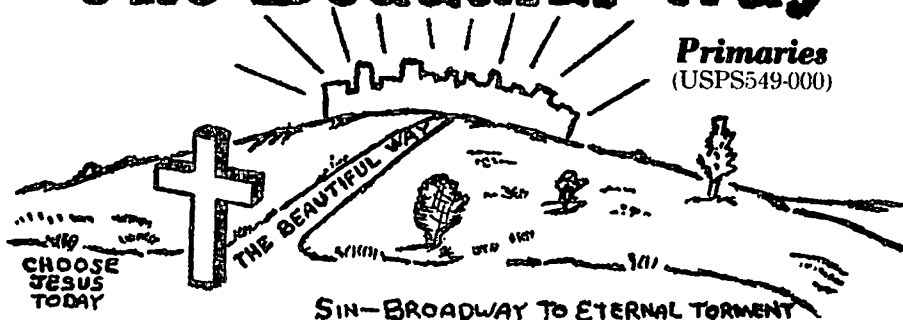


# ***The Beautiful Way***

**Primaries**  
(USPS549-000)



Vol. 35, No. 1

Jan., Feb., Mar., 1984

Part 14

January 1

## **Jesus Loves the Children**

Gal. 5:22; Luke 18:15-17

We all know about fruit: apples, pears, peaches, etc. We are going to study about a different kind of fruit—spiritual fruit.

The first fruit is love. When Jesus comes into our hearts, He puts His love in our hearts for everyone. For, truly, God is love.

Do you remember how that when Jesus was on earth, He loved all the people who came to Him? One day some mothers brought their little children and babies to Jesus, so He could bless them. When the disciples saw them they thought Jesus was too busy to see children, and told the mothers to take the children and go away. When Jesus heard what they had done, He was much displeased. He told the mothers to bring the children to Him. He showed how much He loved them when He blessed them.

When we love Jesus He helps us to love everyone. We love all those who are good to us, and even those who might not like us and maybe hurt us. Just as Jesus loves everyone, and does good to them, we must love everyone. We need to do good things for people.

**Memory Verse:** Thou shalt love the Lord. . . . Deut. 6:5.

## We All Must Die

Some people are very wicked. This means that they do many bad things and do not love God. Some men swear, lie, steal, and also do other sinful things.

To tell a lie is to say something that is not true, and to steal is to take something that belongs to someone else.

Now, it is very wrong to swear, lie, or steal. God does not want us to do any such things. All who do wicked things will some day be punished.

Some day we shall die, for all of us must die. If a man should be going some place through the deep snow, should get lost, and the cold should freeze him, it would kill him. He would not live any longer, but would be dead.

If we love God and live for Him, He will give us a home in heaven after we die; but if we are wicked, we shall be lost and punished for our wicked ways after we die.

We should think about our life here and see that we live to please God. If we do not, when we come to die we may be like a man in a boat. At one time he could have been saved—while he was floating on the smooth waters. But he had let it go too far, and can only look forward to his doom.

Let us love God and live for Him on earth, so we can live with Him in heaven after we die. When Christ was here on earth, He said: "I go to prepare a place for you, . . . that where I am, there ye may be also."

### Star

"Oh, Mother! Mother! Come and see what Daddy has under his jacket!" cried

James, as he jumped around excitedly.

"I'm not sure what it can be. What do you think it might be?" Mother said, as she stepped over to the window to watch Daddy coming up the walk.

Just then Daddy came in, and James ran over to him. "Daddy, what is that you have?"

Daddy laughed and said to James, "Well, now, just what do you think it is, Jamey boy?"

"Could it be a little puppy? You told me you might get one from your friend. Oh, I hope it is!" squealed James. He could hardly stand still he was so excited. He had waited for a puppy for such a long time. About that time out jumped a brown fuzzy ball of fur. It was his puppy! James hurried to pick it up. It was so roly poly. Looking it all over, he noticed a little white spot on its forehead. "Oh, that looks just like a little star. That's what I'll name it: Star!" exclaimed James. "Thank you so much, Daddy."

Now Daddy sat James down and told him that he would have to take care of Star all by himself. He would have to feed him, give him water, and all the things we need to do to care for a small puppy. That way he would show Star that he really did love him.

