

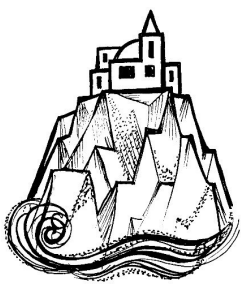


Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 1, Week 1

The Wise Man and the Foolish Man

Jesus told a parable to His followers about two men. The first man decided to build a house, so he went



out into the countryside to find a piece of land. He decided to build his house on a large, flat rock. But soon after he completed his house, a mighty storm blew in. Torrents of rain beat on the roof and flooded the ground all around him. Strong winds blew against

the walls, but the house did not fall. It was sturdy and secure because the solid rock was its foundation. The second man also wanted to build a house; but when he looked for a piece of land, he decided the sandy beach was the perfect place. He happily built his house and lived there for a little while. But another storm soon blew in. Again, rain beat down. The beach became flooded, and strong winds pushed against the house's walls. The second man's house could not withstand the storm—it fell into many pieces with a great crash. Jesus compared the first man to the followers who listened to and followed His teachings. They were wise, like the man who built his house upon the solid rock. He compared the second man to the followers who heard His teachings but decided not to obey them. Those followers were foolish, like the man who built his house on the shifting sand. Jesus wants all of His followers, including you, to be wise and build your spiritual house upon the solid rock, Jesus Christ!

(Matthew 4:24-27)

Questions:

1. Where did the wise man build his house?
2. Where did the foolish man build his house?
3. Who did Jesus compare to the wise man?
4. Who did Jesus compare to the foolish man?

Memory Verse: *And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.*

Matthew 7:25

Wisdom Calls

“Wow, Noah! It’s hot today!” Mason said, wiping his face with his sleeve. “I think green beans are my least favorite vegetable to pick. How about you?” he asked his brother.

“I agree,” Noah said in a grumpy voice. “You practically have to bury yourself in the plant to find them.” He waved his hands wildly around his face. “And it’s so much worse when you have these annoying horseflies buzzing around your head!” “The flies love sweaty people,” Mason grumbled along with his brother.

A few rows over, Grandpa was listening to Mason and Noah chatter. “Hey, boys!” he called. “Listen!” Pausing their work, the boys listened to an afternoon noise. Suddenly perking up, they hollered, “The ice cream truck! Can we get something, Grandpa? Please?” They hopped over rows of vegetables to reach him with pleading faces.

Pulling a few bills from his pocket, Grandpa said, “Get each of us a fudge bar.”

When the boys returned to the garden, they sat down under an apple tree and enjoyed the ice cream.

“You know something, boys,” Grandpa began as he ate, “every time I hear the ice cream truck in the neighborhood, it reminds me of a verse in Proverbs. It says that wisdom calls out in the street.”

“Wisdom?” Mason asked. “How is the ice cream truck wise?”

"I thought it was wise of us to get ice cream!" Noah said.

"I agree!" Grandpa said, laughing. "The ice cream truck 'calls out in the street' because it has something cool and satisfying for you when you're hot and tired. The verse in Proverbs says 'wisdom calls out in the street' with something even better than ice cream," he explained. "I hope you boys are

just as eager to get the wisdom of the Lord as you are ice cream."

Noah frowned. "How do we get wisdom? Go to school?"

"In a way," Grandpa agreed. "Go to God's school... read His teaching in the bible."

-LG



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Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 1, Week 2

The Sower and the Seeds

One day, Jesus sat in a boat and preached to the multitude gathered on the shore. He told them a



parable about a man who went out to sow his seeds. Some of the sower's seeds fell by the side of the road, and the birds of the air came and ate the seeds. More seeds fell onto ground that was full of stones. Those seeds sprouted into plants

but soon withered away in the hot sun. There was not enough dirt in the stony ground for the seeds to take root. More seeds fell to the ground among thorny plants. The thorns choked out any life that sprang up from those seeds. But, some seeds fell onto deep ground. They brought forth good fruit, some one hundred pieces, some sixty pieces, and some thirty pieces. Jesus instructed the multitude to listen! His story had meaning behind it that He wanted them to understand. The sower's seeds represent Jesus' Gospel of Salvation. The roadside represents souls that are not ready to hear the Gospel. The stony ground represents souls that accept the Gospel but cannot withstand the trials of this life and wither away. The thorny ground represents souls that have no room for the Gospel to grow. Most importantly, the deep ground represents souls who are ready to receive the Gospel and produce fruit. He wants you to be willing to accept His plan of Salvation and bear His fruit!

(Matthew 13:3-9)

Questions:

1. What type of story did Jesus tell the multitude?
2. Who went out to sow the seeds?
3. What types of ground did the seeds fall into?
4. Which type of ground does Jesus want you to be?

Memory Verse: *But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. Matthew 13:8*

Baby Food

"The baby is crying again," complained Ava.

Mom walked to the bassinet and picked up the fussy baby, bundled tight. "The baby has a name—Ethan. And you, Ava, need to learn to be a little more patient with your brother," she chided. "He's only four weeks old."

"I know, Mom. But he's so demanding!" Ava grumbled. "He only eats, sleeps, and cries."

Settling into the rocking chair, Mom said, "You're right. It seems like I just fed him a few hours ago, but I think he's hungry again." Ethan quieted as soon as he started eating.

Ava watched angrily. "I thought having a baby around would be more fun. What good is having a dumb baby brother if he's so annoying?"

"Ava, use kind words. You could learn a lot from him, if you had a mind to," Mom responded.

"What can I learn from him?" Ava said, a funny look on her face.

"Bring your bible here and turn to 1 Peter 2:2," Mom directed. "Read the verse out loud."

Finding the verse, Ava began reading. "'As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.'"

Still rocking Ethan, Mom asked, "What is Ethan doing now?"

"Still eating, but he looks like he is about to fall asleep again," Ava observed. "I guess he's resting and eating at the same time."

"What do you think would happen if I rocked Ethan and gave him his pacifier, but didn't feed him? How would he have reacted?"

