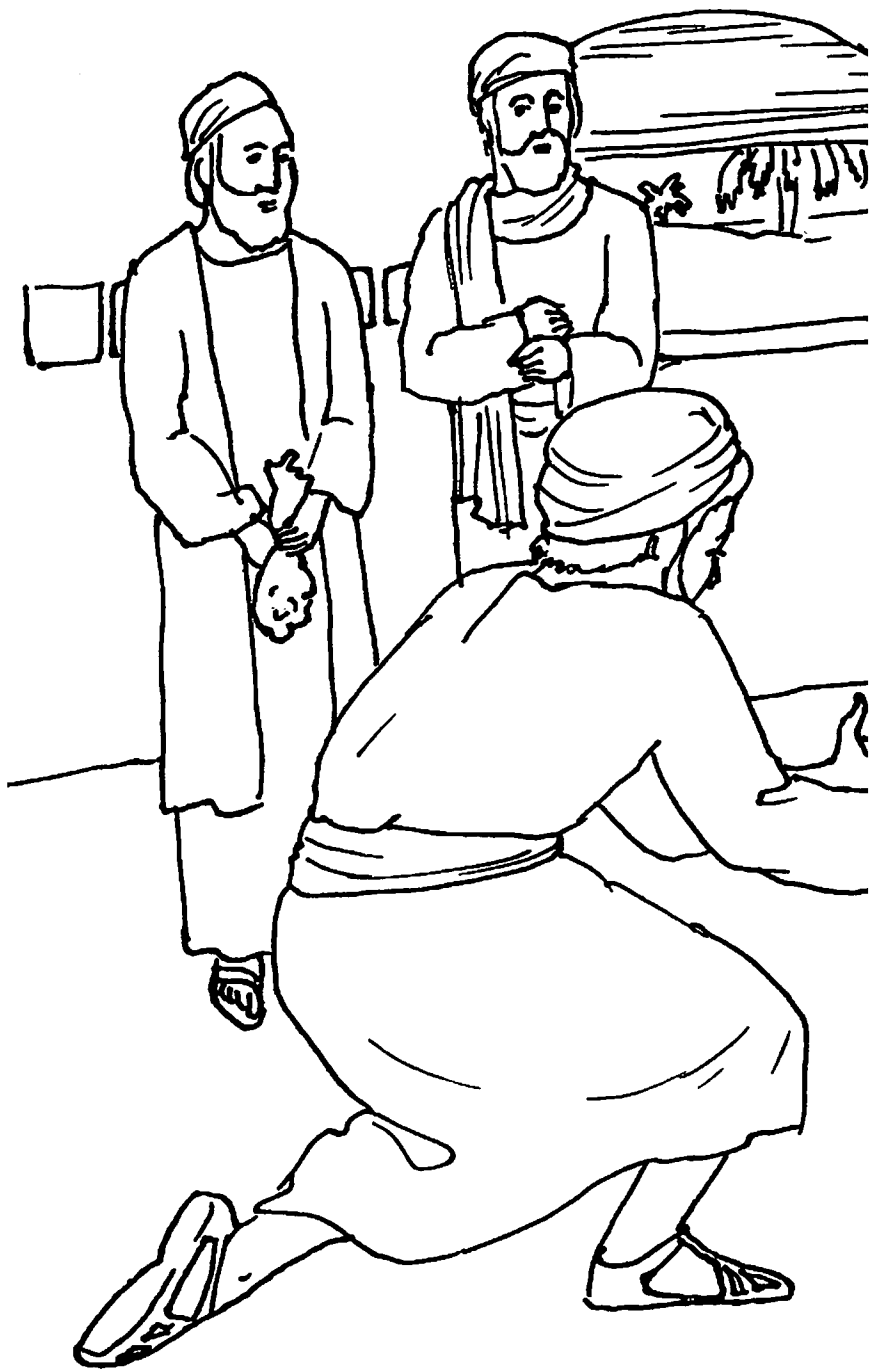
"Well done! You have been faithful over a few things, so I will make you a ruler over many. Come and receive the joy of the Lord," the man told this servant.

"Lord, I was afraid my talent would be lost so I buried it in the earth," the servant with one talent said.

"You are wicked and lazy. You ought to have put my money to good use. Take the talent from this man and give the talent to the man that had ten talents," the man commanded. "Cast this servant into outer darkness where there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

—Monica Murphey

“...Who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.” Matthew 25:14.





Reaching Jerusalem

(Continued from last week.)

In Jerusalem, the Spaffords did find a quiet retreat from the pressures of a big city like Chicago, Illinois. With the help of friends, Horatio bought a large, white house with stone walls three to five feet thick, with the normal flat roof and dome traditional at Jerusalem. It was located at the highest point of Jerusalem between the Damascus Gate and Herod's Gate. From their front door, the Spafford's had a wonderful view of the ancient city.

Beside their house were two smaller houses with gardens surrounded by a nice white wall. A nephew of Horatio's, Rob Lawrence, lived in one of the houses and Horatio's sister, Maggie Lee, lived in the other. Other American friends joined them on the hillside and soon the group was called, The American Colony.

Their first year in Jerusalem, the Spaffords had to learn new languages and customs. Rob learned to speak Arab very quickly and translated for the rest of them. Horatio and the other men began to teach English in nearby schools. In time they invited students to the American Colony for *Bible* studies. Important Jewish rabbis and rich Arabian sheiks came to these studies. They asked many questions and the Lord helped Horatio to answer them by the *Bible*.

One afternoon in 1880 Horatio took Anna and his daughters on a picnic. They were enjoying the view from the hillside when a friendly Muslim man came to chat. He watched in amazement as Anna fed baby Grace with a bottle and rubber nipple.

"My mother has twin baby girls who are very sickly," he told Anna. "Maybe drinking milk from a bottle like this would help them."

Anna took some canned milk and one of Grace's bottles to the mother. She showed her how to fill it and feed the babies. In two days the twins were stronger and healthier.

Word quickly spread that Anna had

helped the babies. Soon other mothers began to come to the big white house on the hill for help and counsel about child training. Anna and her friends taught classes on child care, cleanliness and housekeeping. During the lessons, Anna taught the Muslim and Jewish women songs about Jesus. She read the *Bible* and had prayer with them.

On Sunday many different kinds of people would come to the big white house to hear the beautiful singing of gospel songs. Mostly they sang in English but some they translated into other languages. Miss Clara Brooke lived by the Spaffords and she was a blessing in song writing and language translation. Even little Bertha and Grace learned to sing about Jesus in other languages. Their Sunday dinner guests would often be Muslims, Jews, Russian pilgrims, Spanish priests, French tourists, English professors, German doctors.

The Gospel was received with respect but no Jew or Muslim wanted to become a Christian for fear of persecution. One day an eighteen-year-old boy named Maarouf asked to be a Christian. He repented of his sins, was baptized and rejoiced in the blessings of salvation. His stepfather was furious.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What was the Kingdom of heaven likened to in this parable?
2. What did the man give each servant?
3. What did the man with the five talents do?
4. What did the man with two talents do?
5. What did the Lord of these men tell the men with five and two talents?
6. What did the man with one talent do?
7. What did the Lord tell him?
8. What was to be done with the man?

(Answers: 1. A man preparing to travel on a far journey. 2. What he felt he could trust each man with. 3. Made five more talents. 4. Made two more talents. 5. "Well done, good and faithful servant." 6. Buried it. 7. "You are wicked and lazy." 8. Cast into outer darkness.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 July 24, 2005

JESUS STILLS A STORM AND CASTS OUT DEVILS

Jesus got on a ship and His disciples followed Him. While they were out, a great storm arose. The ship was covered with waves. While this storm was going on, Jesus slept.

His disciples came and woke Him up. "Lord, save us! We are going to die," His disciples pleaded.

"Why are you afraid? You have little faith," Jesus replied. Then He stood up and rebuked the wind and the sea. The storm was stopped. The waves stilled.

"Who is this man? Even the winds and the seas obey Him," Jesus' disciples wondered.

When they came to the other side to the country of the Gergesenes, they met a man possessed with devils who lived among the tombs. He was so fierce that people were scared to come near.

"What have we to do with You, Jesus, Son of God? Have you come to torment us?" the devils inside the man asked.

Not too far away was a herd of pigs. "If you cast us out, let us go into the herd of pigs," the devils pled. And Jesus said, "Go."

The devils went into the swine. The whole herd ran down a steep hill into the sea where they were drowned in the waters.

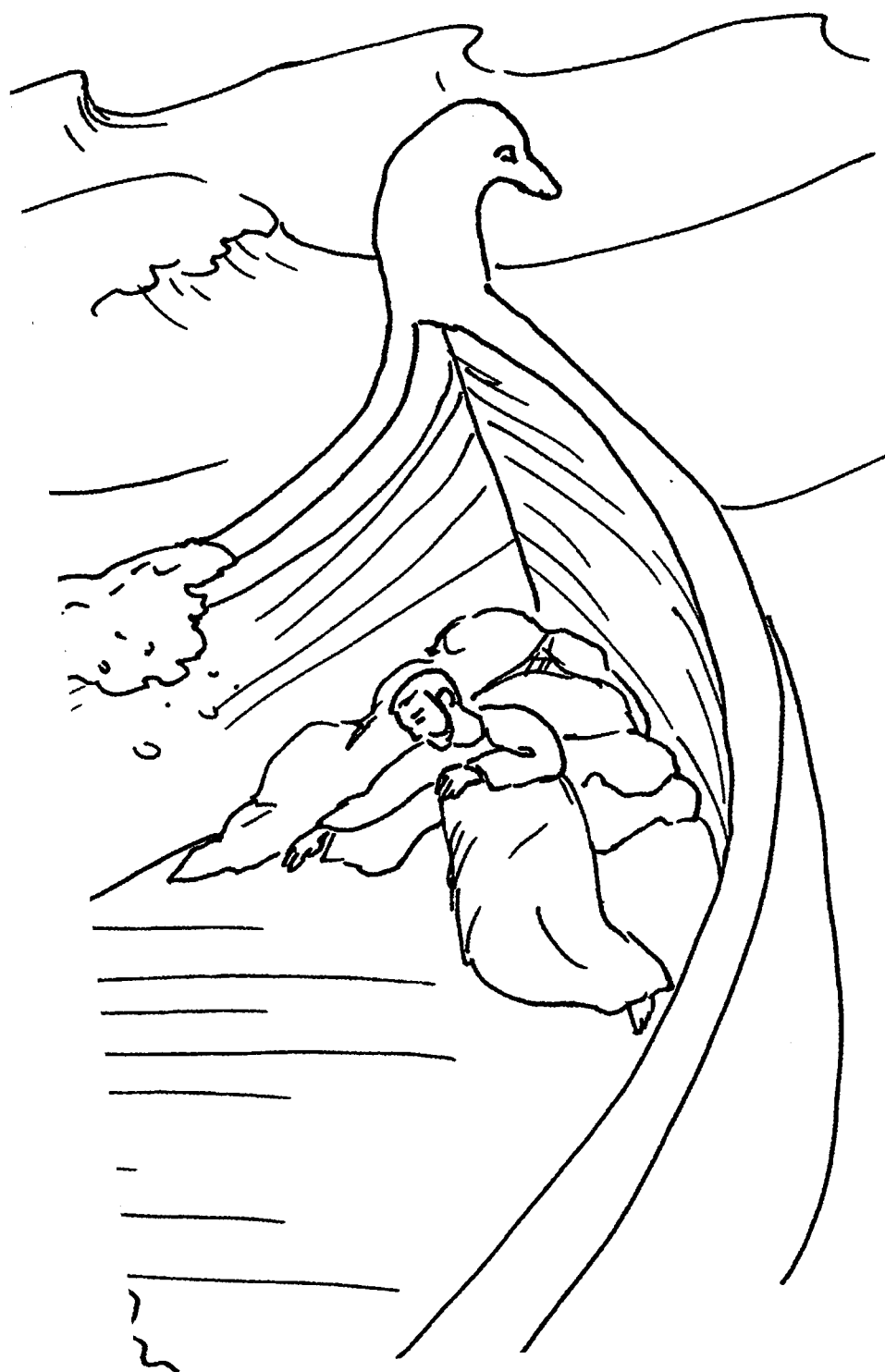
Word of the miracle got out to those who lived in the city. The whole city came out to meet Jesus. When they saw Him they asked Him to leave.

Jesus went to His own country and taught in the synagogue. The people of His town were amazed. "Is not this the son of Mary and Joseph?" they wondered. They were offended that Jesus taught them. "A prophet has respect, but not in his own country," Jesus said.

—Monica Murphey

"...The ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep." Matthew 8:24.





Maarouf's Bold Faith

(Continued from last week.)

Maarouf, an eighteen-year-old boy, was the first Muslim in Horatio's *Bible* study to accept Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour. Horatio instructed him in the ways of the Lord and baptized him. They had prayer together before he went home.

Maarouf's stepfather was furious! "It is alright to be a friend to a Christian," he said angrily, "but is wrong to be a Christian. You have disgraced our family and you must apologize for believing in anyone but Ali. I will arrange for your apology to be made public!"

"I cannot apologize," replied Maarouf quietly. "I feel at peace with God now."

His stepfather flew into a rage! He hit and kicked Maarouf until Maarouf's mother begged for his life. "I will not kill him," said the stepfather, "but he must not believe in Jesus!"

One night, as the Spafford family and friends sat down to eat supper together, a messenger arrived with a note. *I am leaving tonight with the Turkish military for Damascus. Maarouf*

Horatio stood up from the table. "We must go immediately to the Jaffa Gate and pray with Maarouf!" he said.

Supper was forgotten as everyone hurried to see Maarouf before he would leave. They found Maarouf guarded by rough, cold-eyed Turkish soldiers. Maarouf was glad to see his Christian friends. "My stepfather enlisted me in the Turkish army because I would not apologize for accepting Jesus Christ," said Maarouf quietly. "Please pray for me. These Turks are very devout Muslims."

In spite of the harsh looks from the Turkish soldiers, Horatio and his friends gathered around Maarouf and said a quick, quiet prayer with him. They watched as his hands were tied behind his back and he was pushed away from their company.

His hands were never untied while Maarouf marched 300 miles. The cruel soldiers beat him often and, because he remained faithful to Jesus, he was left in solitary con-

finement and nearly starved to death.

Kept in a Damascus prison, Maarouf prayed to his friend, Jesus Christ. He did not know a complete song to sing nor had he memorized any *Bible* verses but Maarouf knew Jesus had given him peace and soul happiness. He clung to his peace and love of Jesus.

Sometimes he was able to write Horatio a note: *I am waiting on the dear Lord for deliverance. Anyway He wants it; only may I glorify His name in this thing.* His Christian friends prayed daily for him.

Five years past. Late one night Horatio heard heavy pounding on his front door. He lit an oil lamp, grabbed his stout walking stick, and threw open the door. "Who is it at this time of the night?" he demanded.

A filthy, heavily bearded Turkish soldier answered, "I am Maarouf."

Horatio welcomed Maarouf home. That night he bathed, ate and slept in a clean bed for the first time in years. Next morning all his Christian family was excited to see him. He told them about his beatings but they did not ever take Jesus Christ away from him. Horatio bowed his head in praise. "Oh, Lord, may I be a man who loves you as Maarouf does," he prayed.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What happened while Jesus was on the ship?
2. Where was Jesus during the storm?
3. What did Jesus tell His disciples when they woke Him?
4. Who did Jesus meet in the town they came to?
5. Where were the devils cast?
6. What happened to the pigs?
7. Where did Jesus teach in the synagogue?
8. Where did Jesus say a prophet had no respect?

(Answers: 1. A storm arose. 2. Asleep. 3. "You have little faith." 4. A man possessed of devils. 5. Into a herd of pigs. 6. They were drowned. 7. In his own country. 8. In his own country.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 July 31, 2005

JAIRUS' DAUGHTER

When Jesus came back from casting the devils out of the man who lived among the tombs, the people were glad to see Him. They were waiting on Jesus because an important leader in the synagogue had a daughter that was dying. When Jairus saw Jesus, he fell at Jesus' feet. "Please come to my dying daughter," he begged. As Jesus walked to Jairus' house, many people followed and surrounded him.

Among the people surrounding Jesus was a woman who had been afflicted with a disease for twelve years. She had spent all of her money getting opinions and help from doctors but none of them gave her any hope of healing for her disease. This poor lady came up behind Jesus and touched His robe. Immediately, her disease was healed.

"Who touched me?" Jesus wondered.

"Master, there is a large crowd gathered around You, pressing You on every side, and You ask who touched You?" Peter inquired.

"Somebody touched Me. I felt it," Jesus replied.

The poor woman came trembling and fell down before Jesus. She told Jesus that she had touched His robe and that she had been healed.

"Your faith has made you whole. Go in peace," Jesus told the woman.

While Jesus was speaking, a man had come from Jairus's house. "Your daughter is dead. Do not worry the Master any longer," the man informed Jairus.

"Do not fear, only believe, and she will be made whole," Jesus told Jairus. "She is not dead, but sleeping," Jesus said when He saw the girl. Jesus asked everyone to leave the room. He took the dead girl by the hand and called, "Arise!" The girl rose and asked for meat. Her parents were amazed, but Jesus asked them to tell no others.

—Monica Murphey





"A woman...came
behind him, and
touched the
border of his
garment:..."
Luke 8:43-44.

An Historic Trip

(Continued from last week.)

"Anna, the great Sheik of the Bedouins has invited us to come and visit his people," Horatio said to his wife.

Anna raised her eyebrows. "Do you think it is safe to go into those mountains?"

