

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 1 Jan. 6, 2002

PAULA, THE WALDENSIAN

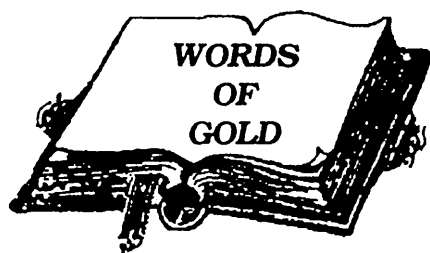
An Unexpected Letter

Clearly engraved on the walls of my memory there still remains a picture of the great gray house where I spent my childhood. It was originally used for more than a hundred years as the convent of the "White Ladies," with its four long galleries, one above the other, looking proudly down upon the humbler dwellings of the village. On the side of the house, where ran the broad road from Rouen to Darnetal, a high, rugged wall surrounded a wide yard, guarded at the entrance by two massive doors, studded with enormous spikes. The naked barrenness of this yard was, to say the least, forbidding in the extreme; but the fertile fields on the other side of the house spread themselves like a vast and beautiful green carpet, dotted here and there with little villages, crowned with church spires and their corresponding bell-fries, from which on a Sunday morning pealed out the cheerful call to prayer and worship. The ancient convent long before our story begins had been transformed into a lovely dwelling with an immense garden on one

side, edged by a dozen little brick houses that seemed so small that they made us children think of certain dollhouses that we used to see in the Paris magazines. They were known locally as the "Red Cottages." A long avenue of ancient elms separated us from these houses of our neighbors, and in front of the cottages stretched a line of stone benches, where, in the shade of the great trees, the old men of the village used to sit and recount to us tales of the days when the Convent flourished. Some of these stories made us shiver. (Indeed, they had a habit of straying into our dreams at night.) The rest of the land around the Convent had, with the passing of the years, fallen into the hands of the village themselves. Each one had a small space for flowers in front and a vegetable garden behind.

Of course, our own garden covering the whole space in front of the Red Cottages, was a much more pretentious affair with its deep well, its many-colored kiosks, and its noisy beehives. In fact, it was in our eyes, the most enchanting corner of the earth.

I don't remember all the details about the special thing that happened one day, but I know that I shall never forget it to the end of my life.



From Conquerors To Cowards

Judges 6:1-10

1 And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord: and the Lord delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years.

2 And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel: and because of the Midianites the children of Israel made them the dens which are in the mountains, and caves, and strong holds.

3 And so it was, when Israel had sown, that the Midianites came up, and the Amalekites, and the children of the east, even they came up against them:

4 And they encamped against them, and destroyed the increase of the earth, till thou come unto Gaza, and left no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep, nor ox, nor ass.

5 For they came up with their cattle and their tents, and they came as grasshoppers for multitude; for both they and their camels were without number: and they entered into the land to destroy it.

6 And Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites; and the children of Israel cried unto the Lord.

7 And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried unto the Lord because of the Midianites,

8 That the Lord sent a prophet unto the children of Israel, which said unto them, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, I brought you up from Egypt, and brought you forth out of the house of bondage;

9 And I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all that oppressed you, and drave them out from before you, and gave you their land;

10 And I said unto you, I am the Lord your God: fear not the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but ye have not obeyed my voice.

1 Chronicles 22:13

13 Then shalt thou prosper, if thou takest heed to fulfil the statutes and judgments which the Lord charged Moses with concerning Israel: be strong, and of good courage; dread not, nor be dismayed.

The Message: No army could stand against the Israelites while God was their Captain. Left to themselves these mighty conquerors became cringing cowards!

Questions:

1. Who did evil in the sight of the Lord?
2. What enemy did He deliver them to?
3. How long did this enemy torment them?
4. Where did the Israelites go to escape the enemy?
5. Who ate up the crops of the Israelites?
6. Instead of coming as an army to battle, how did the enemy come?
7. There were so many of them, what were they like?
8. To whom did Israel cry?
9. Who came to remind them that they had disobeyed God?

Verse to Memorize

...If God be for us, who can be against us?

Romans 8:31.

Let's



Talk . . .

The mighty hand of God delivered the Israelites from the cruel Egyptians. Camping near the Red Sea, the people saw Pharaoh's great army coming to capture them! Their situation was desperate with no way of escape—until God made a way. He brought a great cloud between them and their pursuers. To the Israelites this cloud was a brilliant light but to the Egyptians it was dense darkness.

Then God made a dry path and the Israelites walked right through the Red Sea. Their enemies drove their chariots furiously, intent on recapturing their servants. They drove right into the sea. Then, when they were far from shore, God withdrew His hand. The walls of water crashed down wrenching the wheels from the chariots. Men and horses struggled frantically against the force of the surging waters. Pharaoh's entire army was destroyed by one stroke of God's hand!

Crossing the Jordan River, God again led the Israelites across on dry land. When they came to the city of Jericho they found that it was surrounded by high walls that were so thick the top was wide enough for chariot races. Yet those walls crumbled when the people shouted!

The people of Canaan trembled with terror at the thought of these invaders. God had ordered them to subdue all the land of Canaan. No nation or kingdom could defy this army whose God fought for them! With God on their side the Israelites were invincible!

What a contrast to the Israelites

in our lesson! Instead of facing the enemy they ran to the mountains, hiding in dens and caves! Their God had not changed. He was, is, and always will be, omnipotent. The Midianites were not even great warriors. It was sin that turned these Israelites into cowards instead of conquerors. When they turned from God and worshiped idols they lost His divine protection.

Sin will do the same in our lives! God wants to live in our hearts and give us power over all our enemies. Choosing our own way instead of God's is actually worshiping SELF rather than God. Jesus taught us to deny self so He can live in our hearts and fight our battles.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

1. Publication Title: **The Baptist Way**

2. Issue Date: **April 3, 1981**

3. Issue Frequency: **Quarterly**

4. Issue Number: **16, 00/Year**

5. Publication Title of Parent: **Faith Publishing House, Inc.**

6. Issue Number: **4110 S Division, Guthrie, DE 73046**

7. Issue Date: **April 3, 1981**

8. Issue Frequency: **Quarterly**

9. Issue Number: **16, 00/Year**

10. Issue Date: **April 3, 1981**

11. Issue Frequency: **Quarterly**

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We were at tea in the garden. Teresa, our old servant, was walking up and down in her kitchen. She never seemed to have time to sit down to eat. Dear old Teresa! She always seemed like a mother to me, for we had lost our own dear mother when I was still in the cradle.

My brother and I had quarreled over a mere nothing, when our father called us in to tea. Of course, we did not dare continue our dispute openly in front of him, but we continued our war-like activities by kicking each other under the table.

Louis was ten years old and I was nine. As he was older and a boy, he of course considered that he had the right to the last word. Now kicks had replaced words; but as we were seated at quite a distance from one another, we did not succeed in causing very great damage to each other's shins. Notwithstanding this, I began to lose patience, and in order to end the matter, knowing that Louis was not very courageous, I leaned my chair as far inside as I could and let him have one terrific kick. At this, his face changed color and my father, now disturbed by the extra noise of my kick, finally began to realize what was happening. I do not know how matters would have terminated, if Teresa had not at this moment come into the garden with a black-bordered letter in her hand, which she delivered to our father. He took it silently and opened it as Teresa carried away the teapot.

I saw immediately by my father's expression that the letter carried serious news, and I am sure Louis noticed it also for he completely forgot to return my kick.

"Teresa!" called my father.

"All right, I'm coming," said that good lady.

"Read this, and tell me what you think of it," and my father handed the

letter to the old servant.

Teresa seated herself at the end of the table between Louis and me, and with her head in her hand commenced to read—Teresa was not very well educated and she read the letter very slowly and half-aloud. "Who wrote this?" was her first question.

"The Pastor of the village," replied my father.

"A minister!" exclaimed Teresa. "He's a mighty poor writer for a minister, and no doubt his mother paid mighty well for his 'education'."

My father smiled a bit sadly.

"You don't understand it, Teresa?"

"Yes, yes; I understand half of it, and I think I can guess at the other half."

"Do you want me to help you?" offered Louis.

Teresa looked scornfully at Louis.

"YOU! I should say not! You don't care to help me in the kitchen or run errands for me, and the only thing the matter with you now is curiosity!"

That settled Louis, and Teresa went on with her reading. Bending her great fat form more and more closely over the letter, she became more serious as she neared the bottom of the fourth page where the writing became so close and so fine that it was hardly possible to decipher it. When, at last, she lifted her head, her eyes were full of tears. "Poor, poor little thing!" she repeated softly.

(To be continued next week.)

Answers: 1. The children of Israel. 2. The Midianites. 3. Seven years. 4. To dens and caves in the mountains. 5. The enemy. 6. With their cattle and tents. 7. Grasshoppers. 8. God. 9. A prophet.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 2 Jan. 13, 2002

Paula, The Orphan

(Continued from last week.)

The family waited anxiously while Teresa, the old servant, read the letter that came in the envelope edged in black. With her limited education she was scarcely able to make sense of the words. The children waited breathlessly as she read slowly and half-aloud. They could scarcely contain their curiosity. What news did this strange letter bring? Finally Teresa seemed to grasp the writer's message. When she lifted her head, her eyes were full of tears. "Poor, poor little thing!" she repeated softly.

"Well, what do you think?" said my father.

"What do I think? Why we must send at once and have her come here as soon as possible, because—"

"Who?" my father interrupted her without ceremony.

"Yes; who? Who?" questioned Louis.

"Tell us, father, please," added my sister Rosa, a tall, serious girl of fifteen.

And as he did not answer us quickly our questions multiplied.

"Patience! Patience!" cried my father; "your turn will come."

"Teresa, you are getting old, and another girl in the house simply means more work for you and a lot more

problems for me. If 'she' (my father had never been able to reconcile himself to pronounce the name of my mother since her untimely death)-if 'she' were here I would not hesitate, but to bring another orphan into a family already half-orphaned doesn't seem right to me."

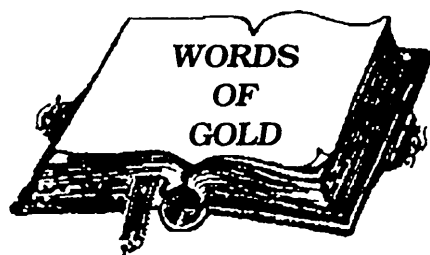
"Don't worry, sir, a little more work doesn't worry Teresa Rouland. She will have to get up a little earlier and go to bed a little later, and that will be all."

"Well, Teresa, I'll think about it, and it needs to be 'thought about' a good deal."

"And why do you say that, sir? One doesn't have to reflect long about doing good."

"Well, I'll tell you why I hesitate. I'm sure that someone else could much better replace the parents of this orphaned girl. I must confess that for my part I don't feel equal to the task."

"Sir, would you like to know what I think? You have said to yourself, 'From the time that my wife died life has become a burden, and if it wasn't for the children I would have died of grief, but for love of them I must work and live. Therefore, with my heart torn and desolate as it is, I don't feel called upon to take any responsibility upon myself other than that of my own children!'"



An Unexpected Visit

Judges 6:11-19, 21-24

11 And there came an angel of the Lord, and sat under an oak...Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites.

12 And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him, and said unto him, The Lord is with thee...

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

14 And the Lord looked upon him, and said, Go...and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites...

15 And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel?...
16 And the Lord said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man.

17 And he said unto him,...shew me a sign that thou talkest with me.
18 Depart not hence, I pray thee, until I come unto thee, and bring forth my present, and set it before thee. And he said, I will tarry until thou come again.

19 And Gideon went in, and made ready a kid, and unleavened cakes of an ephah of flour:...presented it.

21 Then the angel of the Lord put forth the end of the staff that was in his hand, and touched the flesh and

the unleavened cakes; and there rose up fire out of the rock, and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. Then the angel of the Lord departed out of his sight.

22 And when Gideon perceived that he was an angel of the Lord, Gideon said, Alas, O Lord God! for because I have seen an angel of the Lord face to face.

23 And the Lord said unto him, Peace be unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die.

24 Then Gideon built an altar there unto the Lord...



The Message: The angel found Gideon busy at his work. His unexpected visit changed Gideon's life forever!



Questions:

1. Who came and sat under an oak?
2. What was Gideon doing?
3. From whom was he hiding the wheat?
4. What did the angel tell Gideon when he first spoke?
5. Who had forsaken them and delivered them into the hands of the Midianites?
6. What did the angel tell Gideon to do?
7. Who would be with Gideon to smite the Midianites?
8. What happened when the angel touched the offering with his staff?
9. What did Gideon build to the Lord?

Verse to Memorize

...He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much:...

Luke 16:10.

Let's



Talk . . .

Gideon went to the winepress early where he had hidden sheaves of grain. So far the Midianites had not found his hidden storehouse. Grabbing up a handful he began threshing the grain. While he worked he thought about the hardships of the past years.

At first the Midianites had camped along the borders of Israel. The Israelites had been too weak to drive them away so they grew bolder. They turned their flocks and herds into the pasturelands of Israel to graze. Then they began to steal the food that grew in Israel's fields and vineyards. They even crowded the Israelites out of their homes. They filled the valleys with their tents and ate up everything the Israelites grew. Each year things got worse until the Israelites now had scarcely enough to keep them alive.

"Why is all this happening to us?" Gideon groaned. "Where are all the miracles that our fathers told us about?"

Lost in thought and intent on his work Gideon was not aware that he was being watched. When he did look up he saw an angel sitting under the oak tree! The angel said, "The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valor."

"If the Lord is with us why are we so oppressed by this terrible enemy?" Gideon asked. "Didn't the Lord bring the people out of Egypt with great miracles? But now He has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites!"

The angel answered, "I am sending you to save Israel from the hand

of the Midianites. Go, and I will be with you!"

Gideon was too shocked to speak! Finally he answered weakly, "Me? How shall I save Israel?" He asked the angel for a sign. So when Gideon set food on a rock, the angel touched it with the tip of his staff. Instantly flames shot out of the rock and consumed the food and the angel disappeared. Now Gideon knew it was the Lord who spoke to him!

Our lesson should encourage us to be faithful in our responsibilities. Notice that the angel came while Gideon was getting food for his family. God does not look for great and powerful men to work for Him—He chooses those who are diligent. Doing your best at school and in your chores will prepare you to fill the place God has for you. If He should ask you to do what seems impossible, He will be with you. It is His work and He will throw in the power as you need it! Your part is to be faithful and obedient.

There are "Midianites" in your life. The devil works through giant "SELF" to lead you away from God, His protection and provisions. God wants to bless everyone in the church services, no matter how young. But have you noticed how many distractions come crowding in, like the horde of Midianites? These distractions will seem more meaningful and definitely more entertaining than the important message God is sending for you! Then when you need strength to fight the devil you will be too weak because those "Midianites" ate your lunch!

God's blessings come in unexpected ways and at the time we least expect them. The unexpected letter eventually brought Paula's godly influence into this home. The angel's unexpected visit changed Gideon from a whining coward to a captain of God's army! —Bro. Dale Doolittle

"There is a good deal of truth in what you say, Teresa."

"Yes, sir, but it is very bad, very bad, if you will let me say so! I know I ought not to talk so, as I'm only a poor, old servant; but remember, I was the one that brought up the lovely woman that we all mourn for, and, I knew her before you did, sir, and I loved her as if she were my own child. When I put her in the coffin it was as if they had taken out a piece of my own heart. She was so young to die, so sweet, so good, and besides so marvelously beautiful! But I dried my tears as best I could, for I knew there was much to be done; and I said to myself that I would honor the memory of my mistress by doing always that which I knew she would have approved of. And now, sir, take this little orphan as you know your good wife would have done, as the daughter of her beloved sister...." She stopped suddenly, slightly abashed, as she realized that perhaps she had said a little too much for one in her station in life.

But more than her mere words, her voice vibrant with emotion had moved us all to the depths of our souls.

"You are a valiant woman with a great heart," my father said, as he took her hand. "I will write this very night and ask them to send the girl to us as soon as possible."

Then turning to us he added, "You no doubt know by this time of whom we have been speaking. Your cousin Paula has just lost her father. You will remember her mother died some years ago, and we are her nearest relatives. Your uncle's friends have written me as to whether I will consent to receive Paula into our home, and in a few days, more or less, she will be among us."

We opened our mouths to ask a thousand questions, but father stopped us. "No, no! That is enough

for now! Later I will tell you the details; besides, I must go out immediately. Go now to your various tasks and don't be thinking too much about this coming of your cousin."

That night I could not study my lessons. In fact, I could do nothing but think about Paula! I was not a student and was always at the bottom of the class. Louis, in the matter of study, was no better than I; but in the school, thanks to his brilliancy of mind, he always seemed to skim through somehow. Rosa was not a bit like her brother and sister; being a model of patience, application and obedience. I was very proud of my sister Rosa and I loved and admired her, but I never had the slightest desire to imitate her.

After my father had gone, nothing was talked of except our cousin Paula. When would she come? What would she be like? Would she be content to be here among us? All these were questions that we could not answer, as we knew very little about her. They had told me that Paula lived in the Waldensian Valley—a country where the inhabitants fed on black bread and lived in homes that were like stables. This valley was located in the mountains of Piedmont. I had no idea just exactly where these mountains were. I had searched the map without being able to find the region. I supposed it must be located somewhere between France, Italy and Switzerland.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. An angel. 2. Threshing wheat. 3. The Midianites. 4. "The Lord is with thee." 5. The Lord. 6. "Go" and he would save Israel. 7. The Lord. 8. Fire came out of the rock and burned up the offering. 9. An altar.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 3 Jan. 20, 2002

Catalina

(Continued from last week.)

I was overjoyed knowing that Paula, my orphaned cousin, would soon come to live with us. I could hardly wait for her arrival! Then I found out that Paula was about my own age. What happiness! This fact I repeated over and over until Louis told me to keep quiet. This attitude on his part I put down as discontent because Paula wasn't a boy, so I kept repeating, "Paula's the same as me!"

"For mercy's sake, will you keep quiet, Lisita? Besides you have your grammar twisted as usual. It doesn't surprise me in the least that you're always at the foot of the class, if that's the way you study."

"You can talk to me as you like," I answered, "but when Paula gets here I'll never speak to you again, and I'll tell her not to say a word to you either. I am mighty glad that Paula's a girl and not a disagreeable boy like you."

"Oh, keep your Paula, much do I care!" replied Louis.

"Come, come," exclaimed Rosa, "what's the good of fighting over this poor girl Paula whom neither of you have ever seen!"

"It's Louis' fault!"

"No, it's Lisita's!"

"It's the two of you! If Paula could see the way you quarrel I'm sure she

would not want to come. I hope she will love us all and we must all of us love her also, because she's not only an orphan, but she's a niece of our poor, dear, dead mother."

Rosa knew well how to bring about peace. One word about our mother was enough.

"See here, Lisita," and Rosa drew me toward her, "I see that you haven't the slightest desire to study tonight, so close your book, and if you get up early tomorrow morning I'll help you. Do you know what I would do now if I were you."

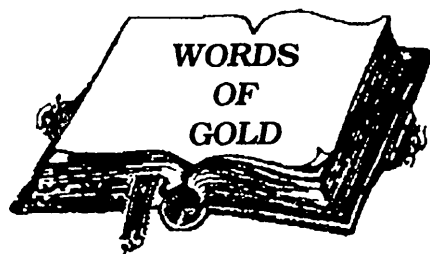
"What?"

"I'd go and see Catalina. You know that she does not like to be alone all of the afternoon, and I think Teresa has gone out. If I didn't have so much to do I'd see her myself. Now, look out you don't make too much noise. Catalina has a terrible headache today."

"All right. I'm off" I said.

The idea of visiting my oldest sister never made me very happy in those days. In fact, I hardly ever entered her room because it bored me terribly to be in the company of such a disagreeable invalid.

I remembered the time when Catalina was the liveliest and happiest person in the whole house, but unfortunately all this had changed in an instant. One day three years before, Catalina had fallen from the top



Gideon And Two Altars

Judges 6:25-35

25 And it came to pass the same night, that the Lord said unto him, ... throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that is by it:

26 And build an altar unto the Lord thy God...

27 Then Gideon took ten men of his servants, and did as the Lord had said unto him: and so it was, because he feared his father's household, and the men of the city, that he could not do it by day, that he did it by night.

28 And when the men of the city arose early in the morning, behold, the altar of Baal was cast down....

29 And they said one to another, Who hath done this thing? And when they inquired and asked, they said, Gideon the son of Joash hath done this thing.

30 Then the men of the city said unto Joash, Bring out thy son, that he may die: because he hath cast down the altar of Baal, and because he hath cut down the grove that was by it.

31 And Joash said unto all that stood against him, Will ye plead for Baal? will ye save him? he that will plead for him, let him be put to death whilst it is yet morning: if he be a god, let him plead for himself, because one hath cast down his altar.

32 Therefore on that day he called

him Jerubbaal, saying, Let Baal plead against him, because he hath thrown down his altar.

33 Then all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the children of the east were gathered together, and went over, and pitched in the valley of Jezreel.

34 But the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet: and Abiezer was gathered after him.

35 And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh; who also was gathered after him: and he sent messengers unto Asher, and unto Zebulun, and unto Naphtali; and they came up to meet them.



The Message: God demands that we worship Him alone. Then He will fight our battles for us.



Questions:

1. What did God tell Gideon to throw down?
2. What must he build?
3. How many men helped Gideon?
4. Why did he do this at night?
5. Who discovered that the altar was cast down?
6. Who did they accuse of destroying the altar?
7. Who was Gideon's father?
8. Who gathered against Israel?
9. What did Gideon do when the Spirit of the Lord came upon him?

Verse to Memorize

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Philippians 4:13.

Let's



Talk . . .

After God got Gideon's attention through His angel, He began to direct him in the work ahead. The very first thing, he must tear down Baal's altar. In its place he was to build an altar to God.

Gideon knew that his father and all the men of the city worshiped Baal as if he was a powerful god. For fear of them he waited until after dark. Then he took ten of his own servants and destroyed Baal's altar, cutting down the grove around it. Next he built an altar to the Lord on the top of the rock as God ordered. Taking the bullock God specified, Gideon offered it as a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove that he had cut down.

Gideon had scarcely finished his work when the men of the city came to offer sacrifices to Baal. But what had happened? They could hardly recognize the place. There were only stumps where the grove had shaded the altar. And where was the altar? In its place there was only a heap of rubble!

"Who did this?" they raged.

Finally someone spoke up, "Gideon the son of Joash did it!"

The men of the city hurried to find Joash. "Bring out your son that he may die," they demanded. "He has thrown down the altar of Baal and cut down the grove that was by it!"

But their words did not disturb Joash. He saw how ridiculous it was to worship a god that couldn't even protect its own altar. Bravely facing the men who stood against him he

answered, "Will you plead for Baal? Does he need you to save him? If he is a god, let him punish the one who tore down his altar." Then he threatened, "Anyone that still thinks he is a god, let him be put to death while it is still morning!"

Once more the Midianites and their allies invaded the land of Israel. But things were different now! Baal's altar was thrown down and God had given His word that Gideon would deliver Israel from their tormentors.

When Gideon saw this vast army the Spirit of the Lord came upon him. Although he was a mighty man of valor; yet personal strength and courage could not win this great battle. It would take nothing less than God's Spirit giving him the power and courage he needed. This is what he must depend upon.

Boldly he blew a trumpet to call Israel to battle against the foe. His own family was the first to gather round him. Then distant tribes of Israel obeyed his summons, sending him the best of their forces.

After calling Gideon, God's first requirement was that Baal's altar must be torn down. Each of us has an "altar" in our heart. There we either worship SELF or we deny SELF and choose to obey God. When we give our hearts to God His first requirement of us is to tear down the altar to SELF. Instead of taking our own way we give our heart to God as His altar. Here we worship and honor God, always choosing His way over our own.

Catalina feared that she would lose what little peace she had when Paula came. She declared she would not allow her to come. But God was sending Paula to show her how to set up an altar to God in her own heart. Through this little orphan girl she would find happiness and peace because she found God.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

of a high cherry tree, which she had climbed against the advice of Teresa. She was unconscious when we picked her up, and it seemed at first as if she would die as a result of the fall. After six months of cruel suffering, however, her youth had triumphed over death; but the big sister who had always been as happy and as lively as a bird was gone from us, and in her place remained a forlorn, unhappy girl with a poor, twisted body, who at rare intervals sallied from her room a few steps with the aid of her crutches. Unfortunately her character had also suffered severely, for in spite of the tenderness and solicitude of my father who sought to satisfy her slightest desire, and in spite of the untiring care of Teresa and the patience and sweetness of Rosa, Catalina's life was one long complaint. Her room, with its white bed adorned with blue curtains and its magnificent view of the fields and mountains, was the most beautiful in the whole house. A pair of canaries sang for her in their respective corners; the finest fruits were always for her; and as she was a great reader, new books were continually brought in; but nothing seemed to have power to put a smile of satisfaction on her thin, wasted face.

Poor Catalina! It was certainly true—I didn't love her very much. I was so accustomed to see my sister in her invalid state that her pitiful condition didn't seem to move me, and she was always in such a bad humor that I only went to see her on rare occasions.

However, on this particular afternoon, I had, of course, a great desire to carry her the news of our cousin's coming, and so I gladly went to visit her; but forgetting all the warnings of Rosa I burst open the door like a gust of wind.

Catalina was lying with her face toward the wall with the curtains of

the bed partly drawn, and a green shade had been placed over the cages of the two birds in order to stop their singing. Under other circumstances I would have prudently retired, thinking that Catalina, more irritated or sicker than usual, was endeavoring to sleep. Doubtless our old servant had come in to speak to her regarding Paula, and finding her apparently asleep had arranged things as I found them. She turned her head on hearing me come in and in a sharp tone exclaimed, "What a noise, Lisita! Can't you give me a single quiet moment!"

"You know I haven't been here all day!" I answered impatiently. "In fact, I haven't been here since yesterday morning, and besides, I forgot that Rosa told me that you had a headache."

"Well, you know it now!"

"So you wouldn't care to have me tell you the big news!"

"No!"

"Well, I am going to tell you anyhow, because I can't keep it to myself any longer! Uncle John is dead!"

"Uncle John! Dead?"

"Yes, and I'm happy!"

"What do you mean, you're happy!"

"Well, I am happy! —Not because Uncle John is dead, but because his little girl, Paula, who is just my age, is coming to live with us, so, of course, why shouldn't I be happy?"

"Well, you can just forget your happiness, because Paula is not going to live with us. I can tell you that right now!"

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Baal's altar. 2. An altar to God. 3. Ten. 4. He feared his father and the men of the city. 5. The men of the city. 6. Gideon. 7. Joash. 8. The Midianites and Amalekites. 9. Blew a trumpet.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 4 Jan. 27, 2002

Calming Catalina

(Continued from last week.)

"Paula is not going to live with us. I can tell you that right now!" Catalina stormed.

"And why not? Father said she was coming! You can ask Teresa, or Rosa, or Louis!"

"I am not going to ask anyone, but I tell you that Paula is not coming here! No! And indeed, NO! I've got enough to put up with, with Louis and you! It seems as if you tear my head apart, for you quarrel from morning till night: and when you play it seems as if the house is coming down; and now suppose another bad-mannered little girl should come among us! But I tell you it never shall happen!"

"You're not the one who orders things here!"

"Neither do you, you impertinent little thing."

"Now, don't get mad, Catalina!" I cried, as I burst into tears.

"You don't know what you are talking about. You do not realize that Paula has no one in the world to care for her. Teresa read us the letter out loud. I know I'm not a good girl and I'm almost as disagreeable as you are, but I am going to be good when Paula comes. You shall see. She will be my dearly beloved sister and she is

almost exactly my age. Oh, I certainly shall love her, and we shall always be together and we, we....

"Keep quiet, Lisita. Your tongue runs like a mill wheel. Besides, where did you get all these details?"

