

The Beautiful Way

Juniors
(USPS549-000)



Vol. 35, No. 3

July, Aug., Sept., 1984

Part 1

July 1

The Man of His Counsel

(Continued From Last Lesson)

"It is not the things that we did which caused us to fail to be Christians, but the things we did not do," hastily exclaimed Joe; "and I would not exchange the experience of the last four days for all the years before, for I have found more satisfaction than ever before in my life."

"That is my experience, too," said Susie as she stepped to her husband's side and laid her hand affectionately on his shoulder.

"You had better be careful in jumping from one thing to another, and be content to hold fast to that thing which has stood for so long," said Preacher Brumbaugh. "You know I come as one to help you and I fear for you for I have seen others that have taken up with some new kind of religion only to find that it did not last, and I am sure that is what will happen to you. It will wear off in time. You are only a little excited and when the excitement dies out the religion will die with it and I trust you will be your natural self again."

"God forbid," said Joe, "that I should ever have to go back to the heavy load

that I have been carrying on my soul for the past few months, for that was torturous to me. And, Preacher Brumbaugh, would you want me to go back to such a life of misery when there is rest and contentment of soul such as I have found? Do you not know what it means to have the load lifted from your soul and feel the peace of God instead?"

"I know what it means to be a Christian like the Bible says," hastily replied Preacher Brumbaugh, "but as to these wild-fire conversions I must say I do not care to take in with any of them, for they soon die out and I want something that will last. The Bible says, 'He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved,' and I do not want anything better than the Bible has to offer."

"I, too, do not want anything better than the Bible has to offer," said Joe; "but I have found what it means to know God and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him, for I sought Him diligently and have been rewarded for so doing."

"Well, I guess there is no use in talking any longer on this subject," said Preacher Brumbaugh, "but I trust you will soon be convinced that the good old way is the best way after all."

"I have already been convinced that the good old way is the only satisfactory way," replied Joe as he walked with Preacher Brumbaugh to his buggy. After bidding him "good by" he returned to the house, where he met Susie. She was wearing a very troubled face.

"What shall we do now?" she earnestly inquired. "I felt that Brother Brumbaugh would be delighted to find that we were converted, but I am sure that he is very much displeased. I am at a loss to know just what to do about it."

"I decided what I shall do about it," said Joe, and walking to the little stand table in the other room he picked up the Bible, and holding it up before his wife, said, "I mean to take this as the **man of my counsel**, and go to it to find out what the Lord would have me to do. It taught me the way to God and I am sure if I take it as my counselor it will teach me the way to live a life that will please my God."

"But what if they will not accept us as we are in the church? Then what shall we do about it?" eagerly inquired Susie.

"I do not know just what I shall do yet, or what steps I shall take," said Joe, "but this one thing I have decided to do, and that is from now on I shall make this Book my counselor, and shall go to it, and I am sure if I walk as it says I shall please God and that is what I want more than anything else."

"I know," said Susie, "but they might turn us out of the church if we keep on attending the prayer meetings."

"Which would you prefer," queried Joe, "the experience of the last few days or the experience of all the years you spent in the church and were regarded as a good member?"

"I want to know I am right with God," said Susie as the tears sprang to her eyes. "Oh, may nothing ever come to rob me of the peace which I now have."

"I can tell you how I feel about it," said Joe; "if they choose to turn me out of the church because I got converted they may do so for if they do not want me because I am a Christian I am sure they do not need me there, and the sooner they begin proceeding, the better. And as to the prayer meetings, I mean to attend every one that I can, for I am sure that prayer will do no one any harm. I feel safe when I say that I have taken this Book as the **man of my counsel**."

A MEETING WITH THE BOARD

One week of victory passed for Joe, and as Sunday morning dawned he and his wife prepared to attend services as usual at the little chapel where they held their membership. This week had been an unusual week for them. Their home had been entirely different from what it had been heretofore. The day began with reading the Scripture and prayer and ended in the same way, or rather it was the reverse with them, for Joe said that He knew the Lord knew just what portion of God's Word he needed; so therefore before he began reading the two would come before the Lord and ask Him to direct them to the portion of Scripture they needed for that day to enlighten them that they might know just what should be required of them that day.

On this Sunday morning as Joe opened his Bible after asking God to direct him his eyes fell on the tenth chapter of Matthew and he began to read from the sixteenth verse. Each verse seemed to bring new light to his soul. When he reached the twenty-eighth verse he could go no further, but laying his Bible down, he arose and walked to and fro in the room praising God. It seemed that heaven had opened to him and the blessings of God were pouring down into his soul.

After Joe had become calm enough that Susie might talk to him she inquired into the cause of his great joy and he said, "Did you not read what I read?" And again opening his Bible he read, " 'What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops. And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.' Don't you see that is only a message from God to us?" said he as he again placed the Bible on the stand. "I feel that I can go to church and face anything that may come up before us, for God has said what He has told us in darkness to speak in the light and I mean to tell what he said to me last Sunday night in that little pantry and shall not fear what shall happen to me, for the people can do nothing to me more than destroy this body. God will take care of my soul."

"But why do you talk like that?" inquired Susie. "Who do you think will try to do us any harm?"

"That I do not know," replied Joe, "but ever since Brother Brumbaugh called upon us I have felt that he might call us in question because we are attending these prayer meetings."

"Surely he cannot call us into question for attending prayer meeting," exclaimed Susie. "Why, what is there about praying that one should call another into question about? He has always exhorted the whole church to pray."

"I know that he has," replied Joe, "but remember we both testified on last Wednesday evening that neither of us had ever been Christians until last Sunday night when we found peace. That is the thing that displeased him and I have a feeling that he means to question us further in regard to it, but I have decided that what God revealed to

me in the darkness I mean to speak in the light that others may hear, for I am sure there are others who hold membership in that church that are in the same condition that we were. We know they can do nothing more than to erase our names from their ledger. Thank God, they cannot reach our souls."

(To Be Continued)

Dear Boys and Girls:

Have you ever been high on a hill or mountainside? If so, do you remember looking down and seeing the people far away? They looked so small as they walked or played! No one knew you were there watching, so you could see what everyone was doing.

Last summer, while visiting Macinac Island, we were very high and we could look down across Lake Michigan and the beach. We could see people playing in the water, and walking and playing on the beach. I thought, "This is a little like when God watches us. He sees and hears all we do and say." Although the people didn't know I was up there, I was still watching.

At the time of our lesson, God was sorry that He had made man. They didn't love God and the people were so wicked and sinful. God still loved them, but He was sad about the way they lived.

God knew one man who walked up-right before Him. Enoch loved God and walked and talked with Him. Enoch lived to be 365 years old, yet he was still serving God and doing right. He did not die; God just took Him to be in heaven with Him.

Finally, because the people were so wicked, God had a plan to destroy the whole world. He would cause it to rain, and water would cover the earth. Then God remembered Noah, and knew that he walked pleasing in His sight. Noah also taught his three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth to live for God.

Sometimes God talked to Noah. One day He told Noah His plan to flood the earth, and cause every living creature to die. "Because you love me and live right, you and your family will be saved from the flood," God said to Noah.

—Aunt Dot

Lesson 1, July 1, 1984

LIVING TO PLEASE GOD

Gen. 5:22 And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters:

23 And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years:

Heb. 11:5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

Gen. 6:5 And God saw 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.

10 And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

11 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.

12 And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.

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.

Luke 17:26 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

28 Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded.

Memory Verse: Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. Matt. 5:48.

Questions:

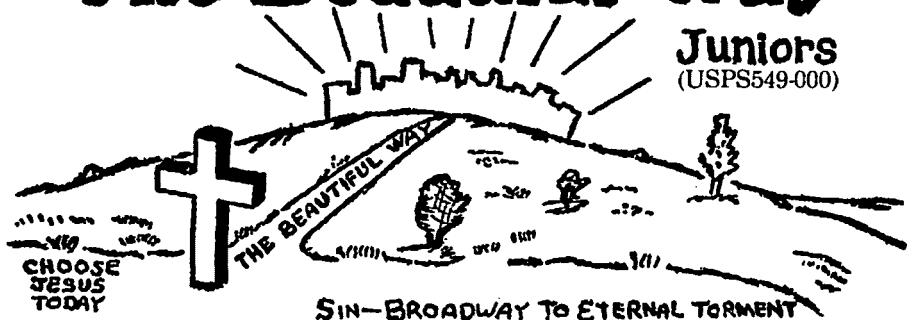
1. Can God see all we do and hear all we say?
2. Should we be careful and live to please Him?
3. Was God sorry He made man? Why?
4. Did God still love the people?
5. Who walked and talked with God, but did not die?
6. How old was Enoch when God took him?
7. Did Noah live pleasing to God?
8. What was God's plan to destroy the world?
9. Why did He want to do this?
10. Who was to be saved from the flood?

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Bible Search: What men journeyed from the east? *Answer next week.*

Answer to last week's question: Mt. Horeb. Ex. 3:1.

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Part 2

July 8

The Man of His Counsel

(Continued From Last Lesson)

What Joe feared was really true, and after the morning's service, before dismissing the congregation, Preacher Brumbaugh stated that he desired to meet the official board of the church. As Joe was one of the official board, of course he remained with the others. He was entirely ignorant of the order of the meeting, but was kept in ignorance just a short time, for after the others had left Preacher Brumbaugh explained to the board why the meeting had been called. First he read Matt. 18:15-17, and then clearing his throat said, "It might be that some of you do not know why I have called this meeting, but I shall explain. I know that some of you understand, for I have fully explained it and have found some of you feel the same as I do, and believe that this meeting is necessary."

At this Joe spoke up and said, "I am sure that I do not know why it is necessary for a special meeting, but perhaps some of you may know and I am always willing to meet at any time. I am sure if it is to settle any grievance, that can be easily done on my part, for I have nothing against anybody."

"I wish that all were that way," replied Preacher Brumbaugh, "but as you are the one who has brought the grievance among us I trust you shall be as good as your word and be ready to settle it."

"I brought a grievance?" said Joe in a surprised tone of voice, although light had begun to dawn upon him. "I am sure I do not know in what way I have wronged any of you and I am more than anxious to learn."

Preacher Brumbaugh seemed very nervous. Turning from one side to the other in his seat, he said, "We are coming to you as the Bible instructs us to come. I learned that you have not only disgraced your profession among us but you have forfeited your right as a member of our official board and even as a member among us unless you can undo some of the wrong that you have done to yourself, to the official board, and to the church."

At this Joe rose to his feet and said, "If I have wronged anyone I am here to rectify that wrong if I possibly can, but I must first know the nature of that wrong."

"Amen," said Preacher Brumbaugh. "I felt that you had been just a little

excited and would soon come to your senses, for you have been too sensible a man to have been led very far wrong. The charge against you is that of heresy, for you told me when I visited you last week that you had never been a Christian until last Sunday night, although you have been a member of our church for a number of years. In saying this you cast a reflection upon yourself, your official board, upon me, and upon the entire church. I have taken the steps which I just read to you. I went to you privately and you failed to hear me, and now I have you with these brethren here and we are ready to hear what you have to say."

Joe stood for some time at a loss to know just what to say, but at last the Scripture which he read that morning came to him, that when he was brought before magistrates to take no thought of what should be said for God would give in that time the things that were needed, and as he opened his mouth to make reply he became lost to his surroundings and to the passing of time. For a half hour he stood before those men, telling them of his life, his inability to control himself at times, and of the longing that had been in his soul really to know he was right with God and ready to meet Him at any time. He then told of his visit to Preacher Brumbaugh and his admonition and of the godly life that had been lived before him all summer, and then of his own surrender to God and the perfect satisfaction he had in his soul, the peace that had come and the week of perfect victory. At last, looking about him, he said, "Men, I want to tell you I never have been able to pray until last Sunday night. But after God spoke peace to my soul I felt that I was in touch with heaven and I could pray. I never prayed before. I only repeated words, but I really prayed last Sunday night and

have been praying all week and it has really brought satisfaction to my soul."

Here Preacher Brumbaugh interrupted him by saying, "You are trying to get too good, but I don't think that you have sprouted wings yet even if you do say that you touched heaven." The men all laughed at this but Joe found nothing to laugh at, for his soul was burning, he felt the presence of the Lord with him so strongly. Turning to Preacher Brumbaugh he said, "I do not fear I shall ever be too good, but I see that I have been living beneath my privileges and I was not satisfied with such a life. I could never say, 'I know that I have passed from death unto life because I love the brethren,' for I did not do it. There are some in the church that I did not love and one on the official board that I hated until last Sunday night." And, turning to Mr. Peters, he said, "Mr. Peters, I love you now."

At this Preacher Brumbaugh said, "We have done all we can do, brethren. You see he is not willing to hear us; so we shall have to take the next step and bring it before the church." Turning to Joe again, he said, "Now, Brother Holmieri, aren't you willing to give up these ideas and be as you have always been among us? You know you need the church and the church needs you, but much as we want you to stay among us we cannot forfeit the faith of our fathers for some new-fangled whim. Now, all we are asking of you is to be sensible and be as you have always been. Aren't you willing to do that?"

"God forbid that I ever shall be as I have been for so many years," exclaimed Joe hastily; "for I have been burdened down with a profession of Christianity, trying to make myself think that I was all right because I had been baptized and lived up to the teachings of the church. I have carried a heavy load on my soul for some time, but I can say now, Thank God, for I know what it

means to be right with God, for He has spoken peace to my soul and I can truthfully say, 'I know that I have passed from death unto life because I love the brethren.' In this I do not feel that I have wronged anyone and I am sure that I shall never consent to go back to a life of burdens when there is such freedom in store for me."

Here Preacher Brumbaugh spoke again: "But, Brother Holmier, in your statements you deny the faith of this church and by so doing forfeit the right to any fellowship among us. We have done all that is required of us thus far and the next step will be to bring the matter before the entire church."

"You may do as you like," replied Joe, "but the way I can see things it seems strange to me that you were willing to extend fellowship to me when I know that I was not right with God, and now that I can tell you that God has pardoned my sins and the peace of God has come into my soul you are ready to set me aside. You may do as you like but of this thing I am sure—you cannot destroy my peace with God."

"That is all right and you may take your choice, but we cannot forfeit the faith of our fathers for some religious whim of one of the official board," indignantly replied Preacher Brumbaugh.

(To Be Continued)

Soap and Sin

Some little tots take only one or two licks of a bar of soap and decide it isn't good to eat. Some have to take a bite or two before they learn. Other tots have to get soap in their teeth and all on their tongues before they really learn that soap doesn't taste good and then it takes them a while to wash out the awful taste. There are some little tots who never learn that soap is not to eat

and will take a bite of it every time they bathe.

Young people, learn that the wickedness of sin is not good. Take the advice of older saints, of the ministers, and don't go deep into sin to "learn for yourself." That is not wise.

The little tot who takes only one or two licks of the soap is *much* happier than the one who has to wash out his mouth over and over to get the taste out. So it is with sin. Those who stay free of it from the very beginning have no bitter regrets to forget over and over. Be wise. Don't eat the "soap of sin."

—C.S.

Dear Boys and Girls:

When we hear that we are going on a trip, we start to plan a long while before it is time to go, especially if it is to be a long trip and we are going to be away for many days.

We take care that we will have enough money so we don't run out before we get home. Then we make sure our vacation time is scheduled for that time. Maybe you have baby-sitting, gardening jobs, or a paper route. You will have to see that arrangements are made about them. Also, we think of the clothes to take with us. Dad and Mom will have the paper and mail discontinued. Plants and grass will need to be watered while we are away. So you see that there are many things to think about and do before we can get in the car or plane or train to be on our way.

The world had become so sinful that God was sorry He had made man. He planned to cause it to rain and destroy the people and all living creatures.

God remembered Noah and that he was a righteous man, living to please Him. Noah had also taught his sons to live right. God told Noah to build an ark, or large boat. Then Noah and his family could be saved from the flood,

because they would be in the ark. Noah was to take two of each animal, male and female, into the ark with them.

God told Noah just how to build the ark. There was to be a door on the side and a window in the top. Rooms were to be in the ark for Noah and his family and the different creatures. He was to bring much food for all of them.

While Noah built the ark, he preached to the people, saying, "It is going to rain; you will be destroyed. You must get ready to be in the ark."

The people didn't believe it would rain. They just laughed and said, "You are a funny man to build an ark on the dry ground."

After a long time the ark was finished. God caused the animals to go in the ark two by two. Then Noah and his family went in. God shut the door, and they were all safe.

God's Word tells us to be ready to meet Jesus when He calls us. We need to get saved so that we will be prepared to go to heaven. Jesus' blood covers us and keeps us safe, just as the ark kept all that were in it. —Aunt Dot

Lesson 2, July 8, 1984

BE PREPARED

Gen 6:12 And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.

Gen. 7:1 And the Lord said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.

13 In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark.

14 They, and every beast after his kind, and all the cattle after their kind, and every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind, and every fowl after his kind, every bird of every sort.

15 And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life.

16 And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the Lord shut him in.

17 And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark and it was lift up above the earth.

Memory Verse: Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. Matt. 24:44.

Questions:

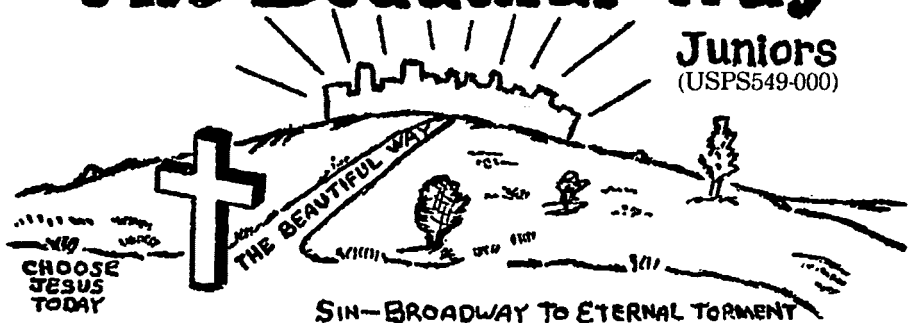
1. Was God pleased with all the sin in the world?
2. Was He sorry He made men?
3. What did He plan to do?
4. Why was Noah and his family saved from the flood?
5. What was to happen to all of the creatures on the earth?
6. What did God tell Noah to build? Tell how it was made.
7. How are we to be prepared to go to heaven?
8. What does the blood of Jesus do for us?

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Bible Search: How did the children of Israel know when to go while in the wilderness? *Answer next week.*

Answer to last week's question: The three wise men. Matt. 2:1.

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Part 3

July 15

The Man of His Counsel

(Continued From Last Lesson)

A HERETIC

One would conclude after the meeting of the morning with the official board that Joe would not want to return and try to worship with such a people, but that was not the case, for on the evening of the same day he again went to the little chapel for the evening's service. But as Joe passed Brother Brumbaugh at the door there was no hearty response to his "good-evening" and no hand shake. As Joe reached out his hand Preacher Brumbaugh was, for some reason, attracted by something or other on the far side of the room, and so turned and walked away. A feeling of sadness seized Joe as he sat down beside some of the brethren, for there was no one to extend a hand to him.

As Joe looked over the audience he could see knowing glances exchanged and as others came in and would look his way he could also see nudging of elbows. How lonely he felt and how much he desired to be near Susie, but as it was the custom among his particular faith for the men to occupy one

side of the house and the women the other when they came together for worship it would be unseemly for him to try to get to her now. Joe's voice had always been heard during song service and his rich, deep bass was an asset to the singing, but this evening Joe's voice was not heard. There was no freedom for him. As they knelt for prayer tears flowed freely down his cheeks, for here he was among his neighbors and some of them refusing to look his way or give him a friendly hand-shake. While kneeling there among those whom he felt were trying to do him harm Joe again lifted his heart to the Lord and felt an assurance that God had heard and all would be well.

Another song after prayer and Preacher Brumbaugh arose to deliver the sermon for the evening, taking for his text the eighth verse of the first chapter of Galatians, reading it the third time, and each time laying more stress upon it. "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." It did not take Joe long to grasp what the trend of the preacher's thoughts for the evening's discourse was. He had here-

tofore been very quiet in his mode of delivery, but now he began to tell the congregation of the danger that was before them and he began to wax bold.

Becoming heated with the thought of one coming among them teaching other than the doctrine which he had preached he made no choice of words and some were shocked at the language he used. At last turning to Joe and pointing his finger at him, he said, "Do you hear what the Scriptures have to say about such as you—let him be accursed?"

Turning to the audience again, the preacher said, "We are taking the third step toward an offending brother, the step of bringing the matter before the church," and he then repeated the results of his visit with Joe alone and the conference with the official board that morning, saying, "And now we take the third and last step of bringing the matter before the church. It is with much sadness of heart that we do this, but if Brother Holmier, or rather Neighbor Holmier, had only been willing to heed the warning given by me and by others this step would not need to have been taken. Much as we regret this loss we must bear in mind that the faith of our fathers cannot be lightly thrown away for the religious whim of some particular individual. You have heard the grievances that have been brought before you, and so we shall now put it to vote as to what shall be done about it. Shall we keep one who is advocating false doctrine? Shall we forfeit the faith of our fathers for the religious whim of one member of our church? A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump, and unless the leaven is disposed of the entire body is in danger of destruction.

"We shall now take the procedure to have the church as a body settle the question. In this case it is not only one proving himself a traitor but by his influence he has led his good wife astray also. We do not know how many

more will be led astray unless we make him an example as to what will befall those who forfeit the faith of the fathers.

"It is supporters of the faith that we need. I trust that I have said enough that all may know that we are in grave danger unless some steps are taken to stop heresy among us. We can only deal with this offender as with a heretic or a traitor. We now want the vote of the church. Shall we retain him or shall we exclude him from our midst?"

Joe sat as one transfixed while Preacher Brumbaugh spoke to the audience branding him as a traitor and a heretic, while poor Susie and some more of the sisters wept aloud. She saw the predicament they were now in; they must either deny their new found joy and the real knowledge of God or be excluded from the church. She looked at Joe as he sat across the room from her and her heart warmed to him as never before for she knew it wasn't right for him to bear all the blame and she thanked God for such a husband that would remain quiet under such trying circumstances. She decided in her heart that as soon as services ended she would tell Preacher Brumbaugh Joe was no more to blame than she was and she wanted to bear part of the accusation and not have it all heaped upon Joe. She looked around the room which was now in perfect quietness. At last she saw Brother Metzgar rise to his feet and, leaning on his cane, he said, "I think before any of us decide what steps to take against Brother Holmier we should hear him speak for himself."

"I do not think that is necessary as it might only cause confusion and we are here to avoid all of that," hastily replied Preacher Brumbaugh. "We met with the Holmiers this morning and he plainly stated that he would not acknowledge any wrong on his part and

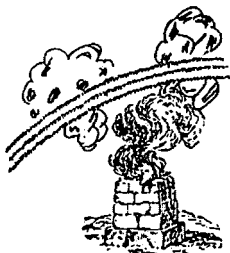
would still have to say that he was living up to all the rules of this church and was no Christian until last Sunday night. I think that is bringing disgrace on the church and rank heresy and furthermore by these statements he has forfeited all rights to our fellowship."

"But I feel that we should hear him for ourselves," replied Brother Metzgar, "for I should not want to act hastily and want fully to understand the situation before voicing my sentiments."

As there were nods from many others in the audience there was nothing left for Preacher Brumbaugh to do but to give Joe an opportunity to speak for himself. Joe arose before the people to tell his experience. He stood for some little time gazing about him while he lifted his soul to God in prayer for help and strength. At last he began to speak and his voice shook with emotion, but he talked on, telling of his experience as one among them but of the heavy burden that he carried all the time. It seemed he left nothing unsaid and many were weeping with him and his wife (for his tears flowed freely as he spoke), but when he came to that part of his story of his deliverance his tears no longer ran down his face; a light came there that was noticeable to all and he became bold in his assertions that it meant more to be really free before the Lord than in mere outward form.

(To Be Continued)

LESSON ILLUSTRATION



Dear Boys and Girls:

Can you explain the word *covenant*? Your mother might say, "Will you do the dishes for me, Mary? You may then go to your friend's house." Or maybe Father will tell Donny, "Please rake the grass, and then I'll take you to the park." A covenant is an agreement, or a promise to another person.

After Noah, his family, and all living and creeping creatures were in the ark, God shut the door. God caused it to start to rain—it rained forty days and forty nights. As the rain fell, the lakes and rivers filled up, and water covered the whole earth. As the waters got deeper, the ark began to float. All were safe that were in the ark, but those who were not in the ark were destroyed.

When the rains stopped, God caused a wind to blow to help the waters to go down. At the end of six months the ark rested on Mt. Ararat. Noah waited, and then opened the window of the ark. He sent a raven from the ark, but this bird didn't come back. He sent a dove out three times. The first time, the dove came back because it found no place to stop besides the ark. The second time the dove came back with an olive leaf in its mouth. The last time the bird didn't come back, so Noah knew there was dry land.

God spoke to Noah, "Come out of the ark, Noah, with your wife, sons, their wives, and every living creature." Noah opened the door and they all stepped out on dry ground. How thankful they were to be alive! Noah built an altar and they worshiped God.

God said, "I will never again flood the whole earth." He made a beautiful rainbow in the sky. "This is for a sign of my covenant with you. When you see my bow, we will remember my covenant."

If you should see a rainbow in the sky, remember that this is God's prom-

ise to never flood the whole earth again.
—Aunt Dot

Lesson 3, July 15, 1984

RAINBOW IN THE SKY

Gen. 8:15 And God spake unto Noah, saying,

16 Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons' wives with thee.

17 Bring forth with thee every living thing that is with thee, of all flesh, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth; that they may breed abundantly in the earth, and be fruitful, and multiply upon the earth.

18 And Noah went forth, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him:

19 Every beast, every creeping thing, and every fowl, and whatsoever creepeth upon the earth, after their kinds, went forth out of the ark.

20 And Noah builded an altar unto the Lord; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

21 And the Lord smelled a sweet savour; and the Lord said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

22 While the earth remaineth, seed-time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

Gen. 9:11 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: And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you. . . . Gen. 9:15.

Questions:

1. How many days and nights did it rain?
2. Who was in the ark?
3. Were they all saved from the flood?
4. What kind of bird did Noah send out first?
5. Did this bird come back to the ark?
6. The next bird was a dove. How many times did he send it out?
7. Where was the window in the ark?
8. What was the first thing Noah did when he came out of the ark?
9. What was the promise that God gave Noah?
10. What is the sign God gives us to remind us of His promise?

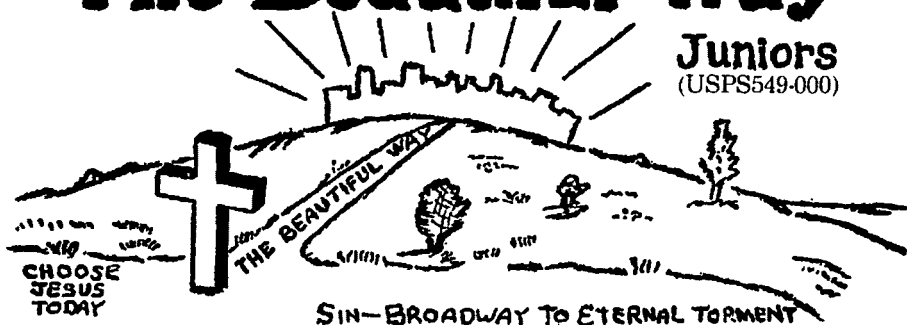
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Bible Search: Who wanted his father-in-law to go with him as he led the Israelites? *Answer next week.*

Last week's answer: When the cloud lifted. Ex. 40:36.

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Vol. 35, No. 3

July, Aug., Sept., 1984

Part 4

July 22

The Man of His Counsel

(Continued From Last Lesson)

When Joe sat down all were surprised to see Susie rise to her feet and begin speaking. She had always been such a timid woman but she too waxed bold as she added her testimony to that of her husband and concluded with, "I do not want anyone of you to think that he influenced me to do anything, for he did not. I, too, have been burdened for some time but did not let him know anything about it even though he talked freely to me about his own condition. I never knew until last Sunday night what it really means to be converted."

When Susie sat down there was no sound heard in the room except the heavy breathing of some of the little children who had gone to sleep. Preacher Brumbaugh sat looking at the floor, while others cast glances about them. At last Brother Metzgar arose to his feet again and, clearing his throat, said, "I will have to say as did Pilate, 'I find no fault in this man,' for if I should find fault with him I should have to find fault with myself, for he has given my own experience. I know what he means when he tells of the burden that

he carried for so long and I know what he means when he tells us that he prayed and reached God so that the burden was lifted. I find no fault with him, and if he was never a Christian until last Sunday night we should be glad to keep him with us now, for he can do more good among us."

"Not when he brings a doctrine other than the gospel that we have preached unto you," said Preacher Brumbaugh as Brother Metzgar took his seat.

