

The Beautiful Way

Juniors
(USPS549-000)



Vol. 34, No. 3

July, Aug., Sept., 1983

Part 1

July 3

The Pilot's Voice

(Continued From Last Lesson)

When the people heard that the beasts which had before been such a terror to them were chained, they rushed in such masses to see them that, notwithstanding the chains, many in various ways fell an easy prey to the deadly claws. Then, too, some young men, thinking that it would be manly and smart to tease the ferocious beasts, fell beneath their mighty paws. Even the fathers and mothers sometimes became the prey. At last such an agonizing cry had risen from the hearts of the people that some of the citizens became aroused and declared that the animals ought to be killed. This they soon found was no easy matter, for the public sentiment said, "Let them live" and the men and women who urged their destruction were pronounced insane. So the animals were allowed to live on and continued their deadly work among the inhabitants of the village.

The lion and tiger that did so much harm among the people, Byron remembered, were whiskey and tobacco, and they would continue to cause destruction and misery just as long as they

were manufactured and placed in the reach of the people. His conscience warned him now of his danger, and he knew better than to have anything to do with the poisonous stuff; but he saw the other boys lighting their cigars, and he thought, "I don't believe smoking tobacco would be as bad as chewing the leaves"; so, after securing a match, he began another new experience.

He used several matches before he succeeded in lighting the cigar, but finally he was puffing tiny clouds of smoke into the air just as his companions were doing. All seemed well for a time, but suddenly a feeling of sickness stole over him, and he told the boys that he would have to go outside, where he could breathe the fresh air.

James, with a laugh, told him that smoking always served people that way at first, and assured him that he would soon be all right; but Byron did not want to finish his cigar even after he was in the fresh air and was feeling better. He even thought that he would never want to smoke again.

The evening had been anything but pleasant to him. The old adage, "A guilty conscience needs no accusing," was too true in his case. He had tried to enjoy the music, but it was spoiled

through his fear that he would be noticed, and he had not enjoyed the things that he had purchased with the egg money at all.

As he walked along beside his cousin (for the boys had separated soon after leaving the dance hall) he thought of his mother's words concerning articles that were gotten in a dishonest way. In all the things he had been doing of late he could see no pleasure whatever. The money for which he had schemed and risked so much was gone—and for what! He shuddered as he thought of the cigars, and wished that the eggs were all back in their nests again and that he had never taken part in the plan suggested by the boys.

Several days passed before Byron was able to rid himself of his bad feelings and overcome the fearful foreboding that some one was coming to "tell on" him; but as day after day passed by and nobody came, he felt a great relief, and thoughts of the cigar no longer made his head feel dizzy.

One Sunday afternoon, three weeks from the time the boys had been together before, they went to the loft of an old barn owned by the farmer for whom James worked. James' employer was not interested in the company of his hired help, so their friends were seldom brought into the farmhouse.

Upon this occasion James had a surprise planned for the boys. He waited until they were all comfortably seated upon the hay, and then in a new dignified tone he said: "Boys, I've got a new book. It's one that I believe will be of real interest to us all. I consider it very valuable and something we need to read before we go any further with our plans. We can take turns reading it, and then no one will be especially tired."

"Oh, go on with your new book!" George exclaimed roughly. "I never did like books and I never shall. I always

hated to go to school because books and I are such poor friends! They always seemed so dry to me."

This is none of your dry kind, George," James said reassuringly. "Every page is full of good things. Why, I was so carried away with it that I hardly knew whether it was morning or evening."

Now, Byron had heard of the James boys and of some of their wild and daring deeds, but he had also been warned of the dangers connected with the future of those who read the account of their reckless lives. Of course, his conscience reproved him, but how could advice so often unheeded be of any service in times of danger now? He heard the voice that had spoken, but oh, it was so far away that it seemed only an echo of the past.

"Well, James, if you have such an interesting book, we had better look it over," George said in a patronizing tone; whereupon James hastened to his room and soon returned with a small yellow covered book entitled, "The Life of Jesse James."

As the boys listened to the thrilling accounts, James' enthusiasm increased, and he said, "Boys, it takes real courage and bravery to rob a bank or a train and get away with booty."

Byron thought of his experience with the eggs as James went on to say, "It fairly makes my hair stand on end when I think of the close quarters they got into and of how they often had to shoot their way out."

"It surely does!" Byron added with feeling. "And," he continued, "I don't see what enjoyment they got out of the money they took or from the things bought with it. They never could feel free and easy while they had it, for they were continually thinking that they might be found out and were in constant danger!"

The night at the dance hall seemed to loom up before Byron, and his mother's words concerning the lack of enjoyment found in things that one comes by dishonestly seemed repeated in his ear.

Seeing the course of Byron's thoughts James said emphatically:

"Why, of course, they had a good time! They had all the money they desired, and when that was gone they knew how to get more. I've been getting some good points from this book that will be helpful to us. We've been too backward and it's time we began to move out a little. There's no need of us fellows going through life without more money. It's for us if we will just go after it.

"The other day when I was over to the store, I sized up the situation pretty thoroughly, and I believe that some night we can get in through one of the rear windows and help ourselves to what is there. George and I have been preparing ourselves for such a raid, and we want you, Byron, to join us. Of course, this will be only a starter, but as we proceed, our courage and bravery will increase and after a while the brave deeds of which we have been reading this afternoon will not outshine us very far."

(To Be Continued)

"My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments; for length of days, and long life, and peace shall they add to thee." Pro. 3:1, 2.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Pro. 3:5, 6.

Dear Boys and Girls,

Noah was a just man and "walked with God." It was not easy to "walk with God" in the midst of great wicked-

ness. No doubt his neighbors and relatives laughed and made fun of him for living so "goody-goody" when everyone else was indulging in sinful things. They might have tried to tempt him to do evil, and perhaps even set traps to get him to fall into sin, but Noah did not live as his neighbors did. He had an understanding of what God wanted man to do and he lived to this understanding. He treated men fairly and kept evil out of his heart, regardless of what anyone else did. Now this takes great courage and a strong belief in God to stand for the right, day after day, year after year, when *no one* else lives as you do. Could you ever do as Noah did? Could you live a godly life if everyone else around you was living wickedly? Perhaps you've already had other boys and girls to laugh at the way you live, and maybe you feel "left out" of the "crowd" because you do not do the worldly things they do. You feel a little of what Noah felt, no doubt. But you can do as Noah did and live a perfect life by "walking with God." Do not feel embarrassed and cringe with shame because you are a Christian. Hold your head high and dare to "walk with God." God is even today looking into the hearts of men and women, boys and girls, and giving favor to those who live for Him.

—Aunt Sandra

Lesson 1, July 3, 1983

NOAH, A MAN OF GOD

Gen. 6:5 And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

6 And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

7 And the Lord said, I will destroy

man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

9 These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.

13 And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

14 Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.

17 And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die.

18 But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee.

22 Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.

Gen 7:6 And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth.

Gen. 8:13 And it came to pass in the six hundredth and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from off the earth: and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and, behold, the face of the ground was dry.

Gen. 9:8 And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying,

11 And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut

off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.

12 And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations:

13 I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.

14 And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud:

15 And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.

Memory Verse: But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. Gen. 6:8.

Questions:

1. When God looked upon mankind, what did He find in their hearts?
2. Was God sorry He had created man?
3. What did God think to do to mankind?
4. Why did God not destroy Noah? Do you think it would be hard to live for God when everyone around you was wicked?
5. What did God tell Noah to do?
6. Did Noah do everything God commanded him?
7. How old was Noah at the time of the flood?
8. What did God promise to Noah and all mankind? What sign did God put in the sky to be a token of this promise?
9. Does God always keep His promises?

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Vol. 34, No. 3

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Part 2

July 10

The Pilot's Voice

(Continued From Last Lesson)

The reading of the book Byron had somewhat enjoyed; but the proposal that he take part in the robbing of a store was more than he could stand. He thought that if he should consent to do such a thing and the sense of guilt should be as great in proportion as the unrest he had experienced on account of the eggs, and the enjoyment should be no more than that which he had realized the night of the dance, he did not want to have any part in this new scheme; so he said:

"Boys, this thing is going too far. Just as sure as I am sitting here, if we enter into this stealing business, it will leak out some way and the prison cell will be our fate."

"There, there it is again!" George said with a sneer, as James had been in the habit of doing. "Our preacher has taken his text ready for another sermon! Byron, you are always getting scared before there's any danger. James and I are both older than you are, and we know several things that you don't know. Now our experience has been greater than yours, and if you'll listen

to a little reason and common sense you'll come along all right. This thing of the people finding out everything we do is all bosh. Most every night James and I are out together, and we're having some fine times of late, and no one has caught us yet or even suspected us. They think we're all right because we go to Sunday School on Sunday."

"Don't you fool yourself, George," Byron answered. "There's more than one who doesn't look upon you boys as angels, by any means, and among that number is my mother. Of course, she doesn't know just what you're doing, but she's afraid to have me associate with you too much."

"See here, Bryon! You will have to get rid of some of your fanatical ideas about your mother. Mothers are all right in their proper place, but they have never been boys. What do they know about what a boy should do? All your mother thinks about is trying to keep you from having a good time."

Deeply stung by these words, Byron flushed. He knew that his mother was a good woman, but he could not reply without being laughed at.

"When Byron gets a little more experience, he will see things differently," James said almost kindly, a

moment later. Then turning to Byron, he said: "If you could only go out a few nights with George and me, it would be a great help to you in getting rid of some of your fears. Why not break loose from the restraint you're under? Just give your mother to understand that you're old enough to look out for yourself. Set a date to meet us sometime and we'll have a gay old time."

"Yes, but Mother would want to know where I was going, and then there would be trouble," Byron answered.

"Let the trouble come," James replied. "It will soon blow over. You're old enough to do as you please, and there's no need of always being tied down to her. Suppose we all plan to meet here next Saturday night, and I'll try to arrange for the rest."

"That sounds well," Byron said, "but to get here will be another thing altogether. Mother will not consent to my coming."

"I'll tell you what I would do, Byron," said George, who had been quietly listening. "I would just go to her and tell her that I would like to spend the night with James and go with him to Sunday School the next morning. If she doesn't consent, I would simply take the law in my own hands and go regardless of her wishes. It will have to come to that anyway sooner or later, and you might as well break the ice now."

Byron promised to try to be with them upon the following Saturday night, but had little hope of success. Soon after the conversation the boys parted. What happened during the week has already been told, and Byron was on his way to the place where James was working. The tide had done its work.

DANGER SIGNALS

As Byron paused on the foot-log the evening that this story began, his

conscience endeavored to point out the danger-signals that were about and ahead of him.

He felt the weight of his disobedience and sin. He thought of the many prayers his dear mother had offered for his protection, and he vividly remembered her earnest entreaties upon that particular night. Her last words, "My dear boy, I shall pray for you!" sent a thrill through his heart, and he thought, "Is she praying—is she thinking of me this very moment?" Then the hoot of the owl again rang out through the forest.

"Why not return to Mother and pour out before her my heartaches and beg her forgiveness for all of my shortcomings?" he thought. "How her tender touch upon my forehead and her loving words would soothe my troubled mind!" But again the thought of George and James returned and overcame his better judgment. "They are probably waiting for me at this very hour," he audibly remarked, "and what would they say if they knew I was entertaining such thoughts! I must have more courage or I will never succeed! When I get out of these woods, I may feel differently. The stars at least will be shining, and that will be a help."

Hastening forward he succeeded in following first a narrow path and then an old wood-road, until he came out upon the highway. When the rustling of the leaves and the breaking of twigs beneath his feet ceased, he felt relieved, for something akin to fear had followed him through the woods and prophesied dangers seemed close upon him.

In another half hour he entered the yard that surrounded the home of the farmer for whom James worked, and the lights from the house fell softly upon the walk before him. In the shadow just beyond he stopped, for he thought that he heard voices in the dark recesses of the porch. He was not mistaken, for he soon found James and

George anxiously awaiting his arrival and commenting upon his non-appearance.

"At last!" he heard them exclaim as he drew near.

"Here we have been an hour or more waiting for you and expecting you every minute!" James exclaimed. "What was the matter, Byron? Was it trouble with the old woman that kept you?"

The disrespect and unkindness of these remarks hurt Byron very much, but he dared not resent them, knowing that to do so would bring ridicule upon himself.

"I was delayed in getting started," he at last said, and further explanations were cut short by James exclaiming, "Boys, it's getting late now, and I'll have to go to the store for the mail. If you'll go with me, we can be planning something on our way. It was my intention to study everything out before we came together, but so many things were suggested to my mind that I really could not decide upon any of them, and I have no plan for tonight. But we'll have plenty of time as we walk to the post office, as it is two miles away."

(To Be Continued)

Be Worthy

If Jesus suffered on the cross
And died to set our spirits free,
We ought to bear the shame and loss
And suffer for Him gratefully.

He died for us, a sacrifice,
To reconcile us unto God;
Our full surrender is the price
We pay while here on earth we trod.

Dear Boys and Girls,

Have you ever had to give up something which you loved dearly? Perhaps you've had to give away a pet you've had a long time. If so, you know how a person can hurt inside at parting with

something dear to them.

Abraham was called upon by God to give up his son, the son that had been a special gift from God. God wanted to find out if Abraham loved Him or Isaac better. Abraham was deeply grieved to think of losing his precious son, but God had told him to sacrifice Isaac. God knew from the beginning that He would not let Abraham actually take the life of Isaac, but Abraham did not know that. God wanted to see if Abraham would obey Him in everything. Although Abraham was sad and could not understand why God would have him do such a thing, he knew without a doubt that God had spoken and Abraham wanted to obey God. No doubt tears were streaming down Abraham's face as he lifted the knife to sacrifice his son. But at that moment an angel called from heaven and told Abraham not to kill his son; that God could now see that Abraham loved and feared Him.

This was probably one of the hardest tests that any man was ever put to by God. Since Abraham loved his boy so much, I'm sure he was tempted to disobey God, feeling that he just could not go through with what God required. But Abraham held true to God.

Sometimes in our lives we must give up things that are hard to part with, but perhaps God sees that that thing would hinder us living for Him. If we are to please God we must love Him above all else and all others. God will not take from us to make us miserable, but only for our good. We must have a willing and obedient heart to do God's will.

—Aunt Sandra

Lesson 2, July 10, 1983

ABRAHAM OBEYS GOD

Gen. 21:1 And the Lord visited Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did unto Sarah as he had spoken.

2 For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.

3 And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac:

Gen 22:1 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.

2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

3 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him; and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.

6 And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.

7 And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?

8 And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

9 And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.

10 And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his

son.

11 And the angel of the Lord called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I.

12 And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.

13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.

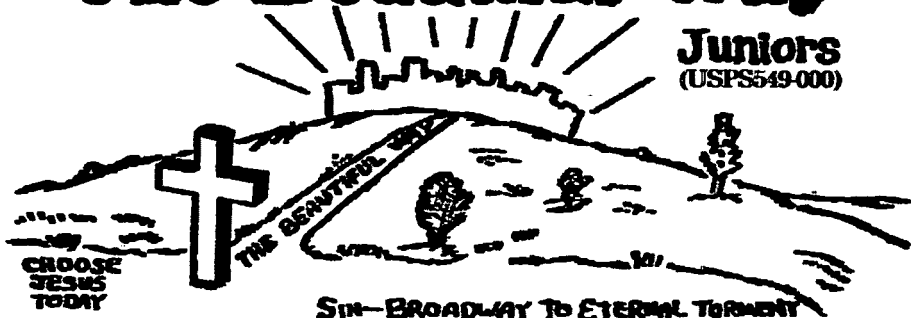
Memory Verse: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. Mark 12:30.

Questions:

1. Why was it such a miracle for Abraham and Sarah to have a baby? Who had promised them this baby?
2. What did they name the baby?
3. What did God tell Abraham to do with Isaac? How did this "tempt" Abraham?
4. Was Abraham willing to give up the one he loved most for God?
5. Did Abraham tell Isaac what he was going to do?
6. How do you think Abraham felt as they went up to the mountain to make the sacrifice to God?
7. How near did Abraham come to taking Isaac's life? What stopped him?
8. How was this a test to Abraham?
9. How might we be tested today?

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Part 3

July 17

The Pilot's Voice

(Continued From Last Lesson)

As the boys walked along in the darkness, James and George grew very merry and rehearsed several exciting adventures, but Byron was exceedingly quiet. His experience had been quite different from theirs in every way, and the scenes of the past few hours had not all vanished. He could still hear the words that were spoken to him at the river and was pondering upon them when suddenly he heard George say: "It seems to me as though Byron is unusually quiet tonight. I never knew him to be so still before. I wonder if he's losing his power of speech? Why don't you wake up, old fellow, and be yourself again."

Byron did try to become sociable and joined in the conversation, but his thoughts were elsewhere.

Two letters and a newspaper were waiting for the farmer at the post office. James quickly thrust them into his pocket, and, stepping to the counter, he purchased some fruit, candy, and cigars for his company.

It was with reluctance that Byron took the cigar James offered him, for he

still remembered his experience at the dance hall; but being anxious to avoid the remarks of the boys, he placed it between his lips, and when it was lighted he began to smoke. In a few minutes the three passed out into the darkness, but Byron was already feeling the effects of the tobacco upon his system. Now that the boys could not see him, his courage returned, and he cast the cigar from him as though it had been a reptile.

While passing a country church, they saw that some kind of service was being held, and their attention was attracted to a group of young men and boys who were loitering about on the outside. The coarse words and rough laughter excited their curiosity; and joining the group they listened to several vulgar stories.

Among the faces George recognized that of his friend and neighbor Jason White. Now, Jason was several years older than either of the boys; but George introduced him to his friends and also invited him to accompany them on their trip, as they called it. Jason was only too glad to accept the invitation and said that he was anxious for something of the kind. The four

were soon wending their way along the highway. As they were passing a certain farm house, George remarked:

"Here is where old Davis lives. He's a stingy old codger. I'd like to get even with him. He has had it in for my dad for a long time. Last fall James and I got in his melon patch one night, and he happened to be watching. He fired us out in a hurry, but he never knew who it was. The big farm he owns here is making lots of money. He would never have missed the few melons that we could have taken."

"Perhaps he would have given you some if you had asked him for them," Byron said quickly, for he was acquainted with Mr. Davis himself and knew him to be a kind man.

"Not much! He's not made that way," George answered excitedly. He's a regular old crank, and besides, that is not our way of getting things. Here is his orchard, and who is getting any good from that but himself?"

As they passed by the house, they all became very quiet, and, climbing the fence on the opposite side of the road, they entered a fine young orchard of apple trees. George quickly stepped up to one of the trees and said, "I'm going to see that no one gets any good from some of these trees!" and with his knife he quickly cut the bark from a portion of six of the young trees. "That will fix them, all right," he said with a laugh of satisfaction. "I don't believe in returning good for evil."

At the lower end of the field was a vacant house that they said was some more of old Davis' possession, and as they were passing, crash went a window pane. In the stillness of the night the noise of the breaking glass sounded like the report of a gun. All suddenly stopped, and Byron asked, "What was that?" James answered, "Oh, I was just

helping George get even with old Davis."

At this the other boys began to laugh, and for a few minutes clods, stones, and clubs were showered against the house until the sound of the shattered glass might have been heard for a long distance. Fearful lest some one might see or hear them, they ran across a field to another road. "Whose house is this?" George queried as they stopped in front of a fine residence.

"Oh, that is where Sibley's live," Jason said quickly; and then, suddenly calling their attention to some chickens that were roosting in a tree not far from the house, he continued in a low tone: "Say, boys, I have an idea. Let's have a chicken roast tonight. You fellows keep out of sight in the shadow of the fence, and I will see to the rest."

Crouching down, as one who understands his business, Jason started toward the house. For a few minutes there was perfect silence, and then the little group in the fence corner heard the flapping of wings, followed by a few smothered squawks. Instinctively they started to run, and they did not stop until they came to the river. Jason was not far behind them. In his hands he carried two plump chickens. Hastening to the opposite bank, they threw themselves panting upon the grass and began at once to comment upon their narrow escape—for Jason had noticed several persons appearing at the window next to the tree as he left the Sibley house—and to plan for the dressing, cooking, and eating of their pillage.

"This would be an excellent place to clean these fowls," Jason suggested, adding that if he was not seen from the window no one would think of looking for them in that out-of-the-way spot and they could work without any fear of danger.

James and Geroqe sanctioned these remarks, and the three began to do the work, but Byron sat and did nothing. He could not enjoy such proceedings. Everything they did was new, and strangely exciting to him; but he dared not express his opinions, lest he should bring upon himself renewed showers of reproach and ridicule from his companions, and he knew that he had no excuse for being in their company.

He was constantly drawing closer to the danger-signals and was filled with fear and awe at the sight. Only a short time before he had stood upon the foot log a little farther up the stream and listened to the warnings of his slighted conscience.

"Poor Mother!" he thought. "Is she still awake? Did she pray for me as she said she would? and is she still praying for me? or is she lying upon a pillow that is wet with tears?" These and many other questions were in his mind, and he was left to his own meditations by the older boys. In fact, in the excitement, Byron's petty notions (as they were called) were quite forgotten.

When the dressing of the chickens was done, Jason said: "Now, boys, we must find a place where we can cook and eat our spoil. I know of a house about one half mile back from the main road that is vacant. I believe that will be an ideal place to roast our chickens, and if you will all follow I will lead you safely there."

(To Be Continued)

Smile upon the troubled pilgrims

You so often meet;

Frowns are thorns, as smiles are blossoms,

Oft for weary feet.

Do not make the way seem harder

By a sullen face;

Smile a little, smile a little,

Brighten up the place.

We cannot run away from God.

Dear Boys and Girls,

Do you ever see men and women who love God go through trials that seem hard to bear? Have you ever wondered why God would permit Christians to suffer some of the things they do? Sometimes God does it to test their faith in Him. He wants to see if that person will stand true to God even when God is not blessing him. At other times, God may let things unpleasant things come our way to make us able to bear hardships, or it could be that through a certain trial God can work out a particular purpose. God does not send evil, but He allows the devil to. But when the devil sends evil things into the life of a Christian, God makes it end up working for good.

Joseph's brothers meant evil when they sold him as a slave, but through Joseph's slavery, God worked out good to Joseph and many others. Even when Joseph was unjustly accused by a woman and put into prison, God worked good through his imprisonment. Joseph interpreted a dream for Pharaoh's butler who was also in prison. Although two more years went by with Joseph remaining in prison, the butler remembered the dream that Joseph had interpreted and told this to Pharaoh when he could not find anyone who could tell him the meaning of his dream. Joseph was called for and he explained Pharaoh's dream. Because of this, Joseph was made a ruler over all of Egypt and saved, not only that country, but surrounding ones from starvation during a great famine.

Perhaps when Joseph was in prison, he wondered if he would ever be free again. The Bible does not say he murmured and complained, but he conducted himself in an upright manner even in prison. God brought Joseph

out of his heavy trials and blessed him richly and used Joseph's life to bless others. God wants us to be patient in trials and to know that God has not forgotten us and that one day He will bring us through with victory if we stay faithful to Him. —Aunt Sandra

Lesson 3, July 17, 1983

JOSEPH—TRUE TO GOD

Gen. 39:20 And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in prison.

21 But the Lord was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper in the prison.

Gen. 41:8 And it came to pass in the morning that his spirit [Pharaoh] was troubled; and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt, and all the wise men thereof: and Pharaoh told them his dream; but there was none that could interpret them unto Pharaoh.

9 Then spake the chief butler unto Pharaoh, saying, I do remember my faults this day:

10 Pharaoh was wroth with his servants, and put me in ward in the captain of the guard's house, both me and the chief baker:

11 And we dreamed a dream in one night, I and he; we dreamed each man according to the interpretation of his dream.

12 And there was there with us a young man, an Hebrew, servant to the captain of the guard; and we told him, and he interpreted to us our dreams; to each man according to his dream he did interpret.

13 And it came to pass, as he inter-

preted to us, so it was; me he retored unto mine office, and him he hanged.

14 Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh.

15 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I have dreamed a dream, and there is none that can interpret it: and I have heard say of thee, that thou canst understand a dream to interpret it.

16 And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace.

Memory Verse: . . . all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. Rom. 8:28.

Questions:

1. Where did Joseph's master have him put?
2. Who was with Joseph in the prison?
3. About how long was Joseph in the prison?
4. Who had a dream? Could the magicians and wise men interpret the dream?
5. Who told Pharaoh that Joseph could interpret dreams?
6. What dream of the butler had Joseph interpreted?
7. Did Joseph tell Pharaoh he had the understanding to interpret dreams? Who did Joseph say would give Pharaoh an answer?
8. Was Pharaoh pleased with Joseph's answer? Did Pharaoh realize that God was with Joseph?
9. In what position did Pharaoh put Joseph?
10. Does God sometimes allow His people to get in hard places?

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Juniors
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July, Aug., Sept., 1983

Part 4

July 24

The Pilot's Voice

(Continued From Last Lesson)

To follow their leader along the narrow path near the river was no easy matter, but with care they managed to do so and at length reached the highway. There traveling was easier. As they sped along, Byron glanced longingly into the windows of the houses that were still lighted, and wished that one of them were his own home and that he were safe in bed instead of trudging about the country in such a disgraceful manner. How gladly he would have crept noiselessly up the stairway to his own bedroom, for he was very weary indeed. Instead he must follow the boys, making as little noise as possible. With the tree at Sibley's where the chickens had been stolen, far behind them, they turned suddenly down a narrow lane and soon were standing in front of a deserted house.

For some time the place had been vacant, Jason said as he carefully examined the door. Finding them all locked, he said a little disappointedly, "Where there is a will, there is a way, and I have the will to enter this house." Again Byron received a fearful shock to his nerves.

After Jason had tried all the windows and found them securely nailed, he seized a long fence-post that was lying near, and smash went every pane of glass in the window nearest him.

"What on earth are you doing?" Byron exclaimed excitedly as he rushed to the scene of action. He had been standing a little apart from the rest and was secretly hoping that something might turn up that would give him an excuse to return home. Perhaps he had looked upon another danger-signal, and the sound of the breaking glass made him think that it was near at hand.

"I am only making a way where there is no way," Jason replied, as he quickly passed through the opening he had made. Hastening to a door, he threw it open, saying gleefully, as he did so, "Step into my parlor, boys. It's as pretty a little place as you could wish!"

When the boys had entered the musty room that had long been closed, and had lighted a match, they saw that it was empty with the exception of some old rubbish that had been left by the family who had formerly occupied it, and that in one corner there was an old-fashioned fireplace.

"Good!" Jason said as his eyes fell upon the uninviting hearth; "this is just what we want! Now while I light another match, you fellows hustle about and bring materials for a fire."