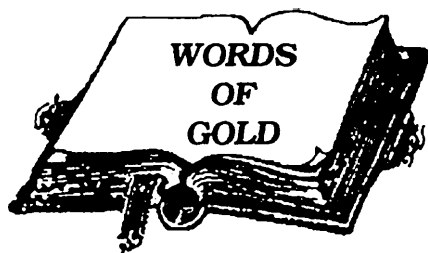
"It was this afternoon, just as we finished tea. They wrote to Father, and Father gave the letter to Teresa, and Teresa said that a little extra work didn't bother her, and Father said, 'All right, let her come!'"

"And I? Father said nothing about me?"

"Not that I remember."

"Oh," sobbed Catalina, "everything is done without me now! Because I am nothing more than an invalid, everything is arranged without consulting me! What difference does it make to you who are able to laugh and run and play if I suffer here without having a thing to say about what goes on in the house! How would you like to be in my place? Father never came to say one single word to me about the matter, and now without consulting me as to whether it would disturb me, they wish to bring another trouble to torment me more! But it shall not be, and the day that she comes I shall go to a hospital, because they do not want me here any more!"

Poor Catalina! She had passed a



Gideon's Army

Judges 6:36-40; 7:1-7

36 And Gideon said unto God, If thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said,

37 Behold, I will put a fleece of wool in the floor; and if the dew be on the fleece only, and it be dry upon all the earth beside, then shall I know that thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said.

38 And it was so: for he rose up early on the morrow, and thrust the fleece together, and wringed the dew out of the fleece, a bowl full of water.

39 And Gideon said unto God,...let me prove, I pray thee, but this once with the fleece; let it now be dry only upon the fleece, and upon all the ground let there be dew.

40 And God did so that night...

1 Then...Gideon, and all the people... rose up early, and pitched beside the well of Harod: so that the host of the Midianites were on the north side of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley.

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

3 ...Whosoever is fearful and afraid...And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand.

4 And the Lord said unto Gideon, The people are yet too many; bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there:...

5 ...And the Lord said unto Gideon, Every one that lapped of the water with his tongue, as a dog lapped, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink.

6 And the number of them that lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men:...

7 And the Lord said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you...

.....
• **The Message: God proved** •
• **His power by using a small** •
• **army to gain a great victory.** •
.....

Questions:

1. Who wanted to be sure that God would save Israel by his hand?
2. What did he put on the floor?
3. What was on the fleece the next morning?
4. How much water did he wring from the fleece?
5. What was the ground all around it like?
6. How many men volunteered to fight the Midianites?
7. How many went back because they were afraid?
8. How did the men drink who God chose to fight?
9. How many were there?

Verse to Memorize

**...With men this is impossible;
but with God all things are
possible.**

Matthew 19:26.

Let's



Talk . . .

Gideon knew that he could never win a battle against the Midianites in his own strength. When he considered all the factors involved in facing such a formidable foe, he found his own faith was weak and wavering. He must know God was with him! So he begged God to give him a sign so definite that he could not doubt. He told the Lord, "I will put a fleece of wool on the floor tonight. In the morning if there is dew only on the fleece while all around is dry, I will know that You will save Israel by my hand."

The Lord did just as he asked. Gideon got up early the next morning to check the fleece. There was so much dew on it that he was able to wring a whole bowl full of water from it!

Still Gideon felt fearful so he said to God, "Let me prove Your words once more. This time let the fleece be dry and the ground all around be wet with dew."

God did as Gideon asked. The next morning the fleece was dry while dew lay on all the ground around it.

Now that Gideon was sure God was with him he lost no time. He got up early and pitched his camp near a famous well. Here his army would have plenty of water, and, being on higher ground it gave him some advantage over the Midianites who were spread out in the valley below.

Gideon's army, numbering 32,000 men, was small compared to the host of Midianites. The enemy's army covered the valley below like grasshoppers, their number was so great.

Their camels were too numerous to count. Gideon was glad he had put out the second fleece. He needed all the assurance he could get to march against this multitude with such a small army.

Imagine how he felt when God told him that there were too many men in his army! Then God explained, "The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands. They would say that they had won the battle by their own strength. Now go tell the people, 'Whoever is afraid to fight the Midianites may return home.'"

Gideon did as God said. Then he watched in dismay as his army melted away before his very eyes. Twenty two thousand picked up their belongings and headed for home! Only ten thousand remained to face the multitude of Midianites. Gideon had to fall back on the assurances God had given him with his fleece.

Then, just when Gideon had convinced himself that God could win the battle with only ten thousand men, God spoke to him again. "There are still too many people. Bring them down to the water. Watch how they drink and I will show you which ones are to go with you to fight."

When the thirsty men rushed to the water, Gideon watched the men carefully as they drank. He saw that some knelt down on their knees and put their mouths to the water like horses do. Others took up a little water in their hands and lapped it up like a dog does, meanwhile keeping their eyes open so they could see any danger.

"Now separate the men according to how they drank," God instructed. When Gideon did so there were three hundred who lapped the water. "By these three hundred men I will save you!" God assured him.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

very bad day, and always on such days she would weep on the slightest pretext. I didn't care for her very much, but that day I pitied her with all my heart and I did what I could to calm her; for once her nerves were excited, nothing could console the poor, unhappy girl. Besides, I was very much afraid that she would be able to change my father's purpose in regard to Paula. He, generally so severe, so cold, and insensible in his attitude toward us, obeyed the slightest wish of his eldest daughter. And if—if—she succeeded in preventing Paula's coming I felt that I would never, never pardon Catalina! But now I tried to embrace her.

"Listen," I said; "Father had to go out, but when he returns he will tell you the same thing that I have told you!"

But Catalina would not hear me. With her head hidden in the pillows, she continued crying.

I was desperate! As a rule it took a lot less than this to make Catalina worse. Catalina worse! And all my fault! What would my father say! And yet I had had no bad intentions. How could I have known that she would have received my good news in this way? Suddenly I had a brilliant idea. Leaving Catalina I ran to the kitchen where Teresa was preparing the vegetables for supper. "Teresa, come quickly," I cried with my eyes full of tears; "Catalina is making herself sick with crying."

"And why? I left her sleeping only a short time ago."

"Oh, yes, I know; but please come at once, Teresa! It's my fault! I told her that Paula was coming and she is beside herself! But really and truly I had no idea that she would take it that way!"

Teresa jumped up quickly, saying under her breath, "What next?" and

then to me, "You certainly are a troublesome youngster, my poor Lisita!"

"But Teresa, I vow to you..."

"Be quiet, and go back to Catalina's room! I'll be there as soon as I can!"

I left the kitchen well content. Teresa was not full of pretty phrases but she had a heart of gold, and I knew that somehow or other she would be able to fix things with Catalina. On my return I found Rosa already in Catalina's room, trying in vain to calm her. She turned to me.

"What on earth has happened? I heard Catalina sobbing clear at the other end of the house. Are you responsible for this?"

"No, no, it wasn't I: it was Paula."

"Paula!"

I tried to explain, but at this minute Teresa entered, bringing with her a plateful of delicious apples.

"Come, come, Catalina!" and her deep, sonorous voice seemed like soothing balm, as her presence appeared to fill the room. "What on earth are you crying about? It is but a short moment ago that I secured permission from your papa to read you a letter that he has just received from Italy, and I went out to pick up some of your favorite apples, the first of the season, and here I come to find you crying!"

Catalina became a little calmer hearing the word "letter," for, to the poor confined invalid, a letter from abroad was a great event. Nevertheless, between her sobs she remarked, "Is it a letter about this terrible 'Paula' that they are talking about?"

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Gideon. 2. A fleece. 3. Dew. 4. A bowl full. 5. It was dry. 6. 32,000 men. 7. 22,000. 8. They lapped like dogs. 9. 300.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 5 Feb. 3, 2002

Mother's Death

(Continued from last week.)

When Catalina heard Teresa say she had a letter from Italy she became a little calmer and stopped her violent sobbing. A tragic fall three years earlier had left her an invalid. Now, when most girls her age were actively involved in life, she was confined to her room. Any news from the outside world was always a welcome event. Between her sobs she remarked, "Is it a letter about this terrible 'Paula' that they are talking about?"

"Yes," answered Teresa, with that soothing voice of hers. "It's a letter that tells us a bit about a niece of your poor mother."

Catalina calmed down completely. If the memory of our mother still lived in the heart of her other daughters it had first place above all else with Catalina.

"Now, read it to me, Catalina," said Teresa. "You can do so much better than I can in the reading line, and it will sound so much better from your lips than from my poor stumbling ones. Wait till I fix up the pillows, and don't cry any more. And now your headache is better, isn't it?"

"It still pains terribly, Teresa. Let Rosa read it."

Rosa took the letter, and read in her clear, sweet voice the lines that

had so stirred us all.

There were but few details. Our Uncle John had died; so wrote the pastor of the little church in that far-off Waldensian Valley. He had died as he had lived—a real Christian. He had no near relatives, it appeared; and the rest of the family had gone to America two years before. Paula, therefore, was alone. Just before breathing his last, my uncle had expressed the desire to leave his daughter in the care of poor Father whom he had never known, but of whom he had heard nothing but good.

Beside all this he had left his daughter in the hands of God, the loving Father of all orphans, praying Him to guide and direct in the whole affair. His last prayer had been for us; asking God to bless our family that we might all be guided into the straight and narrow Way that leadeth unto life eternal. Then followed certain details relative to a small inheritance that Paula possessed, and the prayer of the Pastor himself that the temporal and spiritual happiness of the little orphan might be maintained.

"Is that all?" asked Catalina.

"Yes," said Rosa; "that is the end of the letter."

"Poor little thing!"

There was a long silence. I think Catalina was thinking of her mother, for her face had softened for once.

Let's



Talk . . .

God told Gideon that his army was too large. He told him to send everyone back that was afraid to fight. There were still too many so God told him how to separate those who should fight from the others by the way they drank. By these two methods God whittled the army from 32,000 men to a mere 300! If you were in Gideon's place how would you feel? Can you imagine his thoughts as he looked at his little troop compared with the vast army spread out in the valley below?

Sure, Gideon had heard how God miraculously delivered His people from the Egyptians. But that was many years ago. All he had experienced were years of oppression by these Midianites. He had seen no miracles in his lifetime—only idolatry!

God knew that if Gideon had very much time to think about fighting a multitude of Midianites with such a handful of men doubts and fears would paralyze him. So that very night He commanded, "Get up and go against this host!"

Gideon was reluctant. After all, he had never led an army before. His men were untrained and inexperienced.

Throughout your life you will also face situations that seem almost as hard as what Gideon faced. It may be that you need to ask forgiveness. The more you think about it, the harder it seems. If you do not act immediately the devil will try to tell you that you really don't need to ask forgiveness after all. He will tell you that you had a right to act as you did, and many other lies. Don't listen to him. Clear up your wrongs at once!

Never say, "I cannot do this!" It is God who tells you to ask forgiveness. He will give you strength and courage just as He did Gideon. As you take a step to obey Him He will open up a way for you that is better and easier than you could ever think. This victory will then make you stronger to face the next temptation. You will experience the joy of having the Lord work out your problem and you will know your life is clear before Him!

God understood Gideon's fears. He did not scold him. Instead He gave him more proof that He would certainly defeat the Midianites. "But if you fear to go and fight, go down to the enemy camp with your servant, Phurah, and hear what they say," He said kindly. "This will give you courage!"

So Gideon and his servant crept to the very edge of the enemy camp. Even in the moonlight he could see them spread out in every direction in vast numbers. They covered the valley like a plague of grasshoppers. It was a fearful sight!

Suddenly they heard voices. They froze in place, afraid they had been discovered. Then, seeing no danger they carefully crept closer and closer. Now they could hear every word distinctly. One man was telling another man his dream. He said, "I dreamed that a cake of barley bread tumbled into the host of Midian. It came to a tent and knocked it flat!"

The other man answered, "This is the sword of Gideon, a man of Israel. God has delivered Midian and all this army into his hand!"

Hearing this Gideon and his servant silently slipped out of the enemy camp. God had directed him to this very place, at this very time, to hear this dream and the interpretation of it. He was amazed that the Midianites were fearful of him and his little army. His heart was full of courage and praise to God. Confidently Gideon returned to camp. Now he was ready to fight!

—Bro. Dale Doolittle

Teresa sat with her large agile fingers flying—those strong fingers that were never idle—the metallic sound of her needles alternating with the happy song of the canaries, from whose cages the curtains had again been removed.

Never in my life had I lingered very long to observe Catalina, but this afternoon I could not help but notice how pale and delicate she really was. Propped up on her pillows with her golden hair falling around her shoulders, one would not have guessed her to be more than fourteen years old, instead of eighteen. Seeing her thus after her day of sufferings, I pardoned all her bad humor and hardness of heart toward Paula; and I had a great desire to take her in my arms but I did not dare do such a thing—fearing she would refuse my caresses.

"Teresa," she said suddenly, closing her eyes to keep back the tears, "do you think that it hurts very much when one dies?"

"Why do you ask that?" and Teresa looked at her quite surprised.

"I was thinking of Uncle John."

"That depends, Catalina, that depends. There are some persons who die tranquilly in their sleep with no pain at all, but in the case of others it is quite the contrary."

"But afterward, Teresa, how about afterward? What happens to us after death?"

"Afterward?" Teresa looked puzzled. "Nobody knows what happens to us afterward. When I was a little girl, my mother who was a very pious woman told us that if we were very good we would go to heaven, but if we were bad we went to hell. I believe she was right, poor woman, but it is some-time since I have thought of religious things, and your father does not like to have us talk about it."

"I know that, Teresa, but I can't

help thinking about it often and often. Was our mother a 'pious woman?'"

"Not exactly—at least, not before she became ill. Her relatives in Villar, your Aunt and your Uncle John used to write lovely letters to her that spoke of God and heaven and prayer. Your mother used to sigh after reading them, and sometimes she would read me a page or two from those letters, and would say to me, 'My good Teresa, we both ought to think about these things! My sister is far happier in her hut on the mountainside in Waldensia than we are here in the midst of abundance. It must be wonderful not to fear death and to love God with all our heart.' When she spoke thus to your father he laughed at her and said, 'Now, don't you worry about that, darling, you couldn't be any better than you are now; and I am glad that you are not like these pious ladies who try to tell you what will happen to you after death. You'll have plenty of time to think about those things when you come to your last days; but now with your good health and robust constitution you can count on a good old age.'"

"But father was mistaken, Teresa."

"Yes, he certainly was mistaken, poor man. Nobody could have believed that when on that Monday afternoon she complained of a little pain in her throat, she would die on the following Thursday!"

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Three hundred. 2. Down to the enemies camp. 3. One. 4. A multitude of grasshoppers. 5. More than you could count. 6. His dream. 7. That a cake of barley bread tumbled into camp and knocked over a tent. 8. He worshiped. 9. "Arise, for the Lord hath delivered the host of Midian into your hand.")

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 6 Feb. 10, 2002

A Letter Brings Good News

(Continued from last week.)

"Nobody could have believed that your dear mother would die so soon. She seemed in perfect health when, on that Monday afternoon, she complained of a little pain in her throat. Who would think that she would die on the following Thursday!"

"Was it diphtheria, Teresa?"

All that poor Teresa could say amid her tears was "Poor, poor little beloved one! Never shall I forget her last moments or the desperation of your father. From his very first visit the doctor said that there was no hope. I thought I would go insane when he said that! How I remember her the day before she was taken ill, in all her youth and beauty, singing as she worked. And then suddenly came that terrible pressure in her throat."

"Then, Teresa, you remember, she could not kiss us goodbye."

"No, poor lady, that was her greatest pain when they told her that her sickness was very contagious. But—there, there! Catalina, I did not mean to make you cry, and I have told you this story so many times, and now here I am telling it over again like the foolish woman I am!"

"No, no, Teresa, go on," answered Catalina between her sobs. "I am al-

ways happy when I hear you speak of our beloved Mamma."

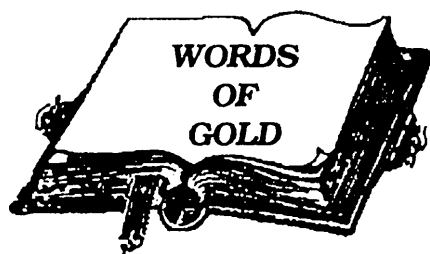
And now, I too could not keep back my tears as I kneeled beside the old servant, who left her work to pass her hand over my head.

"Thou didst not know her, dear Lisita. How many times during her sickness she told me especially to take care of thee, and love thee as if I were thine own mother. Yes, and correct thee also.... At times I ask myself whether I have obeyed her."

"Oh, Teresa," exclaimed Rosa, interrupting her and closing, with a bang the book which she had not read. "Indeed, you have done your duty. What would we have done without you? Of course, I can't say," and Rosa smiled, "that your punishments have been very numerous, but Father has taken care of that. Father corrects us and you do the loving part."

"Now, see here, your father loves you also, and it's only the pain of having lost your mother that makes him appear more severe than he really is. Open the window, Rosa, I can hardly see, and I must finish this stocking before I quit tonight."

Rosa obeyed, and a soft breeze entered, laden with the perfume of the garden, and Teresa resumed; "After the doctor had gone that afternoon your mother called me and said, 'Teresa, tell me the truth. The doctor



The Sword Of The Lord And Of Gideon!

Judges 7:15-22

15 ...Gideon...said, Arise; for the Lord hath delivered into your hand the host of Midian.

16 And he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers.

17 And he said unto them, Look on me, and do likewise: and, behold, when I come to the outside of the camp, it shall be that, as I do, so shall ye do.

18 When I blow with a trumpet, I and all that are with me, then blow ye the trumpets also on every side of all the camp, and say, The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon.

19 So Gideon, and the hundred men that were with him, came unto the outside of the camp in the beginning of the middle watch; and they had but newly set the watch: and they blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers that were in their hands.

20 And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow withal: and they cried, The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon.

21 And they stood every man in his place round about the camp: and all the host ran, and cried, and fled.

22 And the three hundred blew the

trumpets, and the Lord set every man's sword against his fellow, even throughout all the host:...

Exodus 23:28

28 And I will send hornets before thee, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite, from before thee.

Joshua 24:11-12

11 And ye went over Jordan, and came unto Jericho: and the men of Jericho fought against you,...and I delivered them into your hand.

12 And I sent the hornet before you, which drove them out from before you, even the two kings of the Amorites; but not with thy sword, nor with thy bow.

The Message: God can use anything to fulfill His will.

Questions:

1. What had God delivered into Gideon's hand?
2. How many men were in each company after Gideon divided them?
3. What did the men carry?
4. How were the men to know what to do?
5. What were they to say when they had blown the trumpets?
6. What did they do with the pitchers?
7. Who killed the enemy?
8. What did God send before the Israelites to drive out the Canaanites?
9. How many kings of the Amorites were driven out without fighting?

Verse to Memorize

...Arise; for the Lord hath delivered into your hand the host of Midian.

Judges 7:15.

Let's



Talk . . .

God knew Gideon and just how to deal with his fears and doubts. Patiently He assured him by one means then another that He would be with him and fight this battle for him.

Finally, after hearing the Midianite's dream, Gideon felt confident that God would give him victory over this vast enemy army. Now he felt well able to go to battle against them. Returning to camp he immediately ordered, "Get up and get ready to fight. The Lord has delivered the host of Midian into your hand!"

God told Gideon how to put his army in order and just what weapons they were to use. First he divided the three hundred men into three companies. Then he gave a trumpet, an empty pitcher and a torch to every soldier. His men must have wondered how they were supposed to fight the enemy with their hands full of pitchers, torches and trumpets. Gideon instructed them, "Keep your eyes on me. Do whatever you see me do!"

We do not fight against people but we will always be in a battle against the devil and his forces as long as we are living for God. We can always be victorious because Jesus is our captain and promises to be with us in every battle. He is greater than the devil and knows just how to defeat him. Like Gideon He tells us, "Follow Me." We are to do just as He did when He lived on earth. That is why we have the Bible. It is our instruction and battle plan. When we do just as Jesus did we will always win the

victory. God will fight our battles just as He did for Gideon and the Israelites.

Gideon soon saw God's wisdom in limiting his army to only three hundred men. Because they were so few they were able to surround the enemy camp quickly and quietly. Imagine the enemy's surprise: they are sleeping soundly in the middle of night when suddenly the loud blast of trumpets and terrible shouts break the stillness of the midnight! Lights flash in every direction they look.

Everywhere they hear men shouting. "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon." Convinced that a mighty army had attacked them the Midianites were overcome with terror. Everything is thrown into complete confusion. Every man they see becomes their enemy whom they must destroy to save their own life. So they used their swords against their own allies, killing one another! God said He would save Israel from the multitude of Midianites and their allies with only three hundred men. He caused them to destroy themselves!

In another battle God used hornets to win the battle against two kings of the Amorites. Hornets are certainly an unusual weapon but just imagine being a soldier in this battle. You are standing on the battlefield in full armor and the sun is hot. All of a sudden you are attacked by a swarm of angry hornets! You dodge and swat but in spite of all you can do you feel them crawling inside your armor. When they begin to sting you will forget all about fighting the enemy—you have something more urgent to attend to!

In our story the weapon God used to save the dying mother was a letter from her sister. Through the scriptures quoted in the letter God showed her His great love and how to be saved.

—Bro. Dale Doolittle

believes I am going to die; does he not?' I didn't know what to answer her. Your father hoped in spite of the doctor's opinion that she'd pull through, and did not wish me to let your poor mother know that there was any danger. But here she lay praying me with her joined hands that I should tell her the truth. She spoke with great difficulty and I feared that soon she would not be able to speak at all, and therefore weeping, told her the whole truth."

"And then?"

"Then she said to me, 'Teresa, I'm certainly afraid to die! I'm afraid! I'm afraid!'"

"'But,' said I, 'Madame, why should you be afraid? You have always been so good to everybody. The good God will take you to heaven.' But she could not be calm.

"'According to the world's standard perhaps yes, Teresa—but before God! To think that in a few hours I shall be face to face with the Lord Jesus and I am not prepared!—No, no, let me speak, Teresa! I have done my duty by my husband and by my children, but I have forgotten God. I have not loved Him, neither have I prayed to Him and therefore I'm afraid to meet Him. Oh, Teresa, I'm afraid to die.'

"I could only repeat, 'The good God will pardon you, Madame. He is so good and kind. He will have pity on you, for you have never done any harm to anybody.'

"'Ah,' she answered, 'if I had but listened to my sister and brother-in-law! How many times they urged me in their letters to surrender to the Lord Jesus, but I always put it off ...and now I'm dying! Oh, Teresa, Teresa, can you not help me?'"

"But I thought Mamma died in peace?" suddenly questioned Rosa. "I remember toward the end that she was anxious to go, and at last said

that she was going to heaven."

"Yes, my beloved madame did indeed die in peace. Sometime after she had asked me whether I could help her she said, 'Teresa, read again that last letter from my sister. I have it here under my pillow.' I read it to her as best I could, and as I finished she said to me, 'Read it again, Teresa. Oh, if only my dear sister were here this minute!' Twice again I read the letter, but still she was not satisfied. 'Those last words, Teresa. Read them again to me, please.' And again I read them."

"Do you remember those last words, Teresa?" Catalina asked as she listened with rapt attention to the story she had heard so often from the lips of our old servant.

"I don't remember all. I would have liked to have kept the letter. It was such a letter that would help anyone to die, for it was certainly a treasure. But my poor madame wished to carry it to the tomb with her, and no doubt it is there yet in her hands, poor little angel. As I remember it, the letter concluded thus: 'He that believeth on Me hath everlasting life, and him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out!'"

"I read these, the last words of the letter, a dozen times over to her and she seemed to take hold of them as a drowning man would grasp a board that floated by him—then without movement, with her eyes shut, she seemed to be sleeping, but every once in a while she appeared to be talking with someone."

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. The host of Midian. 2. One hundred. 3. A trumpet, pitcher and a lamp. 4. They were to watch Gideon and do as he did. 5. "The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." 6. They broke them. 7. They killed each other. 8. Hornets. 9. Two.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 7 Feb. 17, 2002

Mother's Last Wish

(Continued from last week.)

Catalina, Rosa and I listened intently as Teresa told us once more of mother's last hours. After hearing the words of truth from her sister's letter, mother seemed to be sleeping. Yet every so often her lips would move, as if talking to someone.

"Do you think she was praying, Teresa?" I asked in a trembling voice.

"Yes, Lisita, she was praying. And I'm sure that the good God heard her, for she said to me after a long silence, 'Teresa, I believe my Savior has taken me for His own. I am a poor, guilty, and ungrateful sinner—I have waited until the last moment, and I know my sins are great, but my Savior's love is greater. But oh, my husband—and my children! I have done nothing to attract them to God. Oh, Teresa, take care of them! Take care of them! I have put them in the hands of the Lord that He may save them also. I can do nothing and—it is too late!'

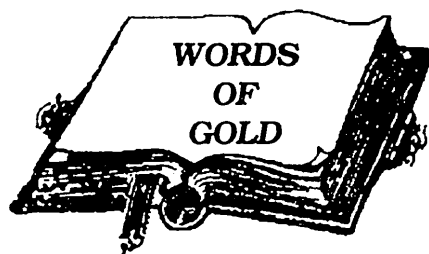
"She asked me to call your father who was resting in the next room for he had watched all the previous night and had worked as usual all day. She could hardly speak, but as best she could she prayed him to be reconciled to God and to teach their children to know the way of salvation."

"The strange thing to me, Teresa,"

said Rosa thoughtfully, "is that our father who loved our mother so much, has not taught us this Christian religion according to our dear mother's last wish."

"That is the terrible part," Teresa answered. "An awful change came on him at the death of your mother. He loved her desperately and when she died it seemed as if his heart turned to stone. And when I tried to console him he cried out bitterly, 'Don't speak to me of God and don't try to tell me He is a God of love. He took away my most precious treasure and tore my heart and my very life to pieces.'"

"About a week after the death of my poor madame he called me to him and said, 'Teresa, you are a good woman. You've brought up my dear Maria, carried her in your arms when she was small, and in your arms she drew her last breath. She commended her poor children into your hands, and I want you to remain forever at their side, but on one condition, remember—that you never speak to them again on the subject of religion, neither of prayer, nor of church, nor anything of the kind. Hear me well, Teresa! Hear me! I have prayed very little in my life, but on that last night when my dear wife passed away, if anyone prayed with all his heart and all his strength, I did so. Kneeling beside her bed I promised God to



A Little Girl's Faith

II Kings 5:1-8

1 Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable, because by him the Lord had given deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valour, but he was a leper.

2 And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife.

3 And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy.

4 And one went in, and told his lord, saying, Thus and thus said the maid that is of the land of Israel.

5 And the king of Syria said, Go to, go, and I will send a letter unto the king of Israel. And he departed, and took with him ten talents of silver, and six thousand pieces of gold, and ten changes of raiment.

6 And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying, Now when this letter is come unto thee, behold, I have therewith sent Naaman my servant to thee, that thou mayest recover him of his leprosy.

7 And it came to pass, when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he rent his clothes, and said,

Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy? wherefore consider, I pray you, and see how he seeketh a quarrel against me.

8 And it was so, when Elisha the man of God had heard that the king of Israel had rent his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, Wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel.

The Message: Children who learn to trust in God are a great witness and blessing to others.

Questions:

1. Who was captain of the host in Syria?
2. What had the Lord done by him?
3. What was wrong with him?
4. How had the little girl come to Naaman's house?
5. What did the little girl say the prophet could do for Naaman?
6. Who sent a letter to the king of Israel?
7. What did he ask the king of Israel to do?
8. Why did the king of Israel tear his clothes?
9. Who told the king to send Naaman to him?

Verse to Memorize

And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures...

II Timothy 3:15.

Let's



Talk . . .

Syria was a country north of Israel. The Syrians often attacked the cities of Israel, taking away anything they wished. In one raid on an Israelite city a little girl was captured. She was taken to Syria with the other captives and sold as a slave. When Naaman, the rich captain of the Syrian army, saw the little girl he decided to buy her to serve his wife.