Here Aunt Sally Pobst rose to her feet and in her squeaky voice said, "Yes, and I know what Brother Holmier is talking about, too. You all know me, for I have lived here among you almost all my life and I have been a member of this church for thirty-five years. I joined this church with my husband when I was first married and lived in the church as a good member for ten years, but when my little girl died I became burdened like Brother Holmier said he was, for I was afraid I was not ready to meet that little girl again and I did not want to have to spend all the rest of my life away from her and then not be able to go where she was. The more I thought on this the heavier the burden became and at last I just cried out to God to

help me and make me to know that I the gospel you will not stand by Neighbor Holmier for he is a heretic and a traitor to the faith, as you have heard him state this evening. This is going to be a test of loyalty. All who feel that he has forfeited his right as one of us in that he has denied the faith and by so doing has made himself a heretic and a traitor to the cause and the faith for which we stand, will you please rise to your feet and stand with me?"

At this all the official board rose to their feet first and were soon followed by others, until sixty members were on their feet, standing until Preacher Brumbaugh could count the number. "That will do," said he. "Now, I shall give the remainder of you a chance to show your colors. How many of you favor retaining Neighbor Holmier among us—rise to your feet." At this Aunt Sally Pobst and Brother Metzgar both rose, and Brother Metzgar said again, "I find no fault in him." A number of the members present did not vote either way. There was a pause for some time after the last expression among the members but Preacher Brumbaugh turned to Joe and said, "You see how impossible it is for one to be a heretic or a traitor to God's cause among such loyalty as there is here. I trust that you may be an example to others that they may fear to bring disgrace on the faith. You may consider yourself an alien and an outcast among us from this time on." Then, asking the congregation to arise, he pronounced, "And now may the love of the Father, the saving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Spirit, rest and abide with us all, now and forevermore. Amen."

"God forbid that I shall ever have to carry such a burden another day such as I have carried for the last few months," said Joe.

Here Preacher Brumbaugh's face reddened and, pointing his finger at Joe said, "It is not necessary to hear any more from you, for you have caused enough contention for one evening." Then turning to the audience he said, "We want to see who will be loyal to the faith. If you are willing to stand by

Joe and Susie had very little to say to each other on their way home from services that evening as each was busy with his own thoughts, but after they had put the children to bed Joe picked up the Bible from the table, gathered it to his bosom, and heavy sobs shook his

frame. The two knelt together and with their arms about each other, with the tears flowing freely over their cheeks they asked God to help them at this time and draw them closer to Him and to each other, to give them grace for this trial and lead them into the thing that He required of them to do, asking also for the Scripture they needed that evening. Joe opened his Bible and began to read from the thirteenth chapter of Hebrews. As he read he felt that God would surely help him in this, his first trial. When he reached the latter clause of the fifth verse he let his faith rest on the promise, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." At the close of the sixth verse as he read, "So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me," he could get no further but, walking to and fro in the room, he shouted the praises of God, for the blessing of the Lord flowed down into his soul. Again folding the Bible to his bosom he said, "I thank thee, Lord, that I can take thy Word as the man of my counsel."

(To Be Continued)

Little Acts of Kindness

Think of something kind to do,
Never mind if it is small;
Little things are lost to view,
But God sees and blesses all.

Violets, wee, are modest flowers,
Hiding in their beds of green,
But their perfume fills the bowers,
Though they scarcely can be seen.

So do little acts, we find
Which at first we may not see,
Leave the fragrance pure behind,
Of abiding charity.

LESSON ILLUSTRATION



Dear Boys and Girls:

Maybe you are going to have to be moving away. How sad you feel! Maybe you have lived here most of your life. You know so many people, and you are so familiar with the stores, library, parks, etc. You feel that you have the best teacher that you could possibly have. You'll miss so many of your school friends.

Everything will be so different. You're afraid that you won't have any friends. "What will my teachers be like? Will I like them as well?" All these things make you feel afraid, don't they? If we look to Jesus and ask Him to help us, I know He'll lead the way and make it as easy as we'll let Him.

After Abram's father, Terah, died at Haran, God spoke to him saying, "I want you to leave your father's house, and go to a place I will show you. There I will bless you and make you a blessing. You shall become a great nation."

Abram wondered how he could become a great nation because as yet, Abram and Sarai had no children. He believed God, however, and made plans to do as God had told him. Leaving his

brother, Nahor and his family, Abram took Sarai, his nephew, Lot, and their servants. Driving their flocks and herds they started out to follow the leading of God. Eventually, they came to the plain of Moreh, at Sichem.

God spoke to Abram again. "This is the land I will give to you and your children." At this place Abram built an altar and worshiped God. —Aunt Dot

Lesson 4, July 22, 1984

ABRAM BELIEVES GOD

Gen. 12:1 Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

4 So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

5 And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.

6 And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land.

7 And the Lord appeared unto Abram and said, Unto thy seed will I give this

land: and there builded he an altar unto the Lord, who appeared unto him.

8 And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the Lord, and called upon the name of the Lord.

9 And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south.

Heb. 11:8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

Gal. 3:6 Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

Memory Verse: But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it. Luke 11:28.

Questions:

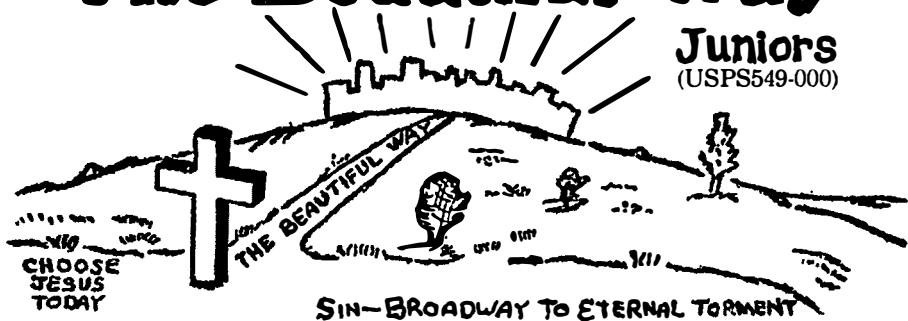
1. Who spoke to Abram?
2. What did He tell Abram to do?
3. Did Abram make plans to go?
4. What was his brother's son's name?
5. Would Abram's children become a nation if he obeyed God?
6. At this time did Abram and Sarai have any children?
7. Did Abram believe God?
9. Where did God speak to him again?
10. What did Abram build and do at this place?

Bible Search: When did an angel shut the mouths of animals? *Answer next week.*

Last week's answer: Moses. Numbers 10:29.

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Part 5

July 29

The Man of His Counsel

(Continued From Last Lesson)

THE TEMPERANCE SOCIETY

The mid-week cottage prayer meeting was well attended by the members of his faith the Wednesday evening following the vote to withdraw fellowship from Joe and his wife, for the news had spread in this local community and there were many curiosity seekers at the meeting desirous to find just what Joe would do. He had been called upon also by several of his neighbors and friends and the subject had been discussed both pro and con among the neighbors. All were curious to know just what Joe would have to say about it at the meeting; so all were there.

Although Joe was hurt to the heart's core, with the hurt came a feeling of pity for his persecutors and he refrained from speaking about the subject to his neighbors who called, for he felt that those who had dealt with him were in the same condition that he was in prior to his conversion and had it not been for the overpersuasion of Preacher Brumbaugh he felt that they would not have voted to excommunicate him. So he

talked little but prayed much before the prayer meeting.

As the neighbors came together, instead of finding a man who was wearing a cast-down expression they looked upon the face of a man wearing a sparkling countenance, for Joe had risen above the trial and was rejoicing in the victory. He had opened his Bible and read, "Commit thy ways unto the Lord, trust also in him and he will bring it to pass," and he had committed it all to God and was now just trusting Him to bring it to pass in the way that would please Him and be glorifying to His name. Joe's confidence in God inspired faith in Susie also and she stood by his side, promising to go through with him, come what may.

The clear soprano of Susie and the rich, deep bass of Joe was heard in every song, and their prayers were heard among the others. To the surprise of some they asked God to bless those who were persecuting them and in some way open the way that the light which now shone within their own souls could reach them. Their testimony was one of praise to God and of confidence in Him. During the entire evening nothing was said about the church trial the Sunday eve-

ning before. As those present looked upon Joe they concluded that he did not care what had been done to him, but none knew what a battle had been fought and what a victory had been won. Joe stood before that crowd that Wednesday evening as a conqueror, for such he was. He was asking God to direct him to a people among whom he could worship, for he knew it would be impossible to try to worship among those people again. How confident he felt in the Lord as he stood before these people on this particular night!

Among those present at the prayer meeting was a stranger whom no one knew. He came alone and did not arrive until prayer meeting had begun, but as the services drew near to a close he made his way to the center of the room and began to tell why he was there. He had come to Newton, a small town near Steele's Crossing, as a representative of the Anti-Saloon League, and while there had learned that there was a saloon at Steele's Crossing, although it was only a cross-road in the country with a store, a blacksmith shop, a shoe-shop, a school-house, a community house, post office, doctor's office, and five dwellings. The storekeeper had charge of the post office, and the doctor's office comprised two rooms of his house; the main business houses of the little crossroads town were the store, the blacksmith shop, and the little shoe-shop, which was a little room adjoining the saloon. About one-half mile from the Crossing was the little chapel where Joe and Susie had been worshipping since coming into the community.

The saloon had been there for a number of years, and although many had spoken of it as a menace none knew there could be steps taken to rid the country of it. The stranger of the evening told his hearers how he had heard of the prayer meeting and thought it a good time to meet with them and ar-

range some plans for the closing of the saloon doors. He told them he would meet with them the following Sunday evening in the community house at Steele's Crossing and organize a Temperance Society, stating further that he had organized one at Newton and would send them speakers from time to time and furnish information as needed to rid the community of the saloon. All hands were raised as he called for an expression from those present to meet with him the following Sunday evening.

They met. The news had spread all over the country, and the community house was full to overflowing. Every seat was taken; the aisles were full, and the windows and door crowded with listeners. The doctor was there, a prominent figure among them, and the saloon-keeper's wife and eldest daughter occupied one of the front seats. The visitor at the prayer meeting, who was Mr. Neal, asked for a song and opened the services. At the close of the song he pointed to Joe and, not knowing his name, he said, "We will ask this brother to lead us in prayer." Some knelt, some bowed their heads, and others stood up. Joe knelt and prayed as he would have prayed had he been alone with his God. After prayer Mr. Neal began to address the people of Steele's Crossing. Some had come thinking they would hear him bemoan the saloon-keeper, but such was not so, for he only set forth the evils of intoxicants and the menace of the open saloon in the community, the danger of it for the youth. All listened attentively, and when he informed them as to ways to rid the country of this menace to their youth many were eager to get into the fight. He informed them that since meeting with them on the previous Wednesday evening he had made some investigation and found that the license for the saloon would soon expire and if they

would only organize and follow the petition for the saloon with a remonstrance against it they could prevail on the court and no license would be granted. When he called for members the doctor's name was enrolled first of all, followed by a number of others, among them Joe and Alfred. While some were enrolling Joe stepped over to Alfred and said, "Why could we not hold services here every Sunday night?"

"That would be a very good idea," replied Alfred, as a smile spread over his face. "I shall speak to the crowd about it before we dismiss." This he did, announcing services for the following Sunday evening.

Mr. Neal took his departure but something else had started in that temperance meeting that would stir the entire community for miles around. At the first Sunday evening service the suggestion was made that they abandon the cottage prayer meetings and congregate in the community house instead. This they did and soon not only were they having prayer meetings and Sunday evening services but a Sunday School was organized with Joe as superintendent. As Alfred was given the responsibility of finding someone to preach to them on Sunday evenings he was kept busy. Often he was unable to find anyone, so he had to take charge of the services himself, and in this way he advanced rapidly, and he did not lack for hearers.

Alfred and Tillie were good singers, and with some practice Joe, Susie, Alfred, and Tillie composed a quartet and rendered some special songs at each service. They were known as the "Steele's Crossing Quartet." They were kept busy, and so all were happy, and many calls came to them to sing at different meetings. Joe felt happy in his work, for he felt that he was doing something for God. Although he knew that he could not get such good thoughts to present

to people as did Alfred, he felt confident within himself that he could sing the gospel as well as Alfred, for his rich, deep bass rang out clearly and he put his whole soul into his singing. He sang from the sentiment of his heart real praises to his God.

(To Be Continued)

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"Home is where your heart is." Exactly! And my heart is in heaven! Is yours?

-----o-----
Dear Boys and Girls:

Sometimes I have noticed little boys and girls who have many toys all around them. They love to play with other children, but it is so hard for them to share their playthings with other children, especially if the toy is a "special" doll or truck. They are being selfish with their things when they don't share.

Abram and Lot were in Egypt for a while, because of the famine in Canaan. When they returned to Bethel in Canaan, Abram was a rich man. He had many cattle, and silver, and gold. Lot, his nephew, also had many flocks and herds.

It wasn't long before the servants of Abram and Lot began to quarrel. It was so hard to find good grass and plenty of water for all of the animals. When Abram heard of the trouble, he felt sorry for them. As he looked over the land, he knew how hard it must be.

Abram told Lot, "Let's not quarrel nor allow our servants to quarrel. It is hard for them to find good places for the animals to feed and water. Choose which way you want to go. If you go west, I will go east. If you choose to go east, I'll go west." God had promised all the land to Abram. He could have chosen the best.

Lot chose the east country, towards the Jordan River. He thought, "I will always have green grass and plenty of

water. Then I will become rich." He forgot how kind Abram had been to him.

When Lot left Abram with all his flocks and herds, God once again spoke to Abram. "Look out across all the land: to the north, south, east, and west. I will give all this land that you see to you and your children." Abram and Sarai had no children, but Abram believed God.

—Aunt Dot

Lesson 5, July 29, 1984

ABRAM AND LOT SEPARATE

Gen. 13:2 And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.

5 And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents.

6 And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together.

7 And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle, and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land.

8 And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren.

9 Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.

10 And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.

11 Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and

they separated themselves the one from the other.

14 And the Lord said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:

15 For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.

1 Tim. 6:9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

Memory Verse: For the love of money is the root of all evil. . . . 1 Tim. 6:10a.

Questions:

1. Why were Abram and Lot in Egypt?
2. When they came to Canaan, were they rich?
3. What were some things they had?
4. Was Lot Abram's nephew?
5. Why did their servants quarrel?
6. What did Abram do when he heard of the trouble?
7. What did he tell Lot to do?
8. Why did Lot choose to move by the Jordan River?
9. Was this a wise choice?
10. When God spoke to Abram again, what did He tell him to do?
11. Whose land was it that Abram saw?
12. Did Abram believe God?

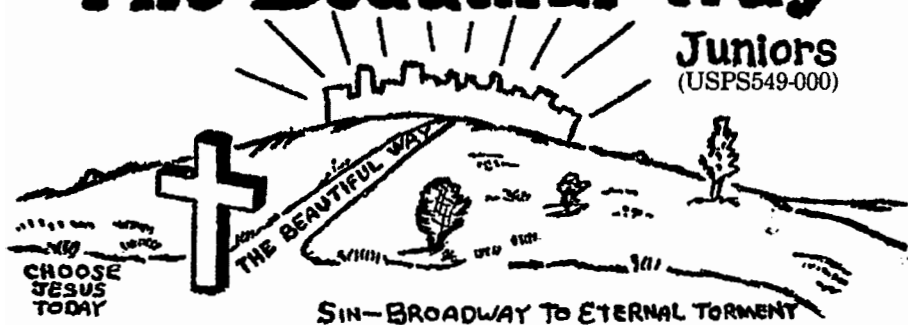
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Bible Search: When did a man's face look like an angel's? *Answer next week.*

Last week's answer: In the lions' den. Dan. 6:22.

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Part 6

Aug. 5

The Man of His Counsel

(Continued From Last Lesson)

Although Joe's name and that of his wife had been erased from the church ledger, they still attired themselves in the peculiar dress of that faith. Joe still wore the broad-brimmed, flat crown hat and Susie the black bonnet, with the little white cap. But at the community house there was no question asked as to any particular faith. It was a community house, a community prayer meeting, and community Sunday School, and all worked together, and God worked among them. The meetings were well attended, and the speakers who were sent to them by the Anti-Saloon League marveled at the number who attended the meetings at such an out-of-the-way place.

If Joe had been considered a model before his conversion he was looked upon as a marvel now, for he looked for the opportunity to return good for evil, and many a favor was granted by him to those who had been his persecutors. In this way he won them to himself, and Preacher Brumbaugh saw his congregation diminish one by one as his followers attended services at the com-

munity house. Old Brother Metzgar and Aunt Sally Pobst were Joe's strong supporters, and Joe's kindnesses to his neighbors brought many of them to the services. Joe said little, but prayed much. In this way he became powerful in prayer. He had his secret place of prayer in a room of his granary. One day one of his neighbors came to see him and inquired of Susie his whereabouts, to which she replied, "He has just gone to the barn, and I am sure that you will find him out there somewhere." The neighbor found Joe there, but he was in the granary, and the neighbor listened while Joe asked God to bless his neighbors and their children and then asked for grace for himself and his family. The neighbor stood for one-half hour waiting for Joe, and as he left he remarked to another neighbor, "That Joe Holmier is the prayingest man I have ever seen."

A REVIVAL MEETING

One year had passed since Mr. Neal had met with the folks in the community house at Steele's Crossing. The Temperance Society had not been organized in vain for when Jake Blaum, the saloon-keeper, circulated another petition to renew his license, leaders of the so-

ciety circulated a remonstrance against it and when Jake went to present his petition to the court he found a number of the members of the Temperance Society present also. With more than a two-third majority of the population of the community remonstrating the license was not granted.

The old saloon was abandoned and the Blaum family moved away to a small town about ten miles distant where Blaum bought a saloon from another man and continued in the saloon business. The old saloon building at Steele's Crossing was only an empty hull now. As soon as it was vacated it became a target for mischievous boys, and the windows with their broken glasses told of a battle where rocks had been used as a means of defense. Boards were nailed over the windows and the door, and the old building bore a dejected appearance. The old shoe-cobbler moved his place of business also when Jake Blaum left the community and now occupied a small room in the rear of the store, which was also the post office.

The community house had also undergone a change, but not such as the saloon building. A new coat of paint had been given to it and the old benches had been replaced with comfortable pews. Cracked window panes had given place to new ones, a new carpet was laid in the aisle, and new chairs were placed on the rostrum. The woodwork inside the building was well varnished and the walls neatly papered. As this was a community house all felt that they could contribute to it that it might be repaired. Joe saw the Sunday School grow from twenty-six to an average of eighty-three. All the services were well attended. Alfred was a leading man among them. When no minister could be found to hold services for them Alfred was their leader, and as he often had to take this responsibility he had become an interesting speaker.

Alfred and Tillie no longer lived in the house with Joe and Susie, for Joe's uncle had built a house for Alfred and they now lived to themselves. A baby boy had been added to their family and another baby girl had come into the Holmier home. Joe no longer went to church in the old wagon but in a new carriage, while Alfred and Tillie had a new buggy. The two men worked together during the week and then met together for worship on Sunday. It was easy for Joe to sit and listen to Alfred as he did his best to expound the Scripture, for Alfred's life was such before Joe that Joe knew Alfred was able to instruct others. All worshiped together in the little chapel without question of any religious differences. All were given freedom of religion and that without question. Joe and Susie needed not to be questioned as to their belief, for they still wore their peculiar dress. Alfred and Tillie had been converted in a Methodist revival and at the public altar and they held membership in the Methodist Church; but this was never mentioned.

Preacher Brumbaugh still pastored his little flock and was bold in exposing heresy and denouncing the mass of confusion that could be found at the community house at the crossing.

The Anti-Saloon League was not sending speakers to the crossing as often as when the Temperance Society had first been organized but the number who attended these meetings was reported through the neighborhood. As a speaker closed his service one evening he remarked to Alfred as he shook his hand before taking his departure, "I should think this place would be all right for some good man to hold you a revival. I have never seen such crowds in attendance in any rural district."

"I had thought of that," said Alfred, "but I do not know just what kind of man would suit this crowd. I am at a loss. Like a man at sea without a com-

pass, I know not which way to turn. If I should select some ministers and they would come in here with their particular way of preaching and their certain doctrine I am sure that it would work havoc among us. I cannot conduct a meeting myself for I have not the time to give to study that it would require for such work. I should like very much to see a revival here, for I am sure that it would do us all good."

At this the speaker of the evening laid his hand upon Alfred's shoulder and said, "I know the very man that you need for this place, and if you desire I shall have him get in touch with you by letter. He is a man who preaches Christ and not creed, and that is what you want."

"Yes, that is what I want and what will satisfy all the others, I am sure," replied Alfred. "When do you think that he might be able to hold a meeting for us?"

"I am not able to tell you that," replied the gentleman, "but if he has no other meetings to conduct soon, no doubt he will make this place right away, provided you want him. His name is Reed, and he lives near me. I shall see him on my way home. So if you care to have him to hold you a revival I shall speak to him and he can write you regarding it and tell you just when he will be free to come to you."

"Speak to him, by all means," hastily replied Alfred, "for if he is as you have recommended him to be I am sure he is the very man for the place."

"He is an 'A-number-one' speaker. I am sure that you will not lack for crowds, for he is a great entertainer. I shall speak to him on my way home."

(To Be Continued)

Dear Boys and Girls:

Once, when God spoke to Abram, He said, "You won't be called Abram any

more; you will be Abraham. Sarai also shall have her name changed. She will be called Sarah." Abraham and Sarah were to be the "father and mother of many nations."

Have you ever had some very special guests come to your house? Maybe it was your uncle and aunt whom you especially liked, and they really liked you. They might have brought you something that you had been wanting, or taken you to the zoo or park, or some place that you had been wanting to go. Because they were so special, you wanted to have everything just right for them.

Abraham was just that way when he saw the three men coming. I wonder if there were many guests to visit Abraham and Sarah. They lived far away from cities or towns. They didn't have houses like we do; they lived in tents because they had flocks and herds. When the animals had to have other grasses or more watering places, the tents could be taken down and moved with the animals.

Abraham ran to the men, bowed down, and invited them to stop and rest. While they rested, he had Sarah bake cakes and his servants to fix the best young calf. Abraham brought water to wash their feet. This was the custom in those days.

While they ate, one of the visitors told Abraham, "When I return, Sarah will have a child." When Sarah heard that she laughed. She thought, "Abraham and I are old. How can this be?"

The visitor said, "Why did Sarah laugh? Does she not know that there is nothing too hard for the Lord?"

When the time came, Sarah had a son just as God had promised. When God promises us something, let us hold fast and believe, and not laugh like Sarah did. God will always fulfill His promises.

—Aunt Dot

Lesson 6, April 5, 1984

ABRAHAM'S VISITORS

Gen. 17:5 Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee.

15 And God said unto Abraham, As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall her name be.

Gen. 18:1 And the Lord appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day;

2 And he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground,

3 And said, My Lord, if now I have found favour in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant:

4 Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree:

5 And I will fetch a morsel of bread, and comfort ye your hearts; after that ye shall pass on: for therefore are ye come to your servant. And they said, So do, as thou hast said.

9 And they said unto him, Where is Sarah thy wife? And he said, Behold, in the tent.

10 And he said, I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life; and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son. And Sarah heard it in the tent door, which was behind him.

11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old and well stricken in age; and it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women.

12 Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old

shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?

13 And the Lord said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old?

14 Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.

15 Then Sarah denied, saying, I laughed not; for she was afraid. And he said, Nay; but thou didst laugh.

Memory Verse: And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. Rom. 4:21.

Questions:

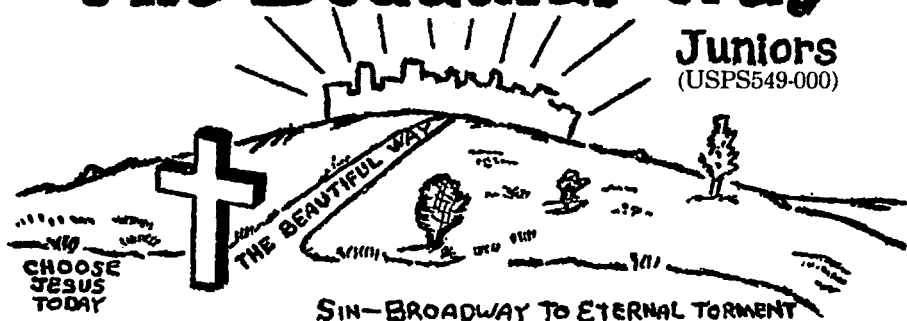
1. What were Abram's and Sarai's names changed to?
2. What did God say that they would be the father and mother of?
3. How many men did Abraham see coming to him?
4. Where was Abraham sitting when he saw the visitors?
5. Why did they live in tents?
6. What did Abraham ask the men to do?
7. What did Sarah and the servants fix for them?
8. What did the one visitor tell about Sarah?
9. Did she believe what he said?
10. What did she do and say?
11. What did the visitor say?
12. Do you think there is anything too hard for the Lord?

Bible Search: Who saw angels going up and down a ladder? *Answer next week.*

Last week's answer: Stephen, when he was being falsely tried. Acts 6:15.

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Vol. 35, No. 3

July, Aug., Sept., 1984

Part 7

Aug. 12

The Man of His Counsel

(Continued From Last Lesson)

The following Wednesday night at the mid-week prayer meeting Alfred mentioned to those present what the speaker of the Sunday evening before had told him and said that he was expecting a letter from Preacher Reed just any time and felt sure that he could tell them at their next meeting just when he would be able to come to them. When a vote was taken as to whether they desired him to come and hold a meeting then or later everyone voted that he should come just as soon as possible. When Alfred received a letter from him the next day stating that he had had to cancel one of his engagements in a certain town because of sickness and would be free to come to them at any time, Alfred wrote him that they would expect him to be present the following Monday evening and announced at the Sunday evening service that Preacher Reed would be there the following evening to begin a series of revival meetings.

Preacher Reed came, and the meeting began, with the crowds increasing from night to night until the house could not

hold all those who came. Many could not get in to hear him. As it was in late fall the weather was too cold for anyone to stand outside, so numbers would drive back home unable to get even standing room inside.

Preacher Reed was indeed a wonderful speaker. He spoke with liberty and as one who was thoroughly acquainted with God and lived in close touch with Him. He had preached but a few times when he gave an invitation for those who desired to seek the Lord to come forward. A number came and knelt at the altar for prayer. It was a real Holy Ghost meeting, where people became convicted of sin and knelt at the altar and prayed through to victory. Old-fashioned shouts were heard as God spoke peace to their souls. The meeting continued for four weeks and during this time hard-hearted men who had been at swords-points with each other met at an altar of prayer and, getting everything out of the way between them, prayed through. Long-tongued "gossipy" women straightened up their slanderous lies and made peace with each other and with God. Little children wept out their childish transgressions before the Lord and felt the smile of the Lord

upon their souls. The entire neighborhood was stirred. At the close of the meeting it was found that 104 had been to the altar, claiming the victory. Not all had come to the public altar for a number found the Lord at an altar in their own homes. It was truly a wonderful meeting.

Joe and Susie attended every night, and drank in the Word eagerly as it came from the man of God who was laboring so diligently among them. But the tradition of the elders had stayed with them and when the invitation for seekers was given they would go home. No instruction had ever been given to them. They had found the Lord at home, and the church they had attended all their life had never had a public altar, but rather condemned it. They could not take part in such services, for they felt it wrong. Those who claimed victory at the public altar were looked upon by Joe and Susie with suspicion, while to those who claimed to pray through in their own homes they were ready to extend fellowship, for these had received the victory just as had Joe and Susie. Preacher Reed and Alfred felt badly about this and spoke to Joe about it, but he only replied, "You will never see me at a public altar, for God said, 'Enter into thy closet and shut thy door and pray to thy Father that seeth in secret and he will reward thee openly,' and that is what I shall do. That is what I did do, and I can't have anything to do with the public altar. I haven't any confidence in those who have gone up there."

Alfred's face paled as Joe spoke these words, but he said to him in a kind tone, "Joe, have you no confidence in me?"

"Surely I have confidence in you, Alfred; you know that I have," replied Joe.

"Well, I found the Lord at a public altar," said Alfred, as a smile spread over his face. "God came to me just as real there at that altar as He did to you in your little pantry at your private one.

And, remember, your altar was not so private either, for wife and I listened to you as you prayed and you then helped your wife to get to God by praying for her."

Joe hung his head for some time, but he was not so easily defeated. "That is all true," said he, "but I was not out in the public eye so that I could make a show of myself like some of those folks at the chapel have done. I tell you again you will never find me at a public altar. I do not want to hurt your feelings about this, Alfred, for I do feel that you are a Christian. You led me to God, and I shall pray for the meeting and help you with the singing and in every other way that I can, but I can't have any confidence in the public altar."

So the meeting closed and Preacher Reed took his departure. Joe and Susie were skeptical of those who claimed to have found the Lord at the public altar and often spoke of them to each other in a doubtful way. After the meeting the crowds still came to each Sunday night service. Many times Alfred had to address his neighbors, for the weather became so bad that no minister could come to them from any distance. They all worshiped together. Joe and Susie found that with all their skepticism they had to admit that some of the products of the public altar were genuine. They saw some of the products of home conversion going back into their old paths of ungodliness and saw some who were converted at the public altar standing true to the Lord.