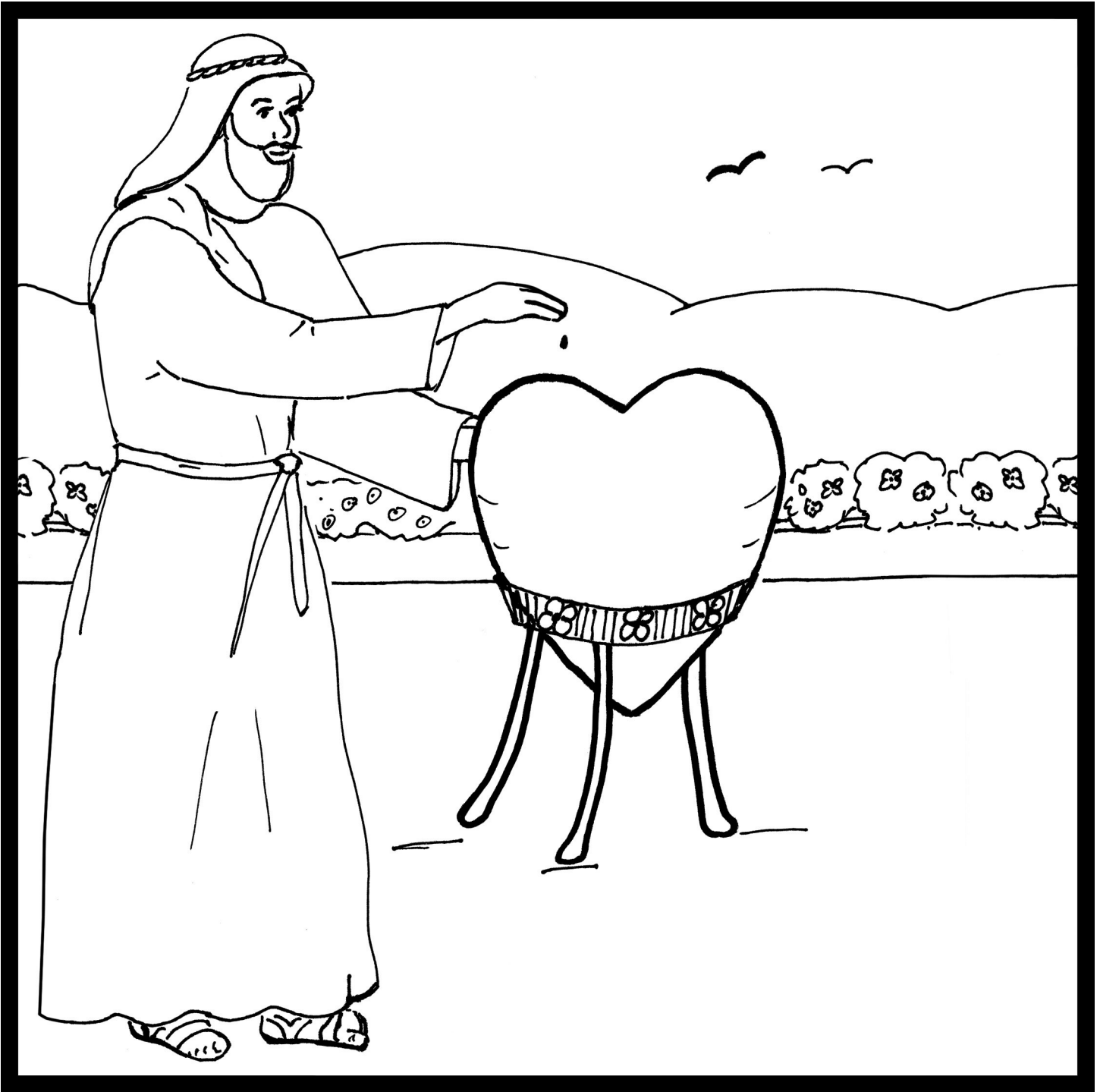
"Probably cried some more," she replied. "He certainly knows when he needs to eat."

"Exactly," Mom said. "That's how God wants us to follow His word. He wants us to hunger after it so

much, that nothing else will satisfy us. Then, as we read His word, we should rest and find comfort in it, just like Ethan does after he eats."

Smiling a little, Ava watched Ethan as he drifted off to sleep. "I guess I could learn a little something from him."

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Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 1, Week 3

The Unmerciful Servant

Jesus once told of a rich king who decided to account for how much his subjects owed him. The king came upon one man who owed him ten thousand talents. When the king found out the man had no money to pay, he commanded him to be sold into slavery, along with his wife and children! The man fell down before the king and begged, “Lord, have patience with me! I will repay everything!” Filled with compassion, the king forgave his subject the debt and set him free. The forgiven man went on his way and soon came across a fellow-subject who owed the forgiven man one hundred pence. He grabbed the man by the throat and yelled, “Pay me what you owe me!” The fellow-subject fell down at the man’s feet and begged, “Have patience with me! I will repay everything!” But the man would not forgive him his debt and threw him in prison until he could pay. When the people of the kingdom found out what had happened, they told the king everything. The king found the subject and condemned him, saying, “You are a wicked subject! I forgave you all that you owed me. Should you not have also had compassion on your fellow-subject as I did on you?” The king was angry and punished the man. Jesus does not want you to be like the subject who could not forgive a small debt—he wants you to be like the king who had compassion and forgave a great debt! (Matthew 18:23-35)



Questions:

1. What was the man’s punishment for not paying the king?
2. What did the king grant the man?
3. Who owed the forgiven man?
4. Who does Jesus want you to be like?

Memory Verse: *Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? Matthew 18:23-5*

Forgiven

Lily’s heart felt heavy in her chest. *Why did I do it? I never should have done it!* After school, she tried her best to smile normally, as she yelled, “Mom, I’m home!” She didn’t hear an answer, so she called out to her puppy. “Ruger! Where are you?” He always met Lily at the door, so she wondered where he was. Then she spotted it—bathroom tissue strung across the hallway into her bedroom. “You naughty dog! Come out!”

Ruger slinked out from under the bed, head drooping.

“You know you’re guilty,” she said, laughing. “Let’s clean this up before Mom sees it.”

That night, Lily tossed and turned in her bed. *I shouldn’t have done it. Why did I do it?* She scrunched into a ball and pulled her blankets over her head, trying to hide. It seemed like Jesus was standing right next to her, looking directly into her soul. Shivering, she peeked out, but the empty room did not take the feeling away.

“Mom!” she hollered, sitting up.

Lily’s light came on. “What’s wrong, honey?” Mom asked.

Feeling ashamed, Lily studied her blanket. “It just seemed... well, it felt like Jesus was right here in my room.”

Smiling, her mom said, “He’s with us at all times. But why would that scare you? He loves you.”

Tears filled Lily’s eyes. “I know. It’s just that... I stole five dollars from my friend Zoe today. It was right

there on her desk, but... I don't know why I did it!" Mom sat on the bed and hugged her. "And that's why you were scared. The presence of Jesus is only frightening when we've sinned. It makes us want to hide from him." Lily thought of Ruger hiding under the bed. "But when we confess our sins, his presence is comforting to us," continued Mom.

"Jesus loves you and he wants to forgive you." After Lily prayed, she lay in bed and a warm peacefulness filled her. I'll return the money tomorrow. She knew God had forgiven her, even more than she had forgiven Ruger. Before Lily realized it, she was asleep.