This little girl was far away from her home and parents but she loved and trusted the true God. She knew she could pray to Him and He would hear her prayers and protect her. Like Joseph, she decided that if she must be a slave she would be the very best.

Naaman's wife treated her kindly. Soon she learned what was expected of her and did it well. After awhile she even began to like her new home. As time passed she became fond of Naaman and his wife. They almost seemed like her own family.

Then they learned that Naaman had the terrible disease called leprosy! The tragic news was like a dark shadow over the once-happy home of Naaman and his wife. The little slave girl was sad too. She wanted to help her kind master. She told her mistress, "If my master Naaman would go to God's prophet in Samaria he would make him well!"

Her words got her mistress' full attention. If only Naaman could be well again! She hurried to tell her husband what the little girl had said. Naaman, too, was excited when he heard this good news. He ran to tell

the king.

The king loved Naaman. He would do anything to see him cured of this dreadful disease. "I will write a letter to the king of Israel and ask him to cure you," he said eagerly. "You must go to Samaria at once and take the letter to him!"

The king knew nothing about the true God and His great power. He assumed that the king of Israel would be the one to heal Naaman since he was the most powerful person in the entire kingdom. Along with the letter he sent gold, silver and beautiful clothing to repay the king for healing him. The servants loaded the gifts onto their horses and started with Naaman toward Samaria.

Meanwhile the king of Israel knew nothing about Naaman until a servant rushed in breathlessly telling him that a man in a great chariot drawn by fine horses was waiting outside the palace. Then he handed him the letter from the king of Syria. Naaman and his servants waited anxiously outside.

Opening the letter the king of Israel read, "I have sent Naaman my servant to you with this letter so that you may cure him of his leprosy."

"Does the king of Syria think I am God that I can kill and make alive? How can I cure a man with leprosy? He is only doing this to find an excuse to make war against us!" the king cried out in distress after reading the letter. He was so troubled that he tore his clothes. He did not know what to do.

Meanwhile news reached Elisha, God's prophet, that Naaman had come to be cured of leprosy. When he heard the king had torn his clothes he sent a message to him. "Why have you torn your clothes?" he asked. "Send Naaman to me so he will know that there is a prophet in Israel."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

serve Him; to bring up my children for Him if He would only leave me my treasure. But He didn't do it. Then why should I serve Him?"

"When I saw that it was useless to argue with him I promised what he asked. Just think, if I had been obliged to abandon you to a strange servant!" and Teresa viewed the three of us with those great blue eyes of hers full of affection for us.

"Oh," I cried, trying to take her great fat body in my arms, "What would we have done without you!"

But Teresa, wanting very much to cry and yet trying hard not to show it, put me gently aside, saying, "There, there! You are making me lose a lot of time. Stand up, stand up! You have been on the floor at my feet for over half-an-hour like a little purring kitten and wearing out your stockings besides."

And then continuing without awaiting my reply: "Well, I am only a poor ignorant servant. If I can read, it is because my poor madame taught me. Nevertheless it has nearly broken my heart to see all three of you, and Louis besides, growing up like a bunch of heathens. And, what happiness prayer does bring one!"

"Do you pray, Teresa?" asked the wondering Rosa.

"Oh, at times. But see now, servants must do what they see their masters do. After the death of my poor madame I prayed often, but little by little I seemed to lose the habit. Your father hardly ever spoke to me, and excepting Catalina, you were all too small to understand important things, and the neighbors! —Oh, you know among our neighbors one never hears any prayers at their houses either. I would be so happy before I die to see the day when my poor madame's prayers be heard regarding us."

"It's a shame," said Rosa, "that Paula is so small. If she were only a few years older perhaps she could!" — "I'll tell you what's a shame, and that is that she is coming at all," interrupted Catalina with the return of her bad humor.

"Oh," sighed Teresa, "poor little thing! What could she do at her age! A child of ten years will never be able to change your father's ideas. The more you speak to him the worse he is. No, the one who has to change will be the child herself! She must learn to do as we do. I do hope she may not have to suffer too much. Of course, at her age she will adapt herself quickly to her surroundings, and after all, your father is a good-hearted man. There! At last the sock is done! It was time, for I cannot see any more. What a lovely day it has been! The fruit ought to ripen quickly with a few more days like this."

One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine...it was the great clock of Darnetal that recalled us to the present.

"Nine o'clock!" exclaimed Teresa, "how the time has passed! Lisita! Off to bed!"

"Please, Teresa, let me stay a few minutes more; it's lovely here by the open window."

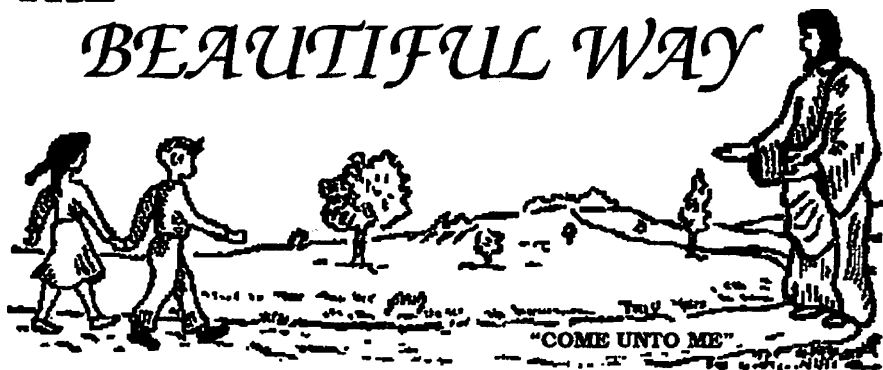
"Yes, it won't be so lovely tomorrow morning when you must rise early to be in class on time. Isn't that so? Now go, Lisita! No more nonsense!"

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers; 1. Naaman. 2. Delivered Syria. 3. He was a leper. 4. She was captured and taken away from her home in Israel. 5. Heal him. 6. The king of Syria. 7. Heal Naaman. 8. He thought the king of Syria only wanted to make trouble. 9. Elisha.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 8 Feb. 24, 2002

Paula Arrives

(Continued from last week.)

"Here, take this," said Catalina, handing me a lovely orange that she had received; "You can have it if you go to bed immediately!"

"Oh," I exclaimed beamingly; I do love you so, dear Catalina."

"Is it me or the orange that you love?"

"It's you, and the orange, and Teresa, and Papa, and Rosa, and Louis, and Paula."

"There! There! Go to bed," said Catalina, disentangling herself from my arms. "If you don't go to bed at once I will take away your orange."

Laughing, I embraced her again, and Rosa too and then rushed off to my room, but not without slamming Catalina's door with a noise that shook the whole house.

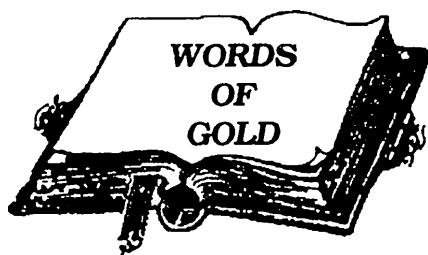
For nearly a week I couldn't think of another thing but the coming of Paula.

My father had gone to Paris. He would be there some days to arrange certain important matters of business in connection with his factory, and also to wait for the little orphan to be placed in his care by a lady who was journeying from Villar to Paris. In school I talked of nothing else. In fact, I talked about her all day and every day. I learned nothing, nor

could I seem to do anything around the house.

One night, while dreaming, I jumped from the bed crying, "Paula! Paula!" This awakened Teresa, and she made me take some nasty medicine thinking I had fever. I made promises of reform. I wanted to be good, studious and patient, in order to be an example to Paula who would see my good qualities and would thus endeavor to imitate me. Nevertheless I became absolutely insufferable! My older sisters without being quite so enthusiastic as I was, nevertheless spoke often of Paula. Catalina began to worry that Paula might suffer in our house, but she soon consoled herself by remembering that my father had promised to put her out to board, if it turned out that she could not get along amiably with us. As to Louis, he soon showed us that he was not at all interested in the arrival of his young cousin. If it had been a boy, it would have been different—but a girl!

Teresa spoke very little as to Paula, but I am persuaded that long before the arrival of our little orphan cousin, she had been given a large place in our old servant's heart. She found a little white bed up in the attic, which was placed in my room beside my own cot.



Naaman Is Healed!

II Kings 5:9-18

9 So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha.

10 And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean.

11 But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper.

12 Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage.

13 And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean?

14 Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

15 And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he

said, Behold, now I know that there is no God in all earth, but in Israel: now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant.

16 But he said, As the Lord liveth, before whom I stand, I will receive none. And he urged him to take it: but he refused.

17 And Naaman said, Shall there not then, I pray thee, be given to thy servant two mules' burden of earth? for thy servant will henceforth offer neither burnt offering nor sacrifice unto other gods, but unto the Lord.

18 ...When I bow down myself in the house of Rimmon, the Lord pardon thy servant in this thing.



The Message: Naaman almost lost the blessing through pride. God honors humility, obedience and faith.



Questions:

1. Who stood at Elisha's door?
2. Who did Elisha send to speak to him?
3. What did he tell him to do?
4. Why was Naaman so angry?
5. Who persuaded him to obey Elisha?
6. How many times did he dip himself in Jordan?
7. What happened to his skin?
8. What did he offer Elisha?
9. Naaman said he would worship what God from then on?

Verse to Memorize

Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:4.

Let's



Talk . . .

The king of Israel was greatly relieved when Elisha told him to send Naaman to him. He quickly directed Naaman and his servants to the house of the prophet.

Naaman drove his fine horses and elegant chariot to Elisha's house and announced his arrival. He waited expectantly for the great prophet to come out and greet him. Instead Elisha sent his servant out who told him, "My master Elisha says, 'Go and wash in the Jordan River seven times. Then your skin will become new and your leprosy will be gone.'"

Such treatment was highly insulting to Naaman. To think that Elisha would send a lowly servant to speak to him instead of coming himself! Then to ask him to bathe in the muddy Jordan River—that was ridiculous! He left Elisha's house in a rage. If he were going to bathe in a river he would go home where the rivers were clear and clean!

But Naaman's servants were wiser. They knew that just bathing in the Jordan River or any other river would never cure leprosy. If he wanted to be healed he must forget his pride and obey what the prophet told him to do.

One of his servants asked him, "If this prophet had come to you and told you to do something hard, would you have done it?" Naaman was sure that he would. "Then why not do this little thing and be cured of your leprosy?" the servant insisted.

His servant spoke wisely,

Naaman knew. He ordered the chariot to be driven down to the Jordan River. There he got out and walked into the muddy water until it was deep enough so he could duck under it. He dipped once. When he came up the leprosy spots were still obvious. Again he dipped. Still there was no change. He dipped three, four, five, six times, but nothing happened. This was getting more embarrassing all the time! But Naaman was determined to finish since he'd gone this far. Once more he dipped under the murky water. When he came up out of the water this seventh time no one could find a trace of the leprosy. His skin was as soft, smooth and healthy as a little child's!

Naaman could not contain his joy. He was healed! He stood there for a few minutes just looking at his skin, perfectly healthy for the first time in so many years. It was almost more than he could take in! "And just think I almost missed this wonderful blessing by my foolish pride," Naaman thought. "and this miracle—how did it happen?" Never in his life had he seen anything like this—one minute the awful plague of leprosy and the next minute skin as healthy as a newborn baby's!

"It couldn't be the water of that muddy river, for sure!" Naaman continued to muse. "It has to be the God that Elisha serves." Naaman recalled hearing stories of other wonderful things this God had performed for His people.

"Do you suppose—" Naaman thought wistfully, "could it be that I, too, could worship this wonderful God?" He took notice of me and loved me enough to heal me—surely He will accept me even though I am not an Israelite."

—Bro. Dale Doolittle

At last the great day arrived. It was a Wednesday, and of course I had to go to school as usual. We did not know at what hour my father would come from Paris with Paula and so every moment I said to myself, "Perhaps they have arrived!" Result—my lessons went from bad to worse, but at last at five in the afternoon, I reached the house breathless only to find that Paula had not yet come. "They are not coming!" I cried impatiently, "I knew they wouldn't be here!"

"Then why did you run so fast?" Teresa asked.

I said nothing. Soon Rosa also arrived. After tea I put all my books in order, redressed my dolls and got rid of the ink on my hands with pumice-stone. In between each task I rushed out to the garden on the passing of any coach—but always with the same result! Would they ever arrive? Then came suppertime. Catalina had been up and dressed all day and would not hear of going to bed until Paula came. Our summer days are very long, but night had arrived, the lamps had been lighted, and we had resigned ourselves to wait without the consolation of seeing the road from the window. Then suddenly—Oh, joy! We heard a faint sound of wheels in the distance; then clearer and clearer as they rattled over the pavement of the deserted street. Teresa had already arisen from her chair. I had a wild desire to run out in the dark to receive my young cousin for whom I had waited all these weeks, but something seemed to detain me. Then while I waited, questioning myself as to what I would say to Paula, trying to remember all the many counsels of Teresa, our old servant staggered in from the yard with a great bag in each hand. Then our father entered with a young girl at his side dressed in black. Paula had come!

In anticipation I had fancied Paula as a pale, sad little girl with blue eyes full of tears. She would have golden hair, very smooth, cut off at the base of her ears, and would be dressed in black muslin, and wear a straw hat with a black ribbon tied under her chin. But here was a different Paula. She was large for her age and appeared quite strong. Her frank open face, bronzed with the sun and air, showed health and intelligence. A black silk cap with a wide ribbon of the same color failed to entirely hide a magnificent head of brown hair, gathered beneath her cap after the manner of the Waldensians. Her simple dress of black and gray stripes reached almost to her ankles, while an apron of fine cretonne came to her knees. A black shawl whose points passed under her arms and were knotted behind, protected her shoulders, while a pair of great thick shoes completed her attire. In spite of what to our mind was a certain quaint oddness in her dress, it could not hide Paula's beauty. Her forehead was broad and intelligent, her large brown eyes were full of a certain sweetness, and a lovely smile played on her half-opened lips.

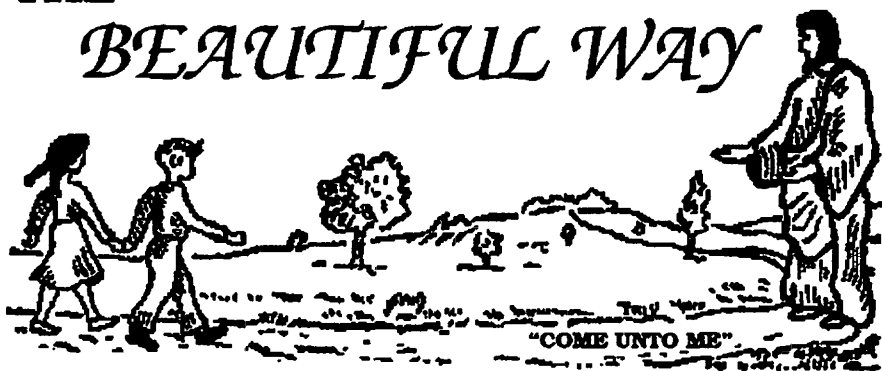
"Come," said our father in an almost kindly voice for him; "Embrace your young cousin, and give her a hearty welcome."

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Naaman. 2. A messenger. 3. "Go and wash in Jordan seven times." 4. He thought Elisha would come out and heal him. 5. His servants. 6. Seven. 7. It became like a little child's. 8. Gifts. 9. The Lord.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 9 Mar. 3, 2002

Paula's Welcome

(Continued from last week.)

Rosa came forward, and I timidly did the same; but Paula dropping Father's hand, rushed toward Rosa and then to me, kissing us both and laughing and crying at the same time. She seemed to forget her long voyage and her weariness as she repeated to each one of us in her melodious voice, "I know I shall love you all, and my Uncle Charles here. I already love him, and he has told me all your names. Let me see, this is Rosa," and then turning to me, "You are Lisita. Oh, if you only knew how much I love you all!"

"Now go and greet your cousin Catalina," said my father. "She is the sick one," he added softly.

Paula drew near the big chair where the sick girl reclined. Catalina was smiling sadly at the young stranger. "Do you also love me a little?" asked my eldest sister.

With tenderness and infinite care Paula enveloped her in her strong arms. "I already love you with all my heart!" she said, laying her head against Catalina's shoulder.

"Have you ever been sick, Paula?" she questioned her.

"No, but Papa was," she said in a trembling tone.

At this moment Teresa arrived carrying in the final bag. "At last," she

said, embracing Paula. "Do you know who I am?" Then, seeing that Paula viewed her a bit strangely, she added, "I am only old Teresa. It was I who brought up your dear mother, and I thought I would have to do the same with you; but it looks to me as if you wouldn't need very much of my care. You are so large and healthy, much bigger than Lisita here, and yet you probably are no older. How old are you, pray?"

"I am ten years old, madame."

"Oh, don't call me 'madame.' Call me Teresa, just as your mother did many years ago."

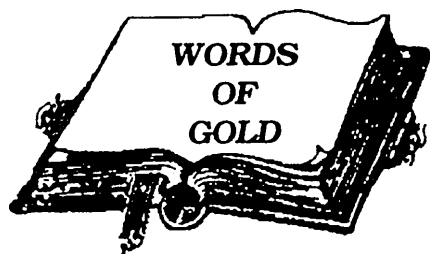
And Teresa took the lamp and brought it close to Paula. "No, you hardly have any similarity in your face, but your voice is like hers. Now, let me hug you once more, my treasure." And Teresa pressed to her heart the motherless child.

"In my country they say I am like Papa. In fact, I have his portrait in the trunk and I will show it to you."

"Show it to us now!" I shouted.

But Teresa interrupted me. "What a child you are, when poor Paula is so tired! Tomorrow will be time enough."

The meal for the young traveler had been prepared on the end of the great table, where Teresa had placed buttered toast and jam, and soon she sallied from the kitchen with the rest of the food.



The Foolish Servant

II Kings 5:20-27

20 But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, Behold, my master hath spared Naaman this Syrian, in not receiving at his hands that which he brought: but, as the Lord liveth, I will run after him, and take somewhat of him.

21 So Gehazi followed after Naaman. And when Naaman saw him running after him, he lighted down from the chariot to meet him, and said, Is all well?

22 And he said, All is well. My master hath sent me, saying, Behold, even now there be come to me from mount Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets: give them, I pray thee, a talent of silver, and two changes of garments.

23 And Naaman said, Be content, take two talents. And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and laid them upon two of his servants; and they bare them before him.

24 And when he came to the tower, he took them from their hand, and bestowed them in the house: and he let the men go, and they departed.

25 But he went in, and stood before his master. And Elisha said unto him, Whence comest thou, Gehazi? And he said, Thy servant went no whither.

26 And he said unto him, Went not mine heart with thee, when the man turned again from his chariot to meet thee? Is it a time to receive money, and to receive garments, and oliveyards, and vineyards, and sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and maidservants?

27 The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever. And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow.

Luke 12:2

2 For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known.

Numbers 32:23

23 ...And be sure your sin will find you out.

The Message: You can't do wrong and get by.

Questions:

1. Who was Gehazi?
2. Why did he run after Naaman?
3. What did Naaman do when he saw Gehazi running after him? What did he ask?
4. Who did Gehazi say had sent him?
5. How many young men did he say had come from Ephraim?
6. What did he ask for?
7. What did Elisha ask him when he got back?
8. What happened to Gehazi because of this sin?
9. What will surely find you out?

Verse to Memorize

He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

Proverbs 28:13.

Let's



Talk . . .

Naaman could hardly believe the wonderful miracle—one minute he was a hopeless leper then suddenly his skin was as healthy as a child's! How could he ever repay the prophet who has worked such a miracle? Even the rich gifts he carried could not pay for health! He must thank him!

He quickly turned his chariot and headed for Elisha's house. Hearing the clatter of the horses' hooves and the rumble of Naaman's chariot wheels, Elisha himself came out to speak to him. Joyfully Naaman stretched out his hands to show his wonderful new skin.

In deep gratitude he offered the rich gifts to the prophet. But Elisha would not take even one gift. He wanted Naaman to know that it was God who healed him and that He was the only true God—who gives His gifts freely. He did not want Naaman to think God's gifts could be bought with money. No, he would not accept any gift for what God had done!

"I know now that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel! Naaman declared. "Only the true God could heal leprosy! From now on He is the only God I will worship."

Naaman thought God would not be pleased with an altar that was built from the soil of a heathen country so he begged, "Let me take back some earth from the land of Israel. I want to make an altar and worship only this true God."

So Naaman turned his chariot towards Syria, taking his rich gifts back with him.

Meanwhile, Elisha's servant, Gehazi, stood nearby listening to all

that was said. He knew Elisha told the truth, God had freely given this miracle. But such riches! Naaman was offering to give them enough to set them up for life instead of wondering where the next meal was to come from. Surely Elisha made a mistake by refusing to take at least something.

Gehazi just couldn't stop thinking about all that gold and silver. In his mind he pictured the beautiful clothes Naaman had offered them. Soon a plan formed in his mind. Waiting until Elisha went back into the house, he ran after Naaman. Naaman saw him running and wondered what had gone wrong. He stopped the chariot, climbed down and asked anxiously, "Is everything all right?"

"Well, yes, but after you left two young prophets came to Elisha," Gehazi lied. "He has sent me to ask for some silver and some new clothes for them."

Naaman was glad to give what Gehazi asked. He even gave him more than he asked for. Then he sent two servants with him to help him carry the gifts back to his house.

Gehazi was careful to stay out of sight as they came close to Elisha's house. Instructing Naaman's servants to put the gifts in a secret place, he sent them on their way. Then he went into the house as if nothing had happened.

Intent on getting the rich gifts, Gehazi seemed to forget that Elisha was the prophet of the true God who sees and knows everything. "Where have you been?" Elisha asked.

"I haven't been away," Gehazi lied again.

"My heart went with you," Elisha replied. "I saw Naaman when he turned from his chariot to meet you. Because you wanted riches more than you wanted to please God, Naaman's leprosy will come on you!"

Immediately Gehazi's skin turned white with the awful plague of leprosy.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

"There you are, Paula," Teresa said, drawing her to the table; "Sit down and eat!"

"And the others?" said Paula, looking at us.

"Oh, we ate long ago," said Rosa.

"I think we might eat a little bread and jam to accompany her," I said. Then everybody laughed.

"I think Lisita is right for once," said Teresa, always happy when she was able to give us a bit of pleasure; "and I think Paula will be a little more comfortable that way."

"Now then, Paula, are you not hungry?" asked Teresa with her hand on the lock of the kitchen door.

"Yes, madame,...that is—yes, Teresa."

"Begin then! Lisita doesn't need any urging. Do as she does, and I trust you will eat with a good appetite."

Paula looked at us, one after the other, and then looked at Teresa as if she would say something. As Teresa remained, looking on in an astonished manner, Paula got down from her chair and stood in front of her now cooling cup of hot milk. She placed her hands together, closing her eyes and bending her head a little, she said slowly and deliberately in a low voice, "The food which we receive, O Lord, may it be blessed, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen."

Naturally, on awakening the next morning, after Paula's arrival, it was "Paula, Paula, Paula," that occupied my every thought. I found she was still sleeping. How I did wish to wake her up! But Teresa had cautioned me to let her sleep as long as she wished on account of her long journey of the day before. So I simply half-opened the curtains of her bed and closed the window to warm up the room.

I had no idea what hour it was. Teresa had the watch under her pillow, and I could never tell the time by

the sun, like Louis and Rosa, but I could tell it was very early, for almost every door and window of the red houses across the street were still closed. Once in a while, I saw a factory hand passing with his lunch under his arm, on his way to work. Among these, I noticed one whom we called the "Breton," a terrific drunkard of whom I was greatly afraid; but, strange to say, this morning he went on his way with a firm, straight step, behaving himself quite like an ordinary person.

The sky was clear and very, very blue, without a single cloud. It had rained the night before, for on all the trees and bushes thousands of water-drops glistened like diamonds in the light of the newly risen sun.

Dozens of little birds were singing their morning songs in the great linden trees on the avenue, and the scent of the flowers from the laborers' little gardens over the way floated in through the window. What a multitude of flowers there were—roses, lilies, geraniums, pansies and forget-me-nots! I could not see our own garden from our bedroom window, but I knew that there also would be flowers in profusion, thanks to faithful Teresa's unceasing care. Here also hung that delight of my life—the swing that my father had placed under the apple tree one happy day five years ago. Oh, how Paula would love it, and how happy she would be among us!

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Elisha's servant. 2. He wanted a gift from Naaman even though Elisha had refused to take anything. 3. He got down out of his chariot and asked, "Is all well?" 4. Elisha. 5. Two. 6. A talent of silver and two changes of clothes. 7. "Where have you been?" 8. Naaman's leprosy came on him. 9. Your sins.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 10 Mar. 10, 2002

Life In Waldensia

(Continued from last week.)

Again I took a peep between the curtains but still she slept. Would she never wake up? Now I had a chance to observe her more closely. That beautiful face, just a bit serious, buried in the white pillow on which were signs of moisture, betraying the fact that tears had been mixed with her slumbers.

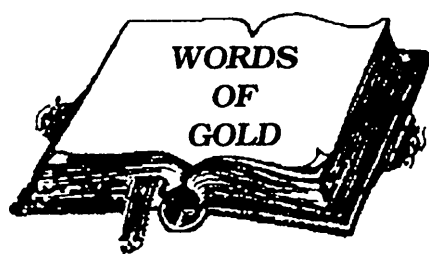
It was long after we finished breakfast, and our father had gone to his work, that she finally awoke. But now all her sadness had disappeared and not a sign of a tear remained. She ate her breakfast with great gusto, not however without again performing that strange custom of putting her hands together, and repeating the prayer, which our astonished ears had heard the night before. Teresa searched among my sister's clothes for something a little more modern with which to clothe our little country visitor. Meanwhile Paula chatted happily to us, telling us quite a little of her life in that far-off Waldensian valley. In the winter she and her father had lived in the stable in the midst of the cows, goats, sheep, rabbits, etc. It was the heat from the bodies of these animals that kept them quite warm and at the same time saved the price of the fuel which would otherwise

have been necessary if they had stayed during the day in the dwelling-house.

Sometimes, she told us, the poor from the village would come to their stable, bringing their children with them for this same purpose of getting warm without any expenditure for fuel. Then, what happiness and what games they had together in that little space in the stable between the animals!

Oh, yes, she went to the school, she said—the little school whose teacher was her own father who every afternoon gathered the children together in that self-same stable. In the evening, the neighbors would bring each one his own little stool, crowding into every unoccupied space that could be found in the stable; the women spinning, the men reading in turn from the Bible by the light of a tallow candle. Meanwhile the babies were put to sleep in the straw above the sheep-fold, until the time came to disperse for the night.

Paula, being a great girl of ten years old, always tried desperately to keep awake along with the older folks. Toward the close of the evening her father would say, "Now, my friends, let us meet before the Lord." Then the needles would be put away, the hymn-books would be taken out, and often they would sing far into the night.



Horses And Chariots Of Fire

II Kings 6:8-20

8 Then the king of Syria warred against Israel, and took counsel... saying, In such and such a place shall be my camp.

9 And the man of God sent unto the king of Israel, saying, Beware that thou pass not such a place; for thither the Syrians are come down.

10 And the king of Israel sent to the place...and saved himself there...

11 ...The king of Syria was sore troubled...and he called his servants, and said...Will ye not shew me which of us is for the king of Israel?

12 ...His servants said, None, my lord, O king: but Elisha...telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber.

13 And he said, Go and spy where he is...And it was told him, saying, Behold, he is in Dothan.

14 Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about.

15 And when the servant of the man of God was risen early...and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do?

16 And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than

they that be with them.

17 And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And...he saw the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

18 ...Elisha prayed unto the Lord, and said, Smite this people...I pray thee, with blindness...