Obeysing the command of Jason, the boys soon had a good fire built from the rubbish that was strewn about the room; and as the flames began to leap and roar up the chimney, the four could see better what they were doing.

George suddenly remembered that the light could be easily seen from the highway through the open windows, and he exclaimed, "Get something up to those windows as quickly as you can! The light of this fire can be easily seen from the road. Get newspapers, or anything, but hurry!" An armful of newspapers were brought from an adjoining room, and the light from the fire was soon shut away from public view.

So exciting had been the proceedings that again Byron was forgotten. When he was again noticed, it was by James, who said, "Why, Byron, what is the matter with you? You look as though you had seen a ghost."

He had, for the ghost of his former self had been continually before him, and he was heartsick and troubled. The entire evening had indeed been a trying time for Byron, but the excitement of the past hour had quite upset him. There in the firelight he stood, weak and faint, like a shadow of his former self.

The boys waited for him to speak, and he said, "Boys, there is certainly no fun in this for me. I would rather be at home in bed. I don't believe in tokens, but I fear that this night's doings are going to end up bad. I have had a strange experience since I left home, and my feelings are indescribable."

"That's nothing new," James said mockingly. "Byron is subject to this

kind of spells. This is not the first one that he has had by any means. The pace that we have been going tonight is just a little fast for him, and he is always ready to get scared at his own shadow. Still he is not as bad as he was at first," James added in a more considerate tone. "That conscience of his used to bother him awfully whenever we had a little fun or did something out of the ordinary. Here of late he is getting more acquainted with our ways, and we must have patience and help him along, for he is a valuable companion that we cannot afford to lose. I think sometimes that we do not have enough charity for him. You see, it is this way: all of us have been raised differently."

"Yes, I think you grew up without any raising, James," George said significantly.

At this remark the other boys laughed, and even Byron, in spite of his feelings could not refrain.

"Well, what I was saying," James continued when the merriment ceased, "was that our home training has not been at all the same. Byron has a mother that has done a great deal of preaching to him, and the fact is, it's hard to constantly sit under one kind of teaching and not be affected by the words of the preacher."

"No doubt some of these talks of his mother have taken such a firm hold upon him that it will not be possible for him to break away from them all at once. I think, however, that we can safely say that Byron is getting weaned away from his mother to some extent, and if we can only hold out, we'll be able to make him see as we do, and we must all have charity. What was that in our Sunday School lesson last Sunday about charity? 'Charity shall cover a multitude of sins,' wasn't it?"

"Now, James, you know very well that our teacher explained that Scrip-

ture in altogether a different way from that, and you cannot apply it in that way," Byron said indignantly, and then added, "I can tell you this, boys: if charity can be used to cover up sin, it will surely take a goodly pile to hide the deeds of tonight."

(To Be Continued)

If you are tempted to reveal
A tale to you someone has told
About another, make it pass,
Before you speak, three gates of gold.
These narrow gates: First, "Is it true?"
Then, "Is it needful?" In your mind
Give truthful answer. And the next
Is last and narrowest, "Is it kind?"
And if to reach your lips at last
It passes through these gateways three,
Then you may tell the tale, nor fear
What the result of speech may be.

Dear Boys and Girls,

God needed someone to be the leader of His people. They had been slaves in Egypt for many years and God decided it was time for them to have a country of their own. But it is not an easy thing for a group of slaves to convince their master that they should be free. They must have a wise and courageous leader.

God chose Moses to be that leader. No doubt God had purposed in His heart to use Moses in this way from the time Moses was a baby. When there was a mass killing of many baby boys, little Moses' life was spared. Not only was he spared, but he grew up in Pharaoh's household. By being in close contact with the Egyptian leaders, Moses learned much about the nation that other Israelites did not know. But Moses still felt the Israelites were his people and he still kept a love and fear of God.

One day God spoke to Moses from a burning bush. God told Moses that he was to lead the Israelites out of their

Egyptian bondage. He would have to represent God's people and stand before Pharaoh and tell him to release God's people. Moses began to fear. "I am no one special. How can I stand before Pharaoh? Pharaoh will not listen to what I say," he thought. "Oh, Lord," he said, "I am a poor speaker. Surely I am not capable of carrying out such a mission." But Moses was the one God wanted to use, even if he was not an eloquent speaker. "I will be with you and give you the words to say," God told Moses. He also sent Aaron to be a speaker for Moses.

There are eloquent speakers today that God does not use. God does not want to use someone who feels self-sufficient with his own abilities, but someone who feels a real dependence on God. If we are endowed with a good speaking ability, a lovely singing voice, an exceptional writing ability, or any other admirable trait, we should realize that these qualities were bestowed on us by God and they can easily be taken away. Unless God blesses an effort put forth by even the most capable of persons, it will be of no value to Him. If God is to get any good from our lives, we must recognize our insufficiency within ourselves. —Aunt Sandra

Lesson 4, July 24, 1983

MOSES WAS DEPENDENT

Ex. 3:1 Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.

2 And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.

3 And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the

bush is not burnt.

4 And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.

5 And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.

6 Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.

10 Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.

11 And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?

12 And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.

Ex. 4:10 And Moses said unto the Lord, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.

11 And the Lord said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the Lord?

12 Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.

13 And he said, O my Lord, send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou wilt send.

14 And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses, and he said, Is

not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart.

15 And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth: and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do.

16 And he shall be thy spokesman unto the people: and he shall be, even he shall be to thee instead of a mouth, and thou shalt be to him instead of God.

Memory Verse: I will be with thy mouth . . . and will teach you what ye shall do. Ex. 4:15.

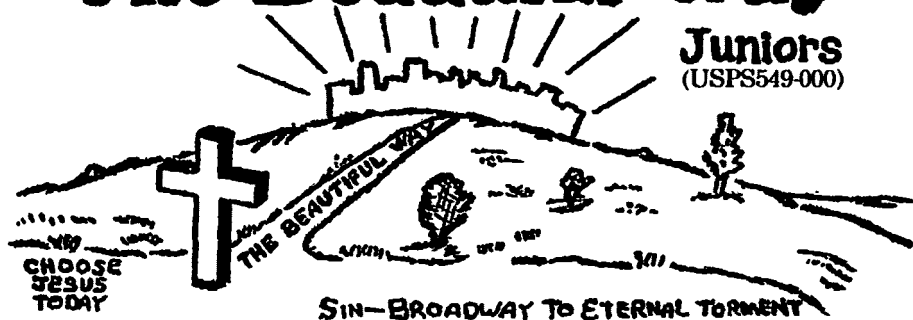
Questions:

1. What was Moses doing near Mt. Horeb?
2. What strange thing did Moses see there?
3. Who spoke to Moses from the bush?
4. What did God tell Moses to do with his shoes? Why?
5. How did Moses react when he realized it was God talking to him?
6. To whom did God say He would send Moses?
7. Did Moses think he was the best man for the leader of Israel?
8. How did God comfort Moses?
9. Why did Moses feel he could not do what God told him to do?
10. Who gave us our ability to speak, anyway?
11. Did God say He would put words in Moses' mouth?
12. Was Moses still reluctant to go before Pharaoh?
13. Who did God send with Moses to be a speaker?
14. Does God want us to depend on our own abilities?

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Part 5

July 31

The Pilot's Voice

(Continued From Last Lesson)

"You boys had better stop arguing and get down to business," Jason said. "The fire is in a fine condition now for roasting our chickens, and it's high time that they were on."

I don't see anything in which to put them on," Byron remarked as he surveyed the room in a disdainful way.

"Of course, you don't," Jason continued. "That is to be produced by our own efforts. Just take that board and split off some pieces with your jack-knife. Make your stick two or three feet long and sharpen it at one end. Then fasten a piece of chicken to it and hold it over the fire until it is done."

Again Byron strove desperately to hide his feelings, and presently each of the boys was endeavoring to follow out the instructions given them. Soon four sticks, with a piece of meat upon each, were being held over the fire, while the odor of sizzling meat filled the room.

"If we only had a little salt to use as seasoning for our meat!" James remarked as he tested his meat to see whether it was done. "Why didn't I think and put a little in my pocket?"

"Don't chide yourself with forgetfulness, my friend; I usually carry such things with me as I know I will need in an emergency like this," said Jason, drawing from his pocket a small sack of salt. "These are little home comforts that we can't do without."

Much time and patience were required to cook the meat, but at last it was pronounced ready to eat. Still struggling with his feelings, Byron endeavored to eat the portion that he had roasted, but it was tough and raw; in fact, there was nothing tempting about it. As he looked about the dirty room and viewed the little group before him gnawing at the meat they held upon blackened sticks or on soiled fingers, and breathed into his lungs the foul odors of the musty room, his mind was carried back to the tempting feasts at home upon holidays and other occasions, that had often been prepared by his loving and thoughtful mother.

The table, covered with a snowy cloth and loaded with all the good things that the farm produced, graced by the huge platter with a juicy brown turkey or chicken upon it, and surrounded by a merry group of boys and girls, with mother in her accustomed

place, and knives and forks to convey the food to their hungry mouths, had always been a favorite scene; and now as it came before him he thought it was the most beautiful picture upon which he had ever looked. What a contrast! what a change! and in so short a time!

At home every advantage was awaiting him. He was not only a welcome member there, but his very presence was longed for, and yet he had chosen rather to be among thieves and robbers.

Again the scene changed. He seemed a small boy at mother's knee—innocent and free—with mother's hand fondly caressing him. Her admonitions to be good and to seek good company were clear and distinct, and the thought of the kiss upon his brow as he was tucked into bed almost brought the tears. Then he once more heard the echoes loud and distinct of that voice upon the footlog, warning him of dangers seen and unseen.

One piece of chicken was all that he could possibly swallow. The food seemed to choke him, but it was not so with the other boys. They ate with a relish, and piece after piece disappeared. In fact, they did not stop eating until the last morsel of the food was gone. Filthy and vulgar stories were told during the meal, interspersed with an occasional witty remark about Byron or some reference to a former adventure in which they had barely escaped being caught.

When two hours of this sort of thing had passed Byron became so weary that he could scarcely keep awake. It was not long past the midnight hour, and aside from the tramping and excitement of the trip, he had put in a hard day of heavy toil in the field. He was weary and footsore, and as he thought of his downy pillows at home, his head sank forward lower and lower, and he was soon asleep, dreaming of home and mother.

THE SHOALS

How long Byron would have slept had he not been awakened by Jason, it would be hard to say. "I wonder," Jason remarked, "if Byron said his prayers before he went to sleep and if he is having very pleasant dreams?" In an instant Byron was sitting erect with all sleepiness driven far from him. The tempest of recollections that raged in his brain would be hard to describe.

"Sleep is a partner we can't do without," Jason continued. "Nothing can equal the influence of sleep upon the tired mind and body; but when sleep for a time takes its departure from us, I know of a very good substitute; and here it is," he added, drawing from his pocket an old and much-used pipe. "This is the greatest comforter I have," he said as he proceeded to fill the pipe from the small bag of tobacco that he had taken from his pocket. "Whenever I'm tired a good smoke rests me; but the time when it's the greatest comfort to me is after a hearty meal. I only wish I had enough pipes to go around. But never mind, my friends, you shall each have a turn."

While the pipe was being passed from one to the other, Byron noticed that after its use each one assumed a dull and dazed expression, and he remembered his teacher's words when she explained the effects of tobacco upon the system. She said that the poison, or nicotine, in the tobacco so worked upon the system as to dull the senses; that the seeming relief it produced was only temporary; that the poison not only produced a shock, but entered the most vital organs and did them great injury.

The strong odor from the pipe and the smoke that was constantly increasing in the room made him very uncomfortable, and he did not want to take the horrid pipe in his mouth, but what was he to do when it came his turn? At

last the pipe was offered to him. As he took it, he was still striving to think of some excuse to give it back. Not being able to form an excuse for not smoking and being unwilling to be laughed at, he braced himself for the task.

With the pipe held carelessly in his right hand, he joined freely in the conversation, endeavoring to avert attention and pretending now and then to smoke. As soon as he thought he could pass the detestable pipe on without inviting embarrassing remarks, he handed it to the companion whose turn came next. Thus he avoided the deathly sick feeling that he had before experienced. If the boys noticed his actions, they said nothing.

(To Be Continued)

The devil has always tried to destroy God's commandments. Jesus conquered the devil. Jesus will help us to fight the devil.

Dear Boys and Girls,

For many years Moses led the people of Israel. But he grew to be an old man and in time he died. God needed another man to be the leader of His people. God knew Joshua was the man He wanted to lead His people. Now when men choose leaders, their judgment is not always right. They only see men's actions and deeds and may misinterpret their motives. But God sees right into men's hearts and He knows their thoughts and motives. God knew that Joshua was the right man to lead His people.

God gave specific instructions to Joshua about taking the walled city of Jericho. They were told to march around the city once a day for six days. The priests were to take trumpets and the ark of the covenant was to be carried around the city each time. All this time the people were not to say anything as they passed around the city. On the

seventh day the people were to march around the city seven times. On the seventh time around Joshua said to the people, "Shout! The Lord hath given you the city!" When the people shouted and the trumpets blew, the walls of the city fell to the ground.

Joshua did exactly what God told him to do. He did not question why they had to march around the city for seven days. Perhaps to his mind this seemed strange and unnecessary. But Joshua knew that God had given him the instructions and he carried them out exactly as God told him.

There may be some things in the Word of God that we do not fully understand, but if we obey it anyway, God will be with us and bless us. God knows far more than we do, and His Word will only tell us right things to do. Also, if He speaks to your heart and you *know* it is God speaking, be prompt and obedient in doing what God tells you to do. If you are careful to obey as Joshua was, God will be with you in all you do.

—Aunt Sandra

Lesson 5, July 31, 1983

JOSHUA

Joshua 1:1 Now after the death of Moses the servant of the Lord it came to pass, that the Lord spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying,

3 Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.

5 There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

6 Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them.

6:2 And the Lord said unto Joshua,

See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour.

3 And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days.

4 And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets.

5 And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him.

8 And it came to pass, when Joshua had spoken unto the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of ram's horns passed on before the Lord, and blew with the trumpets, and the ark of the covenant of the Lord followed them.

9 And the armed men went before the priests that blew with the trumpets, and the reeward came after the ark, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets.

10 And Joshua had commanded the people saying, Ye shall not shout nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I bid you shout; then shall ye shout.

11 So the ark of the Lord compassed the city, going about it once: and they came into the camp, and lodged in the camp.

15 And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they rose early about the dawning of the day, and compassed the city after the same manner seven times:

only on that day they compassed the city seven times.

16 And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the Lord hath given you the city.

27 So the Lord was with Joshua; and his fame was noised throughout all the country.

Memory Verse: There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Joshua 1:5.

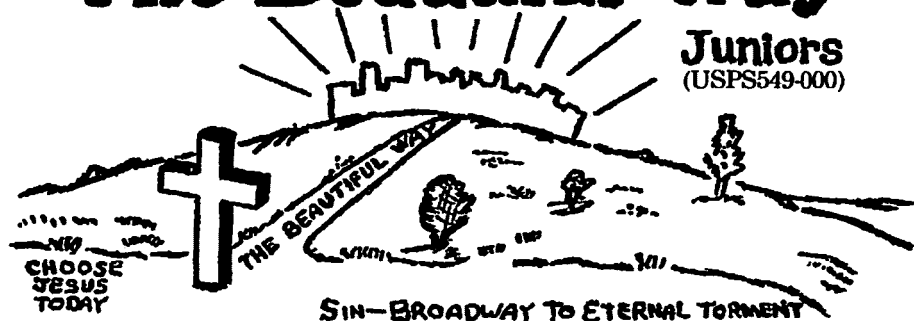
QUESTIONS:

1. Whom did God choose to lead the Israelites after the death of Moses?
2. Where did God tell Joshua to go?
3. What did God tell Joshua about all the land the sole of his foot tread upon?
4. What city did God tell Joshua He had given him?
5. How many times a day were the men of war told to walk around the city of Jericho? How many days were they to do this?
6. How many times were they to walk around the city on the seventh day?
7. What were the people told to do on the seventh time around?
8. What did the people take around the city with them?
9. Did the people do as God told them?
10. What happened when the priests blew the trumpets and the people shouted?
11. What do you think would have happened if the people had only gone around Jericho six times on the seventh day? Does God always want complete obedience to His will?

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Part 6

August 7

The Pilot's Voice

(Continued From Last Lesson)

It was not long until a pack of cards was produced, and game after game was played with them in the flickering fire-light. Byron became really interested in the card games, though he was forced to battle with sleep. He was in a measure able to forget his surroundings, and did not so distinctly hear the voice of his conscience as he did when there was so little to take up his attention. As nothing was said about playing for money, the thought of gambling did not present itself in so repulsive a manner.

Several games were played before the time was considered. Suddenly George sprang from his seat, and peering out into the darkness, exclaimed:

"Boys, I really believe it's getting light in the east! We had better be making tracks for home if we don't want to be caught by Mr. Sun."

He had scarcely finished speaking when a cock in a distant farm yard began to crow. On hearing it, Jason sprang to his feet and said excitedly:

"Well, I should say so! If we don't get out of here at once, we'll be sure to

be seen, and then it'll be day for all of us!"

The boys took no time to change the appearance of the room nor to deaden the fire, but quickly fled out into the darkness. They followed the same course that had been traveled earlier in the evening and were soon wending their way along the riverbank and out again upon the highway. While passing the Sibley house, Jason whispered:

"We are none too soon, boys. To be seen around here will not be good medicine for us. The best thing to do is to hustle home as lively as we can and to be sure that no grass grows under our feet along the way."

"Humph, you must have imbibed some of Byron's doctrine," James remarked in a low tone.

"Well, his preaching may not be so bad," Jason answered, "for some of these things we've done tonight will no doubt be found out before long. The first question about the matter will be, 'Who did them?' and for us to be seen together at this hour of the morning will be a pretty hard thing to explain away."

The boys separated at the cross roads—George and Jason going in one

direction, and James and Byron in another—calling “Happy dreams” in a low tone to each other. As James and Byron were hastening down the road toward the farmer’s house, James remarked:

“It will not be safe for us to try to enter the house at this hour. It might arouse unnecessary suspicion. We’ll slip around to the hay-barn, which is never locked, and creep in there.”

So with great caution they entered the gate that led into the farmer’s yard, and, softly slipping around the house, they entered an old log barn, where the hay for the horses and cattle was kept. Then they mounted a ladder that led up to the loft above. As they laid themselves down upon the hay, James said:

“Here we can get a couple of hours sleep at least before breakfast.”

It was no trouble for James to fall asleep, but with Byron it was different. He had never before slept in a barn, and then once more he had to listen to the voice that had troubled him at the river. But from sheer exhaustion he at last closed his eyes, and as one by one the incidents of the day passed before him, they became more and more indistinct until he forgot them altogether and slept.

When he awoke, the farmer was below attending to his morning chores, and the sunlight was streaming in through the wide cracks between the logs of which the barn was made. At first Byron did not realize where he was, and his surroundings appeared so strange that he wondered if he was having a strange dream or a nightmare. But he soon realized that it was all too true and that it was really Sunday morning.

“What are they doing at home?” he wondered. “Mother is no doubt preparing breakfast and thinking of her wayward boy, perhaps praying at this very moment. Very soon it will be time

for the morning worship, when the family will be gathered together. Mother will take the Bible and read a chapter. Then as they silently kneel to pray, she will remember each one of her children. What will she say when she comes to my name?” He could almost hear the words pouring out from her troubled soul:

“O Lord, be with Byron, wherever he may be this morning. Bless my wayward boy and shield him from the many snares that Satan has prepared for his feet. Without thy sustaining grace, O Lord, my heart would give way beneath its burden this morning. O God! how I love my boy! How I long for his salvation! Have pity and compassion upon him for Jesus’ sake! Give me strength, dear Father, to bear up under this new trial, and bring to my boy’s mind his former teaching. Talk to him, Lord, through his conscience and bring him safely home to me again. Have pity and compassion upon him for Jesus’ sake.”

Rising upon his elbow, Byron glanced to see if James had wakened, but found that he was sleeping soundly. Byron settled back once more into the nest that he had made in the hay, and endeavored to follow his companion’s example; but, weary as he was, he could not go to sleep again. The farmer’s continued moving about from one duty to another below increased his difficulty; and the various greetings that the different animals gave their owner when he approached them with their morning meal brought remembrances of his own neglected duties at home.

The sound of streams of milk pouring into empty milk cans renewed his thoughts of mother. He would not be there to assist her with the milking, and it would be difficult for her to finish her other duties in time for Sunday School.

When the squealing of the pigs

had died away in the pen adjoining the log barn and the farmer had returned up the gravel walk to the house, all was once more quiet and for another hour James continued to sleep.

At last Byron knew that his companion was awake, for he heard him saying: "Whew! is it really morning? Say, but I've had a good sleep. How did you rest, old boy? Pretty fine, I suppose; and did you have peaceful dreams?"

Not waiting for a reply, James hastily arose and, beginning to make preparations to go to the house, remarked: "If two boys want any breakfast, they had better make haste and get into the house. Things will be cold now, I expect."

"It would make little difference to me if I had no breakfast," Byron said. "For my part, I am not in the least hungry. This staying up all night has just taken all of the life and ambition out of me. I don't feel a bit like myself, and such a weight and burden has come over me since last evening that I am perfectly miserable. I thought that perhaps when I had slept some I would feel better, and in one sense I do; but oh! I don't feel as I used to. James, when I think of my unkind remarks to Mother last night, it almost breaks my heart."

"Oh, never mind your feelings, Byron," James said in a more encouraging tone of voice than he had been using of late. "You'll feel all right when you've had a good hearty breakfast and a strong cup of coffee to stimulate you! Some of the things last night were just a little new to you and were no doubt exciting; but when your nerves quiet down a bit, you'll be yourself again."

(To Be Continued)

Dear Boys and Girls,

How would you like to go to war against a group of people that numbered so many they could not be counted?

Your first and foremost thought would probably be to gather all the men you could to go to battle against them. If you could gather about as many men as the enemy, you might consider going to war; otherwise, you might consider moving to another country or just surrendering to the enemy.

Once an enormous number of people came to the Israelites and began to take over the land. They were called Midianites. The Israelites were weak and afraid because it seemed the Lord was against them. But just as God had once delivered the Israelites from the Egyptians, He delivered them from the hands of the Midianites.

God sent an angel to talk to Gideon, the man who was to lead God's people in battle. Even as Moses had felt incapable to lead God's people, Gideon also felt incapable. But God assured Gideon that He would be with him and deliver the enemy into his hand.

When Gideon gathered the men for war, there were 32,000 of them. God knew that if they won the battle, they would feel they had won it in their own might. God wanted to deliver the Israelites, but He wanted them to realize that it was through God's power and not their own that they won the battle.

God still works much the same today. He does not have to use great numbers to accomplish a purpose.

—Aunt Sandra

Lesson 6, August 7, 1983

GIDEON

Judges 6:11 And there came an angel of the Lord, and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites.

12 And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him, and said unto him, The Lord

is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.

13 And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the Lord be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt? but now the Lord hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.

14 And the Lord looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?

15 And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.

16 And the Lord said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man.

Judges 7:2 And the Lord said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me.

3 Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand.

4 And the Lord said unto Gideon, The people are yet too many; bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there: and it shall be, that of whom I say unto thee, This shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go.

5 So he brought down the people unto the water: and the Lord said unto Gideon, Every one that lapped of the water

with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink.

6 And the number of them that lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water.

7 And the Lord said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the other people go every man unto his place.

Memory Verse: . . . Surely I will be with thee. . . . Judges 6:16.

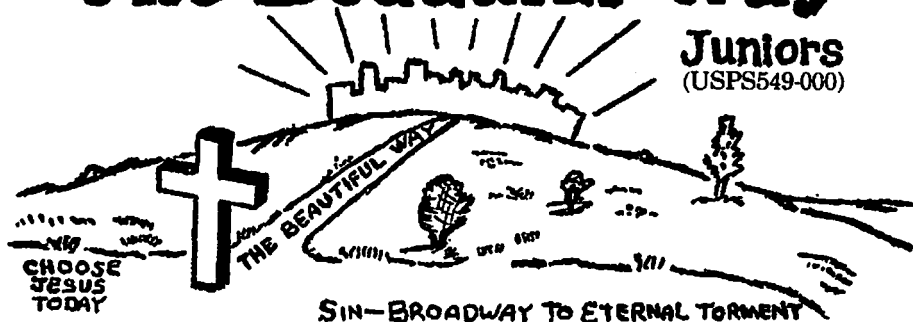
Questions:

1. What was Gideon doing when the angel appeared unto him?
2. What questions did Gideon ask the angel?
3. When the angel of God told Gideon that he would save God's people, was Gideon uplifted? How did he feel?
4. Why did God feel there were too many men to go to battle for Israel? Do most people today feel more safety with a great number of people or with God?
5. When Gideon told the fearful men to go back home, how many returned home? How many were left?
6. Did God still feel there were too many men?
7. How did Gideon test the men to decide which ones should go to battle?
8. Why should a soldier drink water by cupping his hand rather than by putting his mouth to the water?
9. How many men did God use to destroy the Midianites?

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Part 7 August 14

The Pilot's Voice

(Continued From Last Lesson)

"Well, what you say may be true, James, but what are you going to tell the folks in the house? How will you explain our being out last night?"

"Just leave it to me, Byron," James answered. "I have many times had to make explanations, and I think I'm equal to the occasion this morning. But we had better be moving on at once, as it's getting late."

Descending a ladder, they left the barn through a rear door; and in order that they might not be observed from the house, they passed behind the shelter of a paling fence and came out upon the road, so that they could enter the yard through the gate in front of the house. As they entered the yard, the farmer noticed them, but he did not suspect that they had spent a part of the night in the barn.

"It seems to me boys, that you are rather late, or early, I do not know which you would call it, in getting back from the post office," he said rather gruffly.

Reaching into his pocket, James brought forth the mail that he had received the night before and remarked

as he handed it to the farmer:

"We had intended to come directly home from the post office; but after we left the store, George was taken with some kind of sick spell. It was quite a while before he could walk at all, and when we finally got started, Byron and I had to help him along. We went with him all the way to his home and saw him safely in bed. By that time it was so late that we didn't like to come home and disturb you, and as they gave us an urgent invitation to stay all night, we decided to do so. George was so much better this morning that we came over here as soon as we could."

As James finished these remarks, he glanced quickly at Byron and winked as if to say, "I fixed that up all right, didn't I?"

Little was said during the meal that followed, and as soon as possible after it was over, the boys prepared to leave for Sunday School. They did not desire to attend the services at the little chapel that day because they wished to learn more about the Lord and salvation but because they knew that they would be expected to be there and that many difficult questions would be asked if they were not.