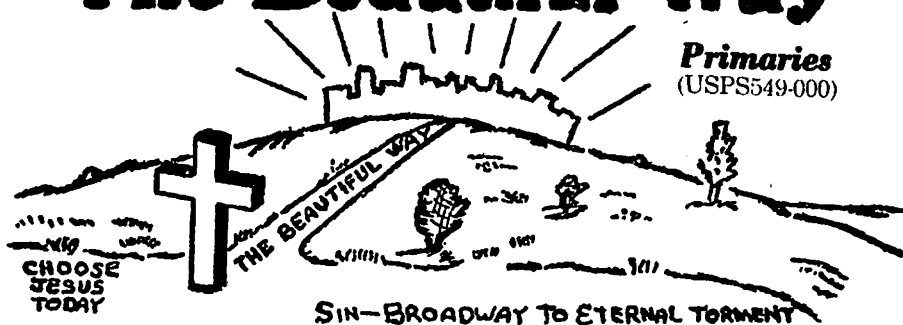
"Oh, I know I'll take good care of him, because I already love him from the start," James told Daddy. —D.W.

### Questions:

1. What is the fruit in our lesson?
2. Does it come into our hearts when Jesus comes in?
3. Who brought the children to Jesus?
4. What did the disciples think and do?
5. What did Jesus do?

# ***The Beautiful Way***

**Primaries**  
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Part 15

January 8

## **A Man Full of Joy and Rejoicing**

Acts 3:1-10

Joy is another fruit of the Spirit. What wonderful joy, or happiness Jesus gives us in our Christian walk with Him!

Outside the temple gate, Beautiful, a lame man was brought each day to beg for money. He had never walked in his whole life.

Peter and John came by, and the lame man, seeing them, asked for alms, or money. They noticed how crippled he was, and felt sorry for him. Peter said, "Look on us."

As the lame man looked up expecting money, Peter told him, "Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have, give I thee," and he commanded, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!"

Peter reached down and, taking him by the hand, lifted the man. At once the man was healed! He went walking, leaping, and praising God. When all who were around him, saw him, and knowing that he had never walked before, they, too, were rejoicing and thankful for His great healing.

Whenever Jesus touches our lives He makes us joyful.

**Memory Verse:** For the joy of the Lord is your strength.  
Neh. 8:10b.

## MIRIAM WAS A HELPER



The story of the little girl, in God's blest  
Holy Word,

Who helped her mother long ago, I'm  
sure you must have heard;

I love to hear it many times—as often as  
I can—

O how she kept wee Moses hid—safe  
from a cruel plan;

O Miriam was a helper sweet with courage  
strong and true

And watched the baby tenderly as she  
was told to do.

Her little brother safely lay within the  
cradle boat

Until a royal princess came and found it  
there afloat;

And at the Princess' brief command her  
loving heart was glad

To find and bring her mother there to  
nurse the little lad;

O Miriam was a helper true in days of  
long ago

And we must all be helpers too, and  
serve the best we know. —Sel.



## Grandma's Little Purse

"Oh, dear!" Grandma was saying.  
"I'm afraid I have lost my little change  
purse. And it has the money for the  
milkman in it. He'll be here in the morn-  
ing, too." And she looked for it in all  
the places she thought it might be.

Grandma finally had to stop looking  
for it, and get herself something to eat.  
All the while she was busy at that, her  
mind was thinking, "Where can that  
possibly be? Where did I leave it last?"  
After eating and doing the dishes, she  
looked around again without success.

Before going to bed, she always read  
her precious Bible and talked to the  
Lord. Tonight, after thanking Him for  
all His goodness to her, she said, "Je-  
sus, please help me find this purse. I  
know you can see just where it is, and  
you know I need the money in the morn-  
ing. Thank you. Amen."

After getting into bed, she went right  
to sleep, trusting the Lord to take care  
of it all. During the night, Grandma  
dreamed that Jesus was talking to her.

"Count it all joy when you have these  
kind of troubles," He told her.

"Yes, Lord, I know the Bible says,  
'Rejoice evermore.' Help me to rejoice  
and thank you for all these things,"  
said Grandma.

The next morning, before Grandma  
was even out of bed, there came a knock  
at the door. When she opened the door,  
there stood Betsy, her little friend next  
door. "Grandma, I found this right in  
front of your gate. I thought it might be  
yours," said Betsy, holding the purse up  
high for Grandma to see.

"Oh, thank you, Betsy. Jesus surely  
helped you to find it for me. I have  
looked everywhere in the house. Now I  
have the money for the milkman,"  
Grandma told her. She was so happy,  
she praised and thanked the Lord. Once  
again Jesus had helped her. —D.W.

### Questions:

1. Do we have joy when Jesus comes into our hearts?
2. What was wrong with the man in our lesson?
3. What were the names of the men who came to the temple?
4. What did Peter say to the lame man?
5. Was the man healed? What did he do?

# ***The Beautiful Way***

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Part 16

January 15

## **Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled**

Isa. 57:19-21; John 14:27

In our lesson today we are going to talk about the peace of God; the peace that Jesus gives us. Our next fruit of the Spirit is peace.