One man in the community had been a hard sinner. He drank and abused his family shamefully. His little children did not have enough to eat nor clothing sufficient to keep them warm. He came to the meeting because he heard what an excellent speaker Preacher Reed was and he wanted to find some fault with him; but when he came the Spirit of God spoke to his heart and he trembled

under the sound of God's Word as it fell from the lips of that man of God. His whole life was laid bare before him and the love of God was pictured to him. This won his heart, and he made his way to the altar and prayed through, rising from his knees shouting the praises of God. Joe watched him as he bought clothing for his family, attended services, and testified to the saving grace of God. One evening as they returned from prayer meeting after hearing this brother pray and then testify to the saving grace of God and how happy he was in the service of the Lord, telling how God picked up the hard old sinner that he had been and made a new man out of him, Joe remarked to Susie, "I tell you, wife, I surely believe that man really got something that night at the public altar. He certainly is a new man."

(To Be Continued)

LESSON ILLUSTRATION



Dear Boys and Girls:

One time I was promised that something was to be bought for me, but I had to wait quite a while before I was able to have it. Naturally I was anxious, and counted the days. Finally the day

arrived, so I wanted to go right away to pick it up. I was kept waiting until the one who promised me was ready to go. When it was picked up and I had it home, I was happy. I know it would have been hard to give it up after waiting for such a long time.

In our previous lessons, Abraham was promised that he and Sarah would have a baby boy. Abraham believed God would keep His promise, although he had many years to wait.

When Abraham and Sarah were very old, Isaac was born to them. How thankful and happy they were for the promised child! They taught Isaac to know God, to live in the right way, and trust the Lord.

Isaac grew to be a young man and God wanted to know if Abraham loved God or Isaac best. God told Abraham to offer Isaac as a sacrifice. Abraham did not know why God would want him to do this. Isaac was to be a great nation. How could God keep His promise if Isaac had to be sacrificed? Abraham was sure that God knew best and would provide a way. Abraham obeyed God.

When they reached the mountain God had chosen, Abraham prepared to sacrifice Isaac. Then an angel called out, telling him not to hurt his son. As Abraham looked up, he saw a ram in the bush. God provided an offering. Now God knew that Abraham loved Him with all of his heart.

Remember that Abraham was just where God wanted him to be. The angel could call to him, and the ram was provided for the offering. We need to follow in God's way to be in the place that God can talk to us, also. —Aunt Dot

Lesson 7, August 12, 1984

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.

4 Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off.

5 And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.

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.

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: The Lord knoweth the days of the upright: and their inheritance shall be for ever. *Psa. 37:18.*

Questions:

1. Were Abraham and Sarah old when their baby was born?
2. What did Abraham name the baby?
3. Do you think Abraham and Sarah were happy?
4. Was Isaac to become a great nation?
5. What did God want Abraham to do with Isaac?
6. Why did God want him to do this?
7. Did Abraham want to obey God?
8. Who called out to him when he was about to slay Isaac?
9. What did the angel say?
10. What did Abraham sacrifice? Where was it?
11. Did God know now that Abraham loved Him?
12. Why do you think He knew this?

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Bible Search: What king saw an angel with a drawn sword above the city? *Answer next week.*
Last week's answer: Jacob. *Gen. 28:12.*

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Part 8

Aug. 19

The Man of His Counsel

(Continued From Last Lesson)

ANSWERED PRAYER

The winter waned and with approach of spring came heavy rains and also much sickness in the Steele's Crossing neighborhood. The measles raged in almost every home, and following the measles many contracted pneumonia. The Holmier children did not escape measles, and the eldest child contracted pneumonia also. The doctor was kept very busy, and many times when called upon he made no visit into the home unless the patient was really ill. Joe hadn't called for his services when his children came down with measles, as he had often heard that there could nothing be done for them. They used the simple remedies for such contagious diseases. But when Joe saw the little fellow very ill he felt that something should be done. Five days passed, and the morning of the sixth day Joe saw that the little fellow was very sick and must have something done for him else he could not get well. How his heart went out to his dear little boy, his first-born. He had watched by his bedside

all the night and had seen him suffer as only one can with that painful disease. When Susie came into the room that morning she saw the change that had come over the little fellow, and, turning to Joe, burst into tears, saying, "O Joe, there must be something done or we shall lose the little fellow. I want you to go and tell the doctor that he must come, for our boy will soon die unless we can get him some relief some way." She walked up to the bed again but there was no response from the boy; just a groan with each breath, and a contortion of the face, and a cry of pain as he coughed.

Joe passed through the kitchen, and after doing his morning chores, went for the doctor. He did not know it just then, but as he left the house Susie fell upon her knees at the bedside of her little boy and asked God to show her what to do for him.

Joe reached the doctor's office but was informed that he would not be in for some time as he had received a call early that morning. He sat down and waited for him to come and was glad that he did when some few moments later the doctor came in unable to walk straight. The scent of liquor was on his

breath and his tongue thick from the effects of the intoxicant. He came in bleary eyed but trying to carry an air of bravado with him and, slapping Joe on the shoulder, burst out in a loud guffaw and then began to relate some foolish story. But he found that there was no laugh in Joe, for his mind had wandered too fast for that. He saw the doctor as he was with the crowd at the community house, the first to sign his name with those who joined themselves together to banish the saloon from their midst. Joe was indeed surprised to find the doctor in this condition and he decided that his son was too precious to him to place him in the care of a man in such condition; so as he turned to leave the office he said, "Doctor, I have a very sick boy and I came to see if you could not do something for him, but I do not care to trust him in your hands while you are in the condition that you are now in. I want a man to know what he is doing when he prescribes medicine for me or any of mine. I fear a man like you might give the wrong thing." He then walked out and, again mounting his horse, rode back home.

Tears streamed down his cheeks as he rode along toward home, for he knew that his boy was very sick, and he was returning without anything to relieve his sufferings. How his heart ached as he reached sight of home and thought of the little sufferer there and nothing with him to aid in any way. He came into the house with lagging step and as he related the morning's scene to Susie she burst into tears and said, "O Joe, what will we do? Don't you see the little fellow is going to die unless something is done for him? You know we have done all that we know to do and he is getting worse all the time. I know he will not live through the day unless something else is done. Oh, what shall we do?"

At this Joe picked up the Bible which lay on the table in the room and said, "There is but one thing to do and that is to see what the Book says for us to do. You know we have taken it as the man of our counsel and there must be something in it now that will tell us what to do at this time." So kneeling Joe asked God to direct him to the very Scripture that they needed for this hour. He arose and opening the Book his eye fell on the fifteenth chapter of St. John and the seventh verse, where he began reading: "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." He read no further, but sat looking at Susie for some time and then he said, "Did you not hear what the Book had to say? You know we are abiding in the Lord and you know that His Word is abiding in us, and what is to hinder us from asking Him to spare us our little boy?"

"I do not see anything else to do," replied Susie, "and I feel that something must be done right away. Let us ask Him now."

The two knelt by the bedside of their first-born and there together poured out their hearts to God. Their tears fell fast as they asked God to spare them their son. Neither had ever heard that God was still working miracles and healing the sick, but as they prayed Joe became bold and approached God in confidence, saying, "Lord, I believe thou wilt do it because I have taken thy Word as the man of my counsel and in it thou hast said I may ask anything of thee and thou wilt do it."

Joe did not know that the Word said that among the signs that follow believers was one that they should lay hands on the sick and they shall recover, but as he prayed he laid his hands on the little boy's brow and asked God to take away the fever and the pain. When he

said "amen" the little fellow took one long breath and turned over on his side, something he had not been able to do for two days. He closed his eyes and soon was in a natural sleep.

Joe left the bedside and went into an adjoining room where he paced the floor praising God. As Susie came into the room with him he said, "Our boy will get well," to which she replied, "I believe he will."

The boy slept for several hours and upon waking called for something to eat and asked that he might be allowed to get up, but the parents thought best to keep him in bed for the day. Every bit of fever had left him and there was no trace of the disease. The next morning the little fellow left his bed and dressed himself, as well as ever. As they seated themselves at the breakfast table that morning Joe looked across at his son who the morning before had been so sick and then said to Susie, "You know, wife, I believe that God can do anything."

(To Be Continued)

How Old Ought I Be?

"Dear Mother," said a little maid,
"Please whisper it to me—
Before I am a Christian,
How old ought I to be?"

"How old ought you to be, my child,
Before you can love me?"
"I always loved you, Mummie mine,
Since I was tiny wee.

I love you now and always will,"
The little daughter said,
And on her mother's shoulder hid
Her golden curly head.

"How old, my girlie, must you be
Before you trust my care?"
"Oh, Mother dear, I do, I do—
I trust you everywhere."

"How old ought you to be, my child,
To do the things I say?"
The little girl looked up and said,
"I can do that today."

"Then you can be a Christian, too,
Don't wait till you are grown,
Tell Jesus now you come to Him
To be His very own."

And so the little maid knelt down
And said, "Lord, if I may,
I'd like to be a Christian now—"
He answered, "Yes, today."

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—o—
"Remember now thy Creator in the
days of thy youth. . . ." Eccl. 12:1a.

—o—
Dear Boys and Girls:

Today let's think a little about prayer. Praying is talking to the Lord and telling Him all that we have on our hearts. We pray because we believe that He is our Helper. Sometimes we just want to thank Him for all of His blessings toward us. Then other times we have a real need and we earnestly ask Him to help us.

Whenever we pray, we should be sure to keep our minds on what we are saying so that we're not just saying words. It is so easy to have just a form of prayer and not be really praying. Prayer is talking to God from the heart and saying what we mean; not just repeating some words that we have learned.

Jesus said, "Men ought always to pray and not to faint." (Luke 18:1b). Jesus knows how important it is that we pray. He even taught His disciples to pray in Matt. 6:9-13. Jesus spent much time in prayer for comfort and help from God, His Father.

Hannah had a great need. She wanted a little baby. One time, when she went with Elkanah to Shiloh to worship God, Hannah went with a heavy heart. She earnestly asked God to give

her a baby boy. She promised to teach him about God and she promised to give him back to God. Her son would serve the Lord all the days of his life. God answered her prayer and Samuel was born to her. When Samuel was old enough, she brought him to be with Eli, the High Priest, to help in the temple. God then gave Hannah three boys and two girls.

—Aunt Dot

Lesson 8, August 19, 1984 HANNAH GIVES SAMUEL TO GOD

1 Sam. 1:5 But unto Hannah he gave a worthy portion; for he loved Hannah: but the Lord had shut up her womb.

8 Then said Elkanah her husband to her, Hannah, why weepest thou? and why eatest thou not? and why is thy heart grieved? am not I better to thee than ten sons?

13 Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken.

14 And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee.

15 And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the Lord.

16 Count not thine handmaid for a daughter of Belial: for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief have I spoken hitherto.

17 Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him.

26 And she said, Oh my lord, as thy soul liveth, my lord, I am the woman

that stood by thee here, praying unto the Lord.

27 For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of him:

28 Therefore also I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord. And he worshipped the Lord there.

1 Sam. 2:21 And the Lord visited Hannah, so that she conceived, and bare three sons, and two daughters. And the child Samuel grew before the Lord.

Memory Verse: I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. *Psa. 3:4.*

Questions:

1. Who do we talk to when we pray?
2. Should we believe God hears when we pray?
3. Are we supposed to thank Him for His blessings?
4. Does Jesus want us to pray?
5. Do you know the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples?
6. Why was Hannah so unhappy?
7. Who was the High Priest? What did he tell Hannah?
8. Did God answer Hannah's prayer?
10. What did she name her baby?
11. When Samuel was old enough, where did Hannah take him?
12. What did she do with Samuel? Why?
13. How many other boys and girls did Hannah have?

Bible Search: Who was the first Christian to die for Jesus? *Answer next week.*

Last week's answer: David. 1 Chron. 21:16.

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Part 9

Aug. 26

The Man of His Counsel

(Continued From Last Lesson)

Joe and Susie had gone through the siege of the children's sickness alone, for at the beginning of their illness Tillie had also taken quite ill and Alfred had to remain at home to care for her. The two of them had been untiring in waiting on the sick, but the exposure had been too much for Tillie and she, too, became ill of a severe cold. Her cough was so severe she was unable to sleep at nights and as pneumonia had claimed several victims that spring they decided to use every precaution necessary to prevent a contraction of the disease. The next morning after God answered prayer in the Holmier home Joe went over to the Giese home to inquire about the sick and found Tillie propped up in a chair beside the fire only able to speak a few words between spasms of coughing.

After inquiring as to the condition of the sick Joe related his experience with the doctor and the condition in which he found him the morning before and said, "Alfred, you know that man is the president of our Temperance Society and I have decided that from now on I

shall not be present when the Society meets, for I could never feel free again to have a man like that to preside over me. I am sure that I am not one with him and you need not expect me to be with you again when you meet." From this the conversation drifted from one thing to another and as Joe rose to go he said, "But I must tell you what we did that our little boy got well so quickly." And he told how he opened the Bible and was directed to the Scripture and then asked God to give the needed help and how the little fellow was helped immediately and went to sleep, waking up a well boy. "And," said Joe, "I told my wife this morning as we were eating breakfast that I believe God can just do anything."

"Do you really believe that?" inquired Tillie.

"How could I help but believe it," laughingly replied Joe, "after seeing help come so quickly to my boy?"

"If you really believe that, I want you to ask God to give me help right now," said Tillie. "It seems to me that you could pray for me with the same feeling that you had for your little boy, for my baby needs me more than you needed your boy. Poor little thing, I want to

help it so much but am not able to do so." At this she was taken with another spasm of coughing which required so much of her strength that she lay back among her pillows almost exhausted.

Joe was very much surprised at the request made, but as he looked at the poor little boy who really needed his mother's attention he felt confident in the Lord, and turning to Alfred, said, "We will ask God to give her the needed help and you know He said what we ask for we shall receive. So the two knelt beside the chair in which Tillie was sitting propped up among the pillows and as Joe prayed he again reached out his hand and, laying one on her head asked God to give the needed help to remove the headache and the cough that she might soon be well. He had not said "amen" when Tillie arose to her feet and, taking the bandage from her head, looked from one to the other for a

few moments and then said, "It is done. I tell you it is done. I felt the headache go and the cough leave me while you were praying. I tell you I feel like a new woman, for there is not an ache nor a pain about my body." She then began to clap her hands together and sang:

" 'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus;
Just to take Him at His Word;
Just to rest upon His promise;
Just to know 'Thus saith the Lord.' "

Alfred gazed at his wife in wonder and amazement and Joe was too overjoyed for words. Picking up his hat, Joe went to tell Susie how God had again answered prayer.

WALKING IN LIGHT

A few days after Alfred and Joe had prayed for Tillie and she was raised up immediately Alfred came to Joe, informing him that Preacher Brumbaugh was very ill with inflammatory rheumatism and was unable to move himself. Alfred

had been to see him the day before and reported him in a serious condition, stating also that they were in need of someone to sit up with him that night, as his own family needed rest. A happy thought came to Joe and he replied, "I can take care of him tonight and will only be too glad to do so if I can help them in any way. Are you going back to see him today? If so you may tell them I can stay with them tonight and if they care for my services you may let me know."

Alfred informed Joe that he was going to see the Brumbaugh family that afternoon and if Joe would spend the night helping to care for the sick he would go with him. Accordingly Tillie and her baby came to spend the night with Susie and her children while Joe and Alfred went to take care of the sick.

Joe had had no opportunity to meet Preacher Brumbaugh since the time of the church trial when he was pronounced a heretic and unworthy of their fellowship other than a chance meeting when he bade him the time of day and passed on, and now as he entered the Brumbaugh home and saw his former pastor lying on his bed unable even to raise his hand the past was all forgotten and his heart went out to him, for he saw a man in need of help. The disease had so fastened itself upon the man that he could not be touched and had to be moved in a sheet. His swollen and inflamed joints told of his suffering, for he could not be moved without excessive pain. He lay groaning upon the bed as the two men entered, and only bade them the time of day. Joe did all that he could to relieve him and the family retired for the night, thankful for the much-needed rest.

The two men did all they could for the suffering one, but there was no rest for him. The midnight hour had passed and still he lay groaning upon his bed. At last Joe thought of the experience in

his own home just a few days before and of the help that came to Tillie and, much to the surprise of Alfred, he sat down beside the bedside of Preacher Brumbaugh and began to relate his experience. Alfred became bold also and spoke of the experience of his wife, telling why she had asked Joe to pray for her. Here Joe said, "And I believe just what I told her, for I believe that God can do just anything."

Preacher Brumbaugh remained quiet for some time and then, opening his eyes, he looked straight at Joe and said very faintly, "Yes, I am sure that God can do anything."

"Do you really believe that?" hastily inquired Joe.

"I do believe that," replied Preacher Brumbaugh, as his face contorted with pain and he began groaning again.

At this Joe and Alfred knelt beside the bed and as earnestly as they knew how they asked God to give the needed help; and God heard their petitions, for in a short time Preacher Brumbaugh was in a sound sleep from which he did not awaken until Joe and Alfred were taking their departure that morning. He found, too, on awakening, that he could be moved without much pain and he began to amend from that hour.

Two happy men entered the Holmiers kitchen that morning just as Susie was placing breakfast on the table, and before they sat down to eat, the story of the night's happenings was related. After breakfast they assembled in the living room and, kneeling together, Alfred led them in prayer, and then Joe opened the Bible to read the twelfth chapter of Romans. The blessings of God poured down into his soul as he read the twentieth verse: "Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." Joe had not fully

understood the happenings of the night until he read that chapter, but now he saw that he had taken the Bible route to deal with an enemy and he felt assured that God would take care of results. How good he felt all day! He went about his work whistling and singing. He had found the joy that comes when one overcomes evil with good.

(To Be Continued)

"Living the truth is the best illustration of the truth."

Dear Boys and Girls:

The boy Samuel served God in the temple at Shiloh. He loved God and desired to please Him. Each morning, he opened the temple doors, and did the things he could to help Eli.

One night, while Samuel was sleeping, God called him. He thought Eli had called him, so he ran to Eli and asked him what he wanted. Three times God called to Samuel and three times Samuel went to Eli. The third time this happened, Eli told Samuel that it was God calling him. He said to tell God that he was listening. When God called again, Samuel was listening. God told him that He was displeased with Eli and his two sons, Hophni and Phineas, because they had sinned against God and the people of Israel. They were to be punished, God said.

In the morning, Eli asked Samuel what God had told him and Samuel was afraid to tell him. He did, though, and Eli had to accept it.

God is calling us today, too. We may not hear Him speak out as Samuel did. The Holy Spirit calls to us, and speaks to our hearts. When we need to be saved, the precious Spirit of God leads us to repentance. (Rom. 2:4). If we are saved, the Spirit helps us to understand the way we should walk before God. When God wants to use our talents or gifts for

Him, the Spirit calls. The ministers are called of God to preach the Word to us.

We need to listen carefully for the Spirit to call us, and walk well pleasing in God's sight.

—Aunt Dot

Lesson 9, August 26, 1984

SAMUEL HEARS GOD CALLING

1 Sam. 3:1 And the child Samuel ministered unto the Lord before Eli. And the word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no open vision.

2 And it came to pass at that time, when Eli was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see;

3 And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep;

4 That the Lord called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I.

5 And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down.

6 And the Lord called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again.

7 Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, neither was the word of the Lord yet revealed unto him.

8 And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the Lord had called the child.

9 Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

10 And the Lord came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.

12 In that day I will perform against Eli all things which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end.

13 For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.

Eccl. 12:1a Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh.

Memory Verse: And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favor both with the Lord, and also with men. 1 Sam. 2:26.

Questions:

1. Did Samuel love God and want to please Him?
2. What did he do in the temple?
3. Who was Eli?
4. Who called Samuel in the night?
5. How many times did God call?
6. Who did Samuel think was calling him?
7. What did Eli tell Samuel to do the third time?
8. What did God tell Samuel when He called again?
9. Why were Eli, Hophni, and Phineas to be punished?
10. In the morning did Samuel want to tell Eli what God had told him?

Bible Search: What apostle escaped in a basket? *Answer next week.*

Last week's answer: Stephen. Acts 7:59.

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July, Aug., Sept., 1984

Part 10

Sept. 2

The Man of His Counsel (Continued From Last Lesson)

The following Sunday Alfred informed those present at the community house that there would be no services held there that evening as he had been unable to get anyone and he was going to Newton to attend a service conducted by Preacher Jennings, a man who had just returned from a visit into Palestine and the Orient. As it was quite cool the women decided to keep the children at home; so accordingly Tillie again came over to spend the evening with Susie while the men went to Newton to hear Preacher Jennings speak of his visit in the Eastern countries. After the lecture Preacher Jennings made known that he was selling a book that contained his experiences while traveling abroad, and as Joe had enjoyed his lecture of the evening he bought the book that he might learn more of the manners and customs of the Eastern countries.

The next day as Joe came in from his work at the noon hour he noticed that Susie wore an unusual expression on her face, and as he began to fill the basin with water with which to wash himself he was shocked to hear Susie say, "Joe, I want you to take me to

town this week and get me a new hat."

Joe stood as if dumbfounded, for this was the first time in all their married life that she had mentioned such a thing. She had never worn a hat in all her life, and now to ask such a thing of him he could not understand it. He gazed at her with a puzzled expression and then asked, "What do you mean?"

"I mean just what I said," replied Susie. "I want you to take me to town this week and get me a new hat."

"What have you done with your bonnet?" inquired Joe.

"I have put it in a place where I shall never wear it again," replied Susie, "for my bonnet and little white cap have both gone up in smoke. I put them in the fire this morning."

"Put them in the fire!" exclaimed Joe. "Why, Susie, what do you mean?"

"Come with me and I shall show you what I mean," replied Susie as she led him into the other room where he saw the new book lying beside the Bible. Both were opened as Susie had left them when she went to prepare the noon-day meal. "I want you to read that," said she, pointing to an article in the book. He began reading.

"If some of the good sisters in America could only make a visit into some of the Eastern countries they could well understand what Paul meant when he addressed the Corinthian church as he did in the eleventh chapter of First Corinthians. Well do I remember when a boy seeing an old aunt of mine wearing her little cap. She called it a covering of her head. But when I became acquainted with some of the customs of the Eastern countries I found that she did not have her head covered at all and fully understood what Paul meant by saying she dishonored her head by praying or prophesying with an uncovered head. The third verse of this chapter tells what the head of the woman is: "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God." I find this is truly carried out in the Orient; for the man is truly the head of the woman. He thinks for her, he talks for her, and what he says she does. Many customs are the same today as they were in Bible times. Among the Mohammedan people the women are wearing the veil as a covering for the head. The entire head is covered and it is considered a disgrace to the husband (which is her head) for her to appear in public without her veil. No other man is to look on her face. As I looked upon these women I thought how far the little cap that my aunt wore fell short of being a covering for the head, and it would not be accepted as such among these women for it would not cover her face, and no man is to look upon her face but her husband. How good it was for Paul to go further and in the thirteenth verse tell them to 'judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered?"

"I have never been contentious over the head covering worn by the sisters in America, but I am sure that if the

women of the East should try to bind their head covering on the women of America there would be some contention about the matter for the women would not have such a custom. Among the churches of God now a woman does not dishonor her head (her husband) by not wearing the head covering of the women of ancient Bible times, although she did, judged by social usages in vogue in Paul's day."

[The fifteenth verse brings out the thought that a woman's long hair is her covering. She does not need a veil. Verse sixteen makes us know that a person need not be contentious in binding wearing a veil on others as there is no such custom in the "churches of God." Editor's note.]

"Isn't that plain?" inquired Susie. "I am so glad you bought that book, for everything now is just as clear as can be to me. I have always looked upon that Scripture as dishonoring myself by not having my head covered, but you can plainly see that Paul meant by uncovering the head it was a dishonor to the husband, judged by social usages then. Joe, do you think I would be dishonoring you if I did not wear that little bonnet and cap?"

"Well, no, Susie, I do not think that you would dishonor me in any way, but you see that you must be careful, or you will let pride creep in and you will be just like the world," replied Joe.

"I have thought all over that, too," said Susie, "and as I began to examine myself I thought I had far more pride in wearing that bonnet than the majority of women that I know manifest in wearing hats, for as I came among them I had a feeling that I was a little better than they were because I was wearing a bonnet while they had hats. Joe, I was really proud in my heart that I was wearing that bonnet."

"But, you must remember, Susie, that the Bible says God's children are a

peculiar people," said Joe.

"Yes, I read it just this morning," replied Susie, "and received light on it also. Here it is in the second chapter of Titus and the fourteenth verse. 'Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.' Don't you see, Joe, that it is not in peculiarity of dress that we are known, but a peculiar people because of the work that we do. It is not natural for a man to do as you did the other night, go and sit up with an enemy and pray for him, returning good for evil. Do you not think there is some peculiarity about such a work as that? It is not like the majority of people would do nor like you would have done a few years ago, for I am sure that you could not have gone to him and prayed for him."

"No, I could not have done that," replied Joe reluctantly.

"Well do you not see then that there must be some peculiarity about you when you are desirous and zealous of good works?" inquired Susie. "You know that you were only too glad to go to Bro. Brumbaugh's that you might do him some good. In this the works of God's children differ from anyone else and make them peculiar, for sinners want to do good for good, and Christians want to do good for evil, making them peculiar and zealous of good works."

"I declare, Susie," said Joe laughingly, "you have become quite a preacher and your arguments satisfy me, although I must say they do not thoroughly convince me. I should like to know where you have learned all this."

"I have done just as you have told me to do," replied Susie. "I have taken the Bible as the man of my counsel and am satisfied with it."

"If that be the case," replied Joe, "we shall go to town this afternoon and you shall have a new hat."

The trip was made and the following Sunday morning many were surprised to see Susie wearing a new hat, the first one she had ever owned. Many surprised glances were sent in her direction and many remarks exchanged, but Susie was satisfied in her soul and rejoicing that she could walk in the light as it was revealed unto her.

(To Be Continued)

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Dear Boys and Girls:

Israel had certain men or women appointed by God to deliver them from their adversaries, and afterwards judge or rule over them. There were 15 such judges, Samuel being the last judge.

As we remember from our previous lessons, Hannah had prayed earnestly for a son. God had answered her prayer and Samuel was born. She then brought him to the temple to serve Him all the days of his life. Samuel proved to be a good judge and the people loved him. His sons, Joel and Abiah, helped Samuel judge the people. They did not love God, and took money from the people and judged them unfairly.

Finally, the elders came to Samuel, desiring a king to rule over them. They no longer wanted God to be their leader. Samuel felt so sad when he heard the elders. God told him to give them a king. He said, "Tell them what the king will want of them. He will take your sons and daughters to serve him. The best of your fields, vineyards, and oliveyards will belong to him. A tenth of all your goods will have to be given to him. Then you will cry unto the Lord and He will not hear you." Still the people wanted a king!

We need to be careful in asking the Lord for certain desires. God will sometimes grant our desires, and it will be harmful to us. Once I desired a certain thing in my life. In asking the Lord about it, I was shown the Scripture, "And he gave them their request; but

sent leanness to their soul." Psalms 106:15. I quickly laid the desire aside, and only wanted God's approval in my life.

God showed Samuel that Saul was to be king over Israel. Saul came to Samuel one day to inquire of his father's sheep. Samuel knew at once that this was God's man. Samuel told Saul that the sheep had been found. Before Saul went back to his father's house, Samuel anointed him with oil. He was to be the Israelites' first king. —Aunt Dot

Lesson 10, September 2, 1984

ISRAEL DESIRES A KING

1 Sam. 8:1 And it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel.

2 Now the name of his firstborn was Joel; and the name of his second, Abiah: they were judges in Beersheba.

3 And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment.

4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah,

5 And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.

1 Sam. 9:15 Now the Lord had told Samuel in his ear a day before Saul came, saying,

16 To morrow about this time I will send thee a man out of the land of Benjamin, and thou shalt anoint him to be captain over my people Israel, that he may serve my people out of the hand of the Philistines: for I have looked upon my people, because their cry is come unto me.

17 And when Samuel saw Saul, the Lord said unto him, Behold the man

whom I spake to thee of! this same shall rule over my people.

1 Sam. 10:1 Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it on upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the Lord hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?

6 And the Spirit of the Lord will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man.

9 And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.

Memory Verse: But know that the Lord hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the Lord will hear when I call unto him. Psalm 4:3.

Questions:

1. What did the judges do?
2. How many judges were there?
3. Was Samuel the last judge over the people of Israel?
4. Was Samuel a good judge?
5. How many sons did Samuel have?
6. What were their names?
7. Did they judge the people fairly?
8. What did the people want to rule over them?
9. How did Samuel feel about this?
10. Did God say for them to have a king?
11. Who was the first king?
12. Did God show Samuel who it would be? What did he do?

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Bible Search: Who was the apostle that preached until midnight? *Answer next week.*

Last week's answer: Paul. Acts 9:25.

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Part 11

Sept. 9

The Man of His Counsel

(Continued From Last Lesson)

JOE FINDS HIMSELF

Summer months passed by and late autumn advanced at Steele's Crossing. The months had been crowded with work. As one looked over the fields the trace of the icy frost could be seen; the fields were brown and seared. Leaves were piled here and there, and the branches of the trees were bare. Preparations were being made for Thanksgiving.