19 And Elisha said unto them,...follow me...and...he led them to Samaria.

20 ...When they were come into Samaria...Elisha said, Lord, open the eyes of these men...And...behold, they were in the midst of Samaria.

The Message: God's invisible guard of angels always surrounds and protects those who love Him.

When we "see" this we will not fear what man can do to us.

Questions:

1. Who warred against Israel?
2. Who warned the king of Israel where the enemy camp was?
3. Who did his servants say was telling the king's plans?
4. Where was Elisha?
5. What did Elisha's servant see early one morning?
6. What did Elisha say to calm him?
7. Elisha asked the Lord to do what for his servant?
8. What did Elisha pray for the Lord to do to the enemy army?
9. Where did Elisha lead the enemy?

Verse to Memorize

The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

Psalms 34:7.

Let's



Talk . . .

By attacking one city at a time the king of Syria was sure he could conquer Israel. Following this plan he sent his army to attack a city. But when they marched up to the city they were surprised to find that it was heavily guarded. Evidently they had been expecting the attack!

The king sent them to attack another city of Israel. Again they found a strong guard protecting the city and waiting to drive the Syrians away. Several times the Syrians tried to capture cities in Israel, but every time the forces of Israel were waiting to drive them back!

The king of Syria decided that one of his own men must be telling the king of Israel his military secrets. Calling all his soldiers he commanded fiercely, "Show me which man is giving our secrets to the king of Israel."

One of his soldiers answered, "O king, none of us are telling your plans. It is the prophet Elisha. He knows what you say in secret. He tells the king of Israel where you are going to attack. Then the king of Israel sends his soldiers to defend that city."

The king of Syria knew he could never win a battle so long as Elisha told the Israelites his plans and strategies. He ordered his men, "Go and spy where he is. Then I will capture him." Now you would think the king would have realized that if Elisha knew all his secrets he would also know this plan!

"He is in Dothan," the spies reported. At once the king sent a large army to arrest him. Marching through the night the army came to Dothan

and surrounded it. They would make sure Elisha did not escape!

Early the next morning Elisha's servant went out to attend to business as usual. He was terrified when he saw that they were under attack by the Syrians! Rushing back to tell Elisha he cried, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"

But Elisha already knew all about the enemy army. Calmly he answered, "Do not be afraid. There are more with us than with the Syrians."

This made no sense to the servant. There were only two of them but he could see that there were thousands of Syrians coming from every direction to take them prisoners!

Seeing his confusion, Elisha prayed, "Lord, open his eyes that he may see."

God answered the prayer. When the servant looked again he saw the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire to protect them. He was no longer afraid. This army of God was much greater than that of the Syrians.

As the soldiers closed in Elisha prayed to the Lord, "Smite this people with blindness." God answered this prayer. Suddenly the advancing soldiers were thrown into complete confusion. They could see the light, but they could not recognize even familiar faces and places! They looked this way and that wondering what to do and which way to go. Then Elisha spoke up. "Follow me," he told them. Glad for any kind of direction the soldiers fell in line behind the very prophet they were supposed to capture.

And Elisha led them right into the capital city of Samaria! When he prayed that their eyes be opened they were terror-stricken to see where they were. The very prophet they had come to take prisoner had captured the entire army! —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

Then after earnest prayers by several of the neighbors, the long winter meeting would break up.

Of course, Paula preferred the summer, she said, when she ran barefoot through the flower-covered fields or when she accompanied her father as they gathered the wheat. Then at other times she had to take her turn caring for the flocks of sheep and goats, and see that the lambs and little kids did not stray too far away. She never tired of watching these happy little creatures with their thousand antics as they jumped over the rocks.

In the summer, how happy she was in those vast green Alpine fields, how magnificent that pure air, and that bluest of all blue skies! And in the autumn—what a beautiful season was that, with the nut-gathering and the bringing in of the apples and the grapes! Then she told us how our Uncle John would take the honey from the hives, that golden honey with its heavenly taste.

As she spoke, Paula with her lovely animated face, appeared to live again in her happy past, quite forgetful that she was now far away from her beloved sunny land of the Alps, where that dear father slept on the hillside, nevermore to return.

I had heard that our mother often spoke of her home in the Alps with nothing but sighs and tears. It astonished me now to hear this young creature so full of life and vigor and happiness speak of her old life in Waldensia. I had been preparing myself to console her and endeavor to make her happy and forget her past life of poverty. But now it was quite the contrary. Here was Paula scattering happiness and love all around her, entertaining us and making us laugh at her wonderful stories.

Teresa came and went from one room to another opening boxes, finding here a dress that Catalina could not wear any more, there an apron that had grown too short for Rosa, and here again a pair of small shoes that would no doubt fit our country cousin, with a black ribbon or two that had formerly served us in our time of mourning when Mamma died. From her bed in the other room, Catalina listened, calling me at times to retell some of the conversation which she had missed, and Rosa wrote a letter to Louis to tell him in detail all about Paula's arrival.

Of course, we were all in high good humor, but I believe I was the happiest of all, for I certainly loved this newly arrived cousin of mine and found her a thousand times finer than I had even imagined.

I said to her once without thinking, "Paula, were you very sorry when you lost your father?" Teresa looked at me threateningly, but it was too late! Paula had already heard me and her eyes filled with tears. I would have given a good deal if I could have recalled my thoughtless words. "Father is in heaven," said this valiant young daughter of his. "He suffered much before he died, but now he is happy indeed! One day I shall go and be with him there."

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. The king of Syria. 2. The man of God (Elisha). 3. Elisha. 4. In Dothan. 5. An army surrounding the city. 6. "Fear not: for there are more with us than with them." 7. "Open his eyes that he may see." 8. To smite them with blindness. 9. Into the city of Samaria.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 11 Mar. 17, 2002

Paula's Treasures

(Continued from last week.)

"Father is in heaven," Paula told me bravely. "He suffered much before he died, but now he is happy indeed! One day I shall go and be with him there."

Never had I heard such an astonishing statement. Suddenly Teresa exclaimed, her voice shaking with emotion, "Surely, thou art a daughter of the good God and our very beloved Paula!"

The three days that followed Paula's arrival were very happy ones for me. I greatly wanted to take her to school with me, but my father thought that for a while she would be better in the house, where she could accustom herself to her new life and be with poor Catalina whose strength diminished day by day.

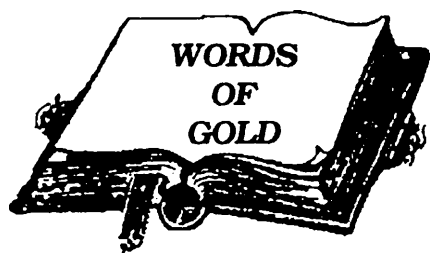
In the morning, and at dinnertime, and after school, and in the evening, we were always together. On my return from school, we took a snack together out of doors. When I had finished my homework, we would dig together in my portion of the garden, and then as the summer days were long ones, Teresa would let us play outside until bedtime.

Of course, I showed Paula all our toys and dolls and the wonderful illustrated books that had been given

me from time to time by relatives and friends. Paula was in ecstasies in this new world of books that opened before her. She touched my dolls one by one, looking at them with awe, examining their clothes, passing and re-passing her fingers through their hair and exclaimed, "Oh, how beautiful! Never have I seen such things before!" Paula, in her turn, showed us her treasures. They were not very numerous, but we could see our country cousin esteemed them very highly. With a trembling hand she untied a red-and-blue pocket-handkerchief, and without a word placed on the table a portrait, a little black-covered book, and some faded flowers. I took up the portrait. It was that of a young man with smiling eyes, quite similar to those of Paula, and with that same kindness and sweetness in his face, so that it was not difficult to recognize who he might be. "It's my father," said Paula quite simply.

I wished at that moment I could have said something to comfort her but I could not find a word to say. Sobbing, I embraced her, and I felt her hot tears mingling with mine.

"Don't let us cry any more," she said presently. "My father has gone to heaven and my mother also. They are there with the Lord. Some day we shall go and join them, and we shall



Trouble In Israel

II Kings 6:24-33; 7:1-2

24 ...Ben-hadad king of Syria gathered all his host...besieged Samaria.

25 And there was a great famine in Samaria:...

26 And as the king of Israel was passing by upon the wall, there cried a woman unto him, saying, Help, my lord, O king.

27 And he said, If the Lord do not help thee, whence shall I help thee?...

28 And the king said unto her, What aileth thee? And she answered, This woman said unto me, Give thy son, that we may eat him to day, and we will eat my son to morrow.

29 So we boiled my son, and did eat him: and I said unto her on the next day, Give thy son, that we may eat him: and she hath hid her son.

30 And it came to pass, when the king heard the words of the woman, that he rent his clothes...

31 Then he said, God do so and more also to me, if the head of Elisha the son of Shaphat shall stand on him this day.

32 But Elisha sat in his house, and the elders sat with him; and the king sent a man from before him: but ere the messenger came to him, he said to the elders, See ye how this son of a murderer hath sent to take away mine head? look, when the messenger cometh, shut the door, and hold him fast at the door: is not the sound of his master's feet behind him?

33 And while he yet talked with them, behold, the messenger came down unto him: and he said, Behold, this evil is of the Lord; what should I wait for the Lord any longer?

1 Then Elisha said, Hear ye the word of the Lord,...To morrow about this time shall a measure of fine flour be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria.

2 Then a lord...said, Behold, if the Lord would make windows in heaven, might this thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof.

The Message: God is able to deliver us even when it is humanly impossible.

Questions:

1. Who was Ben-hadad?
2. What city did he besiege?
3. Besides being surrounded by the enemy what was the other great trouble in Samaria?
4. What did a woman call to the king?
5. What had happened to this woman's son?
6. What did the other woman do with her son?
7. What did the king do when he heard her story? Who did he threaten?
8. What did Elisha predict for the next day?
9. What did Elisha tell the lord who did not believe?

Verse to Memorize

...With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

Matthew 19:26.

Let's



Talk . . .

Great trouble came to the people of Israel. The Syrians soon forgot the kindness the king of Israel showed them. Not long before when the great Syrian army came to capture him, Elisha asked God to strike them blind. Then he led them to Samaria. When he prayed for God to open their eyes they realized they were within the gates of Samaria. They expected to be killed or at least held as prisoners of war. Instead Elisha told the king of Israel to feed his enemies and then send them back home!

But now Ben-hadad, king of Syria, led his great army back into Israel to fight against the Israelites. He commanded his soldiers to completely surround Samaria. Then day after day the Syrians waited outside for the Israelites to open the gate. The Israelites would not open the gates, even to come out for food. They would do almost anything to keep from being captured by the Syrians!

Ben-hadad knew the people of Israel would starve if he waited long enough. All their fields were outside the city. Now that the city gates were locked there was no way for the people to get food and what they had inside the city would soon run out. The Syrians were in no hurry. They camped about the royal city and waited.

Inside the city walls, the people became more and more desperate. Those who were rich offered to pay a lot of money for even a handful of food. Finally there was nothing to eat except horses or donkeys.

One day as the king of Israel walked around the city he saw the misery of

the starving people and their desperate needs. One woman called out to him, "Help, my lord, O king!"

"If the Lord doesn't help you, I certainly can't," the king answered. "What is wrong?"

The king was horrified when she told him, "This woman said to me, 'Give your son so that we may eat him today. We will eat my son tomorrow.' So we boiled my son and ate him. The next day I said to her, 'Give your son so that we may eat him.' But she has hid her son."

Hearing this the king tore his clothes in distress. But instead of repenting of his evil deeds and vowing to destroy the idols and turn to God, he threatened to kill Elisha!

"Elisha the prophet is to blame for this famine," he declared angrily. "I will have him beheaded today!"

Meanwhile Elisha sat calmly in his house discussing the famine and other troubles with the elders of Israel. Suddenly he spoke up. "The king is sending a man to kill me. When he comes shut the door and hold him outside. The king is coming right behind him."

The king had realized how wrong he was as soon as the man left to behead Elisha. Quickly he followed him to the prophet's house, just as Elisha foretold. Seeing the prophet he acknowledged, "This evil is from the Lord."

Then Elisha told them, "Hear the word of the Lord. Tomorrow about this time there will be so much food that a measure of fine flour will be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel right here in the gate of Samaria!"

But the king's officer did not believe Elisha. "Even if the Lord would make windows in heaven, could this happen?" he asked doubtfully.

"You will see the food with your own eyes," Elisha answered, "but you will not eat any of it."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

be with them there forever; shall we not, Lisita?" "Yes," I said, somewhat troubled.

"See my flowers," she said. "I picked them near our house in the morning just before leaving. Do you not see? Here are forget-me-nots, pansies and daisies. Poor little things! It is hard to recognize them, but I shall keep them always, and when I return to Villar, I will carry them with me." "But you will never return there," I cried, "you are to stay with us always. I never want you to leave us."

"Well, don't worry about that, Lisita. When we grow up, you will go with me to my old home. Uncle Peter and the man that rented the farm from Father promised me never to leave the place until I grew up and returned. So I made them a solemn promise that I would come back and take over the farm some day. Perhaps the cows and the goats and the rabbits will all be different when I go back. If you only knew how I cried when I kissed them all on coming away. They all know me so well. I wonder if they still remember me."

With a sigh, Paula put her flowers back carefully in the handkerchief, and then passed over the little black book to me. "This is my Bible," she said. "It was my father's for years, and he gave it to me on the day he died. See, he has written my name here on the first page."

I was hardly able to decipher the shaky signature of our Uncle John, but finally made out the following. "To PAULA JAVANELA a remembrance from her dying father."

It was an old book with many loosened leaves. On each page were many underlined passages, some marked with pencil, others with ink, with small neat comments in the margins.

"This is my most precious treasure," said Paula. "Father had it in

his hands as he breathed his last. I promised him to read from it every day of my life, asking the Lord's help to understand what I read. Although Papa is no longer here, still I obey him. I try to remember all that he told me. He was a wonderful man, this dear Father of mine, and how he did love the Lord! My one desire is to be like him."

"Yes, but you are only a girl yet," I said to her.

"That's true, Lisita, naturally I know that, but Father used to say to me, 'You're not too small to serve the Lord, Paula!' I read the Bible with him many times, and when we didn't have time to read it in the house, we took it to the fields with us and read it as we rested. Then as I watched the cows and sheep, I read the Book alone. And now you and I can read it together; can we not, Lisita? And I know the Lord will help us to make everybody else happy around us. I've never had a sister, and now that you say you wish to be my sister, my prayers are answered!"

Then after a pause, she said, "Why don't you answer me, Lisita?" And she laid her head on my shoulder and fixed her great eyes upon me. How could I answer her! I had a great desire to tell her of the true situation. We, all of us, wished to be as good as possible, if that should please her, but we would never be permitted to read the Bible. I knew father would never consent to that.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. The king of Syria. 2. Samaria. 3. There was a great famine. 4. "Help, my lord, O king." 5. She and another woman boiled and ate him. 6. Hid him. 7. Tore his clothes and threatened to kill Elisha. 8. Plenty of food at cheap prices. 9. He would see that there was plenty of food but would not taste it.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 12 Mar. 24, 2002

Louis Meets Paula

(Continued from last week.)

"Now you and I can read my Bible together; can we not, Lisita? And I know the Lord will help us to make everybody else happy around us. I've never had a sister, and now that you say you wish to be my sister, my prayers are answered!" Paula said cheerily.

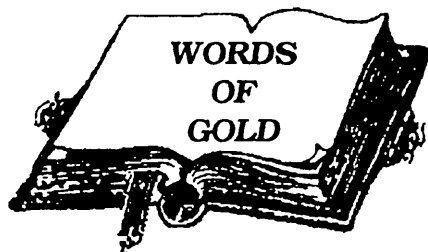
But I knew Paula would never be permitted to read the Bible in our home even though she had promised her dying father. My father would never consent to that. Yet how could I tell her that things in our house were not as they were in hers in that God was never mentioned! Paula waited for my response but I could think of nothing to say.

Then I remembered a long discussion our old servant had had that very morning with my sisters on this subject, and Teresa had ended the matter by saying, "She's only a little girl, anyway, and she'll soon become accustomed to do as we do. Besides, your father will remember how she has been brought up, and he has too good a heart to make the poor child unhappy. Of course in the end the thing will finally adjust itself. Poor little thing! How she would suffer if we should bluntly tell her the truth

that we live here in this house like a bunch of savages."

As I searched my poor brain for a reply, Teresa without knowing it came to my help by calling me into the kitchen. Upon any other occasion, I would have simply answered, without moving, "What do you want?" But now I was only too glad to obey her immediately and so put an end to a difficult situation. "I'm going to town," she said, as she put on a clean apron. "Perhaps you and Paula would like to come along." "What a lark!" I cried, as I ran out to tell the glad news to Paula, and two minutes later we were ready.

Teresa looked us over from head to foot, reminding us that the strings of our shoes hadn't even been tied, that our faces and hands showed signs of an all-too-hasty toilet, to say nothing of a lack of a comb in our hair. Finally, however, we were on the road to town, happy to find ourselves in the cool shade of the long avenue of linden trees that stretched away in the distance. What a joy it was to have at my side this new, wonderful companion to whom I would be able to open the mysteries of the great shops and public buildings—marvelous things which this simple country girl had never seen before in all her life. What could be



Four Lepers

II Kings 7:3-10; 12-17

3 ...Four leprous men... said...Why sit we here until we die?

4 If we...enter into the city...we shall die there: and if we sit still here, we die also. Now...let us fall unto...the Syrians...

5 And they rose up...to go unto the...Syrians: and...there was no man there.

6 For the Lord had made the host of the Syrians to hear...the noise of a great host.

7 Wherefore they arose and fled in the twilight, and left...the camp as it was, and fled for their life.

8 And when these lepers came...they went into one tent, and did eat and drink, and carried thence silver, and gold, and raiment, and went and hid it...

9 Then they said one to another.... this day is a day of good tidings....now therefore come, that we may go and tell the king's household.

10 So they came and called... saying, We came to the camp of the Syrians, and, behold, there was no man there...

12 And the king...said...They know that we be hungry; therefore are they gone out of the camp to hide themselves in the field...

13 And one of his servants answered and said, Let...us send and see.

14 ...And the king sent...saying, Go and see.

15 And they went...and, lo, all the way was full of garments and vessels, which the Syrians had cast away in their haste. And the messengers returned, and told the king.

16 And the people went out, and spoiled the tents of the Syrians. So a measure of fine flour was sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, according to the word of the Lord.

17 And the king appointed the lord...to have the charge of the gate: and the people trode upon him in the gate, and he died...

The Message: We can be sure when God says something will happen it will be so! There was no way for food to become plentiful and cheap overnight but God made a way.

Questions:

1. How many leprous men were there?
2. What question did they ask each other?
3. Where did they decide to go?
4. Who did they find there?
5. Why had the Syrians run away?
6. What did the lepers do when they came to a Syrian tent?
7. To whom did they tell the good news?
8. Where did the king think the Syrians were?
9. What happened to the lord who would not believe?

Verse to Memorize

...There hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised...

I Kings 8:56.

Let's



Talk . . .

One night four lepers came and sat down outside the gate of Samaria. They were tired and hungry. Leprosy was such a serious disease they could not live among their own people.

The lepers wondered what to do. Even if they could enter the city they would starve, as there was no food. If they gave themselves up to the Syrians, they might be killed or taken prisoners. If they were taken prisoners at least they would be fed. They had nothing to lose—they would go to the enemy camp and surrender to the Syrians.

That very evening God caused the Syrians to hear strange noises. It sounded like a mighty army coming through the darkness! Fearfully they listened as the sound came closer. Someone cried out, "Listen! That is the noise of a great army. The king of Israel has hired many kings and their armies to attack us!"

Those words confirmed the fears of the others. The Syrians knew they were not prepared to fight a strong army, and they were determined to escape being taken captive. Everyone tore out of camp, running as fast as they could toward Syria. They gave no thought to the tents, food and other possessions. They were running for their lives! As they ran they dropped anything that might slow them down.

No one in Samaria knew that the Syrians had fled. The four lepers had no idea that the Syrian camp was deserted. They only hoped the Syrians would take them prisoners and feed them.

When they reached the Syrian camp they were amazed to find that there was not a soldier anywhere. The tents were all in place and, best of all, there was plenty of food! The four ate hungrily. When their stomachs were full, they gathered treasures of gold and silver and fine clothing.

At first they planned to hide these things in a safe place. Then they thought about all the starving people inside the city. "It would be wrong not to tell the people what we have found," they decided. So they hurried to the city gate and told the gatekeeper the good news.

The lepers' message spread like wild fire to every part of the city. Everyone wondered if such good news could possibly be true. Even the king was awakened to hear the news. He was sure it was a trick to get them to open the gate. "They are hiding in the fields," he warned. Finally his servants persuaded him to send out a scouting party.

The men returned with the news that they could find none of Ben-hadad's army. "But we found their things dropped all along the road. They must have been in a great hurry to get away!"

When the people heard this, they went out to the Syrian camp. They found much food and brought it to the gate of the city to sell.

The officer who had gone with the king to see Elisha sat at the gate where the food was being sold. The starving people were so eager to get the food that they pushed and shoved and crowded.

The officer could not begin to keep order. The mob surged around him. When he fell down no one stopped to help him. He was trampled to death. So, as Elisha foretold, the officer saw the food, but he did not get to eat it. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

greater happiness for any girl of my age!

When Louis returned at the end of the week, he was surprised to find Paula so happy and contented. He found her in the kitchen helping Teresa dry the dishes. "One would think," said he, "that you had been with us for many months instead of a few days." Paula showed herself to be much more embarrassed in his presence than she had been with us. It may have been the school uniform that did it. But Louis, like the good-hearted lad that he was, did what he could to make her feel at home. Presently, out we went into the garden to play, not without an anxious look from Teresa, for she knew that when Louis came into any situation, he generally caused trouble. When, however, we returned with our aprons decorated with mud but still happy, the good old lady heaved a sigh of relief. The fact is, that when Louis played with us he always acted as he did with the boys at school. But no matter what happened, Paula seemed afraid of nothing. When it came to running races, Louis found to his great chagrin, that she could even beat him at this; and in the other games if she happened to fall and hurt herself, she'd rub an injured knee with a laugh or suck a stubbed finger without further comment, and go on playing as if nothing had happened. But in spite of entering wholeheartedly into all our fun, it was easy to see that our servant had well named her, "The daughter of the good God!" She was always ready to step aside and let others take the first place, and to yield all her own rights, to recover a ball at whatever distance when a dispute arose as to, "Who should get it?" or to look for a lost kite, no matter how thick the

brambles might be. No wonder Louis was quite content to have such an accommodating companion!

Then the moment arrived when we must go back to the house. That fatal time always seemed to arrive on the wings of the wind. Teresa seldom had any time to come and call us, but she relied on Louis, as he had a watch. Beside all that, we could clearly hear the hour strike in the great clock on Darnetal Church.

"Listen," cried Paula, woefully. "It's nine o'clock, and Teresa said we must go back to the house at nine."

"Oh, shut up," said Louis. (He had just started a thrilling new game of jumping from a high wall.) "I'll tell you when it's time to go home. Now are you ready? Hurry up, Paula, get the ladder. There it is, under the cherry tree!" Paula obediently ran and returned with the required ladder, and helped Louis put it in position, saying at the same time, "But Louis, you know well that Teresa told us that we must be in at nine o'clock."

"Oh, yes, I heard it," said Louis ill-humoredly.

"Well, then we must go!"

"Oh, not yet, five minutes more or less won't make any difference."

"No, five minutes won't make any great difference, of course," said Paula slowly, "and it certainly is lovely here, but Teresa ordered us in at nine o'clock."

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Four. 2. "Why do we sit here until we die?" 3. To the Syrian camp. 4. No one. 5. They heard a great noise. 6. They ate, drank, and took silver and gold and hid it. 7. To the king. 8. Hiding in the fields. 9. The people trampled him to death.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 13 Mar. 31, 2002

Louis' Watch

(Continued from last week.)

"But Teresa ordered us in at nine o'clock," Paula insisted when Louis refused to go to the house. "I'll run and ask her if we cannot stay another fifteen minutes."

"Certainly not," sneered Louis. "Teresa would never give permission. Now, hurry up, you're first on the wall, Paula."

"No, I'm not going to stay. Teresa will be angry."

"Oh, you needn't worry about that," and Louis took out his watch. "I can fix that matter easily." We both looked over his shoulder at the watch, which by this time clearly pointed to five minutes after the hour. Suddenly, we saw the hands of the watch begin to turn backwards. "Now," said Louis, "what time it is?"

"Half-past eight," answered Paula, lifting astonished eyes to her cousin's face.

"Well, if it's half-past eight why do you look at me like that?"

"Because I don't understand."

"What do you mean by saying you don't understand? It's all quite simple. If Teresa is angry, I'll tell her that we left the garden at nine o'clock: then I'll show her my watch."

"But," cried Paula, quite upset, "that would be a lie!"

"Nonsense, you foolish youngster,

that's not a lie. We'll go from here at the dot of nine, according to my watch, and that's what I'll tell Teresa in case she asks us. Of course, if she doesn't ask us, we don't have to say anything. Besides, I do it for you and Lisita, for if you were boys instead of girls, there would be no reason to return so early. Now, up with you. Yes, or no?"

"Not I," said Paula, with a heightened color. Louis was furious.

"No, you say? Oh," he laughed, "the wall's too high." Paula looked at the wall. It was certainly high, but he knew very well from past exploits that the height would not bother her.

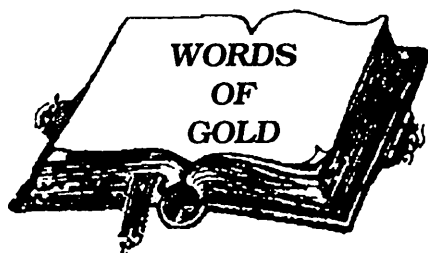
"No," she said, "I'm not afraid to jump. Over in Villar, when I had to tend the goats, many a time I have had to jump from far greater heights than that to keep them from straying into our neighbor's pastures; but I tell you now, we promised Teresa to return at nine o'clock, and I'm not going to disobey her."

Then it was that I joined in on the side of Louis. "If you're always going to obey Teresa, you'll never have a quiet moment."

"Then are you, too, going to stay with Louis?" Paula asked sadly.

"Of course," cried Louis, without giving me time to reply. "And now, go if you wish and leave us in peace. Get out of the way!"

Paula, who was seated on the lowest rung of the ladder, immediately



God Speaks To Samuel

I Samuel 3:1-13, 15

1 And the child Samuel ministered unto the Lord before Eli...

2 And it came to pass at that time, when Eli was laid down in his place...

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...

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.

11 And the Lord said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.

12 In that day I will perform against Eli all things which I have spoken concerning his house...

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.

15 And Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the Lord. And Samuel feared to shew Eli the vision.

The Message: God calls and uses those who are busy serving Him, even young children. God honored Samuel by calling him by name and revealing His plan to him.

Questions:

1. What child ministered to the Lord?
2. What old prophet did he serve?
3. Who called him one night?
4. What did he reply?
5. To whom did he run?
6. Who did not know the Lord yet?
7. How many times did he run to Eli?
8. What did Eli tell him to answer if God called again?
9. What did Samuel fear to do?

Verse to Memorize

Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right.

Proverbs 20:11.

Let's



Talk . . .

Hannah, wanted a baby boy more than anything else. Her desire was so strong she even prayed, "O Lord, if You will give me a son I will give him back to You to serve You the rest of his life." God heard Hannah's prayer. Before another year passed God gave her and her husband a baby boy. Hannah named him Samuel, which means, "asked of God."

When Samuel was old enough to help serve in the tabernacle she knew the time had come to fulfil her promise to give Samuel to God. Bringing him to Eli, the high priest, Hannah said, "One year when I came up to the tabernacle with my husband, I prayed for a son. I promised that if He would grant my desire I would give him to serve God here in the tabernacle. As long as he lives he shall belong to the Lord." Eli was old and could hardly see. He was glad to have Samuel's help.