Jesus told the people that He would leave His peace with them, and give them His peace. Do you know what peace means? It is being calm and happy down in our hearts when trouble comes. Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." Sometimes we may be afraid, or anxious about something in our lives. But when Jesus is in our hearts, we look up to Him. He does not want us to be afraid, but He wants us to pray, and He will take care of us.

For the wicked people there isn't any peace. They don't know Jesus in their hearts, so Jesus cannot give the peace of God to them.

What a blessing it is to have the peace of God in our hearts, when we belong to Jesus! Let us always be good, and not wicked, so we can have God's peace. Matthew 5:9, says, "Blessed are the peacemakers." We surely want to be blessed!

**Memory Verse:** Seek peace, and pursue it. Psa. 34:14b.

## At Work

A little play does not harm anyone, but does much good. After play, we should be glad to work.

I knew a boy who liked a good game very much. He could run, swim, jump, and play ball; and was always merry when out of school.

But he knew that time is not all for play; that our minutes, hours, and days are very precious. At the end of his play, he would go home. After he had washed his face and hands, and brushed his hair, he would help his mother, or read in his book, or write upon his slate.

He used to say, "One thing at a time." When he had done with work, he would play; but he did not try to play and to work at the same time. —McGuffey's Reader

## Sarah has God's Peace

Mary was studying her Sunday School lesson. She read, "And the peace of God which passeth understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:7. As she read, she thought, "I wonder how we can have such peace that 'passeth understanding.'"

Later that day, Mother asked Mary if she would like to go visit the nursing home. Mary loved to visit the people in the home, and try to cheer them up. She always came away being encouraged, too. The people had such long days ahead of them, and some were so sick and not able to be up and around. So Mary would take her Bible and read to them. Sometimes they would ask her to sing for them. She had a lovely, sweet voice.

As she went from room to room, she encouraged each one. They all loved to

have Mary visit them. As she visited a new young girl who had just come to the home, she was especially blessed. Sarah was so afflicted in body. She was hardly able to move any of her body. Sarah had to have someone do everything for her—comb her hair, feed her, etc. But to Mary's delight, Sarah was encouraged in the Lord.

Sarah said to Mary, "I'm so thankful you came to visit me. I love to talk about Jesus and sing His songs. He has been so good to me. Jesus helps me each day. I'm just looking for Jesus to keep me in every way. My Bible tells me, 'Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.'" Isa. 26:3. And I do so want to keep my mind on the Lord and continue to trust Him."

After Mary had visited with Sarah, she read some from her Bible, and they sang a beautiful hymn together.

"Well, Sarah, I must go now. But I've been so encouraged by your trust in the Lord. You have such peace in knowing that God is helping you," Mary told Sarah, as she got ready to leave.

"Oh, Mary, I've enjoyed your visit. Please do come back," Sarah answered.

As Mary and Mother went on their way home, Mary thought, "Sarah surely has that wonderful 'peace that passeth understanding' that I read about in my Sunday School lesson." —D.W.

### Questions:

1. What fruit is in our lesson today?
2. Does Jesus want us to be afraid?
3. What should we do when we are afraid?
4. Will Jesus help us to have the fruit of peace in our hearts?
5. Will He give peace to the wicked?

# The Beautiful Way

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Part 17

January 22

## The Longsuffering of Joseph

Gen. 39:20-23; Gen. 40:23; Gen. 41:1

Suffering long is what our next fruit of the Spirit means—longsuffering.

When I think of Joseph, I'm reminded of his longsuffering. Joseph was sold to Potiphar to be his slave. Joseph tried to do his best as a slave. He believed God was with him and he still wanted to be pleasing to God. He worked honestly and faithfully. One day Potiphar's wife told a lie on Joseph. Potiphar believed his wife and was angry. He had Joseph put in prison.

What a terrible thing to happen! First, Joseph was made a slave, then he was put in prison for no fault of his own. Even yet, Joseph pleased God, and He blessed him.

One day Pharaoh, the king, put the butler and the baker into prison, too. The baker and butler had a dream, and God helped Joseph to interpret the butler's dream. He told him that he would soon be out of prison. Joseph asked the butler to tell Pharaoh about him being in prison. But it was two long years before Joseph got out. That was a long time to suffer wasn't it?

**Memory Verse:** Unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness. Col. 1:11b.

## A Happy Home

Draw a ring around the numbers of the things which help to make a home happy.

1. The children play together.
2. The children love each other.
3. The children let Mother do ALL the work.
4. Everybody loves and serves Jesus.
5. The children quarrel.

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## Longsuffering

**BANG! BANG! CRASH!**

"Oh, my!" cried Mother. "What is going on in my kitchen?" She hurried into the kitchen to see.

There was Steven, sitting on the floor with broken glass all around him. He had a box of crackers in his arms, but he was crying. He had cut his foot on a piece of glass and his foot was bleeding.