Sunday School did not begin until ten o'clock, and as they had plenty of time they did not hasten on their way. Neither was in a talkative mood, so Byron had an opportunity to think, and many peculiar thoughts surged through his mind. He remembered the kindness of his teacher (a motherly middle-aged woman) as from time to time she had taught his class. How sweet and good she had appeared while explaining the lesson and illustrating it by stories taken either from the Bible or from life!

One of these stories now came to his mind. It was of Jonah, the Bible truant. He remembered that she had pictured Jonah's stubborn and rebellious spirit, and had described the trouble and disaster he brought upon himself through his unwillingness to obey God.

He did not want to be like Jonah. He would choose to be more brave and noble. Jonah's course had often been a source of wonderment to him, and he reasoned that it was foolish and unnecessary. But how about his own? Jonah sinned only by turning from his duty and trying to run away from God, but he (Byron) not only had turned from duty and from God, but had committed sins that were really crimes.

Jonah, he remembered having heard her say, was really a good man, and wanted to do right. God had commanded him to warn the people of their danger—to inform them that if they did not repent they would be destroyed. Jonah had been severely punished because of his disobedience alone, and Byron wondered what would be done to those who not only disobeyed but committed crimes also.

The sight of his mother's carriage and horse tied near the chapel door told plainly that she was there in her accustomed seat. In order to take his place in his class, he must pass directly in front of her. How he dreaded to look

into her eyes, which thing he knew he would be almost obliged to do. Many a time he had entered that door with a heart as light and happy as a bird, but now it was different.

She was there as Byron had expected, and as he looked into that patient face, so kind and pure, he was unable to return the smile with which she greeted him. With shame and guilt burning into his soul, he longed to hide himself. Heavy weights seemed to be fastened to his feet, and his heart was as lead. If only he could recall the cruel words of the evening before! Dropping his eyes to the floor, he walked as quickly as possible down the aisle and slipped into the seat beside James.

"The Lord's Secret" was the subject of the lesson, and the memory verse was, "My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me." As the teacher explained the Jews' question in regard to the wisdom of Jesus and applied the memory verse, she said:

"The secret of the Lord is very simple if any one will open his heart to receive it. Now, Jesus came into the world to show men and women how to be good and happy. It was a very simple lesson that he wanted to teach them—the difference between right and wrong—and because of its simplicity the people who had been so long striving to solve it as a difficult problem, could not easily understand. They were of the opinion that in order to get anything out of the Scriptures one must have much learning; and, knowing that Jesus had not enjoyed many educational privileges, they considered themselves safe in saying that he was not a scholar.

"In his answer Jesus told them that it did not require earthly wisdom in this instance, for his teacher was God; and that all who would know of his secret must be willing to be taught in the same way."

She then told her class a little story that she had read. In the story the human heart was compared to a box securely locked and hidden in a large house. The first, or outside door of this house opened into a vestibule, into which strangers were admitted. The second door admitted acquaintances into halls and parlors. The third door opened into the living room, and here relatives and intimate friends were entertained. The next opened into the chamber where none but the nearest and dearest could come. Aside from all these, there was still another door, which opened into the closet containing the secret box.

This box represented the heart, which contains the secret thoughts and desires of the soul, the best and noblest, as well as the lowest and basest. Now only God's eye could see into the heart and discern man's true character. But there is a day coming, Byron's teacher said, when the heart will be opened, and as the husks are stripped from the corn and the shell removed from the kernel, so the thoughts of our hearts will be revealed as they really are.

Then she retold the story of the aged men who were walking upon the seashore viewing the wreckage. One of them was evidently a sailor and a person well acquainted with that part of the country, for he could explain something about the greater part of the rubbish with which the coast was strewn.

As they came to the keel of a huge ship half buried in the sand, he said: "I remember well the night this came ashore. She was a fine ship and was well manned, and the master's chart plainly described the bar on which she struck. He could have missed it, but he thought he could come a little closer than the map stated and still miss it. He tried it, but was caught in a storm,

and his vessel was lost."

(To Be Continued)

Dear Boys and Girls,

Back thousands of years ago, God's people did not have the Holy Spirit living in their hearts to help them to do right as Christians today do. The Israelites would begin to look at their neighbors who did not serve God and would begin to follow their ways. They would forget about God and the times He had helped them. They would begin to set up idols in their homes and worship them just like the people who never knew God. God did not force the Israelites to serve Him. But when things got rough for the Israelites and they found themselves in great distress they would remember God. God sent prophets and judges to lead the people back to God and to tell them how to find favor with God.

In our lesson today God used the judge Samuel to talk to His people. Samuel told them they must destroy their idols and turn their hearts back to God. The people listened to Samuel and obeyed his godly instruction. The people fasted and repented before God. When it looked like their enemies would prevail over them, they begged Samuel to pray and Samuel called out mightily to God to help the people.

Samuel had a love for God's people and a firmness in serving God. When the people had worshipped idols, Samuel had remained faithful to God. Therefore, when the people needed help they knew which man could intercede for them—the one who had stayed true to God even when others had gone the way of the world. Also, Samuel was ready to seek help for the people because he had a tenderness for them, even though they had disregarded him in the past. We need to be like Samuel and hold true to God, regardless of how many others may turn from God. We must also have a love for them and a true burden on our

hearts to see them saved. Let us be ready to help others and live a life that would give them confidence in us.

—Aunt Sandra

Lesson 7, August 14, 1983

SAMUEL

1 Sam. 7:3 And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, If ye do return unto the Lord with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the Lord, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.

4 Then the children of Israel did put away Baalim and Ashtaroth, and served the Lord only.

5 And Samuel said, Gather all Israel to Mizpeh, and I will pray for you unto the Lord.

6 And they gathered together to Mizpeh, and drew water, and poured it out before the Lord, and fasted on that day, and said there, We have sinned against the Lord. And Samuel judged the children of Israel in Mizpeh.

7 And when the Philistines heard that the children of Israel were gathered together to Mizpeh, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the children of Israel heard it, they were afraid of the Philistines.

8 And the children of Israel said to Samuel, Cease not to cry unto the Lord our God for us, that he will save us out of the hand of the Philistines.

9 And Samuel took a sucking lamb and offered it for a burnt offering wholly unto the Lord: and Samuel cried unto the Lord for Israel; and the Lord heard him.

10 And as Samuel was offering up

the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel: but the Lord thundered with a great thunder on that day upon the Philistines, and discomfited them; and they were smitten before Israel.

11 And the men of Israel went out of Mizpeh, and pursued the Philistines, and smote them, until they came under Bethcar.

12 Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.

Memory Verse: . . . Prepare your hearts unto the Lord, and serve him only. . . . 1 Samuel 7:3.

Questions:

1. What did Samuel tell the Israelites they must do before the Lord would deliver them from the hands of the Philistines?
2. Did the Israelites put away their idols and serve God?
3. Why did Samuel gather the people together at Mizpeh?
4. What did the people do when Samuel was going to pray for them? Is it still good to fast before the Lord today? What is the purpose of fasting?
5. What did the Philistines do when they heard that the Israelites were gathered together? Were the Israelites afraid? What did they ask Samuel to do?
6. What caused the Philistines to lose the battle?
7. What did Samuel call the stone he placed between Mizpeh and Shen? What does it mean?
8. Does God still use men as Samuel to turn people back to God?

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Part 8 August 21

The Pilot's Voice

(Continued From Last Lesson)

Coming to another wreck, he said: "And I remember, too, when this bark was leaving her anchor, one fine morning, with every promise of a prosperous voyage. Her captain thought she would not need a pilot, and the result was that she, too, came ashore. My friend," the old man continued, "as I look up and down this rocky coast and view the wrecks with which it is strewn, whose history I know so well, I am made sad indeed and life seems to be full of clouds and storms."

"When I read this story, boys," the teacher said, "I thought of the many young men starting out upon life's voyage. Some of them are wise enough to take a pilot with them, but do not listen to his voice and at the risk of their lives and friends venture too close to the bar and are shipwrecked. How I wish that everyone could realize his danger when he turns away from the warnings of his conscience and ventures too close to dangerous places. The conscience warns of danger, but its power to help is useless when its instruction is not obeyed. Like an abused and slighted friend, it will in

time become wounded and silenced.

"I wish, boys, that you would each learn the great secret contained in our lesson today that Jesus endeavored to teach the people. If you will follow the directions that are laid down in God's chart, the Bible, and let Jesus be your pilot, you not only will be able to plow through the foaming billows, but will land in the quiet waters of the haven of success, carrying with you rich cargoes of joy and happiness. Otherwise you are in constant danger of either being wrecked or carried away in the tide of sin and wickedness.

"How sad it would be when God calls you home should you find that your life had been wasted; that God's design for you had not been fulfilled because you refused to follow the instructions of the chart or obey the counsel of the Pilot. Heed them, boys. God wants you to have a purpose in life that will reveal the best that is in you. A strong Christian character and a distinct purpose are what God desired above all things else."

The entire lesson made a deep impression upon Byron. He was still thinking seriously upon it when he felt a gentle touch upon his shoulder.

Looking up, he saw that it was his mother, and heard her saying:

"I hope, boys, that you have had a pleasant time together, and that you enjoyed yourselves last night."

He felt a choking sensation as he tried to answer, and could not think of anything to say; but his companion, seeing his predicament, spoke for him.

"Oh, yes," James said, "we had a very nice time. Byron was a little late in getting there, but we spent a very pleasant evening with the family and in reading over our Sunday School lesson."

Somewhat recovering himself from his surprise, Byron endeavored to join in the conversation, but it was with difficulty that he did so. He could think of little to say, and what he did say had an awkward and uncertain meaning. His mother did not press him any farther with questions; and as she was ready to leave for home, Byron bade James goodbye and entered into the carriage beside her.

STRANDED



It was a beautiful day. The little birds had finished their morning songs and were busy with other duties, but occasionally some songster in a clump of trees near the highway cheered the passers-by with his music. As Byron rode home from Sunday School with his mother, he tried hard to forget his cruel words to her and what followed; but, try as he would, the remembrance of these things persisted in returning to his troubled mind.

He wondered whether, after they reached home, she would mention them, and how, in such a case, he could answer her. He might have been spared his worry about his mother, however; for she did not once allude to anything that had happened. During the entire week she bestowed upon him the same

affection that she had in former days, and no word from the boys reached him; but everything about the place seemed changed. The house the yard, the well, the garden, and even the horses and the barn seemed different to him. But they were unaltered; the change was in him.

In every way his mother was a wonder to him. He had never known her to be so kind. At meals she placed special dainties beside his plate, and when he had finished his day's work she greeted him with pleasant and endearing words. The chapters she read during the worship hour were full of deep meaning, and the prayers she offered sank into his heart like arrows.

Once after prayer he felt that he must go to her and unburden his heart and beg forgiveness for the way he had spoken to her; but the suggestion quickly came that it would be better not to do it and that it would only make bad matters worse, for it was not really necessary. This suggestion was followed by wondering if any one had found out about what had occurred on Saturday night. Thus the week slipped away, and Sunday morning came again.

As Byron opened his eyes and beheld the warm rays of sunlight streaming into his room through the open window, he felt thankful that his surroundings were different from what they were the week before. A call from the stairway reminded him that breakfast was nearly ready and that he had no minutes to lose if he reached Sunday School on time.

Promptness was a thing that had always been taught in Byron's home. At the distant school he had never had any tardy marks against him, and the family had always made a special effort to be at Sunday School on time. On this particular morning Byron was eager to get started. He was anxious to

see James and George and to learn now things were going.

(To Be Continued)

A Messenger

Today we are going to discuss a wonderful little messenger. It is a bird. Can you guess what kind of a bird it is? It is the carrier pigeon.

A carrier pigeon is dependable and is a very faithful messenger. When sent on an errand he keeps about his business and nothing can tempt him to turn aside. His course is straight. His only aim is to complete his mission safely and perfectly.

A man said that a carrier pigeon stopped to rest on his windowsill a few moments. The silver band on the foot of the bird showed that he was bound for New York. The man tried in every way to coax the little creature to stay awhile, but it was of no use. It seemed as if he knew he were on an important errand and must not be sidetracked.

It is the privilege of every Christian boy and girl to be a faithful messenger for Jesus. Let's be like the carrier pigeon—true and faithful. Jesus is counting on us to tell others about Him. Every person you meet and every friend you have is part of your mission field.

Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). Obey this command today, and begin by being a missionary right in your own neighborhood. Are you willing to give your whole life to Jesus? He needs you to help Him today. —Sel.

Dear Boys and Girls,

Have there ever been times when your brothers or sisters were allowed to go some place and you had to stay home? Those times can be very disappointing.

How did you react? Did you get angry and upset? Or did you get your feelings hurt and pout?

Since David was the youngest son in the family he was often left at home to care for his father's sheep while his brothers went away to important events. Once the prophet Samuel came to town. He gave a special invitation to Jesse and his sons to come to the sacrifice. Someone had to stay home to watch the sheep, so David was the one chosen. But David was the very one that God wanted to be anointed king. Samuel told Jesse to have someone go and find David. Suppose David had felt it was unjust to have been the only one left at home, and had left the sheep to go into town anyway. The servants would not have been able to find him then. But David was where he was supposed to be—with the sheep.

When King Saul sent for David to come to the court to play the harp for him, he knew where to find him—with the sheep. Even though this was a humble duty, David was faithful to be at the task given to him. Even after being anointed future king and having played his harp for King Saul, David was not uplifted and feeling "above" others. He left King Saul's court to return to care for the sheep.

Sometimes God gives us humble things to do. He wants us to be faithful in small things before He will use us in great things. We need to be like David and stay at the place God has given us until He calls us to do greater things.

—Aunt Sandra

Lesson 8, August 21, 1983

DAVID

1 Sam. 16:1 And the Lord said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with

oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

4 And Samuel did that which the Lord spake, and came to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, Comest thou peaceably?

5 And he said, Peaceably: I am come to sacrifice unto the Lord: sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice. And he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice.

10 Again Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The Lord hath not chosen these.

11 And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.

12 And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the Lord said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he.

13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

17 And Saul said unto his servants, Provide me a man now that can play well, and bring him to me.

18 Then answered one of the servants and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, that is cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the Lord is with him.

19 Wherefore Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, and said, Send me David thy son, which is with the sheep.

20 And Jesse took an ass laden with bread, and a bottle of wine, and a kid, and sent them by David his son unto Saul.

21 And David came to Saul, and stood before him: and he loved him greatly; and he became his armour-bearer.

22 And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found favour in my sight.

23 And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.

Memory Verse: . . . for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart. 1 Sam. 16:7.

Questions:

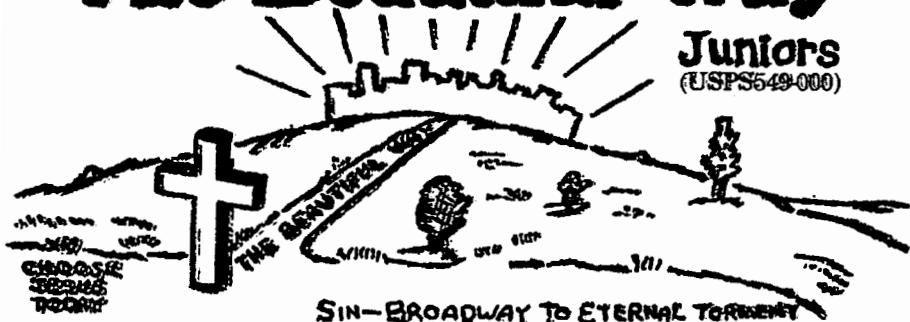
1. For whom did Samuel mourn?
2. What did God tell Samuel to do?
3. Among whose sons did God choose a king?
4. Did Jesse call all his sons to come before Samuel? Where was David?
5. What did David look like?
6. What came upon David after Samuel anointed him?
7. Saul wanted a man that could do what?
8. What good things did Saul's servant tell him about David?
9. Where was David when Saul sent for him?
10. Was Saul pleased with David?
11. What would happen when David played for Saul?

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The Pilot's Voice

(Continued From Last Lesson)

To Byron's surprise, when he reached the chapel, the boys were not there.

Perhaps they had been detained, he thought, and would come in later; so he carefully watched the door for a long time. So interested was he to see them enter that he paid little attention to the lesson or to what the teacher was saying. When the school was dismissed, he endeavored to find out something about the boys by inquiring of some if they knew why James and George were absent.

As no one could give him any satisfactory information, he passed silently out into the yard, and after looking up and down the road, hoping that the boys would appear, he seated himself in one of the waiting carriages. After a short intermission the preaching service began. Byron heard the singing, but he did not care to go inside. He was disappointed because the boys did not come, and he wanted to be alone.

"What a relief," he said to himself, "it would be to know what has hindered them! It is certainly unusual, for they are nearly always at Sunday School

and are generally on time." Then a sudden fear gripped his heart. Could it be possible that anything had happened? Had some of their reckless deeds of the week before been discovered and traced to the guilty ones? Why was there such a choking sensation in his throat, and such a feeling of expectancy of danger in his mind? Had not James repeatedly assured him that there was no reason to be afraid? Yes, he had, but, then, had not Jason told them both that there was cause for real carefulness as well as fear? Jason and George had seemed to understand the necessity of covering the deeds of that awful night, and they were both older and more experienced than James. These and many other thoughts were Byron's companions as he sat there alone in the carriage. He could easily have listened to a part of the sermon, as the windows and doors were open and the carriage was close, but his mind was too busily occupied with other things.

What made Byron start so suddenly, and what caused him to tremble so violently? Two men, in a covered buggy, had turned into the churchyard, had alighted, and were approaching the carriage in which Byron was sitting. It

was not uncommon thing for him to see these men, for he was well acquainted with them both. One of them was Farmer Davis, owner of the house whose windows the boys had broken by throwing stones and clubs and of the orchard in which George had destroyed the apple trees.

The men greeted him with a pleasant smile and spoke very kindly to him; but as they talked he became more and more uneasy. He felt that something was surely soon to happen, and his conscience was again busily engaged. He struggled to be brave, but he could not look either of the men in the face. His guilty conscience alone would have condemned him.

Suddenly the conversation ceased. During the silence that followed, Byron felt that the terrible moment had arrived. Although his eyes were riveted to the ground, he knew that both men were looking him squarely in the face; and as one of them spoke he felt the color leaving his cheek and lips, and his throat becoming dry and parched. He endeavored to answer them with an untruth, but his words seemed strange and weak.

"Where were you, Byron," they had asked, "on Saturday night one week ago?"

When Byron answered that he had spent the night with James and that they had remained in the house all evening they did not seem surprised; but Mr. Davis continued:

"Now, Byron, you might as well tell us the truth, for your guilty look has betrayed you. You know very well that what you've said isn't so. We have known you since you were a small boy, and we know that your mother is a good woman and has tried to bring you up in the right way. We know, too, that of late you have been keeping company with boys whom you have no business

to be with. These boys have influenced you and have encouraged you to do things you would not have otherwise done. This has been so noticeable that others have spoken about it. You are breaking your mother's heart and bringing disgrace and reproach upon a respectable family.

"Now, the way of the transgressor is hard, and you will have to give an answer for some of the things you have done. You say that you spent the night with James and that you were not out of the house all evening. Now, Byron, why do you make such a statement?"

Byron tried to answer, but could not. The words seemed to die in his throat as the pangs of guilt pierced his heart. He would have given anything to be rid of that awful feeling.

"You see," Mr. Davis went on in a voice which showed that he knew and understood a great deal about the matter, "The facts of the case are these: I happened to be in the post office that evening and distinctly remember having noticed you and James and another boy come in to inquire for mail. I saw you reluctantly take the cigar that James gave you and when it was lighted place it between your lips. Later I was told by another man that he had seen you going away from church in the same company, except that Jason White was added to your number. Now, you were seen at these places, and still you claim to have spent the entire evening with James at his home. There must be some cause for your making a statement like that. Why did you do it?"

Byron was still speechless. He could not answer.

(To Be Continued)

VINEYARDS

In Bible times they had many vineyards. On the hillside you would see the vines with grapes hanging thick and heavy.

Around each vineyard a stone wall with a watch tower could be seen. Someone had to watch that no robbers or wild beasts got to the ripening grapes.

Dear Boys and Girls,

In our lesson today we read about many of the people worshipping Baal, or a god besides the one, true, living God. There is nothing that displeases God more than for someone to bow down to something or someone other than Himself. God used His prophet Elijah to force the prophets of Baal to show forth Baal's powerlessness.

Elijah told the prophets of Baal to build an altar and sacrifice on it a bullock. They were to beseech Baal to consume the bullock with fire. Elijah was to sacrifice a bullock to God and call on Him to consume it with fire. Elijah was bold in his challenge to Baal's prophets, although there were 450 of them and he was the only prophet of God. How could he have been so bold? He knew the reality of God and he knew that Baal was only in the people's imaginations.

Baal's prophets called upon Baal to consume the sacrifice. Nothing happened. The prophets jumped upon the altar. Nothing happened. They began to slash their bodies with knives and cry with all their might. Still nothing happened. Why? There was no Baal to answer.

Elijah made an altar to God and put the bullock on it. He then had some men to pour four barrels of water over it all. He had them do this three times. This was to show that God could burn up a sacrifice that was even drenched with water. When Elijah called upon God to consume the sacrifice, fire came down and burned up the bullock, the wood, and even the stones that formed the altar. The people standing around knew that God was real because of the miracu-

lous event.

We do not have to be afraid of those who worship idols. There is no power in an idol. There are people who worship Satan, and Satan does have some power but God has more power than Satan. If we serve the true and living God, we can be bold, as Elijah was, even in the face of other powers. —Aunt Sandra

Lesson 9, August 28, 1983

ELIJAH

1 Kings 18:21 And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

22 Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men.

23 Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under:

24 And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the Lord: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.

26 And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made.

27 And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awakened.

28 And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.

29 And it came to pass, when mid-day was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded.

31 And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the Lord came, saying, Israel shall be thy name:

32 And with the stones, he built an altar in the name of the Lord; and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed.

33 And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood.

34 And he said, Do it the second time. And they did it the second time. And he said, Do it the third time. And they did it the third time.

35 And the water ran round about the altar, and he filled the trench also with water.

36 And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.

37 Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.

38 Then the fire of the Lord fell, and

consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

39 And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The Lord, he is the God; the Lord, he is the God.

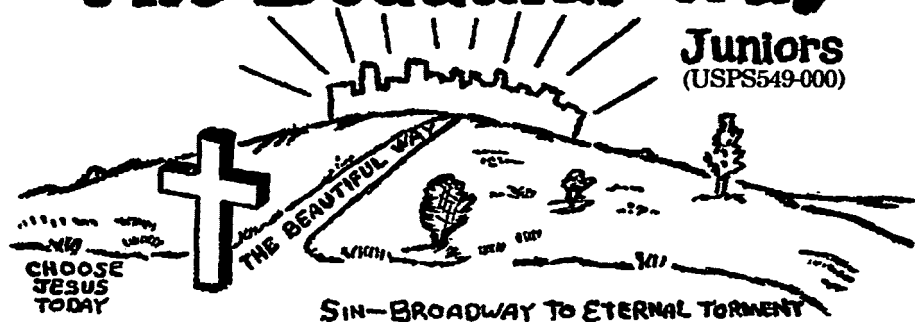
Memory Verse: "The Lord, he is the God." 1 Kings 18:39b.

Questions:

1. What were many of the people worshipping?
2. How many prophets did Baal have at this time? How many prophets did God have?
3. When Elijah suggested they both sacrifice a bullock, how were the gods supposed to show their power?
4. When the prophets of Baal put the bullock on the altar, how long did they call on Baal to burn up the offering?
5. Did Baal answer the prophets? Why or why not?
6. What did Elijah say Baal was doing that he did not consume the sacrifice?
7. What all did the prophets of Baal do to try to get their god to answer?
8. After Elijah had built an altar to God and put the wood and bullock on it, what did the people pour over it?
9. How many barrels of water were finally poured over the altar? Why did Elijah have them use so much water?
10. To whom did Elijah pray before the people?
11. How did the Lord show His presence and power?
12. Did the people then believe in God?

The Beautiful Way

Juniors
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Vol. 34, No. 3

July, Aug., Sept., 1983

Part 10

Sept. 4

The Pilot's Voice

(Continued From Last Lesson)

"You were in the company of those three boys that night, and you know just what you did," Mr. Davis continued when he saw that Byron was not willing to commit himself. "As soon as your evil deeds were discovered, an investigation was started, and you four boys were suspected at once and every bit of evidence that we have collected points that way. You are guilty, and the best thing for you to do is to acknowledge it and take your medicine. Now, if you can tell the truth, we will intercede in your behalf, as we believe that you have been influenced and have been thus led into trouble."

Byron could stand no more. With quivering lips and shining eyes, he acknowledged his guilt and plead for mercy. He ended his pitiful story by saying: "Oh do not tell my poor mother! It will break her heart. She warned me faithfully, but I would not heed her advice, and now it has come to this," and burying his face in his hands he sobbed, "What will Mother say and how can I ever face her again?"

The two men talked kindly to Byron, yet gave him to understand that

the matter could not be kept from his mother, that the offense was so grave that it would be necessary for the law to have its course, and that the boys must suffer the consequences.

"We are going now," Mr. Davis gravely said, "to visit an officer of the law, and you will hear from this later. My advice to you would be to tell a straightforward story. It will certainly be better for you in the end if you do."

As the two men untied their horse and drove away, Byron watched them in a bewildered manner until they had disappeared.

"O God!" he said when he could see them no more and realized his fate, "what shall I do? I can never face this!"

The thought of running away presented itself, and as quickly he wondered where he could go. His mother would find it out anyway, and why make her suffer any more than she must? With teeth set firmly together, he said to himself, "I might as well face it one time as another," and with this thought uppermost in his mind he jumped from the carriage and, going into the chapel, dropped into the first seat to which he came. In a few min-

tes the service ended.

As Byron sat still pondering on what his mother would say when she had learned all, he saw his cousin coming down the aisle toward him and heard his cordial invitation to go home with him. "Oh, here is my chance," he thought. "If I go to his home, Mother will have an opportunity to find out all about the trouble without my having to tell her, for she will surely hear it all before tonight."

He went to his mother and gained her permission to spend the afternoon at his cousin's home, promising as he left her to return before sundown.

"What an afternoon that was! A good dinner had been prepared by his aunt, but he had no relish for it. His cousin proposed games and amusements of various kinds in which the two boys had often engaged and even a trip down to the river, but nothing seemed to interest him. He was thoroughly miserable. At last he saw the sun sinking to rest and turned his face toward his home. As he walked along, he wondered repeatedly what was awaiting him there? Had Mother heard? And how could he meet her? What questions would she first ask him? These and many other things came to his mind as he wended his way homeward.