"Of course! Sheik Flaz is sending his warriors to escort us. No one, not even the Turks, will dare to bother a Bedouin warrior!"

Anna smiled. "I know. But it is so distant and away from everyone..."

"I know," agreed Horatio, "but we need time away from Jerusalem. Especially you, Anna. With the cholera epidemic spreading through the city, you have overworked to nurse the sick and pray with the dying. Even our own little Bertha was so sick. Now that she is better, she needs to get away for a season also. I believe we should leave little Grace with my sister, for we won't stay too long."

So one November morning in 1884, a caravan of donkeys and camels left from the big white house on the hillside. Walking beside the many animals were Bedouin warriors dressed only in loin cloths. Each warrior had his own knife, sword and pistol. They took their command to guard the travelers seriously.

The line of travelers went past the Mount of Olives, where brilliant flowers of many colors bloom all the time under twisted nine-hundred-year-old olive trees. They went by peaceful Bethany where Jesus had once visited Lazarus and his two sisters. They paused to let the donkeys and camels drink at the Apostle's Fountain. Then they descended to Jericho as the weather grew hotter.

"Our friend, Abu, lives outside of Jericho," Horatio told his escorts. "It would be better for us to stay with him for the night."

Abu welcomed the caravan of travelers and let them camp over night by

his orange, lemon and banana groves. After a refreshing night of rest, they prepared to cross the muddy, rushing Jordan River. Using a small raft ferry, they took turns crossing the same river that John the Baptist had baptized Jesus in hundreds of years ago.

As they neared the mountains, shepherds and their families came to meet the Christians. They were servants of Sheik Flaz. They were to make a meal for the travelers. That evening the Spaffords ate the same kind of supper that Father Abraham had eaten so many times in his life. They had fattened calf served in a big bowl from which everyone dipped into with freshly baked flat bread.

As night shadows lengthened, the Spaffords watched as Bedouin warriors and shepherds pulled their knives from their sheaths. "What are they doing?" whispered Anna nervously.

"They are going to dance around the fire," replied Horatio, as he drew his wife and daughter close to him. No doubt the wild dancers thought they were entertaining their guests, but that night their Christian friends were praying and thanking Jesus Christ for victory over the devil who causes such gross darkness.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Why were the people waiting on Jesus?
2. What did the sick woman do?
3. What happened when she touched Jesus' robe?
4. What did Jesus tell the woman?
5. What bad news did the man from Jairus's house tell them?
6. What did Jesus say when He saw the girl?
7. What did Jesus tell the girl to do?
8. How did her parents feel?

(Answers: 1. Jairus had a sick daughter. 2. Touched Jesus' robe. 3. She was healed. 4. "Your faith has made you whole." 5. His daughter was dead. 6. "She is not dead, but sleeping." 7. "Arise!" 8. Amazed.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 Aug. 7, 2005

THE DANCE OF DEATH

John the Baptist had been arrested because of his outspoken words against the king. King Herod's wife, Herodias, hated John the Baptist. Herod bound him and put him in prison. Herodias was the wife of King Herod's brother, Phillip, but she left Phillip and went to live with King Herod.

"It is not lawful for you to be with her," John would say to King Herod. This made Herodias furious. King Herod wanted to put John to death but a good many people liked John and King Herod was afraid of what they would do if John were killed.

A birthday party was going on. It was King Herod's birthday. Salome, the daughter of Herodias, pleased King Herod by dancing for him.

"I promise that I will give you whatever you ask for," King Herod told Salome.

Herodias told Salome what to say. "Give me the head of John the Baptist on a platter," Salome requested.

King Herod did not want to do this but he had promised. The evil deed was done and Salome gave her prize to her mother.

John's disciples came and took his body. They buried him and then went and told Jesus. The news of John the Baptist's death was a terrible blow to Jesus. Jesus went on a ship to an isolated spot so He could be alone.

Jesus' admirers heard about where He had gone and followed Him. When He saw the multitude of people, He felt sorry for them. He healed their sick. . . . —Monica Murphey



“...The daughter of Herodia
before them,...” Matthew 14



Ancient Sins Still Evil

(Continued from last week.)

After a difficult, rocky climb into the mountains of Moab, Horatio, Anna, and Bertha Spafford felt like they had left all familiar ways of life behind them. The village of Heshben was a cluster of many tents surrounding Sheik Fiaz's huge tent. Brawny guards escorted them to the sheik's magnificent tent, 150 feet long and woven of goat hair.

Anna and Bertha stayed with the queen who had servants wash their feet and care for their comfort. Horatio was escorted toward Sheik Fiaz's section. His feet were also washed by servants before he met the chieftain. Sheik Fiaz was a fat man dressed in silk, satin and sparkling jewels. He sat on a colorful Persian rug with huge red satin pillows about his back and sides. Sitting on other Persian rugs nearby were his closest male family members. They motioned for Horatio to sit down beside them.

Through signs and short phrases, Sheik Fiaz let Horatio know he welcomed him as a brother. He had heard how Horatio, Anna and their Christian friends so carefully tended to the many sick in Jerusalem. He wanted to know why they helped strangers.

Limited in speaking their language, Horatio let them know about God and His Son, Jesus Christ. Oh, how Horatio wanted to explain more easily about the wonderful Messiah who had come to that very land as God had promised He would come!

It had been in those very mountains that Moses had heard the voice of God giving the ten commandments. Moses had led the Israelites out of bondage and wrote for them the laws of God. These people were descendants of the Canaanites who had threatened Moses and the Israelites. The Canaanites had never learned about the true God so it was even harder to explain to them about His Son. Yet Horatio knew Jesus Christ had come and died for their sins also.

A huge feast was brought in on trays and spread out on mats before the men. There

was baked lamb and calf, flat breads and yeast breads, cakes of figs and raisins, sweets and strong coffee served in tiny cups. Indeed, Sheik Fiaz was a rich man in earthly possessions but Horatio soon learned how poor his spiritual life was.

After the meal, the dancing and the singing began. The songs were about the strength of the Bedouin warriors and how they conquered their enemies. They praised their military leaders and worshiped Sheik Fiaz. As the men danced around the fire, they waved knives and swords. Chanting and moving faster and faster their evil passions looked worse than ever to Horatio who was praying for protection.

Horatio jumped when women's voices sounded out of the darkness behind him. They echoed praises to the sheik as they began lustful dances before the men. Horatio shut his eyes and prayed for the morning to come soon. Ancient sins are just as evil today as they were back in the days when God gave the ten commandments for us to obey.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Why was John the Baptist arrested?
2. What was King Herod doing that was wrong?
3. Why didn't King Herod put John to death before?
4. What pleased the king at his party?
5. What did King Herod tell Salome she could have?
6. What did Salome ask for?
7. How did Jesus feel when He was told about John's death?
8. Was Jesus able to get some time alone?

(Answers: 1. He was too outspoken against the king. 2. He was with his brother's wife. 3. He was afraid of what John's followers would do. 4. Salome's dance. 5. Anything she asked for. 6. The head of John the Baptist on a platter. 7. Sorrowful. 8. No, the multitude followed Him.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 Aug. 14, 2005

FIVE THOUSAND ARE FED

After Jesus heard about John the Baptist's death, He escaped from the multitudes of people that followed Him into the desert for some time alone. However the people followed Him there. Jesus felt compassion for them and healed their sick. It began to grow late. "We are in a desert," one of the disciples informed Jesus. "Send the people away, so that they may go to buy food."

Jesus said, "They do not have to go. Give them something to eat."

"We only have five loaves and two fishes here," they told Jesus.

"Bring them to Me," Jesus demanded. "Sit down," Jesus told the people.

Jesus took the five loaves and two fishes. Looking up to heaven, He blessed the food. Jesus broke the loaves of bread and gave the loaves to His disciples to give to the multitude.

Everyone ate. They ate until they were full. They took the remaining food and put it into baskets. There were twelve baskets of food left over that day. There were about five thousand people in that crowd that were fed by the five loaves and two fishes.

Jesus sent everyone away. The disciples returned to their houses on a ship. Jesus went up into a mountain alone to pray. Meanwhile, a wind arose on the sea. The disciples' ship was tossed among the waves. Jesus went to His disciples, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the water, they were afraid. "It is a ghost!" they cried.

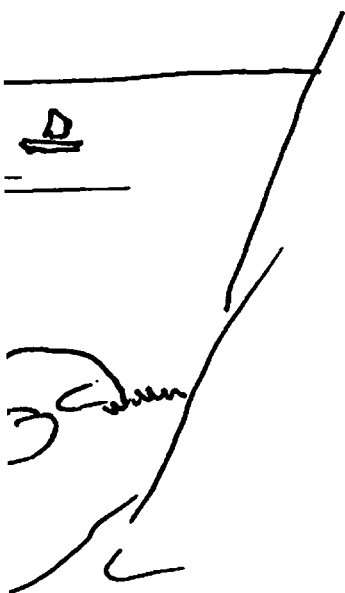
"Be of good cheer; it is I. Do not be afraid," Jesus advised.

Peter wanted to prove that this person was really Jesus. "If it is You, let me come to You on the water," Peter said. When he tried, he saw the wind was tossing the waves and he became afraid.

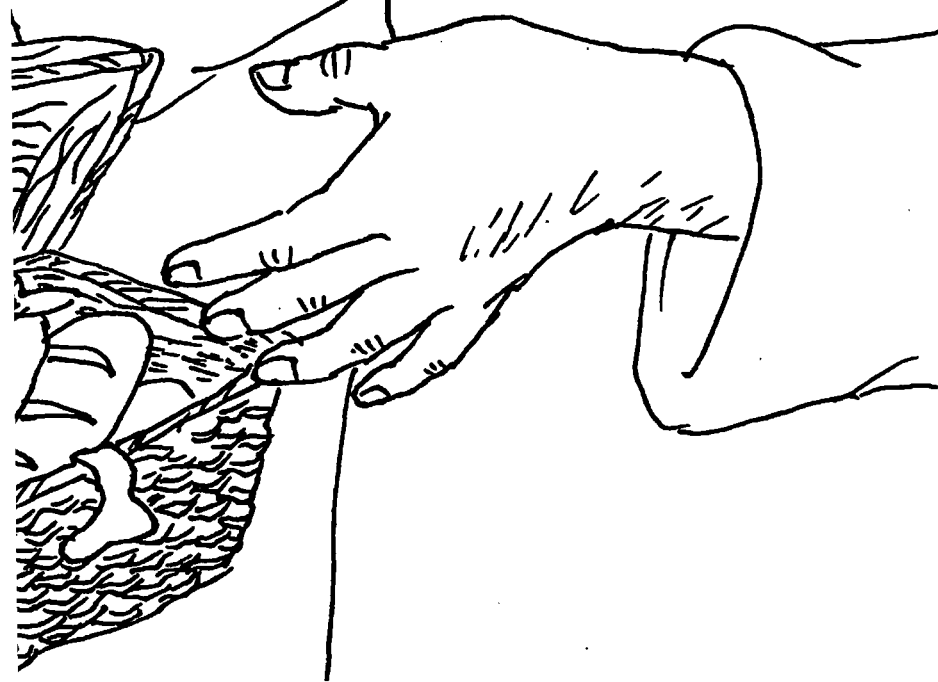
"Oh you of little faith," Jesus reproached Peter. "Why did you doubt?" When they reached the ship, the storm stopped. The disciples worshipped Jesus. "You are surely the Son of God," they rejoiced.

—Monica Murphey





"...We have...but five loaves, and two fishes." Matthew 14:17.



Counting The Blessings

(Continued from last week.)

"I am so glad to be back home in Jerusalem," Anna told Horatio. She hugged little Grace who was sitting on her lap while the family relaxed on the roof of their house. "The Lord protected us this last week. The Bedouins are fierce warriors and the only earthly protection we had was their leader's word that they would not harm us."

"You don't think I could have protected you, Honey?" teased Horatio, as he put his arms around his wife.

Anna smiled back at her husband. "I believe your prayers protected us."

They laughed together. "Now I know why Abraham claimed Sarah as his sister," said Horatio. "He was a very brave man to take his family and live by faith among such warring tribes. I see why the Lord blessed him for such faith."

"Here, Mama," said Bertha, handing her mother some white roses from a vine that had grown two stories high to the house top.

"Ah, this land still grows beautiful flowers and fruits," said Anna, sniffing the rose Bertha had given her. From the house top view, the Spaffords could see lemon, orange, almond, and mulberry trees and all kinds of grape vineyards. "When the Lord promised this Canaan land to Father Abraham and his family, He did truly give them a land *flowing with milk and honey*. It is sad that most of the people living here do not worship the true God and His Son, Jesus Christ."

"Yes, there is still a mixture a people here today," agreed Horatio. "The Muslims of the Islamic religion treat Jerusalem as one of their special cities also. Not only because Father Abraham sacrificed here to King Melchizedek, but also their prophet, Muhammad, conquered Jerusalem and started a false worship at the Mosque of the Dome of the Rock."

"But, Papa," said Bertha. "Jesus also lived here, and He taught all people to worship the true God. Right over there," she pointed, "is the hill of Golgotha where Jesus died for everyone's sins. Don't they know that?"

Horatio put his daughter on his lap. "By the grace of Jesus, we are telling this Truth to our Muslim friends," he said. "The Jews have not accepted Jesus as their Messiah and they need to hear the gospel also. We Christians have a lot of missionary work to do."

"I know you and Mama work very hard to help the sick, poor and needy people no matter what they believe, but the Jews and the Muslims don't like to help each other very much."

"It is because they don't have that love of Jesus in their hearts, Bertha," said her father. "Your cousin Rob has been such a blessing in translating my messages into Arabic so that the Muslims can understand better what we are teaching about Jesus. Miss Clara Brooke can translate into German and French and Jacob talks dialects of Hebrew, Greek and Armenian. We are thankful to have their help so the Word of God is better understood by our friends here."

"Yes," agreed Anna, laying her head on Horatio's shoulder. "Living for Jesus Christ is truly the best life there is. Then when our life is finished on earth, we can go to live with Him in heaven. We can have peace and joy in life and in death." Then she started singing, "*When peace like a river, attendeth my way.... It is well with my soul!*"

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Why was Jesus trying to be alone?
2. What did His disciples want Him to do?
3. What food did Jesus' disciples' say they had?
4. What did Jesus do with the loaves and fishes?
5. How many baskets of food were left over?
6. How many people were fed that day?
7. What did the disciples see out on the water?
8. What did Peter try to do?

(Answers: 1. He had just heard of John the Baptist's death. 2. Send the people away to buy food. 3. Five loaves and two fishes. 4. Blessed them, broke the loaves and gave them to the people. 5. Twelve. 6. Five thousand. 7. Jesus walking on the water. 8. Walk on the water.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 Aug. 21, 2005

ONCE UPON A MOUNTAIN TOP

Jesus led Peter, James and John up into a high mountain. They were by themselves. The disciples saw that Jesus' clothing became bright and shining, as white as the snow. They had never seen anything so white. Before their eyes, two more figures appeared. It was Elijah and Moses! They stood talking with Jesus.

"It is good for us to be here," Peter told Jesus. "Let us make three tabernacles. One for You, one for Moses and one for Elijah." Peter did not know what else he could say. He, James and John were very frightened. Suddenly, a cloud came over them. A voice spoke clearly out of the cloud. "This is my beloved Son. Hear Him," the voice said.

When Peter, James and John looked around them, Elijah and Moses were gone. Jesus was the only man with them. As they walked back down the mountain, Jesus asked them to tell no other men what had happened.

"But what does this rising from the dead mean?" the three disciples questioned among themselves.

When they returned to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd gathered about them. Scribes were asking them questions. All of the people saw Jesus. They were amazed. They ran to greet Him.

"What questions do you ask them?" Jesus asked the scribes.

"I have brought my son who cannot talk and who is mentally ill. I asked the disciples to heal him and they could not," one of the people replied.

"Oh, what a faithless people!" Jesus replied. "If you can believe, all things are possible."

"I believe," the man cried out. "Help my unbelief."

Jesus reached out and took the boy's hand. He lifted him up and charged the spirits to leave him. He was healed. —Monica Murphey

"...There appeared unto them Elias and Moses:...they were talking with Jesus." Mark 9:4.





Another Departure

(Continued from last week.)

"Papal Come! Please, come!" cried seven-year-old Bertha, as she rushed into her father's study and office. Horatio looked up from his bookkeeping to see his daughter's troubled eyes pleading with him to hurry. "It's Rob, Papal! He is sick and Mama said you must come right away to help her nurse him!"

Immediately Horatio followed Bertha to the large room Anna used for hospital patients.

Twenty-three year old Rob Lawrence lay still and pale on a bed as Anna sponged his forehead with a cool cloth.

"What happened?" asked Horatio, as he bent over his nephew to check his condition.

"He was determined to finish surveying and preparing the land at Media for planting trees," replied Anna. "His friends said he did not stop, even when the sun was the hottest. Then he collapsed!" Her eyes filled with tears. "He so much wanted to help, Horatio."

"We will pray," said Horatio calmly. "Oh, Lord, my God, you know how much we need Rob to translate Arabic for us as we teach these people about you. His cheerful nature and intelligent mind has been such a blessing to your work here. Please have mercy and raise him up. Give his heart added strength as it has never been very strong. Increase our faith and help us at this time. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen."

Through hours of tender nursing, Anna and the other women worked with Rob, but he never did regain consciousness. On the morning of September 10, 1885, Rob went to be with the Lord.

The little American colony in Jerusalem was very sad. Horatio's heart cried out to God: *I lost my only son five years ago and my four precious, darling daughters were taken from us twelve years ago. Oh, Lord, why did you take Rob from us too? He was like a son to me and I needed him so much.*

It was little Bertha who comforted Horatio's grieving heart. "Papa, let me sing for you," she said. Then in his arms

she sang, "When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea-billows roll, Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, 'It is well, it is well with my soul...'"