Alfred had announced that Preacher Jones, from Newton, would be with them at that time to begin a series of meetings, and all were looking forward to that event. He came, and the meeting began and was well attended. Joe and Susie were among the attendants, rendering what service they could through prayer, testimony, and song. No longer could they be known by the peculiarity of dress for the dress of their former faith had been discarded and instead of the broad-brimmed, flat crown hat formerly worn by Joe there was the derby. Both dressed very modestly and felt a freedom such as had not been theirs.

The community were looking on their works and speaking of them as Christians, and their works were far more noticeable than their peculiar dress had been.

The meeting continued for several weeks. When nearing the close of the meeting Preacher Jones announced that he meant to organize a church there of his own faith, and on the next Sunday morning would set forth some of the doctrines. He wanted all to be present, stating he thought they had been long enough without some form of organization, telling them furthermore if they were organized as a church they would be mentioned at the next quarterly conference and would be furnished with a pastor. As the congregation left the house that evening Preacher Jones lingered near the door. As he held Joe by the hand he said, "Brother Holmier, I am expecting you to be one of the charter members of this society. Am I right?"

"I cannot promise until I hear your sermon on the doctrines of this church," replied Joe.

"Surely, surely," replied Preacher Jones, "but I know that you are a sensible man and not narrow in your views, so I am counting strongly on you."

The next Sunday morning Joe listened attentively as Preacher Jones set forth the doctrines of his faith. "You know," said he, "man is the most peculiar of all God's creation. None are made alike nor constituted alike. All are of different temperaments, and what is pleasing and suitable for one is far from pleasing or satisfying to another. We are unable to please each other, but we are all able to please God, and when we with our different likes and dislikes approach God, He does not turn us away, but takes us in, even though we do not all see exactly alike. He will not turn away one who makes an effort to get to Him. That is our conception of the church. We have made provision that all can obtain membership with us. It is not so much what you believe, as to obtain your fellowship and support. If you believe in purity of heart and life we will not exclude you and if you believe that you cannot obtain purity of heart here in this life we will take your membership among us. We also let you have your choice in baptism. If you believe that one should be immersed we will administer the rite of baptism to you in that manner; if you believe it should be administered by pouring the water on the head or by sprinkling it on we leave it with the choice of the candidate and administer it either way. We are not narrow in our views; what we want is to get people organized so that they can work together. We do not exclude any, as you see, for an individual can believe almost any way and obtain membership."

After the sermon had ended he then called for charter members that he might organize a body of that faith at Steele's Crossing, and about thirty-five went forward. Joe was not among them. He was surprised to see Alfred and Tillie among the number who went forward, and found them joining by letter. Preacher Jones read the letters before the audi-

ence, stating he was glad to get some so highly recommended as Alfred and Tillie as charter members there, for he felt confident that they would push the work along.

At the close of the service the minister again spoke to Joe, asking him why he did not give his name for membership with the rest of them, expressing his disappointment in his not having done so. Joe replied, "I have not fully decided just where I shall give my membership, but when I do I want to be among a people who have something certain to believe."

As Joe and Susie drove home Joe could not keep back the tears and Susie said, "I do not think that you should feel so bad about it, for I am quite sure that we can still go to services and help."

"We will try to help just as we always have," replied Joe, "but I feel bad about it somehow for I feel there has been a barrier raised between us and those people and we can never feel as free among them anymore as we did before."

The meeting closed that evening with thirty-five as members of Preacher Jones' liberal faith. He left with a promise to give their names at the next conference meeting that they might have a pastor visit them at an early date. Until then Alfred was given charge.

In the Steele's Crossing community there lived a man who was of a very quarrelsome nature. He could not get along with any of his neighbors and could keep hired help only a short time. When hiring help he would always require them to sign a contract, the wage to be twenty dollars for the first month, thirty for the second, forty for the third, and fifty for the fourth month, and if the hired man remained the four months, he would be paid a bonus sufficient to make the wage average forty dollars a month. He had never kept a man long

enough that he had to pay the bonus, for usually in the fourth month he would get so quarrelsome that the hired help could not bear it any longer and would leave, thereby forfeiting his right to any claim for back pay.

A young man came into the community in the spring and inquired for work, but was informed that no one needed a hand except old man Sawyer. The name "Sourapple" was given to him by the young boys of the community because of the sour expression he wore on his face all the time. It had become so common that one seldom mentioned his real name. When informed what kind of man he was the young fellow replied, "I shall work for 'Sourapple' and stay all summer, and get the bonus, too." He was told by several that it would be impossible to do so, but he only said, "I shall show you that it can be done," and he went over to the Sawyer home and signed his name to a contract to work for Mr. Sawyer that summer with the usual wage to be given.

After signing the contract the young man then said, "Now, Mr. Sawyer, I have something which I wish to say to you that we may have a better understanding of each other. I have hired to you to do your work, and this I mean to do and do it well; but I mean also for you to regard me as a human being, as I shall regard you as one. I mean also to stay the summer with you. I shall not leave you, but if you try to do me as you have some of your former hired help, I shall give you such a thrashing as you have never had in all your life."

(To Be Continued)

Dear Boys and Girls:

As Saul waited for Samuel to come and offer sacrifices to God and pray for guidance, he watched many of his men

become afraid. They hid in caves, thickets, rocks, pits, and in high places, and he became very worried. What should he do? Soon all his men would be gone. The only thing he could think of was to offer the sacrifices himself. He knew this would not be the right thing to do, because only the priests and Levites were to offer sacrifices to God.

Sometimes we may get in certain circumstances in life in which we have to make important decisions. They could be very hard to decide! School friends or the ones that we play with in our neighborhood may want us to do something or go somewhere when we feel a check in our spirit. You wonder, "What shall I do?" In times like these we need to pray and ask Jesus to help us make the right decision. At times I ask myself, "Would I want to be doing this or be here when Jesus comes?"

I once read a story of a young Christian who was doing so well in her life for Jesus. Someone asked her what her secret was, and she said, "I mind the checks." When we have a little feeling of indecision or question in our hearts about the situation, we must be careful not to displease Jesus. We always want to be obedient to Him.

Saul offered sacrifices to God and lost his kingdom. He should have been obedient and faithful to wait for Samuel. Our memory verse tells us, "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice. . . ." Although we may do many good things, we should always be faithful to obey God's Word in all ways. —Aunt Dot

Lesson 11, September 9, 1984

OBEDIENCE IS BETTER THAN SACRIFICE

1 Sam. 13:1 Saul reigned one year; and when he had reigned two years over Israel,

2 Saul chose him three thousand men of Israel; whereof two thousand

were with Saul in Michmash and in mount Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin: and the rest of the people he sent every man to his tent.

5 And the Philistines gathered themselves together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots, and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which is on the sea shore in multitude: and they came up, and pitched in Michmash, eastward from Bethaven.

6 When the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait, (for the people were distressed,) then the people did hide themselves in caves, and in high places, and in pits.

7 And some of the Hebrews went over Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he was yet in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.

8 And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had appointed: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him.

9 And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering.

10 And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him.

11 And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that thou camest not within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash;

12 Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal,

and I have not made supplication unto the Lord: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering.

13 And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the Lord thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the Lord have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever.

14 But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the Lord hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the Lord hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the Lord commanded thee.

Memory Verse: "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams." 1 Sam. 15:22b.

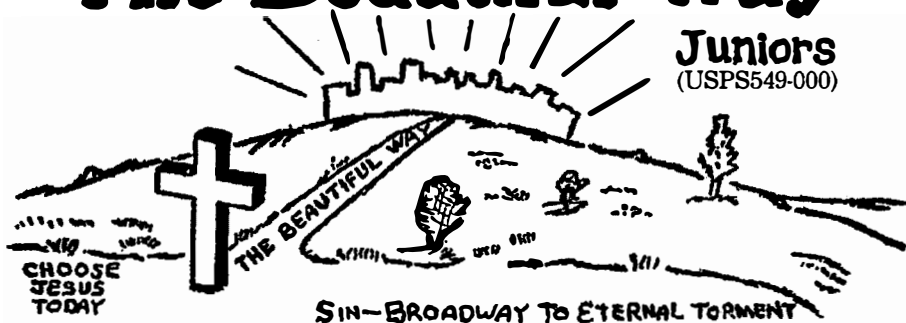
Questions:

1. How many men did Saul have in his army?
2. How many years had Saul been king before he chose these men?
3. How many men were with Saul? How many were with Jonathan?
4. Who were they to fight against?
5. How many men, chariots, and horsemen did the Philistines have?
6. Did this frighten Saul's men?
7. What did they do?
8. Who was Saul waiting for?
9. How did Saul disobey God?
10. What did Samuel tell Saul when he saw the burnt offering?
11. What was Saul's answer to Samuel?
12. Is obedience more important than sacrifice?

Bible Search: How many times was Paul shipwrecked? *Answer next week.*
Last week's answer: Paul. Acts 20:7.

The Beautiful Way

Juniors
(USPS549-000)



Vol. 35, No. 3

July, Aug., Sept., 1984

Part 12

Sept. 16

The Man of His Counsel

(Continued from last lesson)

Although Mr. Sawyer could not get along with his hired help or his neighbors he was a great church worker and could pray louder and longer than anyone in the community. He was not satisfied with the way Mr. Jones did at the close of his meeting, so a few weeks afterward he arose in meeting and announced that Preacher Brown would be with them after Christmas and would conduct a meeting.

Preacher Brown came and the meeting began. A number came forward for prayer and at the close of the meeting the doctrines of the church were set forth and a number thought it best to have another organization; so twenty-eight joined themselves together to stand by the faith of Preacher Brown, and among them was Mr. Sawyer.

Joe could not be persuaded to unite with them, for he said he could not unite with one body, and therefore raise a barrier to exclude another in whom he had confidence and knew was a child of God as much as he. As this faith believed and practiced close communion, Joe declined to give them his membership.

Alfred was very much surprised when Joe refused to unite with this body of people, and inquired of him his reason for not doing so. "I did not unite with them because I could not break the last tie between us," replied Joe. "You know that I have confidence in you. I am sure that you are as much a child of God as I am and I could not come around the Lord's table and see you kept out. No, indeed; if there is ever a barrier raised between any other child of God and me it will be one he raises."

"But what do you mean to do?" inquired Alfred. "You cannot go around all alone, can you? I should like to see you get settled somewhere where you can get in the harness just right and feel satisfied."

"You ask me what I mean to do," said Alfred. "Well, I shall tell you. I mean to live by 'every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God' and be guided by it. As to working, I do not see how I could work more with any body of people than I am doing now. I am waiting on the Lord, and what He tells me to do that will I do. Do you not think that I am on the safe track? And do you not think that I shall be satisfied when I do just what He tells me to do?"

"I am sure that you will," replied Alfred; "and as to a barrier between us, I am sure that I shall never raise one."

"You have already raised it," replied Joe quickly, "for I cannot speak with you in the organization to which you belong."

"But that need not be a barrier between us," hastily replied Alfred.

"Perhaps not," said Joe, "but somehow it seems to me there is not the freedom there that has been formerly. I feel that these organizations are dividing God's children. You know we had wonderful times and God met with us at the little community house when we were all together."

"That may be true," replied Alfred, "but there are some things we shall never understand," and he turned and walked slowly to the house. Joe had awakened something within his soul.

A few weeks after this conversation Preacher Bronson came to the community house, spending a few days in expounding the doctrines of his faith. He also had a large following and forty banded themselves together as followers of that faith. Joe could not be persuaded to cast his lot with them for he heard Preacher Bronson preach the doctrine that man cannot be saved without baptism, as that is the act which connects man and God, for baptism is for the remission of sin and there can be no remission without it. Joe well remembered the night in his little pantry when his soul was cleansed and he touched God, which gave him a real knowledge of pardoning grace. There was no water and no minister to administer the rite of baptism but he knew that the blood of Jesus Christ had touched his soul and his sins were pardoned. With this knowledge he could not cast his lot with these people. Among them, however, were some in whom he had confidence and he felt that another barrier had been raised.

There was a baptismal service in a creek near by where Preacher Bronson baptized a number of his followers. As Joe and Susie were driving home from the baptismal services Susie said to Joe, "What are you going to do now? It seems that everybody else has found some church but us."

"What do you want to do?" inquired Joe.

"I am sure I do not know just what to do," said Susie. "I would not like to unite with any of these here, and we can't go back to the place where we were put out as heretics. But what shall we do?"

"Live by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God," replied Joe. "That is what I mean to do, and I feel assured that if we do that we shall not come far short of hitting the mark."

Reaching home in mid-afternoon, Joe picked up his Bible while Susie prepared the baby for its afternoon nap. He read but a short time when he called to her. Light had come to him and his soul was rejoicing. He had opened his Bible to the first chapter of Ephesians. When he read the twenty-second verse, he paused, for it mentioned the Church and that was the thing that was concerning him so much just then, for he desired very much to know just what church God wanted him to join. He read, "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head of over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all." As he had a reference Bible he turned to Col. 1:18, and there read, "And he is the head of the body, the church."

As Susie came in to answer his call he read to her the Scriptures that had brought light to him, saying, "Do you not see that Christ has a Church and He is the head of it?"

"That may all be true," replied Susie,

"but the thing that I want to know is which one it is."

"Let us keep on searching and find out, for I am sure that this Book will tell us," replied Joe. "Why is it that we have never thought of this before? I shall use my new concordance and see what I can find out about the Church. You read while I find the different Scriptures."

Susie took the Bible and opening it to the Scripture called, read Matt. 16:18: "And I say unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

"That is the Church I want to know about," said Joe, "the one that Jesus built. Read Eph. 5:23-27." Susie soon found the Scripture and began to read, "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the Saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

"That is the Church He gave Himself for," said Joe, "and it is one 'without spot or blemish.' Read Acts 20:28."

Susie soon found the Scripture and began reading. "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost has made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."

(To Be Continued)

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

If you have God's love in your heart it will help you to love others. Even

will help us to love our enemies. We do not love the naughty things others do but we love them.

Dear Boys and Girls:

When Saul disobeyed God by sacrificing the burnt offering instead of waiting for Samuel, his kingdom was taken from him, and God said that none of his family would ever be king. Samuel was so unhappy about this. God spoke to Samuel and said, "Do not feel bad about Saul. I have chosen another king from the sons of Jesse. Go to Bethlehem and anoint the man I will show you."

Samuel took an offering to Bethlehem and prepared a feast. Jesse and his sons were invited. Jesse's sons passed before Samuel, but none of them were chosen to be king. "Have you another son? These are not chosen," Samuel said to Jesse.

"My youngest son is caring for the sheep," answered Jesse.

"Send for him," Samuel said. They waited until David was brought to them. As David came, God spoke to Samuel: "Arise and anoint David for this is the man."

God had been preparing David for this very time. He had been caring for his father's sheep. His faith was encouraged as he trusted God to help kill the lion and bear. Through caring for the sheep, he learned how to love by his tender care for them. Now he could love his people and care for them. Each day as he did his work he was drawing closer to God. He sang songs of praise to Him and learned more of His ways.

As we go along in our Christian walk with God He may be preparing us for a certain work for Him. The trials and different experiences we go through are stepping stones to a closer walk with God. Jesus will help us each day if we pray and stay close to Him.

—Aunt Dot

Lesson 12, September 16, 1984

DAVID IS TO BE KING

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.

2 And Samuel said, How can I go? if Saul hear it, he will kill me. And the Lord said, Take an heifer with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to the Lord.

3 And call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will shew thee what thou shalt do: and thou shalt anoint unto me him whom I name unto thee.

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.

6 And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the Lord's anointed is before him.

7 But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.

8 Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, Neither hath the Lord chosen this.

9 Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, Neither hath the Lord chosen this.

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.

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

Questions:

1. Why was Samuel so sad?
2. What did God tell him?
3. Where did He tell Samuel to go?
4. Who was he to invite to the feast?
5. How many sons did Jesse have?
6. Did they all come to the feast?
7. Who was it that didn't come?
8. What was he doing?
9. Can we live for Jesus that He may use us?
10. What are some things that we can do to get closer to God?

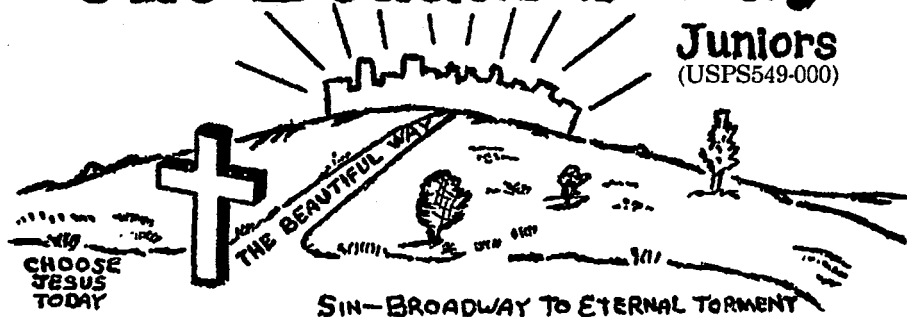
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Bible Search: Where were the believers first called Christians? *Answer next week.*

Last week's answer: 3 times. 2 Cor. 11:25.

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Part 13

Sept. 23

The Man of His Counsel

(To Be Continued)

"The Church of God," said Joe. "That must be the name of it, for in the last Scripture that you read it says He gave Himself for it, and this Scripture says He purchased the Church of God with His own blood. But read 1 Cor. 1:2." Joe's eyes grew larger as Susie read, "Unto the church of God which is at Corinth." She got no further for Joe interrupted her with, "That is the name; the one that Jesus purchased with His own blood." He then called for 1 Cor. 10:32; 11:22; 2 Cor. 1:1; Gal. 1:13; 1 Tim. 3:5, 15, which all mention the name of the Church as the "Church of God."

"Isn't that wonderful?" exclaimed Joe. "The Church is His body, and we are members of it, and God sets the members in it as it pleases Him, and the name is the 'Church of God.'"

"But where is there such a Church, and how do you get into it?" asked Susie.

"Here is another Scripture I want you to read," said Joe; "Acts 2:47." The Scripture was soon found and Susie began to read, "Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the

Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

"Isn't that clear?" remarked Joe. "The Lord added to the Church such as should be saved, and I am sure that means the ones who accept His salvation. He adds them to His Church. O Susie, I know God has cleared this to me and I am satisfied to be a member of His Church. I do not need to join anything now to be a church-member, for when I accepted God's salvation He made me a member of His Church and I have been a member in good standing with my Lord all these months. I have found myself a church-member and did not know it until today. Thank God, I see now that when Preacher Brumbaugh thought he had turned me out of the Church I had just got into it and God added me as a member. I see now also that these are only organizations of man, but Christ is the head of the Church. Oh, I am so glad that I have taken the Word of God as the man of my counsel, for I am sure that it will guide me into the truth."

HUNGERING AND THIRSTING

The little community house at Steele's Crossing which had been a center of attraction to many because of the fellowship and love which existed among

those who worshiped there now became the attraction or center for those who desired contention and dispute, for each body of people felt that it should put forth its own particular doctrine. As Preacher Jones had one Sunday of the month in which to set forth the doctrines of his faith and Preacher Brown one Sunday, both to be followed by Preacher Bronson, and he trying to show the erroneous doctrine of the two before him, the community house could well be called a place of confusion. So strongly was the contention felt among them that Preacher Brown and his followers withdrew from the rest and purchased the old saloon building formerly owned by Mr. Blaum, remodeled it, seated it, and met there each Sunday to expound the doctrines of their own faith and to point out the errors of the followers of Preacher Jones and Preacher Bronson. A Sunday School was organized with Mr. Sawyer as superintendent.

This took a number from the community house, but it did not remove the contention there, for the Jones followers and the Bronson followers often had some heated arguments, as each side contended for its own point of view on some certain question. This was not true of all who worshiped there, for some remembered the times when all were together and God met with them, giving them His blessings, and all felt drawn closer together and felt a nearness to God. Many remarks were made by some of the more conscientious and pious worshipers that they could not feel the freedom now which they enjoyed there before they banded together in different organizations.

Joe tried in every way that he could, as did Alfred, to keep the people together and worship together but so sharp did the contention become that Joe humbly tendered his resignation as their superintendent and a follower of Preach-

er Bronson was appointed in his place. As the Bronson followers outnumbered those of Precher Jones the majority ruled and they now had control of the Sunday School. It was not long until they voted to change the literature then in use and use the literature of the publishing house of the Bronson faith. This was more than the Jones followers could bear and they remonstrated stating if such should be the case they would no longer come to the Sunday School nor send their children. The literature was changed and the Jones followers kept their word, for they were granted permission to use the school house for their religious worship, which they did, organizing a Sunday School among themselves and using the literature from their own publishing house, which set forth the doctrines of their own faith.

So the community house that had been the admiration of many who visited it was now a divided house and some were so hurt over the turn of affairs that they vowed never to step foot into the house anymore. When strangers came into the midst of the people of the Steele's Crossing settlement and went away they could not say as did the lecturers from the Anti-Saloon League—that they never saw so many people attending services in such an out-of-the-way place, but should they visit them any length of time they could say they never saw a more contentious people than the people of the Steele's Crossing settlement.

(To Be Continued)

A Little Heroine

"Nannie, dear, I want you to hem those napkins this afternoon, without fail. Can I trust you to do it? I must go out for the whole afternoon, and cannot remind you of them," said Mrs. Barton to her daughter.

"Yes, Mother dear, I will; you can trust me," answered Nannie.

Now Nannie did not like to hem napkins any better than you do, but she went at once to her work basket, took out her needle and thread and thimble, and began work. Pretty soon she heard a sound of music. It came nearer, and at last it sounded right in front of the house. She dropped her sewing to run to the window, and then she stopped.

"No, I promised Mother, and she trusted me," said Nannie to herself; and she sat down again, and went to sewing. Soon the door burst open, and in rushed several little girls.

"Nannie, Nannie, where are you? There's a monkey out here, and a trained dog, and they're playing tricks. Come on!"

"I can't; I promised Mother, and she trusted me," she answered.

They coaxed and coaxed, but all in vain; so they left her.

Just as she finished the last napkin, her mother came in. "My little heroine, I know all!" she said as she kissed Nannie.

"Why, Mother, I didn't save anybody's life, nor do anything brave; I only kept my promise," answered Nannie.

"It is sometimes harder to keep a promise and do one's duty than to save a life. You did a brave, noble thing, and I thank God for you, dear," said Mother.

—Selected

David was a shepherd boy. He knew he had a big job to do, but he always asked God to help him. He was never alone in danger or storms, because the Lord was with him.

Sel.

Dear Boys and Girls:

Goliath was a great giant in the Philistine army. He threatened to kill any man from the Israelite army. They were all afraid of him.

When David was in the Israelite camp, he heard Goliath say that he would kill

anyone that came to fight with him. David said, "Why are you so afraid of this Philistine? God will help me kill him." David was sent to king Saul and he said, "You cannot fight this giant. You are just a boy."

David replied, "God helps me when I am caring for my father's sheep. When a bear and a lion came into the flock of sheep, God helped me kill them. He will help me kill the Philistine giant, also."

Saul told David to go in the name of the Lord. As David went, he picked five smooth stones from the brook. When the giant came out again, David ran to meet him saying, "You have a spear and a sword, but I come in the name of the Lord." David let the stone go from his sling, and it hit Goliath in the forehead and killed him. What a mighty victory for the Lord and the Israelites!

David had been trusting God to help him with his father's sheep. His faith was encouraged each time God helped him with the bear and lion. When the giant, Goliath, was there, defying the children of God, David was sure He would help then, too. David had proven faithful to God in all ways. We, too, can believe God to be faithful when we need Him. He will give us victory over each of our "Goliaths."

—Aunt Dot

Lesson 13, September 23, 1984

DAVID'S FAITH TO KILL GOLIATH

1 Sam. 17:3 And the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side: and there was a valley between them.

4 And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.

10 And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together.

11 When Saul and all Israel heard

those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.

17 And Jesse said unto David his son, Take now for thy brethren an ephah of parched corn, and these ten loaves, and run to the camp to thy brethren;

18 And carry these ten cheeses unto the captain of their thousand, and look how thy brethren fare, and take their pledge.

23 And as he talked with them, behold, there came up the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, out of the armies of the Philistines, and spake according to the same words: and David heard them.

32 And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.

33 And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.

34 And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock:

36 Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.

40 And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine.

45 Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.

47 And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hands.

48 And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hasted, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.

49 And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in the forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth.

Memory Verse: Have faith in God. Mark 11:22b.

Questions:

1. Who was fighting against the Israelites?
2. How big was the giant, Goliath?
3. What did Goliath say to the Israelites?
4. Why was David with his brothers?
5. Who sent David there?
6. Was David afraid of the giant?
7. What did king Saul tell David?
8. How many stones did David pick from the brook?
9. What did David use to kill the giant?
10. Where did the stone hit the giant?
11. Will God help us, too, when we need Him?
12. How can we get more faith to trust God?

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Bible Search: Who is called "father of all them that believe?" *Answer next week.*

Last week's answer: Antioch. Acts 11:26.

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Vol. 35, No. 3

July, Aug., Sept., 1984

Part 14

Sept. 30

The Man of His Counsel

(Continued from last lesson)

When the Jones followers moved their meetings to the school house Alfred asked Joe to worship with them, but Joe was so sick at heart over the turn of affairs that he said he would remain at home until he learned what God would have him do. That evening as Joe opened his Bible for reading, after having asked God to direct him to the things in His Word that he most needed, Joe began to read from the first chapter of 1 Corinthians pondering over each verse he read. He read the tenth verse slowly: "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." Here he paused and, looking at Susie, said, "Did you understand that verse?"

"I do not know just what you mean," replied she.

"I shall read it again," replied Joe, which he did, and as he came to the middle of the verse, "and that there be no divisions among you," he paused. The two sat gazing at each other for

some time, when Joe said, "I have felt all the time that God was not pleased with the division of His people here at this place. You know what good meetings we all had and how we enjoyed ourselves before the organizations were formed. We were all together then. Now we are all divided and it seems we cannot work together, for each class of people wants to contend for its own views. I feel that this is all wrong and that God does not intend for His people to be divided but to be of the same mind and to speak the same thing and to be together. I am sure that I shall never consent for a barrier to be raised that shall separate me from any other child of God. I feel bad about conditions but what can I do? I see now that the ministers who have been here this winter have caused division among God's people, and I am sure that I do not know what the results of all these meetings will be. I am sure that God directed me to the Scripture read this morning and I have decided to do what I can to bring all the people together again, for God cannot work among them as they are now."

"But what can you do to make conditions better among them?" inquired Susie.

"I do not know just what I shall do, but I mean to keep my heart open to the Lord," said Joe. "You know we are learning many things from Him and the things that He teaches us through His Word will be lessons which we shall never forget. You know it was through His Word that we found the way to God and the peace for which our souls longed. He showed us also that we were in the Church that Jesus built on the rock and were full members. He is now teaching us that division among His people is not right, but that He wants us all to be of the same mind and the same judgment and to be together. I am so glad that He has taught us this thing for I am more determined than ever never to let any barrier come between any other child of God and me. But I have felt such a need lately of more of God. I know that I am His child but there is an emptiness in my soul that I feel needs to be filled. I want to do more for Him and I mean to search His Word more diligently than ever before. Surely there is some work for which the Lord is preparing me."

"I have felt the same way, too," replied Susie, "and I am not satisfied with conditions here at the Crossing. You know it seems that something has come between Alfred and Tillie and us. While they try to be the same as they always were, yet I feel that something has come between us, and you know I love them dearly. I wish things were as they were before Preacher Jones held his meeting, for then we enjoyed the meetings and received a blessing."

"I feel sure there are blessings in store for us yet if we just keep ourselves where God can instruct us through His Word," replied Joe.

At this time a knock was heard on the door. Alfred had come to inquire what Joe had for him to do that day. Joe invited him in and related the conversation of the morning to him, also reading the Scriptures which had brought light to

him. Alfred sat for some time in deep thought, and when Joe had finished speaking he said, "You have been no more concerned about the turn of affairs at the Crossing than have I. I, too, have seen what division has meant for the people here, but have not seen the remedy for it."

"The only remedy I can see," replied Joe, "is to be together as we once were, worship the Lord without human creed, and ever keep Christ before us. I am sure that is the way the Lord designed for it to be else He would not have said, 'Let there be no divisions among you.' As for me, I have decided not to let anything come between any other child of God and me. If there is ever a barrier raised it will be the one the other fellow raises, for I shall never raise one."

"I declare," said Alfred, "you are nearer the true Church of God than anyone I have ever seen, but I wonder if there is anyone else in all the world that sees this."

"I am sure I do not know," said Joe; "but if so I mean to ask God to lead me to him."

Alfred said, "I want to tell you something which I forgot to mention to you Saturday evening. While at Newton Saturday afternoon I met a man by the name of Myers who said he one time lived neighbor to you before you moved into the Steele's Crossing neighborhood. He said to tell you he wanted to see you and expected to drive over here some day. He lives three miles on the other side of Newton on the old Reynolds farm."

"Bill Myers," exclaimed Joe. "Why, I declare. I didn't know he was anywhere around here."

"Yes. And he wants to see you," replied Alfred. "He had spoken but a few words to me when he began to tell what the Lord had done for him. He told me that he had gone far on the downward

way but the Lord had saved him and he wanted to see you very much to tell you what the Lord had done for him."