One night Samuel was lying in bed after a busy day. Suddenly he heard a voice calling him. Immediately he answered, "Here I am." Thinking that it was Eli who called he ran to him, and said, "Here I am; you called me."

Eli was surprised. "I didn't call you," he answered. "Go back and lie down again." Samuel went back and lay down.

Soon the voice spoke again, "Samuel!" The boy rubbed his sleepy eyes and hurried to Eli's bedside.

"Here I am," he said, "for I heard you call."

Again Eli told him, "I did not call. You may go back to bed."

The voice called Samuel the third time. When Samuel ran to Eli, the old man knew that God wanted to speak

to the boy. Eli said, "Go and lie down. If the voice calls you again, say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant listens.'"

Samuel went back and lay down again. Soon he heard the voice of God calling, "Samuel, Samuel!"

"Speak; for your servant is listening," the boy answered.

God talked with Samuel that night. He told him that Eli's sons would soon be punished for the evil things they were doing. Eli, too, would be punished because he let them serve as priests even though he knew they were evil.

When it was morning Samuel got up early to do his work. He was glad to be busy—he didn't want to face Eli. How could he break such bad news to the kind old priest? Eli waited. When Samuel did not come he called to him and asked, "What did the Lord tell you? Do not hide it from me."

Obediently Samuel told him all the words of the Lord. Eli bowed his head and said, "Let the Lord do what He sees is best."

Just as Samuel began serving God when he was a very young child, you are never too young to give your heart and life to God. As you carefully live for Him, He will make you wise and strong in faith. Samuel became a great prophet and was a blessing to his entire nation. God will also bless you and make you a great blessing to others.

In our story we see a sharp contrast between Louis and Paula. Paula was blessed with parents who loved God. She followed their example. God was her personal Friend. Her honesty and love for others came out of a pure little heart that was full of the love of God.

Louis' father would not allow prayer or the mention of God's name in his home. This left the children to grow up like little heathens. Louis served only his own interests. He would be dishonest if it made it easier to do what he wanted to do. Self, not God, directed his life.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

stepped aside and soon Louis was on the wall.

"Now, it's your turn," he called to me. I followed my brother as Paula slowly moved away up the garden walk.

"I'm going back with Paula," I said to Louis. Then from the top of the wall, I saw her turn her head for one last look.

"Oh, let her go!" said Louis. "She can find her own way. I'm afraid the little fool is going to become impossible. Now, do as I do. But be sure and don't break your nose, for Teresa will blame me."

"You jump first," I said.

"Getting afraid, are you? All right, see me jump. One, two, three!" and down he went, in the middle of a pansy-bed, Teresa's especial pride and the object of her particular care.

"Oh, oh," I cried, viewing the ruin that Louis had made. "Now, won't Teresa be angry indeed!"

"Well, why should I care?" said Louis. "Why did she have to put flowers alongside of a perfectly good wall like this? Now, hurry up and jump. We'll fix it up and water it, and she'll know nothing about what happened."

"Oh, Louis, I'm afraid!" Certainly the distance to the ground seemed enormous!

"What are you afraid of? I'll catch you if you fall. Don't be a 'fraidcat!' Just at that moment I would have done anything rather than jump.

"I'm coming down by the ladder."

"No, you'll do no such thing! Now, come on; don't be a coward!"

Just at this moment we heard a voice calling, "Louis! Lislal!"

Louis turned to see Paula calling us from the bottom of the garden.

"And now what do you want?" cried Louis. "I thought you had gone home."

I profited by this diversion to come rapidly down the ladder.

"I was almost at the house," answered Paula, coming nearer, "but I didn't go in because I didn't want to

meet Teresa."

"Why not?"

"Because I didn't know what to say to her, if she should ask me where you two were."

"Well, wouldn't you have told her the truth?"

"Of course, I would have had to tell her. That's why I've come back to look for you. I've run all the way. Oh, please, come now; won't you?"

My brother seemed to hesitate.

"You know I hated to disobey," added Paula, with tears in her eyes, "and at the same time, I don't like to be a 'tattle-tale.' Won't you please come home now with me?"

Louis was a good-hearted lad in spite of his shortcomings. Therefore, seeing his young cousin beginning to cry, he said, "All right, let's go. Anyway, I can't play the way I want, especially with a pair of youngsters like you two. But, look here, Paula, you forgot the ladder. Take it away now, if you want us to play up to all your nonsense."

Paula, grabbing the ladder, simply said, "Oh, thank you so much," as she dried her tears. I went meanwhile and filled the watering-pot while Louis tried to restore the crushed pansies as best he could.

"There you are," said Louis finally, "Teresa will never know." And off we all three raced for the house.

"And so you are back already," remarked Teresa as we invaded the kitchen.

"Back already!" said Louis. "It's more than a quarter after nine, but if it hadn't been for the country cousin here, we'd have been a whole lot later."

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Samuel. 2. Eli. 3. God. 4. "Here am I." 5. Eli. 6. Samuel. 7. Three. 8. "Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth." 9. He feared to tell Eli what the Lord showed him.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 1 April 7, 2002

In The Midst Of Darkness "You Are Not To Pray Anymore!"

(Continued from last week.)

The story to this point: Paula is left an orphan when both her godly parents died. She is sent to live with her uncle and his family. In this home all mention of religion is banned because of the uncle's bitterness at the sudden death of his wife whom he dearly loved. The family consists of Catalina, an invalid daughter, Rosa, Louis and Lisita who tells this story.

My father had not had much time to pay attention to Paula since her arrival; for on his return from his long trip he had found the head of the factory very sick. This had so increased his duties that he hardly had time in the morning to take a hurried breakfast, before going off to his work. In the evening, he always went to see Catalina for a few moments, and then he shut himself in his room where he worked far into the night.

It was, therefore, with a sigh of relief that he sat down at the family table on Sunday morning to take breakfast with us children.

"Now, then, Paula," he said, turning to our cousin as Teresa served breakfast, "you haven't told me how

you like your new family?"

Paula colored a little as she said, "Oh, I love you all very much, uncle mine."

"Well, that's a happy reply," said my father, "and we love you also, my little daughter."

The breakfast had been served. Paula had been with us four days and she knew that we never asked the blessing; but she never dreamed that anyone would hinder her from following her own custom which she still continued at every meal. Without any hesitation therefore she repeated in front of my father, the words that had surprised us so at our very first meal. "The food which we receive, O Lord, may it be blessed in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen."

"What's that you say?" said my father, hardly giving her time to conclude.

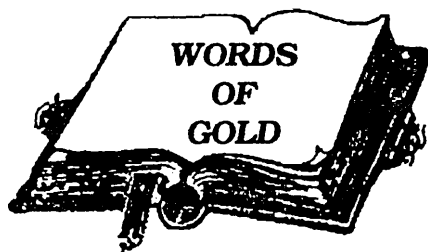
Paula still on her feet, with her hands still joined for the prayer, fixed her great luminous eyes on my father. She was not smiling now, and I saw that she understood that she must have displeased him.

"Answer me," demanded my father. "What were you doing?"

"But. . ."

"Repeat those words of your prayer."

Paula quietly obeyed.



Captives In A Strange Land

Daniel 1:1-10

1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it.

2 And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god.

3 And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes:

4 Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.

5 And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king.

6 Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah:

7 Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of

Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego.

8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

9 Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.

10 And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink:...

The Message: Daniel took his stand. From the very beginning of his captivity he purposed in his heart to keep himself pure before God.

Questions:

1. Who besieged Jerusalem?
2. Who gave the king of Judah into his hand?
3. What did the king tell Ashpenaz to do?
4. What kind of children did the king want?
5. What did the king want to teach these children?
6. What did the prince of eunuchs name Daniel?
7. What did he name Daniel's three friends?
8. What did Daniel purpose in his heart?
9. Who brought Daniel into favor with the prince of the eunuchs?

Verse to Memorize

But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself....

Daniel 1:8.

Let's



Talk . . .

Daniel and his three friends were taken captive and sent to Babylon when they were about seventeen years old. All of them were descendants of the king of Judah—the very finest of the young men of Israel. Yet they were taken forcibly from their homes, their parents and their country. These were brilliant young men—ahead of other boys their age in wisdom; quick to understand things. In this strange land they were forced to learn another language (Aramaic).

They even lost their right to eat food that was familiar to them. They were to eat meat from the king's table and drink the same wine that he drank. Daniel knew God would not be pleased with the food and wine that was served. Under the Mosaic Law they were forbidden to eat specific foods. Meats offered to idols were particularly banned. The meat on the king's table would have been dedicated to some idol or another so Daniel, the young man of God, took his stand. He would not defile himself with the king's meat and wine.

But this was not an easy decision. King Nebuchadnezzar had conferred great honor on Daniel and his friends. They were dependent on him for everything they needed; their very lives were in his hand. Daniel, however, knew God personally. As a young boy he was careful to always obey His commands. He knew God would stand by him if he was faithful.

Because he was faithful, God gave Daniel favor with the man whom the king set over him. This man risked his life to allow Daniel and his friends to refuse the king's meat.

Paula, in our story, was only ten years old when she was orphaned and uprooted from her friends, home, and all that was familiar to her. Yet her love for God was rooted deeply in her heart. Paula had been trained to love God as a very young child. God, to her, was not just someone she heard about at church. He was her closest Friend and the very heart of her everyday life! Prayer was as natural as breathing—she talked all her problems over with God and continually thanked Him for His blessings.

Paula thanked God for the food she was about to eat even though the rest of the family was looking at her as if she was very strange. She could not understand when her uncle told her she must not pray anymore! How could she possibly live without prayer?

What would happen if you suddenly found yourself in the same situation as Daniel or Paula? Have you given yourself to God so you know He is guiding your life? Do you know God personally as the One you tell your troubles to? Do you let Him make the important decisions for you? Are you reading your Bible, God's letter written to you?

When the World Trade Center collapsed in a mass of molten metal it proved that we live in an uncertain world. Only a personal acquaintance with God can give true security and guidance. As soon as God shows you that you need to be saved, that is the time to give your heart to Him. Then God will guide your life. No matter what you face, He will be with you to bless you and make your life a blessing to many others. —Bro. Dale Doolittle

(Answers: 1. Nebuchadnezzar. 2. The Lord. 3. Bring certain of the king's seed. 4. Those that were wise and could learn easily. 5. The wisdom and language of the Chaldeans. 6. Belteshazzar. 7. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. 8. To not defile himself with the king's meat. 9. God.)

"Where did you learn that?"

"My father taught it to me. We always prayed before and after eating." Paula said this with a trembling voice, trying to restrain her tears.

"Listen to me, Paula," my father said in a voice much less severe. "I don't wish you to imagine that I'm angry with you. In fact, I'm glad that you want to remember your father and his words. That is all very well. But I simply wish you to understand that in the future you are to conduct yourself like the other members of my family. Do you understand, my little daughter?"

"No, uncle, I don't."

"No? Well, then, I must speak more plainly. Your cousins no doubt have already told you that in this house I will permit no word relative to religion. In the future that applies to you also."

"But, uncle dear!"

"That will do. When you come to more mature years you will be able to understand my reasons, and if you should desire it at that time I will give them to you. At present, it is enough for you to know that you are not to pray anymore. Hand me the morning paper, Rosa."

We ate in silence, all except Paula who apparently couldn't swallow a mouthful. Our father, with his eyes buried in the paper, paid no more attention to her. I had a great desire to cry without knowing why, for I couldn't possibly understand why my father's warning should make Paula so unhappy. Father had not punished her, yet, nevertheless, to see her stand there with a mixture of grief and fright on her pale face, one would have thought that she had been threatened with a most terrible misfortune.

Rosa and Louis made understanding signs to one another. Meanwhile to demonstrate my own sympathy, I

tried to take my poor cousin's hand, but she withdrew it, and I understood that it was useless to try to comfort her.

"Uncle," she cried suddenly, "oh, uncle mine, please pardon me but I cannot, cannot obey you."

"What's this?" said my father, gazing at her with stupefaction and growing anger. Our surprise at this untoward daring of our young country cousin was so great, that even Louis dropped his spoon and forgot to eat.

We had disobeyed very often, especially Louis and I, and many times we had been punished for it, for disobedience in my father's eyes was the greatest of all crimes; but never had we dared to defy him openly.

"Paula, be quiet," cried Rosa, fearing the terrible consequences of such temerity.

To our great surprise, my father, in spite of his anger, remained calm.

"So you don't wish to obey me," he said, fixing Paula with a cold and severe eye. "That's the first time I've ever heard such words from any child in this house. Tell me, my daughter, what do you mean?"

"Oh, dear uncle," she said, drawing quite close to Father, "oh, oh, uncle mine, don't be angry, please. I do wish to obey you in everything. Oh, yes, in everything, everything! I promised my father to be good and to show to everyone that I am a daughter of the Lord Jesus. But, oh, uncle, I must pray, and I must serve the Lord. My father told me so, and God Himself tells me so, for so it is written down in the Bible itself."

"I think," said my father, "you will find written in your Bible, these words, 'Children, obey your parents.' And according to you, you ought to obey the Bible."

(To be continued next week.)

[[Look for "Answers" on page 3.]]

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 2 April 14, 2002

We Should Obey God Rather Than Men

(Continued from last week.)

The story to this point: Paula is left an orphan when both her godly parents died. She is sent to live with her uncle and his family which consists of Catalina, an invalid daughter, Rosa, Louis and Lisita who tells this story. In this home all mention of religion is banned because of the uncle's bitterness at the sudden death of his wife whom he dearly loved. As was her custom, Paula thanked God for her food before each meal. This surprised the family but angered her uncle who forbade her to pray, saying she must obey his command because the Bible says, "Children obey your parents."

"Yes, I know that well," answered Paula meekly, "those words truly are in the Bible, but Papa told me that I should always obey God, cost what it may. Oh, dear uncle, surely you wish to serve Him. The Lord died for us, and for this, of course, we love Him. And I thought that you loved Him too. I never knew that there were people in this world who did not love God. Oh, please let me pray, dear uncle. I beg of you, I beg of you. Papa, my dear papa, oh, if he should know that I could never pray anymore!

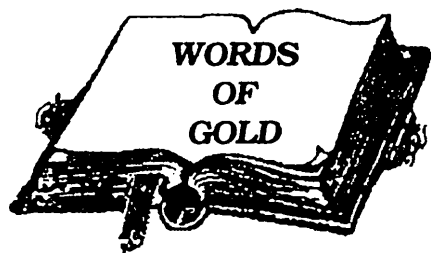
"I promised my father that I'd see him in heaven one day, and he'll be

waiting for us there, waiting there for all of us, you, and Lisita, and Rosa, and Catalina, and everybody. Oh, please, please let me pray!" And Paula put her head on my father's shoulder and sobbed as if her heart would break.

"Oh, let her pray father," implored Rosa in a low voice. "She is so young, she'll soon forget." We could all see that there was a great struggle in my father's innermost self, as a tender look came into his eye, as if he would say, "Don't cry any more. There, there! Pray if you wish." But suddenly his eye rested on us and the stern look returned. He had forgotten us. If he gave way to Paula now, how about the discipline of the rest of his family? Besides, if he permitted her to pray, what would hinder us also from invoking that same holy Name? It was too much.

"Listen, I tell you," he said; "you must obey, and obey at once. This thing has gone too far already." The only reply that came was the sound of Paula's crying. "There, there," said my father, "Stop your crying. I know your religion perfectly, and once I was on the point of practicing it, but, as I said before, your religion teaches obedience to those who are over you."

Paula raised her head, and amid her tears she said. "Listen, uncle dear, I'm only a little girl, and I don't



Prove Us!

Daniel 1:10-21

10 And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which are of your sort? then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king.

11 Then said Daniel to Melzar whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishaël, and Azariah,

12 Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink.

13 Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants.

14 So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days.

15 And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat.

16 Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse.

17 As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

18 Now at the end of the days that

the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar.

19 And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishaël, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king.

20 And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.

21 And Daniel continued even unto the first year of king Cyrus.

The Message: When God shows you something to do, do it with confidence. He will take care of you!

Questions:

1. Who did the prince of the eunuchs fear?
2. If Daniel and his friends looked worse than those eating the king's meat, what might the king do?
3. What did Daniel ask?
4. How long did he prove them?
5. How did they look compared to those who ate the king's meat?
6. What did Daniel and his friends eat?
7. What did God give these four children?
8. What did He give Daniel?
9. How much better were these four than the magicians and astrologers?

Verse to Memorize

Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

Ephesians 5:10.

Let's



Talk . . .

Daniel and his friends were especially smart and good looking, so they were given special privileges and training to prepare them to be rulers. Special food was ordered for them—right from the king's table. There would be all kinds of rich delicious delicacies, truly fit for a king!

The food must have looked tempting. These were strong young men with big appetites. Daniel, however, looked at all the rich desserts, the meats and wine and just shook his head. This food would never do—he would have to have his own menu. And do you know what Daniel ordered? Only vegetables and water!

The one in charge was afraid to grant his request. He was sure that such a diet would never make these young men as strong and healthy as eating the king's meat. And if Daniel and his friends looked scrawny compared to those who ate food from the king's table he could literally have his head cut off!

But Daniel did not give up. God had commanded that they should not eat certain foods and things offered to idols and he had it settled—he would obey God and trust Him to take care of the consequences. God honored his faith and courage. He gave him such favor with this man that he was willing to even risk his life to allow Daniel to prove that God's way was the best!

Paula, too, had purposed to always obey God; to pray and read her Bible every day as her father had taught her. Her uncle told her she must obey his command to stop pray-

ing because the Bible says for children to obey. Paula knew the Bible also said that we must obey God rather than man and meekly told her uncle so.

Imagine her dismay when her uncle also took her Bible away from her! It seemed her whole world had crashed and she cried as if her heart would break. But she found that God still spoke to her heart when she turned to Him with her troubles. Also she knew many verses by heart. Now they came back to her mind to comfort her.

And God has not changed. When we dare to take our stand and do His will even when it is dangerous and seems impossible, He will make a way for us! Do as Paula and Daniel. Give your heart and life to God and get truly acquainted with Him. Talk to Him often in prayer and let Him talk to you through the Bible. You will learn that you serve a mighty God. Then when you are tested you will not be afraid to let Him prove His power, just as Daniel did.

At the end of ten days Daniel and his friends were obviously in better shape than those who ate at the king's table. The steward was so impressed that he gave them only vegetables and water from then on! Not only did they look better, God gave them knowledge, skill and great wisdom for their faithfulness to Him. When we give up anything for God, He gives us so much MORE in return!

After three years it was time for all the captive boys to be brought before King Nebuchadnezzar. When the king interviewed Daniel and his three friends he found there were no other young men like them. In fact, he found they were ten times better than any of his own magicians and astrologers in matters of wisdom and understanding!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

know much, and I can't explain to you what I wish to say. I know that it is my duty to obey you, and so my father instructed me before he died, and when I disobeyed him, he punished me, but in my father's case—"and here she hesitated.

"Go on, go on," said my father.

"My father's will was also God's will. He used to say that he was my earthly father but that God was my heavenly Father, and that if he should die, God was to be my Father forever. And no matter what happened, or where I was, I must continue to serve God, no matter who endeavored to stop me. For it is written in God's Word, 'We should obey God, rather than men.'"

I saw my father go pale with anger. "You're an insolent girl!" he cried. "And I have a good mind to give you a good whipping, to teach you to respect your elders."

Paula looked at him with surprise. "I don't understand, uncle. Those words are written in the New Testament."

"Show them to me," ordered my father.

Paula, glad to escape for a moment, ran for her Bible, which was always beside her in our little bedroom. As she crossed the threshold, Teresa entered to carry away the dishes. "What now? What's the matter?" said the old servant as she looked at Paula's tearful face. "What on earth have you been crying about, poor child?"

My father answered for her. "She's been guilty of most incredible impertinence."

"That's strange," said the old servant. "That's not a bit like her, with her happy, humble ways with all of us."

"That may be," said my father, "but it's just as I feared. She's got all the ideas of her father's family. She

talks of nothing but God and the Bible and of her religion, and that's insupportable in this house."

"Oh, do go slow, sir," Teresa implored. "She's a mere child yet."

"Yes, but she must obey."

Teresa contented herself with a shrug of her shoulders, for she saw that my father was not going to yield. And now Paula had returned with her Bible in hand.

"And now," said my father, after a moment of silence. "let us see those words. Have you found them yet?"

Paula had paused, her hand turning over the pages of her Bible rapidly. "No, uncle, not yet, but I will find them soon."

Again there was silence. Teresa had returned to the kitchen, the door closing with a bang to demonstrate her displeasure. Nothing could be heard but the tick-tock of the clock, and the sound of the turning pages, as Paula, in spite of her tears, looked for the desired words.

"Here it is," she said at last, smiling in spite of her emotion. "See, uncle, here you are, at the fifth chapter of Acts, verse 29."

"We ought to obey God, rather than men!" murmured my father two or three times, as he read the words of Holy Writ, while Paula looked at him with confident eyes, even though a few tears still lingered.

"Let us see, now, something of the context," he added.

"Oh, yes, here it is," and he commenced to read it for himself.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. The king. 2. Take off the prince of the eunuch's head. 3. That he would prove them by giving them only the food they wanted. 4. Ten days. 5. Fairer and fatter. 6. Pulse (vegetables). 7. Knowledge and skill in all learning. 8. Understanding in visions and dreams. 9. Ten times better.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 3 April 21, 2002

Paula's Bible

(Continued from last week.)

The story to this point: When Paula was left an orphan she was sent to live with her uncle and his family which consisted of Catalina, an invalid daughter, Rosa, Louis, Lisita who tells this story and Teresa, the faithful old servant. Paula was frantic when her uncle told her she was not to pray. When she quoted the verse, "Men ought to obey God rather than man," her uncle demanded to be shown this in Paula's Bible. After reading the scripture for himself, he picked up his newspaper along with Paula's Bible and turned to leave.

"Oh, uncle, uncle!" implored Paula, "please leave me that Bible! It is the Bible my father gave me on his dying bed! Please let me have it, I pray you, my dear uncle! I will be good, and I will give you everything that I brought here from Villar. But leave me my Bible, please! please! Leave me my Bible!" Paula sobbed, clinging to my father with a desperate courage.

Teresa, who had viewed this scene with dismay, did not dare to interfere. She came and went, pretending to arrange things here and there in the room.

For my part, I could not comprehend Paula's conduct, not being able to imagine why she should care so

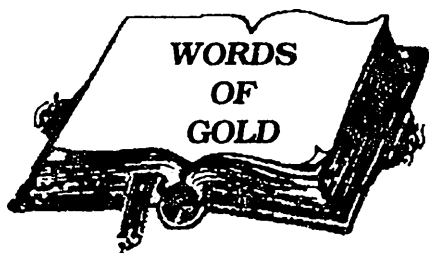
much for her little old black book, I, who would have exchanged all my books for a new doll; but I would have suffered anything to help her now. And so in spite of all Teresa's signs for me to keep quiet and sit down, I took my father by the sleeve and burst into tears saying, "Papa, please give it to her."

My father turned and looked at me for an instant. Never had I seen him so angry. His face had become as white as a sheet. Suddenly, throwing Paula off, who had been holding on to him on the other side, he raised the Bible over her head and with a thundering voice, he threatened her. "Will you keep quiet?" Paula appeared not to have heard him.

"Oh, dear uncle," she implored once more, extending her hands to secure her treasured book, "oh, uncle." In reply all I heard was a dull thud, and I saw Paula fall to the floor. Beside himself, my father had given her a tremendous blow on the head with the Bible.

Teresa rushed toward the child and carried her into the kitchen, turning as she did so toward my father. "Have a care, sir," she cried, her voice trembling with indignation. "Mark my words, you will repent some day of what you have just done."

It appeared to me that my father had already repented. He took his hat



Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Daniel 2:1-10

1 And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him.

2 Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king.

3 And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream.

4 Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack, O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation.

5 The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill.

6 But if ye shew the dream, and the interpretation thereof, ye shall receive of me gifts and rewards and great honour: therefore shew me the dream, and the interpretation thereof.

7 They answered again and said, Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation of it.

8 The king answered and said, I know of certainty that ye would gain the time, because ye see the thing is

gone from me.

9 But if ye will not make known unto me the dream, there is but one decree for you: for ye have prepared lying and corrupt words to speak before me, till the time be changed: therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that ye can shew me the interpretation thereof.

10 The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter: therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean.

The Message: God spoke to Jacob, Joseph, Pharaoh and others through dreams. Now, in a dream, He is telling Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in the future.

Questions:

1. What happened to Nebuchadnezzar in the second year of his reign?
2. Why did he call the magicians, astrologers, sorcerers and Chaldeans?
3. What did the Chaldeans ask the king to tell them?
4. Why couldn't the king tell them?
5. What did the king say he would do to them if they did not do as he asked?
6. What would be their reward if they did as He said?
7. How would the king know they were giving him the correct interpretation?

Verse to Memorize

...Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

Daniel 1:17.

Let's



Talk . . .

Have you ever had a dream and then wondered when you woke up if there was some special meaning to the dream? I have. Most of the time dreams don't really amount to much. But once in a while God uses them for a special purpose.

Remember Joseph had two special dreams when he was very young. Because he told his dreams to his brothers they became more jealous than ever and finally sold him as a slave. Though it looked impossible, those dreams did come true just as God had shown him. One night when Jacob was all alone with only a rock for a pillow he had a wonderful dream. In this dream he saw a ladder that reached clear up to heaven. Angels were going up and down this beautiful ladder.

I can remember when I was a little boy I would look up to the sky and wish that God would somehow speak to me so I could understand. I thought how nice it would be, since He knew everything, if He would just reveal things to me. I'll have to admit my interests weren't very spiritual. I'd heard so much about buried treasures and I was sure God knew just where these were hidden. I figured that if He'd just show me where one was I'd be willing to share it with Him! Now, of course, I realize that God is interested in spiritual things, not material wealth.

In our lesson God revealed future events to Nebuchadnezzar in a dream. But when the king woke up he could not remember his dream. It

had made such a big impression on his mind he knew it must be very important. So he called the magicians, astrologers, sorcerers, and the Chaldeans to tell him what his dream was and also its meaning. These men were supposed to be very wise and able to do such things. But instead they insisted that the king must tell them the dream before they could give him the interpretation.

King Nebuchadnezzar demanded them to tell him the dream. Otherwise how could he be sure they were giving him the correct interpretation? Then the "wise men" showed that they were not so wise. They should have known it was dangerous to argue with the king. But they answered him, "Let the king tell his servants the dream, and then we will give its interpretation. There is not a man on earth that can show you your dream! No other king, lord, or ruler, ever asked such a thing of any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean."

They had reached the limit of their abilities; it was impossible to reveal the dream—only God could do that! There are places in life where our efforts cannot get us through no matter how skilled we may be. Only God can solve every problem. These men needed to turn to Him.

What do you do when you face "impossible" situations in your life? If you have given your life to God you can take all your problems to Him in prayer. He will make a way for you even when you can see no way! Paula's circumstances seemed intolerable. She even wished she could die and go to be with her father. But God carried her through this dark time. She was faithful to Him and He did not fail her in this trouble.

—Bro. Dale Doolittle

without a word and went out, and did not return until the evening.

"What a shame that Paula isn't a boy," said Louis, as soon as our father had disappeared.

"Why?" I asked.

"Because she is so brave. Did you notice she stopped crying as soon as father hit her? In her place, you would have been crying yet."

"And you? How about yourself?"

"Oh, boys wouldn't cry for a little thing like that. I'm surprised, though, that father hit her."

"I'm surprised too," said Rosa, "but, of course, she must learn to obey."

"I wonder what can be in this Bible of hers to make her love it so," continued Louis. "Anyway, what is a Bible? Is it a kind of a prayer-book?"