"Yes, yes," sobbed her father. "No matter what happens, we will keep our faith in Jesus and trust in His way. We don't know what is best, so we must let Him guide us. Then it is well with our soul."

It was a mixed crowd of people from different countries, religions and races who attended Rob's funeral. Horatio and his Christian friends sang songs of eternal hope and victory which was different from the custom of their Muslim and Jewish friends.

"We know Rob is in a better place," said Horatio at the funeral service. "We are sad because we miss him. We know we cannot bring him back to earth, but we can go to join him some day. That is why it is so important that we trust in Jesus Christ and claim His shed blood for our sins. That is our only way to enter Heaven—through the blood of Jesus Christ. Amen."

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What changes happened to Jesus on the mountain?
2. Who appeared and talked to Jesus?
3. What did Peter wish to do for the three men?
4. From where did they hear a voice?
5. What did the voice say?
6. What was wrong with the man's son?
7. What did Jesus say was possible to them that believed?
8. What happened to the sick boy?

(Answers: 1. His clothes became bright and shining. 2. Elijah and Moses. 3. Build tabernacles. 4. A cloud. 5. "This is my beloved Son. Hear Him." 6. He could not talk and was mentally ill. 7. All things. 8. He was healed.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 Aug. 28, 2005

THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT

Peter asked Jesus, "How often should I forgive my brother that sins against me? Seven times?"

Jesus replied, "Seventy times seven."

Then Jesus told a story again about the Kingdom of heaven. The Kingdom of heaven, in this parable, was like a king who was asking his servants to pay him back for money they had borrowed of the king. One man was brought to the king that owed him ten thousand talents. "I cannot pay you," the servant told the king.

"Take this man and sell him, his wife, his children and all that he has so his payment can be made," the king commanded.

"My Lord, have patience with me and I will pay it all," the servant pleaded.

The servant's petitions moved the king. The servant's debts were forgiven. The forgiven servant left the king's presence and found another servant who owed him a hundred pence. The servant put his hands on the man that owed him and took him by the throat.

"Pay me the money you owe me," the forgiven servant demanded.

The poor man fell at his feet. "Have patience with me and I will pay it all!" the man begged.

The forgiven servant would not forgive him. He had the poor man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. Some of the other servants that worked at the king's palace had seen these events. They went to the king and told him what the servant whom the king had forgiven had done. The king called for the servant.

"You are a wicked servant. I forgave all that you owed me because you asked. Should you not also be kind to your fellow servant, since I had mercy on you?" the king asked.

The king had the wicked servant sent to the tormentors until he could pay back his debts. "This is what My heavenly Father will do to you if you do not forgive your brothers," Jesus concluded.

—Monica Murphey





“...His fellow-servant fell down at his feet,...” Matthew 18:29.

The Last Trip Home

(Continued from last week.)

"Our American Colony here in Jerusalem is just not the same without Rob," said Horatio to Anna one morning. "I wish I could return to Chicago."

Anna knew her husband had just returned from Rob's grave. Although more than two years had passed since the young man's death, their grief sometimes bled like a fresh wound.

"But we cannot escape sorrow by changing our location, Horatio," said Anna, "except when we go to heaven."

"I know." He gave her a sad smile. "But it is more than a mere desire to escape pain, Anna. The colony continues to sink deeper into debt. If I could return to Chicago for a year, I believe I could establish our income again. I need to do the business myself."

"I know, dear," said Anna, "but other than money-wise things are going quite well here. Bertha and Grace are growing fast and learning so much. Jerusalem is home to them. We have such good friends and would miss them so. I love our work here."

"So do I," agreed Horatio. He enjoyed caring for the poor and sharing Jesus Christ with them. He loved teaching in the schools throughout Jerusalem. His friends of many nationalities, rich and poor, challenged him to a closer walk with God. Also, he loved the Biblical sites and the historical meaning of Jerusalem and its country.

However, Horatio missed his native land of America. "Well, if the Lord wants us to go back to America," he told Anna. "He will make a way for us to go. Right now I am too busy with teaching, singing and caring for the eucalyptus trees."

"I think you need to slow down a little," chided his wife softly. "After all, you are nearly sixty-years-old now. Let's go camping for a rest."

"Good idea!" agreed Horatio.

Camping on the pleasant hillside was a popular tourist attraction. The morning fragrance of sun-warmed grape vines, lemon and orange groves, was so pleasant to awaken to. The Spafford family pitched their tent

where the east sun would awaken them in the morning. It was hard for Horatio to get up that morning. He was feeling weaker and tired all the time. Anna and a friend had to help him walk to the mat to sit down.

"Anna, I believe I have contracted Malaria," whispered Horatio. "I have experienced great joy and I have seen wonderful things in this life, but I believe soon I shall see greater glory than on this earth."

Anna held his hand as he struggled to instruct her and ten-year-old Bertha about his business affairs. They barely laid him on his bed before he slipped into a coma. His final travel day was on October 16, 1888 when he flew into heaven and was welcomed home by his four daughters, one son, loving nephew and other family members.

The Lord provided for Anna and her two daughters who grew up to sing many of the songs their father had written. The one favorite song that everyone wanted to hear the girls sing was, "*It Is Well with My Soul*." Over the years this song has comforted the hearts of thousands of believers who trust in Jesus Christ that all is well. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

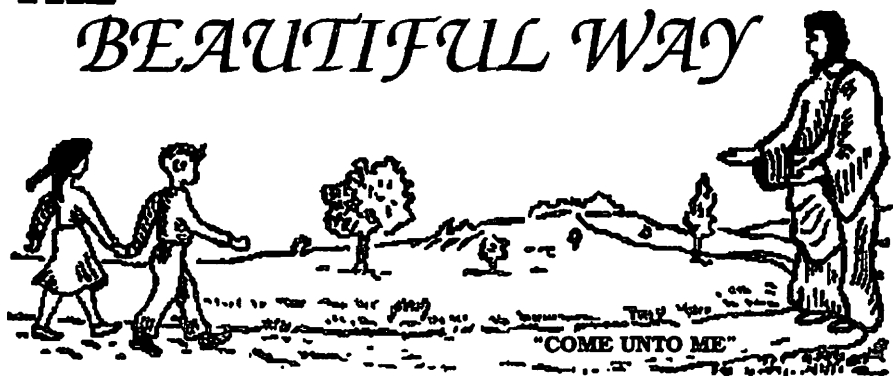
(The End.)

QUESTIONS:

1. How many times did Jesus say we are to forgive?
2. How many talents did one of the men owe the king?
3. What did the king do when the man asked for mercy?
4. Who did the forgiven servant go to?
5. What did the forgiven servant do to the poor man?
6. What did the poor servant ask of the unmerciful servant?
7. How did the king feel when he heard of this?
8. What happened to the unmerciful servant?

(Answers: 1. Seventy times seven. 2. Ten thousand. 3. Forgave him. 4. A man who owed him money. 5. Put his hands on his throat and demanded his money. 6. For patience. 7. Angry. 8. He was taken to the tormenters.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 Sept. 4, 2005

BE THANKFUL!

On His way to Jerusalem, Jesus passed through Samaria and Galilee. He went into a village where ten lepers met Him. Men with leprosy were not supposed to come near healthy men. Leprosy was a fatal disease. People who had leprosy were confined to a part of the country away from everyone else.

These ten lepers stood far away from Jesus. They shouted, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

"Go and show yourself to the priest," Jesus told them.

Men with diseases such as this had to go to a priest in order for a cleansing ceremony before they could return to their normal lives. These men went to the priest and were cleansed.

One of the lepers saw that he was healed. He turned back and praised God in a loud voice. He fell down on his face at Jesus' feet and thanked Him. This man was a Samaritan.

"Were there not ten lepers healed?" Jesus asked. "Where are the other nine? Arise. Go your way. Your faith has made you well."

Many scriptures in the Bible tell us that we should be thankful. Why?

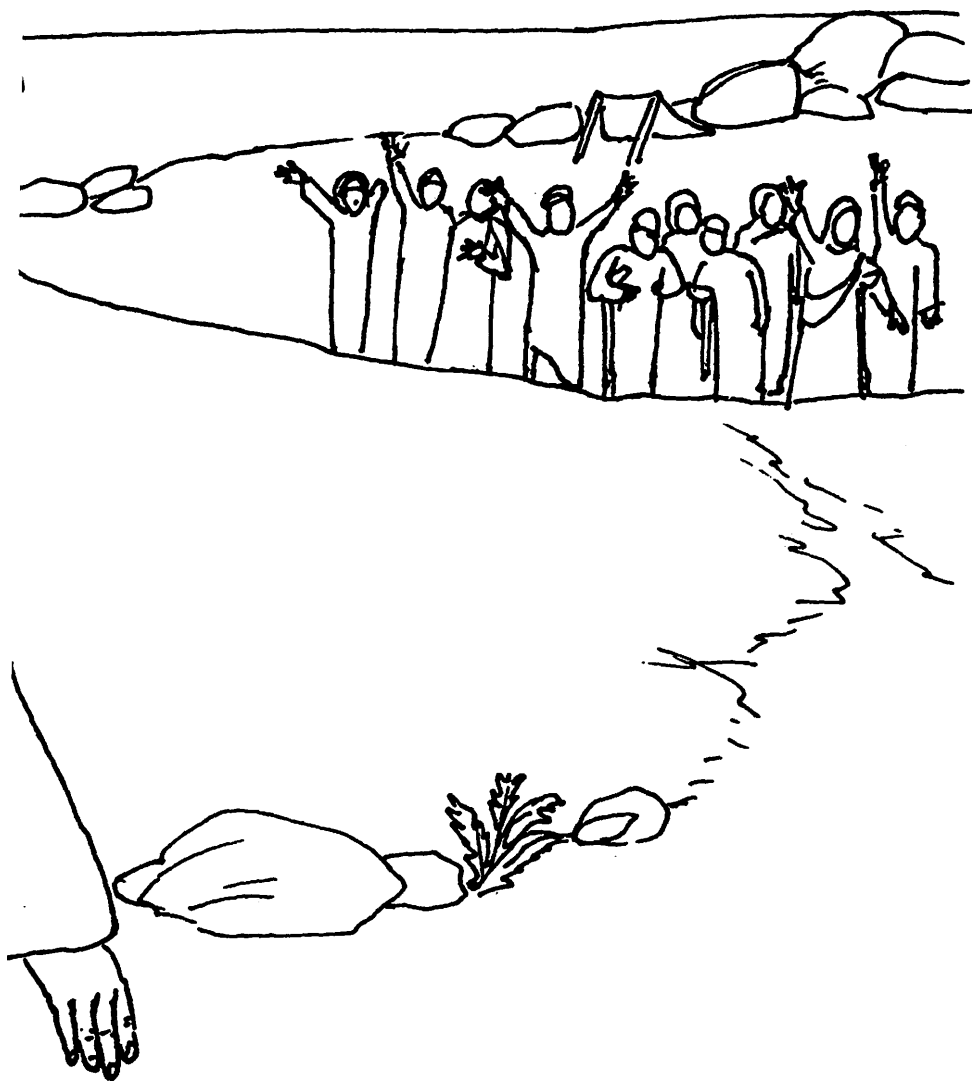
"...Be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations." Psalm 100 gives us three reasons to thank the Lord—His goodness, His mercy and His truth.

"In every thing give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." This verse in I Thessalonians chapter five takes the thanksgiving we should have to God to a different level. We should be thankful for all things. If we are committed to God, all things are going according to His will. Even the bad times. So don't forget to be thankful!

—Monica Murphey



"...There met him ten men that were lepers,..." Luke 17:12.



Let's Go to the Farm!

"I guess we have everything ready and packed in the car," said Dad to Mother as she placed a sleeping little Allen in his car seat.

"Just make sure the air conditioner is set on vacation mode and the water is turned off," replied Mother.

In the early morning light of a Saturday, three sleepy children climbed into the van and fastened their seat belts.

"All aboard!" called Dad as he sat down in the driver's seat beside Mother. "Let's have a word of prayer before we take off. *Dear Heavenly Father, please protect us on the road. Keep the van running smoothly, all the children well and happy, and help us get to the folks' farm quickly. Watch over our house and pets while we are gone. We commit all things into Your hands, in Jesus name we pray, Amen.*"

The Anderson family arrived at Grandma and Grandpa's farm in the mid afternoon. "Hello! Hello!" called Grandma from her big front porch. "Come on in and wash up for supper. I had things ready for you all for lunch but we will just make it an early supper."

"What a wonderful welcome!" exclaimed Mother as she climbed out of the car and hugged her mother-in-law.

"Do you have fried chicken for us?" asked Randy.

Grandma laughed. "How did you guess?" she teased, giving him a hug.

"Because you know we always love your fried chicken dinners!" replied Randy.

"Yes, and I have apple pie for Jerry and hot rolls for Linda and chocolate cream pie for my son," said Grandma, hugging each one as she called their name.

"Well, let's get to the table and talk there," said Dad. Everyone laughed.

Grandpa came in from the barn while everyone was washing their hands. Oh, what a merry time they had—laughing, teasing and eating Grandma's crispy fried chicken, smooth mashed potatoes, freshly snapped green beans and corn on the cob.

"Jerry, I have a young colt that you might like to get acquainted with," said Grandpa. "I have been petting him, but he needs a good brushing and someone to work with him."

"That sounds like fun!" exclaimed Jerry. "Where is he at?"

"What's his name?" asked Linda.

"He's out in the field with his mama and you can help me name him," said Grandpa. "Don't go out in the field without me, but let me introduce you to him. He is a frisky little kicker and you wouldn't want to feel his hoof on your knee."

"I want to see the kittens," said Randy. "Do you still have four of them in the barn?"

"Oh, yes," said Grandpa. "They keep fat eating the mice and lizards in the barn."

"Lizards?" cried Linda. "You have lizards in the barn?"

"Not too many because I have cats that hunt them," said Grandpa. "The Lord has a wonderful plan that keeps nature balanced. In the beginning God put man over His creation so if we respect all His creatures as who they are, then they will respect us."

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who met Jesus in one of the villages?
2. What did the men want Jesus to do?
3. Where did Jesus tell the men to go?
4. How many lepers came back to thank Jesus?
5. How should we feel toward God for all that He does?
6. What three reasons does Psalm 100 give us to be thankful?
7. In what circumstances should we be thankful?
8. If we are committed to God, what will happen?

(Answers: 1. Ten lepers. 2. Have mercy on them. 3. To the priest. 4. Only one. 5. Thankful. 6. His goodness, His mercy and His truth. 7. All things. 8. Everything will be according to His will.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 Sept. 11, 2005

A STONING STOPPED

Jesus went up into the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning, He returned and went to the temple. All of the people came to hear Him speak. He sat down and taught them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought Him a woman who they could prove had committed adultery. They put her in the midst of the people.

"Master, this woman was caught doing something bad, something that Moses wrote that we should not do in his Ten Commandments," the men told Jesus. "Moses says in his laws that anyone who disobeys this law should be stoned to death. What do You say?"

The leaders of the temple did not really care to hear what Jesus said. They simply wanted to catch Jesus saying something they could use to hurt Him later.

Jesus ignored the men. He knelt down and wrote on the ground with His finger. The men continued badgering Him with questions.

"The man that has never sinned may cast the first stone," Jesus offered. Again Jesus stooped and wrote on the ground.

When the men heard this question, they knew they had all done bad things before. One by one each man left, from the oldest to the youngest. Jesus was left standing alone with the woman.

"Woman, where are the men that accuse you?" Jesus inquired. "Has no man condemned you?"

"No man has, Lord," the woman replied.

"I do not condemn you either," Jesus said. "Go, and sin no more."

The religious leaders of this time became more and more angry as Jesus bested them in arguments and was friends with the poor and sinners.

—Monica Murphey





“...Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground,...” John 8:6.

Let Them Come to You

(Continued from last week.)

"Come here, kitty, kitty, kitty," cooed Randy as he tried to coax a couple of kittens out of the hay bale stack. "These kittens sure do know how to hide, Grandpa. They have tunnels all through this big stack of hay."

Grandpa chuckled. "This is their home, Randy, and their shelter from the dogs. You will have to work with them and win their confidence. Stay quiet and slow and don't spook them. They need to know that you won't hurt them."

"Arff-arff-arff!" barked two German Shepherd dogs, as they raced into the barn with Jerry.

"Now I won't be able to get a kitten at all!" exclaimed Randy.

"Don't worry about the cats," said Jerry. "Let's go see that baby colt. I want to tame him."

"Not with those dogs you won't," said Grandpa with a chuckle. "Put the dogs in this stall here and help me feed the mares. You will get to see that colt up close then."

Putting the dogs in the stall, Jerry and Grandpa talked together while they filled a couple of cans of sweet feed for the horses. Randy watched his big brother leave with Grandpa. He still wanted to win a kitten or two so he began to call them again.

"Kitty, kitty, kitty."

"Meow, meow, meow."

Randy could see their shiny little eyes in the back of three bales of hay."

"I think I can squeeze through this tunnel and get you," whispered Randy to himself. He pushed his shoulders through the entrance. It was tight but he could get in. He kicked and pushed some more until only his legs and feet were sticking out.

Suddenly he realized he couldn't breathe! The oxygen in the tiny passage was too limited! Randy's chest tightened. Warm sweat broke out over his face, neck and back. He kicked his feet and pushed out! For some reason it was harder to crawl out than to go in!

"S-scat! S-scat!" hissed the kittens, because they wanted him out too.