-LG



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Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 1, Week 4

Laborers in the Vineyard

Jesus told a parable to his followers about a man that owned a vineyard. He said, "The kingdom of Heaven is like a man who owns a great house and a large vineyard. This man went out early in the morning to hire men to work in his vineyard. He told every man he hired that they would receive a penny for their day's work. When the owner went out again in the third hour of the day, he saw men standing about in the marketplace. He hired those men too, and promised them a fair wage at the end of the day. At the sixth, ninth, and eleventh hour, he again hired men and promised everyone a fair wage. At the end of the day, the owner told his foreman to have every man come collect their wages, beginning with those who were hired last. Every man that worked in the vineyard received a penny, even those who had only worked for one hour! The men who had worked from the beginning of the day grumbled to the owner, saying, 'These men have only worked one hour, and you gave them the same wage we received. But we worked all day in the heat!' The owner answered, 'Friends, have I done you wrong? You agreed to work for a penny, so take your wages and head home. I will give to the last man hired the same that I gave to you; I can pay each man as I see fit.'" No matter how long they have been serving him, Jesus will reward every person for the work they do for him. (Matthew 20:1-16)



Questions:

1. How much did the owner of the vineyard pay each worker?
2. How many times did the owner go out and hire workers?
3. Why did some of the workers grumble at the owner?
4. How long do you have to serve Jesus for him to reward you?

Memory Verse: *So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen. Mark 20:16*

Jared and Grandpa

Jared loved his Grandpa. It was wonderful to have him come for a visit, and he couldn't wait to show him the shiny new wagon he'd gotten for his birthday.

"Can you pull me in it, Grampa?" Jared begged.

"We can both ride this wagon. You get on the front and I'll get on the back. We'll both ride down the hill," Grandpa explained.

"Wee! This is fun!" Jared exclaimed, as they coasted down the hill. "Let's do it again."

Grandpa pulled the wagon back up the hill and they rode down again. Up and down, up and down they rode. When they were too tired to ride anymore, they sat on the grass to rest and visit.

"When will I get to see you again, Grampa?" Jared questioned.

"I'll see you at the Louisiana camp meeting in July. Maybe we can go fishing one afternoon," Grandpa said.

Jared's grandpa left early the next morning. Jared knew he would see Grandpa at the Louisiana camp meeting because he was a preacher and worked hard to spread the Gospel. Knowing that eased Jared's sadness a little bit.

When July came, Jared's mother could not find him before the first service of the meeting. "Where is Jared?" she asked his daddy.

"I don't know. I'll go outside and look for him," he replied.

When Jared's mother got seated, she could see

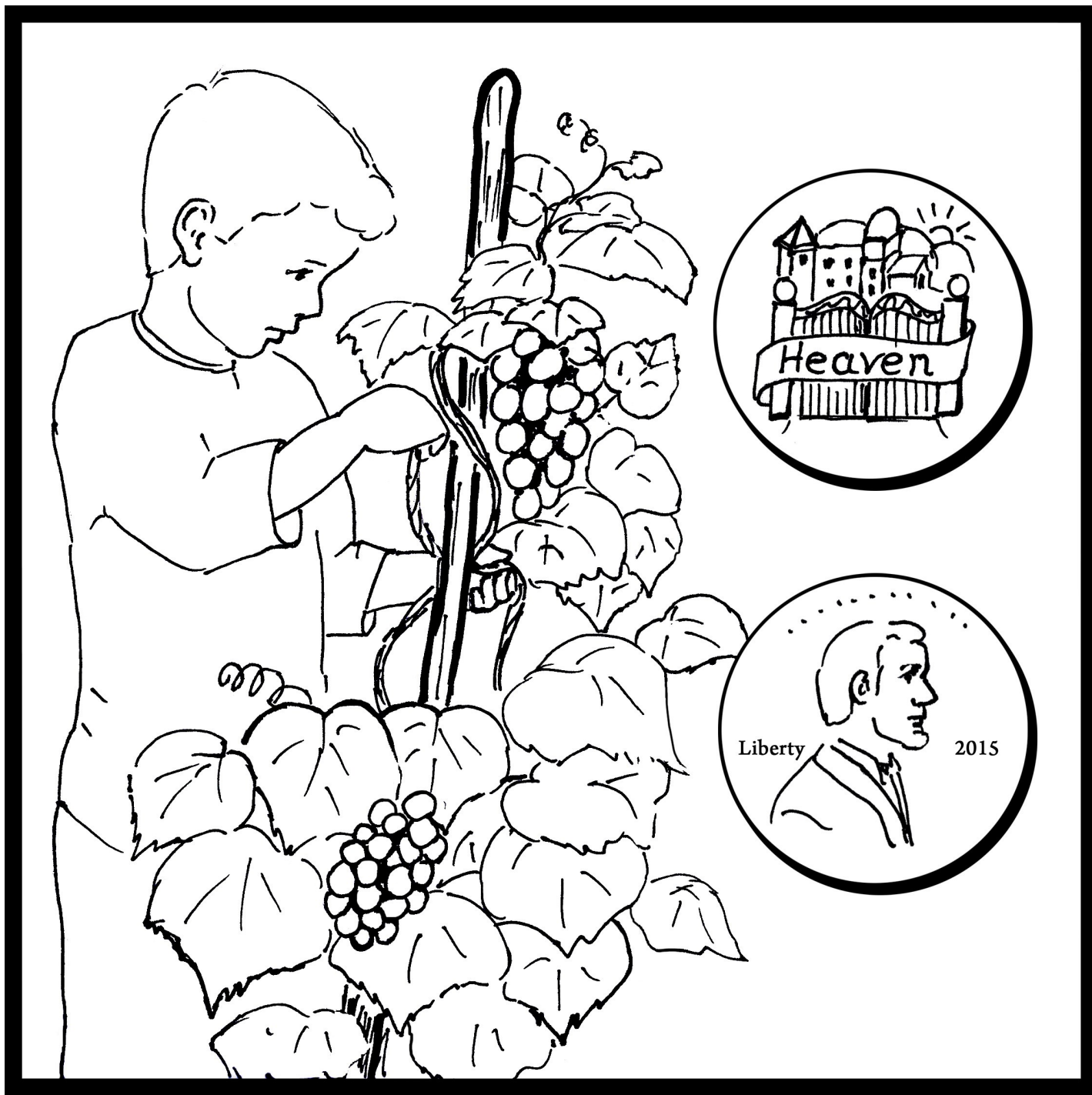
Jared sitting up front with his grandpa, smiling from ear to ear. Those two sure are good buddies. I hope they will be that way all of their lives, Jared's mother thought.

God knew they were good buddies, and He took them to heaven just a few weeks apart. Grandpa worked hard for Jesus for 37 years, and Jared lived for Jesus for only six years. His little heart wore out

like his grandpa's.

Jared and Grandpa are like the men in the Bible story. Some worked hard all day, and some only worked an hour, but Jesus paid them both the same. Heaven will be worth it, no matter how long we work for Jesus.