Mother carefully took the glass out of his foot. She washed it with cool water, wrapped it with a clean cloth, then laid Steven on the couch.

"Steven," Mother said after the glass was cleaned up, "I don't want you to ever climb on my cabinet tops again. I have told you many times not to climb around like that. You ask Mother before you get into crackers or anything else to eat. I'll get it for you if you need it. I should spank you because you did not mind me. This time I will be longsuffering. Do you know what that means?"

Steven was lying on the couch with his cut foot in Mother's lap. He shook his head 'no' at Mother's question. He thought maybe it meant suffering a long time with a sore foot, but that

wasn't right. Mother explained longsuffering to Steven.

"You did not mind me, Steven, so I should spank you. This time I won't, but if you ever do this again, you will be spanked." Steven was glad he didn't get a spanking, and his cut foot soon healed.

A long time later, Steven wanted some crackers that were high up on the shelf. He checked the cabinet tops to see if there were any glasses around. There weren't. He put his elbows on the cabinet top to swing himself up, but then he stopped.

Steven thought, "Mother said last time that she was longsuffering, but that next time she would spank me." He stopped trying to climb and turned to go get Mother. It was a good thing he decided to mind because she was standing in the kitchen doorway watching him!

"Please get some crackers for me," he said. Mother reached up and got them. "I remembered what you said about being longsuffering with me," Steven told Mother. "I decided to mind you."

"You were a good boy," replied Mother. "It is easy for me to be longsuffering with an obedient boy." —C.S.

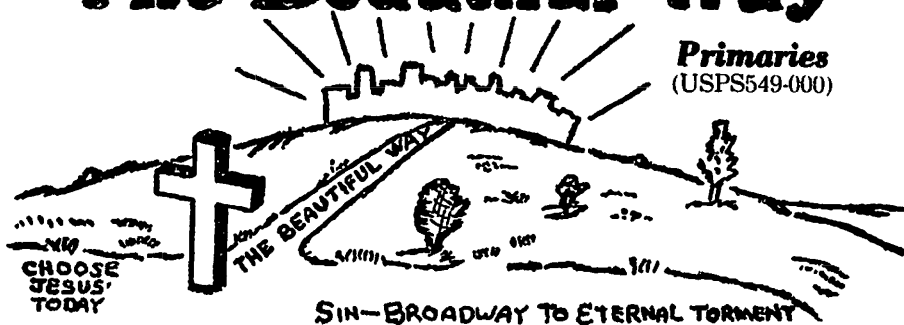
### Questions:

1. What was the name of Joseph's master?
2. What did Potiphar's wife do to Joseph?
3. Where did Potiphar put Joseph?
4. Who were the other people who were put in prison?
5. Did they each have a dream? What happened to the butler?
6. How much longer did Joseph have to stay in jail?



# ***The Beautiful Way***

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Part 18

January 29

## **Gentleness in our Spirits**

1 Thess. 2:7, 8, 11, 12

Isn't it fun to be around a Mommy and a new baby? See how she loves it so much! She is always wanting to care for the little one. And see how gentle and careful she is, ever watching so that nothing bad will happen to it.

As we watch, we think of how much Jesus loves us. And He is so gentle with us, always wanting the best for us. Jesus watches over us all the time, and when we need help He gently leads us in the right way. Remember how gently and with compassion He told the people how they should live for God? He was showing them a better way to live. And He promised that if they would live for Him and walk in His way, He would make them happy people. Oh, how Jesus loved the people! How He wanted them to be happy, and love Him, too!

If we live for Jesus, we must have the fruit of gentleness, too. We must want to always show kindness in a gentle way. Since Jesus was gentle while He was on the earth, He wants us to be gentle, too.

**Memory Verse:** But gentle, showing all meekness unto all men. Tit. 3:2.

Grandfather came into the room looking around for something. "Do you know where my house slippers are, David?"

His grandson replied, "Naw," and went on playing with his marbles.

Grandfather was old and had to use a cane, but David did not want to stop his play to help look for the slippers. Grandfather got down on his knees to look under the sofa and could hardly get back on his feet. All this time David continued to play.

Do you think David was a kind boy? Some day he will be old and will want someone to help him. Do you not think it would have been good if David had stopped his play for a few minutes and helped look for the slippers? He could also have spoken kinder to his grandfather.

—S. W.

## Gentleness

Paul was so excited that his cheeks were flushed a rosy pink in the warm summer sun. Daddy took Paul down the barn steps, through the barn aisle, and over to the stall where little Precious and her mother were staying. Precious was a young baby horse, or filly. She lived in a big barn because she was still little. Some day soon, Precious would be allowed outside with the other horses. Right now, she and her mother stayed protected inside the sturdy, red barn.