When he came in sight of his home, he stopped, and his courage fell. How could he ever enter that place again, he thought. He felt that he was worse than an outcast, for he had abused and misused his rights and was no longer worthy to share the comforts it afforded. The story of the prodigal son came to his mind. How like that miserable personage he felt himself!

Summoning all his remaining courage, he again pressed forward. He saw the door open, and there, with her hand still clinging to the knob as if for

support, stood his mother. One glance at her pale, tear-stained face told him that she already knew the dreadful story. The awful look of sorrow spoke more plainly than words could have done, but beneath her sorrow, he could see that there was still the same tender love.

Springing forward, Byron clasped her in his arms, saying as he did so:

"O Mother! you have heard the story, haven't you? Can you ever love and respect your wayward boy again? Can you ever have any confidence in him?"

And the two poor wounded hearts poured out their grief together.

"O my boy," at last his mother cried, "has it come to this? You have indeed broken my heart! If it were not for the comfort and strength I am now receiving from above, I could never stand this."

"Yes, Mother," Byron said in a low tone, "It has come to his! Can you forgive me? Oh, say that you can!"

And then in the gathering gloom he told his mother the tale of his sorrow and distress.

When the mother had recovered herself sufficiently she told her son that two hours before, the men who had talked to him in the churchyard had come to her home and told her all about the trouble.

"Oh! you cannot imagine, Byron, how I felt!" she exclaimed, sobbing again. "It pierced my heart like poisoned arrows, and I have suffered terribly!"

"Yes, Mother," Byron answered gently. "I do know something about your feeling; for I have passed through an experience that I shall never forget! Your prayers have followed me all the way! When I left you that night at the gate, with those cruel words ringing in my ears, you told me that you would

pray for me. Well, I had a strange experience that night." Then Byron told her all about the voice that spoke to him as he crossed the river and stood upon the foot-log.

"O my boy!" his mother exclaimed, "God is surely talking to you through his Spirit. He wants to save you from your sinful ways and deliver your soul from all guilt and condemnation. The voice that you heard on the foot-log was more than your conscience alone; it was God's Holy Spirit, in answer to prayer, striving to make you see and understand your duty toward your Creator and to keep you out of danger. Jesus wants to come into your heart and make it his abode, and God will give you His Holy Spirit to guide you if only you will let him."

"I know it, Mother, and I long to be free from sin, but this affair that I am in is something awful, and I must face it!" he said, burying his face in his hands.

(To Be Continued)

"Sin goes deep, but Christ goes deeper!"

Dear Boys and Girls,

Our lesson today is of a rather extraordinary happening. The prophet Elijah was taken to heaven by a whirlwind in a chariot of fire. This seems unbelievable except for the fact that if God so desires He can perform miracles even today. Elijah knew God was going to take him that day, so he asked Elisha what he could do for him before he went away. Elisha wanted a double portion of Elijah's spirit. Now this was something that Elijah could not do on his own; it would have to be through the will and power of God. We should all desire to have the spirit of God living in us and controlling our lives.

Elisha was told that in order to have this double portion of the spirit, he

must see Elijah as God took him. Elisha was careful to stay right with Elijah. After Elisha recovered from the astounding experience of seeing Elijah taken into heaven, he picked up Elijah's mantle, or cloak, that had fallen from him, and smote the waters of the Jordan River. The waters parted and Elisha walked across on a dry path.

Elisha went to the city of Jericho and there the people came to him with a distressing problem—the water was not fit to drink and the land was dry. Elisha took a bottle of salt and poured it into the spring. He said, "Thus saith the Lord, I have healed these waters." From that day forth, the water was fine to drink and the land was no longer barren.

Even though it was through Elisha that the waters were purified, Elisha gave God the glory for the healing. God wants to use men to carry out His purposes, but He wants to be given the credit for doing it. There have been men and women whom God one time mightily used, but have lost power with God because they began to feel the power was their own and received glory to themselves instead of giving it to God. "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

—Aunt Sandra

Lesson 10, September 4, 1983

ELISHA

2 Kings 2:1 And it came to pass, when the Lord would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal.

2 And Elijah said unto Elisha, Tarry here, I pray thee; for the Lord hath sent me to Bethel. And Elisha said unto him, As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they went down to Bethel.

8 And Elijah took his mantle, and

wrapped it together, and smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground.

9 And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.

10 And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so.

11 And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

12 And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces.

13 He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back and stood by the bank of Jordan;

14 And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the Lord God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over.

15 And when the sons of the prophets which were to view at Jericho saw him, they said, The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha. And they came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him.

19 And the men of the city said unto Elisha, Behold, I pray thee, the situation is pleasant, as my lord seeth: but

the water is naught, and the ground barren.

20 And he said, Bring me a new cruse, and put salt therein. And they brought it to him.

21 And he went forth unto the spring of the waters, and cast the salt in there, and said, Thus saith the Lord, I have healed these waters; there shall not be from thence any more death or barren land.

22 So the waters were healed unto this day, according to the saying of Elisha which he spake.

Memory Verse: "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Prov. 3:6

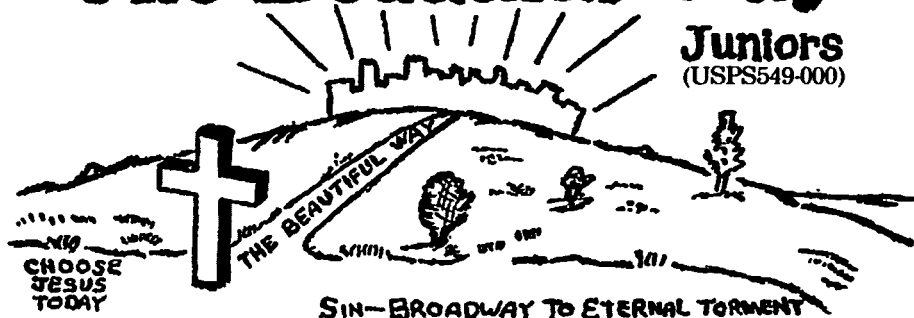
Questions:

1. How did Elisha reply when Elijah told him to stay behind while he went to Bethel?
2. How did Elijah part the waters?
3. What was Elisha's request when Elijah told him to ask what he would? Why was this a good request? What other things could Elisha have asked for?
4. What was Elisha to do in order to be granted his request?
5. How was Elijah taken to heaven?
6. What did Elisha do when he saw Elijah taken into heaven?
7. What did Elisha do with Elijah's mantle?
8. What problem did the people of Jericho have?
9. What did Elisha do to cure the water?
10. In whose name did Elisha cure the water?
11. If we do not give God credit or glory for the things He does, will He continue to do great things for us?

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Part 11

Sept. 11

The Pilot's Voice

(Continued From Last Lesson)

"Yes, my boy, you will have to meet it. Mr. Davis said that as soon as he could locate the other boys an officer of the law would come to arrest you." Then rising, and lighting a lamp, she continued, "Aren't you hungry, Byron? Come with me and have lunch."

The two walked together into the dining room, and while Byron ate a light supper his mother sat beside him and listened to the remaining details of the sad story. At last she said, "You may go to bed now, my son, for you may be called for in the night." And with a good night kiss they parted at the stairway.

Going to his room, Byron made hasty preparations for bed, and throwing himself upon it, gave vent to his feelings. The tears that he had struggled to suppress because he did not think it manly to cry flowed freely now, and he found the relief that nature gives to grieving hearts.

How dark the future, at this moment, appeared to this wayward young man, no one but those who have a like experience can comprehend. He felt

that all happiness was gone out of his life and that it would be impossible ever to live down a record so dark, so black! and he could not bear to think of what the next few hours would bring forth.

If only he had listened to his dear mother's advice! If only he had heeded the warnings of his conscience, he would have been spared all of this! In utter despair he buried his face in his pillow. "O God!" he cried from the agony of his heart, "what shall I do, what can I do?" The wail had scarcely died upon the night air, when he arose upon his elbow to listen.

He heard a sound of wheels in the distance coming in the direction of his home. Could it be, oh! could it be the officers? Yes: the wagon had stopped, and feet were walking upon the graveled walk below; Mother had unlocked the door, and voices could be heard, but words were indistinct.

Upon the mantle in the dining room the old clock was sounding the hour of nine, and Byron heard the hall door gently opening and someone ascending the stairway. It was Mother! She was coming to break the news as softly as possible. Stopping beside his bed, she clasped him to her bosom and

pressed one kiss after another upon his lips. For a moment neither mother nor son uttered a word; but as he felt the hot tears falling upon his face and the heaving of her bosom, Byron knew something of his mother's suffering. At last, as one in a dream, Byron heard her saying:

"An officer is below, waiting for you, Byron. You must dress at once and go down. It's hard, but you must face it. You will probably be arraigned for trial, and I cannot go, but your older brother will go with you. I'm going to give you sufficient money, no matter how much, to pay the fine that may be assessed against you, if they will let you off that way, and perhaps you can return with your brother tomorrow.

"But, now, my boy, there is one thing I must ask of you, and it is this: when you are put on the witness stand, be truthful. Tell everything just as it happened and do not fry to screen yourself, no matter what the consequences may be. Never mind what the boys may say or do; speak the truth and let the law have its course. It will be hard for us all, but we must submit.

"While I shall not be with you, Byron, remember that I am praying for you, and I'm sure God in His mercy will come to your rescue in this trying hour. You remember what I told you of the voyage that you were starting upon. You are stranded now, my boy, upon the shoals that Satan has prepared for unwary souls; and because you failed to properly prepare for the journey, your former reputation will be indeed shipwrecked. But don't be discouraged. Jesus extends a life-line to the lost, and if you will look, you can easily discover it."

Then kissing him on the brow again, she said, "I will go now, and you must come down immediately or the men will be coming up after you."

Byron did not move until the door

leading into the dining room had closed behind his mother. Reluctantly then he arose, and quickly dressing, was soon descending the stairs over which he had so often traveled before. Where would he spend the nights that were to follow this one?

As he entered the dining room, he was seized with a choking sensation. Of the law and its officers and their methods of dealing with their prisoners he knew practically nothing, but he had at last made up his mind to take his mother's advice and to follow her directions as closely as it was possible for him to do.

Mustering all of his immature manly powers, he stepped into the presence of those whom he most dreaded to see. There was no unnecessary delay or words. The officer was prepared, and, drawing forth a paper from his pocket, he began at once to read from its contents, and after finishing it, he said, "Byron, you are now under arrest."

Solemn words indeed were these in the ears of Byron. He felt himself a great criminal. He looked at his mother as she stood beside him and realized in part what she was suffering. He saw the great tears coursing down her cheeks and remembered her words of a few hours before, when she had said, "O, my boy! you have broken my heart!" and it seemed too true. He was indeed stranded, and he felt that only a divine power could release him.

For a moment no one spoke; then the officer broke the painful silence.

"I had intended, Byron," he said, "to take you with me, but I have decided not to do so. You will be placed upon your honor to appear at the place for your trial and can come with your brother later in the night. I must go and arrest the other boys, and as soon as I can get them it will be necessary for you to be there."

Three hours later, as his brother called from the gateway for him to come, Byron arose and passed out into the night. A moment later his mother's footsteps were heard, and she joined him by the side of the carriage. No words were spoken. After a tender embrace and a loving kiss she assisted him into the carriage, and the two brothers were soon passing through the gate out upon the highway.

The hour of the night, their mission, his mother at the gate, and the moon above looking down upon them made the scene very impressive to Byron, and the picture that was there stamped upon his mind was never erased.

(To Be Continued)

Dear Boys and Girls,

Sometimes we see people who suffer many misfortunes in life. Sometimes it may be sickness, accidents, loss of jobs, burning of houses, failure of crops, etc. Others looking on may think that God is punishing them for some wrongdoing in their lives, but we can see from our lesson today that Satan brings many of these things upon even those with whom God is well pleased.

Job was an upright man and one who pleased God. Satan accused Job before God for living for God just because God had blessed his life above others. God wanted to prove to Satan that Job would continue to serve Him even if He withdrew all His blessings from Job. The Lord took His hand of protection from Job and told Satan he could do what he wanted, except he must spare Job's life. Satan took the lives of all of Job's sons and daughters, his servants, and his cattle. Job was in great sorrow, yet he trusted God. Then Satan caused boils, or painful sores, to come all over Job's body. Job mourned and humbled himself before God, but still he did not

turn from the Lord. Job's wife thought he would be better off dead. She wanted him to go ahead and curse God so that God would take his life. Job would not listen to her and said she talked as a foolish woman. Job was accused of many things because of his terrible distress, but he did not turn against God, although he could not understand. Because Job held true to the Lord, God blessed his life with greater things than what He had blessed him with before.

There are going to be things that are hard to bear to come into our lives, but God is watching to see how we will deal with these sufferings. Sometimes we will be like Job and not understand our misfortunes, but if we continue to trust the Lord, He will bless our lives and give us victory over the hand of Satan. Let us also encourage each other to hold true to God.

—Aunt Sandra

Lesson 11,

September 11, 1983

JOB

Job 1:7 And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

8 And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

9 Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?

10 Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

11 But put forth thine hand now,

and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.

12 And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord.

13 And there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house:

19 And, behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

20 Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped,

21 And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.

22 In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

Job 2:4 And Satan answered the Lord, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life.

5 But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.

6 And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life.

7 So went Satan forth from the presence of the Lord, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.

9 Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die.

10 But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speak-

eth. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.

Job 42:12 So the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses.

13 He had also seven sons and three daughters.

Memory Verse: Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? Job 1:8.

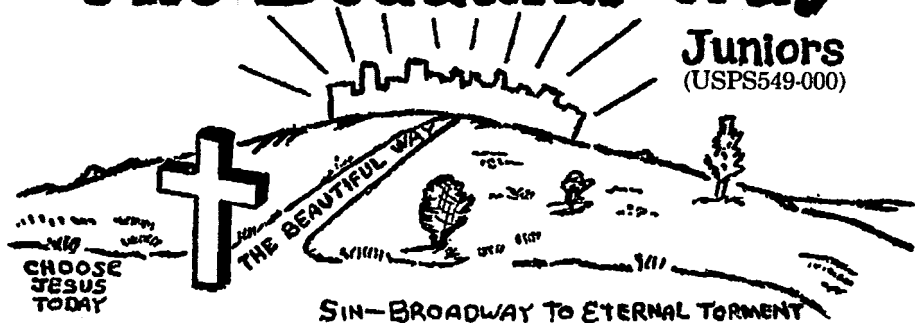
Questions:

1. Why did Satan think that Job served God?
2. What did Satan think would cause Job to curse God?
3. Did the Lord allow Satan to use his power against Job?
4. What happened to Job's sons and daughters?
5. What did Job do when he heard of the destruction of his children, servants and cattle?
6. Why did Job think the Lord had a right to take away?
7. What did Satan then think would cause Job to curse God?
8. What did Satan cause to come upon Job?
9. Did Job's wife comfort him? What did she suggest he do? How did Job reply?
10. Why do people sometimes lose their faith in God when they are sick or bad things happen to them?
11. How did God bless Job for staying true to Him?

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The Beautiful Way

Juniors
(USPS549-000)



Vol. 34, No. 3

July, Aug., Sept., 1983

Part 12

Sept. 18

The Pilot's Voice

(Continued From Last Lesson)

LEAVING PORT

Only a little more than a week had passed since Byron had left his mother standing beside that same gateway. She plead with him then, but her pleading was in vain. He did not heed her advice. He cast it aside and almost ignored it. He thought he knew best. Now he could see that his mother was right. Now all was changed!

Oh, if only he could undo the deeds of the past few weeks! But the days that were past could not be recalled. He must suffer now for his misdeeds! How dark was the future! Would he be permitted to return home after the trial, or would he be taken to the jail? Would the money that his mother had placed in the hands of his brother be of any service? These and similar thoughts filled his mind as the carriage rolled along.

As the carriage neared the river, Byron could see in the distance the outline of the old house in which the boys had spent that eventful night. As he crossed the bridge, he saw the moonbeams sparkling in the water below and thought of the foot-log farther up

the stream. The voice that had spoken to him in the lonely forest was still pleading in the same tender manner in which it had spoken upon that fatal night. He longed to cry out to God for pardon, for at last he realized that it was God's Holy Spirit that was talking to him in answer to his mother's prayer. He desired to live a new and different life that he might be not only an example to his friends but an encouragement to his sorrowing mother.

During the greater part of the journey the two brothers rode in silence, as each was busy with his own thoughts. When they reached their destination, each drew a deep sigh; but it was not the sigh of relief, for neither one was glad. They realized what was before them, and Byron felt his strength and courage failing every moment.

The village in which the squire lived consisted of only about half a dozen weather-beaten houses. But this fact did not interest these early callers; they were looking for the squire's office, and were not many minutes in locating it.

Tying their horse in front of his house, they knocked for admittance. He was not at all pleased over being disturbed at so early an hour. Leading

them into the living room (which they later found was his office) he gruffly bade them be seated and returned to his bed to rest until the other members of the party should arrive.

In the stillness that followed, Byron strove to imagine what would be the outcome of the next few hours. He shuddered over the prospect, and again fear, such as he had never before experienced, took hold of him. He thought of the squire's stern features and doubted that he would show any mercy.

As the sound of heavy breathing in the adjoining room reached his ears, he thought of his own soft bed at home and of Mother, dear patient Mother! Was she asleep? Had she had any rest? One thing he knew, and that was that she had been praying for him. This thought quieted his fears, and he wondered how far her prayers would avail. As the minutes passed wearily by, slowly his eyes began to droop, and for a short time he forgot that he was not resting upon his own pillow at home.

When Byron awoke, the sun was peeping over the treetops. It was a beautiful morning. As a merry little songster in the yard warbled forth its praise to its Creator for placing such beauty upon the earth, its song sounded as mockery in his ears. Would he ever be happy again? Would his burden of guilt and sin ever be lifted and could he ever again feel himself an innocent boy?

Another hour passed, and still the brothers were awaiting the arrival of the others who were to have a part in the trial. Suddenly there was a noise at the gate, and looking in that direction, Byron saw the officer who had arrested him the night before. He saw, too, that he was not alone, but was bringing with him James and George.

With keenest interest Byron watched them approach the house. He realized that they had not met since the night of their evil deeds, but he was reasonably

sure that they must know by this time of his confession, and he wondered how they would act toward him and what they would say when they came into his presence.

Somebody else had heard the click of the gate as well as Byron. It was the squire. He arose, and dressing quickly, was soon at the door to receive them. As the three entered the room, Byron saw them glance quickly in his direction. When his eyes met theirs, he read anything but sympathy and love in their expression. He thought of James' promised friendship in times of trouble. James had said that he not only would help and stand by him, but would be his right hand man.

Faithful companion indeed! If Byron wanted help now he must look for it from a very different source. He felt the separation more keenly than if words had passed between them. These boys would never again want to associate with him, and he did not desire their companionship any longer. He had at least one true friend, and that was his mother. He knew that she would stand by him no matter what would happen.

In a short time two other rigs drove up in front of the house and five more men entered the squire's office. One of these men was the prosecuting attorney and two others the neighbors to whom Byron had talked the day before in the church yard. All had a smile and a kindly word for Byron.

Presently the officers of the law collected in one corner of the room and conversed in low tones for several minutes. Byron listened with an eagerness that he had never before known. He wanted to learn all the facts in the case as soon as possible, and he wished to know why Jason was not present. Shortly he heard an officer, speaking in a louder tone, say that he had gone to arrest Jason, but had failed. In some way word that the officers were coming

had reached, him, and he had left and could not be found. They continued to talk among themselves for some time then motioned to the other men to join them. Again they spoke in tones too low to be heard by the boys.

(To Be Continued)

Dear Boys and Girls,

Our lesson today is about Daniel. You have probably heard the story of his encounter with the lions since you were a small child, but it is always exciting to hear it again.

How would you have liked being in Daniel's place? Here it was the king had been sort of tricked into passing a law that no one should make a request to any man or God but to himself for thirty days. The king did not know of Daniel's habit of praying to God three times a day, but the men who tricked the king into signing the law did. They caught Daniel praying to God and hastily went to the king with their accusation against Daniel. The king liked Daniel and believed in God, so he tried to think of some way of getting out of punishing Daniel. But the princes and governors held the king to the law and forced him to throw Daniel to the lions.

According to all natural principles, a man thrown among a bunch of hungry lions would be torn apart and devoured within a short time. There was only one reason why this did not happen to Daniel—God. Daniel was a man faithful to God, and God honored this faithfulness. God sent an angel to close the lions' mouths, and no doubt to tame their spirits, or they could have ripped him apart with their claws. The king was happy to learn the next morning that God had kept any harm from being done to Daniel.

God performed a miracle to save Daniel's life, and He still does such things today. A few months ago a young boy who worked at a small store was robbed

and taken from the store. The robber pointed a loaded gun to the boy's head and pulled the trigger. Click! Nothing happened. He pulled the trigger again. Another click! After the third time, the man threw down the gun. What do you think kept the gun from firing? God—the same God that stopped the lions from eating Daniel. God is still alive and doing great and wonderful things today.

—Aunt Sandra

Lesson 12, Sept. 18, 1983

DANIEL

Dan. 6:4 Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.

6 Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever.

7 All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.

9 Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree.

10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

11 Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

12 Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's

decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

13 Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day.

14 Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him.

15 Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.

16 Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.

18 Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of musick brought before him: and his sleep went from him.

19 Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.

20 And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?

21 Then said Daniel unto the king, O king live for ever.

22 My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

23 Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

Memory Verse: He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions. Dan. 6:27.

Questions:

1. Who was it that sought to find fault with Daniel and why?
2. What did these men get the king to decree? Did the king know what the men had in mind?
3. Did Daniel let the decree, or law, keep him from serving God?
4. What did the presidents and princes find Daniel doing?
5. When it was reported to the king what Daniel had done, was the king angry with Daniel?
6. Why did the king not pardon Daniel for breaking the law?
7. What was Daniel's punishment?
8. What did the king do while Daniel was in the den of lions?
9. When the king went to the den the next morning, what did he call out? Was Daniel unharmed? What did Daniel reply?
10. Does God still perform miracles today? Give some examples.

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Vol. 34, No. 3

July, Aug., Sept., 1983

Part 13

Sept. 25

The Pilot's Voice

(Continued From Last Lesson)



The moments crept by slowly for the prisoners, but at last the scene was changed. The squire, after producing some writing material, seated himself with the others around a table, and then the prosecuting attorney remarked, "It is now time to commence the trial."

When the preliminary address had been given, Byron was called forward as the first witness. In spite of his efforts to remain calm, he could scarcely control himself. He trembled so violently that it was with difficulty that he answered the questions.

It was not strange that he was thus affected: the prosecuting attorney was no other person than the storekeeper to whom Byron had sold the eggs on his way to the mill; and the whole experience with the eggs had (while the officers talked) came vividly before him—first the plan that James had concocted to bring the boys more spending money, next the temptation, then the theft, and last of all the disposal of the eggs. His mother's words concerning the growth of deception in the heart, spoken to him when she punished him for

deceiving her about the planting of the beans, had been fulfilled.

He had also remembered the little vision that had come before him as he stood in front of the little store—the vision of the gambling party who had changed into the forms of George, James, his cousin, and himself. And he recalled the miller's story. "Ah," he thought, "If only I had endeavored to change my course and had made my wrongs right before things took this form! I could easily have replaced the eggs or have taken them to the house, and I should have been saved all this trouble."

Every step in the wrong direction had made his return more difficult. There was not a shadow of a reason for the course he had taken. He had not even the excuse that the miller had given in regard to the poor widow. A great cloud of darkness seemed to have suddenly arisen and threatened him with utter destruction.

He was indeed sorry now; but as a captain, realizing that the rudder of his vessel is broken, looks out upon the distant horizon and sees the storm approaching, so Byron looked into the faces of those before him in this terrific

storm of life.

After he had answered the questions, he was told to make a statement of all that he and the other boys had done. He instantly remembered his mother's advice—to speak the truth in everything and to tell the particulars just as nearly as he could. "No doubt she is praying for me at this very moment," he thought. Inspired by this thought and the remembrance of her words, he told the story in a straightforward manner. As he confessed one thing after another, the look of terror left his face.

When he had finished speaking, he glanced toward the boys. Their opinion of him was still visible, but he felt that he no longer cared. He did not now covet their friendship, and experience had taught him what kind of help to expect from them in time of trouble.

He was asked a few more questions, and then James and George were in turn called forward. Both denied the charges brought against them and said that all of Byron's talk was false and was made to get them in trouble.

When asked to tell where they had been on the Saturday night in question, each made up a story of his own; but when they were questioned more closely, their own words proved them guilty. One witness endeavored to testify in their favor, but his testimony was of no avail.

Then the prosecutor made a talk, in which he gave the boys some good, sound advice and admonished them to abide by the law if they did not want to suffer the penalties that were attached to its violation. Next a large law book was produced, and the sentence for a crime such as they had committed was read. Besides the fine, there was a certain length of time to be spent in prison.

As Byron listened, it seemed all hope had left him. His breath came in

gasps, and his face grew white. He had hoped that when the fine was paid he would be permitted to return home. He wanted to make amends for his wrongs and to help his poor mother forget her sorrow. What would she say? Would he ever be able to rise above a prison sentence? Could he ever take his stand in the world again?

He felt a great relief when the officer again rose and in solemn tones addressed the boys, "James and George," he said, "will have to suffer the full extent of the law. They will be punished not only for the crime but for endeavoring to shield themselves. But with Byron we will make a difference. He has been truthful, and he seems to be sorry not only for what has happened, but for having been led into bad company. When he has paid the fine, he can return to his home and to his mother."

At this statement Mr. Davis, who had been strangely quiet, arose, and going to Byron, clasped his hand, and spoke encouragingly to him. Then they all passed out of the squire's office and were soon driving away in different directions. Byron, happening to glance over his shoulder from his seat beside his brother saw the officer with James and George disappearing at a turn in the road, and he realized that just as they were passing from his sight they were passing out of his life. Never again would he be led about in sin by these boys.

His thoughts and desires were so changed that he longed only for a pure and upright life and for the happiness and satisfaction that such a life affords. There was nothing for which he cared to live but to prove his love for his mother and to counteract his past actions toward her and the others whom he had wronged. The awful weight of his sin seemed to hold him down so securely that he could find no relief.

As the two brothers rode along side

by side, they had little to say to each other, merely making an occasional remark about the crops or the weather. Neither mentioned the events of the past few hours. Higher and higher the sun rose above them until they realized that the first part of the day was nearly spent. They were glad when they could see in the distance the outline of their home.

How changed everything appeared to Byron as they approached their home! Changed and beautiful! Byron at last realized what home meant to him and the value of friends who were noble and true—friends who would not turn away from him in times of trouble and distress. Would Mother see them and be at the gate to welcome them? Straining his eyes, he thought he could detect a dark object on the very spot where she had stood when he spoke those cruel words upon that fatal night.