-Rosie Gellenbeck





Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 1, Week 5

The Unwilling Guests

Jesus told his followers a parable about a king who was preparing for his son's marriage. The king sent out messengers to invite all of his friends and neighbors to the wedding, but everyone declined the invitation. Later, he sent more messengers to those he had invited, saying, "Behold! I have prepared a large feast. The oxen and fat calf are killed and everything is ready! Please, come join me at my son's marriage." But his friends and neighbors did not take him seriously. Some went their own way, tending to their farms or merchandise stores. Those who did not go their own way cruelly killed all of the messengers sent to invite them. When the king heard that his servants were dead, he was very angry. He sent out armies to destroy the murderers of his messengers, and then he burned their cities. He then spoke to his servants, saying, "The wedding is ready, but those that were invited are not worthy. So, go into the highways and invite anyone you meet to the marriage." The servants did as they were told, inviting everyone they could find, whether rich or poor. The king was satisfied that the wedding feast was filled with guests. Jesus is inviting you to be a guest at his feast--to be saved and partake of his blessings. It doesn't matter if you are good or bad, rich or poor, young or old. He wants everyone to enjoy the blessings he has provided.

(Matthew 22:2-10)

Questions:

1. Who was getting married?
2. Who was first invited to the marriage feast?
3. How did those guests respond to the invitation?
4. Who ended up coming to the marriage feast?

Memory Verse: *Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.*
Matthew 22:9

A Willing Child

Mason's fingers turned white from gripping the pew in front of him. For the first time that he could remember, he really listened to the message during evening service. "Tonight is the time to come to the Lord," the pastor said. "Later may be too late." But Mason didn't want to give in. His friends might make fun of him, and besides, he was still young. Surely there would be another time to pray. As the service closed, Mason felt guilty for not giving his life to Jesus while he had the opportunity.

The next day, Mason's gym class was playing soccer, and he was positive his team would easily win the game. But Mason just wasn't himself. All he could think about was church the night before. The game started, and before long, the other team was ahead, two to zero.

"We can catch up," said one of Mason's teammates. When there was only one minute left in the game, Noah, Mason's teammate, stole the ball, dribbled down the field, and kicked a goal. Now, the score was two to one.

Mr. Coburn, the gym teacher, was looking at his stopwatch and holding the whistle in his mouth, about to signal the end of the game. Noah made a steal and kicked a perfect pass to Mason, who was standing right by the goal. "Kick it in!" Noah shouted. "Tie the score!"

But Mason was a little too late. The ball rolled off to one side just as Mr. Coburn blew his whistle.

As they were returning to the locker room, Mr. Coburn caught up with Mason and said, "Your timing was a little off today, Mason."

"I know," he mumbled, eyes downcast. If his timing had been a little better, he could have scored a goal to tie the game. Suddenly, he remembered the words of the pastor from the night before. *What if*

my timing is off on that too, and I wait too long to accept Jesus into my heart? As the other kids ran toward the gym, Mason stayed behind and asked the Lord to come dwell in his heart.

-LG



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Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 1, Week 6

The Watchman



After Jesus ministered on Earth and ascended to Heaven, He knew that someday He would return to bring His children home. The Bible says that even Jesus does not know when that time will be, for only God knows the exact day and hour. While Jesus taught on Earth, he wanted all of His disciples and followers to be careful how they lived so that they would always be ready for His return. To remind them to be ready, He told them a parable. “Pay attention! Watch and pray, for you do not know when the time of my return will come. The Son of Man is like a man who took a long and far journey. Before this man left his house, he commanded every servant to do to his work, and the watchman to keep watch for his return. Just like the watchman, I want each of you to keep watch, for the master of your lives will come at any time, whether it is evening, midnight, dawn, or afternoon. You would not want to be found sleeping when you have been commanded to do the work of the Lord. So, children of God, keep watch for the return of the Master.” Jesus has not yet returned to take His children to Heaven, so as a child of God, the right thing to do is follow each of Jesus’ commandments and always have a pure, sin-free heart. Every person that has obeyed and loved Jesus will go to Heaven with Him.

(Mark 13:33-37)

Questions:

1. Who knows when Jesus will return to take His children to Heaven?
2. To whom did Jesus compare the Son of Man?
3. What two things does Jesus want every person to do?
4. Where will every child of God go when Jesus returns?

Memory Verse: *And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch. Matthew 13:37*

Rain Soaked

“Are we ever going to have sunshine?” Lily complained. “It’s raining again.” She flung her school books onto the table in frustration.

“The garden grows because of the rain,” Mom said, smiling. “This might be a good time to do your Sunday school lesson,” she suggested. “You haven’t finished it yet, have you?” Shaking her head, Lily reluctantly trudged upstairs.

As soon as she finished her lesson, she glanced out the window and saw that the rain had subsided.

“The rain stopped! I’ve about had enough of it,” she proclaimed as she ran down the stairs. “I’ve about had enough of these too,” she mumbled to herself, as she tucked her Bible and Sunday school lesson on the shelf. “All we do in this family is go to church, read the Bible, and pray.” As she turned around, she saw Mom watching her, and she blushed, hoping she hadn’t heard the snide comments.

“Lily, why don’t we go out to the garden so I can show you something?” Mom said. In their rain boots and coats, they made their way to the garden. Mom picked up a shovel and overturned a small patch of earth. “You think we’ve had enough rain, but look at this dirt,” she said, pointing at the dry layer a little ways below the mud.