Paul's Daddy had promised to let him lead Precious with a halter strap after they finished cleaning the barn, and doing the chores. That was why Paul was so excited—he liked to lead little Precious around in the big barn.

Chubby, Precious' mother, watched closely as Paul's Daddy slipped into the

stall and gently stroked Precious' nose and neck. Chubby was slightly nervous when Daddy led Precious out of the stall. She went to the rails, stomped her four stout hooves in the dirt, and snorted her nose right over Paul's head.

"There, there," Daddy said very kindly. "It's all right, Chubby. We like your baby, too, and we won't hurt her."

Paul reached down and gathered some hay that had fallen from Chubby's manger. He handed the hay to her with an open, flat hand. She nibbled at it, with her eyes still on Daddy and her baby.

Daddy handed the halter lead strap to Paul. Now Paul was at one end of the strap and Precious was fastened to the other end. Precious followed Paul around the barn very well. Paul talked so gently and kindly to Precious while they walked. She liked to hear Paul's young voice. Sometimes he would stop her to let a kitten pass. Paul was good and gentle to all the animals. The kittens and puppies liked to play with him while Daddy did his work.

In a little while, Daddy put Precious back with her mother. Chubby nudged her baby and checked her over. Then Chubby looked at Paul and his Daddy as if to say, "You *didn't* hurt my baby! Thank you for being so gentle to her!"

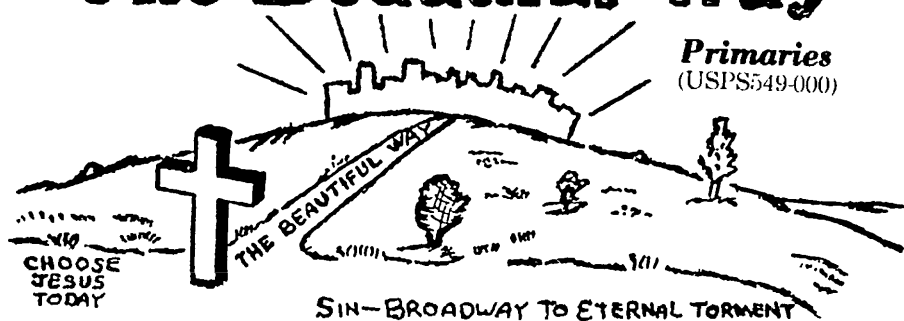
Every living creature appreciates gentleness.

—C.S.

### Questions:

1. What is this week's fruit of the Spirit?
2. Is a mother gentle with her little baby?
3. Was Jesus gentle with the people in Bible times, and is He gentle now?
4. Should we be gentle with people, too?

# ***The Beautiful Way***



Vol. 35, No. 1

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Part 19

February 5

## **The Good Samaritan**

Luke 10:30-35

Another fruit of the Spirit is goodness. When we have Jesus in our hearts, He helps us to be and do good.

In our lesson, we learn about a certain man who was traveling. Some robbers came by and stole all his things and then they beat him. The poor man was left there to die. Soon a priest came by the man. But he just looked at him, crossed to the other side, and went on his way. Eventually a Levite came by, took a look at the dying man, and, as the priest had done, crossed to the other side, and left the man in this poor condition, also.

Then another man came who was a Samaritan. He stopped and had compassion on him. He bound up his wounds, put him on his beast, and took him to an inn. He took care of him through the night, and in the morning he gave the inn keeper money to take care of him until he was better.

The good Samaritan showed the spirit of goodness in his life, just as we should do when we can help others who need some help.

**Memory Verse:** Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me. . . . Psa. 23:6a.

## Prayers Answered

"Did you like to go to Sunday School?"

Mother asked Betty as she came into the house.

"Oh yes, Mother," Betty exclaimed.

"The pastor wants you and Daddy to go next Sunday. Won't you go? Please do! Just to please me, won't you?"

"We will see about it," Mother said.

"Since we have seen such a change in you and Larry since you have started we have thought that we should get started again."

"Oh Mother, I must go right now and get Larry. We want to kneel down and thank God for answering our prayers."

—M. Miles

## Shadow of Goodness

"Mama, look! I have a shadow!" exclaimed Linda. "See my dark outline following me when I walk to this light?"

"Yes," replied Mama. "It's longer and slimmer than my Linda, though."

"Why is it that way?" asked Linda.

"That depends upon where the light is and where you are from the light. If the light is over your head, you don't have much shadow. If the light is behind you, your shadow is in front of you."

Linda tested out what Mother had just explained to her, and sure enough, Mother was right! When she stood right under the light, her shadow was just a pool of dark about her feet. When she walked away from the light, her shadow went in front of her.