"Arff-arff-arff!" Barked the dogs when they heard the cats.

Randy kicked and pushed but he felt weaker from the lack of oxygen.

The barn door opened. "Grandpa, where are you?" called Linda. "Why are you dogs in the pen? Have you been bad?" Linda patted the dogs who were barking toward the kittens. Then she saw Randy's legs sticking out of the hay tunnel.

"Randy! Help, Grandpa!" Linda screamed. She climbed up on the hay bales and began to pull on Randy's legs. Crying and tugging, Linda managed to help free her little brother just in time. He fell limp on the hay by her feet.

"Randy! Talk to me!" Linda patted his cheeks and blew on his face. Randy opened his eyes a little. "I don't know how those kittens can breathe in that tunnel," he said in a tired voice.

"Randy, don't ever try to crawl through a hay tunnel again," said his sister. "Hay can shift and bury you alive! You could have smothered to death! Thank the Lord I found you!"

Coaxing the kittens with milk, the two were able to make friends with them.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who did the Pharisees bring to Jesus?
2. What did they want Jesus to decide?
3. What did Jesus do?
4. Who did Jesus say could cast the first stone?
5. What did the men do when Jesus said that?
6. Who was left?
7. Did Jesus think it was right to stone the woman?
8. What did Jesus tell the woman to do?

(Answers: 1. A woman who had committed adultery. 2. If they should stone her. 3. Wrote something in the sand. 4. Any man without sin. 5. They left. 6. Jesus and the woman. 7. No. 8. Go, and sin no more.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 Sept. 18, 2005

WHO WAS THE NEIGHBOR?

"Master, what must I do to have eternal life?" a lawyer asked from the midst of the multitude surrounding Jesus.

"What is written in the law?" Jesus answered his question with a question.

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind, and thy neighbor as thyself," the lawyer answered.

"You have answered right," Jesus replied. "This is the way you should live."

"Who is my neighbor?" the lawyer asked.

Jesus answered this question with a parable. Jesus told about a man who went from Jerusalem to Jericho. The man met with some unfortunate circumstances. Thieves stripped his clothes from him, hurt him and left the poor man to die.

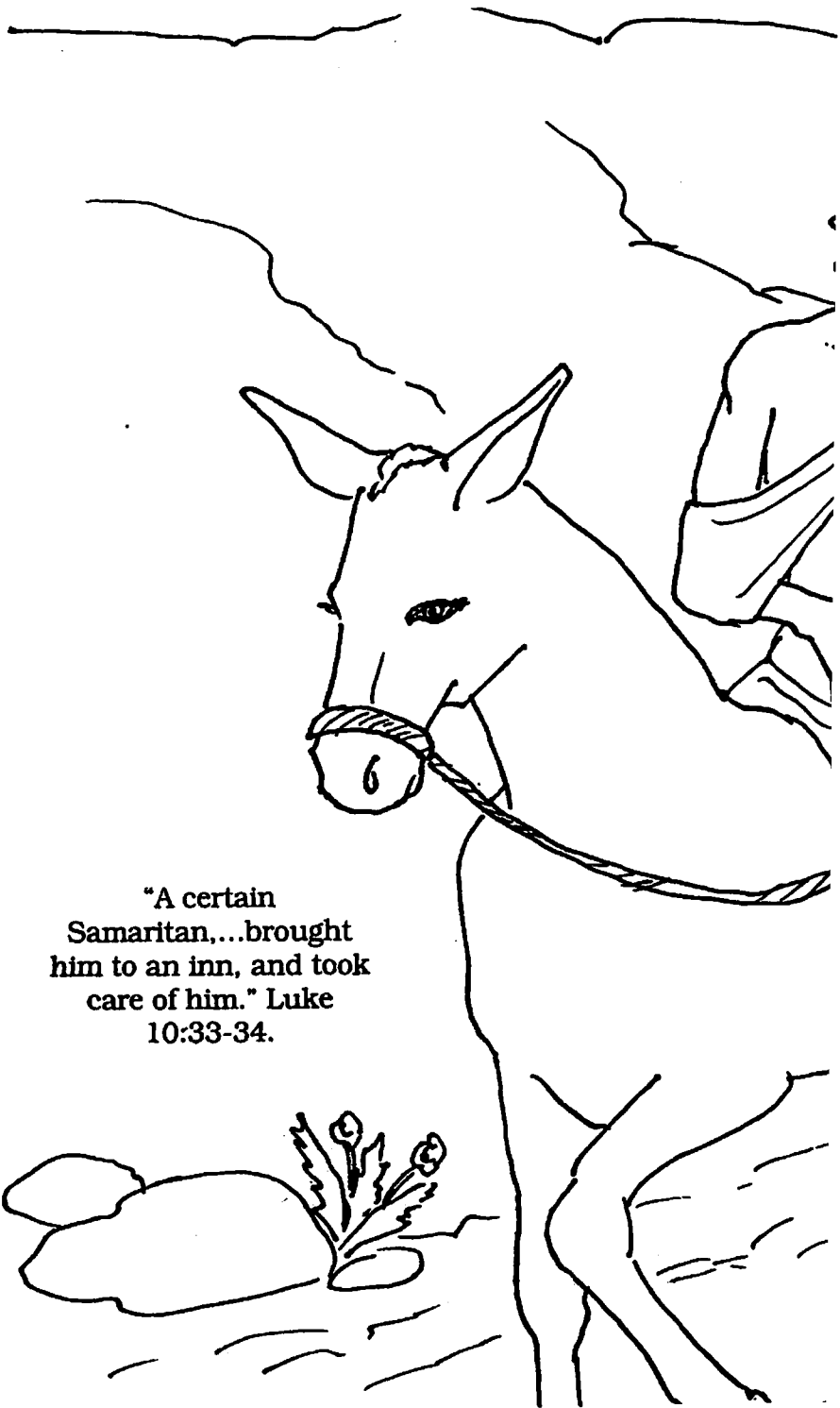
A priest walked by and saw the unfortunate man. Instead of helping him, this priest made sure to walk as far away from the man as he could. A Levite, also walking on the road, saw the man and did the same as the priest.

Finally a Samaritan passed by the man. When the Samaritan saw the poor man, he had compassion on him. The Samaritan took up the poor, dying man and fixed up his wounds and took him to an inn where he took care of him. When the Samaritan left to continue his journey the next day he gave money to the owner. The Samaritan asked the owner to take care of the man.

"Who was a neighbor to the man who fell among the thieves?" Jesus asked.

"The man that showed compassion to him," the lawyer answered.

"Then go, and do the same," Jesus told him. —Monica Murphey



"A certain
Samaritan,...brought
him to an inn, and took
care of him." Luke
10:33-34.



Horse Friends

(Continued from last week.)

"Here, Jerry," said Grandpa, "that little colt still wants to cling to his mama. See, you have to move slow and talk easy to him. He spooks easy like. Let's see if we can feed him here by this tree while his mama and the others eat."

Jerry did as Grandpa told him. The little horse stood calmly and watched Jerry's hand come closer and closer to his head. He jerked a little when Jerry's hand touch his cheek but he did not pull away.

"Steady, boy, I'm not going to hurt you," Jerry spoke softly. The colt let him stroke his forehead, nose and neck. When Jerry stepped near his head, the colt tried to bite the buttons on his shirt!

"Walk over here by this tree," said Grandpa. He spread out some sweet feed in a tin trough. His mother looked up and watched as the colt put his nose down to eat some grain. "That's a good boy," praised Jerry. Grandpa said this was the second time he had eaten grain. Up until recently his mother's milk had been enough for him to live on. He was eating some green grass also.

"Can we ride his mama now?" Jerry asked Grandpa.

"Yes, you can ride Misty," replied Grandpa. "Help me with the chores and then we will saddle up a couple horses for you all to ride."

Jerry worked with Grandpa and soon all the chickens, dogs, kittens, horses, cows and pigs were fed. Jerry went to the tackle room in the barn and took down the saddles and blankets. By this time Linda and Randy were ready to ride also. Grandpa had gone into the corral to bring Misty and Jubilee to be saddled.

"I get to ride Misty first," said Randy. "because I am the youngest and it is harder for me to wait."

"You can just learn to wait," replied Jerry. "Grandpa asked me to work with that

colt, so I should be on Misty and you can ride JB."

"I can help with the colt, too!" retorted Randy. "Grandpa said we could name him, so I think I will call him *Brown Sugar*."

"That isn't a boy's name!" declared Jerry. "He needs to be named *Flurry*, or *Racer*, or *Hot Shot*—something strong sounding."

"Those sound like good names," said Grandpa as he brought the horses to the fence. "We will let Linda ride Misty first. Jerry, you can talk to the colt while he watches his mama from this corral."

Grandpa and Jerry saddled the two horses. With a little help from Grandpa, Linda slipped into the saddle and put her feet in the stirrups while Grandpa adjusted them. From the corral, the colt paced nervously up and down the fence, whining to his mama.

"I'm coming little guy!" called Jerry. "I can't be your mother, but I will be your friend."

Comforting that little colt made Jerry feel good and the little colt realized Jerry was helping him. Soon they would be good friends.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What did the lawyer want to know?
2. What two things did the law say that we should love?
3. What else did the lawyer ask Jesus?
4. What happened to the poor man while he was on his trip?
5. What two people walked by the man without helping him?
6. Who finally stopped to help him?
7. What did the Samaritan ask the innkeeper to do?
8. Who was the neighbor to the poor man?

(Answers: 1. How he could get eternal life. 2. God and our neighbor. 3. Who was his neighbor. 4. Thieves beat him up. 5. A priest and a Levite. 6. A Samaritan. 7. Take care of the man. 8. The one who showed compassion to him.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 Sept. 25, 2005

"TEACH US TO PRAY"

Jesus was praying. When He stopped, His disciples had a request for Him. "Lord, teach us to pray, like John taught his disciples," some of Jesus disciples requested.

"When you pray," Jesus answered. "Say, 'Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.'"

Then Jesus told a story. "A man had a friend who stopped by his house while on a long journey. It was midnight, but this man had a friend he thought would help him. The man went to his friend and asked him if he could borrow three loaves of bread.

"The sleeping man did not wake up and say, 'Do not wake me. The door is shut.' He did wake up and gave him bread because the man that asked was his friend.

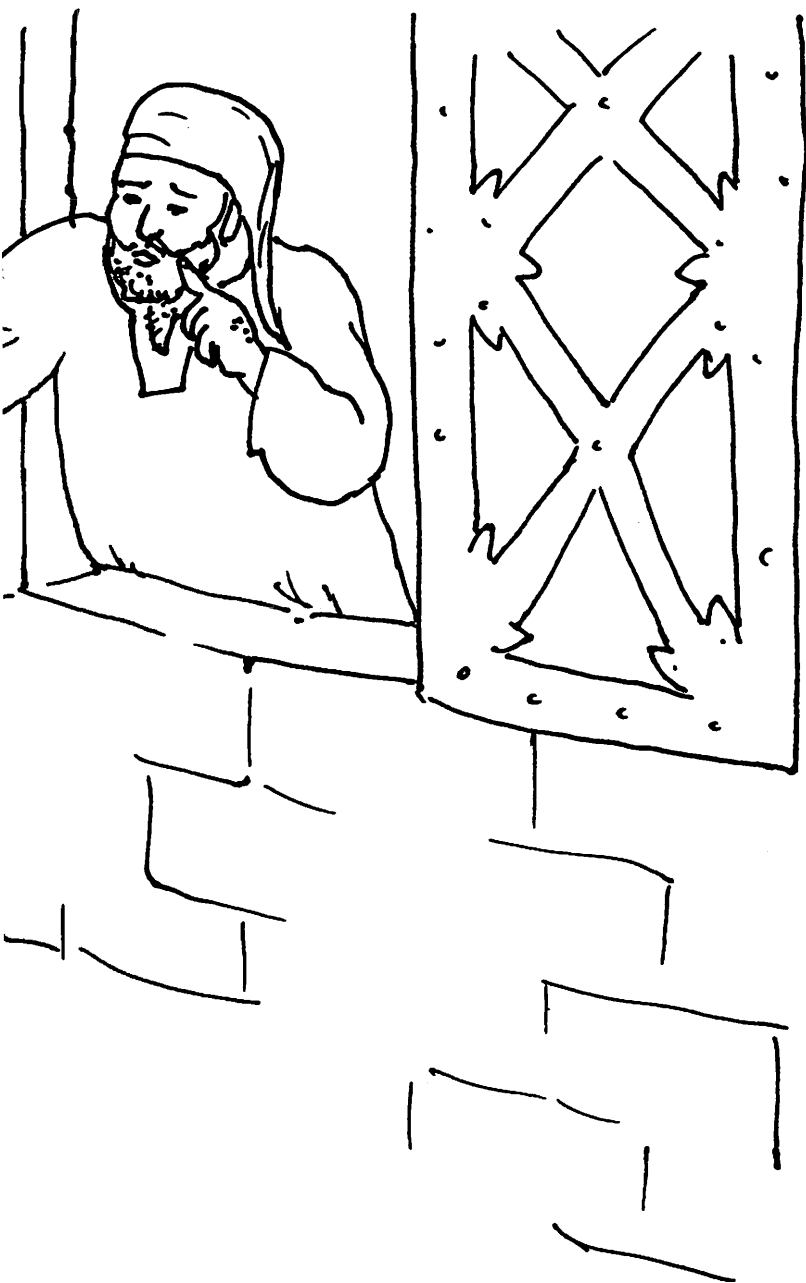
"If you ask, it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and it will be opened to you. How many of you that are fathers would give your son a stone if he asked for bread? Or if he asked for a fish, would you give him a snake? Or if he should ask for an egg, would you give him a scorpion?

"You fathers of this earth are naturally evil but you know to give good things to your children. How much more will the heavenly Father give of the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?" Jesus concluded.

Jesus also gave us instructions on how to pray. "When you pray," Jesus said, "you should pray secretly. Many love to pray standing in the synagogues and on street corners so that men can see them. When you pray, go into your closet. When you have shut the door, pray to your heavenly Father in secret. The heavenly Father who sees in secret will reward you openly."

—Monica Murphey





"Which of you...shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves...." Luke 11:5.

God's Wisdom For Chickens

(Continued from last week.)

"Jerry has Racer, the colt, and Randy has Punkin, the kitten, but I don't have a pet," said Linda to Grandma, who was in the kitchen making out breakfast biscuits.

"Would you like to help me with the baby chickens?" asked Grandma. "I have 60 little chicks of different sizes and colors. Here, we will let these biscuits rise while we check for breakfast eggs."

"Well, I will help you with the chickens," said Linda, "but can chickens be pets? I want something that I can pet and teach lessons too."

Grandma laughed lightly. "My two roosters are pets. I stroke their backs and they seem to like it. I think I remind them of feed, like corn and potato peelings."

Linda giggled. "That's funny—you remind me of apple pies and fried chicken!"

"Sh-sh-sh!" warned Grandma. "You must never say *fried chicken* in the hen house. Carry this plastic bucket and I will put the eggs in it. There are three hens sitting on eggs that should hatch soon. We won't bother them.

Carefully, Grandma put her hand in the nests of hay on the shelves. Linda saw green, brown and white eggs go into bucket. After checking every nest, Grandma said, "I think that's all the eggs for today. Did you count how many we gathered?"

"Twenty-three," replied Linda. "That's about four eggs apiece for my family, and baby Allen doesn't even eat eggs!"

"Oh, I will clean most of these eggs and sell them to some of my town friends," said Grandma. "Put that bucket down in the corner and let's see if we can pet one of these roosters. This pretty golden brown rooster with green and blue tail feathers is named *Flipper* and this big black rooster is *Shadow*. See, they know their names."

The roosters had come to Grandma while she was talking to Linda. "You're just big gluttons!" exclaimed Grandma as she shook

out some strawberry tops to each rooster. Then she reached down and quickly stroked each one's back.

Linda was afraid to try. "Don't try it then," said Grandma. "They feel if you are afraid. Roosters may not be the smartest animals, but they know when they are the boss. I just let them know I am always the boss when in the hen house. Let's go see the little chicks. You can hold one of them."

"Oh, aren't they cute!" said Linda as she watched the little peepers gather around the feed bins and peck at the feed. Grandma picked up a couple for Linda to hold. They pecked her hand with their hard baby beaks. "You don't have all these little babies named, do you, Grandma?"

"No, but you can try," said Grandma with a smile. "They aren't too good at learning tricks either, but they are very useful to people. We won't talk about all their uses in front of them," she said with a wink. "but God was very wise when he made the chicken and the egg. People all over the world benefit from them."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What did the disciples want Jesus to teach them to do?
2. We are supposed to pray for our daily _____.
3. What did the man ask his friend to borrow?
4. What did Jesus say the man's friend would do?
5. What did Jesus say the heavenly Father would give to those that ask?
6. Where did Jesus say some men liked to pray?
7. Why did these men pray there?
8. Where should we pray?

(Answers: 1. To pray. 2. Bread. 3. Three loaves of bread. 4. Let him borrow them. 5. The Holy Spirit. 6. In synagogues and on street corners. 7. So men could see them. 8. In secret.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 Oct. 2, 2005

OUT OF THE GRAVE

Jesus had some good friends that lived in a village called Bethany. These friends were two sisters and a brother named Martha, Mary and Lazarus. Mary sat at Jesus' feet, listening as He spoke, while Martha was preparing dinner and working hard to get everything done. "Lord, do You not care that my sister leaves me to work alone? Tell her to help me," Martha suggested. "Martha, you are careful and troubled about many things," Jesus rebuked. "One thing is needed, and Mary has chosen the good thing."