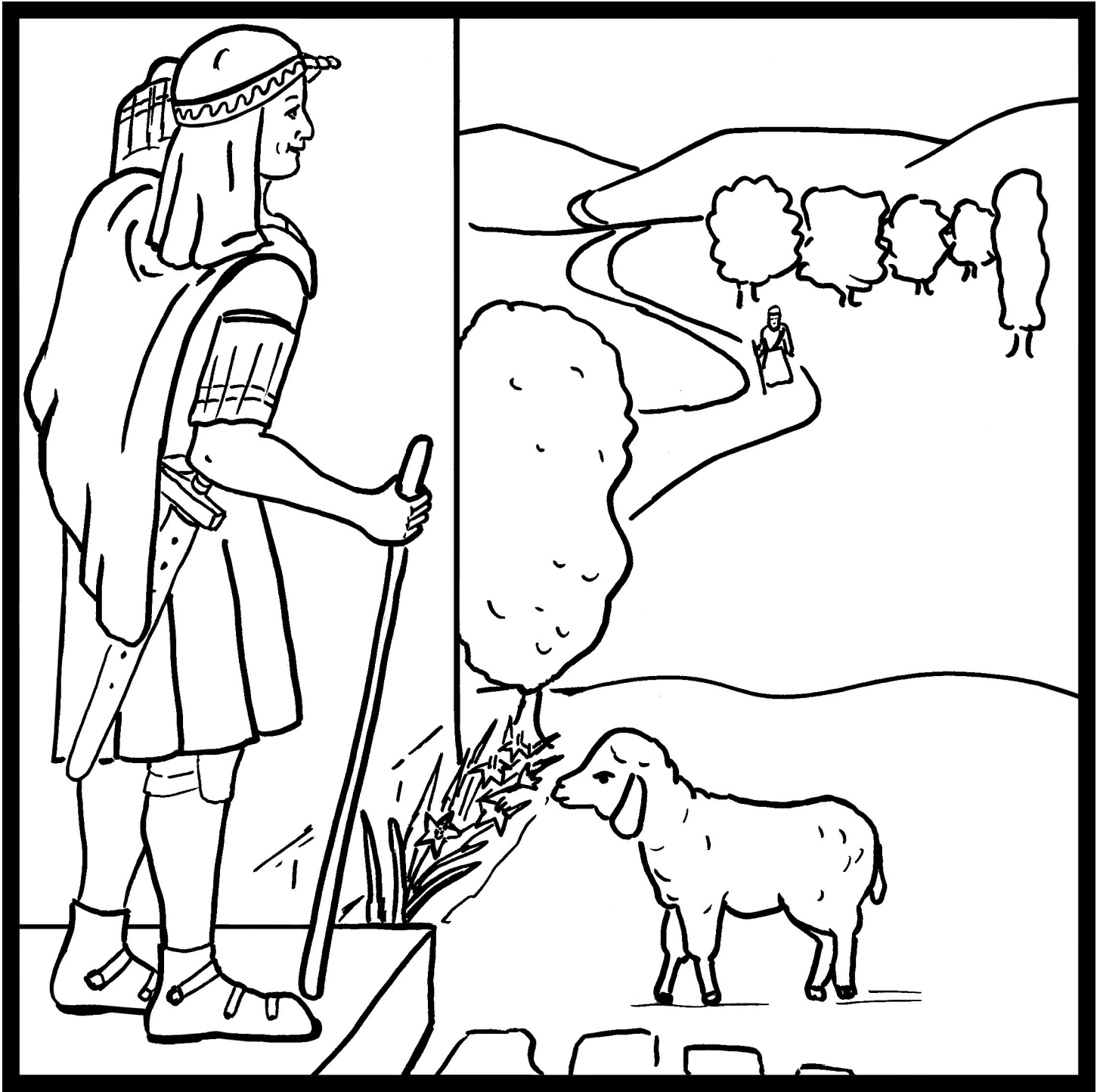
“Wow! I thought it would be mud a hundred feet down! Maybe we do need more rain,” Lily admitted.

Mom smiled. “This is kind of how we can be as Christians,” she said. “Sometimes we think we’ve taken in so much of God’s word that we don’t need any more.” Lily cringed, thinking of her comments.

“And still,” Mom continued, “we’re ‘dry’ deep down, even though we go to church, read a verse in the morning, and say a quick prayer at night. God’s truths haven’t sunk deep down into our hearts, and we don’t really take the time to hear what He’s trying to tell us.”

In her heart, Lily knew what Mom said was true, and she promised herself she would listen harder to God’s word and voice.

LG



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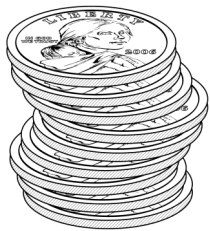


Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 1, Week 7

The Lost Coin

One day when Jesus began speaking to his followers, publicans (tax collectors) and sinners heard him and joined the crowd to listen. Nearby, the scribes and Pharisees saw Jesus talking with the sinners, and murmured among themselves, saying, “This man accepts sinners and even sits



down to eat with them!” Upon hearing them, Jesus decided to tell a parable so that the Pharisees and scribes would understand why he reached out to the sinners. He began, saying, “There was a woman who had ten pieces of silver, but she lost one piece and knew she must find it. So, she lit a candle and swept her entire house. When she did not find it at first, she continued looking diligently until she finally found it in a small, dark corner. To celebrate finding that piece of silver, she called her friends and neighbors over, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me! I lost a piece of silver, but now I have found it!’ In the same way that the woman rejoiced over the piece of silver that she found, there is great joy in Heaven when one sinner repents. God and the angels rejoice when a soul is saved!” Jesus wanted the Pharisees and scribes to understand that it was worth spending time with the sinners. He also wanted each child of God to know that their salvation is celebrated in Heaven. Just like Jesus, we need to reach out to lost souls and celebrate salvation! (Luke 15:1-10)

Questions:

1. Who complained about Jesus talking to the sinners?
2. In the parable, what was the woman looking for?
3. Why did she invite her neighbors to celebrate?
4. What does Jesus want us to do for sinners?

Memory Verse: Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth. Luke 15:10

Bought Back

“Mom, do you think I could have some money for the lost and found auction at school today?” Lucas asked. His mother nodded and handed him a few bills from her purse.

At lunchtime, Lucas’ school would auction off everything that hadn’t been claimed in the lost and found box. All the students gathered in the auditorium and watched as the auctioneer began selling items--scarves, jackets, and gloves. But when he held up a pair of gym shoes, Lucas recognized them immediately.

Those are the shoes I thought I left at Grandma’s house, he thought. I think I’ll buy them back.

The bidding went back and forth, and Lucas began to wonder if he had enough money. When he’d bid his last dollar, he held his breath, hoping no one would bid again. And no one did!

After school, he collected his shoes and walked home. When he got there, he couldn’t help but feel a little cheated, and said to his dad, “It doesn’t really seem fair that I had to buy these shoes back. They were always mine, but I had to spend all my money on them!”

Nodding, his dad replied, “I can understand why you feel like that. But you know what this reminds me of? It reminds me of what God has done for us. He created us, so in a sense, we belong to Him. Like your shoes, though, mankind got lost—lost in sin. God had to buy us back.”