(To Be Continued)

“Mother, we learned a new verse out of the Bible. It is in Luke 6:45. ‘Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh.’ What does that mean?” asked Bill, as he and Sue helped themselves to a cookie and a glass of milk.

“It means that what is in your heart will come out your mouth,” said Mother.

“Well, how can that be?” asked Sue.

“Suppose you have a good, clean, pure heart? What kind of words do you think you will say?”

“Well, I suppose that they would be gentle and kind words,” said Sue slowly.

“What kind of words would come out of someone that had an evil heart?” asked Mother again.

“Probably bad things,” said Bill.

“That’s right,” said Mother. “Whatever is in the heart will come out. The Bible tells us to keep our heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life.”

—M. Sprague

Dear Boys and Girls,

Do you know what it means to be faithful? Let’s think about being faithful for awhile. Right now I’m thinking of some of our older brothers and sisters in the Lord. They have walked with the Lord for many years down through the journey of life. They are now nearing the end of this journey, but they are still serving Jesus and letting their light shine. And now we can know the Bible and how to walk in the holy way. They are a faithful example set before us.

Then sometimes we hear someone say, “That Bro. and Sis. surely are faithful to come to church, and be on time, too.” That’s nice to hear, isn’t it?

In our lesson today we have the story of three Hebrew men: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They were Jewish men who were taken into captivity by the Chaldean army, when they were young men. They knew God and knew that He was the one, true God. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had purposed in their hearts to be faithful to God and they desired to please Him.

At one time, along with Daniel, they were supposed to eat what King Nebuchadnezzar had said they were to eat. But that food wasn’t to be eaten by the Jewish people. Daniel bravely told the officer, “It is wrong for us to eat the king’s meat and drink this wine. Please don’t make us do so.”

The officer was afraid, and told them, “If, when you are taken before the king you don’t look as strong and healthy as the others, the king might kill me.”

But Daniel said, “Try us for ten days. Let us eat vegetables and drink good, pure water, and see if we don’t look as strong and healthy.” So the officer gave them the food they needed, and after ten days they looked better than the other men.

After King Nebuchadnezzar had the

golden idol made, he commanded all the people to fall down and worship. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego proved their faithfulness to God by not falling down and worshipping the idol. They were willing to go into the fiery furnace that was heated seven times more than usual. They were not afraid; they knew God could deliver, but if he didn't, they still would not worship the king's idol.

What a mighty victory after they were thrown in! The king looked into the furnace and saw *four* men! (The fourth man, he said, looked like the Son of God). The king called them to come out. The men, after they came out, didn't even have the smell of smoke on them! The only things that were burned up were the cords that bound them.

Do you think that we can love God so much as to be faithful as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, if we had to? Let's pray God to help us. —Aunt Dot

Lesson 13, Sept. 25, 1983

BE FAITHFUL

Dan. 3:1 Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof six cubits: he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

3 Then the princes, the governors, and captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, were gathered together unto the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

4 Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages,

5 That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psalter, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up:

6 And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

10 Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psalter, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, shall fall down and worship the golden image:

11 And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth, that he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.

17 If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.

18 But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

Memory Verse: Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. Rev. 2:10b

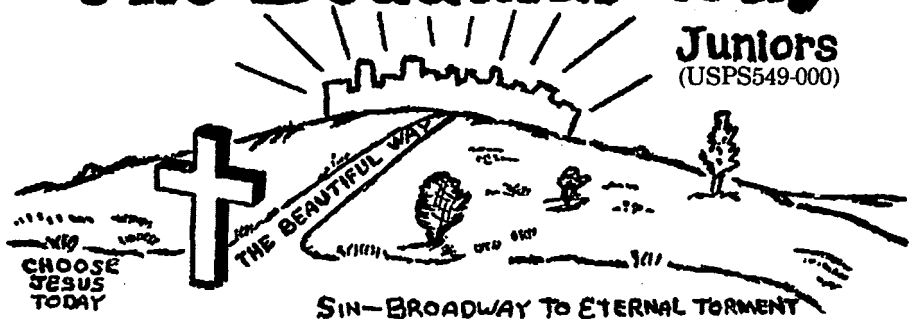
Questions:

1. What were the names of the men in the fiery furnace?
2. What does it mean to be faithful? Give some examples.
3. What did the king want them to do?
4. Did they love God?
5. How did they prove it?
6. How many men did the king see in the furnace?

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Vol. 34, No. 4

Oct., Nov., Dec., 1983

Part 1

Oct. 2

Notice

The continued story, *The Pilot's Voice*, which we have been running in the past lessons will be continued beginning on January 1, 1984. We are sorry for any inconvenience.

Lincoln's Courage

What boy has not many times wished he could be as great as was Abraham Lincoln? Did it ever occur to you that Abraham Lincoln was not always a great man? That he failed in some things which he undertook just the same as other people?

When a young man, Lincoln, with another man, bought a country store; but Lincoln had no money with which to pay for it, so he gave a note, which is a promise to pay later. They failed in the store and sold it to some other men, who also failed and ran away without paying any money to Lincoln.

Then the question came up: What should he do? He had no money and it would take him years to earn

enough to pay all he owed—or, should he, too, run away?

He decided to go to all the people he owed and tell them frankly that he would go to work and pay them as fast as he could, and ask them to be patient with him. It took him fifteen years to pay all that debt.

—Sel.

The Thief

Kay came into the school hall. She saw Gary take Maxine's lunch. He quickly dropped the lunch bag and started to leave.

Kay called, "Gary, just a minute."

He waited while she came to him. "What do you want?" he asked.

"I saw what you were doing," Kay said. "Why were you taking Maxine's lunch?"

Gary looked at the floor. "I didn't have any breakfast," he said. "All I had to eat yesterday was some mush. Mother is out of work. We haven't had much to eat lately."

"I thought so," Kay said. "Here, I'll share my lunch with you."

Kay gave Gary half of her banana. She gave him half of her sandwich. She gave him half of her cake.

"Are you sure you don't need this?" Gary asked.

"Of course not," Kay said.

"Please don't tell anybody about me taking Maxine's lunch. Please don't tell anybody about me eating some of your lunch," Gary said.

"I won't tell anybody," Kay said.

After recess was ended, Miss Smith said, "Someone has been stealing lunches. That one must be punished. Does anyone know who is taking the lunches?"

No one answered. The teacher said, "If you know who is stealing and you don't tell, you're as wrong as the thief. It is wrong to help a thief."

Gary looked at Kay. His face was red. His eyes asked her not to say anything. The teacher saw Gary look at Kay. She asked, "Kay, do you know who the thief is?"

"Must I answer your question?" she asked.

"Yes, you must," said Miss Smith. "If you don't, you will be just as bad as the thief."

Kay stood up slowly. Then she said, "I know stealing is wrong." But isn't it also wrong for us not to share with those who are hungry? The person who took the lunches was hungry. I shared my lunch with him today."

Miss Smith said, "Being hungry is no excuse for stealing. Who took the lunches, Kay?"

Kay answered, "I will tell you, Miss Smith, but please help him. If someone must be punished, punish me. Let's give him the food he needs."

There was a long silence. Then Miss Smith said, "All right, Kay."

Just then Gary jumped to his feet.

"I did it, Miss Smith," he said.

"Gary," Miss Smith said, "I am glad you told us. You will not be punished. Tomorrow we all will bring some food for you and your family."

Lincoln as a Boy

The story of Abe's early life is interesting to us because it was so much like that experienced by millions of American boys. He swam, fished, went for long walks when he wished to be alone, played games—and read.

The last named he simply could not do enough of. At almost any hour of the day he would be found propped up against a tree, his face buried in a book. Even when working in the field he would find time to read. The Bible, "Life of Washington," "History of the United States," "Robinson Crusoe," "Pilgrim's Progress," are some of the titles he enjoyed reading again and again.

But he had to do more than reach up and take down the volume from a library shelf as we can so easily do. He once walked several miles to the home of a distant neighbor on hearing there was a used grammar there. He got the copy and put it to good use, as we discover by the perfect English in his "Gettysburg Address." Another time he had to work in a grain field for three days to pay for a borrowed book which had become slightly wet when rain seeped through the log walls of his cabin.

No one had to tell Abe what the pinch of poverty felt like. Many nights he went to bed after a supper of one or two roasted potatoes. He was poor, mighty poor—but rose to be savior of the nation.

LESSON ILLUSTRATION

Draw the sun and then place a world down below. Write on the sun, "source of energy." Underneath that write, "God—the source of our faith." Draw lines to the earth and then a heavy line and write the word "JESUS" on it. Write the word "mankind" on the earth.

Although the sun is 93 million miles away, it is the earth's source of energy. Just so God gives us life and power through His Son Jesus who came here to bring us eternal life. Jesus is the "express image of his person" and there is none other name under heaven whereby we must be saved. Acts 4:12.

Dear Boys and Girls:—

What a sad world this would be if we did not believe that there is a heaven to go to when we die! We know that each of us has a soul that lives in our bodies and that soul is the real life. This body will go back to dust but the soul will live on somewhere. We are glad that we have the Bible that tells us about our souls and about God. We receive from the Bible truths which are the source of our faith. The Apostle Paul has told us, "Faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Rom. 10:17. In other words, we believe there is a God and that His Son Jesus Christ came to this world and then died on the cross for our sins. He arose from the grave and ascended into heaven as our Saviour. Witnesses who saw him wrote about it and we base our faith on what they have told us. That is the source of our faith. But the greatest part about it all is that when we do believe on the Lord Jesus as our Saviour and confess our sins we know in our hearts that He forgives us. He truly becomes our Lord and Master.

Then we can be witnesses for Jesus to others.

Our lesson tells us in the first verse that in many ways God spoke to the people by prophets in the days before Jesus came to this world. He told the prophets to tell the people how to live. He also told them He would send Jesus to the world. In the second verse we are told that today God has spoken to us through His Son Jesus Christ. Remember how Isaiah, in the old Testament, foretold of Jesus' coming? We can read in the New Testament that He came just as it was written. You might read Isaiah 53:1-12 and compare it with the manner in which it was fulfilled.

Also, in the second verse we learn that Jesus was there when the world was made. John tells us this. (See John 1:1, 14.) It is good for you to study the Bible and know these things. It was by the "word of his power" that the worlds were made and are held in place. Think about that. We surely want to be on good terms with Jesus, don't we?

Jesus is divine and has the same divine nature as his father, God. He was the "express image" of God in nature, but he took on the fleshly body and came here to this world. He also has a greater name than the angels.

Since we know all these things, we should remember them. Those who sin will be punished. God knows all things and we can't sin and get by. We won't escape. Sin causes our hearts to be hard. Sin is deceitful. We should be saved today and not wait any longer. Then when we are saved we want to keep saved right up until we die. There is danger in drifting along. We should be careful and keep ready as we know not when death will come to us.

—Aunt Marie

THE SOURCE OF OUR FAITH

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:1-4; 3:12-15

Heb. 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in times past unto the fathers by the prophets,

2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

3 Who being the brightness of his glory and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

4 Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

Heb. 2:1 Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.

2 For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward;

3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;

4 God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

Heb. 3:12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;

15 While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

Memory Verse: God . . . hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son. Heb. 1:1, 2.

Central Thought: Faith in Jesus, the Son of God, will bring us salvation and heaven in the end.

QUESTIONS:

1. Does real faith in God cause a person to do something about his belief that Jesus is the Son of God?

2. How did God talk to the people before Jesus Christ came?

3. Name some of the old Testament prophets. Who was the last one before Jesus came?

4. Where was Jesus when the world was created? Give Scripture to prove your answer.

5. Of whom was Jesus the "express image" and the "brightness of his glory"?

6. How was Jesus the image of God?

7. How did Jesus "purge our sins" and "sit down on the right hand of God"?

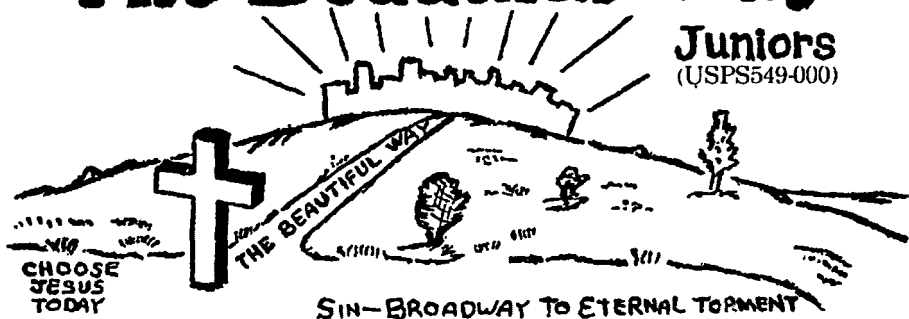
8. What does it mean when it says, "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation"?

9. What were some of the signs and miracles of Jesus that the disciples have written about?

10. Why should we be saved and not wait?

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Vol. 34, No. 4

Oct., Nov., Dec., 1983

Part 2

Oct. 9

Christ Our Intercessor

He never sleeps who sits above
The sons of men beholding;
But ever in His faithful love
Great blessings are unfolding.

He conquered sin, death, and the
grave—
To God's right hand ascending.
He freely wills His pow'r to save,
The pow'r of Satan rending.

Oh what a blessed joy it is
To trust His grace unfailing!
To say, "He's mine and I am His"
O'er Satan's works prevailing.

—Leslie Busbee

Bill Acts as Mediator

"Ouch! That hurt!" cried Robert.
"Why did you hit me?"

Robert and Jack had been the best of friends. They had fished together and played ball together. They had shared their best treasures. Often they would sit on the lawn and talk

together in the evenings. They were the best of pals. Then for no apparent reason Jack walked up and hit Robert and as he turned around he hit him again and ran away. This was a great surprise to Robert. He thought about it and wondered what to do. He still loved Jack just the same. After a day or two passed by and Jack did not come around any more, Robert wished he could see him. He wanted to let him know that he still loved him and had forgiven him for his treatment, although there was no reason that he could see that would cause Jack to treat him in such a way. Finally Robert thought of a plan. He would buy some apples and send them to Jack. He knew how well Jack loved apples.

Robert talked to Bill about it. He said to Bill, "I want you to take these apples to Jack and tell him that I still love him and forgive him for what he did to me. I want him to come see me again."

Bill was glad to be a mediator or go-between. He wanted to see Robert and Jack brought back together

again. He didn't know just how Jack would receive him because he knew that he was a good friend to Robert. He was afraid Jack would think Robert was angry with him or that he, Bill, was on Robert's side. He wondered if Jack would accept the apples Robert had sent. He was willing to go and see Jack. If Jack was unkind to him he would know he had done his best. Robert would be glad he had tried to be friends again, too.

Bill talked to Jack. He told him if he would ask Robert to forgive him he would because he had already forgiven him. "He wants you to accept this gift of apples he sent by me as proof that he still loves you," Bill said.

Jack was ashamed he had acted as he had. He said, "Bill, I listened to the devil and he got me to turn away from Robert and treat him ugly. I am ashamed of myself. Just think of it! Robert sent me these apples after I had been so mean to him." Tears came to his eyes. "I am glad you came and talked to me, Bill. Wait here a minute. I will be right back."

As Bill waited he was happy that Jack was sorry and that he could help Robert and Jack to be friends again. "Here, take this to Robert," Jack said. "This is all the money I have made since school started. I want Robert to have it. Tell Robert I am sorry and ask him to please forgive me."

Robert and Jack were good friends again and played together as before.

Boys and girls, God loved us but we sinned against Him for no reason on His part. God has forgiven us and to prove it has sent Jesus here as a peacemaker or mediator between us and God. Jesus is our gift from God.

Now we should be sorry that we sinned against a loving God who had done us no wrong. We need to be sorry that we listened to the devil who is an enemy of God and is trying to get all to turn against God. We need to accept the peacemaker or mediator, Jesus, to let Him take our penalty back to God so He will know we are sorry. What is the penalty we have to pay? Is there anything we can pay? No, but the only thing we can send back to God is the blood of Jesus. It is the only thing great enough to satisfy God. It is the only thing that will last. All the things of this earth will be burned up some day so we can't send any of them. We can't send another man because he, too, has sinned. We can only let Jesus tell God that we accept the precious innocent blood of Jesus as the penalty for our sins and Jesus can tell God. When God looks at us He sees only the blood covering us and we can again come into fellowship with Him. We can love Him from a pure heart and He will love us and talk to us. We can share everything with Him.

If you have not accepted Jesus as your Saviour, do so today. You then can be at peace with God. —M. Miles

Jesus came from heaven to prove to us the love of God. When we study about His life here we are convinced that God loves us.

LESSON ILLUSTRATION

Draw a cloud and write God on it. Draw a cross and write the words, "Jesus our mediator" under it. Make a long block below these words and write in this block "man." Write this verse: "There is one God, and one mediator

between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." 1 Tim. 2:5.

Dear Boys and Girls:—

Do you know what a mediator is? (me-di-a-ter) A mediator is one who stands between, a peacemaker. He stands between two people or two groups who are opposing each other and can't agree because of trouble that they cannot settle themselves.

Our lesson teaches us that Christ is our mediator. The Apostle Paul told Timothy that "There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." 1 Tim. 2:5. So you see Christ is our mediator.

When Adam and Eve were in the garden of Eden God came down in the cool of the day and talked to them. They were holy as He is holy. They obeyed Him and loved Him. Then Satan got Eve to lose her regard and love for God and she disobeyed God by eating of the tree that God had forbidden them to eat of. She also got Adam to eat of it. That was sin. God was holy and they could no longer come into His presence. Adam and Eve were separated from God and that separated mankind as well from God. Sin stood between them. They needed a mediator. They needed someone to bring them together again. One man could not help other men out because all had sinned. They needed someone who was without sin to help out in this terrible situation. Those who sinned were on their road to hell. They could never go to heaven with sin in their hearts. This was a terrible state of affairs. Someone needed to bring God and man back together again. Who was able to do this? Who was the mediator? Jesus Christ, the Son of God came to this world to live in a fleshly body, die on the cross to pay our penalty for sin and then arise from

the grave and ascend to heaven again. Then he was able to take man's hand and God's hand and bring them back together again. He is sitting on the right hand of God as our mediator. We pray to Jesus and He asks the Father to give us our requests. We ask Jesus to forgive us of our sins, believing that He truly is our mediator and has paid our debt to God. God for Christ's sake forgives us.

The first part of our lesson tells us about Jesus and calls him the "great High Priest," who is in heaven. He is touched and concerned for us and our problems, afflictions, and troubles. He has trod the way before us and He knows what we have to face in this world. He faced it with victory and without sinning. Now, since we know Jesus, we can come boldly to the throne of grace when we are in need of help or mercy. Remember how Queen Esther fasted and prayed for three days and had all of her people praying because if a person came before the king and the golden sceptre was not held out to that one he would be put to death. (Read Esther 4:10-5:4.) Boys and girls, remember that the golden sceptre of mercy is always held out to us by Jesus.

The second part of the lesson is comparing Jesus to the High Priest under the law of Moses. Aaron was high priest and had to first offer a sacrifice for his own sins and then he brought gifts and offerings for the sins of the people. The high priest must be sympathetic, and have love for the ignorant and unlearned. He was selected by God. Jesus is the same. God sent Him but He was different because He was without sin, yet He lived here in the flesh and was tempted as we are.

Read Gen. 14:18-29 and Psalm 110:4 about Melchisedec or Melchizedek.

Without Christ we are hopeless, but

through Christ we can have the hope of eternal life here and in heaven.

—Aunt Marie

Lesson 2, October 9, 1983

CHRIST OUR MEDIATOR

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-10

Heb. 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

5:1 For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins:

2 Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity.

3 And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins.

4 And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.

5 So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee.

6 As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

10 Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.

Memory Verse: Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Heb. 4:16.

Central Thought: Christ is our mediator, bringing God's love to us and taking our redemption price (His blood) back to God.

QUESTIONS:

1. What does the word "mediator" mean?

2. Who is our mediator?

3. Explain how someone can be a mediator for you.

4. Did the high priest under the law of Moses have sin in his nature?

5. Did Jesus, our high priest, have sin in his nature?

6. How was Jesus tempted here on earth before He died?

7. Does Jesus understand every way that we are tempted or troubled?

8. How should we come to the throne of grace in prayer?

9. Was Melchisedec a king and also a priest as Jesus is to us today?

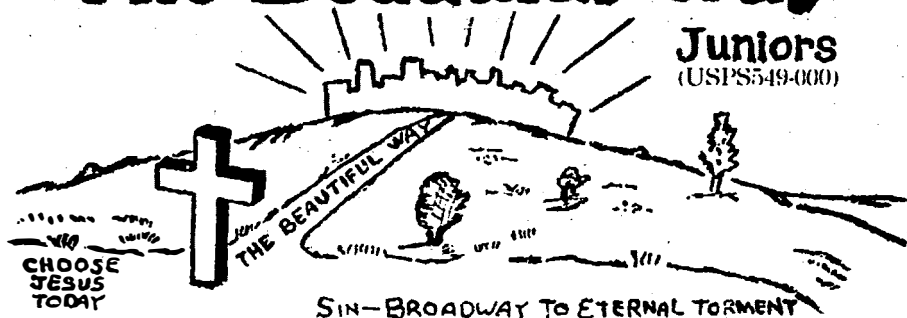
10. Where do we find our hope in this life?

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Part 3

Oct. 16

The Race Set Before

There is a race that's set before

The soul who seeks to win the prize
Before we reach that heavenly door
That's opened in the golden skies.

A life to live, a work to do,

The footsteps of our Lord to trace,
A patient course we must pursue
If we would hope to see His face.

But looking unto Him who died

And triumphed over sin and death,
Truth, faithfulness will pace our
stride

Until we draw our final breath!

—Leslie Busbee

The Story of Poor Seppeli

A TRUE STORY

The winter of 1816-17 was a very severe winter. At that time there was a great famine in the country, and many a child, who's father could not provide any bread or potatoes finally perished with hunger. While in that

dreary time a poor boy of the age of 12, whose name was really Joseph, but who was called Seppeli at home, one evening entered a lonely farmyard to find shelter for a night's lodging. His appearance was pale and exhausted, his hunger was noticeable by the looks of his eyes. His clothes consisted of poor rags, which barely protected him from the cold evening wind. The only thing he had with him was a small bag, in which he appeared to be carrying something heavy. As he timidly entered the yard gate, a huge dog came out with violent barking and surely would have hurt the boy, only he was chained fast. With fear Seppeli drew back, but when he saw that the dog was tied, he took courage and entered the yard. The barking of the dog alerted the people and soon a maid came to see who he was. Seppeli bashfully asked if he could stay overnight in the barn. The maid had a kind heart and went and told the master of the boy. The master seemed to be in a good humor. He handed the maid a warm potato for the boy

and told her to lead him into the barn. The maid took another potato from her own supperplate and gave it to Seppell. She approached him with a friendly smile and took him into a warm corner in the barn, where she laid a fresh pile of straw for his bed.

Now when he was alone in the dark, warm barn, Seppell fell on his knees and prayed thus: "Dear Lord, I thank Thee that you gave me something to eat. Surely you did know that I was hungry, and now you thought of me and did not let me starve. I pray reward a thousandfold those that have done this charitable deed to me. Dear Lord, I thank Thee also for your protecting care over me all through this day and that you gave me shelter that I can sleep well and need not shiver for cold. Let your dear angel be with me to protect me. I pray also that you would comfort my poor father and my dear brother and sister at home. Yes Lord, my dear loving God, give them also something to eat and do not forsake them. O Lord bless us and keep us. Cause your face to shine upon us and give us peace. Amen." When Seppell had prayed, he ate both his potatoes, laid down and soon fell asleep.

Now dear children, I must tell you from whence Seppell came. He was the oldest child of a weaver in Graubunden, Switzerland. As a laborer this weaver in a very meager way provided for him and his household in an honorable way and reared his children in the fear of God. His pious wife was his best helper in this as she was a God-fearing, true mother to her children. To her, Seppell was dearly loved and she always served him with a tender mother love.

She taught him how to read, sing songs, and learn Bible verses. She talked to him daily of our Lord Jesus. Thus Seppell loved his Saviour dearly. Nothing gave him more joy than when his mother took him with her and, kneeling down together, they prayed to their dear Lord. Through this the boy received a true God-fearing heart which loves to commune with and obey the Lord God.

(To be continued)

When you are in the woods, don't spend all your time at play, but look at the trees, the leaves, flowers, and plants that God has made. They will tell you about God. They bring to us thoughts of God. Someone has said they are the smiles from God. They can teach us many good things.

Okla.—Dear young saints: I want to thank the Lord for being saved at the age of 13. I would like to tell you about a miracle He worked for me. One evening while collecting on my paper route, I lost a twenty-dollar bill. I went back and tried to find it, but could not. Different ones were praying about it. Last night it rained and the wind blew very hard. Early the next morning while running my route, as I turned the corner, it seemed as if something touched me on the side, directing my attention to the folded twenty-dollar bill lying on the slope of the ditch. I know that was God.

Pray for me that I continue to love the Lord. —Myron Leo Johnson

LESSON ILLUSTRATION

Draw a half circle. Under it write these words: friends, brothers, sisters, parents, teachers, saints, sinners, and

God. Inside this circle draw a toothpick boy or girl getting ready to run. Draw bundles they have dropped. Label these bundles lies, stolen things, ugly ways, unkindness, fighting, bad words, etc. At the end of the path write the words, "crown of life."

Memorize our memory verse and say it with this one. "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." Revelation 2:10.

Dear Boys and Girls:—

Sometimes athletic games or contests are held in huge amphitheaters. Thousands sit on the seats and watch the game. Our lesson is drawn from that illustration. The cloud of witnesses are the ones that were people of faith named in chapter 11 of Hebrews. Sometimes it is called the faith chapter. Today we could add many more names to the list of those who have died in the faith and been true to God. Keep in mind that we also are compassed about with many people. Many are watching us run in the Christian race. Your brothers and sisters, parents, teachers, neighbors, schoolmates, friends, saints, and many people are watching you daily. As you walk down the street and shop at the store you are being watched by others. They can tell if you are striving to do right. You can look in the face of those who live right and it shines out. They are beautiful and have a clean, honest look that is not found in the face of those who are deceitful and ugly in heart.

Now to be God's child and run in this race, you need to lay aside every weight just as the boy does who runs a race. He would not carry a heavy piece of iron. It would hinder him. We can't carry the heavy weights of sin. Those lies, deeds of unkindness, ugly ways,

thefts—just any sin—are heavy weights. We have to get forgiveness from God and make things right and the precious blood of Jesus washes our hearts clean and we are light and free. Then there is the besetting sin, or the upsetting sin. That sin nature needs to be cleansed by the Holy Spirit so we can have power to run this race. It will upset you if you do not get rid of it. You have to surrender self and give your all to Jesus. It is too heavy for you to carry and will slow you down. When you are saved and filled with the Holy Spirit you can run the race that is set before you.