After this incident, Jesus had left and taught and healed in other villages and towns. One day Jesus was teaching when He heard that His beloved friend Lazarus was sick. His sisters had sent Jesus the message, "Lord, the man you love is sick." But Jesus did not leave immediately. "This sickness is not going to result in death, but it will result in the Glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified," Jesus responded. Jesus waited two days to go to the home of His friends. "Our friend Lazarus sleeps. I will go so I can wake him out of his sleep," Jesus informed His disciples.

"If he sleeps, Lazarus must be better," His disciples commented.

"Lazarus is dead," Jesus stated. "I am glad, for your sakes, that I was not there to heal him. Let us go."

When Jesus arrived in Bethany, He found Lazarus was dead and had been lying in a grave for four days. Many of the Jews had gathered at his house to comfort the sisters of Lazarus. Martha heard that Jesus was coming. Martha ran to meet Him. "If you had been here, my brother would not have died," Martha told Jesus. "I know that even now, whatever we ask of God, God will give it to us."

"Your brother will rise again," Jesus told her. "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me will never die." Jesus asked for Mary to come. When she came, she said the same thing that Martha did. "Where have you laid him?" Jesus asked Mary. They took Jesus to the tomb and He wept.

Jesus said, "Roll the stone away." Then he prayed and commanded Lazarus to come forth. Lazarus walked out of the tomb. There was much rejoicing. Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead! —Monica Murphey

"And he that was dead
came forth,..." John 11:44.





Lunch Room Woes

The Anderson family was sitting around the supper table talking about their busy day.

"How was school for you today, Randy?" asked Dad.

"All right," replied Randy.

"You don't sound very enthused," teased Dad. "Is first grade getting pretty hard?"

"He has already learned that lunch break is the best thing at school," said Jerry.

"No, lunch time is the worst time!" disagreed Randy. "I would rather stay at my desk than go in there!"

Mother and Dad exchanged looks of *I-wonder-what's-wrong?* Linda asked the question. "What's wrong with lunch time, Randy?"

Randy looked down at his plate. "Everybody is so loud and noisy and sometimes a loud bell rings and I don't like it!"

Randy was sitting next to Mother at the table and she put her arm around his shoulders. "I will check into the problem," she said. "I'll call and ask your teacher if I can come have lunch with you for a few days." Mother got up from her chair at the table and went to get the telephone. "I'll check and see if Aunt Sue can watch Allen at that time."

Mother made the phone calls. The next day she was at Randy's school by 11:30, lunch time. She was in the hallway by the lunch room door waiting for him. When he saw his mother, Randy smiled and waved to her. Mother came and stood by Randy who was waiting in line.

"Is that your Mother?" a girl asked Randy.

He just nodded and smiled as he held Mother's hand.

"I wish my mother would come and eat lunch with me," said the girl.

"What is your name?" asked Mother.

"Maria," she replied.

Other students began to talk to Mother and by the time they had their plates and sat down at their assigned seats, Mother had become acquainted with most of Randy's classmates. They talked and laughed together while they ate.

Suddenly a loud bell rang. Everybody jumped and some girls hollered. The bell stopped and the lunch room was quiet. "It was getting too noisy in here," called one lunch room monitor.

"Keep it quiet!"

Randy had put his hands over his ears and leaned close to the table. "See, Mom, I don't like that noise."

"I don't either," said Mother. "Maybe the volume could be turned down. I will ask about it." She checked with the principal and the bell was adjusted.

That night at the supper table, Randy told his mother, "My friends liked having you to eat with us. Now they want their moms to come at lunch time! Come and eat with me again, Mom!"

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Where did Jesus' friends live?
2. What were the names of His friends?
3. About what did Martha get upset?
4. What bad news did Mary and Martha send Jesus?
5. How long had Lazarus been in the grave?
6. Did Mary and Martha believe Jesus could have healed him?
7. Jesus said, "Whoever believes in Me will never ____."
8. What miracle occurred?

(Answers: 1. Bethany. 2. Mary, Martha and Lazarus. 3. She was working hard and Mary was listening to Jesus. 4. Lazarus was sick. 5. Four days. 6. Yes. 7. Die. 8. Lazarus was raised from the dead.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 Oct. 9, 2005

JESUS, OUR SHEPHERD

Jesus told several parables about sheep. The first parable He told was about a sheepfold.

"Whoever does not come in by the door, but comes in some other way, is a thief and a robber," Jesus said. "The sheep hear the shepherd's voice. He calls them by name and leads them out. He goes before them, and the sheep will follow him, because they know his voice.

"I am the door," Jesus said. "If anyone enters through the door, they will be saved. They will be able to go in and out and find green pasture.

"The thief comes to steal, to kill and to destroy. I have come that people might have life and that they might have it abundantly. I am the good Shepherd. A good shepherd gives his life for his sheep."

Jesus drew all of the publicans and sinners close to Him so they could hear Him speak. "This man receives sinners and eats with them," the Pharisees murmured.

Jesus told a parable about a sheep that was lost. "Who of you, if you loose one of your sheep, will not leave your other ninety-nine sheep to find the lost one? When the shepherd finds the lost sheep, he will lay it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

"When he comes home, he will call all of his friends together saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!'

"There is also joy in heaven over one sinner that repents.

"My sheep hear My voice. I know them and they follow Me," Jesus continued. "I give them eternal life and they shall never die."

Jesus also told us to be careful and alert. "Some will come to you as wolves in sheep's clothing," Jesus warned. Some people or religions may look good, like sheep, but are actually evil.

—Monica Murphey



“...He layeth it on his
shoulders, rejoicing.” Luke 15:5.



Childhood Of Philip Bliss

It was a pleasant May day in 1848. Beautiful, young Miss Priscilla sat at the piano playing lovely songs in the large parlor of her parents' house. Involved with her playing, she did not see a ragged farm boy come to the screen door on the porch. His dark eyes watched Miss Priscilla's fingers as they pounded the little keys that caused so much music.

From babyhood, Philip had learned to love singing and music. His father would sit on their wooden front porch in the evenings and start singing. Soon his mother and Phebe, Reliance, Elizabeth, Philip and James would join him and the Bliss family would sing gospel songs in the cooling twilight of summer's night.

The Bliss family were poor Pennsylvania farmers who struggled to survive. When Philip was nine years old, sickness came to their home. His mother and father prayed that all their children would stay with them, but Reliance and James went to be with Jesus in heaven. This was a sad time for all the family.

The sickness left Philip's father too weak to hardly work, so at the age of ten, Philip went to work as a farm hand for a wealthy neighbor. Barefoot and ragged, Philip had carried one set of clean clothes in a kerchief as he started down the muddy path to live in the barn at the neighbor's farm. His mother and two sisters were crying, but Philip had cheerfully called to them, "I'll come visit soon! And I'll bring you a couple pennies!"

Philip worked hard in the fields and around the barn. He seldom came to the big house because he knew he was dirty and smelled like the cows he cared for. However, this one day he was walking by the open

door when he heard such heavenly music that he just had to see where it was coming from.

That is how he happened to be standing in the doorway of the parlor when Miss Priscilla stood up from the piano bench to practice a curtsy. As she made her grand, downward sweep, she saw his big, bare feet. "A-a-a! Help!" she screamed as she dropped her blue silk skirt and threw her hands upward.

"I didn't mean to scare you, ma'am," stammered Philip. "I just had never heard such heavenly music before and I wanted to see where it was coming from. Could you please play some more?"

"I certainly will not!" exclaimed an angry Miss Priscilla. "Now you get out of here before you leave more dirt on the floor!"

With his head down and tears in his eyes, Philip quickly left the cool porch, but he never forgot that day. By the Lord's help, he wanted to learn more about making pretty music like that.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who do the sheep follow?
2. Why do the sheep follow him?
3. Who is the door to the sheepfold?
4. What does the thief come for?
5. What will the shepherd do when his sheep is lost?
6. Why does he rejoice?
7. When is there joy in heaven?
8. How will some people look to us?

(Answers: 1. Their shepherd. 2. They know his voice. 3. Jesus. 4. Steal, kill and destroy. 5. Go search for it. 6. His lost sheep is found. 7. When a sinner repents. 8. As sheep, but inwardly they are wolves.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 36, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 Oct. 16, 2005

"MY LOST SON IS FOUND"

Jesus told a parable about a man that had two sons. The youngest son was anxious to begin his own life. "Father, let me have my inheritance," the youngest son requested. The father divided his fortune and gave the youngest son his share. Not many days after this, the youngest son set out to experience life. He went to a far country where he wasted his money on what he thought was having fun and enjoying life. Soon all of his money was spent.

A terrible famine arose in the land where the youngest son was living. He began to be hungry. He found a man who let him have a job feeding his pigs. The youngest son was so hungry that he ate some of the food he was supposed to feed the pigs.

"My father's servants have enough bread to eat with some left over. I am dying from hunger," the youngest son thought. "I will go to my father and tell him that I have sinned against him and am no longer worthy to be his son. I will ask him if I can be one of his servants."

The youngest son made the long return journey to his father. When he was still a ways off, his father saw him coming. His father felt compassion towards his wayward, youngest son. His father ran to him, hugged him and kissed him.

The son told the father those words that he had practiced. But his father said to the servants, "Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his hand and shoes on his feet. Bring the fatted calf and kill it. Let us eat and rejoice."

The oldest son was working in the field. When he returned to the house he heard music and dancing. He asked his father what was going on. When he found out that the party was for his brother, he was angry. "I have worked for you for many years and you have never given me a party," he said jealously.

"Son, whatever I have is yours. Your brother was dead and is now alive. He was lost and is found," the father replied. —Monica Murphey



Page 3

“...He sent him into his fields
to feed swine.” Luke 15:15.



Philip's Teen Years

(Continued from last week.)

At twelve years old, Philip Bliss attended a revival meeting and went to the altar for salvation. His parents had taught him to be honest and hard-working, but Philip knew he was a sinner who needed the blood of Jesus to wash away his sins. He was baptized in a creek and was not ashamed to say he had become a new follower of Jesus Christ.

Through his teen years, Philip worked long hours in the neighbor's fields for a little money to help his parents and two sisters. Late at night his body would be tired and sore from labor but his mind would be alert and ready to read whatever book or paper he could borrow.

He learned more about math, geography and English whenever he could attend school. At the age of eighteen, he passed a state test and was then hired as a teacher.

Philip thanked the Lord for his new job in a one-room schoolhouse but he wanted to learn more so he could teach more. When he heard about a singing school starting in October, Philip decided to go. He remembered Miss Priscilla's music of black notes. *Some day I will learn how to read notes like that*, he had promised himself. Now was the time.

Walking to the busy town of Towanda, Pennsylvania, Philip wandered up and down a few streets before finding Mr. J. G. Towner's singing school. He slipped inside the big, candle lit room and sat down in the back. Stylish young men and women chatted while they waited for the instructor to arrive.

Philip looked down at his short pants and dusty, shabby boots. *Maybe they won't let me sing with them*, he thought. He heard them talking about music. *Do they all know how to read notes?* he wondered. *I don't think I fit in*

here. Maybe I had better go before the instructor tells me to leave.

Before Philip could stand up to leave, Mr. Towner was at the podium tapping his baton on the music. "Please turn to page one: *O For a Thousand Tongues*," he said.

Philip knew that song—it was written by Charles Wesley. So he stood up and began to sing with the rest of them. His deep, rich bass voice flowed freely with the sopranos, altos and tenors. Soon Mr. Towner had identified Philip's full voice.

"Young man," he said to Philip. "Please step forward and sing this bass solo."

Shyly, Philip obeyed. The room was quiet with awe after he was done. "You have an excellent voice!" exclaimed Mr. Towner. "Welcome to the Towner Musical School!"

Philip nearly jumped out of his skin when a round of applause erupted from the students.

Philip was very happy when he walked home that night. *Thank You, Lord, for helping me at the singing school, he prayed, I will do my best to please You with my voice. Now, O Lord, help me to learn how to read music. Amen.*

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What did the youngest son want?
2. What happened to the youngest son's money?
3. What kind of job did the youngest son get?
4. What did the youngest son eat?
5. What did the youngest son decide to do?
6. Was his father unhappy to see him?
7. How did his older brother feel?
8. What reason did the father give the oldest son for the party?

(Answers: 1. His inheritance. 2. He spent it. 3. Feeding the pigs. 4. Pig slop. 5. Ask his father if he could be a servant. 6. No. 7. Jealous. 8. He had found his son that was lost.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 Oct. 23, 2005

THE RICH MAN'S TORMENT

One time Jesus told a story about a rich man. This rich man wore purple clothing made out of fine material. The color purple was rare and very special to the people in Jesus' time. Only the rich wore clothing that color. The rich man ate grand foods every day.

There was a beggar named Lazarus who sat at the rich man's gate. He was sick, with sores all over his body. The dogs would come and lick his sores. Lazarus begged for crumbs from the rich man's table.

One day, the beggar died. Angels carried Lazarus to Abraham's bosom. The rich man died and was buried also. The rich man was tormented in hell. He lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus in his bosom.

"Father Abraham, have mercy on me! Send Lazarus, that he may dip his finger in water so that I can cool my tongue. I am tormented in this flame," the rich man pleaded.

"Remember in your life you had good things," Abraham replied. "Lazarus had evil things. Now he is comforted and you are tormented. Besides this, there is a great divide between us that no one can pass over."

"Please go to my father's house and warn my five brothers in case they also have to come to this place of torment," the rich man petitioned.

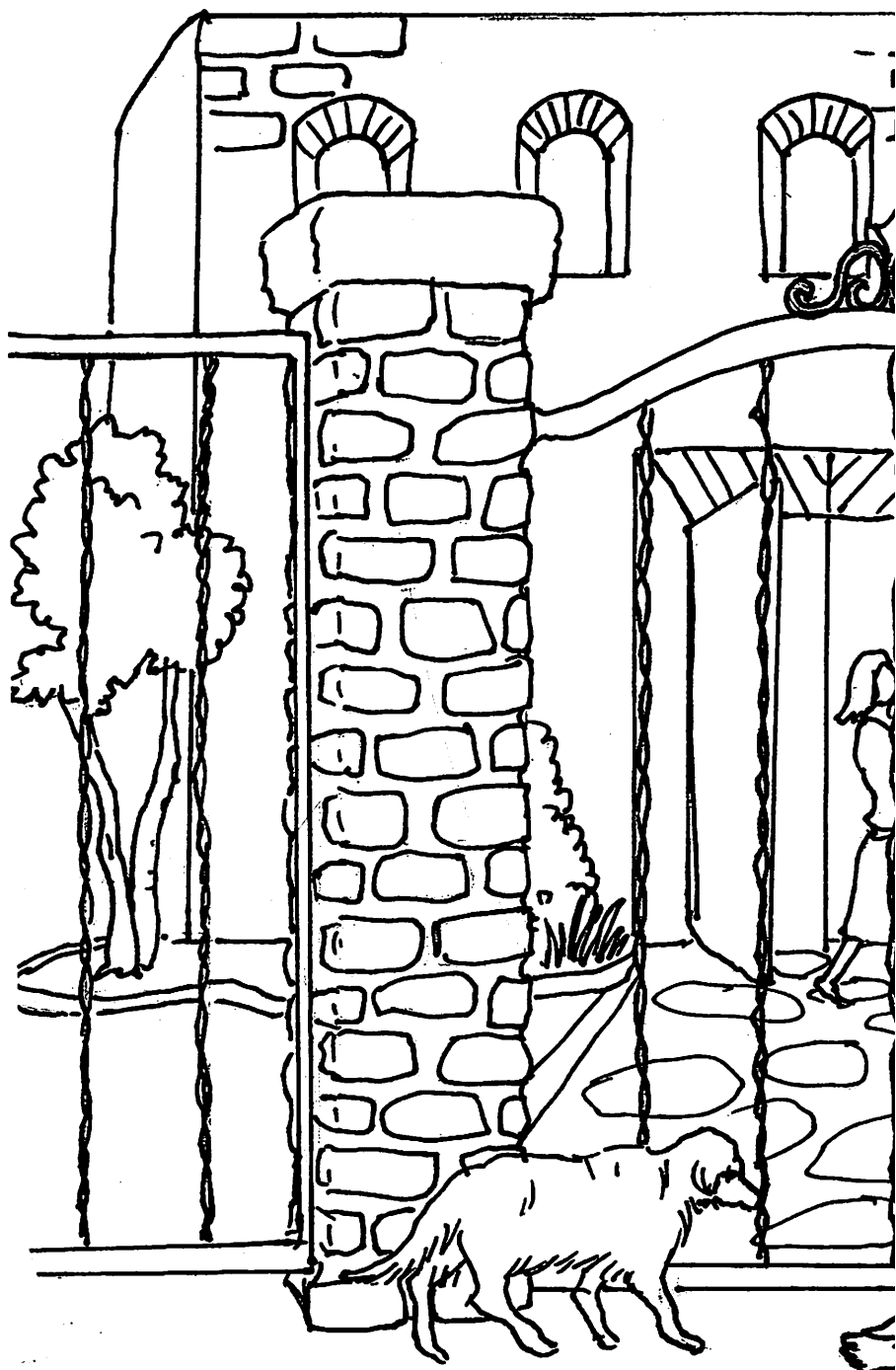
"There are still prophets on earth that they may hear," Abraham said.

"But if someone came to them from the dead, they will repent," the rich man protested.

"If they do not hear the prophets they will not be persuaded, even if someone rose from the dead," Abraham told him.

—Monica Murphey

"There was a cert
which was laid at



ggar named Lazarus,
ate,..." Luke 16:20.



Growing Up Singing

(Continued from last week.)