"Bill Myers a Christian," exclaimed Susie. "That seems too good to be true. He was practically an infidel when we used to know him."

"I could not doubt it," replied Alfred, "and I am sure you will be convinced there surely has been a change in him when you hear him talk, for he said that not only had God saved him from his sins but that the Holy Ghost had come into his soul, sanctifying him."

"Don't you remember that Brother Reed mentioned sanctification several times when he was here holding his meeting?" asked Joe. "I have often thought of that and should really like to know more about it. But I can scarcely believe old Bill Myers is in our neighborhood and a Christian. I am glad to hear it, however, and am really desirous of seeing him."

(To Be Continued)

Are you walking like a Christian? Then don't forget that Jesus is walking along with you. You can ask, "What would Jesus do?"

Dear Boys and Girls:

Sometimes we hear people say of another person who is going through a trial, "He has the patience of Job." Webster's Dictionary defines "patience" as: "the quality to be patient; the character or habit of mind to suffer affliction, etc." Surely Job suffered many things at the hand of Satan. Let's remember that Satan had to get permission from God to touch Job in any way. God knew how Job lived before Him, and He asked Satan if he had considered his servant Job. God knows about our lives, too, and will not let anything happen to us that is harder than we can possibly go through for Him. (Read 1 Cor. 10:13).

The first verse in our lesson tells that Job was perfect and upright, that he feared God, and did not sin. Therefore, when all these troubles came on Job, he already knew how to trust God in all ways.

His herds were taken away, and so were his servants. Job's seven sons and three daughters were killed, too. All this happened in a short time. Then the devil put great and painful sores all over his body, but he still would not be discouraged and complain to God. Job said, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord."

Because Job had suffered so much, we can read of his faithfulness in the Bible. We are then encouraged to trust God in our troubles, trials, and afflictions. We may have to suffer so that others will get the courage to love Jesus more and more, too. Let us trust God and be faithful. —Aunt Dot

Lesson 14, September 30, 1984

THE PATIENCE OF JOB

Job 1:1 There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eshewed evil.

2 And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters.

3 His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.

6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them.

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?

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.

14 And there came a messenger unto Job, and said, The oxen were plowing, and the asses feeding beside them:

15 And the Sabeans fell upon them, and took them away; yea, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

16 While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

17 While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The Chaldeans made out three bands, and fell upon the camels, and have carried them away, yea, and slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

18 While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, Thy sons and thy 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.

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

Job 2:6 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.

Job 1:21 And Job 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.

Memory Verse: Let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. James 1:4.

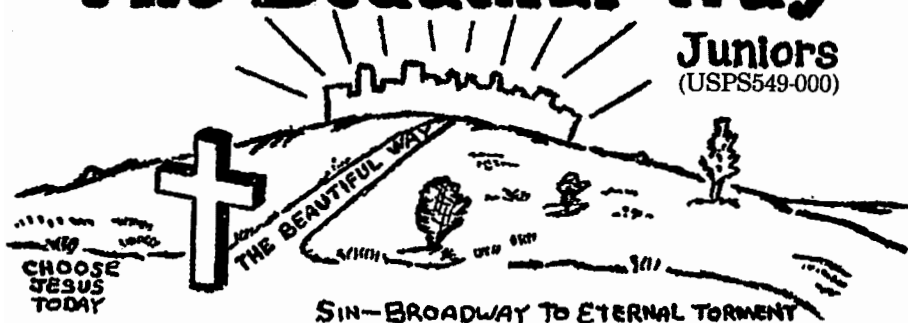
Questions:

1. Do we find that Job was upright and perfect before God?
2. Did God love Job? Did Job love God?
3. How many of each of the animals did Job have?
4. How many sons and daughters did Job have?
5. Satan said that Job loved God because of what?
6. What did God let Satan do at first?
7. Did Job still love God when everything was taken away?
8. What did God let Satan do next?
9. Was Job still faithful to God when these sores were on his body?
10. Can we take courage in affliction when we read about Job?
11. Will God help us to be faithful?

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Bible Search: What child did God call three times? *Answer next week.*
Last week's answer: Abraham. Rom. 4:11.

The Beautiful Way

Juniors
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Vol. 35, No. 4

Oct., Nov., Dec., 1984

Part 1

Oct. 7

The Man of His Counsel

(Continued from last lesson)

"I am sure that it will not be long until you shall see Bill, for he said he meant to come to your place as soon as he could," replied Alfred. "And, Joe, he spoke to me about some of the things that you mentioned this morning. He does not believe in dividing God's children and said that he had never joined anything but God, and that had proved satisfactory to him, and he also spoke of the Church of God. I wanted to converse with him more but had to come on home as it was then getting quite late. I enjoyed his conversation very much, however."

The two men went to their work, making preparation necessary for the spring plowing as soon as they could get into the field. There was much to be done, but the thought of Bill Myers was not absent from Joe's mind. He was so eager to receive the promised visit from him, which he received the following Sunday afternoon.

Joe and Susie both stared in amazement when they saw Myers and his family. The trace of tobacco juice was absent from Bill's chin, a thing that they had never seen before. They were

glad to see them all and gave them a warm welcome. A wonderful change had come over the Myers family, but the greatest change was in Bill. Susie noted that he used the kindest tones when addressing his wife and children and with this came the memory of times when she had heard him use rough language and heap abuses on his wife and little ones. As she thought of it all she said to herself, "There has been a wonderful change in this family, and only God could have brought it about."

An enjoyable afternoon was spent together, Joe telling about conditions in the community, even to the story of Mr. Sawyer's trouble with his hired help. At last he came to the question of the Church which lay so heavily on his heart, and this opened up an avenue for Mr. Myers to tell him of his own experience. Joe sat wide-eyed and open-mouthed as he heard Myers tell how in a brush-arbor meeting God convicted him of his sins, and, bowing at an altar of prayer, how he confessed to God and God spoke peace to his soul. "But that is not all," said Bill. "God not only forgave me of my sins but He took away the appetite I had for whiskey and tobacco and I have not cared for a drink of whiskey nor a chew of tobacco since."

God cleaned me up when He forgave me of my transgressions. But that is not all, either. Some time later I came to Him, as I felt a lack in my soul and knew that I needed more of His grace; and as I presented my body as a living sacrifice to Him the Holy Spirit came into my soul, filling me and sanctifying me."

"How wonderful," exclaimed Joe. "But I should like to know more about what you mean by sanctification. If your sins were pardoned, what does sanctification do for you?"

"I can best explain it by using as an illustration your neighbor and his last hired man," said Mr. Myers. "The Holy Spirit is to us what Mr. Sawyer's hired man was to him. He is more powerful than the enemy. When the Holy Spirit comes into our soul He gives us power over all the powers of the enemy and we can live a victorious life all the time. I felt the need of this many times after I was saved. Some things would come up that I would have to make right again. It seemed that I had not the power to overcome. But now I can say as did the hired hand, 'Old enemy, I am master here, and you shall get a thrashing, for I have power over you.'"

"That sounds good to me," said Joe; "and if there is such an experience for me I surely want it. I have been hungering and thirsting for more of God for some time, but I should like to know more of this sanctification. I should like to have it explained to me."

Mr. Myers laughed as he replied, "The experience is for you, but you will never understand it fully. But God willed it to you, for we read in 1 Thess. 4:3: 'For this is the will of God, even your sanctification.' I have the experience, but I cannot understand it. It is a great gift of God, but I can tell you no more about it than you can tell me about how God gave you peace. You know He did it, but how He did it you cannot tell. We read, too, 'Blessed are they that hunger

and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.' If you hunger and thirst I am sure that God will fill you."

"There is something else that I want to speak about," said Joe. "What church do you believe in, and with what one do you hold membership?"

Again Mr. Myers laughed but replied, "I believe I hold membership in the same Church that you do. I belong to the Church that Jesus built on the rock, that the gates of hell cannot prevail against, the one that He purchased with His own blood and named the 'Church of God.' I did not join it but God took me in as a member when He pardoned my sins. He then placed me in the body, which is His Church, and I did not need to join anything to be a Church member. I am one of the great family of God and all other of His children are my brothers and sisters."

"God be praised," said Joe, as he clasped Mr. Myers' hand; "I have found someone who is with me in the great Church of God."

As the afternoon waned the Myers took their departure with a promise from the Holmiers to visit them at an early date. As the carriage rolled away Joe and Susie stood looking after them, and when it disappeared around a bend in the road Joe turned to Susie and said, "That man is really a Christian and has an experience that I know nothing about. With this he bent his steps toward the barn where in the secret corner of the granary he again poured out his heart to God."

DIRECTED BY THE SPIRIT

Spring advanced in the neighborhood of Steele's Crossing and with it came the busy times with all the farmers. Joe and Alfred were both busy with their spring work. A number of visits had been exchanged between them and the Myers family, and Alfred and Tillie expressed themselves that they felt the

Myers family an unusual one. Although Alfred had the oversight of the little congregation who worshiped in the schoolhouse, and often addressed them from the pulpit, he recognized a power about Mr. Myers that he knew he did not possess. Many pleasant hours were spent together reasoning on the things of God.

(To Be Continued)

LESSON ILLUSTRATION



God's Book

The Bible is the Book of God,
There's truth in every page,
It is a never-changing Book
That's good for every age.

It tells us of the plan of God,
And how He sent His Son
To be the Saviour of the world,
And redeem us, every one.

It tells us of a heaven above,
Prepared for all His own,
A place of beauty and of love
Where wrong is never known.

Dear Boys and Girls:

Sometimes God puts us in certain places so that we may be a help to others who are in trouble. It isn't always

easy to help our friends. Suppose your best friend has had an untruth told about him. You know he wouldn't and didn't do what had been said. Naturally you have to stand by him through this time. God will always help, and the truth will come out sooner or later.

I'm thinking of Joseph. He was sold as a slave by his brothers and he was eventually put in prison because of a lie that someone told. Through all this, Joseph remained true to God and was finally made second ruler in Egypt. God had planned that Joseph be in this place so that he could save the people from the famine. We need to be consecrated to be just where God wants us to be.

Queen Esther was chosen to be queen instead of Queen Vashti. Haman was angry with Mordecai (Esther's cousin), and had the king proclaim that all the Jews should be killed. Esther was a Jew and was in the very place that God could use her to plead for her people before King Ahasuerus.

There was a rule that if anyone approached the king without his calling them before him, that the king might have that person killed. Esther hadn't been called for a month and she was afraid. She told the people, "Fast and pray for three days, and I will go before the king. If I perish, I perish."

When she went before the king he was pleased with her and held out the golden sceptre. Then Esther invited the king and Haman to a feast that she was to have. At the feast she told the king about Haman's plan to have all the Jewish people killed. This made King Ahasuerus angry with Haman and he commanded that Haman was to be hanged on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai.

Queen Esther trusted God and she was able to help her people to be saved because she was in the right place at the right time.

—Aunt Dot

Lesson 1, October 7, 1984

BRAVE QUEEN ESTHER

Est. 2:1 After these things, when the wrath of King Ahasuerus was appeased, he remembered Vashti, and what she had done, and what was decreed against her.

2 Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, Let there be fair young virgins sought for the king:

4 And let the maiden which pleaseth the king be queen instead of Vashti. And the thing pleased the king; and he did so.

7 And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was fair and beautiful; whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter.

17 And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti.

Est. 3:2 And all the king's servants, that were in the king's gate, bowed, and revered Haman: for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence.

5 And when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence then was Haman full of wrath.

Est. 4:15 Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer,

16 Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.

Est. 7:3 Then Esther the queen answered and said, If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request:

4a For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish.

6 And Esther said, The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen.

10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.

Memory Verse: In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust: let me never be put to confusion. Psa. 71:1.

Questions:

1. Who became queen instead of Queen Vashti?
2. Were Esther and Mordecai cousins?
3. Why was Haman angry with Mordecai?
4. What did Haman decide to do with Mordecai and the Jewish people?
5. What did Mordecai tell Esther to do?
6. Why was she afraid to visit King Ahasuerus?
7. Did the king grant Esther's request?
8. What did she tell him about Haman?
9. What did the king command to be done to Haman?
10. Does God care when someone does something wrong to us? Will He help us?

Bible Search: Who walked upon dry land in the sea? *Answer next week.*

Last week's answer: Samuel. 1 Sam. 3:4, 6, 10.

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Part 2

Oct. 14

The Man of His Counsel

(Continued From Last Lesson)

One day in the latter part of the month of May Joe and Alfred were plowing in different fields. The weather had been unfavorable for some time and now each was pushing his work along as rapidly as possible. They worked early and late trying to complete their spring work, getting the ground ready for planting.

About mid-afternoon Joe hitched his horses to a fence post and started across the field toward the place where Alfred was plowing. He had gone but a short distance when he noticed Alfred's team was also standing and Alfred was coming to meet him. The two soon met and each asked the other, "What is wrong?"

It did not take Joe long to explain. He said, "I guess there is nothing wrong so far as I can see, but it seems that I am unable to work in peace this afternoon, for Bill Myers is continually on my mind. I have tried to dismiss him from my mind but he only comes back all the more forcibly. I left the team and went into that little woods yonder several times and prayed for him but I just can't dismiss him from my mind. I con-

cluded at last that there must be something wrong with him and he may be needing help and if so, do you not think it would be best for us to go see about him? I know we are very busy but I think we can spare a few hours of the afternoon to see what is wrong. I am sure if he is sick or in need of our assistance in any way he would appreciate our coming to see about him. But why are you leaving your team and coming to meet me?"

Alfred looked at Joe in amazement for some time and then spoke, "Joe, I am sure the Lord is trying to get something to us, for you have only spoken my feelings for this entire afternoon. I have scarcely been able to collect my thoughts sufficiently to keep at my work, and it seems that I cannot accomplish anything. I, too, have been very much impressed about Brother Myers and was coming to ask you if you did not think you could spare me from my work for a few hours that I might go to see about him."

"We shall go together," said Joe as he turned to get his team and then went to the house to inform Susie what he and Alfred had decided to do, and the impression each had had which led them

to action. As Susie needed some things from the grocery store, she asked the men to stop on their way through Newton and bring back the groceries with them. There were some things which must be done about the barn before they could leave. After completing these chores they hitched a team to the carriage and started to Newton, and from thence to the Myers home, a distance of about eight miles.

Before leaving, Joe thought it best to take some plowpoints with him to have sharpened at the blacksmith shop while in Newton, and thus spare him this trouble the following Saturday afternoon. He waited at the blacksmith's shop for the work to be finished after getting the groceries which Susie had ordered (for there were several orders for work at the shop which must be completed before the blacksmith could do his work). The sun had set and twilight came on before his points were ready. Placing them in the carriage the two men then started on toward the Myers home, but night overtook them before they reached their destination. As they approached the house they saw it was well lighted; a lighted lantern hung on a nail just outside the door. They also noted quite a number of wagons and carriages about the place. Alfred said, "What do you suppose is wrong?"

"That remains to be seen," replied Joe, as he hitched the team, and the two started for the house. Nearing the gate they saw a large crowd congregated at the door and at each window. As they came near the door they heard singing; the old familiar song "Coronation" was being sung and it dawned upon each of them what the crowd gathered there meant. Joe thought of the experience of the afternoon and although he had always been very quiet when in services, as he approached the door he cried out, "Praise the Lord." Immediate-

ly the crowd separated and Alfred and Joe walked into the room. As soon as Mr. Myers caught sight of them he too cried out, "Praise the Lord," and made his way to them.

The singing went on while these three made a few explanations. Mr. Myers told Alfred and Joe that the evangelist who conducted the meeting in the arbor when he was saved had come to his place that day and Myers had asked him to preach for them that night, that he had consented to do so, and Myers had gone among the neighbors, telling them there would be services at his place that evening, and it seemed that everybody in the community had come. "I wanted to get word to you two," said Mr. Myers, "but after going around here in this neighborhood I could not go so far, so I just asked the Lord to some way move on you two that you would come over here anyhow, and here you are." This of course called for an explanation from Alfred and Joe, and as they told Mr. Myers of their experience of the afternoon all were moved to tears as they realized God had been talking to Alfred and Joe that afternoon and they had come to the Myers home through direction of God's Holy Spirit.

After a few more songs and prayer the evangelist arose to address those present. From the first word all sat as if spellbound, for he spoke with ease and as one having authority. "I have come before you this evening," said he, "to give you reasons for being what I am, and why I believe as I do. No one is anything in this world without first having reason for being such. The farmer has a reason for tilling the land, else he would not do so. The merchant, the groceryman, the mechanic, the book-keeper, the lumberman, and even the rag-picker of the alley all have a reason for being what they are, and if you should listen to the reason for which they are 'such as they are' I believe they

could present logic sufficient to convince us their desire or their belief is all right for them, although we might not think it would fit in our particular case. Each of them has a reason for being what he is. And I have a reason for being what I am and for believing as I do. That is what I want to speak to you about this evening.

"I am a holiness preacher and I want to give you several reasons tonight why I believe in holiness, and I trust you will all receive it with the same courtesy you would receive the reasons of the farmer, the merchant, the groceryman, the mechanic, the bookkeeper, the lumber man, or the rag-picker, even though you might not think that it just exactly fits your case. I have several reasons why I believe in holiness and these I shall give you this evening. First: I believe in holiness because it is the only way that God has. We read in Isa. 35:8: "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called the way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those; the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein." After reading this Scripture I could not believe otherwise, for I find that God's way is a way of holiness, and no unclean thing shall pass over it; so if I want to travel on the way the Lord has I must be clean and I must be holy.

"Second: I believe in holiness because it is an attribute of God. In Exod. 15:11, I read, 'Who is like unto thee, O Lord, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?' I believe in holiness because the Lord whom I serve is holy. And if He be holy that which He imparts to us and all that we get from Him in this world must be holy also. Man is not holy of himself, neither can he cleanse himself, but the Lord cleanses, and when He gives of Himself to the children of men, that which He gives to them is holy, for holiness is an attribute of

God."

(To Be Continued)

Dear Boys and Girls:

When we turn to God and give our heart to Jesus, we love Him so much for forgiving our sins and helping us to keep from sinning. We always want to walk closely by His side. What a joy it is to read the Bible and sing the songs about our Lord and Savior! We love going to church to hear the preaching of His Word, and sharing in the blessed privilege of prayer.

Ruth had married one of Elimelech and Naomi's sons. As they continued to worship the true God, she, too, learned to love Him. No doubt she had seen the difference in serving God rather than an idol called Chemosh.

After Elimelech and Naomi's sons died, Naomi wanted to go back to her people in Bethlehem. She was unhappy because she had lost so much in this strange land. As she started back, she told Orpah and Ruth, "Go to your families, and may God bless you. You have been good to me." Ruth and Orpah still walked with her, and she asked them again to go back.

Finally Orpah kissed Naomi and decided to go back to her people. Ruth didn't want to live in Moab where the idol Chemosh was worshiped. She said, "Please don't make me go back. I want to go where you go and live where you live. Your people shall be my people, and your God shall be my God." Naomi said no more to Ruth, as she knew that Ruth really wanted to go. The two then went on their way to Bethlehem.

—Aunt Dot

Lesson 2, October 14, 1984

RUTH FOLLOWS AFTER GOD

Ruth 1:1 Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there

was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem-judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons.

2 And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehem-judah. And they came into the country of Moab, and continued there.

3 And Elimelech Naomi's husband died; and she was left, and her two sons.

4 And they took them wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years.

5 And Mahlon and Chilion died also both of them; and the woman was left of her two sons and her husband.

7 Wherefore she went forth out of the place where she was, and her two daughters in law with her; and they went on the way to return unto the land of Judah.

8 Then Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, Go, return each to her mother's house: the Lord deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me.

10 And they said unto her, Surely we will return with thee unto thy people.

11 And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? are there yet any more sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?

14 And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother in law; but Ruth clave unto her.

15 And she said, Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people,

and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister in law.

16 And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:

17 Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.

18 When she saw that she was steadfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her.

19a So they two went on to Bethlehem. . . .

Memory Verse: That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us. Acts 17:27.

Questions:

1. Why did Elimelech and Naomi decide to leave Bethlehem?
2. What is a famine?
3. What were their sons' names?
4. What happened to Elimelech?
5. What were the names of the women Mahlon and Chilion married?
6. How long were they married?
7. What happened to them?
8. What did Naomi want to do after that happened?
9. Did Orpah and Ruth want to go with her?
10. What did Orpah do?
11. Did Ruth turn back, too?
12. What did she tell Naomi?

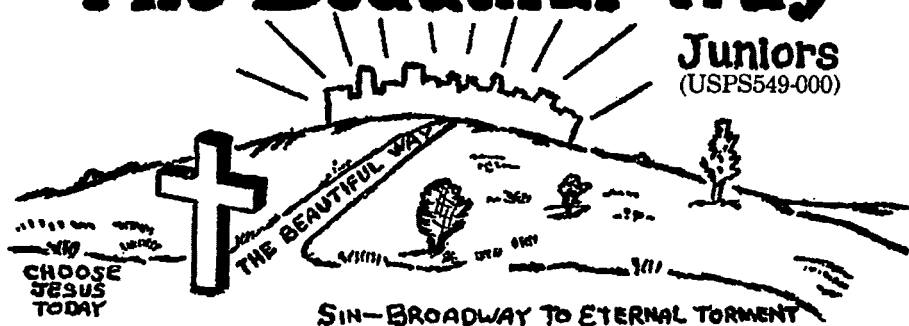
Bible Search: What scribe read from an open book from a wooden pulpit?

Answer next week.

Last week's answer: The children of Israel. Ex. 14:29.

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Part 3

Oct. 21

The Man of His Counsel

(Continued from last lesson)

The preacher continued, "Third: I believe in holiness because I cannot worship God in any other way. In Psa. 29:2 we find these words: 'Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.' I want to worship the Lord and therefore I must believe in holiness, for that is the worship that He desires.

"Fourth: I believe in holiness and I desire it for it is the only becoming thing for a Christian. In Psa. 93:5, I shall read again, 'Thy testimonies are very sure: holiness becometh thine house, O Lord, forever.' It is natural for mankind to desire that which is most becoming to them. In making selection of any article of dress we try to select the one which is most becoming to us and it is only natural that we should do so. I believe in holiness and have attired myself in it because I find that God says it is the only becoming thing in which His house can be clothed. Not only in the time of David was this meant but the Word says it becometh the house of God forever. Anything that is becoming will attract someone else. When one is attired in holiness it is going to be so

becoming to him that sinners will be attracted to him and then be won to Christ. The only becoming thing for a Christian is a life of holiness.

"Fifth: I believe in holiness because God calls us to it. In 1 Thess. 4:7, Paul says, 'For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.' So you can see God has called us to obtain the experience of holiness and I must believe in it because it is a call from God. As many as God calls He calls to holiness and the call is universal, for Jesus said in Matt. 11:28, 'Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.' So the call is to all who labor and are heavy laden, and it is a call unto holiness.

"Sixth: God demands holiness of us. In 1 Pet. 1:15, 16, we have these words: 'But as he which hath call you is holy: so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, Be ye holy, for I am holy.' When our Lord was being tempted in the wilderness and the enemy put before Him at the time He was an hungered if He be the Son of God to command the stones to become bread Jesus said to him, 'Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth from the mouth of God.' If we take the Word of God as our guide

and live by every word that proceedeth from His mouth, we then must be holy and believe in holiness, for as He is holy we must be holy also.

"Seventh: I believe in holiness because it is the fulfillment of the oath which God swore to Abraham. I shall read from the gospel recorded by Luke, in Luke 1:73-75: 'The oath which he swore to our father Abraham, That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.' I thank God that not only did He grant this experience unto us but made it possible for us to serve Him in holiness all the days of our life. So it must mean to serve Him here. Some folks think it will be all right to serve the Lord in holiness after they enter heaven, but God expects us to serve Him in holiness in this present world, and every day of our life.

"Eighth: I believe in holiness because it is the fruit that should be borne in every Christian life. In Rom. 6:22, I shall read what the Apostle Paul says: 'But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.' I want my fruit to be such that the end shall be everlasting life and to do so the fruit of my life must bear the marks of holiness.

"Ninth: Not only do I believe in holiness, but I believe in more holiness, in a perfected holiness. For support of this reason I shall read 2 Cor. 7:1: 'Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.' I believe in a perfected holiness. When man first comes to God convicted of his sins, and godly sorrow grips his soul, how careful he is in his life to do those things that he knows God requires him to do. When God for Christ's sake speaks peace to his soul, pardoning his sins, he

then enters into holiness, but when the Holy Ghost comes into his soul he has a perfected holiness. So we see holiness begins in conviction, is entered into in justification, and is perfected in sanctification. For further evidence of this latter point I refer you to Heb. 10:14: 'For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.'

"Tenth: And now my tenth and greatest reason why I believe in holiness and strive for it is because I want to see God. In Heb. 12:14, Paul says, 'Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.' I want to see the Lord and meet Him in peace, and therefore I follow in the path of holiness. I am sure that we all want to see God, so let us put on the becoming robe of holiness which is the garment God designed for all His true children."

Many more remarks were made upon the reasons for believing in holiness, and the hands of the clock ticked off two hours before the speaker closed his discourse for the evening. Joe and Alfred sat spellbound under the sound of the speaker's voice. Many times they were moved to tears as some wonderful truth of God's Word was revealed to them. At other times they would give vent to their feelings by an "amen," or "praise the Lord." The sermon for the evening was what was needed to better establish them in the truths of God. Joe had been convinced there was such an experience as sanctification and was earnestly seeking God to fill him with His Holy Spirit. Each day had found him in the room of his granary calling upon God to fill him with the Holy Spirit, and the more he sought the Lord the hungrier he was for more of God. How he rejoiced because he knew God had directed him to come to the Myers' home that night, in answer to the prayers of Bill Myers. More and more he could see God directing him.

At the close of the service Alfred and Joe met the evangelist, who was passing through the country on his way to a little town in northern Indiana where he was to begin a meeting the following Sunday, and from thence to a camp meeting in Michigan. Upon the urgent request of the evangelist, Joe and Alfred promised to try to be at the camp meeting.

They started for home at a late hour, very tired from their labor in the field and the drive to the Myers' home, but happy to know the Spirit of God had directed them there that night to receive food for their souls. How they rejoiced as they drove along in the stillness of night. God was pouring His blessing down upon their souls and they felt a nearness to each other such as they had never felt before. The experience of the afternoon brought greater confidence and love for each other, and as they drove along they conversed on the goodness of God. As they neared home Joe said, "Alfred, there is one thing that I mean to do from now on. When I feel a moving in my soul such as I had this afternoon I mean to give heed to it, for I am sure God wants to lead me into the things for which I am searching. I want you to be with me. Can I depend on you?"

At this Alfred grasped Joe's hand and said, "Joe, do not fear for me, for I am as hungry for the things of God as you are, and I shall ever keep my heart open that I may hear the voice of God and be directed by His Spirit."

THE CAMP MEETING

Joe and Alfred had been busy men before the meeting at Myers', but now they were doubly busy trying to arrange their work that they might be away from home and attend the camp meeting. To do so someone must be found who would care for the stock on the place while they were away. Much

as Joe desired to go he would always ask God in his daily devotion. "If it be thy will, Lord, open the way that I may go." The way was opened and in such a manner that Joe and Alfred both felt free to attend the meeting without care or worry about the work at home.

Susie's brother John had decided to take unto himself a wife, and as they had not fully decided where they would locate, it was an easy matter to persuade them to care for things on the farm while the Holmier and the Giese families attended the camp meeting in Michigan.

(To Be Continued)

Dear Boys and Girls:

Don't you think that tiny babies are sweet? They're so soft and cuddly, and it's so much fun to play with them. Who would ever want to hurt a little baby?

When baby Moses was born, wicked Pharaoh had just said that all the boy babies of the Israelites would be thrown into the river. What a terrible thing to happen!

Jochebed, Moses' mother, loved him and would not let him be thrown into the river. She kept Moses hidden for three months from Pharaoh's soldiers. When she could hide him no longer, God helped her with a plan. She made a little basket and covered it with pitch so that it wouldn't leak. The hardest part was to put her sweet baby into the basket. Then Jochebed went to the river and laid the basket in the water. She sent Moses' sister, Miriam, to watch over the basket and baby.

Pharaoh's daughter and her maids came to bathe in the river. They saw the strange basket and when the princess found that it contained an Israelite's baby, she felt sorry for him.

When Miriam saw that she liked the baby, she ran to ask if the princess

would like an Israelite nurse to take care of him. Surely she would need a nurse to help with the baby! Yes, she did, so Miriam ran home and brought her mother.

Now they didn't have to be afraid of the soldiers any more, for they were caring for a baby that the princess had said could live. God had made a way for Moses to be spared.

While Jochebed cared for Moses in her home, she taught him all she could about the one, true, God. Moses never forgot, even after he was taken to the palace to live. He became great and in the end led God's people away from Egypt.

—Aunt Dot

Lesson 3, October 21, 1984

JOCHEBED SAVES HER BABY

Ex. 2:1 And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to a wife a daughter of Levi.

2 And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months.

3 And when she could no longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river's bank.

4 And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him.

5 And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river's side; and when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it.

6 And when she had opened it, she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him,

and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children.

7 Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee?

8 And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother.

9 And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages. And the woman took the child, and nursed it.

10 And the child grew and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water.

Memory Verse: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psa. 46:1.