We need to look to Jesus. He has gone before us. We might have to suffer, but that should not discourage us. We have not suffered unto death or faced the cross.

The last part of our lesson teaches us that as we look to Jesus and keep our eyes fixed on God we can run well, but if we stray from the path God will have to punish us just as our earthly father punished us for disobedience. It might be hard at the time but we must see the good in it for us. It would be cruel for a parent to let a child touch a hot stove and not try to teach him not to touch it. The child might not understand now but later he will. God punishes us so we can be ready to go to heaven. Our parents do the same so we can learn to obey.

—Aunt Marie

Lesson 3, October 16, 1983

RUNNING THE RACE

Hebrews 12:1-4, 7-15

Heb. 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

7 If ye endure chastening, God deal-eth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

12 Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;

13 And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root

of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

Memory Verse: Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous; nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. Hebrews 12:11.

Central Thought: God's chastisement is one of the greatest aids we have in our race toward heaven.

QUESTIONS:

1. Name some of the "cloud of witnesses" in chapter eleven.

2. Can you add some whom you know to the list of faithful ones?

3. Who is watching us as we run our race to heaven?

4. What are the weights we need to get rid of?

5. What is the sin that will beset us or upset us in our race?

6. Whom are we to take for our example in running this Christian race?

7. How did Jesus suffer? Have we suffered that much yet?

8. How does chastisement help us in running?

9. Why should we not look at the hurting of the chastisement, but instead look at the results from it?

10. What does the lesson say about one not being able to see the Lord without holiness?

11. What will come into the heart if we fail of the grace of God?

12. We are glad our parents love us enough to help us live right so we will not end up in jail or severe trouble. Should we not be glad God loves us the same?

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Part 4

Oct. 23

An Israelite Indeed

Nathanael stood before the Lord
The Christ to love, to know, and
heed;
The Saviour spoke a solemn word:
"Behold an Israelite indeed!"

For in that day a multitude
Professed to be God's people true
Who showed to God no gratitude
And His commandments would not
do.

O let it be our only aim
In life and for such power plead,
This glory to be on our name:
"Behold an Israelite indeed!"
—Leslie Busbee

The Story of Poor Seppeli (Continued from last week's paper)

Now came the famine of which I mentioned before. The misery and need of this poor weaver of Graubunden was great. He could not earn anything to supply his children

with bread. The mother labored day and night to satisfy the hunger of their children. Because of grief and sorrow she became ill. She had no physical aid nor any that attended to her and her sickness increased until it was evident that she soon would die. In the evening of the day before her death, she called her 12-year-old Seppeli to her bedside. Laying her cold shaking hands on his head, she blessed him. Then she took a Bible, which she had formerly bought for Seppeli, and gave it to him and said, "My beloved son, here I give you this heritage. I am now going to Jesus and cannot instruct you anymore. But this Bible will teach you the way of salvation. Read it diligently and keep a firm hold on the Lord. God bless you and lead you by his hand. Farewell, my child. I hope to see you again with the Lord." After she had said this she called her other children and her husband and bid them adieu. The next morning, shortly after sunrise, she fell gently asleep. Seppeli could

not be comforted, but wept the whole day.

The famine increased and grief was advancing fast. Then it happened one day that the father said to Seppeli, "My child, I cannot feed you any longer. In the name of the Lord, go out into the world and seek your bread with some good people. God will help you and I will try, with your younger brother and sister by the grace of God, to labor through this famine." Seppeli wept silently. He packed his Bible in a small sack, said farewell to his brother and sister and his father, and went, not knowing where his way would lead him, wandering on a broad country road, still weeping silently. It was not as

though he were forsaken, for he always had a feeling that his blessed mother walked beside him and comforted him. When he had walked a long distance, he had to sit down from exhaustion and hunger. At other times he would be skipping to and fro without getting tired but because of lack of food, he could not

walk two hours without rest. As he was sitting there with the tears trickling down his cheeks, a farmer came that way. He had sympathy on him, took him to his house and shared his meager portion of bread with him. You unknown friend, may God reward you for this at that Great Day. Strengthened and comforted, Seppeli pursued his journey. Through God's mercy, some friendly heart had mercy on the poor boy and gave him food to eat, for God did not forsake him.

After eight days he came to the Bodensee, at which sight he marveled greatly. As he could not cross the great waters, he turned to the left toward Schafhausen and journeyed on that street further which leads

to the Rhein. He could not stay in Schafhausen. Many looked on him with sympathy, yet no one wanted to take him to himself for the famine was so severe. Again he went on. While passing the Rheinfall, he tarried a long time, for he forgot himself at this wonderful sight. There the laborers at the iron hammer took him to themselves and gave him a few old potatoes which were fried on the fire. Then after a few days he came to the Basel. He had heard talk of this town. He was told that there were many rich and sympathetic people who would take him in and give him food to eat. How glad he was for this! Toward evening he saw the great towers of the city. He thanked his Lord and thought to be relieved of all his needs. It was a long ways yet to the city, and as he thought it best to enter the city by day, he tried to find some night lodging with a farmer. Not far from the road was the farmyard which we mentioned in the beginning where we saw our beloved Seppeli enter. Here the maid showed him his night lodging in the barn.

Early at five o'clock in the morning Seppeli awoke. Strengthened and happy, he soon started to sing the beautiful song his mother taught him by memory, "Awake my heart and sing to the Creator of all things, the giver of all good and protector of all human beings." As he was singing, the maid came to milk the cows and heard him. She was much interested in his wonderful song. She entered the barn with her lantern and greeted the boy with a "Good morning." Before she began her work, she asked Seppeli all kinds of questions concerning his life's history. He told her all that he had

met in life till now. This was touching to Margaret, for so was her name, and she gave the boy a drink of the warm milk. "Wait, Seppeli, I will talk to the master. Maybe you can stay with us," she said.

(To be continued)

A LAMP

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet." God hung out His lamp, which is the Bible, where a multitude of us who one time were wretched wanderers, groping our way amid all the horrors of midnight gloom and darkness could

see the light and to find true happiness. We came to this lamp and found peace, love, comfort, and joy. It showed us the way to get to heaven and helped us to see ourselves. This lamp has shown now for almost 6000 years.—M. Miles

LESSON ILLUSTRATION

Draw a cross. Then draw a circle in the middle of the cross which stands for Christ, who died on the cross. Next draw lines from that circle which will represent the river of life. Write the following Scriptures underneath.

"And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out . . . of the Lamb." Rev. 22:1. "Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow." Psa. 51:7b.

Dear Boys and Girls:—

What do you think of boys and girls who say one thing and do another? Jack said that he was going to give Bill some of his candy but he didn't give it to him. Betty said she was going to give Lillie half her apple but she ate all the apple and didn't give Lillie any of

it. You can't believe what they say. Their actions speak louder than their words. Mary says that she loves Jesus, but you hear her telling lies, see her being unkind, disobeying her mother, talking ugly about others, and you are sure that she doesn't love Jesus. Why? Because if she loved Jesus she would want to please Him. She would obey Him.

Our lesson speaks of "obedient children" of God, children who are holy as God is holy, children who have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus, children who do not live as they did before they got saved, children who love Jesus and obey Him, children who confessed their sins and turned away from them, children who are kind, loving, and quick to ask another to forgive them if they do something to hurt them, children who obey their parents. These are the boys and girls, men and women the Bible calls "o b e d i e n t children." They are "holy in all manner of conversation." The word "conversation" also means conduct or actions. Now these boys and girls are, by their actions, letting others know that they love Jesus. They do not say one thing and do another.

Our lesson also teaches us that we cannot buy salvation with silver and gold. God gives us salvation. God gives us peace when we, with godly sorrow, confess our sins. It is a gift from God. Man cannot give it to you. And you cannot receive it unless you come to Jesus and ask for it according to His plan.

Our lesson tells us that Christ was "foreordained before the foundation of the world," that He might be able to redeem boys and girls, men and women, that they could be His "obedient children." He died on the cross for our sins that we, through Him, might be saved.

All of God's obedient children are in a "holy nation, and are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, and a peculiar people." They give praises to the Lord and are different from people in this world.

—Aunt Marie

Lesson 4, October 23, 1983

OBEDIENT CHILDREN

I Peter 1:13-21; 2:9, 10

1 Pet. 1:13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:

18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

20 Who verily was ordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.

21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and

gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:

10 Which in time past were not a people; but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

Memory Verse: But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. John 1:12.

Central Thought: If we say that we love Jesus we will act like it.

QUESTIONS:

1. How can we gird up the loins of our minds?

2. How can we be obedient children to our parents?

3. What does it mean to be obedient children to God?

4. Why does Peter tell us it is ignorance to live according to our former lusts or sins?

5. Will God show respect of persons at the judgment?

6. Can we buy salvation with silver and gold?

7. What must we do to receive salvation?

8. Did God have a plan before the "foundation of the world" for man if he sinned?

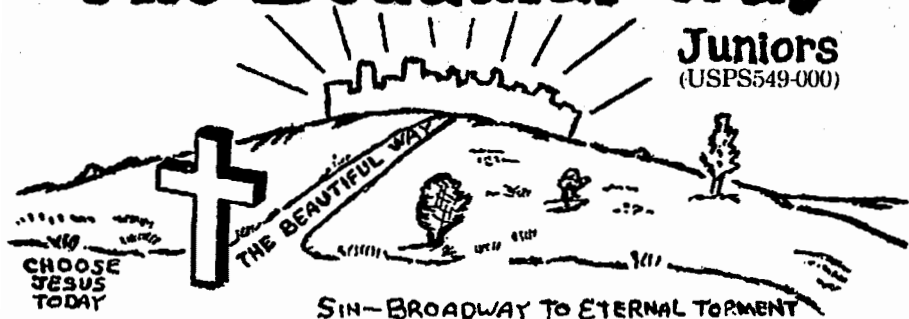
9. What does it mean to be a "holy nation" and a "peculiar people"?

10. What kind of people have obtained mercy from God?

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Vol. 34, No. 4

Oct., Nov., Dec., 1983

Part 5

Oct. 30

Suffer for Jesus

Our Saviour suffered grief and woe
While He was in this world below.
The scorn of men fell on his face,
While in their hearts He found no place.

And all who follow Him will share
What Jesus once did truly bear,
And drink with Him the cup of pain
If they would with the Saviour reign.

And what we suffer for His sake
He will a great atonement make
And recompense our sorrows here
With gladness when He doth appear.

—Leslie Busbee

The Story of Poor Seppeli

(Continued from last week's paper)

Margaret was very important to her master, because she was a true and honorable maid servant. She went before him and told him how the two servants could not get the work done and they could use another help-

er. She said that perhaps the boy who had come the night before could help out and if he proved faithful, could become his servant. The master, frowning, said, "I cannot, in these distressful times accept all passersby in the house." But Margaret persuaded him with kind words until he gave in. Then she ran to Seppeli to let him know that he could stay in the house, and if he would be brave and willing to help, it would be well with him and he could get food to eat. She showed him some work he could do. Seppeli went to work with pleasure and thanked God for His gracious help. He was tired of wandering here and there and was happy that he could do some work to earn his bread.

The stay on this farm became a school of severe suffering for him. The two servants that were already there, and the master as well, were rough ungodly people who had no fear of God in their hearts. The very first day when they sat down at the breakfast table, the other two servants began their conversations with evil

and foolish expressions. Cursing was a habit of theirs. When Seppeli folded his hands and silently returned thanks for his food, they laughed loudly and wickedly and mocked God and those who fear Him. Because of this, Seppeli was greatly alarmed. He would rather leave and go on his journey again than to be with such people. But the Psalm came to his mind to comfort him which says, "Blessed is the man that sitteth not in the seat of the scornful," and I would rather be a door keeper in the house of God, than to dwell long in such an ungodly cottage. Only Margaret reproved the two servants for their conduct and comforted the boy. That night Seppeli had to sleep in a small bedroom with the two servants. His body and soul were trembling at the thoughts of this. He thought within himself that in their presence he would never be able to pray. He had always prayed, but he was afraid the servants would mistreat him. Finally he made up his mind that he would go to bed quietly, and then when the servants were sleeping, he would pour out his heart to God in a quiet way. He laid down, and so did the servants. But now they started such shameful and ungodly talking that Seppeli had a great fear. They approached him with their talks and spoke harshly to him. Because of fright he was unable to speak. Finally they got tired and went to sleep. Then Seppeli quietly got up, knelt at his bed and poured out his frightened heart to his loving Saviour. He was greatly comforted, insomuch that he almost seemed to be in his own home with his blessed mother standing beside him, encouraging him. He so completely forgot where he was and who was around him that he prayed

louder as if he were with his Saviour alone in the room. One of the servants was awakened. He cursed and swore at the top of his voice and threatened to throw Seppeli out of the window if he did not be quiet. This rough language woke the other servant and he, too, accused Seppeli. The poor boy was so frightened that he could hardly breathe. He slipped quietly back into bed, but sleep was gone from him as he lay with great fear, waiting for the break of day. When his harsh companions awoke, he had completely decided to leave this place, for he was afraid that sooner or later the Lord would punish them for their fierce cursings and let lightning strike the house. Then he would be killed with these two ungodly persons. As the morning came the two servants got up early, dressed quickly, and without speaking, left the room and went to work. Soon he heard the pounding of threshing in the granary. He quickly got up with only a few sighs to his Saviour, for he feared to be so painfully interrupted again as had happened the evening before. He wanted to take his little bag and run away. As he entered the yard it happened that Margaret met him on her way to the barn. She greeted him with a friendly good morning. Then she asked him to follow her. Seppeli followed without knowing what he was doing. He forgot that he was carrying his little bag on his back. Margaret looked in surprise at him and asked him what he was going to do. The poor boy was so frightened he did not speak a word. As the friendly maid asked him again, he told her that she must let him go on his journey for he no longer would stay there. She immediately guessed

why the boy was thus minded and with warm and friendly words calmed him down, for God had given her a love for the poor boy. Seppeli also felt this.

(To be continued)

LESSON ILLUSTRATION

Draw a huge furnace. Put four tooth-pick men in it. Name one Shadrach, one Meshach, one Abednego, and the fourth one the Son of God, Jesus. You remember how the three Hebrew children would not bow down to the big image that Nebuchadnezzar made because God told them not to worship any idols, but to worship Him only. They were thrown into the fiery furnace, but the king said as he looked in that he saw the "form of the fourth who was like the Son of God" with them. (Daniel 3:25.) When you suffer, your unseen Helper is with you at all times. Write under the furnace "Christian suffering."

Dear Boys and Girls:—

One time there were three crosses on a hill. Three men were put on those crosses to be crucified. Two of them were thieves and one was Jesus Christ, the innocent One. All three were suffering. Two were suffering for evil. One was suffering for good. We find that this does happen, although in our country not many suffer death for doing good. However, we do not know when the day might come that such will happen here.

Peter asks the question, "Who will harm you for doing good?" Then he goes on to say that we might have to suffer for good. If we do suffer for good he tells us how to take it. We are not to be happy just because we are suffering, but because we can let others know that Jesus will help us to be kind and forgive those who do us wrong. That

will make us happy. A person is miserable and unhappy who is angry and wants to get even with someone and can't, or one who is filled up with hatred. That person is in an awful condition and has a heavy load on his heart. But the person who forgives and lets God take care of everything, does not feel miserable. Unforgiveness is a heavy load to carry upon one's heart. Peter tells us not to be afraid of those who would threaten us or do us wrong, but be ready to give an answer if we should be asked why we don't fight back or return evil for evil. Later those who did the wrong will be ashamed.

Peter tells us that it is better to suffer for doing well than for doing evil. Boys and girls, it would be good for you to learn this while you are young. It will be a blessing to you in the years to come.

Peter also says we are not to think it strange when others speak evil of us or mistreat us. They really aren't mistreating us, but Christ whom we obey and live for. Peter tells us that a great blessing rests upon us for suffering for Christ's sake.

He tells us not to suffer as a busybody, nor a thief, nor a murderer, nor for any other evil. Those who do these things suffer for it, sometimes they must pay with their lives for the evil they have done. But if we suffer, let it be for Christ's sake. Christian suffering is great in the eyes of God. We need not be ashamed when we do that.

Remember Daniel? How did he suffer for God? Did he do any evil that he was punished for? What about Peter? Or Paul? They all suffered for good. Wicked people suffer too, but they do not receive a blessing for it. Be sure that when you suffer, you suffer as a Christian, and not for some evil deed.

—Aunt Marie

CHRISTIAN SUFFERING

1 Peter 3:13-17; 4:12-17

1 Pet. 3:13 And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?

14 But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

17 For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.

4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

16 Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

Memory Verse: Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.
1 Peter 4:16.

Central Thought: Suffering comes to all, but a blessing rests upon those who suffer as a Christian.

QUESTIONS:

1. Are many people put in jail today for doing good?

2. Tell about someone who has suffered for doing good.

3. How are we to act when we are suffering for doing good?

4. Does Peter tell us that some will be ashamed after seeing you suffer for good?

5. Does verse 17 tell us that it might be God's will at times for us to suffer for good?

6. What kind of glory will we be partakers of if we suffer for Christ? (See verse 13.)

7. Name three things Peter mentions that we should not suffer for.

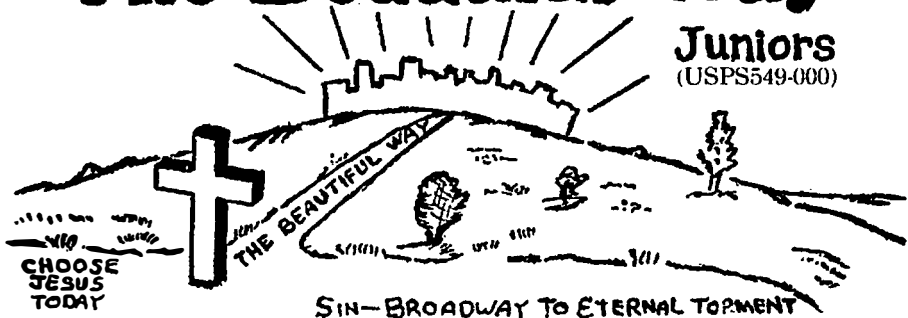
8. What does it mean to suffer as a busybody?

9. Read Heb. 11:25. Was Moses thinking of the blessings that rest upon those who suffer for God?

10. Read Matt. 10:28. Who are we to fear—God or man?

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ADD

To faith add virtue (manly grace),
'Twill help you run the Christian
race;
To virtue, knowledge add with care:
These things good fruit will help
you bear.

Mix temperance with your knowledge,
then

Add patience, it will help you win;
To patience add great godliness;
You'll need it daily in life's press.

To all of these (let's not forget),
Add brotherly kindness, even yet,
Crown all these graces from above
And let your heart be filled with
love!

—Leslie Busbee

The Story of Poor Seppeli

(Continued from last week's paper)

"Come, Seppeli," said Margaret,
"lay down your bag and help put the
bedding and feed in order." Seppeli

went to work and soon all was in
order so that Margaret could start
milking the cows.

"What is that heavy thing in your
bag?" she asked, while she was pre-
paring to start to milk.

"That is my Bible," said Seppeli,
"the only heritage I received from my
mother. I always carry it with me,
and in my sadness it has always
comforted me."

Margaret was greatly surprised
when young Seppeli gave her this
answer. "Is it possible that you can
read?" she asked.

"Certainly I can. My mother taught
me at first, and later in school they
taught me to read."

Now Margaret was not content until
he showed her the Bible and read a
portion of it to her. He chose the
third chapter of St. John where it
tells of the visit of Nicodemus, where
Jesus says in verse 3, "Verily I say
unto thee, except a man be born again,
he cannot see the Kingdom of heav-
en." Margaret listened intently, not
speaking. Even after he ended she
kept silent for quite awhile. Finally

when she was done with her work, she gave the boy some work to do and left. Nothing special happened the rest of the day, except in the evening when the master and two servants were at a neighbor's house. Margaret called the boy into her room to read the chapter once more.

Then came Sunday, a day that was to Seppeli of great meaning. The servants stayed in bed longer than usual, for they thought this day was only for such as gossiping, idleness, and all kinds of amusement to use up the time. Seppeli got up as soon as he could, and while it was yet dark, he went to the barn where he knew Margaret would be. They both were strangely quiet. Finally Seppeli asked her if he could read to her again. She consented, so he read the story of the suffering, in John, chapters 18 and 19. They were long chapters, and it took Seppeli a half hour for he read slowly. Margaret was done with her work for a length of time, yet was quietly sitting on her lowly footstool, lost in the great things the two chapters contained. When Seppeli read, "When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, it is finished and he bowed his head and gave up the ghost," Margaret said, "Why did God let it come to pass that this perfect man had to die such a terrible death?"

Seppeli sat quietly meditating without answering. Finally, he said, "Do you not know, Margaret, that if the Lord wanted to, He could have sent thousands of angels to help Him, but He gave Himself so that with His precious blood He could redeem us from our sin? I know a verse which says, 'Surely he hath born our grief and carried our sorrows, he was wounded for our transgressions, he

was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon him and with his stripes we are healed.' Notice, Margaret, that is why we owe our Saviour many thanks. He was willing to die for us poor sinners, that we need not be eternally lost."

Then Margaret asked if she also could enter heaven. Seppeli said that if she believed on the Lord and that He could save her, she could then enter heaven. Margaret began to ponder this. Then she asked if Jesus would hear her if she would say something to Him. Seppeli thought this strange. He answered, "The Lord is with us everywhere. He sees us and hears what we are saying, yea, He looks into our heart and knows even our thoughts." Margaret arose. Through the simple words of the boy a ray of divine light entered her soul. This light created within her a desire she could not express, so deep and so mighty was the impression. She did not know what had happened to her. So she took her pail and left. In the house she could not rest, could not do her house work with full attention. She went from one room to another, until finally overtaken by her spiritual unrest, went into a dark isolated room. She sank down upon her knees and called upon the name of the Lord Jesus for help. "Jesus help me! Jesus be merciful to me and bring me into heaven. Jesus, save me." This brought a great happiness to her heart and she was content to remain in the room until her master called for her.

On this farm the custom was to spend Sundays in a miserable, wicked way. No one thought of going to church or reading the Bible. Instead, the time was spent in laziness, play-

ing, or going to a tavern, or doing something worse than these.

(To be continued)

Once when Jesus was walking through the fields he saw a man sowing his seed. Jesus preached a sermon about sowing good seed and bad seed such as come from weeds. We want to be sure that we are sowing good seed as we do kind deeds and speak kind words to others.

LESSON ILLUSTRATION

Draw a ladder and label each rung with the words of the things we are to add so we will be ready to meet Jesus when He comes bursting through the clouds in the day we know not of. Repeat the memory verse. We must be without spot or blemish.

Dear Boys and Girls:—

Do you like addition? I guess it depends on what kind of addition we are talking about. Some boys and girls do not like the addition of numbers, but they don't mind if they can add more nice things to their treasures or add more money to what they have.

Our lesson tells about adding one thing to another. They are good things to add. But there is one requirement in adding these things. You have to work at it. Yet it is a serious thing not to add these good things and let them work in your life.

The Apostle Peter tells us that we can add good things to our life if we have Jesus in our hearts which makes us partakers of his divine nature. Then we can have his divine power.

There are 7,487 promises in the Bible given to mankind from God.

Let us look at the things mentioned that we are to add. First we are to have faith. It is the foundation that we build upon. Paul tells us that "without faith it is impossible to please him, but he that cometh to God must believe that He is and that he is the rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Heb. 11:6. How precious to know that if we earnestly seek God He will give us all these things that we need so we will be ready for heaven.

To faith add virtue. Virtue means moral excellence. This is what God gives us in our hearts, but we want to let it shine out. Be sure you want to do good and let that be the reason for doing good. A lamp doesn't help much in the dark unless it has a light in it. A good boy or girl who is among bad boys or girls will be noticed. Your deeds will let others see the good that is in you. Peter tells us that we must work at this.

Now add knowledge. How often do you study the Bible? Some say they do not understand it. You should not let that trouble you. As you read and study it, you will understand more and more of it. That is another thing you must work at to add to your life for God.

Now add temperance or self-control. Do not please self but please God. How about some who drink strong drinks?

Add patience or submission to God's will or be steady in living for God.

Godliness causes you to worship God and want to be like the one you are worshipping.

Now add brotherly kindness to charity. We must love others as Jesus loved them.

The last part of our lesson lets us know that we need to be ready when Jesus comes because this old world will be dissolved and pass away. Life is a serious thing. —Aunt Marie

CHRISTIAN LIVING

2 Peter 1:3-11; 2 Peter 3:9-11

2 Pet. 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

2 Pet. 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness.

Memory Verse: Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot and blameless.
2 Peter 3:14.

Central Thought: We should watch and pray so we will be ready when Jesus comes.

QUESTIONS:

1. What has God given us through His "divine power"?

2. How many "exceeding great and precious promises" has God given to mankind?

3. If we live according to these promises, what kind of nature will we have?

4. Does it take any effort to add good things to our lives?

5. What is the foundation or first rung in the ladder of spiritual growth?

6. Name four of the things we are to add to our lives.

7. Name the other things that we are to add.

8. Give the meaning of at least three of the things mentioned on the Christian ladder.

9. Does everyone know when Jesus will come back?

10. What will happen to the earth and the works therein?

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Oct., Nov., Dec., 1983

Part 7

Nov. 13

The Light of God

Oh, what a blessed thing is light
That shines from heaven's door
To make our mortal pathway bright
With shining more and more,

To make us know the ways of life
And what does please the Lord,
To guide us thro' this world of strife
And understand His Word.

Take heed to walk therein each day
And follow ever by His side
Lest darkness o'er your pathway
stray,
And in the end you'll be denied.
—Leslie Busbee

The Story of Poor Seppeli

(Continued from last week's paper)

Most of the time that day Seppeli spent in his room where he slept and read his beloved Bible. This was a real comfort to him. As the evening neared, the servants came home for supper. They waited in front of the

door until the supper bell rang. They were sitting on a bench in front of the house having sport with a big dog whom they had unchained. Seppeli was also in the yard, sitting on a wooden stump, facing the servants. It did not take long until they started to mock him. One of the servants who held the powerful dog between his knees, said, "Well, Seppe, did you again pray to the Lord thy God?" Seppeli was frightened and kept silent, for he thought of the fearful cursing of those rough men the first night. The two servants laughed with scorn as one said, "Come, Seppe, pray a prayer for us."

Seppeli silently prayed to his Saviour for help against these hardened people.