After a few lessons at Towner's Singing School, Philip Bliss was recognized as an excellent bass singer. One evening after class Mr. Towner said to Philip, "I have heard that Mr. William Bradbury is leading a convention in Rome, Pennsylvania. I believe he would appreciate your excellent voice in his choir. Would you consider attending?"

"Oh, yes," exclaimed Philip.

With a little savings in his pocket, Philip rode a train to a town of strangers. He found the place of the convention and met Mr. Bradbury. He was a songwriter who wrote the words and music to many songs including, *Jesus Loves Me*.

After one singing session, Mr. Bradbury said, "Mr. Bliss, your voice is remarkable! Do stay with my singing choir and I will teach you all I know about music."

"Yes, I would love to stay," replied Philip. When he left the school, he was praying, "Oh, Lord, I need to find a place to live and a dependable job. Please work this out for me. Amen."

The next morning at church, Philip met many nice people.

One older man introduced himself to Philip, "Hello, I am Mr. Young. And what is your name?"

"Philip Bliss, sir."

"Well, Philip, why don't you come home with me and my family and have lunch with us. I am sure you will find my wife is an excellent cook. Don't I prove that point?" he teased, patting his round stomach.

Philip laughed. He went home with the Young family and learned that the Young family enjoyed music just as much as he did. After the meal, the five children gathered around the piano. Mrs. Young played while everyone sang.

"Mr. Bliss, you have a beautiful voice!" exclaimed Mr. Young. "Would you like to stay with us while you attend singing classes?"

"That would be excellent," replied Philip. He liked the warm, friendly Young family and he was glad that they liked him. Soon he found a job and paid Mrs. Young for his board and keep.

Meanwhile, at music class, Philip was learning all he could about reading music and singing. He began to write little songs of his own and sing them for the Young family at night during their family worship. Some of his songs were silly and had all the family laughing.

"Philip, you are a natural at writing songs," said Mrs. Young. "Would you like for me to show you how to play the piano?"

"Oh, yes!" exclaimed an excited Philip. His mind recalled the day he had first heard a piano played by Miss Priscilla. He had come a long way since those days.

Thank You, Lord, for guiding me along the way, he prayed. I can see how You have prepared a way before me this far. Please continue to be with me. Amen.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who sat at the rich man's gate?
2. What was wrong with the man?
3. What would Lazarus beg for?
4. What happened to Lazarus and the rich man?
5. What did the rich man plead for?
6. Why couldn't Abraham grant his request?
7. Why did the rich man want someone to go to his father's house?
8. Who did Abraham say his brothers should listen to?

(Answers: 1. Lazarus, the beggar. 2. He had sores and was poor. 3. Crumbs from the rich man's table. 4. They both died. 5. A drop of water for his tongue. 6. There was a great divide between them. 7. To warn them of his torment. 8. The prophets on earth.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 Oct. 30, 2005

THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE

Many different kinds of people came to hear Jesus speak. Poor people, rich rulers, sinners, tax collectors and a lot of times the religious leaders would come and join the crowd listening to Jesus. On this day, Jesus noticed people there that thought they were very important religious men. These men despised the poorer people. Many pharisees made a show of praying and performing their religious duties. They would pray loudly, standing on street corners and in the synagogues, making sure people noticed them.

The story Jesus told to these people was about a pharisee and the publican. A pharisee was a religious leader in Israel during Jesus' time. Publicans were people who collected taxes from the people. People of those times did not think well of anyone who took money from the poor. Most of the tax collectors took more money than they were supposed to and kept some of it for themselves.

These two men had gone to the temple to pray. The pharisee stood and prayed, "God, I thank you that I am not bad like other men, such as sinners or this publican.

"I fast twice a week and I always pay my tithes," the pharisee concluded his prayer.

The poor publican would not even lift up his eyes to heaven. He hit himself on his breast and cried, "God be merciful to me, a sinner!"

"This man's prayer pleased God more than the prayer of the Pharisee," Jesus said. "Every one that lifts himself up will be brought low. Every one that humbles himself will be lifted up."

Jesus told another parable about a judge who did not fear God or respect man. A widow who lived in that city came to the judge and asked him to punish her adversary. The judge would not do anything for the widow, but she continued to come and ask the same request of the judge. Eventually he gave in to her persistent pleading. Jesus told us this parable so that we would always pray and not give up.

—Monica Murphey





"Two men went...to pray;...a Pharisee,...
and a publican." Luke 18:10.

A Happy Union

(Continued from last week.)

Philip Bliss was enjoying his time with the Young family in Rome, Pennsylvania. There was always plenty of food, laughter and music. Sometimes Grandma Allen would come to visit. She was a jolly lady who loved music just as much as Philip did.

At the supper table, the two boys would beg Philip for a song. He usually had a new one for them. The girls enjoyed the songs just as much as the boys. However, eighteen-year-old Lucy was careful and ladylike in her manner. She laughed and teased, but she did not join in with the jiggling and romping.

Philip liked Lucy's careful manner. He had noticed how she knew answers to *Bible* questions in Sunday school. He knew she also read the *Bible* and prayed each morning. He liked the way the lamplight shone on her long, dark, wavy hair. She had a soft, sweet smile and when she smiled at him, Philip felt like he had just drunk a cool, refreshing drink.

Lucy also attended singing school and Philip would drive her there in the family carriage.

Her pretty alto voice blended well with Philip's rich bass voice.

Yes, Philip knew he loved Lucy, but would she want to marry a poor school teacher like him? One pleasant evening while he drove Lucy home from music class, Philip could not hold back the question any longer.

"Oh, Lucy, I do so love you! Would you marry me?"

Lucy acted surprised but her eyes were sparkling. "Yes, Mr. Bliss, I believe that could be arranged!" she teased.

So on June 1, 1859, Philip and Lucy drove the carriage to the minister's house. Dressed in their

Sunday best, they stood before the preacher in his parlor. They said the marriage vows, promising to love each other in good times and bad times, until death parted them. They were a happy, contented couple as they drove back to the Young's house where they would continue to live for awhile.

Philip helped his new bride out of the carriage. The family greeted them with blessings and laughter. Then Philip changed into his old work clothes to do the chores and Lucy put on a calico dress and went to help her Mother in the kitchen. Work still had to be done!

There wasn't any big celebration to mark the wedding day. However, in his diary that night, Philip wrote, *Married to Miss Lucy J. Young, the very best thing I could have done! Thank You, Lord, for giving her to me. May I live worthy of her love!*

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Bliss were a very blessed couple—in love with each other and with the Lord.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What did the pharisees make a show of?
2. Where would the pharisees pray?
3. What was the job of the publicans?
4. What two men had gone to the temple to pray?
5. What prayer did the publican pray?
6. Which prayer pleased God more?
7. Jesus said that every one who humbles himself will be _____.
8. Why did the judge do what the woman asked?

(Answers: 1. Praying and other religious duties. 2. Where men could see them. 3. Tax collectors. 4. A pharisee and a publican. 5. "Be merciful to me, a sinner!" 6. The publican's prayer. 7. Lifted up. 8. She kept asking him about it.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 Nov. 6, 2005

VIEW FROM A SYCAMORE TREE

On one of Jesus' journeys, He passed through Jericho. Word of Jesus' miracles had apparently spread to this town. People were anxious to see Jesus.

There was one man who really wanted to see Jesus. He was a publican named Zacchaeus. Remember, a publican is a man who collected taxes from the people. Zacchaeus had a problem. He was a short man, and because of the crowd around Jesus, Zacchaeus could not see Him. Zacchaeus had an idea. He ran in front of the crowd and climbed up into a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus when He walked by.

When Jesus passed by the tree where Zacchaeus was trying to see Him, Jesus looked up and spotted him.

Zacchaeus, hurry, and come down! I am going to your house today," Jesus told Zacchaeus.

Zacchaeus came down. He was very glad that Jesus was going to come to his house. Others in the crowd, however, were not happy that Jesus was going to Zacchaeus' home.

"Jesus is going to be a guest in the home of a man who is a sinner," they complained.

Zacchaeus was sorry for the wrongs he had committed.

"I will give half of my goods to the poor. If I have been wrong by taking anything from someone, I will give him four times what I have taken," Zacchaeus promised.

"Salvation has come to this house today," Jesus said to Zacchaeus. "The Son of man has come to seek and to save the lost."

Jesus then told the parable of a man who went on a far journey and entrusted talents to each of his servants. One of his servants did nothing to make more money with his talent. All he did was bury it. It made the owner angry that his servant did not use the money more constructively.

After Jesus told this parable, He left Zacchaeus' home and resumed His journey to Jerusalem.

—Monica Murphey



“...And climbed up into
a sycamore tree....” Luke 19:4.



Musical March Forward

(Continued from last week.)

After their marriage, Philip and Lucy Bliss continued to live with the Young family. Philip only made thirteen dollars a month. Sometimes he taught music in the evenings and earned two dollars each night.

The more Philip taught music, the more he realized he needed to learn. "Music is so wonderful to work with," he told Lucy. "I love putting notes together and making a melody with them. I wish I could afford to attend Normal Academy and learn more."

"Let's pray about it," said Lucy. "The Lord can make a way when there does not seem to be one."

One afternoon when everyone was gone from the house, Philip went into the parlor and threw himself down on a couch. "Oh, Lord," he cried out in despair. "I need your help!"

"Could I be of any help?" asked a little old lady's voice.

Philip looked up, startled, because he did not know Grandma Allen was in the house. He sat up on the couch so that he could see her sitting in a chair nearby. She was knitting on a sock.

"Oh, I don't know, Grandma," he said. "I so much wanted to attend Normal Academy and learn more about music. Lucy and I have been saving our money but I still don't have enough to pay the tuition."

"And how much is that?" Grandma asked, while she rocked and knitted.

"Thirty dollars," replied Philip shyly.

Grandma stopped rocking. "That is a good deal of money," she agreed. "I have a sock that I have been putting silver dollars into for a few years. Let me go get it and we will see how many silver pieces. I have."

Together Philip and Grandma Allen counted out the money. There were thirty-one pieces!

"Now you take this money and enroll in the music classes that you need to take," said Grandma Allen. "I know

the Lord will bless you as you serve Him with your talents."

"Thank you very much, Grandma," replied Philip. "Pray for me that I will make the right decisions in life."

"Yes," sighed Grandma Allen. "I do pray for you and Lucy. May the Lord go before you and prepare your way."

Philip left for Normal Academy and was there for six weeks, learning everything he could about music. He came back to Lucy as a happy man with lots of ambition.

"Let's find a little place of our own, Honey," he said to her. "I want to be closer to my school and have our own place when the baby is born."

They found a nice place to rent and moved in before little Paul was born. To make a little more money, Philip wrote songs and musicals. One company named *Root & Cady* really liked his music. They hired Philip to compose music for them and to hold conferences to teach music.

The Lord was blessing Philip's talent as he used it wisely for Him.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was especially anxious to see Jesus?
2. What was Zacchaeus' job?
3. What problem did Zacchaeus have when he came to see Jesus?
4. How did Zacchaeus solve his problem?
5. What did Jesus tell Zacchaeus to do?
6. Why were some in the crowd unhappy?
7. What did Jesus say came to Zacchaeus' house that day?
8. Jesus said the Son of man has come to save the _____.

(Answers: 1. Zacchaeus. 2. He was a publican. 3. He was too short and could not see around the crowd. 4. He climbed a sycamore tree. 5. Come down. 6. Zacchaeus was a publican and a sinner. 7. Salvation. 8. Lost.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 Nov. 13, 2005

A DIFFERENT KIND OF FEETWASHING

Six days before the Passover found Jesus once again at the home of his dear friends in Bethany—Mary, Martha and Lazarus. Remember, Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead. Many people came to see Jesus while He visited them.

The chief priest wanted to put Lazarus to death. A lot of people came to the house of Mary, Martha and Lazarus because they were interested to see Lazarus who had risen from the dead. When they saw Lazarus and heard his story, most visitors went away believing in Jesus. The religious leaders did not like this. That is why they wanted Lazarus killed.

His friends made supper for him. Martha served it. Lazarus was sitting at the table with Jesus when Mary appeared with an alabaster box containing a pound of precious and very costly ointment. Mary broke the box and anointed Jesus' feet by pouring the contents of the box over them. When Mary had finished, she wiped Jesus' feet with her hair.

"This ointment could have been sold for a lot of money and given to the poor. Why was this not done?" Judas Iscariot protested.

Jesus knew that Judas did not protest because he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief. Judas had the responsibility of carrying the moneybag and very few coins came their way.

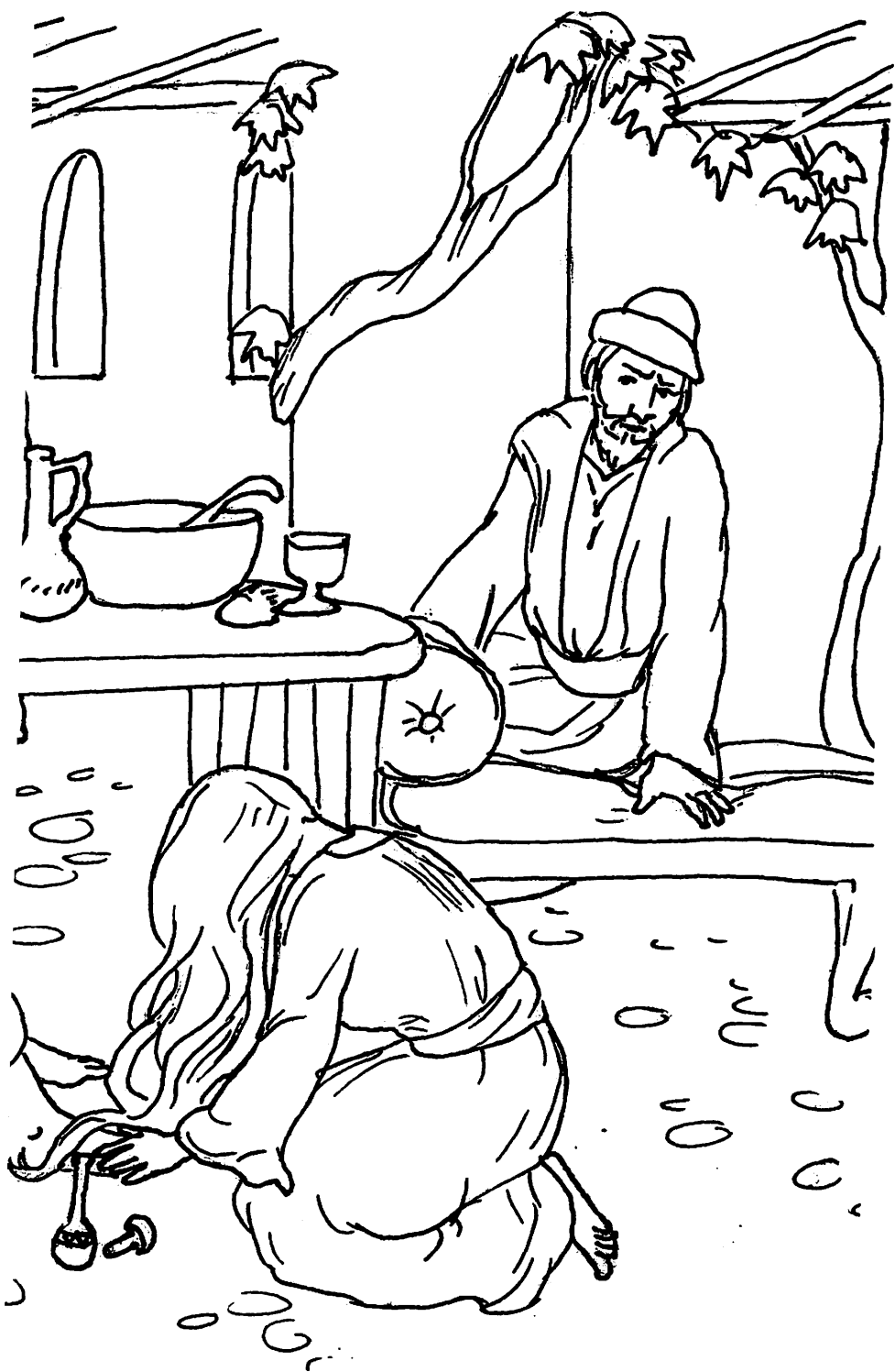
"Leave her alone," Jesus commanded. "She has done this for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor with you, but you will not always have Me with you."

Jesus had begun speaking to His disciples about His death. One time Jesus told His disciples that in Jerusalem, the Son of Man would be betrayed to the chief priests and the scribes. Jesus said that He would be condemned to die and that they would mock Him, beat Him, spit on Him and crucify Him.

—Monica Murphey



“...And wiped his feet with
her hair:...” John 12:3.



In The Ministry

(Continued from last week.)

Philip and Lucy moved to Chicago because he was working for Root & Cady music company based in Chicago.

One hot evening after supper, Lucy said, "Let's go on a walk, Phil. The house is so hot and it would be nice to get out of it for awhile."

Philip and Lucy made their way past families sitting on their steps and front porches as the sun went down. Philip took Lucy to their favorite ice cream parlor where they sipped lemonade in frosty glasses. Then they walked toward the downtown offices.

"Wonder what's going on?" asked Philip as he pointed to a crowd gathered around the courthouse.

"I don't know—let's go see!" said Lucy. The closer they came to the crowd, they could see that people were listening to a speaker.

"I know him!" exclaimed Philip. "It's Dwight Moody, the shoe salesman turned preacher. Let's hear what he is saying!"

The young man was preaching from a worn Bible in Luke 14:16-18. "I know everyone here has an excuse for not serving Jesus, but will that excuse save you from the judgement of God when you stand before Him someday?"