Questions:

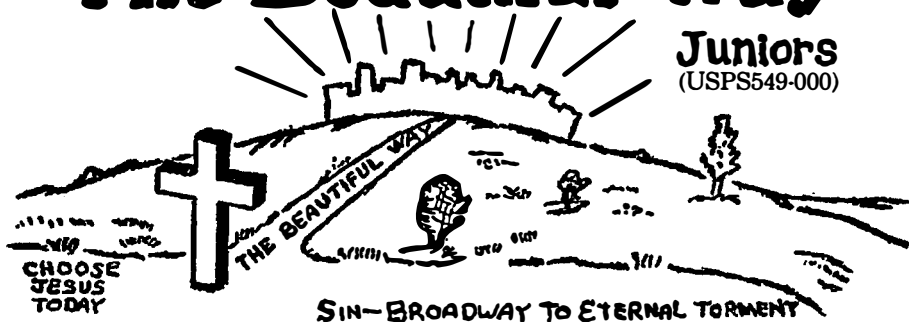
1. What cruel rule did Pharaoh lay down?
2. Did Moses' mother want to do this?
3. What was Moses' mother's name?
4. How long did she hide her baby?
5. What plan did God help her with?
6. Where did she put the basket?
7. Who stayed close by to watch?
8. Who found the basket and baby?
9. Whom did Miriam bring back as a nurse for the baby?
10. Did they have to be afraid of the soldiers now? Why or why not?
11. What did Jochebed teach Moses?
12. Do you think God helped save Moses? Why?

Bible Search: The oldest man that ever lived died before his father. Is this true? *Answer next week.*

Last week's answer: Ezra. Neh. 8:4, 5.

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Part 4

Oct. 28

The Man of His Counsel

(Continued From Last Lesson)

As this was before the day of the automobile, or rapid and easy transportation some thought and arrangement for travel must be made. The men thought of a way they might all go and with less expense than if they should make the trip on the train. Joe had a light farm wagon, and they decided to travel in it as the Western pioneers who crossed the plains. Accordingly bows were placed on the wagon-bed and over them was drawn a tarpaulin and the schooner was in readiness for the trip. Much preparation was made by the women also, for they must see that the children were made as comfortable as possible for the trip, and arrangements must be made that they might take their daily nap, and provision made to satisfy the appetite of hungry children. Bedding was placed in the rear of the wagon, and this made a nice place for the children to ride as well as a comfortable bed for them when they took their naps. They packed lunch also, sufficient for one day, deciding to cook their meals on the old-fashioned camp-fire along the route. As it would take them about four days to make the

trip, they would have to camp at night, and provision must be made for this also. It was decided that the women and children occupy the wagon for the night, and Joe and Alfred would spread some horse blankets on the ground under the wagon and sleep there. After all arrangements had been made and plans completed, one June morning bright and early the loaded schooner rolled out of the Holmier barn-lot and the two families were on their way to the camp meeting.

The first day was ideal for traveling, and as the team was fresh and there was no need of stopping to prepare a meal they got well on their way, and at night-fall they had traveled forty miles. They camped beside a little stream, had supper, and then put four sleepy children to bed. After reading a portion of Scripture, and having prayer, the parents of the children retired for the night also, the women lying beside the babies in the wagon and the men rolling up in their blankets on the ground under the wagon. All were soon sound asleep, to be awakened when the first streaks of morning light tinged the eastern sky and the birds began caroling their morning praise to their Maker.

After a hasty breakfast from the fragments of the lunch of the day before they were again on their way. Noon found them by a small stream. The women prepared their meal, cooking it on the open campfire. The sun had been riding in a clear sky, but in mid-afternoon clouds could be seen arising over the western horizon and the rumble of distant thunder told them that a storm was approaching. It was soon upon them and traveling was impossible. Driving into a schoolyard they took shelter by the side of the school-building, thereby breaking the force of the wind, but the rain fell in torrents and the wagon cover could not keep out the dampness. In preparing the bed in the rear of the wagon so the children might take their nap through the day the women would place all the bedding in the wagon and then cover them all with the horse blankets, thereby protecting their quilts and pillows from the dust and dirt of the road and also from the trampling of the children's feet. After the rain had subsided the bedding which was used in the wagon for the women and children was found to be dry but the horse blankets which the men used to sleep on under the wagon were too wet to use that night; so the men sat up in the wagon, as there was not enough room for them to lie down, and in this position took what little sleep they could.

The remainder of the trip was made without any inconvenience and on the afternoon of the fourth day they drove onto the camp ground. They found they had not been alone in their mode of travel, for a number of others there had also traveled by wagon. How strange everything was to them, and no one was there whom they knew. It was not long, however, until the evangelist located them and they were meeting other ministers; and soon the strangeness began to wear off, for they saw a friendliness among these people such as they

had never seen among any class of people before. The fellowship and brotherly love manifested among them was felt by all.

Joe and Alfred has always joined in singing wherever they had been in meetings heretofore, but as they assembled together in the tabernacle for services the first evening they could only sit and listen. Such singing they had never heard. They gazed in astonishment as the singers lifted their voices in praise with a shine of victory and glory on their faces. But much as they enjoyed the singing they became lost to their surroundings as they listened to the expounding of the gospel in the evening service. Many times they were moved to tears as they listened to the Word of God delivered under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. As they left the tabernacle that evening Joe slipped his arm through Alfred's and said, "Did you ever hear anything like that in your life?" To which Alfred replied, "No, I don't believe I ever did, and somehow I feel that God has directed us to this place."

"I believe He has, too," said Joe, "and if I get no more in the entire meeting I feel repaid already for all the trouble I have had in getting ready to come and for the trip here, even to the night I had to sit up in the wagon. Surely God is in this place and I am sure He wants to get something to our hearts."

Susie and Tillie were so worn out with the trip and the care of the children they decided not to attend services the first night, but to rest that they might be able to attend the next day. So they remained in their tents that evening while the men attended, and when they returned with such an account of the meeting, both decided to miss no more meetings unless entirely unavoidable.

The meeting progressed and such truths as sanctification, unity, and healing were set forth in such clearness,

and yet with such force that all must acknowledge them as Bible facts. Not only was healing preached, but many who were sick came, and as prayer was offered for them, healing came and they were made well. These four searchers for truth looked on in amazement as they saw the blind eyes opened in answer to prayer, and those who had to be led about by the hand of someone else go about seeing. They saw the deaf ears unstopped and those who could not hear rejoiced to know they could hear the slightest sound, even to a whispered word. Ankle-braces and crutches were discarded and their users walked freely without them; wheel-chairs were vacated and those who had not walked for years received strength in their weak limbs and leaped and shouted praises to God. Although Joe had prayed for a number of sick folks and had seen them healed, he did not know it was a Bible doctrine, but as he saw the sick healed, the lame made to walk, the blind to see, and the deaf to hear, he rejoiced as never before to know his God was "the same yesterday, today, and forever."

(To Be Continued)

LESSON ILLUSTRATION



Dear Boys and Girls:

As we go to school, we learn many things. We learn to read, write, work

math problems, etc. Each year that we are in school these subjects become harder and harder. We keep working, though, until finally we can apply them to help us in our every-day living.

The same is true in our Christian experience. Each day we learn precious lessons in faith, compassion (which is caring for others), and living honest lives. We grow in the Lord and stay faithful to Jesus. God is watching us, and someday He may give us work to do for Him. We need to be ready for His service. Although others may not be living for Jesus He will help us each day.

While the children of Israel worshiped idols of the nations around them, Deborah remained faithful to God. She was a prophetess, and told the people how they should live to please God. They honored Deborah and came to her for judgment in different matters.

When the people cried to God for deliverance from the rule of their enemies, God heard and told Deborah what to do. She called Barak who was the captain of the army, and said, "Gather ten thousand men and go against Sisera. God will give you the victory."

Barak gathered the men and Deborah went with him. Soon they saw Sisera with his horses, chariots, and men. Deborah said unto Barak, "Up, this is the day that the Lord will deliver Sisera into your hands." God went before them and a mighty battle was won. The people had peace in the land for forty years.

—Aunt Dot

Lesson 4, October 28, 1984

DEBORAH LEADS ISRAEL

Judg. 4:1 And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, when Ehud was dead.

2 And the Lord sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, that

reigned in Hazor; the captain of whose host was Sisera, which dwelt in Harosheth of the Gentiles.

3 And the children of Israel cried unto the Lord: for he had nine hundred chariots of iron; and twenty years he mightily oppressed the children of Israel.

4 And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time.

6 And she sent and called Barak the son of Abinoam out of Kedeshnaphtali, and said unto him, Hath not the Lord God of Israel commanded saying, Go and draw toward mount Tabor, and take with thee ten thousand men of the children of Naphtali and the children of Zebulun?

7 And I will draw unto thee to the river Kishon, Sisera, the captain of Habin's army, with his chariots and his multitude; and I will deliver him into thine hand.

8 And Barak said unto her, If thou wilt go with me, then I will go: but if thou wilt not go with me, then I will not go.

9 And she said I will surely go with thee: notwithstanding the journey that thou takest shall not be for thine honour; for the Lord shall sell Sisera into the hand of a woman. And Deborah arose, and went with Barak to Kedesh.

12 And they shewed Sisera that Barak the son of Abinoam was gone up to mount Tabor.

13 And Sisera gathered together all his chariots, even nine hundred chariots of iron, and all the people that were with him, from Harosheth of the Gentiles unto the river of Kishon.

14 And Deborah said unto Barak, Up; for this is the day in which the

Lord hath delivered Sisera into thine hand: is not the Lord gone out before thee? So Barak went down from mount Tabor, and ten thousand men after him.

23 So God subdued on that day Jabin the king of Canaan before the children of Israel.

Judg. 5:31 So let all thine enemies perish, O Lord: but let them that love him be as the sun when he goeth forth in his might. And the land had rest forty years.

Memory Verse: For the arms of the wicked shall be broken: but the Lord upholdeth the righteous. Psalms 37:17.

Questions:

1. Why was King Jabin ruling over God's people?
2. How many years were they ruled by this king?
3. Was he good to the people?
4. Did God help when the people cried unto Him?
5. Who did He tell to help?
6. Who did Deborah send for to gather the men together?
7. How many men was he to get?
8. Did he want to go without Deborah? Did she go with him?
9. How many chariots did Sisera have?
10. What did Deborah tell Barak when they saw Sisera and his army?
11. Who went before them? Did they win the battle?
12. How long did they have peace in the nation?

Bible Search: Whose eyesight was still good when he was 120 years old?
Answer next week.

Last week's answer: Yes, it is true. Methuselah's father, Enoch, did not die.

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Part 5

Nov. 4

The Man of His Counsel

(Continued From Last Lesson)

Although Joe recognized the truths of God and knew he was among the people of God, he could not tolerate the public altar. He was seeking God with all his heart for the infilling of the Holy Spirit, and trying to get to the place where his vessel was entirely emptied that the Holy Spirit could come in, but as he would pray the question of the public altar would come before him, and often he would cry out, "Fill me, Lord, in the same way that you spoke peace to my soul. You did this in the privacy of my own room; now fill me the same way." But the filling did not come. One night as the invitation was given for those to come forward who desired the Holy Spirit, the first one to go was Alfred, and he was soon followed by Tillie. Both poured out their hearts to God, and soon arose with the glory of God in their souls, for they had obtained that for which they had long been searching. In the privacy of their tent that night Alfred approached Joe on the subject of his soul's need and Joe opened up his heart to Alfred, telling him that he could never go to a public altar as he did not believe that

was the way God meant to get things to His children, stating also that God had saved him when alone and he felt that was the proper way to come to God for any need of the soul.

In telling Alfred this he felt he would be relieved, but the reply was such as to burden him more, for Alfred said, "That may all be true, but you must remember God dealt with you then because He knew the tradition under which you were brought up and the teachings of former years and it would have been a difficult thing to have got you to a public altar then, but you now are to walk in light as it comes to you, and remember, if you ever get anything from God it will come God's way. As for me, I was so hungry for the things of God and felt such a need of something more in my soul that I was willing to bow in the pigpen among the swine if that was the place the Lord wanted me to be that He might fill me. Joe, when you get to that place also, you will find the thing for which your soul is longing."

Alfred did not know how his words were striking home, but they sank deep in Joe's soul. Joe had always spoken so boldly against the public altar that now to humble himself and consent to go to

an altar of prayer for some need of his soul was more than he could think of. But there was no sleep for Joe that night. Rising early before any others in the tents were stirring he went to a secret place, there to commune with his God and again ask Him for the infilling of the Holy Spirit. As Joe knelt before the Lord he again petitioned Him as he had often done before to grant unto him His Holy Spirit. As he did so on this particular morning a vision arose before him, and he saw the altar rail of the tabernacle rise before him as a mountain. There were no words of prayer that he could form. He knelt there for some time sobbing like a child. He knew what he would have to do to get the desire of his heart, and as he knelt there, self died and he cried out to God, "O Lord, if that is what you require of me I shall bow at that altar this very day." He arose with that settled peace in his soul that only those know who have crucified self and humbly submitted to the will of God. That day he bowed at the altar, and as he cried out to God, "Now, Lord, I have completely surrendered; fill me with the Holy Spirit," the fire of God touched his soul and he arose and shouted the praises of God. He did not care who heard nor who saw, for God had granted unto him the thing for which his soul had been longing for some weeks. As his shouting subsided he looked about him for Susie, but found she had gone to her tent. She, too, was thinking deeply.

That afternoon the four of them listened to a message on "Water Baptism, the Mode, the Purpose, and Conditions." No one was stronger in his belief of water baptism than Joe. And he had boasted many times of his baptism and many times had mentioned the fact to Alfred, although the two of them could not agree for Alfred had not received the kind of baptism Joe had received. But as the evangelist that afternoon led

them step by step into the truths of God concerning this ordinance, many glances were exchanged between them. The first thought was on the ordinance of baptism, and the minister handled the subject well, opening to the minds of those who heard the truth that it was an ordinance of God entered into by the Son of God, practiced by the apostles, and bearing the approval of God. The mode was next dealt with; and with such conciseness as to convince any unbiased mind. He read Rom. 6:4, "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." None could think other than of a burial where the body was completely put out of sight, as the speaker advanced with his message.

Next he spoke of the purpose of baptism and read Acts 2:37-39; "Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."

"Here," said the speaker, "is the real purpose of baptism set forth. Many have conceived the idea that as the text says 'for the remission of sins,' one cannot truly be changed unless he has been baptized, but such is not the case, for water baptism never actually cleansed a man from his sins and never will. We read in 1 Pet. 1:18, 19, '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; but with the precious blood of Christ, as

of a lamb without blemish and without spot.' We must conclude from this text that water cannot actually cleanse the soul, for we are redeemed by the blood of Jesus and that is the only thing that can reach the soul of man. There is no strength in water to erase the stains of sin, and God did not mean the ordinance of baptism for that purpose. 'For the remission of sins' does not mean that they might be actually remitted, but figuratively remitted. Baptized 'for the remission of sins,' not that through the act of baptism the soul-stains are erased for through the blood of Jesus they were already remitted. In the act of baptism you testify to the world by this outward act, which is a figurative remission of sins, that there has been a work wrought within the heart and you are buried in a watery grave to rise and walk in newness of life with the Lord.

"We read in 1 Pet. 3:21, another purpose of baptism; 'Not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God.' If we want a clear conscience before the Lord we must do the things He commands of us, and one of the commands is to be baptized.

"And now to the conditions for baptism. I refer you again to the sermon of Peter on the day of Pentecost where they asked him what they must do and he said, 'Repent.' So one who desires baptism must be an individual who has repented of his sins. And he must be a believer also. In Mark 16:15, 16, we have the words of the Master as He sent His disciples into the world and gave them the last commission before He ascended into heaven, 'And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.' We see here that baptism is for the believer, the one who has been made new in Christ. Many have gone

to the water's edge and have even been buried in the water who have never received real baptism, for it is not a real baptism unless the candidate for baptism has really been born again and made a new creature by obtaining the remission of sins which comes only through the application of the blood of Jesus Christ to the soul."

(To Be Continued)

Dear Boys and Girls:

Suppose we are going on a trip. Usually we take with us the things that we think we will need. Maybe we are going camping. We might take a tent, cooking utensils, old clothes, our bikes to ride, comfortable shoes, etc. The rest is left at home. We may love them ever so much, but we cannot take everything with us.

When we give our hearts to Jesus, we take on a new life. Our whole lives are changed. We don't go to the bad places where we used to go. We don't enjoy the sinful pleasures of the past. We now love the ways of Jesus, and our desire is to please Him. We must never look back to our old life in sin.

The two men told Lot and his wife to leave Sodom. The city was to be destroyed because of the many sins of the people. God could not spare the city any longer. They also told them not to look back. I'm sure that they had many loved ones and precious things they would have liked to take with them. In their haste, they could only save themselves from the burning of the city. Let's remember our memory verse (Luke 9:62), and keep our eyes on the Lord to make heaven our home. Don't look back to your sinful ways as Lot's wife looked back. She disobeyed God and was made a pillar of salt.

Job's wife, too, was remembering her family and riches that were taken from them. Now her husband, Job, was suffering from many sores. She, no doubt,

was discouraged when she told Job to "curse God and die." Although troubles may be on every hand, let us look to Jesus to take us through them all with victory in our souls. —Aunt Dot

Lesson 5, November 11, 1984

TWO WIVES IN THE BIBLE

Gen. 19:12 And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place:

13 For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the Lord; and the Lord hath sent us to destroy it.

14 And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the Lord will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law.

15 And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.

16 And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the Lord being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city.

17 And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.

24 Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven;

26 But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

Job 2:7 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 speaketh. 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.

Memory Verse: And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God. Luke 9:62.

Questions:

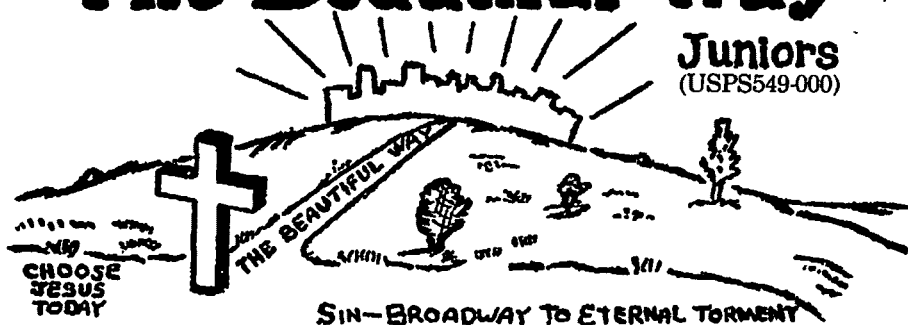
1. How many men came to Sodom?
2. Who invited them in for the night?
3. What did Lot think would happen to the men?
4. Did they decide to go with Lot?
5. Did the wicked men try to hurt the visitors?
6. What happened to them?
7. What did the men tell Lot was to happen to Sodom?
8. How many escaped from the city? Who were they?
9. What happened to Lot's wife? Why?
10. What did Satan do to Job?
11. What did Job's wife tell him to do?
12. What did Job tell her?

Bible Search: Where do we read of the six stone waterpots? *Answer next week.*

Last week's answer: Moses. Deut. 34:7.

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Vol. 35, No. 4

Oct., Nov., Dec., 1984

Part 6

Nov. 11

The Man of His Counsel

(Continued From Last Lesson)

Many other rich truths were brought out in the speaker's message, but those mentioned were the ones which struck a vital spot in the heart of both Joe and Alfred, for each saw where he had come short of real Christian baptism. Joe saw he had not been born again when this rite was administered to him and Alfred could not be satisfied to think of a few drops of water which had been sprinkled on his head as sufficing as a burial with Christ. As there was to be a baptismal service that afternoon on the camp ground, among those presenting themselves for baptism were Joe, Susie, Alfred, and Tillie. As Susie came up out of the water the Holy Ghost came upon her and she cried out, "He sanctifies me, He sanctifies me." It was a precious baptismal service never to be forgotten by any who were present.

The next afternoon Joe was surprised to see Alfred step onto the platform with Bible in hand as the speaker for the afternoon. He had often heard him speak to the audience at Steele's Crossing, but this afternoon he heard him really expound the Scriptures. In his message he mentioned how God had

been leading him the past few months and as Joe knew the many times that God had directed both of them his joy knew no bounds as he heard Alfred relate those instances so precious to him to that large assembly of people. At the close of this service Alfred and Joe fell into each other's arms and wept like children. They were approached by the evangelist, who said, "I believe you two men are enjoying this camp meeting better than anyone else here," to which Joe replied, "God knows the sacrifice we had to make and the hardships we endured to get here, and it is only the pay we are receiving from Him."

The meeting closed and preparations were made for the return home, but with a promise from the evangelist to give them a meeting as soon as possible. The return home was made without any incident of note, but Steele's Crossing was to be stirred as never before because of those in her midst who had attended the camp meeting in Michigan.

BARRIERS REMOVED

Joe and Alfred returned home but not to sit idly down and keep to themselves

those things which they had learned at the camp meeting. Each began to do what he could to get others to see the wonderful truths which had been revealed. Alfred began to work quickly. Preacher Jones was surprised to receive a letter from him stating that he could no longer depend upon him to care for his followers in that community, for he was doing all he could to bring the people together again such as they had been before his meeting! and furthermore that he and his wife desired him to erase their names from the church ledger, for he had found that his name was recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life, that he was a full member in the Church of God, the one for which Jesus shed His blood, and the one in which every child of God holds membership by right of a spiritual birth. He further stated that he meant to do all he could to get others to see the error of division and get the barriers removed so that the prayer recorded in John 17:21, might be brought to pass in this world, "That they all may be one."

Alfred had stood before the people of the Steele's Crossing settlement many times and had addressed them, but as they came to hear him now they would go away saying, "Did you ever hear the like in all your life? I wonder what has come over him. He is some preacher." As those who worshiped in the schoolhouse were now without a leader they began drifting back to the community house where Alfred preached three Sundays in each month, the fourth Sunday being the regular appointment of Preacher Bronson. As Alfred's messages were so full of the real fire of the Holy Spirit it did not take long for the residents of that district to see the difference between a God-sent message and a dry, stale one, and soon Preacher Bronson had few to preach to.

Alfred's messages of Christian love, fellowship, and unity were accepted by

not a few of the residents of the Steele's Crossing community, for they had seen what division had caused among them. The followers of Preacher Brown could not leave the borders of "sin-you-must-domain," so therefore remained in the old saloon building where they held services weekly.

Alfred and Joe had been held by the majority of the residents of their district as model Christians, but when they began advocating the thought of coming together and worshiping together some who were staunch supporters of their own pet creed objected and soon bitter persecution was heaped upon them.

Weeks passed and autumn waned, giving place to chilly winds of winter. Soon heavy snows covered the ground everywhere and the only means of travel was by sled or horseback. It was a cold, hard winter, and there was much sickness among the people. As the snow had drifted in many places, making the road impassible, it was almost an impossibility to get a doctor to come to the Steele's Crossing community. As Alfred had preached divine healing among the people he was untiring in visiting and praying for the sick. Those for whom he prayed were soon well, but among some of his neighbors he was not permitted to offer prayer and the suffering ones died. Joe and Alfred both rendered what assistance they could to all their neighbors and by so doing won some of their most bitter enemies.

As there was so much sickness among the people no thought was given to church service or to Sunday School, but as spring advanced and the sickness among the people subsided Alfred and Joe were again found at the community house doing what they could to bring the people of that neighborhood together. Many of their former persecutors were present at the services also, for they had been convinced that these two men were real neighbors.

Summer advanced and with it came a letter from the evangelist stating that he would be free to hold a meeting for them the latter part of August and as he would be passing through that community at that time he would give them a three weeks' meeting while there if they desired him to do so.

About two hundred yards from the Holmier home was a little grove next to the public highway, and as it was very warm weather Joe and Alfred decided to make a brush-arbor in this grove and have the meeting there, as it would accommodate so many more people than the little house at the Crossing. Accordingly Alfred was sent to town for some lumber with which to seat the arbor and Joe went to the woods at the rear of the farm for poles with which to make it. Passersby would stop to inquire what the building of such an arbor meant. In this way the meeting was well advertised before the arrival of the evangelist. Mr. Sawyer was one of the inquirers. He was passing by one day while Alfred and Joe were at work on the arbor and when informed that they were getting ready for a revival-meeting and it was to be held in the arbor, he said, "And does this man teach holiness?" When Joe answered in the affirmative he then said, "Huh! There is no such a thing as a man living holy in this world. There never was but one man that did it and that was Jesus Christ, and I do not think that anyone can get quite so good as He. I know that I sin every day and I believe you do, too, and I believe that preacher does, too. In fact, when he says he doesn't he tells a lie, for the Bible says, 'He that saith he liveth and sinneth not is a liar and the truth is not in him.' "

(To Be Continued)

Dear Boys and Girls:

I have watched small children at play

and I imagine you have, too. They will play for quite some time and enjoy each other, but then all at once, they will both want the same doll or truck to play with, and then there is trouble. One will hold on very tightly and try to keep it. The other will do the same and maybe cry out for Mother to come and help. Then another of the children will come and offer one of their dolls or trucks to play with. The two fighting children will stop and look at the toy. Perhaps one will take it and then the trouble is all over.

David and his men were in hiding since King Saul was trying to kill them. In the mean time, they were also watching Nabal's sheep along with his shepherds. In caring for them, they hadn't taken any, nor done any harm to Nabal. Now David was desiring Nabal to give his men some food, so he sent out ten young men to ask Nabal for the food and to tell him that they helped care for his sheep. David was mistaken, though. Nabal was a very selfish man and he wanted to keep what he had. Do you know anyone who acts this way? No one likes a covetous or greedy person. Let's ask Jesus to help us share with others.

When Abigail, who was Nabal's wife, heard about David's request and Nabal's answer, she knew what David would do. He'd be ready to fight! She hurriedly called her servants and had them make ready much food which was to be brought to David. She didn't tell her husband what she had done, but went with her servants to deliver all this food. As soon as she saw David and his men, she bowed to them and gave them the food, asking forgiveness for the actions of her husband. David accepted the food and was glad that he didn't go to battle. Abigail was wise in acting quickly and providing food. She kept David from hurting anyone.

—Aunt Dot

Lesson 6, November 11, 1984

ABIGAIL IS WISE

1 Sam. 25:2 And there was a man in Maon, whose possessions were in Carmel; and the man was very great, and he had three thousand sheep, and a thousand goats: and he was shearing his sheep in Carmel.

3 Now the name of the man was Nabal; and the name of his wife Abigail: and she was a woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance: but the man was churlish and evil in his doings; and he was of the house of Caleb.

5 And David sent out ten young men, and David said unto the young men, Get you up to Carmel, and go to Nabal, and greet him in my name:

7 And now I have heard that thou hast shearers: now thy shepherds which were with us, we hurt them not, neither was there ought missing unto them, all the while they were in Carmel.

8 Ask thy young men, and they will shew thee. Wherefore let the young men find favor in thine eyes: for we come in a good day: give, I pray thee, whatsoever cometh to thine hand unto thy servants, and to thy son David.

10 And Nabal answered David's servants, and said, Who is David? and who is the son of Jesse? there be many servants now a days that break every man from his master.

11 Shall I then take my bread, and my water, and my flesh that I have killed for my shearers, and give it unto men, whom I know not whence they be?

13 And David said unto his men, Gird ye on every man his sword. And they girded on every man his sword;

and David also girded on his sword: and there went up after David about four hundred men; and two hundred abode by the stuff.

14 But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, Behold, David sent messengers out of the wilderness to salute our master; and he railed on them.

18 Then Abigail made haste, and took two hundred loaves, and two bottles of wine, and five sheep ready dressed, and five measures of parched corn, and an hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid them on asses.

Memory Verse: Blessed are peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Matt. 5:9.

Questions:

1. Who was David hiding from, and why?
2. What favor had David and his men done for Nabal?
3. How many men did David send to Nabal?
4. What did they ask Nabal?
5. Did Nabal give them what David wanted?
6. What did he say? (1 Sam. 25:1-11)
7. What kind of man was Nabal?
8. What was his wife's name?
9. What did she tell her servants to do?
10. Did she go with her servants?
11. Did David accept the food from Abigail?
12. Was Abigail a wise person?

Bible Search: Who walked on the sea? *Answer next week.*

Last week's answer: At the feast of Cana. John 2:6.

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Part 7

Nov. 18

The Man of His Counsel

(Continued from last lesson)

Here Alfred spoke up and said, "I never read such a Scripture as that in my Bible, but I have read, 'He that saith I know him and keepeth not his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him.' I am sure if we keep His commandments we shall not come short of living holy lives."

Here Joe addressed his neighbor, "Mr. Sawyer, do you believe that Jesus Christ lived holy every day that He was here on earth?"

"Surely I do," replied Mr. Sawyer, "but He is the only one who ever did or ever will live holy, for we all sin more or less every day, in word, deed, or thought."

"Do you believe if Jesus Christ were here on earth today that He would live holy any place and under any conditions and at all times?" again inquired Joe.

"Yes, I do," replied Mr. Sawyer, "but Jesus Christ is not here on earth now. If He were He could live holy, for the Bible says He was without sin."