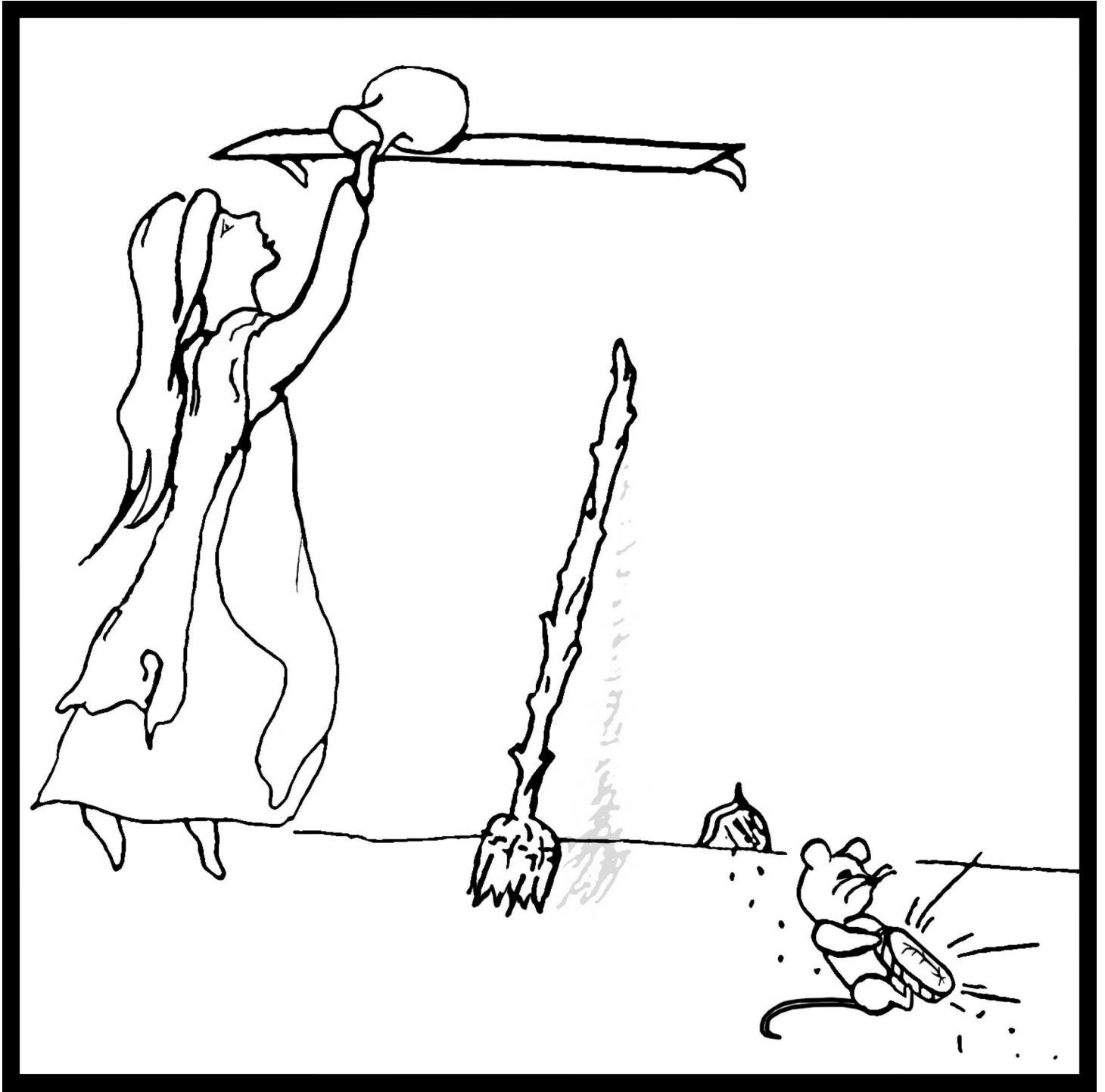
"That's exactly right," his mom agreed. "Just like it took all of your money to buy your shoes back, God gave everything He had. He sent His son to Earth to die for our sins so that we could be found and brought back to God."

"That might be where the comparison ends, though," Lucas' dad continued. "Your shoes didn't

have a choice in the matter. But we do have a choice. We can accept Jesus' sacrifice and reap the rewards of eternal life, or we can refuse it and pay the consequences."

"I guess that's true," Lucas agreed, nodding. "But I, for one, want to accept it and reap the rewards!"

LG



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Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 1, Week 8

The Rich Fool



One day, a very great multitude gathered to hear Jesus speak and teach. He taught them many things, including a parable about a rich man. He said, "There was a rich man whose farm was very plentiful. His crops grew well for so many years that the man thought to himself, what am I going to do? I have so much excess that I have no place to store it all! Then, another thought struck him, and he immediately put a plan into motion, saying, "This is what I will do: I will tear down all my old barns and storehouses and build them back bigger and better! In those barns, I will store all my excess fruit and goods. Then, I will say to myself, 'I have many years of supplies stored away. From this point forward, I will not work, but I will eat, drink, and be merry.'" But God said unto the rich man, 'You are a fool. Tonight, your soul will be required of you, and then what good will all your riches and goods do?'" Jesus wanted his followers to understand that riches and Earthly possessions will not save your soul or make you happy. Only love and service to God will fill the void that those in the world attempt to fill with riches. Jesus finished the parable by saying, "He that collects riches and treasures for himself on Earth will have no riches in Heaven."

(Luke 12:16-21)

Questions:

1. Why did the rich man want to build new storehouses?
2. What did the rich man plan to do when all his new storehouses were filled?
3. What did God say to the man?
4. What will fill our hearts more than Earthly riches?

Memory Verse: *But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God. Luke 16:20-22*

Generous Jacob

"You really gave Logan Peterson your last dollar? Boy, that was not smart!" Ryan said, criticizing his younger brother.

"Last week you gave Chloe your last two dollars! You give your money away too much," Ryan continued, "and you put it in the offering all the time!"

"Logan didn't have any money for lunch, though," Jacob defended. "And Chloe was trying to buy her mom a birthday gift."

"Someone else can help them!" Ryan insisted. "If you keep going like this, you'll never have anything to show for your money. I, on the other hand, almost have enough to buy a baseball bat!"

A couple weeks later, Ryan bounded into the house, holding his new bat out for everyone to see. "Look at my new bat!" he hollered excitedly. "C'mon, Jacob, let's go play baseball at the park!"

"I'm sorry, Ryan. I can't go today. Why don't you call Jose or Alan?"

"I did. Neither of them can come today. Why can't you play?"

Smiling, Jacob said, "Logan Peterson called. His dad's company is having their annual picnic at Bell's Family Fun Center today. Logan can bring one guest, and he chose me. The games and food are free all day!"

Ryan threw his bat on the couch, grumbling to himself.

"I know you said I'd never have much to show for my money," Jacob said, "but I think you were wrong. I don't feel poor at all even though I don't have very much saved up." His face brightened as he glanced at Ryan's bat, discarded on the couch. "Hey, how

about you and I play baseball tomorrow?"

"Alright," Ryan agreed. He sat down and held his bat as he watched Jacob leave. "You can use my new bat!" he called after him. Maybe Jacob's way was best after all.

LG



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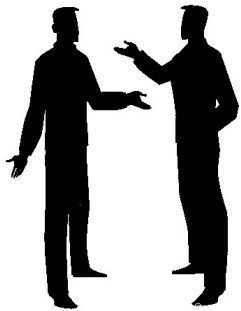


Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 1, Week 9

The Arrogant Guest

One the Sabbath Day, Jesus entered into the house of the chief Pharisee to eat dinner. All of the guests watched Jesus closely as he conversed with the Pharisees and healed a man who was sick. But, when Jesus saw the way the guests clamored for the best seat, he told a parable to teach the guests about humility. He



said, "When a man invites you to his wedding, do not sit in the best seat. Most likely, there is a guest who is more important than you, and the man who is getting married may have to ask you to move. If that were to happen, would you not be ashamed as you were made to take a seat of less importance? But when you go to the wedding, take the least prominent seat you can find, for then the man getting married may say to you, 'Friend, take a better seat than that! You may come sit with my most important guests and eat the best meat!' I say to you," Jesus continued, "that the man who exalts himself will be greatly humbled, but the man who humbles himself will be greatly exalted." Jesus wanted everyone sitting at the table to understand the idea of humility. When a child of God acts arrogant, or self-important, the name of God is discredited. Jesus wants all Christians to be humble and let others take a place of importance over themselves.