Philip was impressed with the preacher. Later in the service, they sang a few hymns. Philip's clear bass voice rolled out over the crowd. Immediately after the service Philip was looking for Mr. Moody and he was looking for Philip.

The two men soon realized they could work together to bring more souls to Jesus Christ.

So it was that Philip Bliss would lead the singing and Dwight Moody would preach. Many souls were touched by their ministry in northern America and in Europe.

Philip Bliss met more composers and poets through this gospel work. He wrote music to songs like *Hold the Fort*, *Dare to Be a Daniel*, *Jesus Loves Even*

Me and many more. When his friend, Horatio Spafford, suffered over the deaths of his four daughters, he wrote the words to *It is Well With My Soul* and Philip wrote the melody. He was inspired to write songs and edit some for a children's Sunday school hymnal, *The Sunshine*.

"I love the work I do," Philip told Lucy. "It is so satisfying to hear people sing the songs you help write. May the Lord continue to use the little I have to offer Him to bless souls."

"I pray so, too," agreed Lucy. "I hope our two sons will love to sing about Jesus, also."

Philip Paul Bliss, Jr. was born in 1872 and George Goodwin Bliss came in 1874. They made their parents very happy.

However, the family had to travel quite a bit with the evangelistic work so it was harder to pack and go with babies. Sometimes Lucy would stay home and Philip would travel with the team. They felt the sacrifice was worth it when souls came to know Jesus Christ through their ministry.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Whose home was Jesus visiting?
2. Why did many of the guests believe in Jesus?
3. Who did the chief priest want to kill?
4. What did Mary bring to Jesus?
5. What did Mary pour the ointment over?
6. What did Mary use to wipe the ointment off?
7. What did Judas say they should have done with the ointment?
8. What did Jesus say Mary had done this for?

(Answers: 1. Mary, Martha and Lazarus. 2. They saw Lazarus and heard his story. 3. Lazarus. 4. An alabaster box filled with precious ointment. 5. Jesus' feet. 6. Her hair. 7. Sold it and given the money to the poor. 8. His burial.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 Nov. 20, 2005

A JOURNEY ON A COLT

When Jesus reached the Mount of Olives, He called for two of His disciples. "Go into the village. When you enter it, you will find a colt tied. No man has ridden him yet. Loose him and bring him to Me. If anyone asks why you do this, say, 'Because the Lord has need of him,'" Jesus instructed.

The two disciples went on their way. They found the colt. As they were untying him, the owners of the colt asked them, "Why are you untying him?"

"Because the Lord has need of him," the disciples replied.

The disciples brought the colt to Jesus and put some clothing over the colt's back. Then they set Jesus on him.

Some of the people had heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. They cut down palm branches and laid them and their garments on the road that Jesus would pass by on. The people went to meet Him, crying, "Blessed is the King of Israel that comes in the Lord's name."

The disciples rejoiced also and praised God with loud voices for all of His mighty works that they had seen.

"Master, tell your disciples to stop," pharisees from among the multitude implored.

"If they did not praise Me, the stones would cry out," Jesus told them.

As He passed through the city, everyone in Jerusalem was impressed. "Who is this?" many people asked.

"This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee," came their answers.

Different prophets in the Old Testament told of some of the events that would occur in Jesus' life. His entry into Jerusalem on a colt was one of them. Zechariah was the prophet that told about this event. "Tell the daughter of Sion that your King comes to you, meekly, sitting on a donkey, on the colt of a donkey," Zechariah prophesied.

—Monica Murphey

“...Behold
upon...”



y King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting
.." Matthew 21:5.



Last Visits

(Continued from last week.)

Philip and Lucy Bliss were happy to share in spreading the gospel across America. With two little sons to care for, many family and friends to visit and more songs to write and sing, the couple was always busy going and doing for the Lord.

During the Christmas season of 1876, Philip and Lucy planned to visit their parents in Pennsylvania and see the old home places. Philip had been traveling so much singing and teaching music. Now that his music books were selling well, he had a little better income for his family.

Before the Bliss family left Chicago, Mr. Moody said to Philip, "Now you will come back to sing for the church next Sunday morning on New Year's Eve, right?"

"Well," said Philip. "I had planned to stay longer with my family before leaving."

"The singing just doesn't sound as good without you," said Mr. Moody. "Please come back for the people's sake."

"Okay," agreed Philip slowly. He loved to sing but he really did need a break with his family.

What a wonderful Christmas they had! They had bought Christmas gifts for everyone in their families and it was such a joy to watch each one open their gift. Grandma Allen's eyes still twinkled when Philip bent down to kiss her cheek. "I just want to thank you, Grandma, for your sacrifice of thirty dollars that you gave me long ago. It made the wonderful change in my life."

"I was glad to help, Honey," she said. "I am so glad you are working for our Lord."

Philip visited his parents and sisters and their families. He hugged his mother and father and thanked them for teaching him about Jesus when he was a boy. There were many tears of joy and sadness when good-byes were said.

"Well, this week has passed too fast," Philip said to Lucy. "It is time to pack and go back to Chicago."

"Already?" questioned Lucy. "The boys have just gotten acquainted with Mother and Dad. They will be sad to leave."

"I tell you what," said Philip. "Why don't we leave the boys here for a few days. We will be coming back by on the way to New York. That way the boys can visit longer and not have to travel in the cold."

So this plan was agreed upon. Snow and ice covered the trails north. Philip and Lucy had train tickets bought in advance. "I hope the trains doesn't break down," said Father Young as he took them in his wagon to the train depot. "It isn't good to travel the rails in this snow and ice."

"Pray for us, Dad," said Lucy. "The Lord will help us no matter what happens."

They waved good-bye to him as they climbed the steps and went into the crowded train car. Travel was difficult because of the weather and all did not go well.

As their train sped through the dark, icy night, Philip and Lucy tried to sleep. Suddenly the train car gave a sharp lurch to the right, then the left, and like a giant chain it swung out into the darkness over a deep river. A bridge had given way to the ice and snow.

Sunday morning was very sad for all the congregation with Mr. Moody. People were crying and sobbing for the man and his wife who had given them so much joy through music. Today, we still enjoy many songs written by Philip Bliss. —Sis. Connie Sorrell
(The end.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What were the two disciples supposed to find?
2. What were they to say to anyone who asked questions?
3. Who asked them the question?
4. What did the people lay in the road on which Jesus would travel?
5. What did the pharisees want Jesus to stop?
6. What did Jesus say would cry out if the disciples did not?
7. What prophet foretold this event?
8. What did the prophecy say Jesus would be riding on?

(Answers: 1. A colt. 2. "The Lord needs it." 3. The owners. 4. Palm branches and garments. 5. The loud praises to God by the disciples. 6. Stones. 7. Zechariah. 8. A colt.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 Nov. 27, 2005

GOD'S TEMPLE

Do you remember that the Jews set aside a week every year to celebrate the time that Moses and the Israelites fled Egypt and started on their way to their Promised Land? They called this holiday the Passover. God sent seven different plagues on the Egyptian king, the Pharaoh. The last plague was that when the angel of death passed over any house without lamb's blood on the doorpost, the firstborn son would die. So many Egyptian households were affected by this plague that everyone was scared, and the Pharaoh let the Israelites go.

Jesus went to Jerusalem one year to celebrate the Passover. There was a great and beautiful building where the Jews went to worship God in Jerusalem. This building was called a temple. Jesus saw men selling oxen, sheep and doves. This made Him very angry.

Jesus took up a whip and drove all of the men and their animals out of the temple. He turned over all of the tables. "Take these things away. Do not make My father's house a house of merchandise," Jesus demanded.

"Destroy this temple and in three days I will build another one," Jesus stated later.

"It took forty six years to build this temple. Do you really think you can build another temple in three days?" the Jews scoffed at Him. The Jews did not know that Jesus was talking about what would happen to the temple of His body, but His disciples remembered what Jesus had said about it after He died and rose again three days later.

The Bible tells us that our bodies are God's temple. The only time the Bible tells us a story of when Jesus was angry was in this story, when He found men doing bad things in God's temple. Since we are God's temple, don't you think Jesus would be just as angry to find sin in our lives as He was to find it then?

—Monica Murphey

"And when he had made a scourge of small cords,
all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen,
the changers' money, and overthrew the table



rove them
oured out
n 2:15.



Thank Jesus

"Mama, do other countries have Thanksgiving Day?" asked Linda as her mother tucked her into bed Friday night.

"Well, it is an American holiday," replied Mother. "We need to pray that our country will continue to have a Thanksgiving Day. As Christians, we want to live pleasing in God's sight so He will continue to bless us and our neighbors. Psalm 33:12 says, 'Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.' The good people of our country are sparing it from God's anger because He doesn't like all the evil things He sees taking place here."

"Grandpa says we live in a place like Sodom and Gomorrah. He says that soon God will destroy this earth with fire and brimstone like He destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. Do you think God will send the fire and Jesus will come before I grow up?"

Mother bent over and put her hand on Linda's shoulder. "No one knows when Jesus will come again, Honey—not even the angels. The most important thing is that we keep God's commandments and please Him. Then when Jesus comes we will be ready to meet Him."

"Yes," replied Linda thoughtfully. "We want more of our aunts and uncles to be saved, too, don't we?"

"Yes, Linda, we keep praying that the Lord will deal with the hearts of our loved ones. We want them to have their sins washed away by the blood of Jesus so they will be saved from sin."

"When we are saved from sin then we can go to Heaven, right Mama?"

"Yes, Linda, only Jesus can save a person from sin and let a soul into Heaven. In the meantime, Jesus gives us the peace and hope we need to live in this sin sick world. Everyone has sorrow and troubles in life, but those who have Jesus know that something better is waiting for them in Heaven."

Mother knelt beside Linda's bed. "Linda, let's have prayer together. We've

already prayed as a family, but let's pray again."

"Okay, Mama," said Linda as she climbed out of bed and knelt beside Mother who put her arm around her.

"Dear Lord," prayed Mother. "Draw Linda close to You and keep her in Your care. Please keep her in Your hand and direct her life. Speak to her often and let her know which way is right. May she always be obedient to Your voice and spare herself many troubles. Comfort her heart and let her not be afraid of tomorrow. You will be there for her. Thank You, Lord Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen."

Linda looked up and smiled at Mother. "I am so glad you have told me about Jesus. He made me feel better inside after we prayed."

"Remember this," said Mother as she helped Linda back under the bed covers. "Jesus is your best friend and He will always be with you even when your mother or daddy cannot be there."

"I know," said Linda. "I have prayed to Him when I'm in a crowd and can't see anyone I know. I am so thankful Jesus is my Friend."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What holiday did Jesus go to celebrate?
2. Where did Jesus go to celebrate the Passover?
3. What was the building called that the Jews used to worship God?
4. What did Jesus find in the building?
5. What did Jesus do?
6. In how many days did Jesus say He could rebuild the temple?
7. What temple was Jesus really talking about?
8. What represents God's temple now?

(Answers: 1. The Passover. 2. Jerusalem. 3. The temple. 4. Men selling animals. 5. Drove the men and animals out and turned the tables over. 6. Three. 7. His body. 8. Our bodies.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 Dec. 4, 2005

"WHO GAVE YOU AUTHORITY?"

The chief priests and the elders of the people came to Jesus as He was teaching in the temple.

"By what authority do You do these things? And who gave You authority to do them?" they wanted to know.

"If you can tell Me the answer to My question, I will tell you who gives Me the authority to do these things," Jesus answered. "Was the baptism of John from heaven, or from man?"

"If we say, 'from heaven,' He will say, 'Then why do you not believe Him?' " the men reasoned among themselves. "But if we say, 'of men,' we may be in trouble with the people, because all of them think that John was a prophet."

Finally, they decided their answer. "We cannot tell," they said.

"Then I will not tell you who gives Me the authority to do the things I do," Jesus said.

Then Jesus told a story. "There was a man who had two sons," Jesus said. "He went to his first son and asked him to go work for a day in his vineyard."

"I will not," the first son said. Later, the first son felt sorry for his words and worked for a day in his father's vineyard.

"The father went to his second son and asked him to work a day in the vineyard. 'I will go, sir,' this son replied. He did not go," Jesus concluded. "Which of these sons did what his father desired?"

"The first," they answered.

"Sinners will enter the kingdom of heaven before you, because John came to you and you did not believe him. The publicans and sinners believed Him and repented. You did not believe or repent when you had seen Him," Jesus told them. —Monica Murphey



“...Son, go wo



day in my vineyard." Matthew 21:28.

The Shopper On Crutches

Jerry was in a small Dollar Store Christmas shopping for Mother and Dad. He went to the aisle that had many pretty pot holders and kitchen towels. The aisle had several other shoppers.

"Excuse me," said Jerry as he went past a couple of ladies.

"Excuse me," said young girls who bumped into Jerry.

A thin man with two crutches started swinging down the aisle just as Jerry stood in front of the pot holders.

"Excuse me," said the man to Jerry as he leaned forward on his crutches, took a couple of pot holders, and put them into a large gift bag he was carrying.

Jerry smiled and nodded to the man who excused his way through the shoppers and swung around the corner on his crutches. Jerry picked out a couple of pot holders that he thought his mother would like. Then he got her a couple of kitchen towels.

As Jerry went to the aisle that had men's socks, he saw the man on crutches put a couple of candles into his bag. *He must be Christmas shopping for his wife*, thought Jerry. He found a pair of black socks and one blue pair for his dad. He got his dad some cologne then went to stand in the long line at the checkout counter.

Jerry saw the man on crutches look at Christmas dishes. The man put a couple of dishes in the large Christmas bag, then he turned and limped out the front door that a kind man had opened for a lady.

"Did that man on crutches pay for his items?" asked a customer of the clerk.

"No, he did not come through my line," replied the clerk.

"He didn't come through mine, either," said the store manager. "Excuse me just a moment," he said to his customer, "I'm going after that man! Call the police!" He rushed out the door.

Jerry laid his items on a shelf and raced out the door after him.

The manager went around the store corner. Jerry was in pursuit, passing through the sidewalk shoppers, when a heavy hand fell on his shoulder.

"Where are you going?" asked his dad.

"I'm following the store manager who is chasing a thief!" explained Jerry in a quick pant. "I want to see what happens!"

Right then the manager came back around the corner with the large shopping bag in his hand. "What happened?" Jerry asked him. "Did he hit you with a crutch?"

"No, he said he was sorry," said the store manager. "He said he wanted the stuff for his wife, but I told him he could be arrested for stealing." The manager shook his head. "I feel sorry for the guy, but what he did was wrong."

"He was wrong in stealing," agreed Dad. "Where is the man? Maybe I can help him."

"I think he left," replied the manager. "I must get back to my customer!"

Dad and Jerry looked for the man but he was gone. "Well, I need to go back to the store and pay for the things I laid aside," said Jerry.

"Okay, I will meet you at the truck," said Dad. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who did the chief priests question of their authority?
2. What did Jesus say they would have to do before He answered?
3. Jesus asked, "Was the _____ from heaven or from man?"
4. What was their answer?
5. The father wanted his son to work in his _____.
6. What was the first son's answer?
7. Did he stick by his answer?
8. What was the second son's answer?

(Answers: 1. Jesus, 2. Answer a question. 3. Baptism of John. 4. "We cannot tell." 5. Vineyard. 6. "No." 7. No, he worked for his father. 8. Yes, but he did not do it.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 Dec. 11, 2005

THE PLOT OF THE HUSBANDMAN

Jesus told another parable while He was at the temple. He had just finished telling the story of the two sons. One of them did as his father asked and one did not.

This story was about a man who grew grapes on his land. It was a popular occupation in Jesus' time to put one's time and money into growing grapes. These grapes would later be pressed and made into a drink. The area where grapes grow is called a vineyard. People who look after vineyards are called husbandmen.

This particular man had taken very good care of his vineyard. He had fenced it in with hedges surrounding it. He built a winepress and had built a tower.

The man was about to take a trip, so he decided to get a husbandman to look after his property. After this was done, he went to a country far away. The time to pick the grapes drew near, and the owner of the vineyard decided to send his servants to pick the grapes for him. The husbandmen took the first servant the owner sent and beat him. They killed the next servant that came to pick fruit and they stoned another.

The owner had a problem but he thought he had a good solution for it. "I will send my son. Surely they will listen to him," the owner reasoned.

When the husbandmen saw the son, they decided, "This is the man who will inherit the vineyard. Let's kill him and steal his inheritance." So the wicked husbandmen caught the son. They took him out of the vineyard and killed him.

"What will the owner do to those husbandmen?" Jesus asked.