"No," I said, proud that I knew so much, "it's not a prayer-book. At least I have seen Paula pray in the morning and at night. She kneels and closes her eyes and prays, and does not use the Book at all during the time that she prays. She tells me that in the Book she learns how to be good and to serve God. Her father used to read it to her every day, and when he died she promised him to continue to read it."

"Poor Paula!" sighed Rosa. "There is something mighty fine about her. I wonder how all this is going to come out."

"I think she'll die," I said, trying hard to keep back the tears.

"Nonsense," said Louis, "she'll not die! Not she! Don't worry about that. In a few days she'll forget all about it. But I can't help feeling very sorry to see her so unhappy. Well, good-bye, Rosa. Don't cry anymore Lisita. I'm going into the kitchen to see what's happened to poor Paula."

I followed him out and we found the kitchen empty. I went to our room

and found Teresa seated on my bed with Paula on her lap. I heard Teresa say, "My treasure, don't cry any more! Don't afflict poor Teresa who loves you so, and who loved your mother before you. Now, come, come, my angel, that will do. You will make yourself sick. See, here comes Lisita also to comfort you."

But Paula continued crying, inconsolable, as she hid her face on the ample shoulder of our old servant. I came quite near her and stroked her hair, but I could not utter a word.

"Papa! papa," she called, time after time.

"Your father's in heaven," answered Teresa, taking her tenderly in her arms. "What would he think if he saw his little girl in such a state?"

"Oh, I only wish father had taken me with him! If I could only see him now! You see, I promised him to read my Bible and now I cannot, for my uncle has carried away the only one I had, —that wonderful Book that told me of God, and where my father had marked so many beautiful passages! Oh, Papa, Papa, do come! Your daughter needs you now!"

Teresa, finally seeing that it was useless to try to comfort her, limited herself to drying the floods of tears that still continued to flow. But finally, thoroughly exhausted, Paula at last became calm and listened tranquilly to Teresa's long story which we already knew so well, regarding the death of our mother and Catalina's terrible fall.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. He dreamed dreams. 2. To have them tell him what he had dreamed. 3. His dream. 4. He could not remember it. 5. Cut them in pieces. 6. Gifts and great honour. 7. If they could first tell him his dream.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 4 April 28, 2002

Paula's Dilemma

(Continued from last week.)

The story to this point: When Paula was left an orphan she was sent to live with her uncle and his family which consisted of Catalina, an invalid daughter, Rosa, Louis and Lisita who tells this story. Not only did her uncle forbid Paula to pray, he even took her Bible away. Teresa, the faithful old servant, tries to comfort Paula.

Teresa, finally seeing that it was useless to try to comfort her, limited herself to drying the floods of tears that still continued to flow. But finally, thoroughly exhausted, Paula at last became calm and listened tranquilly to Teresa's long story which we already knew so well, regarding the death of our mother and Catalina's terrible fall. And following this, she showed her that on account of these great misfortunes, instead of leading our father to seek the Lord, it seemed on the contrary to have hardened his heart. Thus he had become rebellious, and had made it an established rule in our home that not a word should be uttered relative to the Supreme Being. Then she added, "But don't you believe that he does not care for you! If you could know how many times he has said that you should lack nothing and should be

treated as one of his own daughters."

"That is certainly true," said Rosa, who had entered during Teresa's narrative. "Father appears severe, and this morning, of course, he became very angry, but he is very good-hearted after all."

"I did not know, I did not know," said Paula, as she bowed her head, "how my poor uncle must have suffered!"

"Besides," continued Teresa, "who can tell but what your uncle will begin to read your little—what is it you call it?—the Bible?"

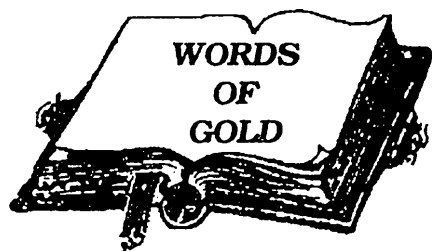
"Do you think so? Oh, Teresa! Do you think he will read it himself?"

"Certainly I do, and why not? And when he has read it and found that it is a good book, I'm sure he will return it to you. So now, just calm yourself and don't worry any more."

"But," questioned Paula, "do you mean to tell me that my uncle hasn't got a Bible himself?"

"Yes, he had one once, but I imagine that he must have lost it, for it's many years since I have seen the one that he had."

"Oh," exclaimed Paula, "what a wonderful thing if my uncle should read my Bible. For I am sure that he will come to believe in God as my father did, and then he will let me have my precious Book back again. My father, too, passed through great



The Death Sentence

Daniel 2:11-23

11 And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.

12 For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon.

13 And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain.

14 Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon:

15 He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, Why is the decree so hasty from the king? Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel.

16 Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation.

17 Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions:

18 That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret: that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

19 Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

20 Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:

21 ...He giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:

22 He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.

23 I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter.

The Message: The wise men realized that only God could reveal the king's dream. But they were not wise enough to serve this one true God.

Questions:

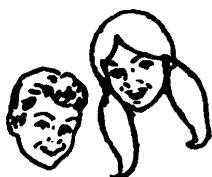
1. Who could reveal the king's dream, according to the wise men?
2. How did the king react to their statement?
3. What did he command?
4. Why did they look for Daniel and his friends?
5. How did Daniel answer Arioch, the king's captain?
6. What was Arioch's job?
7. What did Daniel ask of the king?
8. After leaving the king, to whom did Daniel go?
9. How was the secret revealed to Daniel?

Verse to Memorize

**I thank thee, and praise thee,
O thou God of my fathers,...for
thou hast now made known
unto us the king's matter.**

Daniel 2:23.

Let's



Talk . . .

Last week we studied about king Nebuchadnezzar who had a dream but could not remember it when he woke up. He called his wise men but none of them could tell him either his dream or its meaning.

The king was so furious he made a decree that every wise man was to be killed immediately. Now Daniel knew nothing about the king's mysterious dream or his decree. I can just imagine Daniel at home, maybe working in his garden or perhaps sitting under a shade tree talking to the Lord. He looks up and sees a cloud of dust. Men on horses come thundering toward him. He can't help wondering why these strange visitors are in such a fury! Then they tell him that all the wise men are to be killed—including him!

But Daniel had just been talking to God. He knew He was still in control of everything. He calmly asked Arioch, the king's captain, "Why is the decree so hasty from the king?" Arioch then told him all about the dream and Nebuchadnezzar's anger because the wise men could not tell him what it was.

Daniel had such strong confidence in God it gave him great courage. He would personally go to talk with the king! Now remember, Nebuchadnezzar was not just mad at the wise men, he was furious! This didn't seem to be a very good time to talk to him unless you were ready to tell him his dream and its meaning.

Maybe it was Daniel's calmness and composure that impressed the

king. Anyway, when Daniel asked for more time the king agreed to hold up on the death sentence. With complete trust and confidence in what God could do, Daniel assured him he would soon be back to tell him his dream!

Daniel went straight to his friends, the three Hebrew children. Together they begged God to have mercy and show them the secret of the king's dream. God honored those prayers. That very night He revealed the secret to Daniel in a night vision. Immediately Daniel began rejoicing and praising God even though he was still under the sentence of death. He knew God would spare his life just as He had revealed the secret.

Think about the time we are living in now. We hear so much about the possibility of terrorist attacks. Many lives were suddenly lost last September. This could make us afraid, wondering if the terrorists might strike near us! But let's take a lesson from Daniel. He trusted God no matter how dreadful his situation was. We must first make sure we are saved and ready to meet the Lord. Then we have no reason to be fearful. We are ready to live or die. Wouldn't it be wonderful to just suddenly wake up in heaven where there will be no more pain or suffering?

It seemed that Paula had lost everything—her privilege to pray and even her Bible. This was a very dark time for her. But instead of feeling sorry for herself she looked to God and He brought her through. She learned that when God allows something to be taken away He will give much more in return if we continue to trust Him. We can always face our troubles and losses with hope because we know that God has much good in store for us through these very troubles! Learn to trust God in everything. —Bro. Dale Doolittle

affliction. My mother also died, and then my two sisters, all three in the same year. Father told me that by thus passing through the fire he had learned not to fix his eyes on the things of this world, but to find his happiness in God. I don't know how to explain it very well, of course; but I did understand it fairly well when my father told me and showed me some of the precious passages in the Book that helped me to understand."

"I think I also understand," murmured Teresa, drying her own eyes on the back of her sleeve, as she turned to Rosa. "Rosa, you claim to be very wise. Tell me, where can one buy a Bible?" Rosa smiled, and said, "I'm not very sure, but I think in one of the book-shops one could find a Bible. I could find out in school tomorrow. I know one of my schoolmates has one."

"Good," exclaimed Teresa, "you must find out tomorrow morning. I've got an idea, Paula, a wonderful idea, so dry your tears. I must go tomorrow afternoon to the city, and if Rosa can find out tomorrow morning where a Bible can be found, we shall all four of us go and buy a new Bible there, and you can read it in your room and your uncle will never know."

"Oh, Teresa," cried Paula in a burst of gratitude, "what a good woman you are!"

"That's something I've never yet found out," said the old servant with a dry smile.

Then suddenly we all saw that something had begun to trouble Paula. "What's the matter now?" asked Rosa.

"Are you not content to get a new Bible?"

"Oh, yes," said Paula, "but under such circumstances that would deceive my uncle."

It was here that Teresa broke in. "No, no," she said, "you don't under-

stand. I'm going to buy this Bible with my own money, and I can do as I please. If I care to buy a Bible, it's no one else's business."

But there was trouble in Paula's eyes as she said, "I would certainly like to have a Bible, but uncle has forbidden me to read it. I can see from what you say that it would be easy for you to buy another and read it yourselves, but my uncle has prohibited me and that settles it. I simply can't be a hypocrite and deceive him. Dear Teresa, I do certainly thank you from the bottom of my heart, but, you see, you had forgotten what uncle said. Now, listen, the Lord Jesus is going to help me! There are many beautiful passages of the Bible that I know by heart, and there are plenty of the Bible stories that I'll never forget. All these I will keep in my memory, and then besides I shall pray every day for my uncle, that he'll return my precious Bible to me, and give me permission to read it. I know the Lord will hear me, if I obey Him and pray with faith. Dear Teresa. I hope you're not going to be provoked with me."

"And why should I be, my precious treasure?"

"Well, just because I didn't want you to buy me a Bible."

"No, no, dear, no: you certainly are right, and a whole lot better than we are." And we, together with our old servant, could not help admiring the honesty of our sturdy country cousin.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Only the gods. 2. He became angry and very furious. 3. That all the wise men be destroyed. 4. To kill them. 5. With counsel and wisdom. 6. To kill all the wise men. 7. To give him time. 8. To his three friends. 9. In a night vision.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 5 May 5, 2002

Teresa's Prayer

(Continued from last week.)

The story to this point: When Paula was left an orphan she was sent to live with her uncle and his family which consisted of Catalina, an invalid daughter, Rosa, Louis and Lisita who tells this story. Not only did her uncle forbid Paula to pray, he even took her Bible away. Teresa, the faithful old servant, tries to comfort Paula.

"Teresa!" It was Paula who broke the silence that followed the above discussion.

"What now, Paula?"

"Will you pray for me?"

"I," said the astonished Teresa.

"Yes, please, Teresa dear."

"My poor little Paula, I never pray for myself, how could I pray for you?"

Poor Paula seemed at a loss. "Well, you see," she said, hesitatingly in a trembling voice, "I'm afraid to do it. You see, I don't dare to forget God."

And so our good Teresa, in order to satisfy the poor child, promised to pray for her that very night.

"No," insisted Paula, "let's pray now."

Our poor servant looked around her in dismay.

"I—I pray here! In front of you and Lisita and Rosa! Never—I! Besides, I wouldn't know what to say."

"Do you mean to say that you don't know, 'Our Father which art in heaven?'"

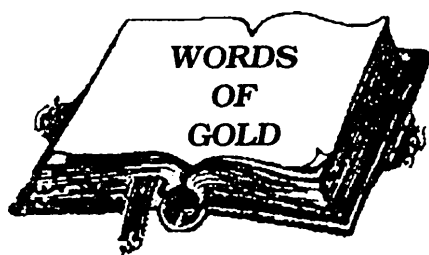
"Perhaps, but it's some time since I've repeated that prayer. I remember my poor mother. I used to kneel beside her and repeat it when I was your age. Once in awhile since then, I have said my 'paternoster.' But it's been many years since it's passed my lips, and I haven't even thought of it for ages. No, no; it's useless. No, Paula, you pray for us. We certainly need it, but as for me praying—a poor sinner like me—I tell you it's useless."

But Paula was not easily discouraged.

"Teresa," and Paula put her cheek against the wrinkled one of our old servant, "you know that Jesus died for us, and do you mean to say, notwithstanding that, you are like a heathen?"

"What's that you say? Like a heathen?" cried poor Teresa.

"Yes, Teresa dear, like a heathen. My father used to read me missionary stories on Sunday, and in these stories I always noticed that the heathen people live without praying to God, and that they didn't read the Bible and that they didn't know how to sing any hymns, and they had no church to go to, that is, until the missionaries came. But we are different here in this house from the heathen because they



God In Heaven Reveals Secrets

Daniel 2:24-31, 47

24 Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise men of Babylon: he went and said thus unto him; Destroy not the wise men of Babylon: bring me in before the king, and I will shew unto the king the interpretation.

25 Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus unto him, I have found a man of the captives of Judah, that will make known unto the king the interpretation.

26 The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation thereof?

27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king;

28 But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;

29 As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass.

30 But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart.

31 Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible.

47 The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret.

The Message: Look what blessings and great power come from having contact with God!

Questions:

1. What had the king ordained Arioch to do?
2. Who told Arioch to not destroy the wise men?
3. Why did Daniel want to see the king?
4. What did Arioch tell the king Daniel would do?
5. What did Nebuchadnezzar call Daniel?
6. Who reveals secrets?
7. What was God making known to the king?
8. What had the king seen in his dream?
9. Why did the king say Daniel's God was a God of gods and Lord of kings?

Verse to Memorize

...Your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret.

Daniel 2:47.

Let's



Talk . . .

Daniel was quick to give God all the glory for revealing the dream. He informed the king, "There is a God in heaven who reveals secrets. As for me, this secret was not revealed to me because I have more wisdom than anyone else."

Again prayer solved this seemingly impossible situation. Prayer is available to everyone, no matter how young you are. God often uses small unimportant people and even those who are weak and helpless. Then we cannot help but realize that it was God who did the work!

It is a wonderful feeling when the God of heaven answers our prayers! You are not too young yourself to pray. God will answer your prayers. He tells everyone to "watch and pray" (Matthew 26:41) and even to "pray without ceasing." (1 Thessalonians 5:17.)

I was reading about a little church down in the Ozarks that had need of a larger place to worship. The congregation was praying about this and the Lord impressed a man to give them some land. It was a beautiful spot, right next to a mountain.

So they built the little church and were getting ready to have the dedication service in about two weeks. It was about then that the building inspector came by and checked the building and its situation. Everything seemed just fine except for one thing. There was not enough parking space for a church of this size.

"I can not allow you to have church here unless you have a larger parking area," the inspector announced.

This was a great disappointment. They began checking to see what they could do but they found they had used up all the land they had except the land that went up the side of the mountain.

So after thinking and thinking and praying and praying, the preacher announced, "Folks, I want all of you who have faith that God can move mountains to meet me here on a certain day. We will agree in prayer that God will move that mountain!"

The day arrived for the prayer meeting. The preacher was there but very few others showed up. The few that were there prayed and prayed. After about three hours they said, "Amen," and all went home.

The next day or so the preacher was in his study when suddenly there was a loud knock on his door. The preacher opened the door and invited the man inside. The man said "Preacher we are building a shopping mall in another town near here and we can't go any further with our building until we get a large amount of dirt.

"Now we are in a big hurry so this is what I would like to propose. We will bring in our big machines and cut the mountain away by the church. We will level it all up and even put pavement on it too. But," he stressed again, "we must have it right away. Maybe you could use it for more parking space or something—we just need the dirt. We are willing to pay you for it."

Can you imagine the preacher trying to be quiet and calm as he heard the answer to their prayers? And the Lord was doing even more than they asked! I don't think it took him very long to agree to the bargain.

Also, the next Sunday a lot more people in the congregation had mountain-moving faith!

—Bro. Dale Doolittle

had never heard of God." And then she added with one of those lovely smiles that always seemed to spread a halo over her, about how in the pictures she had seen all the heathens looked so underprivileged, but Teresa seemed very blessed.

Poor Teresa placed her well-worn hands over her wrinkled countenance, and said, "Paula, Paula, you certainly are right. So we are even less worthy of God's mercy than they are."

Paula looked at her for a moment in silence and then, kneeling down beside her, said, "Teresa, you just pray with me, won't you? I know the Lord Jesus will pardon you, and He'll help you to love Him for He has promised to give you a new heart. I'm only a little girl, but He helps me and He hears me when I pray, for that's what He has promised, Teresa. Once my father taught me a beautiful verse, and when my uncle returns my Bible, I'll show it to you, but this is what it says, 'Him that cometh unto Me, I will in no wise cast out.'"

Poor Teresa, with her head hidden in her hands, could not reply.

"Do come and kneel with me." insisted Paula, pulling her by her apron. After a long silence suddenly Teresa fell heavily on her knees beside the bed. Paula, up to this moment, appeared to have forgotten the rest of us, but now taking both of us by the hand she invited us to kneel also.

"No," said Rosa, with an offended air, "I'll do no such thing."

"Nor will I." I said, a bit intimidated by my sister's refusal.

And so Teresa and Paula kneeled together, "Our Father which art in Heaven," commenced the clear voice of Paula. Slowly came the repetition. "Our Father which art in heaven," and poor Teresa's deep voice trembled with emotion.

"Hallowed be Thy name."

"Hallowed be Thy name."

And now Teresa, gathering fresh courage, as the words of the great prayer began to return to her memory, the voices now mingled in the same majestic words from, oh, such different hearts—the one, pure and confident, and the other now contrite and penitent.

Then, as they finished, Paula continued, "Lord Jesus, be pleased to bless my uncle, Teresa, Catalina, Rosa, Lisita and Louis. Oh, bless them, Lord, and help them all to come to Thee. And bless me, also, and give me of Thy goodness, for Thy name's sake, Amen."

"So may it be," sighed poor Teresa.

Paula opened her eyes, but closed them again as she saw that Teresa had not moved, and that she was struggling to add a prayer of her own. Then finally it came.

"Oh, my God, my God," murmured poor Teresa. "If You can have pity on a poor sinful woman like me that has forgotten Thee for so many years, be pleased to pardon me, and change my poor wicked heart, in the name of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, Amen."

For a good while after that, Teresa made no allusion whatever to what had transpired in our little bedroom on that first Sunday after Paula's arrival; but we noticed a great change in her conduct. She did not work harder—that would have been impossible—neither was she more unselfish, for a more unselfish person than our dear old servant would have been hard to find.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Destroy the wise men. 2. Daniel. 3. To interpret his dream. 4. Tell him the interpretation of his dream. 5. Belteshazzar. 6. God in heaven. 7. What would happen in the future. 8. A great image. 9. Because he revealed the secret of the dream.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 6 May 12, 2002

Paula's Humility

(Continued from last week.)

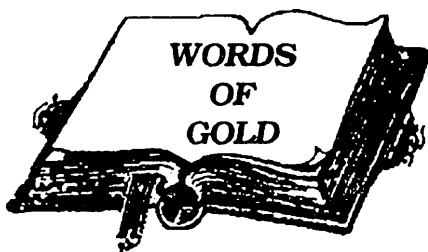
The story to this point: When Paula was left an orphan she was sent to live with her uncle and his family which consisted of Catalina, an invalid daughter, Rosa, Louls and Lisita who tells this story. Not only did her uncle forbid Paula to pray, he even took her Bible away. Teresa, the faithful old servant, tries to comfort Paula. In despair Paula begged Teresa to pray for her. This prayer turned to one of repentance, bringing about a great change in Teresa.

We began to notice that she was more patient and tender in her dealings with us children, and more charitable toward the great number of our poor neighbors, who would come to the door from time to time to "borrow" food—these poor miserable neighbors whom she had despised on account of their laziness and untidiness. Beside all this, we saw no more of her days of bad humor and fretfulness. For instance, she treated our father with much more respect and listened without argument or impatience when, at times, he was unjust in his criticism of the house arrangements. Then we noticed also that all her little lies with which she tried to frighten us at times had completely disappeared.

In the cottages of our poor neighbors, there had existed an atmosphere of discouragement and desperation, brought on of course, through poverty and drink, and it was here that our good Teresa began to be known as a veritable friend. As she passed from door to door giving a word of encouragement here, or taking the burden temporarily from the shoulders of a poor tired mother there, we began to notice the under-current of a happy change in the atmosphere of these poor and destitute ones around us. It was easy to imagine that Teresa might be the cause of the change.

The day following the before-mentioned Sunday, Rosa was sitting by the bedside of Catalina who complained of her usual headache, and Teresa had gone out on an errand. Paula, a bit exhausted with her emotions of the day before, appeared to have lost all animation, but soon her naturally happy nature asserted itself, and by the time my father returned from his work, she ran to meet him and opened the door as he entered, embracing him as if nothing had happened.

"Well, well," said my father, "I'm glad to see that you have recovered your good humor, Paula." A frank smile passed over Paula's face, but she said nothing. "And how has Catalina been today?" he said, turning to me.



The Golden Image

Daniel 2:46, 48-49; 3:1-6

46 Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and worshipped Daniel, and commanded that they should offer an oblation and sweet odours unto him.

48 Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon.

49 Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.

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

2 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent to gather together the princes, the governors, and the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

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

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

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

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

The Message: It is so easy to forget God and His wonderful works.

Questions:

1. Who fell on his face?
2. Who was he worshipping?
3. What did he give Daniel?
4. Who became ruler over the whole province of Babylon?
5. Who did Daniel have set over the affairs of the province?
6. What did Nebuchadnezzar make?
7. Why did he call for all his rulers and governors?
8. What were they commanded to do when they heard the music?
9. What would happen to those who did not obey?

(Answers: 1. King Nebuchadnezzar. 2. Daniel. 3. Many great gifts. 4. Daniel. 5. His three friends, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. 6. A golden image. 7. To dedicate the idol. 8. Fall down and worship the image. 9. They would be thrown into the fiery furnace.)

Verse to Memorize

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits.**

Psalms 103:2.

Let's



Talk . . .

Our lesson begins by telling how king Nebuchadnezzar honored Daniel, even falling on his face and worshipping him as if he was a god. He gave him great gifts and made him ruler over the whole province and chief over all the other governors.

Nor did Daniel forget his friends. These three Hebrews supported Daniel in prayer as he asked God to show him the king's dream. They stood with Daniel and refused to eat the king's meat, choosing to eat only vegetables rather than displease God. They were men who truly trusted in God. Daniel remembered them and asked that they be made rulers also.

But more than honor, high positions and great gifts, Daniel was most thankful to hear Nebuchadnezzar confess that God was the only true God. He realized God alone could reveal the secret of his dream.

All went well with Daniel and his friends for several years. Then it seemed that Nebuchadnezzar forgot all about the one true God. We next read that he made a magnificent image of gold. According to my Bible this was about twenty years from the time that Daniel told the king his dream.

Nebuchadnezzar intended for the image to be impressive. Standing ninety feet high, its golden splendor glistened high above the heads of the people. Then the king called all the dignitaries and officials in his kingdom. There was to be a dedication of the image and they were not to miss it!

All kinds of musicians were going to be there too. When they heard the music play they must bow down and worship this image. And Nebuchadnezzar had already decided what to do if someone refused to bow down—they would be thrown into a fiery furnace! Commanding the people to worship an image was a gross insult to God.

We often wonder why God permits the hard times in our lives. Do you remember reading stories of people who were so poor they had scarcely enough to eat? In these circumstances people were more likely to call on God to supply their needs—they had no where else to turn! It is the time of victory in our lives; times of health, strength and prosperity when we are most likely to forget God, just as Nebuchadnezzar did. Then it is easy to worship "things" rather than God, such as money and all it will buy.

In times when everything is going good we need to be very thankful to God. Our memory verse says: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits." While there is plenty of food we do not need to spend time praying for our next meal. This time should then be spent thanking the Lord that all is going well. The song says: "Count your blessings, name them one by one. Count your blessings, see what God hath done." We are blessed to live in a free country. We can serve God without fear. We have plenty of food and money and nice homes. We can come and go as we please and do not live in fear for our lives. We have much to thank God for!

Paula had lived in a very poor home before her father died. Then she went to live with her uncle where there was plenty of everything. Yet she was very careful to not forget God.

—Bro. Dale Doolittle

"She has a terrible headache. Teresa is afraid she's going to be sick again."

"Poor girl! We must be especially careful then not to make any noise," and he turned to go into Catalina's room, but Paula detained him.

"Please, uncle, have you pardoned me?"

"What for, child?"

"For what occurred yesterday. Surely you remember, uncle. I was a bit stubborn about giving up my Bible."

My father looked down at her, surprised. "And now, you're perfectly willing that I keep it?"

"Oh yes, of course, for I did not at all understand. Teresa tells me that you had no Bible, and you see I didn't know that. And she said that after you had read it, you would of course be giving it back to me. I am so sorry that I appeared so selfish. Please, pardon me, won't you, uncle dear?"

"I've already pardoned you, so don't worry about that. So you like to read your Bible?"

"Oh yes, indeed I do, uncle."

"Well perhaps some day I'll return it to you."

It was not exactly a promise, but Paula was willing to content herself with that much.

"Oh, thank you, thank you so much, uncle," said Paula as she embraced him.

"And so you love me a little, do you? In spite of everything?" asked my father smiling, as he took hold of her chin and turned her face up toward his.

"Oh, yes, indeed; you don't know how much!"

"You do?" said my father. "Well, that certainly gives me great pleasure. I see that soon we shall come to understand one another, you and I. By the way, I noticed that in your Bible there were quite a number of

dry flowers. If you would like them, I will return them to you immediately."

"Oh, many thanks, uncle. I kept them there as remembrances of my father. I shall keep them in some book where I can look at them often!"

"That's what I thought, my little daughter. I'll go and get your Bible, and you yourself shall take them out."

But now Paula seemed to have a different idea. "No, I think that I prefer that they remain where they are," she said in an altered voice.

"What's that you say?" exclaimed my father, astonished. "How is it that you have so suddenly changed your mind?"

"Well, you see," explained Paula, trembling a bit, "they'd better remain where they are, for I love my Bible, and I've read it every day, and now if I saw it again, I'm afraid, -I'm afraid-," and poor Paula's lip was trembling.

"I understand, I understand," said my father.

But on turning to go into Catalina's room, he hesitated with his hand on the latch of the door, and turning, he looked searchingly at Paula, as if he would know the secret of the innermost heart of this child, so loving, so angelic, and yet so absolutely natural.

Teresa had not been mistaken. Catalina became so critically ill during the following week, that my father lost all hope of her recovery. Not being able to be with her during the day, he watched at her bedside during the greater part of the night, and if it had not been for Teresa, who compelled him to go and take some rest, he would have, undoubtedly, suffered a collapse himself.

(To be continued next week.)



(Look for "Answers" on page 2.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 7 May 19, 2002

Catalina's Illness

(Continued from last week.)

The story to this point: When Paula was left an orphan she was sent to live with her uncle and his family which consisted of Catalina, an invalid daughter, Rosa, Louis and Lisita who tells this story. Not only did her uncle forbid Paula to pray, he even took her Bible away. Understanding the tragedies that her uncle had experienced, Paula gives up her Bible in hopes that her uncle will read it and find the comfort she had found.

Rosa had to leave school in order to help nurse the sick one, and Paula also was required to stay home until the afternoon session. As for me, I was packed off to school in the morning, carrying my lunch in a little basket, fearing each night as I came back to the house that I would receive bad news as to Catalina. My! What grand resolutions for the future I made during those sad days—to try to love my poor sick sister, and to treat her better than I had done, should she recover.