Linda laughed. "I like it when my shadow is behind me the best," she said.

"Why is that?" asked Mother.

"Because, then," explained Linda, "my shadow will do what *I* do and I don't have to do what *it* does in front of me!"

"I see," smiled Mother. "Then you had better be good so your shadow is, too."

"I will be good," agreed Linda.

Mama said, "I remember the Bible verse that says, 'Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.' That is the last verse in Psalms 23. We do want goodness to follow us just like our shadows do. We want to talk good, act good, and be good all the time. Other people will like to be your friend if you always have the shadow of goodness about you."

Just then a kitten came up to Linda who was still by the light. Linda reached out to pat the kitten, and her shadow patted the kitten's shadow also.

"See!" Linda exclaimed. "My shadow is being good because I'm being good!"

"Yes," Mother said. "Even pets notice your shadow of goodness. Always let the shadow of goodness, kindness, and love follow you. That is pleasing to God."

As Linda patted the kitten, it began to purr and rub its head on her legs. The kitten *did* like Linda's shadow of goodness.

—C.S.

### Questions:

1. Does Jesus help us to do good to others?
2. What is today's fruit we are studying?
3. What did the robbers do to the traveler?
4. How many men went by the man?
5. Tell what the good Samaritan did.

# ***The Beautiful Way***

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Part 20

February 12

## **JESUS HEALS THE SICK WOMAN**

Mark 5:25-34

Our next fruit of the Spirit is faith. We must have faith in God and believe He will answer prayer.

The Bible tells us of a woman who was sick for twelve years. She had gone to many doctors and spent all of her money to help her get well, but she kept getting worse and worse.

Then one day she heard about Jesus, and that He could heal and did heal people of their sicknesses. The woman had faith and believed Jesus would heal her, if she could just touch His garment. Everywhere Jesus went, a lot of people were near Him. This woman pressed her way through all the people, until she could touch Jesus' clothes. Oh, happy day! As soon as she touched Jesus she was made perfectly well.

Jesus turned around and asked the people, "Who touched me?" The woman came and fell at Jesus' feet and told Him that she had touched him. Jesus said, "Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole."

Whenever we want to ask something of Jesus, we must have faith. He loves for His children to have faith in Him.

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

## SWEETNESS OF LIFE

A little girl sat at the table, alternately stirring and sipping her drink. Presently, with tears of disappointment in her eyes, she exclaimed, "Mother, it won't come sweet!" Then the mother realized that she had forgotten to put in the sugar. This done, the sugar itself did the rest. No amount of stirring or trying can make our lives sweet; but when we let the Lord Jesus enter and take possession of our hearts, He makes them pure and lovely. Sweetness of life is only possible as He who is the sweetness dwells therein.

### The Mustard Tree

Tommie was at the kitchen table with the other children, who were doing their homework. Tommie's class was studying about seeds, flowers, trees, etc. Tommie had the encyclopedia and was reading it. There was plenty of reading, but there were lots of pictures, too.

Suddenly Tommie said, "Well, look at that, would you? That tree is huge and it comes from such a tiny seed!" Mary and Bobby looked over at the book that Tommie was holding up for all to see.

"What kind of tree is that?" questioned Mary.

"Let's see what it says. Yes, right here under the picture, it says it is a mustard tree. See how the branches are so spread out? And the birds are all over it. They must like the seeds," said Tommie.

"Oh, I remember about the mustard tree. We had that in our Sunday School lesson," Bobby told them. "Jesus told the people that the kingdom of heaven is like a tiny mustard seed. When the seed is planted, and the sun shines on

it, and the rain comes out, it will grow to be the greatest of all herb trees."

By this time, Mother was listening, too, and she said to them, "Just what do you think this means?"

"Mrs. Sanders said that the seed is the Word of God in our hearts. If we keep living for Jesus and obey His Word, the seed will grow and grow, and we will yield a beautiful Christian life," answered Bobby.

"Jesus said in another place that if we have faith as a mustard seed, we can remove mountains," Mary said. "Mother, what does that mean?"

"Can anyone explain this to Mary?" Mother asked the children.

"Well—ll-l, I think it means that if we have a little, tiny bit of faith (like the tiny seed) we can ask Jesus to heal us, or for anything we need, and He will answer our prayers. But we have to have faith and really believe," Connie said, for she was interested in this discussion, too. Just the other night she had read this Scripture and was encouraged to believe Jesus would answer her prayers. She was praying for some very special needs.

"I believe that is what it means," Mother was saying. "You know, Jesus will answer the faintest prayer. So we all need to keep praying, believing, and trusting in Him." —D.W.