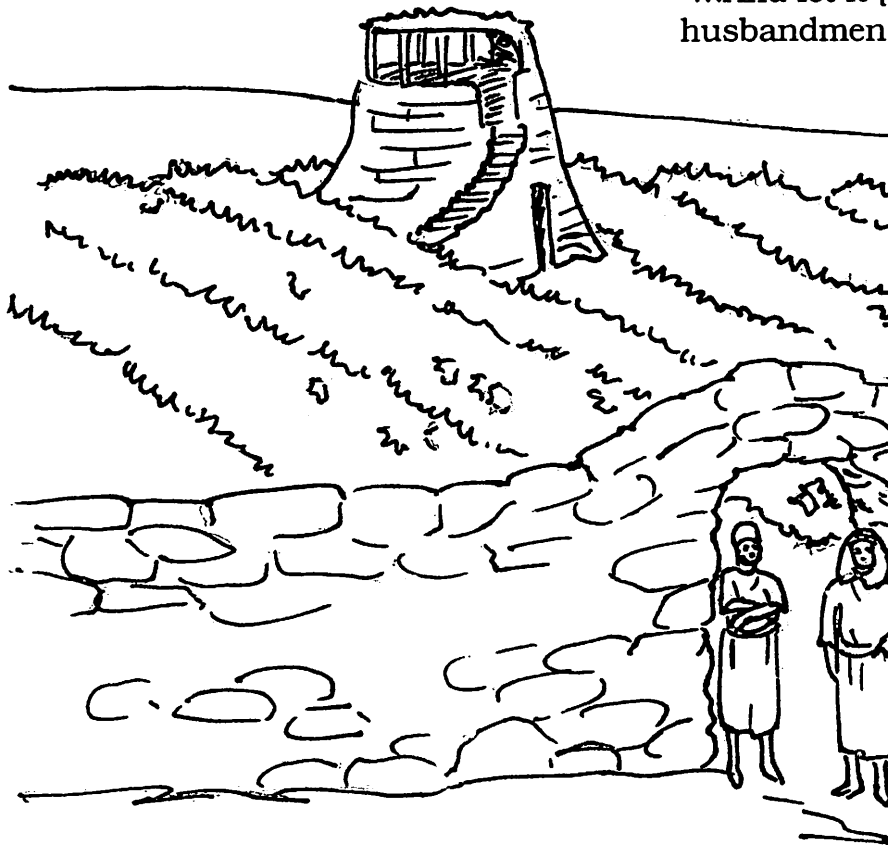
"He will destroy these wicked men and will get new workers," the people answered.

"The Scriptures say that the stone which the builders rejected is the head of the corner. The kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a nation bringing forth better fruit," Jesus told the pharisees.

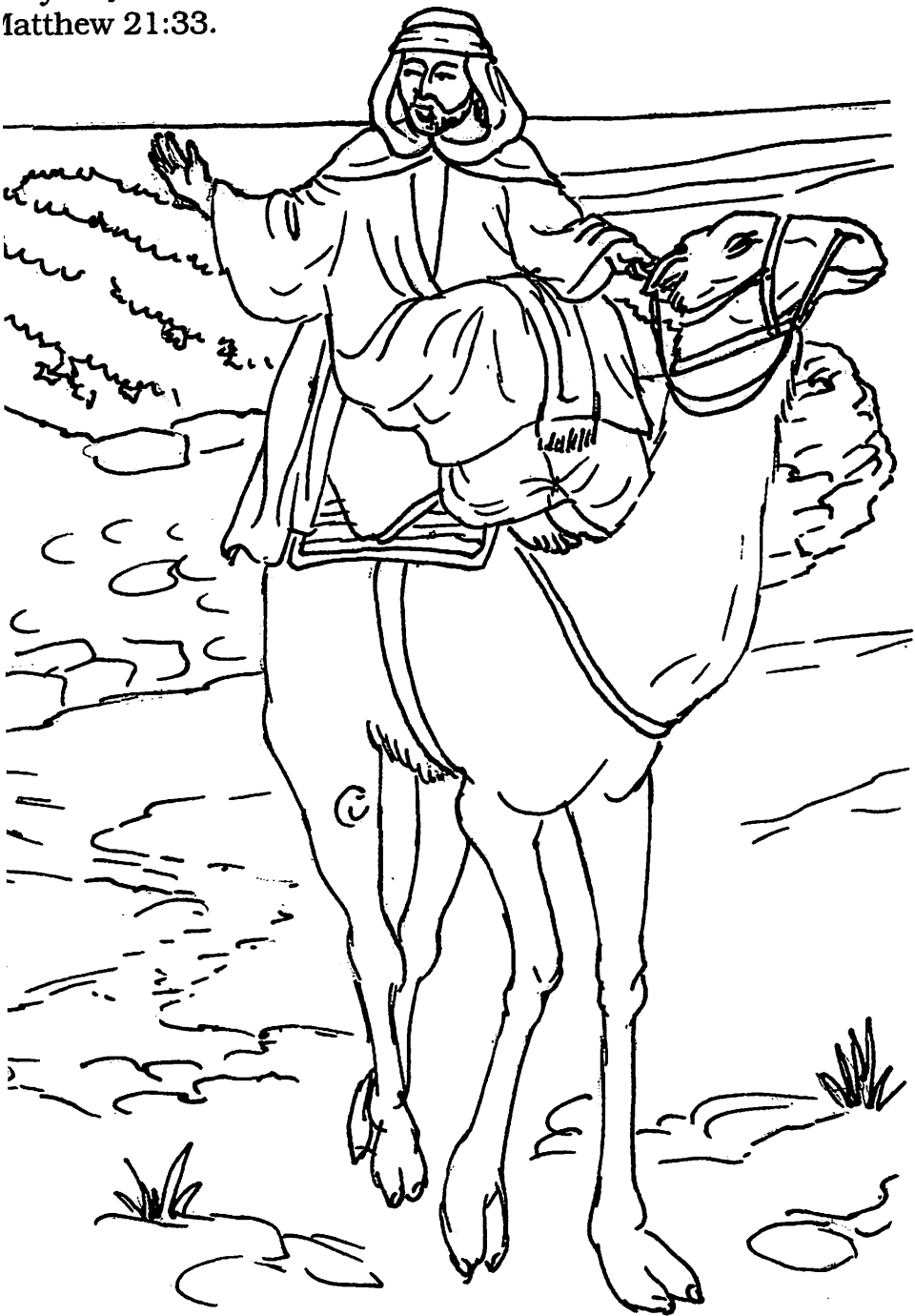
The pharisees thought Jesus was talking about them. It made them angry and they looked for ways to kill Him.

—Monica Murphey

“...And let it [
 husbandmen



neyard] out to
Matthew 21:33.



The Stranded Car

"I wonder if that man who tried to rob the Dollar Store really needed crutches," said Jerry to his dad as they drove toward home.

"Maybe not," replied his dad who was watching the road closely because it had started snowing. "We need to pray we make it home safely. The roads are getting slick fast."

"Hey, look, someone's already slid into the ditch!" said Jerry as he pointed to an old blue car stuck in the snowy ditch. "Looks like a lady and some little guys in the car."

"Looks like someone who needs you and me to help them," said Dad as he pulled his truck to the shoulder of the road. "They don't need to be out here in the cold. Watch here from the truck while I go see what's the matter."

Jerry saw his dad walk to the car. The woman talked to him but she did not roll down her window. Soon Dad came back to the truck.

"She ran out of gas," Dad told Jerry as he climbed into the truck. "We still have a gas can in the back. We'll go get her some gas at that station on the next corner."

"Okay," agreed Jerry. "Where's your cell phone? I'll call Mom and tell her we'll be a little late for supper."

Jerry finished talking to his mom as Dad pulled up by a gas pump. He turned to Jerry, "Put three gallons of gas into the can, then put up to fifteen dollars worth into the truck. I'll go in and pay for it."

Jerry hopped out of the truck and obeyed Dad. Big flakes of snow were falling and he was glad to get finished and out of the damp cold. Dad returned, stomping his boots before he climbed into the truck. He started the truck and turned it toward the woman's car.

They parked across the road from the old blue car. Jerry put gas into the car's tank while Dad did something under the hood. From a window, two little children watched Jerry. He smiled and waved to them and they shyly smiled and waved back.

"Now try to start the car," Dad said to the

woman. She turned the key and started the car.

"Oh, thank you!" she called through the closed window.

"You have enough gas to get to the next station," Dad told her. "See if you can back out of this ditch."

The snow was already covering the ground and making the earth soft. When the woman put her car in reverse, her tires just spun in the snow.

"Okay, Jerry, we have to push them out," said Dad as he went to the front of the car. He and Jerry put their shoulders against the car. "On the count of three, give it the gas and we will push. One, two, three, PUSH!"

The car shuddered then moved backwards and rolled up on the firm shoulder of the road. "Hooray!" shouted the children. Their mother honked a "thank you" as the blue car slowly started down the road.

"Let's get back in the truck!" said Dad to Jerry. They felt cold from the snow but warm inside. They had that happy feeling from doing something good for someone.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What did the man in this parable do for a living?
2. What did he do with his vineyard while he was gone?
3. What did he send his servants to do?
4. What did the husbandmen do with the first servant?
5. What solution did the owner think of?
6. What did the husbandmen decide to do with the son?
7. What did the people say the owner would do?
8. Who did Jesus tell them the kingdom of God would be given to?

(Answers: 1. He owned a vineyard. 2. Let it to some husbandmen. 3. Pick the grapes. 4. Beat him. 5. Sending his son. 6. Kill him. 7. "Destroy the men and get new workers." 8. A nation who brings better fruit.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 Dec. 18, 2005

THE TWO MITES

"Watch out for scribes," Jesus warned. Scribes worked in the temple. The scribes and pharisees did not like Jesus. Lately they had been asking Jesus questions. They were trying to find something about Jesus to get Him in trouble.

"Scribes want to walk in long robes and like to be well known. They like the highest seats in the synagogues and the best rooms at feasts. They take widows' houses and make a show with their long prayers," Jesus continued. "Men like these will be punished."

Jesus looked up and saw the rich men giving their money to the temple. A poor widow also was in the temple. She gave two mites to the treasury.

"This poor widow has put in more than all of these men," Jesus commended. "All of these others are rich and have given a little from their riches. This poor woman has given everything that she has."

This was still the week of the Passover and Jesus was visiting Jerusalem. During this week, Jesus prophesied many things. Once, Jesus' disciples were showing Him the buildings of the temple. "There will not be a stone left on top of one another. They shall all be thrown down."

"Do not let men deceive you," Jesus instructed. "People will come and say that they are Christ. Many will believe them. You will hear about wars and rumors of wars. All of these things must come to pass. The end of time will not have happened yet. These are just the beginnings of troubles. You will be delivered up and they will kill you. People will betray and hate one another. Whoever keeps true until the end, he shall be saved.

"After the darkness of these days," Jesus continued. "The sun will be darkened. The moon will not give light. Stars will fall from heaven. The tribes of the earth will see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and glory. His angels will come blowing trumpets and will gather God's children from one end of heaven to another."

—Monica Murphey

"...There came a...poor widow, a



threw in two mites,...” Mark 12:42.



Happy Supper Talk

"You need to call Mother and tell her we are on the way home for supper," Dad told Jerry. Big snowflakes were splattering on the truck as they drove down the road.

Jerry picked up the cell phone and called his mother. "We are coming home," he said. "Is supper ready? Our stomachs are ready for it! We will tell you more about the crippled man and the stranded car when we get home. Love ya. Bye!"

Jerry turned off the phone. "Let's hurry home," he said to Dad. "Mom has fried chicken, mashed potatoes and the gravy ready to eat!"

Ten minutes later their truck rolled into the driveway. Dad and Jerry went to the back room, brushed off the snow on their coats and stomped their boots. They hung up their coats on a rack and took off their boots before going into the house. Jerry breathed deeply. "Ah, the smell of fried chicken is wonderful!" he exclaimed. "I'll wash my hands and be ready to eat in a minute!"

"Daddy's home!" shouted Randy to baby Allen as they left their toy cars to greet their dad with a hug. "We want a piggyback ride, Daddy!"

"Let me wash my hands and eat first," said Dad. "Mother has a good supper all ready for us and Linda, my girl, has set the dishes on the table."

"I can eat two pieces of chicken!" declared Randy.

Soon the family was sitting around the table. "Let's thank the Lord for the food," said Dad. "We are very blessed of the Lord to have something to eat."

"Yes," agreed Mother. "Today we saw a poor man on crutches stealing food at the grocery store. We saw him put a package of hamburger in his coat pocket."

"Hey, I wonder if that was the same guy who tried to steal stuff at the Dollar Store!" exclaimed Jerry. After describing the man, Mom and Jerry agreed that it must have been the same man.

"Let's pray for him," said Mother. "Stealing is wrong, but he must be desperate."

Dad did pray for this man and others like him who do not have much food or money.

"I wonder if we could find the man and help him," said Linda. "He probably has a wife and children."

"Oh, we helped a woman and her two children," said Jerry. "They had run out of gas and slid into a little ditch. We put gas in her car, pushed it out of the ditch and made them all happy."

"That was very nice," said Mother with a smile. "It makes us feel good when we help others. I don't know how to find that crippled man, but we could make some cookies, wrap them in plastic and give them out to people in front of the grocery store."

Enthused with the idea, Linda said, "We could tape a small Christmas card on the back of each cookie and invite them to church on Christmas day."

"That's a good idea," said Dad, "but a lot of work."

"Maybe we will see that man on crutches, invite him to church, introduce him to Jesus Christ and help his family so he won't steal anymore!" said Randy.

Everyone laughed. "Whoa!" said Dad. "Have you eaten two pieces of chicken, Randy? I don't want you too fat for the piggyback ride or I might not be strong enough to carry you!"

Laughter and talk passed around the table while the good supper was eaten. One of the best gifts in life is to belong to a happy, caring family. Thank the Lord for yours.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who did Jesus see giving money to the temple?
2. How much money did she give?
3. Jesus said that the woman had given _____ she had.
4. What did Jesus say about the stones in the temple?
5. How did Jesus say people would act in the end times?
6. Who did Jesus say would be saved?
7. Where did Jesus say the Son of man would come?
8. Who will blow trumpets and gather God's children together?

(Answers: 1. A poor widow. 2. Two mites. 3. Everything. 4. They would be thrown down. 5. Evil. Answers may vary. 6. Whoever keeps true to the end. 7. In the clouds of heaven. 8. His angels.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 Dec. 25, 2005

THE UNPROFITABLE SERVANT

Jesus told many parables about the kingdom of heaven. In one of these parables, Jesus compared the kingdom of heaven to a man who was travelling to a country far away. The man called his servants to him and gave them all of his possessions. He gave one of his servants five talents. He gave another two and another one. After he had handed them all out for safe keeping, he left on his journey.

The man that had five talents traded his talents and made five more out of the deal. The man with two talents did the same with his. The man with one talent dug a hole in the earth and buried his master's money.

After a long time, the master returned from his journey. He met with his servants to inquire about his possessions.

"Lord, you gave me five talents," the first servant told him. "I have made five more also."

"Well done, good and faithful servant," his master replied. "You have been faithful over a few things. I will make you a ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of the lord."

"Lord," the second servant addressed him, "You gave me two talents. I have made two more besides these."

"Well done, good and faithful servant," the master replied. "You have been faithful over a few things, I will make you a ruler over many. Enter into the joy of the lord."

Then the third servant approached his master. "Lord, I know you are a hard man. I was afraid and hid your talent in the ground. Here is your talent."

"You wicked and lazy servant," his master rebuked. "You ought to have put my money to the exchangers. Then when I returned I would have received interest. Take your talent and give it to the man with ten. Cast this unprofitable servant into outer darkness."

—Monica Murphey



"But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money." Matthew 25:18.



A Great Christmas

Christmas morning had finally come! At the Anderson house, Jerry and Randy woke up at 6:30. "Let's wake up everyone so we can open our gifts before church!" said Randy.

"No, I think we had better wait," said Jerry. "Let's go make breakfast."

Randy frowned. "Work on Christmas day? I want to play!"

"We can play like we're cooking in the kitchen," said Jerry. "Come on, Randy, let's go!"

When the boys entered the kitchen, the wonderful smell of cinnamon rolls filled their noses. "Oh, Mother has already made breakfast!" exclaimed Randy. "Let's get some!"

Jerry poured two glasses of milk. While they ate cinnamon rolls, they talked about the cookie project their family had done.

"We gave out lots of cookies and church invitations," said Randy. "But we never did see that poor man on crutches. I guess he won't know about church today."

"We did what we could but I don't know how many people will come; anyway," said Jerry. "Mom said just to pray for them."

Soon the family was awake and excitement filled the house as everyone gathered in the den for family worship and gifts. Time passed quickly and each one had to hurry to dress for church.

As Dad parked the van in the church parking lot, Jerry saw a car that he recognized. "Hey, Dad, isn't that the old blue car that was in the ditch the other day? I wonder why it is parked here at church?"

"Maybe someone came whom we gave cookies and invitations too!" said Randy as he climbed out of the van.

When the Anderson family went inside the chapel, they saw the woman, her husband and their two children. They went right to greet them. "We are so glad to see you here," said Mother, hugging the woman. "I don't think I know your name?"

"Betty Copeland," replied the woman. "And this is my husband, Bob."

Mother smiled and reached out her hand to a man on crutches.

"Glad you came," said Dad as he shook hands, also.

"I recognize you," said Betty to Dad. "You are the man who put gas in our car when we ran out the other day. I really did appreciate your help!"

Jerry, Linda and Randy were talking with the children. "My name is Robin," said the girl. "And my brother's name is Ricky."

"Aren't you the boy that helped us the other day?" Ricky asked Jerry.

"Yeah," replied Jerry, smiling.

"Dad said he wanted to thank you guys for what you did," said Ricky. "Hey, Dad, these are the guys that put gas in our car the other day!"

Jerry's eyes widened when he turned to see the man on crutches reach a hand out to him. "I appreciate you all helping my family that night," Bob said. "We have been going through some tough times lately."

"I told Bob we need to start going to church," said Betty. "And what better day to start than Christmas!" —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Why did the master divide his possessions among his servants?
2. Did the master give each servant the same amount of talents?
3. What did the first servant do with his five talents?
4. What did the second servant do with his two talents?
5. What did the third servant do with his talent?
6. What did the master call the first two servants?
7. What did the master call the third servant?
8. Where did the master say to cast the unprofitable servant?

(Answers: 1. He was going on a journey. 2. No. 3. He made five more talents. 4. He made two more talents. 5. He buried his talent. 6. Good and faithful. 7. Wicked, lazy and unprofitable. 8. Into outer darkness.)