One afternoon, I was surprised to find my father at home. It was only about five o'clock and he generally did not return from work until eight. He seemed so sad and depressed that I dared not embrace him as was our

custom. Teresa crossed the dining-room and gave me her usual warning. "Don't make any noise, Lisita. Go and sit down and be quiet."

"Teresa," said my father in a low voice, "do you think Catalina would be able to see the children?"

"Why do you ask that, sir?" she said.

"I would like them to see her that she may embrace them for the last time. You know what the doctor said."

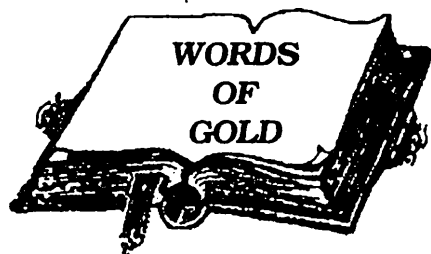
"Oh, those doctors!" said Teresa in a scornful tone. "The doctors don't know what they're talking about. Don't lose hope, sir. I know that Catalina may not live to be very old, but if God wills her to live, she will do so in spite of the doctors."

"Yes, but you know how weak she is. She never will be able to survive so many complications. And yet, how can I bear such affliction? She reminds me so much of her mother, the same voice, the same blue eyes, and even her identical way of smiling. And now to follow this child to the cemetery and return to the house where she will never be any more. Oh, what shall I do! What shall I do!"

"Why don't you consult the Great Physician, sir?"

"What do you mean by 'the Great Physician'?"

"I mean the Lord Jesus. Deliver Catalina into His hands. When He



Shadrach, Meshachp And Abednego

Daniel 3:7-15

7 Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of music, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down and worshipped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

8 Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews.

9 They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live for ever.

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

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

12 There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. Then they brought these men before the king.

14 Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?

15 Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?

The Message: People are watching our lives. We each have an influence on others.

Questions:

1. What did all the people do when they heard the music?
2. Who had set up the image?
3. Who accused the Jews?
4. What was the penalty for not worshipping the image?
5. What men were accused of disobeying?
6. How did Nebuchadnezzar react when he heard this?
7. What did he command them to do with the three men?
8. What did he ask them?
9. What did Nebuchadnezzar say that showed he did not believe God could deliver them?

(Answers: 1. They fell down and worshiped the image. 2. Nebuchadnezzar. 3. The Chaldeans. 4. To be thrown into the fiery furnace. 5. Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. 6. He flew into a rage. 7. To bring them to him. 8. "Don't you serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?" 9. "Who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?")

Verse to Memorize

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16.

Let's



Talk . . .

It seems there are some people who are determined that they will not serve God. When Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar both his dream and its interpretation, the king acknowledged: "Your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets!"

But now he seems to have forgotten that the true God is not made with hands. The king made a huge image of gold and commanded that all the officials of the provinces should come to the dedication of his image. When they were all assembled a herald told them that when they heard the sound of every kind of music, they were to fall down and worship the image. Whoever would not fall down would be cast into a burning fiery furnace.

Why do you suppose Nebuchadnezzar did this? He knew that ordinary men had made the image out of gold. Do you really believe that he thought that this image had power? He did not really care what god the people in his kingdom worshiped. But erecting this image and forcing them to worship the "god" he had made was Nebuchadnezzar's way of showing off his own power.

So when the officials from the provinces heard the music, they fell down and worshiped the image. Then some of the Chaldeans came to Nebuchadnezzar to accuse the Jews. These Chaldeans may have been the very ones that were saved from death about twenty years before because God revealed the king's dream to Daniel. They told the king, "Shadrach,

Meshach, and Abednego pay no heed to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up."

In a furious rage Nebuchadnezzar commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. These three men were governors in Babylon. Evidently the king knew them well.

Treating them as total strangers the king demanded, "Is it true that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image which I have set up? Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of music, to fall down and worship the image which I have made, well and good; but if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace; and who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands?"

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego could not obey the king. They would gladly declare their loyalty to Nebuchadnezzar but God had commanded them to have no other gods before Him and had prohibited the worship of any graven image. They would bow to none but the true God of heaven.

Now these three Hebrews were in an extremely difficult situation. Here they were in this large crowd. All eyes were turned on them to see if they would obey the king's stern command! Let's just think for a moment—what would you do if you were standing there? Would you be tempted to just kneel down and pray, "Now Lord I know you understand the danger I'm in—You know my heart. I'm not worshipping this image, but you know what they'd do to me if I didn't kneel down!"

Sometimes the Lord puts us in a tight place to prove us. In such times we can prove Him and His great power, if we are faithful. Remember others are always watching your life!

—Bro. Dale Doolittle

walked this earth, all the sick ones were brought to Him and He healed them all."

"But He's no longer on the earth."

"No; but His power is the same today as it was then."

"Teresa, do you pray nowadays?"

"Yes, sir, I do."

"When did you begin to pray?"

"From the time that Paula entered the house, sir."

"I suspected that."

"Now, please don't go and rebuke her, sir. If you only knew how she loves you, and how she prays for you and Catalina. Oh, sir, how many times she has made me blush for shame."

"How so, my good Teresa?"

"That's a fact, sir. I used to think to myself, 'You're a pretty good woman, you have suffered much in your life, you work hard, you don't do any harm to anybody, surely you will go to heaven.' But when I saw Paula and the reality of her religion, and how she loved God, oh, then, sir, I comprehended for the first time in my life that I was a sinner worthy of hell, and I prayed to God that He would pardon me."

"And—did He do it?"

"The Saviour assures us, sir, that 'He that cometh to Him, He will in no wise cast out.' So I dare to believe that He has pardoned me." Teresa was pale with emotion. It was the first time that she had confessed the Lord before men, and it cost her a good deal to do so to my father. He was apparently too depressed to be angry. After a moment of silence he said, "Where is Paula?"

"I sent her to town to get certain things that are needed."

"When she returns, send her to Catalina's room. I shall remain there until, until—" My poor father could not conclude the sentence.

Then turning to me, "When Paula

returns I wish you to come in to Catalina's room also, Lisita."

"Yes, father," I answered him in a low voice.

A quarter of an hour later Paula returned. Never shall I forget the anguish and terror that I experienced when Teresa, warning us to be quiet, led the way to the bedside of my dying sister.

Catalina did not appear to notice our entrance. Her eyes were closed, and her face so pale that I believed her already dead, but my father made signs to us to draw a little nearer and putting his hand over the forehead of my poor sister, he called to her gently, in a voice that betrayed great anguish, "Catalina, Lisita and Paula have come to visit you. Would you not like to embrace them?"

"Lisita... Paula..." I heard Catalina murmur in a far-away voice. "Ah, yes, I remember. Help me up, father." My father lifted the poor thin body of his daughter. In spite of all I could do, I could not keep from crying, thinking that it would be the last time that I would embrace my big sister, whom I had loved so little. She looked at us for a long while, and then said calmly, "Have you two come to say good-bye to me?"

"No, no," said my father; "we hope that..."

"No, father, I'm dying. I know that well. It is useless to keep it from me. Think of it, only eighteen years old, and yet I've been of no use to anybody, and nobody's going to miss me very much."

"Catalina," exclaimed my father, "do not speak so. You hurt me talking that way, and you make Lisita and Paula cry."

(To be continued next week.)

(Look for "Answers" on page 2.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 8 May 26, 2002

Catalina's Illness

(Continued from last week.)

The story to this point: When Paula was a young orphan she was sent to live with her uncle and his family which consisted of Catalina, Rosa, Louis, Lisita who tells this story, and Teresa, the faithful old servant. After a terrible fall Catalina, the oldest daughter, could only lie in bed. Then she suddenly took a turn for the worse. It looked like she would die at any time.

"Are you really crying, Lisita?" and Catalina turned her feverish eyes toward me. "How strange! I have not been a very good sister to you, and I always thought you didn't care for me."

"Oh, Catalina," I exclaimed, kneeling beside the bed, "please don't die. I do love you so. I promise to come and care for you every day and I'll never make another noise while you are sick. I will be always good to you, indeed—even when you're bad-humored. Please don't die." And then I sobbed with such violence that my father, fearing that such conduct would cut even shorter that parting life upon the bed, asked Teresa to take me away.

But Catalina said, "Let her alone, father. It really does me good to see her cry. I never dreamed that Lisita

had any heart at all. But I see now that it has been all my fault. If I had only been a bit better-tempered with her, she would have shown me a little more affection. Rosa, give me a little water, please." And Rosa placed a teaspoonful of water between the lips of our poor sister.

"Are you quite bad, my daughter?" asked my father.

For some minutes, Catalina could not reply, but finally she said, "Lisita, don't cry any more, please. Now, listen."

I tried to calm myself.

"We need to ask each other's pardon, my poor little sister," she said.

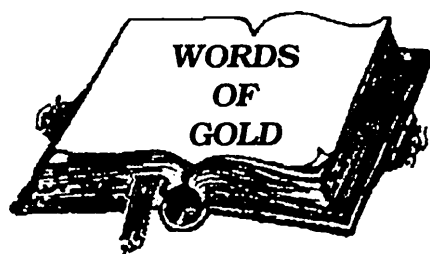
"Now kiss me. Tell me that you forgive me."

"Oh, yes, indeed, I do forgive you," I answered, "from the bottom of my heart."

"It is I who have been wicked, whereas you have been so very, very sick, while I enjoy such good health."

"Yes, that's true," said Catalina, "but I'm older, and I should have shown you a better example. I had always thought of myself and now—it's too late to change! Come, dear Lisita, come and kiss me once more."

I could have wished to have stayed there on my knees for hours and hide my head with shame and tears, but I didn't dare refuse to show this last sign of affection for Catalina. So I laid my hot cheek against that of my sister,



The Fiery Furnace

Daniel 3:16-25

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

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

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

19 Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.

20 And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

21 Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

22 Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego.

23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king

was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

25 He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

Message: God was glorified because three Hebrew men were willing to die rather than disobey Him. Even king Nebuchadnezzar had to acknowledge that there was no god like their God who could deliver His faithful servants from the fiery furnace.

Questions:

1. Can you say the names of the three Hebrew children?
2. What was God able to deliver them from?
3. What did the three tell the king they would not serve?
4. Did they agree to worship the king's image?
5. Why did Nebuchadnezzar command the furnace to be made hotter?
6. Who did he command to throw the Hebrews into the furnace?
7. What did they do to the three before throwing them into the flames?
8. What happened to the men who threw them in?
9. What did the king see in the fire?

Verse to Memorize

**...Who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?
Daniel 3:15.**

Let's



Talk . . .

Now we come to the supreme test. The fiery furnace is in plain view from where the three Hebrew children are standing. King Nebuchadnezzar is furious that these three did not bow down to the great image he set up. But he is offering to give them one more chance to change their minds.

By this time all the people are looking to see who would be foolish enough to defy the king when it was sure they would be burned alive for doing so! What if, under this extreme pressure, Shadrach had said, "You fellows speak for yourselves and do what you have to do. But I know that fire is hot—I've changed my mind!"

But, thank the Lord, that was not the case. They all stood in complete agreement; they would not bow down to any image, even to save their lives. Without hesitating they boldly answered, "Our God is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace. But even if He does not, O king, we will not serve your gods, nor worship the golden image which you have set up!"

These three had served God faithfully and proved His power in other crisis. Now God gave them faith, hope and courage to face this furious king. They believed that God could deliver them out of the king's hand. In other words they believed that God could prevent Nebuchadnezzar from throwing them into the furnace.

But even if God did nothing for them they were still willing to be faithful to Him. They would be delivered—whether they escaped the furnace or even if God allowed the flames

to take their lives. They would not worship any other god even if it meant they would be burned alive. They didn't need more time to think about it—their minds were firmly made up!

Think of the poor soldiers that had the job of tying them up and throwing them into the furnace. Their job was to make sure these men did not escape—they must be thrown into the hottest part of the flames. Since the three Hebrews were bound hand and foot, the soldiers had to pick them up and carry them to the mouth of the furnace. These mighty men were killed instantly, proving the intensity of the deadly flames.

Can you imagine having your hands and feet tied so you are totally helpless, then being thrown into the middle of a raging fire? The three Hebrews could not break their fall—they may have landed face down in those flames.

King Nebuchadnezzar watched the action. He knew it was all over for these insolent foreigners who dared defy his order. But suddenly he jumped up in surprise. "Didn't we bind three men and throw them into the middle of the fire?" he demanded.

"That is true, O king," his counselors answered.

"But I see four men loose, walking in the middle of the fire. They are not even hurt! And the fourth one looks like the Son of God."

God had His own way of answering the Hebrews' prayer for protection. He did nothing to save them from being thrown into the fiery furnace. Instead He went right in with them. He kept them, not out of their trial, but in their trial. God still deals this way with His children. He may allow suffering to come but right in the middle of the suffering He is there taking them through!

—Bro. Dale Doolittle

trying to bid her good-bye, and her tears mingled with mine.

When Paula's turn came, Catalina was so exhausted that she could hardly say a word. But finally, she said, "You will take my place at father's side, Paula. Father, I'm dying. Paula will take my place, and I know she will be a better daughter than I could have ever been."

Her strength was going rapidly and we could hardly hear her words. And now my father softly put her back on the pillows and motioned us to retire.

Exhausted by remorse and grief, I threw myself on my bed and continued crying until at last I fell into a heavy sleep.

During the week that followed, Catalina hovered between life and death. Teresa never went to bed, but took short cat-naps in her chair at times, as best she could, and my father made very rare and short visits to his office, bringing a good part of his work home with him. This was a very anxious time for the whole family.

Rosa now replaced Teresa, either in the kitchen or at the bedside of the invalid, as the case might be. And I continued at school where, thanks to the fears that filled my heart, I was a model of good conduct.

Paula had quickly learned to make herself useful. She lacked experience in a house like ours, but her willingness and cheerfulness more than made up for the clumsiness of her hands as she would say to Teresa, "Let me do that, dear Teresa; you are so tired, and you have so much work now." Teresa, accustomed as she was to perform everything herself, hesitated a little at first; but Paula would look at her in such a beseeching way that she generally yielded to her.

From the time that Catalina fell ill, Rosa had to make all the purchases in

town, and this was not a small thing, for the distance from the old Convent to the city was considerable. At times Paula was allowed to go with her. "Why don't you let me go alone to the city?" Paula said to her. "If you did not have to go out, you could help Teresa so much more in caring for Catalina."

"That's true; but you couldn't go alone to the city. You'd get lost!"

"No, no, never fear such a thing. Let me go, and I'll have not a bit of trouble finding my way back." And Rosa, like Teresa, at last yielded to her pleading.

"How is Catalina now?" was my first question on returning from school.

"Always the same," Paula would say.

"Do you think, Paula, she'll ever get well?"

"That I don't know, Lisita. But I believe she will. Teresa prays for her, and so do I. God is able to heal all the sick people. You know that; don't you, Lisita?"

And then, as she thought of the dear sick one that the Lord had not healed, whose body was lying in the faraway Waldensian valley she added, "I know the Lord did not heal my father, but then, you know, he was prepared to go."

"What do you mean 'prepared'?" I said, a bit puzzled.

"Oh, I mean to say that my father had given his heart to the Lord Jesus, and so he was ready to go to heaven."

[To be continued next week.]

(Answers: 1. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. 2. The fiery furnace. 3. His gods. 4. No. 5. Because he was full of fury. 6. His most mighty men. 7. They bound them. 8. They were killed by the fire. 9. Four men walking around.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 9 June 2, 2002

Lisita's Prayer

(Continued from last week.)

The story to this point: Paula, a young orphan, was sent to live with her uncle and his family which consisted of Catalina, Rosa, Louis, Lisita who tells this story, and Teresa, the faithful old servant. After a terrible fall Catalina, the oldest daughter, could only lie in bed. When she suddenly took a turn for the worse, the family expects that she will soon die. Lisita turns to Paula for instruction and comfort. She asks Paula:

"I suppose it is very difficult to prepare one's self for heaven," I said guardedly.

"Oh, no," said Paula. "If we ask the Lord Jesus to give us a new heart, He always does so."

"What do you think," I said, "has Catalina received a new heart?"

"I don't know," and Paula hesitated, "but I don't think so. She torments herself so, and seems so afraid to die."

"Oh, Paula, how I wish she would get well! Before she became so ill, I didn't care for her a bit, and I believe she didn't care for me either. But after having said good-bye to her that afternoon, I certainly do love her. Poor Catalina! In the middle of the school session, many times it comes to me, 'Suppose that Catalina should

die today!' Then I do not seem to be able to pay any more attention to the lessons. It seems as if Catalina was there, dead in her bed, and I hardly dare to come home. If I had not been so wicked to her before she became so ill, I know I would not feel so."

"Now listen, Lisita! This is what you ought to do. You ought to ask the Lord Jesus to heal Catalina."

"He'd never do it for me," I said.

"And why not?" asked Paula.

"Because I'm sure God doesn't hear the prayers of wicked people."

For awhile Paula did not answer me. I saw that she was thinking about what I had just said. Suddenly, a ray of happiness illumined the dear face with its great dark eyes, as she exclaimed, "Yes, He does hear wicked people."

"How do you know that?" I said.

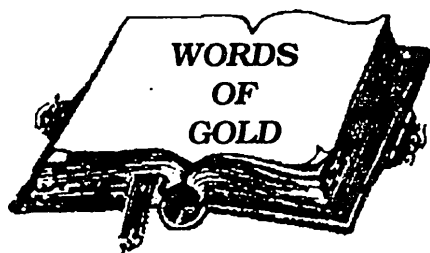
"Because when Jesus Christ hung on the cross, one of the robbers asked Him to remember him when He came into His kingdom, and the Lord promised to do so."

"Well, then," I murmured, "perhaps the Lord might hear me also."

Paula turned about and faced me. "But, my dear Lisita, you're not wicked."

"Most certainly I am," said I.

"No, no, you're not that bad, and if you wish to be my sister, you will



There Is No Other God!

Daniel 3:26-30

26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, came forth of the midst of the fire.

27 And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.

28 Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.

29 Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dung-hill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.

30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, in the province of Babylon.

I Peter 4:12-14, 16

12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try

you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye;...

16 Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

The Message: God deals with some people in strong ways!

Questions:

1. Who went to the mouth of the fiery furnace?
2. What did he command the three Hebrew children?
3. What did Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego do?
4. What had no power on their bodies?
5. What happened to their hair?
6. Were their clothes burned off or did they smell like smoke?
7. Who did Nebuchadnezzar bless?
8. What did he decree?
9. What happened to the three Hebrews?

(Answers: 1. Nebuchadnezzar. 2. To come to him. 3. They walked right out of that furnace. 4. The fire. 5. It was not even singed. 6. No! 7. God. 8. If anyone spoke against God, they would be cut in pieces and their homes destroyed. 9. They were promoted.)

Verse to Memorize

Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

I Peter 4:16.

Let's



Talk . . .

King Nebuchadnezzar had conquered many lands and nations. He felt very powerful because of these victories. To show his power he ordered a great image of pure gold to be erected and then commanded everyone to worship it.

Now Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego worshiped only the Lord God of all creation. They refused to fall down and worship the image. Some of the people who did not like them went to the king and told him that the three did not fall down and worship the image when they heard the music. This made King Nebuchadnezzar furious. He ordered the three young men to appear before him and threatened to throw them into the furnace if they did not bow down to the image.

The three boldly informed Nebuchadnezzar that God was able to deliver them from the burning furnace. But even if He did not they declared, "We will not fall down and worship your image. We worship the Lord God and Him alone!"

In a rage the king ordered the furnace to be fired seven times hotter than normal. Then he commanded his most mighty men to bind the three with ropes and throw them into the blazing fire.

The flames were so hot that all of the mighty men died from the heat when they opened the furnace and threw in the three young men.

As King Nebuchadnezzar sat gazing into the furnace he suddenly jumped to his feet exclaiming in amazement, "Didn't we bind three

men and throw them into the fire? Look! I see four men, loose, walking in the fire, and they are not hurt. One looks like the Son of God!"

The king rushed to the mouth of the furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out and come here!"

The three young men calmly walked right out of the fire and stood before the king. Everyone was amazed. These three young men had survived the fire that had killed the men who threw them in! Their hair was not even singed and their clothes had not burned. There was not even the smell of smoke on them. In fact the only thing that had burned were the ropes that had bound them!

When the king could recover from his shock he said, "Blessed is the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego who sent His angel to protect and deliver His servants who trusted in Him. I make a decree that any people, nation or language who speaks anything against their God shall be cut into pieces and their houses burned, because there is no other God who can deliver like this!"

It is amazing how God shows His mercy and power to some people time and again. Since Daniel and his three friends were rulers under the king, Nebuchadnezzar had to have seen the power of God in their lives. Surely he remembered the interpretation of his dream years ago.

Now God, in his faithfulness, again showed His great power to the king. After seeing that the fire could not burn the men who dared to trust God, Nebuchadnezzar seemed to be thoroughly convinced that everyone should serve and worship God alone. But the Bible does not tell us that he made any change himself. Wouldn't it be awful to be lost after having so many opportunities to be saved!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

"I?I? Good!" I stared at my cousin. At any rate I knew that that very night, for the first time in my life, I was going to pray to the good Lord before I slept. Teresa had come in to say goodnight and put out the light. I hadn't the courage to get up and kneel beside the bed as Paula did, but I joined my hands in prayer and closed my eyes as she had done, and with my head buried in the pillow, I murmured, "Oh, my God, I've never asked anything of You, and I wouldn't have dared to have said a word to You tonight if Paula had not said that You heard the prayers even of wicked penitent ones like me. My God, I ask You to heal my sister Catalina, and I ask it with all my heart. I haven't been very good to her, and I'm very sorry, and I'm going to be better from now on. My God, please let her live, and if she gets well, I promise You now to do all my lessons faithfully for a whole week. And so I thank You ahead of time, Amen."

[illegible]

Two days later Catalina was out of danger! It was my father who told me the good news on my return from school. "Oh, how happy, how happy I am, father!" I cried as I danced for joy.

"No more than I am, my daughter," he answered gravely.

Catalina recovered slowly and seemed to constantly desire Paula's company. In the afternoon, on returning from school, I would find her by the bedside, always happy, always smiling, with the complete forgetfulness of self that had always been such a wonder to me.

A new gentleness seemed to come

over my father as the days passed, and I noticed that he always seemed to observe Paula with a sort of puzzled air.

Paula, too, seemed to change. That little Alpine flower, accustomed to the pure mountain air of her beloved country, naturally could not be transplanted from her native soil without some damage, and besides, that sensitive conscience of hers always seemed to be in a struggle between obedience to her God and her duty towards my father.

"That girl is nothing more or less than stubborn," I heard my father say one day to Teresa; which remark our old servant answered with a grimace behind his back.

One day, Teresa, with an air of triumph, showed us a New Testament on her return from town. Paula took it from her hand for a moment, and then returned it to our old servant after caressing the shining cover with great tenderness.

"Take it," said Teresa, "it's not only mine, but yours, and you will have more time to read it than I will."

"No, Teresa dear," and Paula sighed as she put her hands behind her back. "I know I'll get my Bible some day. That's what I've asked God for, and I know He answers prayer."

A little later, Paula said to me, "I certainly would have loved that New Testament, for there are two or three favorite pages with which I would like to refresh my memory, but I simply can't deceive my uncle. But what am I going to do, Lisita? I must never forget what I promised papa when he died." (Never forget, never forget! was Paula's constant preoccupation.)

(To be continued next week.)

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(Look for "Answers" on page 2.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 10 June 9, 2002

A Letter For Paula

(Continued from last week.)

The story to this point: Paula, a young orphan, was sent to live with her uncle and his family which consisted of Catalina, Rosa, Louls, Lisita who tells this story, and Teresa, the faithful old servant. Catalina became gravely ill and the family expected that she would soon die. Lisita had never prayed but with Paula's encouragement asked God to heal Catalina. She is overjoyed when Catalina recovers. Paula is tempted when Teresa offers her a new Bible. Her uncle still has not returned hers to her. But Paula refuses Teresa's kind offer—her uncle has forbidden her to read the Bible and she will not disobey.

But in spite of these problems which seemed to confront her, her perfect faith in God came to her aid, and seemed to give her wisdom to take the right road through it all. At times I would surprise her on her knees with her eyes closed and a certain strange indefinable light on her tear-stained face. Immediately, however, as she sensed my presence, she would spring to her feet and I found the same natural happy creature that I delighted to call my companion. It was not in vain that she prayed! Her God, whom she had not ceased to serve in the midst of the

worldly atmosphere that surrounded her, seemed to come to comfort and strengthen her.

Away off there in Villar, the little orphan was not forgotten. One day, to her great excitement, Paula received a letter, directed personally to her, from someone from her own beloved land.

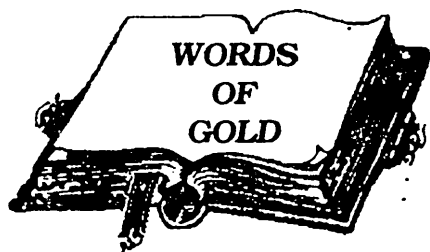
"What beautiful writing!" exclaimed Rosa. "Who could it be from?"

I think it must be from my god-mother," responded Paula, trembling with emotion. "Oh, do give me the letter, Rosa."

Rosa, always full of fun, pretended to keep the letter, to the dismay of our small cousin, who didn't always see through our jokes, but finally yielded to her entreaties.

"Wouldn't you like to read it to us, Rosa?" asked Paula, tearing open the envelope. "I find it much harder to read writing than printing."

Rosa was only too glad to learn the secrets contained in such an unusual communication. And so this is what we heard as she read, "My dear god-daughter: I cannot tell you how dismayed I was on my return from Geneva to learn of the death of thy father. I know he is at peace in heaven, happy at the side of the Lord he so dearly loved. But it is for thee that my heart was torn with anguish. Canst thou imagine the pain that filled it



Another Dream

Daniel 4:1-12

1 Nebuchadnezzar the king, unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied unto you.

2 I thought it good to shew the signs and wonders that the high God hath wrought toward me.

3 How great are his signs! and how mighty are his wonders! his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation.

4 I Nebuchadnezzar was at rest in mine house, and flourishing in my palace:

5 I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the thoughts upon my bed and the visions of my head troubled me.

6 Therefore made I a decree to bring in all the wise men of Babylon before me, that they might make known unto me the interpretation of the dream.

7 Then came in the magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers: and I told the dream before them; but they did not make known unto me the interpretation thereof.

8 But at the last Daniel came in before me, whose name was Belteshazzar, according to the name of my god, and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods: and before him I told the dream, saying,

9 O Belteshazzar, master of the magicians, because I know that the

spirit of the holy gods is in thee, and no secret troubleth thee, tell me the visions of my dream that I have seen, and the interpretation thereof.

10 Thus were the visions of mine head in my bed; I saw, and behold, a tree in the midst of the earth, and the height thereof was great.

11 The tree grew, and was strong, and the height thereof reached unto heaven, and the sight thereof to the end of all the earth:

12 The leaves thereof were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all: the beasts of the field had shadow under it,...

The Message: In His great mercy God again revealed Himself to Nebuchadnezzar through a dream. Then, in praise to God the king exclaimed, "His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom!"

Questions:

1. What king is writing this chapter?
2. Who had worked signs and wonders for him?
3. God's kingdom is what kind of kingdom?
4. Where was the king when he had this dream?
5. How did his dream affect him?
6. Who did he call to interpret his dream?
7. Who did he finally call?
8. What spirit was in Daniel?
9. What did the king see in his dream?

Verse to Memorize

Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

Psalms 107:8.

Let's



Talk . . .

Today's lesson takes place about ten years after God delivered the three Hebrew children out of the fiery furnace. Nebuchadnezzar himself wrote this chapter. It tells of a dream from God which transformed his life. Because of this dream, Nebuchadnezzar is writing to tell the people about the mighty signs and wonders that God has shown him. He is praising God, declaring Him to be the high God whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom.