"Seppe will have to become a pastor," one said. "Tell me, Lord pastor, will we go to hell?" So saying, he broke out in a loud laugh. Since the poor boy still remained silent, the one that held the dog started, "Now, Seppe, you must tell us whether we are going to hell. If you don't tell us, I will let this dog go." Then

he started to hiss the dog against the poor boy and the dog began to growl.

A great agony seized the poor boy. Yet he felt as though his blessed mother was by his side and told him the words he should say. After a time of trembling silence he said, "How can you enter heaven if you so fearfully swear? He that sweareth will go to hell." These words were like a thunderbolt in the hearts of these rough men, but instead of becoming silent and giving room to the call in their conscience, it created a frantic rage that they could barely hide with loud laughter.

"Now, Seppeli," said the one that held the dog, "if we go to hell you will have to go with us, because you will have to learn to curse. Listen, repeat my sentence." Then he burst out with great swearing, saying, "Seppeli has to repeat the swearing."

Now followed a horrible scene. Seppeli was pale as a dead man and was shaking. Inwardly he had great courage and such comfort in his soul as he had never received before. In his heart he feared God more than men. He calmly said that he could never repeat such ungodly words. The servants repeatedly told him that he had to do it. They threatened to turn the dog loose on him. The one that held the dog between his knees really did not intend to let him go. The dog did not recognize Seppeli as belonging to the household, and was growling fiercely at him. The servants had pleasure in Seppeli's fears and would not quiet the dog. Suddenly the dog tore loose and in a full rage landed on Seppeli. Immediately they tried to call the dog off, but he had already chewed up the hand of this faithful boy. He begged them

to call off the dog. The blood gushed out in streams from his wounds. Before the servants knew what really had happened, Seppeli fainted. Now a great fear overtook those ungodly men. In the beginning they were somewhat reluctant to help the boy and then a guilty feeling of torturing an innocent child to death fell with fearful weight upon their souls. Finally, one came and lifted him up and shook him as though to awaken him. He then noticed his bleeding hand. Just then the master, who heard the fearful cry of the boy, came to the scene. He wanted to know what had happened. Naturally, no one owned to it, only that the dog had attacked Seppeli and bit him on the hand and he had fainted. The master, cursing, gave the dog a few kicks with his foot. He called Margaret, who was greatly alarmed at this fearful sight. She was commanded to wash the hand, rub it with alcohol and dress it.

(To be continued on Dec. 8)

AN EXAMPLE OF FORGIVENESS

Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers. They thought they were rid of him, but they met again. This time Joseph was their ruler and their lives were in his hands. What did he do about it? He said to them as they fell down before him and begged for mercy as he had done before them years earlier, "Fear not: for am I in the place of God? But as for you, you thought evil against me: but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive. . . . I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them." Gen. 50:18-21 — M. Miles

LESSON ILLUSTRATION

Write **LIGHT** and **DARKNESS** on the blackboard. Under **Light** write the good things God gives us, such as eternal life, mercy, peace, love, and blessings. Write this Scripture under **Light**: "We know him, if we keep his commandments." 1 John 2:3. Under **Darkness** write all the evil things such as sin, death, hell, deceitfulness, and all wickedness. Write the Scripture, "Men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." John 3:19.

Dear Boys and Girls:—

When I was a young girl the presidential candidates used to go through the towns and make speeches from the rear platform of a train. Sometimes they do it yet, but not as much as they used to. One candidate came through the small town that I lived in, and of course everyone wanted to see him. Now this candidate came through our town about 38 years ago. There were many witnesses that day who saw him. If you do not want to take my word for it, there are others who will tell you that it is true that he was there that day.

In our lesson we have the Apostle John writing about 33 years after Jesus had been crucified, telling others that he saw Jesus himself. He said that Jesus was a man who had real flesh and bones just like all other people. John often touched Him and he was sure that He was the glorious personage, Jesus Christ, the Lord, who came from eternity to bring eternal life to us. John says that he is not at this time telling anything that he had heard but he knew for certain that Jesus Christ was and is the fountain of eternal life who had come to live in the flesh among men.

There were some people in the day when John wrote this who did not believe that Jesus came in the flesh. They wanted to say that He just had the appearance of flesh, but John told them that was not true.

John discusses light and darkness. All of us like the light. One missionary who walked over a hill said that she always took a light with her to protect her from the attack of wild animals. She said one night a panther followed her, but she was not afraid as long as she walked in the circle of her light. She knew she was safe in the light.

John tells us in our lesson that "God is light." As long as we stay in the path that God's light is upon we will be safe from the devil who goes around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. We can read in God's Word, which is the Bible, just how to live in this world. If we confess our sins, forsake them, and love truth, honesty, and become willing to obey, then we are in the light of God. As long as we walk in that light we are safe from the devil who is the source of darkness. When we walk in the light then we have fellowship with the Lord, or have Him on our side as He is our friend.

Darkness represents all that is sinful, deceitful, and wicked. It also is death. We are cut off from Jesus Christ when we are in darkness. No one likes literal darkness. We all want a little light. John has told us that we must obey Jesus to have light. We must confess our sins. Just as soon as we confess our sins Jesus will forgive us and then we have light in our hearts and lives. We can then walk as Jesus walked. We can live a life free from sin. We can keep the commandments of Jesus. John tells us plainly that those who sin and yet say they belong to Jesus and have

the light of God in their souls are liars. God demands truth from us. Boys and girls, be sure you are God's children and are walking in the light which is from God, who is Light. —Aunt Marie

Lesson 7, November 13, 1983

WALKING IN THE LIGHT

1 John 1:5-10; 2:1-6

1 John 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for our's only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

Memory Verse: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. 1 John 1:7.

Central Thought: Jesus Christ is the source of all light, righteousness, and eternal life. Through Him we can receive power to become the sons of God and live holy in this world.

QUESTIONS:

1. Did the Apostle John see and know Jesus?

2. Whom did John say is Light?

3. What is meant by walking in the light? (verse 2:3.)

4. What is darkness?

5. If we have the Light in us and walk in that Light, which means keeping God's commandments, what does it do for us? (See verse 7.)

6. If a sinner says he doesn't have any sin, what is he doing to himself? (See verses 8, 10.)

7. What is God faithful to do for us if we confess our sins?

8. Who will help us if we do sin?

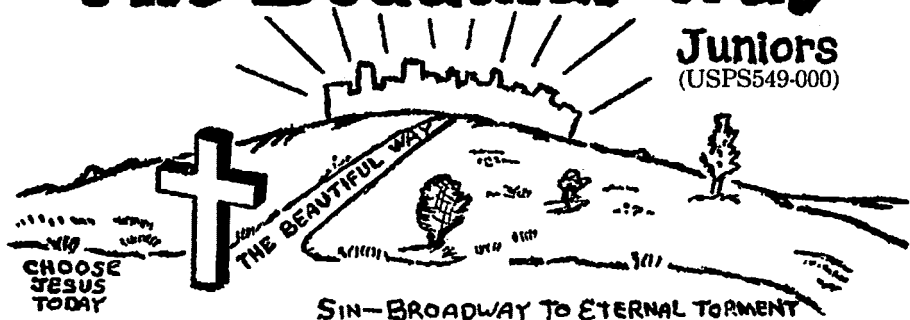
9. What is a person called who says he knows Jesus as his Saviour but does not keep His commandments? (2:4)

10. If we keep God's Word, the love of God is ——— in us. (ver. 2:5.)

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Vol. 34, No. 4

Oct., Nov., Dec., 1983

Part 8

Nov. 20

Love One Another

Love one another,
For love is of God.
Love is the blossom
That springs from the sod,

Ever unfolding
Its beauties so fair,
Others beholding
Its kindness and care.

Love is the crowning
Of glory and grace,
Love is salvation
All men to embrace.

—Leslie Busbee

Thanksgiving

"Jack, do you have a Thanksgiving verse?" Sister Brown asked as the class became quiet and began their lesson.

"'Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with praise.'" quoted Jack.

"That is a good Thanksgiving verse," Sister Brown said. "In Phil. 4:6 it tells us to 'Let our requests be made known with thanksgiving.' This verse goes right along with the one you quoted. Now I want to write on the blackboard the word 'Thanksgiving' and I want each of you to name something you are thankful for that begins with each letter in Thanksgiving. We will begin with T. Della, tell me something you are thankful for that begins with a T.

Della thought for a while and then she said, "Troubles." Everyone looked puzzled until she said, "My mother told me yesterday that troubles make me strong. She said God could not use weaklings. When a man is trained to be soldier, he is put through hard things so he will learn to endure. If we are to be soldiers for God we must be able to endure hard things. When Betty pushed me off the swing I just got up and smiled at her and went on. I surely don't want to be a weakling."

"You explained it real well, Della. Now we will name something we are

thankful for that begins with H. Can you tell me something, Dale?" said Sister Brown.

"Happy Homes!" Dale said quickly.

"That's good. We are all thankful for happy homes. When Jesus is the head of the home it is happy. We know that families that pray together stay together and that makes happy homes. Lillie, you tell me something that begins with an A.

"Apples," spoke up Lillie, "or all the good food we have to eat."

"Yes, we do thank God for our good food. In many countries people are starving. We never know if it will happen here, so we need to be thankful for good food. That was really the reason the Pilgrim Fathers wanted to have the first Thanksgiving. They had such a good crop of food so they set aside a day to especially thank God for His blessings. Now, Arthur, tell me something you are thankful for that begins with N," said the teacher.

"Nation, our nation, our United States," Arthur said. "We can worship God as we choose here in this country."

"Our time is going fast so I will give each of you a letter and you give me what you first think of to be thankful for. Ruth, your letter is K."

"Kindness," said Ruth, "I am glad for all the kind things done to me."

"Robert, S," said Sister Brown.

"Salvation," Robert said. "I am glad and thankful Jesus saved me from my sins."

"That is fine. Bill, your letter is G."

"Good parents," Bill said. "After reading the book, 'Poorhouse Waif,' I am so thankful my parents are good to me. They punish me when

I do wrong but they tell me why they do it and I know they love me."

"Everyone should be thankful for good parents. Andrew, your letter is I."

"That one is hard," Andrew said as he thought, then said, "Interest—interest that others show in me. I guess that would be the same as the love they show me, wouldn't it?"

"Yes, that is fine," Sister Brown said. "We are glad that we have those around us who love us. Most of all we are thankful for God's love. Now, Rada, your letter is V."

"V stands for Victory," said Rada. "Victory through Christ over the devil who tries to get us to do wrong."

"Fine," said Sister Brown. "Now, Thelma, your letter is I. Perhaps I can give you a hint since it is hard. What do children receive when their parents die?"

"Inheritance," spoke up Thelma. "Oh yes, we should be thankful for our inheritance that we receive in heaven from God. Our eternal home is over there."

"That is right," Sister Brown said. "Now, Bill, you tell me something that begins with N."

"The Name of Jesus. My memory verse says, 'Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, He will give it you.' John 16:23."

"Our time is about gone so I will say for the last G, good friends. We should be thankful for them. There are many, many more things we should be thankful for," said the Sunday School teacher. —M. Miles

The bad habits one forms and the bad character one acquires while young will remain with him when he is grown unless he comes to Jesus to get deliverance from it.

"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. Proverbs 14:12.

LESSON ILLUSTRATION

Write the word **ENEMY** on the black-board. When you do a wrong to one who hates you it puts you below your enemy. Draw a line below the word. When you take revenge on your enemy for doing you a wrong it makes you even with him. Draw a line beside the word. When you forgive your enemy it sets you above him. Draw a line above the word enemy. Love lifts up but hatred drags one down.

Dear Boys and Girls:

We have many things to be thankful for. We should thank the Lord every day for His love to all of us. We are glad that those who lived many, many years ago felt thankful to God for His goodness to them after they had had many hardships. God had given them a good crop and they were very thankful. It made them love Him very much for His great mercy and love to them.

Our lesson is about love and hatred. No one likes hatred. Everyone likes love. Even a dog or cat likes to be loved. Love is a wonderful thing in this world. We are glad for it. But, boys and girls, there is no love in hell. Won't that be an awful place? I don't want to go there and I am sure you do not either.

Boys and girls, never fall into the habit of saying, "I hate that person."

We also read some more about light and darkness. Hatred is in those who walk in darkness, but those who walk in the light have love. They have God in their hearts, who is the source of all true light.

John refers to Cain and Abel. Adam and Eve loved their boys and it grieved them very much when they had trouble. One day Cain and Abel brought some sacrifices to offer to the Lord. Cain was a man who grew things in the garden or field. He brought some of his produce to offer to the Lord as a sacrifice. But God did not accept it. It was not in His plan that those things were to be used as an offering. Abel brought a lamb and offered it to the Lord. God accepted his offering. This caused Cain to be jealous of Abel. He pouted and felt sorry for himself. How sad for Cain to allow the devil to bring jealousy and hatred into his heart. Boys and girls, guard your thoughts that they be good thoughts and thoughts of love for everyone. If you do not, you will be like Cain. You will have hatred in your heart. Hatred grows and grows and soon it will show in your actions. Hatred caused Cain to kill his brother. Oh, how terrible! God was displeased. Cain's parents wept. Cain soon was very sorry, but being sorry would not bring Abel back to life. Hate is evil and sinful. Hate in one's heart will cut him off from God who is love. Love and hate cannot live in the same heart. They are against each other. If love is in the heart and hate starts to come in, love runs right out. They will not live together. So Cain let hate in and all love went out and he was miserable. (Genesis 4:1-18.)

John tells us that if you hate your brother it is the same as murder. Then he tells us that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. John also tells us that we should show our love to others not just by telling them that we love them but by acting like it. You will be kind and nice to those you love. You will pray for them and help them when

they are in need if you can. John tells us not to love just in words, but in deeds.

—Aunt Marie

Lesson 8, November 20, 1983

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

1 John 2:7-11; 3:11-18

1 John 2:7 Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning.

8 Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.

9 He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.

10 He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.

11 But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

3:11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

Memory Verse: But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes. 1 John 2:11.

Central Thought: Hatred cannot live in a heart with love and Christ in it.

QUESTIONS:

1. In the beginning did God command us to love others?

2. What did Jesus call the deeper love He came to bring? (verse 8)

3. Our lesson speaks about "true light." Who is this true light?

4. If we love our brother do we abide in darkness or in the light?

5. How can we cause others to stumble and destroy ourselves? (verse 10.)

6. Our lesson tells us that Cain was of that _____.

7. Why did Cain kill his brother Abel?

8. How can one be a murderer and yet not kill anyone?

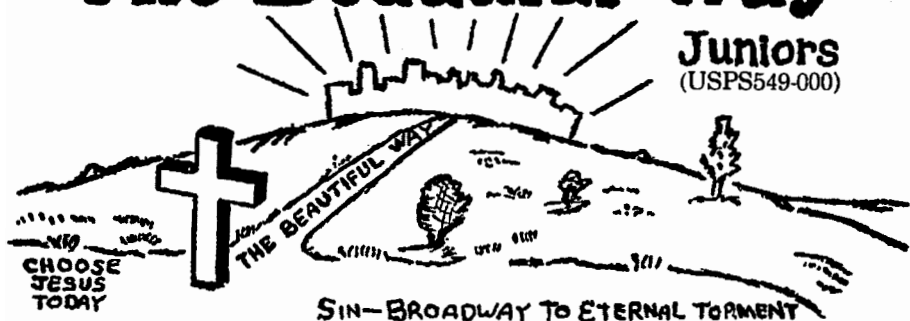
9. How can we let others know that we love them? (verse 18.)

10. Are we to do like Jesus and lay down our lives for the brethren?

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Oct., Nov., Dec., 1983

Part 9

Nov. 27

Beware of False Prophets

"Beware of false prophets,"

The Saviour has said,
"Who come in sheep's clothing
And are wolves evil bred."

Then gave He a secret

To help us beware:
"You'll know the false prophets
By the fruit that they bear."

Can figs grow from thistles,
Or grapes from the thorn?"

How blessed the Saviour
His children to warn.

—Leslie Busbee

Bible Trace of the Church

"Tonight we will talk about the Church of God," Mother said as the children came in for their evening talk. "Since the Church of God was set in motion on the day of Pentecost, the devil has tried to destroy it but has never succeeded. In the day of Paul he saw the 'mystery of

iniquity' working. (2 Thess. 2:1-12). There were false prophets drawing people away from the real truth and the lowly ways of God."

"What are false prophets?" asked Darlene.

"False prophets are people who will not stand by the whole truth as Jesus taught it and it was revealed to His disciples. They twist the Scriptures to mean what God did not mean. Peter said they were false teachers who bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them. (2 Peter 2:1, 2.)

"In the year 96 A.D. John warned the churches of God in Asia about their falling away from the true way. As time went on, more and more began to set up their own ways and were leaving the ways of God. And even before the ruler Constantine had the idols and heathen worship stopped a man-made group was on the way to being formed that left the simple teachings of God. This was about 270 A.D.

"For 1,260 years the Catholic church ruled and millions were killed

because they would not bow to its rule. (Some authorities estimate 55,000,000 were killed.) They kept part of their heathen customs and included Christ, Mary, the disciples, and part of the Bible in their worship. But even then God had a church although not a visible one, but a few stood firmly for God. Most of the saints were reigning with Christ in Paradise. (Rev. 6:9-11.)

"A time came when some boldly took their stand against the Roman Catholic Church; Martin Luther being one of them, and others. In the year of 1530 A.D. the first Protestant creed was made. It was called the Augsburg Confession. But many sects sprang up. They called themselves by different names and each took only part of the Word of God. God still had a church but it wasn't very visible. For 350 years this condition existed. Many were killed because they would not bow to Protestantism in different parts of the country. In the year of 1880 the Lord called Bro. D. S. Warner and others. They began to preach and practice holiness, unity of God's believers, and divine healing. They also called God's church by its right Biblical name. They called it the Church of God. There was a stir among the people but again the Truth and all the Truth was preached and practiced by the Holy Spirit power. They believed in Holy Spirit leadership and God blessed them. Today God still has a people who boldly stand for all the truth. They are not of the world but are living godly lives."

"I wrote down the dates you mentioned," Dale said. "I have the years 270, 1530, and 1880. There are 350 years between 1530 and 1880."

"Don't we have a song in the songbook with those dates in it?" asked Darlene.

"Yes, it is No. 20 in the 'Evening Light' songbook," Mother replied. "Let us sing it and then have prayer and go to bed."

(This story was taken from 'Bible Chain of Truth.' Order this book for \$1.25 at Faith Publishing House.)

William Harris

Before World War I, a native of Liberia gave his heart to God. God so filled him with His love as he yielded to Him, that he became a flame of fire for God in the West Coast of Africa. He went about preaching the gospel. His famous text was, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me . . . I the Lord am a jealous God." Lifting high the gospel torch before the people, he was able to show them something better than the gods whom they served. He told them to get rid of their altars, devil-houses, fetishes, ju-jus, and blood-stained idols. "Drive out your crafty priests, burn up your shrines, and do away with your heathen dances, feasts, and ceremonies, and turn to the living God," he told them. His voice was powerful and he thundered forth the salvation message. In less than two years, with God working through him, the pagan worship in hundreds of villages was overthrown and more than 100,000 natives were brought to Christ, before God took the missionary.

Ten years later some missionaries visited these parts from London and marvelled at the seed that had been sown. Many still were trying to live for God and were begging for

prayer. God will use those who completely surrender themselves to Him.

—M. Miles

If we look at the leaves, flowers, and plants that God has made we will find them always telling us about God and His goodness. No one but God can make a real live leaf or tree.

LESSON ILLUSTRATION

Write on the blackboard TRUE PROPHET and FALSE PROPHET. Then answer the following questions by putting the number of the true statements under true prophet and the number of the false statements under the false prophet.

1. A false prophet has a good spirit. (true or false)
2. A false prophet lives a crooked life.
3. The Holy Spirit leads a false prophet.
4. A false prophet teaches just parts of the Bible.
5. A true prophet teaches all of the Bible.
6. A false prophet is a deceiver and an antichrist.

Dear Boys and Girls:—

Our lessons from the Bible are the divine teachings of God spoken to us through His prophets. They are real important for us to know so we will know how to live to make it into heaven. You may not understand all of these teachings now, but you need to know them so the Holy Spirit will have a chance to help you to understand them as you grow older and in the knowledge of the Lord. Try to remember the things you read so you will have the Word of God hidden in your heart and then the Spirit can give you understanding.

There are just two spirits—the Spirit of God and the spirit of Satan. God's Spirit is true and good and will lead in the right way. Satan's spirit is evil and false and will deceive and lead astray all who follow him. One of these spirits is your master. People in the world today choose which spirit they want to be their master.

John tells us to try every spirit to see whether it is of God. Boys and girls, here is a lesson I want you to learn well. The way you try the Spirit is to see if the person who claims to be of God is living by and believing the truths that the Bible teaches. God's Word, the Bible, and the Spirit of God agree. If a person is led by the Spirit of God his life and the Word of God will agree. But a false prophet or false teacher will not teach all of God's Word, nor live by all of it. There will be some of it he will be in error on.

Jesus told us ~~when~~ He was here on earth to "beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing." (Matt. 7:15) Remember that every preacher is not God's preacher. Today we have many who do not teach all of God's Word nor live by it. I am sure that you have heard that some preachers today teach that God is dead. Every preacher who teaches that false teaching is a false prophet and is led by the spirit of Satan. Read Acts 13:6-12 about a false prophet named Bar-jesus.

In the day of John, false teachers said that the good Spirit created good and the evil spirit created evil. They said that all matter was evil. They taught that the good Christ could not assume a physical body (matter) which was evil. They taught that Jesus' body just had the appearance of flesh. But that was false. That is the reason John said the spirit of error says that Jesus

did not come in the world in the flesh. John said they were of the spirit of antichrist. They were not of Christ.

Boys and girls, today there are many false prophets. Beware of false teachers.

—Aunt Marie

Lesson 9, November 27, 1983

FALSE PROPHETS

1 John 4:1-6; 2 John 7-9

1 John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

5 They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.

6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

2 John 7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the father and the Son.

Memory Verse: Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 1 John 4:1.

Central Thought: Not every spirit that claims to be of God is of God. We should be careful what we follow.

QUESTIONS:

1. Why did the Apostle John tell us to try the spirits?

2. Are there few or many false prophets? (See verse 1)

3. Does the Spirit of God in the true prophet confess that Jesus came in the flesh into the world?

4. Were there people in John's day who taught that Jesus' flesh was not real, but had the appearance of flesh?

5. Read Luke 24:39 the words of Jesus. Was His flesh real or was He just a spirit?

6. What did God say about His Son? (Matt. 3:17; 17:5.) What did the demons say? (Matt. 8:29.)

7. Whom did Peter say Jesus was? (Matt. 16:16.)

8. Did you know that your destiny, or life after death, depends upon what you think of Christ? Explain.

9. If we have Christ in our hearts, who are we greater than? (verse 4)

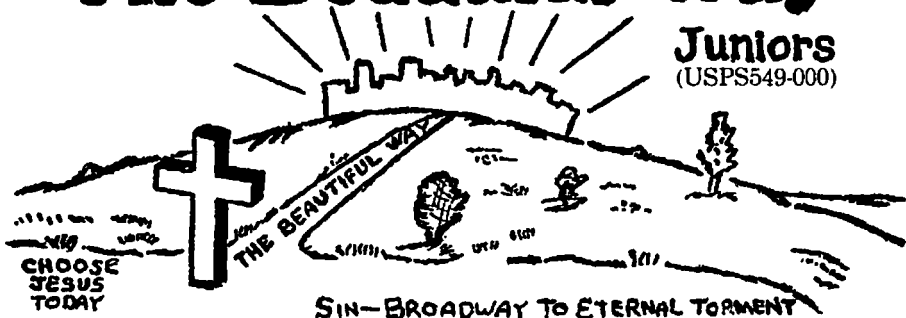
10. Who is a deceiver and antichrist?

11. Whom do we have if we abide in the doctrine of Christ? (verse 9)

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Oct., Nov., Dec., 1983

Part 10

Dec. 4

The Story of Poor Seppeli

(Continued from Nov. 17)

Dear children, I do not want to keep you in suspense very long about Seppeli. Margaret put him in her own bed, washed his wound with vinegar and water, poured healing oil in his wound and dressed it with a linen cloth. But he was so weak he could hardly talk. At times he looked around with fear, afraid that the servants might appear once more. When he saw Margaret, he was calm and thankful. For the night Margaret prepared another bed in her own room so she could take good care of Seppeli. He did not sleep any the first night, yet he was calm, and at times sighed because of the pain in his hand. The next morning it was greatly swollen, but the pain left soon, so he got up and did a few things Margaret asked him to do. He was shaking and looked pale and very pitiful. One could not look at him without feeling sympathy. Even the master, brutal as he was, told Margaret to take good care of

the youth. When the servants came into the room they did not stay long, but left quickly as their consciences condemned them. After several days the wound began hurting again and continually grew worse. One morning when Margaret dressed the wound she noticed that some spots in it had started to turn dark. This made her anxious, so she went to the neighbor who had a reputation of healing all kinds of injuries. She informed him of the boy's condition. He gave her a salve to put on the wound. Margaret applied it with great care, but it did not seem to help. The infection began to spread over the whole hand and the wound looked very bad. Seppeli became very weak. Margaret was worried about him. One evening before she went to bed, she sat beside the boy's bed and asked, "How are you getting along?"

"I think it will soon be better," he answered in such a sad tone that it pierced through Margaret's heart, because she felt that his end was nearing fast.

"How do you mean?" she asked in a mild, but fearful tone.

The boy answered, "I believe I will soon die and then I will see my beloved Saviour and my dear mother."

"Are you not afraid to die?" Margaret asked.

"I fear somewhat until it will be over with. It will soon be over and then I can go to my loving Saviour. There will be joy and happiness, dear Margaret," he continued. After a little pause he said, "Would you be so kind as to read to me a few verses out of my Bible?"

Margaret took the book which lay at his head. Seppeli showed her the place in Revelation where it tells of the great throne of God. When she had read the Scriptures, Seppeli said, "Oh, how glorious that is! How I long for that city of God! There my beloved mother is, and there are the holy angels and the holy saints. There is where my Saviour is!"

Margaret's eyes were wet with tears and yet she experienced such peace as she had not known while at his bedside. She thought she would like to die also and join Seppeli when he would enter heaven. They were both silent for a while as Seppeli seemed to sleep. Suddenly he said, "Margaret, I have a request for you. I wish that you would tell Anton (for so was the servant's name that held the dog) and the other servant that I have heartily forgiven them and that I urgently prayed God to forgive them their sin of last Sunday. Margaret, who always thought that the dog of his own accord had attacked the boy, was astonished and asked what they had done. Seppeli also was astonished and asked her if she did not know what had happened. As she said she did not,

he did not want to talk more of it. But Margaret continued to question him until Seppeli told her everything. She immediately wanted to go to the master and tell him everything. But Seppeli begged her with all his might that she would not tell. He reminded her of the example of Jesus, and pressed her until she promised she would keep the affair secret. The exertion of talking was too much for Seppeli and a sort of fainting overtook him. Margaret thought it was a pleasant slumber and went to bed in her room.