(Matthew 14:7-11)

Questions:

1. What was Jesus doing in the Pharisee's house?
2. Why did Jesus tell the parable?
3. What happened to the man who took the best seat?
4. What idea was Jesus trying to instill in his listeners?

Memory Verse: *For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted. Luke 14:11*

Wisdom Calls

All the students of Thomas Jefferson Elementary School were seated in the auditorium to watch the end-of-the-year awards assembly. Library awards, music awards, spelling awards, and math awards were all given away. But all Jayden could think about was the attendance award. He knew he was the most likely to win, and his stomach churned in anticipation.

Finally, the principle began reading from a list of names. These were the students who hadn't missed a day all year. When he reached the end of the list, he announced, "And now we have a very special award! Jayden Flanigan has not missed a day of school since he had the chickenpox in Kindergarten! He is now in fifth grade." Everyone in the auditorium clapped as Jayden walked onto the stage to receive his award.

That afternoon, as soon as he got home, he showed the award to his mom. "That's pretty impressive, Jayden," his mom said, smiling. "It must be all that broccoli I make you eat at dinner."

Jayden laughed. "Well, it was worth it for this award!"

"You know something, Jayden," his mom commented, "it's very important to be healthy physically. But it's even more important to stay healthy spiritually. You haven't been sick physically in a long time, but how is your spirit doing?"

Sighing, Jayden admitted, "Probably not as well as my body."

"I think everyone has to admit that at some point," his mom said, gently. "Staying spiritually healthy requires us to read our Bibles and pray. We also need to listen to our Sunday school teachers and pastors. If one of them tries to teach us something that goes against God's word, we will be able to

recognize that it's not right. Staying spiritually healthy keeps us living the way the Lord wants us to live."

"You know what, Mom? From now on, I am going to try to stay as healthy spiritually as I do physically!"

LG



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Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 1, Week 10

Lazarus the Beggar

Jesus told a parable to his followers to help them understand the importance of listening to the Word of God. He said, "There was a rich man that clothed himself in purple cloth and the finest linen and ate elaborate meals every day. There was also a beggar named Lazarus, and he often sat at the gate of the city. His skin was infested with sores, and all he wanted was the crumbs that fell from the table of the rich man. However, the rich man could not be bothered with Lazarus and never offered him any relief. After a time, Lazarus died, and the angels carried him to rest in the bosom of Abraham. Eventually, the rich man also died, however he did not receive eternal rest. Being in torment, he lifted his eyes from hell and saw Abraham far off with Lazarus resting in his bosom. He cried, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me! Send Lazarus to dip his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am tormented by this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that while you were alive, you received many good things, and Lazarus received none. Now, he is comforted and you are tormented.' Again, the rich man begged, 'If you cannot send him to me, Father, I pray that you would send him to my father's house to warn my brothers, so they do not end up in this torment!' Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets. Let your brothers hear them.' 'But they will not hear! Not unless a man returns from the dead,' the rich man pleaded. 'If they hear Moses and the prophets and are not persuaded, they will never be,' Abraham replied."

Questions:

1. Why did Jesus tell this parable?
2. The rich man wanted Lazarus to do what?
3. In his eternal rest, Lazarus was ____, while the rich man was tormented.
4. To whom did Abraham say the rich man's brothers should listen?

Memory Verse: *And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom. Luke 16:22*

A Flame

Oh, not another essay! Why did I think this extra writing class was a good idea? Charlotte groaned to herself as the teacher announced the essay topic: What I Want to Be When I Grow Up. I hate writing. And I don't even know what I want to be!

Later that night, Charlotte's family discussed the news of the day. A house in their neighborhood had burned down the night before. The fire had been started by two little boys who were playing with matches unsupervised.

Changing the subject, Charlotte complained to her parents about the essay she'd been assigned that day. "I have no idea what I want to be when I grow up! And honestly, I don't really care," she said in a grumpy voice.

"Charlotte, you should care what you want to be," her father replied. "Life is a precious gift from God. You must live yours carefully, for it can be used for great good or great evil." Finding a match, he struck it and held it up for her to see. "Look at this little flame. Can you think of something good it might be used for?"

"Sure. It could be used for a fire to cook food or to keep someone warm," Charlotte replied easily.

Nodding, her father answered, "There are people whose lives have been saved because they had a match to start a fire. But the house down the street burning down represents how much damage one little flame can do." He looked thoughtfully at his daughter. "Your life is just like this flame. Do you

understand what I'm trying to say?"

Charlotte nodded, regretting her earlier words. "I think so. I can use my life for either good or bad. And I think I should be asking God what He wants me to

be doing with it. In the meantime, I think I will use this very topic for my essay. Thanks, Dad!"

LG



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Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 1, Week 11

The Unjust Judge

Jesus wanted to teach his followers to pray often, even if it seemed as though their prayers were not getting answered. To encourage them to pray, he told this parable: "There was a judge over a city who did not fear God, nor regard the opinions of the men around him. In the same city, there was a widow who was constantly mistreated by her neighbor. She came to the judge, saying, 'Avenge me of my adversary!' The judge cared so little for her, that he dismissed her plea without a second thought. But the next day, the widow was back at his doorstep, begging for help. Again, he dismissed her. Day after day, she returned, asking that he assist her in her trouble. Finally, the judge said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God nor care for the opinions of my fellow men, I will help this widow. If I do not help her now, she will never stop coming to my door.' Hear what the unjust judge said," Jesus emphasized. "Won't God take care of the needs of His children who cry to Him day and night? I assure you, He will avenge them quickly. But even so, will the Son of man find faith on the earth when he returns?" Jesus wanted those listening to pray often and be found faithful when the time came for them to go to Heaven.

(Luke 18:1-8)



Memory Verse: *And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him. Luke 18:7*

Persistent Prayer

"That was Caleb again," Benjamin complained to his mother as he hung up the phone. "I really wish he would stop calling and asking if I want to help with his model car. I do not want to help! I don't even like model cars."

The next day, Caleb called again, and the day after that, and the day after that! Benjamin got so tired of Caleb calling, he finally agreed to help with the model car. "If nothing else, he'll at least stop calling when we finish," Benjamin told his mother as he left the house.

"Well, persistence wins again," his mother commented when he returned home that evening. "Just like the widow in the Bible."

Benjamin frowned as we washed his hands for dinner. "What do you mean?"

His mother answered, "Jesus told a story about a woman who asked a judge for help so many times, he finally gave in and helped her. It reminds me of Caleb calling here so often, you finally gave in." Pausing, she looked at her son. "You know, we shouldn't give up as Christians either. When we pray, we should be praying persistently for God to answer us or show us His will. That takes a lot of effort and faith."