### Questions:

1. What is the fruit in our lesson?
2. Who are we to have faith in?
3. How many years had the woman been sick?
4. To whom did she go for help first, and how much money did she spend?
5. When she came to Jesus, was she healed?
6. What did He say to her?

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Part 21

February 19

## **MOSES WAS MEEK**

Numbers 12; Gal. 5:23

The spirit of meekness is our lesson today. To be meek means to be gentle. When others hurt us, we won't hurt them back.

God tells us in the Bible that Moses was very meek. One day Aaron and Miriam, Moses' brother and sister, were jealous of him.

They said, "Does God speak to Moses only? Does He not speak to us, too?" They felt bad against Moses.

When God heard this, He spoke to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, and told them to come out of the tabernacle. God came to them in a cloud. He told Aaron and Miriam that Moses was faithful to Him, and that they should not have spoken against him. God was angry with them.

When the cloud was gone, they saw that Miriam had a terrible sickness. When Aaron saw this, he cried to Moses, and said, "We have sinned! Lay not this sin against us!"

Moses prayed to God to heal Miriam and God healed her in answer to Moses' prayer. God honored Moses' meekness.

**Memory Verse:** Blessed are the meek. Matt. 5:5a.

## The Little Change Purse

"I just don't understand at all!" muttered Jane, as she helped Mother with the dishes.

Mother looked curiously at Jane. "What did you say?" she asked.

"Oh, nothing, I guess, but I just don't understand how Frances can do that," Jane answered, as she went to hang the dish towel up. She was always glad when that job was done.

"What are you talking about, Jane? What is Frances doing?" inquired Mother. She took her apron off and walked towards the living room to sit down.

"That's just it, Mother! Frances isn't doing anything! I think she should at least tell what really happened. At any rate, I don't know how she can stand by and not defend herself." Jane was thoroughly puzzled.

"Well, what did happen? Did she tell you?" asked Mother, as she picked up her knitting needles. She was busy making Jane's brother a pair of mittens for the coming winter.

"All the children in our class at school are saying that Frances stole a little change purse from one of the girls. I know she didn't, because I was right with her all the time," Jane explained.

"Why don't you tell them?" asked Mother.

"That's just it! Frances won't let me. She says, 'The Lord will work it out.' I sure don't know how, if she won't tell, nor let me," Jane told her mother.

"It seems like I remember in the Bible about Mordecai," Mother said as she started to look it up. "Do you remember, Jane?"

"Yes, but that was back then. Wicked Haman was angry and jealous of Mordecai, and he wanted to have him killed.

Everyone fasted and prayed. God made the king to honor Mordecai instead of having him hanged. Wicked Haman was hanged on the gallows that he had made for Mordecai," Jane told her mother.

"Don't you think that if we prayed, God could do the same for Frances? She is showing a Christ-like spirit in meekness. I know the Lord can make it plain to someone as to just who took it," said Mother.

"I guess so," said Jane. "I know it wouldn't hurt to pray." That night, before going to bed, she poured it all out to Jesus, her Friend and Helper in every time of need.

Several days went by and nothing happened. Then one day, the janitor came into Jane's class room. He had the change purse in his hand.

He told Mrs. Sanders, "I found this in your waste basket, and thought it must belong to someone here."

"Yes, thank you, that's been missing for a while," Mrs. Sanders explained.

After the janitor left, the children all gathered around Mrs. Sanders, who said, "This purse must have accidentally fallen into the waste basket. Frances did not take it after all!"

Just then Marjorie said to Frances, "I'm sorry; I thought you had taken it. Will you please forgive me?"

Then all the children crowded around and told Frances that they were sorry, too. She said that she freely forgave them all.

—D.W.

### Questions:

1. What does it mean to be meek?
2. Did God say that Moses was meek?
3. Who complained against Moses?
4. What happened to Miriam?
5. Did Moses pray for her?
6. Was she healed of leprosy?



# ***The Beautiful Way***

**Primaries**  
(USPS549-000)



Vol. 35, No. 1

Jan., Feb., Mar., 1984

Part 22

February 26

## **DANIEL AND SAMSON**

Dan. 1:8-16; Judges 14:1-4

Temperance is the last fruit of the Spirit. Temperance means being careful not to overdo anything.

Daniel was a young boy who loved God. When he was a captive in Babylon, the king wanted him to eat food that he wasn't allowed to eat in his own land. David asked to eat only the food he should for ten days. After these days he looked better than all the rest who had eaten the king's food. God helped Daniel to be temperate and do His will.

Samson was a man chosen of God. He was never to cut his hair, so he could always be strong. But Samson did not obey God. He loved a Philistine woman, Delilah. She begged and begged Samson to tell why he was so strong. Finally he told her about his hair and Delilah had men to cut it. Samson wasn't strong anymore and he was made a prisoner. The Philistines put his eyes out. Samson wasn't temperate in his love for Delilah, and he didn't do the will of God, so he was punished. We need to learn to be temperate in all things.