(To be continued)

"WHILE GOD IS NEAR"

When Bro. Foster was young he felt the call of God upon his soul. He did not yield to God then. Later he sought the Lord but He seemed far away. This saddened his heart. In talking to someone else about it, they advised him that when he again felt the smallest drawing of God upon his heart or the faintest desire to be saved that he should yield. This happened when he was in a service one day. He went to the altar and prayed through and was saved.

Boys and girls, the Bible says, "Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon him while he is near." Isa. 55:6. You might want God some time and He will not be near. You must call upon Him when He calls for you and is near. —M. M.

LESSON ILLUSTRATION

Draw seven candlesticks and name each one a name of one of the churches of Asia. Draw a cross in the center which represents Christ. Write under-

neath "The Christians at Philadelphia have kept my word, and have not denied my name."

Dear Boys and Girls:—

On a small rocky island which was about ten miles long and five miles wide in the Aegean Sea, John the Apostle was banished by the Roman Emperor Domitian about A.D. 95. This island was about 20 miles from the coast of Asia Minor. From the highest peaks of about a thousand feet, the Apostle could see north across the sea the town of Smyrna and most of the area where the seven churches of Asia that are spoken of in Revelation were.

We read that John was in the spirit on the Lord's Day. No doubt he was praying and Christ spoke to him the things that are written in the book of Revelation. Many do not understand any of Revelation, others understand some of it, but it is only through the Holy Spirit that it can be understood. The word "revelation" means something made known or revealed. The first verse of the book says, "to show his servants things which must shortly come to pass." Revelation is written mostly in symbols. A beautiful woman represents the church of God. The red dragon represents pagan worship. There is no symbol that represents God or Jesus Christ.

John suffered many things. One time he was put in a pot of boiling oil but God brought him out. Our first verse tells us that John is our companion in tribulation. If we have trials or persecutions, remember John had them, too. He was put on the island "for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ." The emperor thought he was rid of John when he put him on that

barren spot out in the sea. After the emperor died in A.D. 96, John was brought back to Ephesus where he spent the remainder of his life, dying at the age of 100 years.

When he was praying he heard a trumpet and a great voice. He was commanded to write what he saw and heard in a book and send it to the seven churches of Asia. In our lesson we read about the message sent to the church in Philadelphia. This city was once a large and powerful city.

Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters in the Greek alphabet. (v. 8)

The angel represents the pastor or minister in charge of the congregation at Philadelphia. The one who held the key of David would be Christ. It represents the power and authority that Christ had. Christ saw a few in this church who had not denied His name. He gave them some promises. (1) The assurance of an open door. (They would be delivered from their enemies. v. 8) (2) Deliverance from the Jews. (They would be able to teach the Jews of Christ and salvation. v. 9) (3) "I will keep thee from the hour of temptations which shall come upon the world." (v. 10) Through the great persecutions of the Christians by the Roman government the church at Philadelphia was spared. Also, they stood true through the sweep of the teachings of Mohammed until six years before Wickliffe, who gave the world the first English translation of the Bible. Wickliffe sowed seeds that helped to bring in the reformation of the 16th century against the Catholic church.

The fourth promise was that they would be made to overcome. Read Heb. 12:22, 23 about the New Jerusalem.

Remember Christ knows all about us and we can't hide anything from Him.

—Aunt Marie

CHRIST SPEAKS TO THE CHURCHES

Revelation 1:9-11; 3:7-13

Rev. 1:9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

3:7 And the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it; for thou hast a little strength and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Memory Verse: Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. Rev. 3:20.

Central Thought: Christ will reward all of his faithful followers, though they be few in number.

QUESTIONS:

1. Where was the Apostle John banished to by the Roman emperor?

2. Why was he put there? (verse 2)

3. What did he mean by saying "your brother, and companion in tribulation"?

4. What day of the week is the Lord's day?

5. What do Alpha and Omega mean?

6. Name three of the seven churches of Asia.

7. Revelation is written in symbols. What does a key symbolize? the "angel of the church of Philadelphia"?

8. What is the first promise Christ gave them?

9. What are some of the other promises He gave them?

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Oct., Nov., Dec., 1983

Part 11

Dec. 11

Live for Jesus

Boys and girls, live to be
So humble that others can see
That Christ lives down here in Thee.

Boys and girls, learn to pray
And trust the Lord along the way,
Then at last you'll find it'll pay.

Live for Jesus—do what you can
Helping others on sea or land
Build on the Rock and not the sand.

Guard your thoughts, your tongue
and eyes.

Get God's wisdom, then when you die
He will take you home on high.

—Effie Miller

The Story of Poor Seppeli

(Continued from last week's paper)

About three o'clock the next morning Margaret was awakened by the sound of loud groaning. She quickly got a light and ran to Seppeli's bed. There lay the dear boy in severe

convulsions, unconscious, rolling and groaning on his bed. It was a dreadful sight! Without thinking of what she was doing, she threw her arms around him as though to relieve his severe cramps. To behold his suffering was touching. The wound got worse, till finally terrible cramps set in which could end in death. For several minutes Seppeli was quiet, but then the severe attacks returned more violent than before. Margaret tried to talk to him to comfort and encourage him, but he seemed to be unaware of her. After Margaret had spent an hour with him, in great fear, she called the master, for she knew that he had sympathy for Seppeli and would do what he could to help him. When he came Seppeli was in a frightful condition. In convulsions, his worn-out, lean body drew together, soon to throw himself in different directions. The master looked on at the scene in pity. At times he held him so that he would not hurt himself in his painful thrashing on the bed. Margaret called the servants with the message that they should

come immediately. With great haste they came, not knowing what would happen. Margaret called them into the room, saying, "Anton, you will surely like to do what you can to help Seppeli get some rest." Pale and frightened, they stood looking at the sight of the suffering youth. Little by little the attacks grew weaker and did not last as long. Soon Seppeli lay as one dead.

"He is gone," said the master, and took a light and looked into his face. The dying boy once more opened his eyes and looked painfully around him as though waiting for something. His eyes fell on Margaret, and with a weak smile he said to her, "T h a n k s, thanks." The girl burst into tears. Then he said, "Please, — Jesus — Heaven." Then he saw Anton. He seemed to receive miraculous strength, and with his last dying effort he stretched out his hand to him and said, "From my heart I have forgiven you. P r a y—pray—to—Jesus—and do not curse or swear anymore." This ended his strength. He sank backward, and in a few moments his redeemed spirit left its dwelling in this poor tabernacle to go to its heavenly mansion.

It was six o'clock in the morning. Margaret sat by his bed, sobbing loudly. The master, deeply touched, left the room to hide his inward emotions. Pale and trembling, the servants left without saying a word.

After a few days Anton notified the master and left, nobody knows where. As for the other servant, no one ever heard him use profane language any more. Margaret, who had seen to it that Seppeli had a decent burial, never lost the influence she had received from Seppeli. From that time on the master's life was conducted

in a gentle behavior. The memory of Seppeli remained to be a blessing on that farmstead.

—Translated from the German in June 1968 by H. A. Enszt.

It Always Pays to be Kind

"Ouch! That hurts!" cried Peggy.

"Mother, Mary pulled my hair and it hurts," Peggy said, running to her house crying. Mother heard Peggy crying so she called Mary into the house.

"What do you want?" Mary asked as she slowly walked into the house.

"I am going to punish you," Mother said. "I have told you again and again not to pull Peggy's hair. That is very naughty."

After Mary was punished, she cried and cried. Later she went back out to play. Linda was sitting in her brother's wagon under the tree. Mary went over and Linda let her sit by her. Would you like for me to tell you a story?" Linda asked Mary.

"Oh, yes!" Mary said.

"One time a little boy went to the mountains to pick some flowers for his sister's birthday. A big boy came and jerked the flowers out of the little boy's hands and stomped on them. The little boy was going to run home and tell on the big boy. The big boy picked up the little boy's white cat and held it over the cliff saying that if he didn't come back he would drop the cat over the side. About that time the cat scratched the big boy because he was not liking the way he was being held. The big boy dropped the cat and it fell into the water. It tried to climb out and the little boy tried to reach for the cat and fell over the cliff and

hurt his leg. The big boy was then sorry for all he had done. He hadn't meant to really hurt the cat nor the little boy. He had just wanted to tease. But his teasing ended up in a big injury for the little boy was made a cripple for many years."

"That big boy should get a spanking and maybe he would be nicer," Mary said as she remembered her spanking.

"Jesus wants us to be nice to others and love them. If we do a little wrong, then it will be easier to do a big wrong," Linda told Mary. "If I were you I would not be pulling Peggy's braids anymore. Jesus tells us to be like Him. He always did nice things to others when He was here." — M. Miles

Jesus invites you to come and buy the blessings of God. But God has said that these can be "bought without money and without price." Do you want a bargain? The price is just giving Him your heart.

"The eyes of the Lord are in every place beholding the evil and the good." Proverbs 15:3.

LESSON ILLUSTRATION

Draw a throne and then put as many dots as you can on the board. Write under it, "A great multitude, which no man could number who have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb."

Dear Boys and Girls:—

Our lesson today is about more of the things God showed John the Apostle while he was on the island. It's as if a great big curtain were pulled back and he saw things that were to come. He

wrote all he saw in a book which is the last book of the Bible, called Revelation.

Today we have another scene. In this vision he saw a great multitude which no man could number. We just can't imagine how large that would be. But it must have been thousands upon thousands of people. Now notice that they were from all nations, kindred, people, and tongues. This vision was a scene in heaven. This refers to the end of time when Jesus had called His chosen ones home to be with Him in heaven. This takes place after a long period of persecution to the church of God. But all those who are faithful and cling to Jesus will be in the great number that no man can number. I want to be there, don't you? All of them were standing before the Lamb of God, who is Christ. Remember that John the Baptist called Jesus "the Lamb of God."

How were those faithful followers of Jesus dressed? They had on white robes which are robes of righteousness. They had palms (leaves from palm trees) in their hands which represents victory. They were praising God and rejoicing. They were glad they were safe from the enemies who had caused them trouble, sorrow, and heartaches in this wicked world. There in heaven they were happy and had no more sorrow nor trouble. Oh, it will be wonderful to be with God in heaven!

The four beasts fell down and worshipped God, too. They would represent the peoples of all the world in the different times. They would represent people who offered a lamb, which is a type of Christ, even before Jesus came. All fell down and worshipped God.

Now one of the elders asked a question. Who are all these people who have on these beautiful robes? John answered, "Sir, thou knowest." The elder said that these have come up through great

tribulations but have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb, which is Jesus. They were those who were saved and had made it to heaven. How happy they were to be there! They had no more tears, nor trouble. Jesus was there to bless them and care for them.

Boys and girls, let us all live so we can go to heaven. There are not enough words in the English language to rightly describe heaven.

—Aunt Marie

Lesson 11, December 11, 1983

BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD

Revelation 7:9-17

Rev. 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribula-

tion, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Memory Verse: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God forever and ever. Amen.

Central Thought: Only the pure and holy can be in that number that no man can number.

QUESTIONS:

1. Who saw the vision in our lesson?
2. Could the multitude that was seen be counted?
3. Was the multitude all of one nation?
4. What did the white robes stand for? The palms?
5. Tell what the symbols of the beasts stand for.
6. Were the elders the ministers of God?
7. What question did one of the elders ask?
8. What was the answer to the question asked? (verse 14)
9. Will there be any hunger or thirst in heaven?
10. Will God wipe away their tears?

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A Seed

An angel passed in his onward flight,
With a seed of love and truth and light,
And cried, "O where shall the seed
be sown
That it yield most fruit when fully
grown?"
The Saviour heard, and He said, as
He smiled,
"Place it for me in the heart of a
child."



The Girl With the Big Feet

Dorothy Thomas waited at the steps when she saw the new girl coming toward the schoolhouse. Three days now, since Susan Ash moved to Richland, Dorothy had tried to think of a way to invite her to Sunday School. Somehow at school people did not talk about God and the Bible, she thought, as she said, "Hello, Susan."

"Hello," Susan answered.

"You're the new girl," Dorothy said.

"Yes," Susan replied. "We live on Ansley Street."

"Welcome to Ansley Street," Dorothy smiled.

That was all they had time to say to each other for just then the bell rang. After that there was time only for getting seated, and ready for class. Dorothy was worried. She had not studied her history lesson. Last night Aunt Martha and Uncle Bob came for a visit, and instead of going to her room to study, she had listened to the grown-up people.

She did not remember much of what they said except that they talked about jobs and money and new clothes. Not once did they mention God or the church or the Bible. She guessed being grownup was a lot like going to school, one had to have a good excuse to talk about God except on Sunday.

Dorothy sat cater-cornered at her desk and tried to read her history lesson before Miss Wilson started asking questions. Then suddenly, wham!

Something hit Dorothy's foot like a football and down the aisle Effie White fell sprawling. Dorothy tried to help her up but Effie pushed her away.

"You and your big feet!" Effie cried.

Dorothy just stood there, opening and closing her mouth like a goldfish, but she could not speak a word. Miss Wilson brushed the dirt off Effie's new red skirt, then she turned to Dorothy.

"How did it happen?" she asked.

"She tripped me," Effie sobbed. "She did, she did!"

Miss Wilson turned to Bobby Wilson in the next seat. "Did she trip her?" she asked.

"Ah, Dorothy had her big foot—I mean, Dorothy had her foot in the aisle, I saw that," he answered. He shrugged his shoulders and shook his head. "I don't know about tripping Effie. Girls have funny ways and—"

"Never mind about that," Miss Wilson said, and she asked Dorothy, "Did you trip Effie?"

Dorothy tried to speak. Again she stood there, opening and closing her mouth, but no words came.

"Dorothy, you stay at your desk at recess," Miss Wilson ordered.

Dorothy managed to nod her head. She heard a giggle run through the room, but she buried her head in her book, too ashamed to look up. Then she remembered Susan and she thought, "Now I can't ask her to come to Sunday School."

At recess she sat at her desk and wrote over and over, "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." Maybe if she copied it enough times she could yet go to Susan and invite her to Sunday School.

When recess was over Effie came straight to Dorothy's desk. "I'm sorry," she said. "I knew you didn't trip me on purpose but I'm scared of Miss Wilson. I had to pretend."

Dorothy smiled at Effie. "That's all right," she said. "I had a nice time staying in at recess. I copied a Bible verse I like very much."

Effie gathered up the sheets and passed them out down the aisle. Dorothy noticed that Susan read hers twice. Then Susan pressed the paper inside her history book, instead of throwing it in the catchall on her desk, as the others did.

At noon when Dorothy started outside, Susan fell in step with her. "Is that where you learn to solve problems?" Susan asked. "At the house of God?"

Dorothy had never thought of it in just that way, but it was true. "Yes," she answered. "At the house of God one learns the answer to many things."

Susan took a deep breath. "Maybe I'll come," she said. "It makes me glad just to hear about the house of God."

"I hope you'll come next Sunday," Dorothy said. "Going to Sunday School and church is such a happy thing to do." —G. C.

"The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death." Prov. 14:27. We need a fountain to drink from to live. Keep a fear, or reverence, for God and it will keep you from the snares of eternal death.

Did you know you are making your fortunes each day of the year? Your temper, your company, and your habits are helping you find your fortune.

If they are good you will find a good fortune and be happy. Let God help you so you can be happy.

LESSON ILLUSTRATION

Draw two roads, one leading up to heaven and the other leading down to hell. Draw flames for hell and clouds for heaven. Label each. Under the drawing write, "Choose ye this day whom ye will serve."

Dear Boys and Girls:—

Our lesson is in Revelation and we trust that you will try to understand it as it is very important.

The first verse of this chapter belongs to the chapter before, but the second verse tells us what John saw. He saw the New Jerusalem, the holy city, which is the Church of God that was founded by Jesus, coming down out of heaven. In Revelation the church is symbolized as a bride or a beautiful woman. Jesus brought us salvation, and all that are saved have salvation which came to us out of heaven. Verse 3 tells us that God will dwell with men and they shall be His people. Verse four tells us that when we are saved God will wipe away from our eyes all the tears for sin and condemnation that has grieved us. We won't sorrow any more because of the evil things we have done. We need not fear the eternal death in hell. All former things have passed away. We can drink of the fountain forever.

Now, boys and girls, this same lesson can apply to what we will have in heaven. The church is eternal. Eternal things are for us here in this world as long as we are God's and they will be for us in heaven, although over there we will not have these physical bodies. Over there will not be any physical

death which brings sorrow to us here.

God names His church after Himself. We read in Eph. 3:14, 15, "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named." So part of the family is in heaven and part here on the earth. This mortal body separates our souls from the heavenly family.

Verses 6 and 7 tell us that those who overcome shall inherit all things and He will be our God and we will be His children. He gives us the water of eternal life in our souls.

Verse 8 tells us what will happen to the wicked. That is the second death. Notice it says all liars, etc., shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone. The same voice that utters the promises tells us about the punishment of the wicked.

Verses 9 to 27 describe our eternal home—heaven. It is all written in symbolic language. We have no way of knowing exactly how it will look. But God has taken the things of this world and has tried to help us to understand, in part, just how great and grand heaven will be. We want to be sure our names are written in the Lamb's book of life. We want to be ready when He comes for us.

—Aunt Marie

Lesson 12, December 18, 1983

THE NEW JERUSALEM

Revelation 21:3-8; 22-27; 22:17

Rev. 21:3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no

more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

24 And the nations of them which are saved walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Rev. 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Memory Verse: And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. Rev. 21:6.

Central Thought: We want to have a grand entry into our eternal home.

QUESTIONS:

1. Is part of the family of God in heaven and part on the earth? (Eph. 3:14, 15.)

2. Where did Jesus come from to bring us salvation?

3. Did the New Jerusalem, the holy city which Jesus founded, come down out of heaven?

4. Will God dwell through the Spirit with His people who are here on the earth and also in heaven?

5. When does He wipe away our tears of remorse?

6. When we get to heaven will we ever weep again because of the trials of this life?

7. Can our lesson mean the Church of God here, or the experience of salvation we receive, and also the home in heaven?

8. Does verse 22 in our lesson tell us about our eternal home in heaven?

9. Did God try to get us to understand the beauties of heaven by using things we know about to describe it?

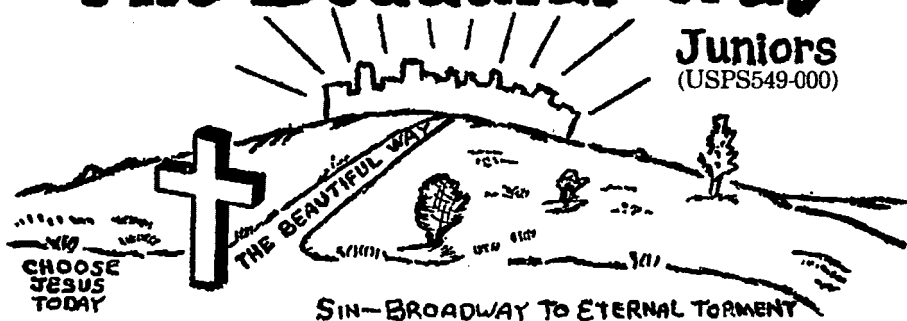
10. Where will the wicked go?

11. When we are saved will he wipe away our tears of remorse?

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Part 13

Dec. 25

Silent Night, Holy Night

High up in the Austrian Alps, the region known as the Tyrol—"the land of the mountains"—we find the birthplace of "Silent Night, Holy Night." Here, the Tyrolean peaks, world-famed for their snow-capped beauty, rise in lofty simplicity into the cool clear air, guarding little smiling, peaceful valleys.

In the Austrian Alpine mountains nestles the remote town of Oberndorf, Austria. Here lived a devout young Austrian named Joseph Mohr, and his friend, the village schoolmaster, and an organist Franz Gruber, who were together destined to give to the world this beautiful Christmas hymn, "Silent Night, Holy Night." The two men, both great lovers of music, had often talked of the fact that "the perfect Christmas song had not yet been found."

Meditating on this thought, Mohr sat in his study on Christmas Eve, 1818. Outside, the hushed stillness of the night heightened the snow-clad beauty of the mountain scene. The

pure spirit of those high peaks filled his heart with a vision of the radiant peace and joy of the first Christmas tiding, "Jesus, the Saviour is born." The thoughts which had been long formed in his mind suddenly found clear, musical expression that night in the song which we have come to know and love as "Silent Night, Holy Night."

We are giving the first stanza in German, just as Joseph Mohr wrote it that night:

"Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht!
Alles schlaeft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute, heilige Paar,
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh'!"

The next morning, Christmas Day, Mohr hurried to his friend's home with the manuscript of his precious song. Gruber read it intently, and exclaimed with uncontrolled enthusiasm, "Friend Mohr, you have found it—the right song—God be praised!"

Gruber, thrilled with the spirit of his friend's verses, at once set to work to compose a perfect melody for "the perfect song." Finally the soft,

flowing air we now use came to him. "It sings itself, your song," he cried to the delighted Mohr. Gruber's real contribution to music lies in the beauty and simplicity of the tune, in its perfect blending in spirit with Mohr's verses. The two men then sang the hymn over together, to have it ready for the church service that night.

Later in the same evening, when the villagers were gathered in the gray little mountain church, Mohr and Gruber sang their new Christmas song before its first audience. It touched these listeners deeply, and after the service, they thanked the two friends with tears of joy in their eyes.

The story of how the song spread from its mountain home in the Tyrol, to become one of the Christmas favorites in all parts of the world is full of interest. Only very slowly did it come into fame. For nearly a year after its first appearance the song lay almost forgotten in Gruber's desk. Then, in November, 1819, a repair man asked Gruber to play something to test the organ that he had repaired. The beautiful melody of "Silent Night" came back to Gruber's mind, and he played it. So entranced was the organ-builder that he begged to take a copy of the song home with him, to his little town across the mountains.

In the new village four sisters by the name of Strasser learned it, and "Silent Night" became the favorite of the "Strasser Quartette." One day the girls were invited to sing the hymn in the great cathedral of Leipzig, in Germany, and so this beautiful Christmas song was brought to this large city. From one music-lover to another the hymn passed on. Still it was without a name, and was

known simply as "The Tyrolese Song," because it had first come from the Tyrolean Alps. With that title it was printed in 1842 for the first time, twenty-four years after it had been composed.

Still further honor came to the hymn in 1854, when the full choir of the Imperial church in Berlin, Germany, sang it before the Emperor Frederick Wilhelm IV. So enthusiastic was he that "Silent Night" was ordered by him to be given first place in all religious Christmas programs. From that day on, the song has been put into other languages and carried all over the world. It touches a heartfelt need, and brings calm and peace to all who hear its strains.

Perhaps you will want to learn by heart the stanzas which follow.

Silent Night, Holy Night!
All is calm, all is bright,
'Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent Night, Holy Night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;
Christ, the Saviour is born.

Silent Night, Holy Night!
Son of God, Love's pure light,
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

Silent Night, Holy Night!
Guiding star, lend thy light,
See the eastern wise men bring,
Gifts and homage to our King,
Jesus, the Saviour is born.

PUT GOD FIRST

Did you ever see a bride go to her wedding without her wedding garments on? Could it be possible for her to forget something so important? God spoke through His prophets asking the question, "Can a . . . bride [forget] her attire? yet my people have forgotten me days without number." Jer. 2:32. God is more important than anything else in the world. Have you forgotten Him?

LESSON ILLUSTRATION

Draw three wreaths. Print in the first one "J-esus first." In the second one, "O-thers second." In the third wreath put "Y-ourself last." Notice that the first letters of the words in the wreaths spell J-O-Y. Put this verse at the bottom, "And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full." 1 John 1:4.

Dear Boys and Girls:—

I am sure that you look forward to Christmas. We do not know exactly when Jesus was born, but do know that He did have a birth date. We might not like the name given to Christ's birthday by the pagans, but we use it because others know what we mean by it, just as we use the days of the week that were named after pagan gods. But we don't want to celebrate the birthday of Christ as the people of the world do. We want to remember that Jesus is the greatest gift that has ever been given. God gave Him to us so we could have salvation. The wise men gave gifts to Jesus and our greatest gift should be to give Jesus our hearts and lives.

There is not enough love shown today to others. We like to remember those

we love and who are close to us with something to show our love. We like to do all we can for others at every opportunity. Sometimes just a card sent with love and words of cheer can be a big help to others. Be sure to remember that we are to honor Jesus in a way that will be pleasing to Him.

It would be very wrong to grumble because you didn't get what you had wanted very much for Christmas. Jesus would be very displeased. Always be thankful and grateful for anything that others do for you. Never be unthankful.

Our lesson is very good and we are thankful that we have it written in our Bible about Jesus and His birth. God, by His spirit, witnessed to different ones that Jesus was truly the Son of God. John tells us that he handled Him and saw Him and heard Him. Simeon was ready to die after he had seen our Lord and Saviour. His parents brought Jesus into the temple to offer sacrifices according to the law of Moses. Simeon blessed God and said, "My eyes have seen thy salvation" through Christ. He handled Him and looked upon Him and the Holy Spirit made him know that He truly was the Christ. Then the prophetess Anna also gave thanks that redemption had come to the world through Jesus.

Today we are rejoicing because Jesus did come. He is our Saviour, Lord, and King. We want to please Him and live for Him in this world. We should always have faith in Him. Some people in the world today do not believe that He truly is the Son of God. But we have recorded in the Bible that thousands of witnesses saw Him. Over 500 saw Him after he arose from the grave. We believe Him to be the Saviour of the world because He is able to forgive us of our sins and witness to our hearts that we are forgiven. We live differ-

ently, and He hears and answers our prayers.
—Aunt Marie

Lesson 13, December 25, 1983

WE SAW JESUS

1 John 1:1; Luke 2:25-33; 36-39

1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

Luke 2:25 And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

27 And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,

28 Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,

29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:

30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation.

31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

33 And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.

36 And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great

age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity;

37 And she was a widow of about four-score and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

38 And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

39 And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.

Memory Verse: The word was made flesh, and dwelt among us; (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father.) John 1:14.

Central Thought: Jesus brought man and God together with joy to both.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the greatest gift ever given to the world? Who gave it?

2. Who gave gifts to the baby Jesus?

3. Why did Mary and Joseph take Jesus to the temple?

4. What man was there waiting for Jesus, the "consolation of Israel" to come?

5. How did he know that he would see Jesus before he died?

6. What did he do when he saw the baby Jesus?

7. Jesus was to be a light to whom?

8. What was the name of the prophetess who was in the temple?

9. Did she tell others who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem?

10. What did John the disciple tell us about Jesus?

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