God had indeed revealed Himself in miraculous ways to Nebuchadnezzar. Do you remember when none of the wise men could reveal the king's dream? But God, through Daniel, not only told him his dream but interpreted it too! Then later when he had the three Hebrew children thrown into the murderous flames Nebuchadnezzar himself had to admit that it was God who delivered them. Yes, God proved in many ways that He alone is God—there should have been no doubt left in Nebuchadnezzar's mind.

But it is amazing how some people just don't seem to get the message when God is dealing with them. Before Nebuchadnezzar came to the place where he could write these praises to God, God had to deal with him again—and in a very harsh way, as we will see.

Nebuchadnezzar had become the richest and most powerful man on earth. He built Babylon, the greatest city in the world, and ruled over all the nations around him. He conquered and did whatever he wanted with every nation he fought against. He

exalted anyone he wanted; he killed anyone he chose to. Whatever he said was the law. Naturally he became very proud of his status and accomplishments!

It was God who had blessed the king and brought him success, but the proud monarch took all the glory to himself. Foolishly, the king rode over all God's dealings and continued in his own selfish ways. So God gave Nebuchadnezzar a dream to warn him of what would happen if he did not humble his heart.

I trust that this is not the case with any of us! We need to always be alert and listening to know when God is speaking to us. Life can be so much happier and peaceful if we yield to God before Satan gets us bound up with habits and sins. It is most difficult to go back and ask forgiveness or restore something we have stolen. And some people never do. How awful it would be to meet God with sin in our life!

Nebuchadnezzar enjoyed life in his beautiful palace. He had all that his heart could desire. But God was displeased because of the king's pride. In mercy God sent him another dream warning him of the consequences of persisting in his pride. The dream troubled the king and made him afraid so he called the wise men of his kingdom to interpret it but they could not.

Finally he called for Daniel. You would think that he would have sent for Daniel in the first place. Nebuchadnezzar himself had declared that the spirit of God was in Daniel. Why would the king ask the wise men who had failed before?

But why is it that we wait so long before we turn to God with our problems? He is the One who controls the events of our lives. When we don't understand a situation or need guidance go to God first thing!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

when I found on my return to Villar, that both of you had gone from me?

"The Pastor in the village told me that thou hadst gone to your uncle's house in Normandy, and that thou were well-cared for. But oh, how I would have wished to have kept thee with me. But thou knowest, that for me, that would have been impossible, having to care for my old father and mother, as well as payoff their debts.

"I know, however, with the help of God, some day I shall be free. Then we shall return to buy the little farm where my father made us such a happy home, and at that time I trust that thou wilt come back and live with me—but then, I suppose thou wilt have become a great lady, and wilt not be content to come back to such a simple life with an obscure country woman (although I really don't believe that)."

"Oh, no, no, no!" suddenly interrupted Paula. "God-mother knows very well that I shall never forget the happy life in Villar."

"Then, you will go back there?" inquired Rosa.

"Of course. Why not?" and Paula looked quite surprised.

"What's that you say? You would leave all of us who love you so?"

"Oh, no indeed, you shall all come with me," responded Paula, who generally had a way of solving every difficulty.

Rosa smiled and returned to her reading. "I have just been to see the grave of thy dear father where I planted some hardy white roses which will stand the winter winds. I went also to the neighboring village of Endroit where thou usedst to visit the poor, and immediately I was surrounded by thy friends. Papa Pierre Vigne especially sends his love. They all spoke of thee and called down blessings on thy head, especially that thou mightst

be a witness for the Lord in thy new home. Mama Vigne recalled the time when thou visitedst her when she was so sick, and how happy thou madest her when thou didst sing those beautiful hymns to her. I believe, my dear one, that if thou shouldst write her a few lines, it would be like letting in a little heaven on her simple life, as she would thus see that the daughter of their best friend is thinking still of those whom she used to make happy by her heavenly presence. All those that have known thee and know that I am writing send kisses and loving remembrances. Many persons have asked that thou shouldst pray for them. They love thee so and miss thy presence, my dear, dear god-daughter! Continue, Paula, always to be obedient. Love everybody, and above all else, the God of thy father who awaits thee in heaven. Love not the world nor the things that are in the world. Be thou a valiant soldier, faithful unto death, and Christ shall give thee the crown of life, for He will never forget thee, and neither do we in this far-off valley, nor thy good deeds which thou hast done amongst us. And now, may God bless thee and keep thee safe in His hands. ...Thy loving godmother, Evangelina, who prays for thee."

Paula, overcome by emotion, buried her face on Rosa's shoulder.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. King Nebuchadnezzar. 2. God. 3. An everlasting kingdom. 4. At rest in his house. 5. It made him afraid. 6. The magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers. 7. Daniel. 8. The spirit of God. 9. A tree.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 11 June 16, 2002

The Five Franc Piece

(Continued from last week.)

The story to this point: Paula, a young orphan, was sent to live with her uncle and his family which consisted of Catalina, Rosa, Louts, Lisita who tells this story, and Teresa, the faithful old servant. Godly parents raised Paula. She never dreamed there were people who did not love and serve God; who never prayed or read the Bible. She had promised her father she would pray and read her Bible every day. When her uncle took her Bible and forbid her to pray it seemed more than she could bear. A letter from her god-mother brings vivid memories to Paula of her life before the death of her dear father. She could not keep back the tears when Rosa read the letter to her.

"Wait a minute," said Rosa, "don't cry. Here is something more."

Paula dried her eyes and listened intently as Rosa continued, "P. S. I am sending thee five francs by money order which you can redeem at your post office. Buy something with it by which to remember me."

"Five francs!" repeated Paula, with astonishment now instead of tears on her face, "Are you sure?"

"Of course. See. Here is the money order."

Paula, who never in her life had owned a single cent, could hardly

believe that she was the possessor of so much riches!

Her godmother's letter was, of course, a tremendous event for all of us. Rosa had to read it over and over many times, and it seemed as if Paula wished to learn it by heart. Even my father read it with great attention and appeared quite pleased.

One thing however displeased Teresa—the eagerness with which Paula immediately planned to spend all her money.

"How now!" she exclaimed, "Is it burning a hole in your pocket? I should think a little girl like you would prefer to keep the money."

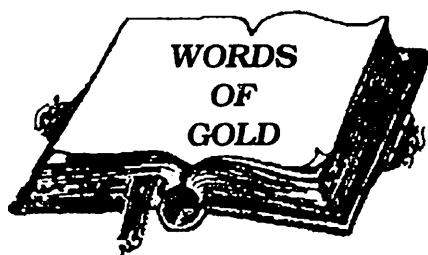
"Keep it?" said Paula. "Why should I keep it?"

But the next day, when Teresa announced that she was going to the city, she invited us both to come along. "What are you going to buy?" she asked Paula.

"Oh, so many things. You shall see!"

And the "things" which we "saw" were certainly a great surprise to us. First we went to the book-shop where a number of souvenir cards were purchased to send back to Villar. From there, on passing a window filled with fruit, Paula exclaimed. "Oh, my, Catalina certainly does love grapes. I must get her some."

"Grapes!" said Teresa. "Look at the



Nebuchadnezzar Tells His Dream

Daniel 4:12-19

12 The leaves thereof (the tree in Nebuchadnezzar's dream) were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all: the beasts of the field had shadow under it, and the fowls of the heaven dwelt in the boughs thereof, and all flesh was fed of it.

13 I saw in the visions of my head upon my bed, and, behold, a watcher and an holy one came down from heaven:

14 He cried aloud, and said thus, Hew down the tree, and cut off his branches, shake off his leaves, and scatter his fruit: let the beasts get away from under it, and the fowls from his branches:

15 Nevertheless leave the stump of his roots in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his (Nebuchadnezzar's) portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth:

16 Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a beast's heart be given unto him; and let seven times pass over him.

17 This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.

18 This dream I king Nebuchadnezzar have seen. Now thou, O

Belteshazzar, declare the interpretation thereof, forasmuch as all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known unto me the interpretation: but thou art able; for the spirit of the holy gods is in thee.

19 Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was astonished for one hour, and his thoughts troubled him. The king spake, and said, Belteshazzar, let not the dream, or the interpretation thereof, trouble thee. Belteshazzar answered and said, My lord, the dream be to them that hate thee, and the interpretation thereof to thine enemies.

The Message: When God speaks in dreams only a person who has the spirit of God can interpret them.

Questions:

1. What found shadow under the tree in Nebuchadnezzar's dream?
2. Who was fed from the tree?
3. In his vision, who came down from heaven?
4. What did he say to do to the tree?
5. What was to be left of the tree?
6. Whose portion would be with the beasts in the grass?
7. What kind of heart would be given him?
8. Who was Belteshazzar?
9. Whose thoughts troubled him?

(Answers: 1. The beasts. 2. All flesh. 3. An holy one (angel). 4. Hew (cut) it down. 5. The stump. 6. Nebuchadnezzar's. 7. A beast's. 8. Daniel. 9. Daniel's.)

Verse to Memorize

**...Daniel had understanding
in all visions and dreams.
Daniel 1:17.**

Let's



Talk . . .

Nebuchadnezzar thought things were going well. He had power over many nations and he lived comfortably in his palace surrounded by dutiful servants. But then one night he had a very frightening dream. God gave him this dream to warn him what would happen if he persisted in his pride.

In the Bible God frequently spoke through dreams. When Jesus taught the people He often spoke to them using parables (stories) to illustrate His lesson. The dream God gave Nebuchadnezzar was of a great tree that was to be cut down. Now this might seem like just another meaningless dream but God used it to trouble the king's mind. He had a very solemn message to get to him.

Imagine that you had a special dream one night. All of a sudden about three o'clock in the morning you are jolted wide-awake. The dream seems so real that it just won't go away and you can not go back to sleep! Probably you wish it would hurry and get light outside!

No doubt you would be anxious to talk it over with your mom or someone you trusted. After describing what you saw in the dream that person might say, "Let me go in the bedroom and pray about this!"

If they came from the place of prayer after about an hour with a troubled look on their face I'm sure you would be concerned. If you could tell they were avoiding you and just didn't want to talk about it you would certainly be anxious to know the meaning of the dream wouldn't you?

They might say, "Oh, I'm so sorry. The dream involves you and your future and it is not good." By then you would be desperate to know what the strange dream meant. You would probably never forget that dream and its meaning!

God is so merciful that He tries every way He can to spare us from trouble. I believe this is why He speaks to us in dreams and parables. It is most important that we listen to His messages!

Everything written in the Bible is there to teach us how to live a happy, successful life. Ask the Lord to show you the meaning of the story Jesus told about the sower who went out to sow the seed. The parable about the man who gave talents to his servants and told them to use them is really teaching us that we each are responsible to use our abilities for the glory of God.

The twenty-third Psalm is one that most of us have learned. Is David really talking about sheep and a shepherd in this Psalm? No, he is talking about us! Jesus is like a caring gentle shepherd and we are like His little lambs. When we feel desperate and alone, just remembering that Jesus is always watching over us as the Good Shepherd in this Psalm will bring comfort and courage.

Do you realize that in every message you hear God has something in it especially for you? It could be a warning to keep you from making a bad mistake. Or it could be words of encouragement that you will need to give you strength to live for God. For this reason we should listen very carefully to the message the minister is bringing. In Sunday school you can learn how God worked miracles for those who dared to trust Him and stay true. You will know that He will do the same for you if you are faithful!

—Bro. Dale Doolittle

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 12 June 23, 2002

Gifts For Everyone

(Continued from last week.)

The story to this point: Paula, a young orphan, was sent to live with her uncle and his family which consisted of Catalina, Rosa, Louis, Lisita who tells this story, and Teresa, the faithful old servant. Paula loves her new family and tries to be obedient even though it seems impossible to obey her uncle's command to not pray. A letter from her godmother brings tears and vivid memories to Paula. But there is something more—five francs—she had never had money of her own. Immediately she plans what she can buy for each one in her new family. As this story begins she and Lisita are shopping for an apron for Teresa, hoping to surprise her.

Paula gave one look at the aprons, "Oh, no; not that kind," she said with a consternation which I shared, seeing in imagination old Teresa with her great wooden shoes and her long skirts adorned with one of these elegant articles of the latest fashion.

"No? Don't you like these?" questioned the clerk.

"Oh, no," said Paula. "You see, it's for Teresa."

"And, pray, who is Teresa?"

Paula started to explain, when the anxious face of the old servant showed itself at the door of the shop across

the way, and not seeing us, had started to look up and down the street.

"Here she comes," I said. "Oh, Paula, what shall we do?"

"Go in behind the counter, there," said Paula who never lost her head.

I got in behind a pile of merchandise while Paula continued to explain her wants to the clerk from the dark corner of the shop. The young man appeared to comprehend our situation.

"Bertrand," and he turned to one of his fellow-clerks, "please attend to this young girl. I'll be back in a minute."

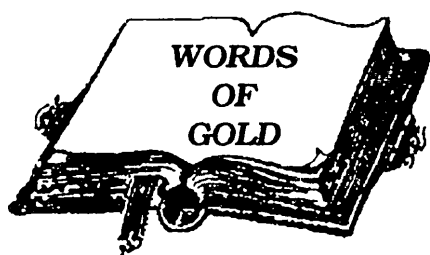
But "Bertrand" hardly had time to ask us what we wanted, when our first friend returned, bringing with him a package under his arm.

"I had a look at your Teresa," he said, "and I think that an apron of this excellent cloth will give her a thousand thrills. See what beautiful stuff it is."

Paula gave a nervous look toward the window before answering.

"No, she's not there," said the young man, divining her thoughts. "Not finding you here, she's gone on a bit, but you can find her easily enough."

We were enchanted with the goods which he displayed, and we were soon served, at not too great a cost.



Daniel Interprets The Dream

Daniel 4:20-28

20 The tree that thou sawest, which grew, and was strong, whose height reached unto the heaven, and the sight thereof to all the earth;

21 Whose leaves were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all; under which the beasts of the field dwelt, and upon whose branches the fowls of the heaven had their habitation:

22 It is thou, O king, that art grown and become strong: for thy greatness is grown, and reacheth unto heaven, and thy dominion to the end of the earth.

23 And whereas the king saw a watcher and an holy one coming down from heaven, and saying, Hew the tree down, and destroy it; yet leave the stump of the roots thereof in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts of the field, till seven times pass over him;

24 This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the most High, which is come upon my lord the king:

25 That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the

most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

26 And whereas they commanded to leave the stump of the tree roots; thy kingdom shall be sure unto thee, after that thou shalt have known that the heavens do rule.

27 Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity.

28 All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar.

The Message: God is faithful to warn us ahead of time of coming troubles. We will be spared much heartache if we will pay attention to God's warning.

Questions:

1. How high did the tree in the king's dream grow?
2. Who did the tree represent?
3. In what ways was the king like a great tree?
4. What had grown until it reached heaven?
5. Cutting down the tree meant the king would be driven from whom?
6. Where would he live?
7. What would he eat?
8. How did Nebuchadnezzar know he would get his kingdom back?
9. What did Daniel advise the king to break off?

Verse to Memorize

...Break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity.

Daniel 4:27.

Let's



Talk . . .

Nebuchadnezzar was troubled by yet another dream. He seemed to forget that only Daniel could reveal his previous dream. The king's first thought was to call for the wise men of his kingdom and ask them the meaning of his dream. But as before, his pagan servants were unable to interpret it. Finally he called for Daniel. "I know you are able to tell me the meaning of this dream," he assured Daniel, "because the spirit of the Holy God is in you."

And God did reveal the meaning of this dream also. Daniel hesitated to tell the king because it was not good news for him. Nebuchadnezzar saw Daniel's troubled expression and told him to not worry but to tell him the meaning of his dream.

And, although Daniel dreaded telling the king the meaning, this was the only way to help him avoid future misery. "My lord if only the dream applied to your enemies and its meaning to your adversaries!" Daniel lamented, "You, O king, are that tree! You have become great and strong; your greatness has grown until it reaches the sky, and your dominion extends to distant parts of the earth.

"You, O king, saw a messenger, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, 'Cut down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump, bound with iron and bronze, in the grass of the field, while its roots remain in the ground. Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven; let him live like wild animals, until seven times pass by for him.'

"This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree the Most High

has issued against my lord the king. You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like cattle and be drenched with the dew of heaven. Seven years will pass with you in this condition until you acknowledge that the Most High is ruler over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone He wishes.

"The command to leave the stump of the tree with its roots means that your kingdom will be given back to you when you acknowledge that heaven rules. Therefore, O king, be pleased to accept my advice: renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed. It may be that then your prosperity will continue."

Just as Daniel faithfully relayed God's message to Nebuchadnezzar, God's faithful ministers are careful to tell us the truth. We should truly appreciate them for this! Everyone enjoys hearing about heaven, but if we are not warned that we must be free from sin, we will never get there. It is much easier to pat someone on the back than to tell them they need to change their ways.

What if you and your family were driving down a road late one rainy night and you met a person coming from the opposite direction. He knew the bridge ahead of you had been washed out but he just hated to tell you. That would be bad news and would ruin your trip! Of course we can see how ridiculous and cruel this would be. How much more serious if we are not warned that eternal destruction is ahead if we do not have Christ as our Savior!

—Bro. Dale Doolittle

(Answers: 1. To heaven. 2. Nebuchadnezzar. 3. He had grown and become strong. 4. His greatness. 5. Men. 6. With the beasts of the field. 7. Grass. 8. The stump was left. 9. His sins.)

"You have been very good to us, sir," said Paula, starting to go out. "We have given you so much trouble, but when we wish to buy anything more, we shall always come here, will we not, Lisita? In the meantime, many thanks," and she extended her hand to him with surprising self-possession.

"The pleasure is all mine," said the young man, and I could see that he'd never met her like before.

Teresa was not far away, gazing into a jeweler's window. "At last, you're here," she said amiably. "Now, we must hurry, for it is very late." She made no mention of our untoward absence and one would have believed that she had not noticed it, and that relieved us very much.

"You certainly are late," said my father to Teresa on our return.

"I thought we'd never get through," said the good woman. "For you see, Paula had to spend—"

"Oh, yes, I understand. She had to get rid of her five francs.

"And now, Paula, show me what you have bought."

"All right. Here you are, uncle!"

Paula had always shown a certain timidity toward my father, and appeared to be slightly afraid of him. Slightly red in the face, she took out the packages one after the other from Teresa's bag.

"You shall see, sir. You shall see," commented Teresa, with a shake of her head.

"What a lot of packages!" said Rosa, on seeing all the bundles tied up with such care.

"Shall I help you open them?" said my father. "Let us see what's in this first package. My, my, what's this? White grapes! And of the finest kind! You certainly have got good taste. I'll say that much, Paula!"

"They are for Catalina, uncle."

"For Catalina?"

"Yes, uncle dear."

Now there was not a sign of derision in my father's voice. It had changed to a surprising tenderness as he said, "So you bought this for our Catalina? I know the cost of such fruit, and Teresa should not have consented." "And do you think, sir," broke in Teresa, "that when Paula wants to buy something, that she asks for my consent? You will soon be able to judge that for yourself. I never saw her equal."

"And this?" questioned Rosa, taking up the package of souvenir cards. Paula indicated the destination of each one as she gave the name and address of many of her old neighbors in far-away Villar.

"So you don't forget your old friends," observed my father.

"Oh, what a beautiful box this is," continued Rosa, "and, oh, look here," as she displayed the thimble inside. "Who can this be for?"

"Oh, that's for Lisita."

"For me," I cried, jubilantly, "oh, Paula! So you remembered that I have just lost my thimble."

"Two pencils," announced my father, undoing another small paper package.

"One of them is for Rosa and the other is for Louis," said Paula simply.

"My poor dear child," exclaimed Rosa. "What on earth are we going to do with you! Here's another package, but it appears so fragile that you'd better open it yourself."

"No, no; that's for uncle. Let him open it."

My father cut the cord that held the package. Paula hardly dared to raise her eyes, as he took the beautiful cup with its blue and gold ornamentation and took it over to the fading light, in order to examine it more carefully.

(To be continued next week.)

(Look for Answers on page 3.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 53, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 13 June 30, 2002

A Little Glimpse Of Heaven

(Continued from last week.)

The story to this point: Paula, a young orphan, was sent to live with her uncle and his family which consisted of Catalina, Rosa, Louis, Lisita who tells this story, and Teresa, the faithful old servant. Paula loves her new family and tries to be obedient even though it seems impossible to obey her uncle's command to not pray. When Paula received money from her godmother she could hardly wait to buy gifts for each one in her new family. Remembering her uncle had wished for a larger cup, she surprised him by buying the largest she could find. After examining the beautiful cup her uncle says:

"I don't know whether I should be angry or content," he said, with a dry smile.

"Better be content, uncle," said Paula appealingly.

"Well, so be it," he said. "At any rate, I am happy to have such a good and generous niece, who does love her uncle a bit. Is it not so, Paula?"

"There's one more thing," I cried. I wanted to see the effect on Teresa of that final package, which Paula handed over immediately to the old servant, saying gently, "It's for you, Teresa dear."

"What's this? How is it for me? When I strictly forbade you? But there you are! What can one do with such a girl?"

The apron was found to be eminently satisfactory and Teresa promised to put it on the first thing in the morning, and I could see a few tears in her eyes as she said so.

"And now," said my father, "you've shown us all these things which you have bought us with your five francs. Where is the present for yourself?"

Paula looked at us all with dismay. "I declare," she said, "I forgot! Never mind, I can buy something tomorrow," and she held up a few small coins which was all that remained of her five-franc-piece.

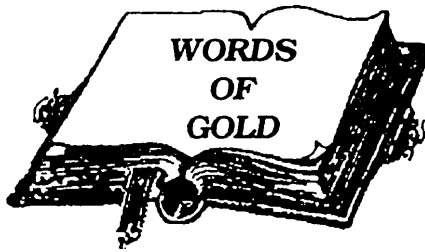
My father looked at her searchingly, with that new tenderness which I had seen frequently lately, and then left the room without another word.

"I believe," said Rosa, "that she'd be happy to give us her last piece of bread if there was occasion for it."

"Yes, and her life also, if that was necessary," said Teresa in a shaky voice, as she turned back to her duties in the kitchen.

Some days later Lisita writes:

What a wonderful afternoon it was! The sun, far down in the west, painted the eastern mountains with a lovely tint of orange. The warm air was



The Humbling Of A King

Daniel 4:29-34, 36-37

29 At the end of twelve months he (Nebuchadnezzar) walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon.

30 The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?

31 While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee.

32 And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

33 The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws.

34 And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation:

36 At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me.

37 Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

The Message: Nebuchadnezzar learned the hard way that it was God who had given him his power and authority, and that He could just as easily take it away.

Questions:

1. How long had it been since God warned Nebuchadnezzar in a dream?
2. Where was the king walking?
3. Who did the king say had built Babylon?
4. What did he hear while he was still saying this?
5. What had departed from the king?
6. How long was it before the dream was fulfilled?
7. What did he eat?
8. What did Nebuchadnezzar do when his understanding returned?
9. Who did he praise after this?

Verse to Memorize

...Those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

Daniel 4:37.

Let's



Talk . . .

In our last lesson Daniel told the king the meaning of his dream. He warned him to change his ways in hopes that God would have mercy and not execute judgment. But Nebuchadnezzar dismissed Daniel and went on in his proud ways. As time went on he thought less and less of God's warning.

A year later Nebuchadnezzar had all but forgotten his dream. As he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon and looking out over the land and all its greatness he spread his hands out in a sweeping motion, "Is not this the great Babylon which I have built for myself?" he demanded. "By my might and my power and for the glory of myself I've done all of this!"

The words were still on his lips when a voice came from heaven, "This is what is going to happen to you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you. You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like cattle. You will live this way for seven years, until you acknowledge that the Most High is ruler over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone He wishes."

Immediately the dream was fulfilled. Nebuchadnezzar lost his mind and was driven away from people. He ate grass with the cattle of the field and, living out in the open, his body became drenched with the dew every morning. His hair became long and unkempt, his fingernails became like the claws of a bird.

Then at the end of seven years Nebuchadnezzar lifted his eyes toward heaven and his sanity returned to him. Instantly he gave praise to the Most High and acknowledged Him as the Supreme Ruler of the Universe.

The king's advisers and nobles returned him to his throne. He was again established as ruler over the empire. Nebuchadnezzar became even greater than before, but he never forgot that it was God who had given him his power and authority. He could just as easily take it away.

God is faithful to warn us when something is not right in our heart. We must immediately confess our wrong and ask God to forgive us. If we do not we will be like Nebuchadnezzar and forget God's warning. The king could have spared himself great humiliation if he had changed his ways. Don't wait until He has to take drastic means to get our attention.

I will never forget an incident that happened to me. I was very young—probably 4 or 5 years old. We were living in New Mexico. My mother was standing at the kitchen cabinet fixing supper. I can even remember the toy I had in my hand and was playing with as she was talking to me.

She explained to me that each one of us has a little person inside that will never die but will live on in eternity. She said that little person would never be happy unless we are serving God. There will always be a craving for Him. We might think that we could go out in sin and have so much fun that that would make us happy. But it won't. That deep desire for God will still be there. We might think that if we get rich and have everything we could wish for, then we would be happy, but we won't. God alone can make our lives all they were meant to be!

—Bro. Dale Doolittle

balmy with the perfume of flowers and the birds were singing cheerfully as they flitted about.

All was quiet in Catalina's bedroom, where Paula and I were seated. My sister was now on the road to a partial recovery, having passed the danger-mark some days before. Another change also I noticed had come over her. Her impatience and irritability had gradually disappeared, day by day, and when she suffered more than ordinarily, she never seemed to complain. The expression of her face had sweetened also, and even a slight but quite natural smile would often illumine her thin features. Death had passed her by, but now seemingly a new influence gradually possessed her. This simple country maid of the Waldensian mountains had come smiling into her life, and although Catalina had frequently abused the kindness of our cousin, Paula never had lost patience with the poor invalid. Soon love had triumphed, and Catalina had begun to return the love of her little nurse even though at times she still kept her tyrannical attitude.

One day Catalina said to Teresa, "Paula's not a bit like the rest of us."

"No," she answered, "She's a 'Daughter of the good God!' Just as I said one day when she first arrived." Teresa sighed as she added, "What would I give to be like her!"

One beautiful afternoon, the poor invalid lay there with her eyes on Paula as if she wished to say something.

"How do you feel now?" said Paula, as Catalina's fixed gaze seemed to disturb her somewhat.

"Oh, I'm all right now. I was thinking of your god-mother's letter. She remembered, she said, the hymns you used to sing. You've never sung any of them to us, Paula."

I saw a mist in Paula's eyes as she answered. "No, that's true. I don't think I've sung a note since my father's death. Would you like to hear me sing?"

"Yes, indeed," said Catalina, without noticing Paula's emotion.

I was on the point of reminding them of father's formal prohibition relative to hymn-singing, but an imperative sign from Catalina stopped me.

"What do you wish me to sing?" said Paula.

"Anything you care to. It's all the same to me."

"Then," said Paula, "I will sing to you, 'No Night There'."

And then to our unaccustomed ears came the glorious words:

*"In the land of fadeless day,
Lies the city four-square,
It shall never pass away,
And there is no night there.*

*God shall wipe away all tears,
There's no death, no pain, nor fears;
And they count not time by years,
For there is no night there."*

Paula had that rare gift, the "golden" voice, a voice that seemed to penetrate to one's very soul. Catalina was enchanted!

Suddenly, I heard the heavy steps of a man coming along the corridor. But as Paula began the second stanza, I heard them pause.

(To be continued next week.)

[Answers: 1. Twelve months. 2. In the palace. 3. Himself. 4. A voice from heaven. 5. His kingdom. 6. In the same hour. 7. Grass. 8. He blessed, praised and honored God. 9. The King of heaven (God).]