He nodded thoughtfully, saying, "I gave in to Caleb even though I didn't really want to help him. What if I keep asking God for something He doesn't want me to have? Will He give in too?"

"No," his mother replied, "but if you are persistent in your prayers, He will show you a better way."

Questions:

1. Why did Jesus tell this parable?
2. Why did the judge help the widow?
3. Who did Jesus say would take care of His children?
4. How does Jesus want you to be as a Christian?

The phone rang, and Benjamin's mother handed it to him. It was Caleb again. "I had a lot of fun putting the car together today," Caleb said.

Benjamin inwardly hoped Caleb wouldn't ask to build another one together, but as he hung up a few minutes later, he felt good inside. Caleb had called

just to thank him for helping. It was nice of him to call and just say thanks, Benjamin thought to himself. Then he thought of one more thing—it is just as important to thank God when He answers my prayers, too!

LG



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Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 1, Week 12

The Talents

A nobleman went on a journey, and before he left, he gathered his servants and gave them each one talent, asking them to put it to good use while he was gone. When the nobleman's business was concluded, he returned home and gathered his servants again. He asked each one what they had done with the talent. The first servant came forward, saying, "Sir, I have gained ten pounds from the one you gave me." The nobleman replied, "You are a good servant. Because you have been faithful with a little, I will make you the head over ten cities." The second servant came forward, saying, "Sir, I have gained five pounds from the one you gave me." The nobleman replied, "You are also a good servant—I will make you head over five cities." Then a third servant came forward, saying, "Here is the one pound you gave me, which I have kept folded away in a cloth. I know you to be a strict master—you reap riches in many ways, and for that reason, I was fearful to do anything with the talent." Disappointed, the nobleman answered, "You have said the truth. I gain riches in many ways. Could you not have taken it to the bank and gained interest?" Taking the talent from the last servant, he gave it to the first, and said, "To everyone I gave a talent, and I expected everyone to use it for good!" Jesus wants each of his children to use the talents they have for his good!

(Luke 19:11-27)

Questions:

1. How many talents did the nobleman give each servant?
2. What did the first two servants do with their talents?
3. What happened to the talent that the third servant hid away?
4. What does God want His children to do with their talents?

Memory Verse: *And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities. Luke 11:17*

Emily's Talents

"Your father and I will be gone for a week," Emily's mom explained as she looked at her schedule. "Aunt Mia said she will watch you and Brad until we get back."

"Ohhh," Emily complained as she cleared the table of dishes. "Do we have to?"

"Well, honey, you can't stay by yourselves. Why don't you like going over there?"

Emily hesitated, then blurted, "It's just Madison. She's so... so pretty! And smart and popular. When I'm around her, I feel like I'm absolutely nothing at all!"

Before her mother could respond, a scream pierced the air. Before she could stand from her chair, Emily raced from the kitchen. "It's Brad!" she hollered from the living room. Carrying the crying little boy, Emily held up his finger. "He cut it, but it's not very deep. I'll bandage it for him."

From the bathroom, Brad's crying soon turned to giggles. When they returned, Brad proudly showed his mom the band-aid on his finger. "Look, Mommy! Emily bandaged my owie. She's a good nurse."

His mom smiled and kissed his finger. "I know. She's also good at cooking and helping me around the house. She made such a yummy dinner tonight. Aunt Mia told me today that she's glad the two of you are staying at her house," she continued to Emily. "She thinks you will be a really good influence on Madison and thinks you are one of the sweetest, most talented girls she knows."

"I do too," Brad piped. "She also makes the best snickerdoodle cookies!"

Emily returned to clearing the table, feeling embarrassed. "Alright, little brother. I can take a hint. The cookies will be ready in a little while. And I get the message you're trying to send, too, Mom. I

will try to be more thankful for the talents God has given me and use them to work for Him. I won't complain or wish for what He's given someone else anymore."

LG



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Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 1, Week 13

The Wedding Garment

Jesus told a parable to those following His teachings, for he wanted them to understand that His Father had standards that He required His children to uphold. Jesus said, "When a man gave a wedding feast for his son, he entered the banquet hall to greet his guests. Among those at the feast, was a man who was not wearing the wedding garment that he had provided for each guest. He approached the man, saying, 'Friend, how is it that you came in but are not wearing the beautiful wedding garment I have provided?' The guest was speechless, and the man giving the wedding feast was very offended because the guests showed their respect and thanks by wearing the garment that was given to them. The guest that refused the garment was bound and cast out of the wedding feast to where there was darkness and fearful creatures. God asks many people to join Him at His feast, but few accept His invitation," Jesus concluded. The parable was meant to teach those listening that every person is invited to partake of the wonderful blessings of God. But, in order to be accepted into God's wedding feast, a person must follow the guidelines and commandments that He has set out. The same applies to Christians today. In order to be saved by God, we must do what He has commanded in the Bible and show respect and thanksgiving for the sacrifice He made.

(Matthew 22:10-14)



Memory Verse: *For many are called, but few are chosen. Luke 22:14*

The Way Home

William squirmed as his mom talked to him. She had recently become a Christian and was trying to explain how he could receive Christ as Savior too. "I want you to be in Heaven with me, someday," she said.

"Don't worry, Mom," William answered. "Uncle Alvin says I'm such a good boy that if anybody makes it to Heaven, it will be me."

"Uncle Alvin is a very smart man, but he's mistaken about how a person gets to Heaven," Mom replied. "It's not your goodness that will get you there. Jesus is the only way."

William turned toward the door. He didn't want to talk about salvation anymore. "I have to go finish raking up Mr. Johnson's leaves now," he said, hurrying from the living room.

As he walked down the road to his neighbors', he saw a girl and a little boy. The girl was saying, "Don't cry. I know how to get to 465 Oak Street. Just go two blocks that way," she pointed north, "and turn left on the corner. Oak is right there, and your house should be right on the corner." William frowned, knowing those directions weren't right.

As the girl went into her house, William met the little boy. "You're Christopher Braun, aren't you? I'm pretty sure I've mowed your mother's yard before! Remember me?" Christopher looked at him and nodded. "That girl gave you the wrong directions," William continued. The little boy's lip began to tremble. "Don't worry. I'll take you home. You just have to turn right up here, not left."

Christopher happily followed William down the

Questions:

1. What was each guest meant to wear to the feast?
2. What did the guest without a garment have to say?
3. What happened to that guest?
4. What do Christians today need to do in order to be saved?

street, and soon, he was safe and sound with his family.

On the way home, William thought about what had happened. Suddenly, he realized that he was just like Christopher! He was following directions to Heaven that were given by someone who didn't know the

right way. He needed to listen to what God said in His Word. He needed to follow Jesus.

Jesus is the way to Heaven, and I want Him to be my savior and take me there, he thought to himself.

LG



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