"Very well then," said Joe with a smile, "if you believe that, just let Jesus Christ in your heart and He will live

holy there. You know Paul said in Gal. 2:20, 'I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless, I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.' If we just let Jesus into our heart and then let Him live there He will live His own life through us and it will be an easy matter to live holy."

Mr. Sawyer's face reddened and, lifting the reins over his horses' backs, he clucked to them saying, "Well, I do not believe you live holy nor anybody else, for we are all sinners, every one of us," and with this he started on down the road.

"Come to the meeting," Joe called to him; "it will begin next Wednesday evening."

Alfred and Joe were indeed very busy. A number of the neighbors in passing by and finding what was taking place lent a helping hand and in this way the arbor was soon completed and in readiness for the coming of the evangelist. The arbor was covered with heavy branches laid in such a manner as to afford a good shelter, and it was seated to accommodate about three hundred

persons. A platform was built in the rear of the arbor and Joe arranged a goods box on the platform behind which the speaker could stand and upon which he might lay his Bible or other books which he might need. Behind the platform he stretched a strip of canvas to form a background and make speaking easier for the evangelist. Everything was completed on Tuesday morning and in readiness for the evangelist to begin the meeting the following evening.

The meeting had been well advertised. As the evangelist walked into that brush-arbor the first evening of the meeting he found every seat occupied and the people waiting in readiness to hear the message which he had to deliver to them. His subject was, "The Love of God," and he held the audience spell-bound as he addressed them for one hour on this timely subject. No man had ever come into the community with such a message. He spoke as one thoroughly acquainted with the God of whose love he was speaking to them that evening. His first message was a good advertisement for the meeting, and each evening found the arbor full of attentive listeners.

The meeting had been in progress a few nights and Preacher Brown came to the Crossing to fill his regular appointment there but found so few present he felt it almost an insult for them to think he should speak to so small a crowd. So on the suggestion of Mr. Sawyer they all decided to attend the meeting at the arbor.

The evangelist spoke on "The Purpose of the Atonement." As he advanced in the message Preacher Brown saw the props crumbling under his sin-you-must religion, for the evangelist presented his argument that the atonement put an end to sin in such logical order, backed by the Scripture, that none could gainsay it. Brown left the meeting at its

close raving like a madman. He could well see what such preaching would mean for him and his followers in that community should it continue, so he was loud in his protestations against the preacher, warning all his followers not to attend, stating that such a man ought to be egged out of the country.

Old Aunt Sally Teeters lived near the Holmiers and attended the meetings. She was noted for her gossiping, trouble-making, and contention in the community, and while no one had confidence in her she was a great shouter. She tried to attend every meeting held within access of the Steele's Crossing neighborhood and never failed to shout every opportunity she had. She was a follower of Preacher Brown and he spent the night at her home after his visit to the arbor. She too, had been greatly stirred by the evangelist's message, for her life was far from the life which had been held up by him. If the atonement meant what he had stated from the pulpit it had failed to serve its purpose in her life. She was greatly stirred and Preacher Brown's words did not miss their mark with her. So a plot was formed to be carried out the next evening.

The evangelist came to the meeting on Monday evening and sat in deep meditation while the crowd began gathering. There were old men, young men, old women, young women, boys, girls, and small children, each finding himself a place to his own satisfaction in the arbor. The older ones came near the front while the younger ones sat nearer to the rear and the sides of the arbor. The time approached for services to begin. Alfred opened the service by singing that old hymn, "Blessed Assurance." At the close of the last stanza of the hymn Aunt Sally Teeters was seen coming down the aisle looking for a seat. As every seat was already taken a man who was sitting near the front

arose and, motioning to her, led her to his seat. This placed her near the pulpit and also near a post in the arbor. Preacher Brown was also there but he was standing at the edge of the crowd and leaning against a post. These two seemed very restless and would start at the least sound, looking first one way and then another as if in a state of expectancy. The song service ended. Prayer was offered. The evangelist arose to deliver the message for the evening. He had been in the pulpit but a few moments when—"Whiz"—something passed by his right shoulder, hitting the canvas back of him and falling to the ground. Again something passed to his left, and then something struck the box behind which he was standing, and the odor which spread over the arbor conveyed the knowledge of what the missiles were.

The evangelist sensed the situation and hid behind the box while another and another passed over his head and others were burst on the box before him. Two struck the pole where Aunt Sally Teeter was sitting and she left the meeting very much spattered and carrying with her the odor of overripe eggs. Before men could get to the front of the arbor the assailants of the evangelist had gone.

There was no meeting that night, but the crowd was asked to return the next night and the meeting be resumed as usual. Not one egg had struck the evangelist, but all trace of the broken ones must be removed before the meeting could be continued. This was done the next day. Those who attended the following evening saw three men wearing a star on the lapel of their coats, who patrolled the grounds to keep order the remainder of the entire meeting and, needless, to say, there no more disturbance.

(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.

—U. N. O.

Dear Boys and Girls:

If Mother or Daddy would promise to take you to the park or someplace special that you like to go, would you go? Perhaps they said that you would have to rake the yard or do the dishes, or something. Say, for instance, that you had to do this chore in order to get to go to the place they said they would take you. You would get busy, wouldn't you? You have faith in your parents to keep their promises to you and so you finished the job. You would then expect them to fulfill their promise, wouldn't you? This is a covenant. It's a promise between two people that if one does something for another person, the other will fulfill their part of the bargain.

In our story today we see that Joshua was now the leader of God's people. God had told Joshua to cross the Jordan River and go into the Canaan land.

Joshua sent two spies to spy out the land. They came to Rahab's house and she let them in. She told them that the people were afraid of the Israelites and that she believed that the Lord was going to give them the city. She asked the spies to promise that when they came to take the city that they would save her and all her family. The spies answered, "When we come back, all that are in your house will be saved." When the soldiers came to find the spies, Rahab hid them on her roof. When it was night she let them over the wall through her window so they could es-

cape. Rahab showed her faith by hanging a strong red cord from her window. This was to indicate where she and her family would be when the Israelites came.

The spies told Joshua that the people were afraid and that God would surely help them. When they went to Jericho, Joshua sent someone to get Rahab and her family to be saved. —Aunt Dot

Lesson 7, November 18, 1984

RAHAB'S FAITH

Josh. 2:1 And Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shittim two men to spy secretly, saying, Go view the land, even Jericho. And they went, and came into an harlot's house, named Rahab, and lodged there.

3 And the king of Jericho sent unto Rahab, saying, Bring forth the men that are come to thee, which are entered into thine house: for they be come to search out all the country.

4 And the woman took the two men, and hid them, and said thus, There came men to me, but I wist not whence they were:

5 And it came to pass about the time of shutting of the gate, when it was dark, that the men went out: whither the men went I wot not: pursue after them quickly; for ye shall overtake them.

9 And she said unto the men, I know that the Lord hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.

12 Now therefore, I pray you, swear to me by the Lord, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token:

14 And the men answered her, Our life for yours, if ye utter not this our business. And it shall be, when the Lord hath given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with thee.

15 Then she let them down by a cord through the window: for her house was upon the town wall, and she dwelt upon the wall.

Josh. 6:25 And Joshua saved Rahab the harlot alive, and her father's household, and all that she had; and she dwelleth in Israel even unto this day; because she hid the messengers, which Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

Memory Verse: As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. James 2:26.

Questions:

1. Who was the leader of the children of God at this point?
2. What did God tell Joshua to do?
3. How many spies did Joshua send over to Jericho?
4. Whose house did they go to?
5. Did she believe that God was going to help the Israelites take the city? Why?
6. What did she do when the soldiers came for the spies?
7. What did Rahab make the spies promise?
8. What did they tell her?
9. How did she help them escape?
10. What did the spies tell Joshua about the city?
11. Do you know what a covenant is?

Bible Search: How many lepers did Jesus heal? How many came back to thank Jesus? *Answer next week.*

Last week's answer: Jesus and Peter. Matt. 14:25, 29.

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Part 8

Nov. 25

The Man of His Counsel

(Continued From Last Lesson)

The meeting continued but Aunt Sally Teeters was not in attendance any more. The last week of the meeting a young man came forward to the altar for prayer and there made a confession that he had been urged to join in with the number of other boys to egg the preacher out of the country. He further stated that Preacher Brown had formed the band and Aunt Sally Teeters had furnished them the eggs. After this confession had been made God spoke peace to this young man's soul and he walked up and down the aisle of that old arbor shouting and praising God. When this news was spread over the community Preacher Brown took his departure and never returned.

The meeting closed but the effect of the meeting is still felt in that local community, for barriers were broken down and God's children came together as they had been before the coming of Preacher Jones. Differences of opinion, creeds, and pet ideas were never agitated, but all came together as one family and worshipped the Lord. So strong were the ties between them and so great the fellowship that strangers who came

into their midst would say, "Here is a people who have love one to the other." Thus they continued and many souls were convinced that Christ had truly come and was reigning in the hearts of those humble people in the Steele's Crossing community. By this sign of love they proved themselves real disciples of the Lord.

CONCLUSION

Twenty years have passed since Joe Holmier settled in the Steele's Crossing neighborhood and many changes have come. The old saloon building which was used by Preacher Brown and his followers as a place in which to worship no longer stands at the crossing, for when he left the community his followers soon disbanded and the building was sold to a farmer in the community. The farmer used it for a few years as a storage room for his baled hay and to house some of his farming implements. Later he tore it down and erected a large hay barn in its place.

The post office is no longer connected with the store, as daily the deliveryman from Newton passes by to deposit mail in the numerous boxes along the route. The old school house has been torn

away and a new brick building erected in its place. The community house is no longer standing, but on its site is a good church building bearing the engraving on a stone slab over the door, "CHURCH OF GOD, THE PILLAR AND GROUND OF THE TRUTH." As one enters through the doorway the following words greet the eye, which are to the right of the platform, "ENTER THOU INTO HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING AND INTO HIS COURTS WITH PRAISE: BE THANKFUL UNTO HIM, AND BLESS HIS NAME." Directly back of the platform one can read the words, "HOLINESS BECOMETH THINE HOUSE, O LORD, FOREVER." To the left one can read, "BEHOLD, HOW GOOD AND HOW PLEASANT IT IS FOR BRETHREN TO DWELL TOGETHER IN UNITY."

In this building the people of Steele's Crossing community congregate each Lord's Day and the walls of the building resound with the praises of God as these humble people sing unto Him from hearts made free from sin. Here they worship as one, held together by the bonds of the Holy Spirit.

Alfred and his good wife Tillie no longer live near Joe and Susie, as Alfred has been pastoring a congregation in one of the Western States for some years. Bill Myers and his companion have both been called to their eternal reward. Preacher Brumbaugh and Mr. Sawyer have both passed away. Aunt Sally Teeters still remains; but she must be led about as she is blind. No change has been made in her spiritual condition and she is still a fighter of holiness.

June came, and Joe and Alfred met again on the great camp ground of the annual international camp meeting. They praised the Lord together as they recalled incidents of former days. At last Alfred said, "Oh, I want to tell you something. Do you remember the Preach-

er Reed who held a meeting at the crossing?"

"Yes," replied Joe. "He was the first man I ever heard mention anything about sanctification. But what about him?"

"Something good," said Alfred; "I had him with me in a meeting a few weeks ago and he is here at this camp meeting. He, too, is doing all he can to get God's people together and break down the barriers that are between them. He is a powerful preacher and a firm believer in unity. There he comes now." At this he motioned to the man whom he had pointed out to be Evangelist Reed, and he joined the two men. After the usual greeting Joe said, "Alfred has been telling me you were with him in a meeting. You know, I love this man because he showed me by his life that there is something more in the service of God than just to belong to some church."

Here Alfred put his hand on Joe's shoulder, and said, "Yes, and I love this man, because he showed me the great Church of God and that we are all one together in it."

"It is truly wonderful," said Evangelist Reed; "truly wonderful, to be together in the one great body of Christ with no barriers between us. Oh, how I thank God for the bond of fellowship, through the Holy Spirit, that binds us together and makes us one in Christ Jesus."

"Yes, it is wonderful," replied Joe, "but the most wonderful thing to me is to know it is all so clearly set forth in the Word of God and all may be able to see it if they will only take His Word as the man of their counsel and walk in the light which it gives."

The three turned and walked toward the auditorium as the great congregation began to sing:

"Back to the blessed old Bible,
Back to the city of God;

Back to the oneness of heaven,
Back where the faithful have trod.
Back from the land of confusion,
Passing the wrecks and the creeds;
Back to the light of the morning,
Jesus, our Captain, leads."

They reached the auditorium, and stepping inside the door, joined in the chorus with the light of glory on their faces:

"Back to the blessed old Bible,
Back to the light of its Word;
Be on our banners forever,
Holiness unto the Lord."

THE END

LESSON ILLUSTRATION



Dear Boys and Girls:

There are many ways God shows His tender, loving care towards us. He has given us loving parents to care for us. They see to it that we have clothing, things to eat and a place to live. Some

may not have parents, but God is watchful and caring for them, too, and He sees that they are cared for in other ways. God's Word tells us that not one sparrow falls to the ground without the Heavenly Father seeing. We are worth more than many sparrows to Him. The very hairs of our heads are all numbered. Matt. 10:29-31.

What a beautiful example of God's watchful care over each of us! God knew that when Elijah gave his message to King Ahab, that there would be no rain until he prayed, King Ahab would be angry. God spoke to Elijah: "Hide at the brook Cherith. There will be water and I will cause the ravens to come with bread each morning and night."

Later the water dried up and God told him to go to Zarephath. "I have commanded a widow woman to feed you." Elijah obeyed God and there he found the widow picking up sticks. He asked her to bring him water and bread. "I have just enough meal and oil to bake a cake for my son and myself. Then we will have to die, for we have no more," she told Elijah. "God has promised to supply meal and oil for you," said Elijah, "if you will first bake a cake for me." The widow obeyed and trusted God to supply her need. There was always enough meal and oil for each of them until the rains came, just as Elijah had said.

Because Elijah obeyed God and went to the brook Cherith, he was fed. When the widow obeyed God, she and her son were fed, as well as Elijah.

What do you think would have happened if Elijah and the widow would not have obeyed God's Word?

—Aunt Dot

Lesson 8, November 25, 1984

A WIDOW TRUSTS GOD

1 Kings 17:2 And the word of the Lord came unto him, saying,

3 Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.

4 And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.

5 So he went and did according unto the word of the Lord: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.

6 And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.

7 And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.

8 And the word of the Lord came unto him, saying,

9 Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.

10 So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.

11 And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.

12 And she said, As the Lord thy God liveth, I have not a cake but an handful of meal in a barrel, and little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.

13 And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and

bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son.

14 For thus saith the Lord God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth.

15 And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days.

16 And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord, which he spake by Elijah.

Memory Verse: I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread. *Psa. 37:25.*

Questions:

1. Who did Elijah tell there wasn't to be any rain?
2. Where did God tell him to go first? Why?
3. What was to bring him bread morning and night?
4. What happened to the water?
5. Where did God tell him to go now?
6. Who was to feed him?
7. What did Elijah find her doing?
8. Did she have plenty of meal and oil?
9. What did Elijah tell her to do first?
10. Did she obey Elijah?
11. Did God keep the meal and oil for her until it rained?
12. Does God watch over and care for us?

Bible Search: Where was Jesus's first miracle performed? *Answer next week.*

Last week's answer: Ten lepers were healed, and one came back to thank Jesus. *Luke 17:17.*

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Oct., Nov., Dec., 1984

Part 9

Dec. 2

Around Old Bethany

BEGINNING THE SEARCH

It was in the year of 1885 that the railroad was put through the particular corner of Missouri that marks the scene where the events of this narrative took place. With the coming of the railroad, there came an influx of new settlers, who were of various nationalities and conditions in life. There were Swedes from Malmo, Germans from Dresden, and Irishmen from Tyrone, all bent on founding a new home in the new country. Besides these, there were Americans of many kinds and inclinations. All of these settlers brought with them the particular brands of religion in which they had been brought up. The Swedes and Germans were Lutherans, but each nationality was of a different synod and had little agreement or fellowship. The Irishmen were Roman Catholics, while the Americans were divided up among the different denominations. No sooner had these settlers built themselves homes than they started to build chapels and churches; it was a chapel if its builders rebelled at calling a building a church, and it was a church if its builders had no such scruples. No survey was made as an effort to find out

how many churches were needed; indeed, each denomination erected a place of worship even if there was only a handful represented in its membership. Those were the days of unleavened bread and bitter herbs, when every denomination was full of sectarian rivalry, and each of them claimed more or less of a monopoly upon the love and power of God. Revival meetings were held frequently, sometimes contemporaneously, and the "doors of the church" were swung open every Sunday for the admission of new members.

The center of this settlement was Bethany, consisting of a few straggling huts on the north side of the railroad, and the business section and the more pretentious homes of the well-to-do on the south side. There was the usual run of stores. Most of them, however, were what were called "general stores," which meant that they sold everything from toothpicks to farm wagons and from handkerchiefs to cloaks and suits, besides groceries, shoes, and tinware. And it must be said also, for the sake of telling the truth, that they erected more church buildings than they needed, because the same sectarian rivalry remained there as in the country round about. It was common for members of

one denomination to tell members of another that the others' church was a thousand miles farther away from God than was theirs.

Into this corner of Missouri, and into this atmosphere of denominational rivalry came Robert Davis and his wife, Mary. As it was, fortunately, both came of religious parents, and had had some religious teaching at home and in Sunday School. One of the first things that they did after they were married was to solemnly dedicate their home to God, promising Him that they would follow Christ to the best of their knowledge and understanding. They began to attend church, now here, now there, and as a consequence, began to compare one denomination with another, with the result that they were thrown into confusion about which church to join; for they supposed it was their bounden duty to join one or the other of the denominations represented there.

"Which church do you like best, Robert?" Mary Davis asked one Sunday afternoon after they had come home from a Sunday School session and service at one of the churches.

"I had not thought of it in that way," he replied, "but I had been comparing one with another, with the idea of finding which one is right."

"You are right in that, I feel sure," said Mary, "for really, what we should strive for is to please God. But which one, then, do you think is right?"

"Really, I do not know," he replied. "I am puzzled. I feel that we should be identified with some church, and work to extend it, but it seems to me that one church has one Bible truth and emphasizes it, and another has another Bible truth which it emphasizes, and so on, all around. How does it seem to you?"

"That is the way I feel," said Mary. "Suppose that we ask each church to give us a summary of its beliefs, and

we shall then compare each one with the Bible," suggested Robert.

"Why, let's do that," replied Mary. "I do want the truth."

"So do I," Robert said fervently.

That night in prayer, special request was made to God for guidance into the truth. "Oh, we must have thy truth, O God," they cried. "We will follow it at any cost, if thou wilt only make it clear. Help us in studying thy Word. Make it plain to our minds. O Lord, guide us into thy way."

The next Sunday they began their investigation by asking the minister of the church that they visited for a brief outline of its doctrinal belief. They then bought a concordance and the search for truth was begun, which was to lead them into paths that they little dreamed of then, and into experiences that they could not at that time foresee.

A THREATENING QUARREL

Among the old settlers in the vicinity to which Robert Davis and his wife moved was Peter Newby and his family. They were of the old pioneer type—rugged, honest, frugal, but they also were headstrong, stubborn, with very little give and take in their make-up. Peter claimed to know the Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation. He could tell the names of the cities and creeks of the Holy Land from Dan to Beersheba, and name of the kings of Israel either backward or forward. He had the books of the Bible at the tip of his tongue and could name the apostles and prophets without hesitation. He was a noted debater or arguer, and met all opponents, large or small, with equal confidence. When reason and logical argument failed him, he relied on a stentorian voice and his power to bewilder. Few were able to hold their own with him in religious discussion. Most men feared his biting sarcasm and insulting irony. In fact, Mr. Newby had silenced

nearly every opponent, and he stood out as the champion religious debater of the community at the time of our narrative. He had vanquished all his foes, and now gloried in his supremacy.

But Robert Davis did not know all of this. He regarded Peter Newby as a good citizen, and probably a good Christian. The next few months, however, put an entirely different face on the matter, especially on the latter point.

Besides Peter Newby and his wife, there were three grown sons of theirs, of whom Jake, and also his wife, figure in this narrative.

Jake Newby was a typical money-grubber, turning everything in the way of financial deals to his own favor. He owned a piece of property which Robert Davis finally decided he would buy. After considerable negotiation, a deal was made, Jake reserving the right to move certain small buildings off the property. Jake began, at once, to move these structures, and more, too. There was a specially built chicken-house that had not been reserved by Jake, but which he proceeded to move just as if it had been. Robert and Mary Davis were there.

"The chicken-house was not reserved by you, Jake, and you should not move it," said Robert.

"Well, I intend to move it just the same. I need it," said Jake.

"But the contract does not provide for its removal," replied Robert.

"Shut up," snarled Jake. "I guess I know what I'm doing, don't I? I tell you, I'm going to move this house off."

"You will not move it off," said Robert, as he started toward Jake.

At this Jake desisted, muttered a few words about getting even, and walked off, while, later on, Robert and Mary went home, rather distressed over the turn of affairs.

(To Be Continued)

I think God gives the children,
As thro' the land they go,
The most delightful mission
That anyone can know;
He wants us to be sunbeams
Of love, and hope, and cheer,
To brighten up the shadows
That often gather here.

—E. Rexford

Dear Boys and Girls:

Isn't it fun at Christmas time or your birthday, when you get to open gifts, and enjoy all the things you might get? It's a really fun time for you, isn't it? Perhaps your grandmother gave you just what you had been wanting for such a long time. These are enjoyable times to us.

At other times, it's good for us to give to others, too. Maybe it's just a bouquet of flowers that you picked, or something special that you know Mother or Dad would be pleased to have. Doesn't it give you a happy feeling down deep inside when you do things for other people? The Bible says, "God loveth a cheerful giver."

Elisha was a prophet of God. He went around from town to town and told people about God's love for them. He told them that they should live right before God.

Elisha often stopped at a woman's house in Shunem. She loved God, and was always happy when she could do something for Him. When Elisha came, she always made him welcome and was sure to give him some refreshments and a place to stay. It was a restful place for Elisha.

One day this widow woman had an idea. She told her husband, "Let's build a room for Elisha. We could put a candlestick, table, chair, and a bed in it." When Elisha and his servant, Gehazi, came to the woman's house and saw the room, they were grateful for all her kindness to them.

Elisha asked Gehazi, "What shall we do for this woman who has been so kind to us?"

"She doesn't have a child," answered Gehazi. "I hear that she wants a son badly."

When the woman came to Elisha, he said, "For all your kindness to us, God will reward you with a son." It wasn't long until a little baby boy was in their home. God will always reward those who live for Him and do good to His people.

—Aunt Dot

Lesson 9, Dec. 2, 1984

A WOMAN IS REWARDED

2 Kings 4:8 And it fell on a day, that Elisha passed to Shunem, where was a great woman; and she constrained him to eat bread. And so it was, that as oft as he passed by, he turned in thither to eat bread.

9 And she said unto her husband, Behold now, I perceive that this is an holy man of God, which passeth by us continually.

10 Let us make a little chamber, I pray thee, on the wall; and let us set for him there a bed, and a table, and a stool, and a candlestick: and it shall be, when he cometh to us, that he shall turn in thither.

11 And it fell on a day, that he came thither, and he turned into the chamber and lay there.

12 And he said to Gehazi his servant, Call this Shunamite. And when he had called her, she stood before him.

13 And he said unto him, Say now unto her, Behold, thou hast been careful for us with all this care; what is to be done for thee? wouldest thou be spoken for to the king, or to the captain of the host? And she answered, I dwell among mine own people.

14 And he said, What then is to be done to her? And Gehazi answered, Verily she hath no child, and her husband is old.

15 And he said, Call her, and when the lad called her, she stood in the door.

16 And he said, About this season, according to the time of life, thou shalt embrace a son. And she said, Nay, my lord, thou man of God, do not lie unto thine handmaid.

17 And the woman conceived, and bare a son at that season that Elisha had said unto her, according to the time of life.

Memory Verse: For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven. Psalms 119:89.

Questions:

1. Do we enjoy getting gifts on Christmas and birthdays?
2. Do we enjoy giving gifts, too?
3. What kind of feeling do you have when you give to others?
4. What kind of giver does God love?
5. What was the name of the prophet in our lesson?
6. What does a prophet do?
7. At what city did Elisha stop? Why?
8. Do you think that the woman loved God?
9. What did she do, and what did she have built?
10. What was Elisha's servant's name?
11. Were they thankful for the room?
12. How did God reward the woman and her husband for their kindness to Elisha?

Bible Search: Which prophet was carried to heaven in a chariot of fire?
Answer next week.

Last week's answer: Cana of Galilee. John 2:11.

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Part 10

Dec. 9

Around Old Bethany

(Continued From Last Lesson)

THE SCHOOLHOUSE DEBATES

An apparently insignificant event happened about this time, that set in motion influences of great momentum, the effects of which are still to be felt and seen. Robert Davis' sister in Michigan was a regular subscriber to a religious journal. At this time she felt led to send this paper to him.

"Robert, here is a new kind of religious paper," said Mary, who was reading the first copy. "It has articles in it entitled, 'Full Salvation,' 'Unity and Truth.' How does that sound?" Turning a page over, she read again:

"A definite, heart-searching, non-sectarian religious weekly, published in the interests of the Church of God. For the salvation of sinners, entire sanctification of believers, divine healing of the body, and the unity of all true Christians in the faith once delivered to the saints."

"My, that sounds interesting," said Robert. "Church of God—I wonder what that is. Entire sanctification—what does that mean? I heard Bro. Jones say on last Sunday that sanctified people were the biggest cranks on earth, and he

warned the congregation to lock their chicken and smoke houses whenever they came around. But, just see here, divine healing. I wonder if that is Christian Science? Let me read that paper," and he reached for it.

Robert dropped down into the nearest chair and was soon absorbed in reading. He was soon gripped by a power he had never known before. He noticed at once a directness, a simplicity, a spiritual flavor, coupled with much quoting of proof-texts, that attracted his deepest attention. He read on article on "Repentance," one on "Sanctification," and two testimonies of "divine healing."

"Upon my word! If that isn't the plainest-spoken and easiest-understood religious matter I have read in many a day," said Robert. "I wonder who sent it, and if any more will come."

Next week another copy of the new paper came, and Robert was reading an article on "The Church of God—What it is and What it is Not."

"Mary this paper is providentially sent to us. We have just decided to search for truth. My soul longs to know God's real truth, and I notice this paper has much to say about the truth. We shall continue our investigation of the doc-

trines of the denominations and probably this paper will help us," said Robert. Before he laid the second issue down, he read the following article on "Truth."

"Unknowingly to himself, Pontius Pilate asked one of the greatest questions when he asked Jesus Christ, 'What is truth?' Jesus was on trial before him, and He had just said, in reply to another question of Pilate's, 'Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice' (John 18:37). And then Pilate asked, 'What is truth?' but he did not stop to get an answer.

"The 'truth' to which Jesus often referred means righteousness, true religion, the genuine revelation of the true plan of salvation. This is what the apostle John referred to when he said, 'For the truth's sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever' (2 John 2). The 'truth' in these texts is used in a broad sense to mean the whole range of revealed religion, the whole system of New Testament salvation.

"Vast importance is attached to this truth. Opposed to it are error, heresy, damnable doctrines of devils, human theories and philosophies, leading souls away from God and into perdition. The eternal destiny of men depends upon their finding and embracing the truth.

"If so much depends upon our finding the truth and obeying it, the important question arises—how and where are we to find the truth? And another question follows—how are we to discern the truth when we see it? It is a fact that most religious people believe that their system of religion is right. They already think that it is the truth; even the most destructive doctrines are received as truth, and some Scripture is misapplied or perverted to uphold them. By what means may the false be determined and

rejected, and the true be established and accepted? These are very important questions.

"There must be a starting point. In the first place, 'What is truth?' as Pilate put it. 'Thy word is truth,' (John 17:17), said Jesus. This is basic. The Word of God is truth. 'All scripture is given by inspiration of God' (2 Tim. 3:16). God, Jesus Christ, and the Bible are truth. If we conform to the divine will, we are bound to the right, and elected to eternal glory in the heavens; if not, we are doomed to eternal damnation.

"Jesus tells us just how to know the truth. 'If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself' (John 7:17). The way to know is to obey. 'Howbeit when he, the spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth' (John 16:13).

"But, there is no more striking fact than this, that spiritual truths require more than intellect in order to grasp and comprehend them. 'For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him?' (1 Cor. 2:11). A man knows the things of a man because he is a man. Common experiences join him to his fellows, and he understands them. 'Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the spirit of God. . . . But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned' (1 Cor. 2:11, 14). Man then, must get in contact with God, through the Holy Spirit, if he is to know spiritual truth.

"The secret then is out; it is as plain as day. It is this—Jesus brought the truth to the world, and the Holy Spirit is everywhere present to lead men into that truth. Wherever and whenever a person desires to know the truth that he may obey it, there the Spirit of God will be to enlighten and to lead. The Spirit

will lead unerringly every soul who wants the truth and will submit to His leadership. He will lead the sinner to sincere and genuine repentance, the believer into true sanctification, and also into the deeper experiences of sanctification and love, and into the true Christian life.

"There is a remarkable instance on record, showing what an honest desire to know the truth will accomplish. Years ago a portion of the gospels was washed ashore in the East. The natives read and re-read that portion over and over. What could it mean? It told of Jesus, but who was Jesus? It spoke of Him dying, but what for? And yet, so strong was the impression this scrap of the gospel made, that regular periods were set apart to worship the Being hinted at in that portion. An honest effort was made to do His will. After several years God sent some missionaries to that country, and it was to their surprise to find a tribe open-hearted to receive the truth.

" 'Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace' (Job 22:21).

" 'Seek and ye shall find.' May your search for truth be abundantly rewarded."

The next few months found Robert and Mary Davis searching the Bible for truth. Every sermon they heard they compared with the Scriptures. Articles in their new paper helped them greatly. They bought a book of Bible Readings, and made as thorough an investigation of Bible doctrine as they were capable of making. They made rapid progress. They became believers in holiness and sanctification; for the salvation theme held their interest most profoundly, and they became well acquainted with the proof-texts which supported these doctrines. The story of these texts brought great conviction to their hearts, and both of them sought the Lord for forgiveness of their sins, and both entered into the grace of conversion. The joy of

this experience made their Bible study still more delightful. They had not been strangers to grace, but they had become slack and lukewarm, and when the light of God began to shine more brightly they felt that they should make sure work of it, and so they began at the bottom rung of the ladder. They were glad afterwards that they had done this, because it gave them a sure starting-point.

(To Be Continued)

Dark Nights

I never have a thing to fear
For I know God is always near.
When darkness comes, I cannot see,
But God has angels guarding me.

Dear Boys and Girls:

Faith means believing in the precious promises of God. Without faith it is impossible to please God, for we must believe that when we come to Him diligently in prayer, He will reward us by answering our prayers. Read Heb. 11:6.

Faith is like a man who goes into a bank with a check written to him for a certain sum of money. He might show the people the nice paper it is written on, tell them how much money it is written for, and show them the beautiful handwriting, but if he never goes to the teller and gives the check to him to cash, he will never receive the money. That's the way it is with our faith in Jesus. We may tell how good it is to have faith, how that we *have* to have faith, but until we act on our faith and go to God in prayer and ask for our needs, we will never have our needs supplied.

The woman in our lesson had, no doubt, seen or heard of the wonderful teachings and miracles of Jesus. She was inspired to have faith in God to heal her body. She had been sick for twelve years and spent much of her

money on doctors, but they only made her worse. She thought, "If I can just touch the hem of His garment, I will be made whole." In order to get to Him, though, she really had to press her way through the crowd that was all around Him. She was determined to touch His garment.

As soon as she touched His garment, she was made perfectly whole. Jesus turned and said, "Who has touched me?" The woman bowed at Jesus' feet and humbly said that she had touched Him and was made whole of her affliction. Jesus said, "Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole."

Just as the man with the check had to give it to the teller to get his money, just so the woman had to press her way to Jesus for the healing of her body.

—Aunt Dot

Lesson 10, Dec. 9, 1984

A WOMAN'S FAITH IN JESUS

Mark 5:25 And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years,

26 And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse,

27 When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment.

28 For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.

29 And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague.

30 And Jesus immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes?

31 And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?

32 And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing.

33 But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth.

34 And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

Memory Verse: But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that . . . he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Hebrews 11:6.

Questions:

1. How long had the woman in our lesson been sick?
2. Had she gone to the doctors?
3. Did the doctors help her, or make her worse?
4. Did the woman believe Jesus could heal her?
5. What did she think she must do?
6. Were there many people around Jesus?
7. Was she able to get to Him?
8. What happened when she touched His garment?
9. What did Jesus do and say?
10. Should we press our way to Jesus in prayer?
11. Does Jesus hear us when we pray?
12. Is it possible to please God if we don't have faith in Him?

Bible Search: What three men were thrown into the fire and came out alive, with not even their clothes burned?

Answer next week.

Last week's answer: Elijah. 2 Kings 2:11.

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Part 11

Dec. 16

Around Old Bethany

(Continued From Last Lesson)

Along in the fall of the year, as Robert was breaking ground for wheat, he got an invitation to attend a neighborhood prayer meeting.

"Good evening, neighbor," said a voice. "Don't you want to go to our prayer meeting next Wednesday night?"

Robert looked up from his work and saw it was old Peter Newby.

"Why, yes, I guess so. Sure," said Robert. "What kind of a prayer meeting is it?"

"We have a good one," said Peter. "Come and see."

"All right, we'll come," said Robert.

This prayer meeting was held at Fairmount schoolhouse, a fine school building, situated on the brow of a lilac-covered hill at the bottom of which hill one of the finest and largest springs in the country gushed forth. It was, as stated, ostensibly a neighborhood prayer meeting, but Peter Newby just about dominated it, and was carrying on just about to suit himself. The method pursued was to read a chapter, and follow with a free-for-all exposition of it. Everybody had a chance to speak and expound the texts, whether he knew any-

thing about them or not. Some queer theories were advanced in these discussions, which we have neither time nor inclination to speak of now.

Robert Davis and Mary began to attend this prayer exposition meeting as soon as they could. The book of Romans was being read and studied at this time, and chapter 5 was up for discussion. After the reading of the chapter, Peter Newby, as usual, was on his feet ready to tell the class all about it. He noticed Robert and Mary and, knowing that they were strangers, he put on his most condescending and insinuating air. Raising himself to his full height, and giving his grizzled head just the right angle for incisive speech, he said:

"What is the apostle Paul writing about? Now, if you want to understand what any given text means, you must know three things, my friends. First you must know who was writing; second, you must know to whom he was writing; and third, you must know what he was writing about." And then he cocked his head at a different angle, and shot glances around to see how his profound statement was being received. He looked especially at Robert and Mary, and some of the others glanced first at

them and then at Peter, to see if there was a prospect of striking fire.

Giving his head a backward jerk, Peter continued:

"The apostle Paul was the writer of this epistle, and he was writing to the Romans. They were a Gentile church in Rome, and Paul was writing about how Christians were to live. Now, see here friends, we are all sinners, every one of us, sinners saved by grace. Paul said in one place that he was the chief of sinners. I am a sinner, but I thank God through Jesus Christ the Lord, that Christ died for us, and some day I expect to land in the glory world. I know there are some who say they can't sin, but I am sure I sin and they do, too. No one can live without sin in this low land of sorrow." And Peter again poised his head at a quizzical angle and then glanced around to see how his talk was being taken. He paused for a moment, and, before he knew it, Robert was on his feet, saying:

"I beg to differ with the brother who has just spoken about this matter of committing sin. Paul says, in the twentieth verse of this chapter, 'But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound,' and in verse 17, 'For if by one man's offense death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.' And the very first verse says, 'Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.' It is true that 'all have sinned,' as verse 12 says, but Jesus came to save us from our sins. Did you never read Matt. 1:21, 'And thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins'? Through Adam we died in sin, through Christ we die to sin and live unto righteousness. This chapter teaches very plainly that Jesus came to bring grace suffi-

ent to save us from our sins." And Robert sat down.

Peter Newby had been standing all this time. He looked at Robert very quizzically. Here was a new type of opponent, one who spoke with the utmost frankness and confidence, and yet without the least taint of braggadocio. But Peter had never been beaten in debate or argument; so he returned to the discussion with great vim and determination.

"What does this young upstart know about the Scriptures? Why, I have been a student of the Scriptures for fifty long years, many years before this young man was born. I have heard many great preachers in my time, and they all said that man was born unto sin as the sparks are to fly upward. 'He that saith he liveth and sinneth not is a liar, and the truth is not in him.' This is what the Scriptures say. And I have read where Solomon said that 'there is no man that sinneth not,' and did not John say, 'If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us'? Yes, he said that in 1 John 1:8. Ah, young man, you have much to learn yet about the Scriptures. As long as we are in this old sinful flesh we will commit sin." And Peter sat down, with an air of triumph.

Robert Davis rose immediately. Everybody present was on the tiptoe of expectation. What would his reply be? They had not long to wait. Turning directly to Peter Newby, he asked him a pointblank question:

"Sir, how much sin is there in this stove?" pointing to a stove that stood there.

"None, I suppose," answered Peter, rather feebly, as if he feared a trap were being laid for him.

"How much sin is there in the wood or stone of this house?" Robert asked Peter next.

"None, I suppose," he replied.

"Well, then," asked Robert, "how much sin will there be in this old body when it is dead?"

"I suppose there will be none," Peter replied in a tone that registered defeat.

"Well, then, will you make death the salvation from sin? You say that as long as we are in what you call the 'old sinful flesh' we must commit sin, and yet you admit, as you must, that there will be no sin in the body when it is dead. Where, then, does sin reside? Jesus answers this question once for all in Matt. 15:19, 20: 'For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.' It is the heart that sins; 'the soul that sinneth, it shall die,' says the prophet Ezekiel in Ezek. 18:4. The body will die and return to dust from whence it came, but these immortal souls of ours will live on eternally. It is the soul that sins. When in our intentions we purpose to sin, we are guilty of sin before God. He that searches the heart, who looks not as man looks, who sees the secret motive, He knows when the will consents to do evil. Not a theft was ever committed, except there was a will to steal; not an act of dishonesty, except that there was a will to deceive; not a lie was ever uttered, except there was a will to lie. It is our souls that must be saved. 'Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls' (1 Peter 1:9).

"Our text says, 'Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.' I wish to publicly thank God for this peace in my soul. Jesus saves me from my sins. I know that the verse, 1 John 1:8, is a stumbling-block to many, yet it is simple when understood. John was stating fundamental propositions. He began by saying that, '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.' Then, as if turning back to state the basis, or antecedent of his remarks, he said, 'If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.' In other words, there was sin to be cleansed from the hearts of sinners, and to declare there was no sin to be cleansed from, was only to deceive themselves. The same arrangement follows in verses 9 and 10, where the truth is first stated that 'if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness,' and then John stated the basis or antecedent of forgiveness, which is the fact that all have sinned."

(To Be Continued)

"I am but a little worker,
Yet a faithful one I'll be,
For my King has work for children,
Even little ones like me."

Dear Boys and Girls:

It is always good to be kind to others. If we show a spirit of kindness, they will appreciate it and will learn to love us. How kind and loving Jesus was when He was here on earth! See how the people loved Him? He once took time out to bless the little children because He loved them so much.

I once had a friend who was especially sympathetic to those who were in trouble or sorrow. She always seemed to know just what to do for others in need. A lot of her deeds were small, but they were needful. When she passed away, many that she had helped came from far and near to tell of some of the kindness she had done for them. How much they appreciated her in their times of need!

God has given some a special gift to be helpers to others. I feel that we can cultivate an awareness of the needs of others and be helpful in little ways.

Dorcas was one of the believers in Jesus in the city of Joppa. She loved the Lord and kept busy helping others around her. She gave of her money, she helped the widows and their children by making clothes for them, and I am sure that she helped the sick people, too.

One day Dorcas fell ill and soon died. How sad the people were! They just knew they'd miss her. Peter was in a city near Joppa, called Lydda, so they sent for him to come to them. When Peter came, the women were weeping for Dorcas and they showed him the garments she had made, and told of the many things Dorcas had done for them.

Peter told each one to leave the room and then he knelt and prayed to the Lord. Turning to Dorcas, he said, "Dorcas, arise." She opened her eyes, saw Peter, and sat up. Peter took her by the hand and brought her to the women. When all the people saw Dorcas alive and well again, they were very happy and rejoiced in the Lord. —Aunt Dot

Lesson 11, Dec. 16, 1984

DORCAS IS KIND

Acts 9:36 Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.

37 And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber.

38 And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them.

39 Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them.

40 But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

41 And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive.

42 And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord.

Memory Verse: Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. *Psa. 41:1.*

Questions:

1. In what city did Dorcas live?
2. Were there believers in that city?
3. Was Dorcas a believer, too?
4. How can we know that she loved the Lord?
5. Tell of some things she did for the people.
6. What happened to Dorcas?
7. Were the people sad about this?
8. Who did they send for in the city of Lydda?
9. What did Peter tell the women to do?
10. When they left, what did Peter do?
11. Did God raise up Dorcas from the dead?
12. Were the women happy?

Bible Search: What bird carries her young on her wings? *Answer next week.*

Last week's answer: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. *Dan. 3:26, 27.*

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Part 12

Dec. 23

Around Old Bethany

(Continued From Last Lesson)

"Yes, yes, you can explain all you wish, young man, but you cannot get around those other texts I quoted. 'He that saith he liveth and sinneth not is a liar and the truth is not in him.' That's Bible, I tell you," said Peter with vigor.

"Where is that in the Bible?" demanded Robert.

"It is there somewhere. I will find it soon," said Peter as he started thumbing his Bible. The congregation waited in expectancy.

I will give you five dollars if you find that in the Bible," said Robert.

"Oh, you don't think it is in the Bible? I will get it. Maybe I cannot find it now but it is there, and I will find it," said Peter. "But what about Solomon's sayings, 'There is no man that sinneth not'?"

"Solomon lived a thousand years before Christ, Mr. Newby, and do you not think that Christ did something for us that the law could not do? 'He is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises,' says Paul in Heb. 8:6. It was probably true that, in Solomon's day, no one lived free from committing sin, but since

Christ came to redeem us from sin we can be saved. Of course, anyone can sin, and there is danger of sinning, but if we live close to Jesus, He is able to keep us from falling, as Jude 24, 25, says," replied Robert, as he sat down again.

Peter Newby closed the debate by saying: "Next week we shall study the sixth chapter of Romans. The young man who spoke tonight seems to know considerable about the Scripture, so we shall appoint him leader. I will find that text he asked for. It is in my old Bible at home." And the crowd dispersed.

THE SCHOOLHOUSE DEBATES

Robert Davis did much studying between the two prayer meeting nights. Peter Newby searched through his old Bible at home for "He that saith he liveth and sinneth not is a liar," but he could not find it. The nearest text he could find that was like it was 1 John 1:8, and he knew that Robert Davis had already explained it. Peter studied hard, however. He found several texts, such as Prov. 20:9; Matt. 19:16, 17; Rom. 3:10; 1 Tim. 1:15; Rom. 7, and others, which he thought supported his theory that no

one could live free from sin. He reckoned without taking his opponent into account, however, and came off worse confounded in the second encounter than he did in the first. Romans 6 was rather hard on Peter's theory, and he decided it would not pay him to say much about it.

The prayer meeting was well attended on that night. The air was full of expectancy. Peter's long supremacy in debating caused several to wish secretly for him to be beaten; others took his side, and did all that they could to encourage him. After the chapter was read, Peter Newby was first on his feet and began his diatribe.

"Verse 4 means water baptism," he said, "and if a man is not baptized he cannot be saved. We go down into the water a sinner, and come up a Christian. Some of you people have never been baptized, and yet you claim to be saved.

"Now, last prayer meeting night, I promised to find that old familiar text, 'He that saith he liveth and sinneth not is a liar and the truth is not in him,' but I have not found it yet. But I will find it, mind you. Moreover, I have some texts that prove my contention that no one can live free from sin while in this life.

"Prov. 20:9: 'Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?' This text can mean only one thing, which is that no one can be clean from sin.

"Matt. 19:16, 17, 'There is none good but one, that is God.' Now, how can any man call himself good in the face of this Scripture?

"Read Rom. 3:10: 'As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.' No, not one! Do you hear it? No, not one!" Peter shouted.

"And Paul said that 'Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners; of

whom I am chief' (1 Tim. 1:15). And if Paul was the chief of sinners, do we think we can live free from sin? No, sir! We cannot. And in Romans 7, he declared that he was 'carnal, sold under sin' (Rom. 7:14). I tell you, we cannot live better than Paul did. But I am a Christian, for I was baptized fifty years ago in the Big Sandy River, and the Scriptures say that he 'that believeth and is baptized' the same shall be saved." And Peter again resumed that air of triumph that made him famous throughout the community. Then he cast his eyes around the audience, and poised his head at various angles, in token of his victory.

"The brother has gone a long way from his text for his material tonight," said Robert Davis. "He took what we boys used to call a 'running jump.' The text he quoted from Proverbs proves nothing whatever against a holy life. No man can save himself, for salvation is by faith, not by works. But, again, let me remind Mr. Newby that Christ has come since Solomon spoke, and surely Christ has done something for us. The other texts he quoted are as easily explained. In Matt. 19:16, 17, Jesus was stating a primary truth, as all goodness comes from God, yet, He was trying to impress upon the young man that He, Jesus, was God. No man is good in and of himself. God must come in before he is good. God's people are righteous, good. John says, 'He that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous' (1 John 3:7). Now, let us read Rom. 3:10: 'There is none righteous, no not one.' I wish Mr. Newby would read the verses following the tenth verse. What kind of people was Paul writing of? Christians? What! Do Christians have a throat like an open sepulchre? Is their mouth full of cursing and bitterness? Are their feet swift to shed blood? How about it. Mr. Newby? How about it, friends? What is your verdict?"

"That cannot mean Christians," said a voice from the back of the room.

"Of course it cannot. Paul was describing the wayward sinner. As for Paul being actually the chief of sinners when he wrote 1 Tim. 1:15, it is preposterous. He does, indeed, speak in the present tense, 'I am,' but it is perfectly evident that he makes use of a rhetorical expression which is permissible, without being called in question as to his life. If he was, in reality, the chief of sinners at that time, he could hardly say, as he did, 'Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe' (1 Thess. 2:10). And it is entirely inconsistent to believe that the Christ would permit a chief-sinner to be an ambassador for Him. Mr. Newby's text in Romans 7:14, will come up for discussion next week; so I will not speak of it now.

"You did not find your text, Mr. Newby. The five dollars is ready whenever you find it," said Robert Davis, as he sat down.

(To Be Continued)



WHAT DO YOU THINK OF?

A teacher once asked his class of forty pupils, to write on a sheet of paper the word, "Christmas." "Now," said the teacher, "write after the word 'Christmas' the first thing you think of." When the papers were returned to him, the teacher read the answers. Not one person had written "Jesus"! How sad it is that so few

think about the Lord Jesus on His birthday, which is Christmas!

Dear Boys and Girls:

Have you ever been told the good news that a baby is going to be born? Everyone enjoys having a new baby at home. Now there is so much planning to do! There are so many things a new baby needs. One question is: where will the baby sleep? If the parents can just have a special room for the baby, they might be able to paint and fix it in a cute little baby way. Next, they'll need a little crib for it to sleep in, and sheets, blankets, and a soft pillow. As they wait for the baby, they buy or make little things for it when it arrives. It is so much fun getting everything together! Of course, they need to pick out a name for the baby. It may be a boy or a girl, so the parents have to pick a girl name and a boy name.

Baby Jesus was a special baby. An angel told Mary that she was to have a baby, and that He was to be the Son of God. An angel told Joseph that His name was to be Jesus.

Caesar Augustus proclaimed that all the world was to be taxed. Everyone was to go to the city from which their family came. Joseph and Mary were from the family and lineage of King David, so they were to go to Bethlehem. In this way the Bible prophecy in Mic. 5:2, was fulfilled.

Joseph and Mary had a long distance to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, Joseph went from place to place, trying to find somewhere for Mary to rest as she was so tired. Finally, an inn-keeper felt sorry for them and offered them the only place left, which was a stable in which the animals were kept. That very night the most wonderful baby was born (Jesus, the Son of God). Mary had no fine clothes or a crib for her baby. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes (strips of cloth) and laid Him in a man-

ger. The manger was a place where the animals ate their food.

When Jesus was born, the angels were happy, too. Jesus was to save the people from their sins; He was to bring salvation to them! An angel appeared to the shepherds, and told them that they would find the baby Jesus in a manger wrapped in swaddling clothes. When the shepherds went to see if this was true, there they found the baby as the angels had told them. The shepherds went on their way rejoicing. They had seen the promised Messiah, and as they went, they told others about this wonderful happening.

—Aunt Dot

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Lesson 12, December 23, 1984

BABY JESUS IS BORN OF MARY

Luke 2:4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

7 And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good

tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Memory Verse: And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Matt. 1:21.

Questions:

1. What did Caesar Augustus decree for the people to do?
2. Where did Joseph and Mary have to go to pay taxes?
3. How did they know they had to go to Bethlehem?
4. Were there many people in Bethlehem when they arrived?
5. Was there room for them at the inn?
6. Where did they have to go to rest?
7. What wonderful thing happened that night?
8. Where did Mary have to lay her baby?
9. What kind of clothes did she have to put on Him?
10. Who told the shepherds about baby Jesus?
11. Did the shepherds rejoice when they saw Jesus? Why?
12. Did they tell others about Him?

Bible Search: Who hid themselves among the trees in a garden? *Answer next week.*

Last week's answer: Eagles. Deut. 32:11.

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Part 13

Dec. 30

Around Old Bethany

(Continued From Last Lesson)

All eyes were now upon Mr. Newby. Here was an opponent that was not to be stampeded or intimidated, one who knew his ground, and kept close to his texts. It was easy to see that Peter Newby was nonplussed. It usually had been easy for him to silence an opponent, or to get an expression of agreement, so that he smarted under the feeling that he was near to being defeated. His texts were gone. He had no more to offer, and he hardly dared to expound on any of Romans 6, so there he sat, red in the face, his right hand pulling nervously at his stubby white mustache. It was either rise or admit defeat, so Peter Newby rose. His voice was cold and sinister.

"I do not propose, friends, to be browbeaten by an upstart of a preacher. I tell you I have been a student of the Scriptures, and I have heard many learned ministers of the gospel preach, and I have never heard one of them state that they lived free from sin. I try to do my best every day, but, I tell you, the devil is strong, and the flesh is weak, so I often fall into grievous sins and errors. But I feel that I am a Christian, never-

theless. I have been baptized, and know that I believe." And the old man sat down.

"Well, we have not discussed our chapter very much," said Robert. "Has anyone any explanation to give?"

People glanced at Peter, but it was evident that he was about through for the evening. Robert then rose, and said:

"Friends, this sixth chapter of Romans is full of proof-texts favoring holiness of life. Paul asks, 'Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid,' he answers. And then Paul asks a most significant and conclusive question, 'How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?' Mark the words, 'dead to sin.' What could Paul mean, except that we are to become dead to sin?"

"Now, notice verse 6, please, 'Know this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.' Crucifixion means death. The 'old man,' which means the old fleshly, sinful life, is to be killed, so that he may no longer dominate the life. Praise God!"

When Robert said these last words all in the house looked at him. They were

not used to such expressions. Robert was a little surprised himself, as that was the first time he had ever said them. But his heart was full of heavenly joy. He knew God saved him.

"Now, shall we notice verse 16 and down to the twentieth? We necessarily must serve God or Satan; we yield our members, such as the tongue or the hands, to do evil, or to do good. And to whom we yield these members, his servants we are. This is fundamental. A person who does right serves God; one who sins serves the devil. Nothing can be plainer than this. Suppose we read 1 John 3:8. 'He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.' This is plain teaching, yet it is entirely logical. Jesus said that no man can serve two masters. We cannot serve God and mammon at the same time.

"And, could anything be more emphatic than these words, 'For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness'? And these, 'But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life' (v. 22).

Peter Newby was plainly growing restive under these words of Robert's. He rose and said:

"I do not expect to sit here and be insulted by being called of the devil, and so forth. There are many wise men who have expounded the Scriptures, and they laid no claim to being saved from sin. There is a lot for this young man to learn yet."

After this the meeting was dismissed. But there were little groups gathering here and there, talking about the debate. Peter Newby was rapidly losing his prestige. Most of the people took sides and enjoyed the conflict, while a few were interested in finding the truth.

THE SCHOOLHOUSE DEBATES

The dust was wiped from more Bibles in the community around Fairmount School following the debates between Peter Newby and Robert Davis than for many a day. Even old Mr. Stephenson, who was the most indifferent to the claims of religion, hunted a Bible, and declared he was going to find out which one was right, Newby or Davis. Charley Moss, a goodhearted, but wild, wicked fellow, became interested also. He bought his first New Testament and dedicated himself to the task of reading it through. "I must find out," said he, "what this young man Davis is talking about. His religion seems to be the real thing."

The next prayer meeting night found the house packed to the limit. Conjectures and opinions as to how the debate would go were passed back and forth. Peter Newby's partisans rallied to his support. A few were inclined to accept Robert Davis' views, while the majority were moved by morbid curiosity to watch the outcome of a verbal conflict. Peter Newby wore an air of entire confidence—on this occasion he had the seventh chapter of Romans back of him, he thought. Nearly everyone else who accepted the old theology of the community expected him to "clean up" his opponent in grand style that night.

As for Robert Davis, the previous week had been one of prayer and study. He had first entered into the prayer meeting with the intention to help along a good work. He had no intention of entering into debate or controversy with anyone. Now, as he viewed the matter, he was surprised to find the role that he was playing. On the first night, he had only intended to stand up for and express his convictions toward a very vital subject—that of living above sin. He had been a sinner, he had now become soundly converted, had received

light on sanctification (though he was not yet sanctified) and holy living, and his only object had been to be loyal to the truth he had found. As it looked to him now, he was one of the principals in a battle between truth and error. He was very young in faith, and it is not to be wondered at if his zeal was greater than his knowledge. Day by day he prayed that the saving truth of the gospel might be made plain to all, and that deadly error might be exposed, and its power to blind the people destroyed, completely and eternally.

"Romans 7," called out Peter Newby, who led off without consulting anybody. "Read the first verse, Mrs. Johnson. Everybody follow the reading. There are so many present tonight that only a small portion will get to read. Pay strict attention."

After the chapter was read, Peter began:

"Neighbors, you have known me for a long time, and all of you know that I am fair and square to everybody. I try to treat my neighbors right. I have been a Christian a long time. I was baptized fifty years ago in the Big Sandy River.

Water baptism is essential to salvation, so somewhere between the time I went down into the water and came up out of it, I was converted.

"Now we are studying the seventh chapter of Romans. Paul gives his experience in this chapter. Paul was a great man but he said that he was 'carnal, sold under sin' (v. 14). Now my experience is just like Paul's. He says, 'For what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I,' and then in verse 19, 'For the good that I would I do not; but the evil which I would not, that I do.' This is my experience. I do many things I ought not to do, and I leave undone many things I ought to do. This old tongue of mine says many things, and when I get with wicked boys and

men I crack my jokes, too, and these hands often do wrong, but, friends, I am trying in my weak way to serve Paul. He said that when he would do good, evil was present with him. This is my experience. I would like to do good, but the flesh is too weak, and there is too much sin in me." Peter sat down.

(To Be Continued)

"But the salvation of the righteous is of the Lord: he is their strength. . . ."

A Child's Thought

I like to think about the Lord
When He was little, too—
And how He knelt to pray
At bedtime, as I do.

I like to close my eyes and know
That somewhere in the sky
He's watching, and will help me to
Be better when I try.

I like to plan about the day
When heaven I shall see;
Where Jesus (who was once a child),
Has saved a place for me.

Dear Boys and Girls:

Can you imagine what excitement there is around the house when we hear that a favorite uncle or aunt, or Grandpa and Grandma are coming for a visit? We always want everything to be in the best of order so that they will enjoy their stay with us. Mother likes to serve the special meals she knows they really like.

Now let's imagine. What would it be like to have Jesus come to our house? We would surely want everyone and everything just so. Maybe we would rush about, setting things in their proper order. We would want everything to be clean and orderly. We'd serve Him the very best food that we had, too.

We should remember, though, that Jesus is always here, and He sees all

around the house all the time. We really should be more anxious about what our hearts' condition is before Him. It'd be more profitable to pray and get closer to the dearest Friend of mankind.

We know that Martha loved the Lord in her heart because she invited Him to come to her house. Jesus had raised her brother, Lazarus, from the dead, so she was especially grateful to Him. Jesus was always glad to be in their house. It was a haven of rest and peace from the many people that thronged about Him wherever He went.

Mary, Martha's sister, was there, too. She, too, was thankful for Jesus' love to them. Mary always wanted to learn more about the love of God. While Martha was busy preparing the meal, Mary sat at Jesus' feet and listened to Him talk.

Martha got tired of doing all the work by herself, and went to Jesus. "Don't you care that I have so much to do? Tell Mary to help me."

"Martha, Martha," answered Jesus. "You are troubled about many things. Mary has chosen the good part because she listens to the Word." It is more important for us to keep our hearts clean than our houses. —Aunt Dot

Lesson 13, December 30, 1984

MARY, MARTHA, AND JESUS

Luke 10:38 Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.

39 And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet and heard his word.

40 But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my

sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

41 And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

42 But one thing is needful; and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Luke 21:34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Memory Verse: Casting all of your care upon him; for he careth for you. 1 Pet. 5:7.

Questions:

1. Who invited Jesus to her house?
2. Did Jesus like to be in their house? Why?
3. What was the name of Martha's sister?
4. What did she like to do?
5. What was Martha doing?
6. Do you think she should have been so busy when Jesus was visiting?
7. What did she say to Jesus?
8. What did Jesus answer?
9. Who had chosen the better part?
10. Should we take more time in reading the Bible and praying?

Bible Search: What does Jesus tell us to seek first? *Answer next week.*

Last week's answer: Adam and Eve. Gen. 3:8.