**Memory Verse:** Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. Gal. 5:23.

## RECIPE FOR HAPPINESS

Mix up some kindness  
Sprinkled with love,  
Cover with faith  
In the Father above.

Fold in some prayers,  
Some duties and joy,  
Feed large portions daily  
To each girl and boy.

Children it seems,  
Will just thrive on this food,  
It makes them so useful,  
So happy and good.

—I. Sekula

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## The Birthday Party

Tommie could hardly wait for Saturday afternoon. He was invited to a birthday party!

"Mommy, I can hardly wait for the party," said Tommie, as Mother was wrapping the gift.

"Why do you like parties so well, Tommie?" asked Mother. She had put a big red bow on the package and was having Tommie write his name on the card.

"Oh, I love the balloons, games, and those funny looking hats they sometimes give you!" exclaimed Tommie. "And, best of all, I like the cake and ice cream. Um-m-m-m!"

Finally it was time to get ready. Mother helped Tommie get into his good clothes. As she was combing his hair, she said, "You'd better be careful about eating too much cake and ice cream. If you do, you may get sick."

Mother took Tommie to the party, and went to do some grocery shopping.

Tommie had such a good time. He even won a prize! He was happy about that.

He forgot what Mother said about the cake and ice cream. He loved chocolate cake, and the ice cream was just right to go with it.

"Mrs. Blanchard, may I have some more cake, and a little ice cream?" he asked.

"I guess so, but you've eaten quite a bit now," she said, as she was clearing the table.

"This will be my very last piece," Tommie told her. "And thank you for inviting me. I've had such a nice time."

Tommie's mother came to pick him up. "I hope Tommie wasn't any trouble," she said.

"No, we've enjoyed having him, and he really liked the chocolate cake," Mrs. Blanchard replied.

On the way home, Mother asked Tommie if he had eaten lots of the cake. "Yes, it was so good; I just couldn't quit eating," Tommie told Mother. Then he remembered what Mother had told him, and he hung his head.

That night Tommie sure was wishing he had listened to Mother, for he was very sick. When Daddy and Mother prayed, he asked Jesus to forgive him for eating so much, and he told Jesus he would try never to do that again. And he never did, because he always remembered that certain party when he was a little boy.

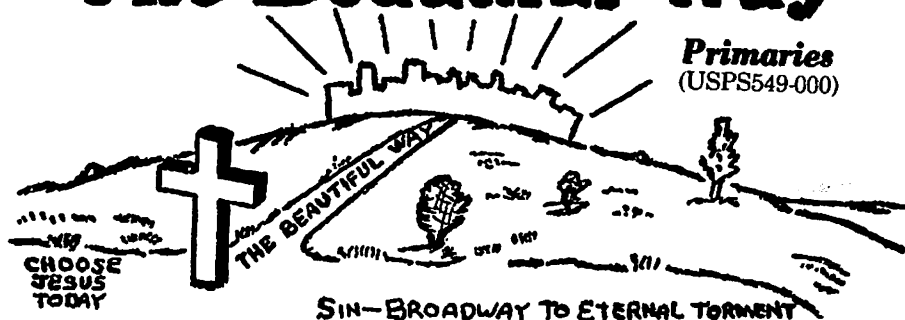
—D.W.

### Questions:

1. Did Daniel want to do God's will?
2. Did Daniel eat the king's food?
3. Was Daniel more healthy after the ten days?
4. What was Samson never to do, to keep his strength?
5. What happened when his hair was cut?

# ***The Beautiful Way***

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Vol. 35, No. 1

Jan., Feb., Mar., 1984

Part 23

March 4

## **TEN LEPERS HEALED; ONE THANKED JESUS**

Luke 17:11-19

It is good to think many times of all the blessings Jesus has given to us. We need to thank Him when He answers prayer.

When we do something nice for someone, we like to have them say, "thank you," don't we? In our lesson today, we read about ten men who had leprosy. Leprosy is a very bad disease. When a person had leprosy in Jesus' time, they couldn't come near other people.

As Jesus was traveling to Jerusalem, ten men with leprosy saw Him. They wanted to be healed, so they called to Jesus, "Master, have mercy on us!" Jesus felt so sorry for them. He told them to go to the priest, and as they went they were healed. Now they were clean and could go among their loved ones! How happy they were! Then one of the men turned back to thank and praise Jesus for healing him. How sad that the other nine men failed to thank Jesus for their healing.

We need to be careful and thank the Lord for healing us when we are sick, and answering our prayers when He does. God likes for His children to say, "Thank you."

**Memory Verse:** And be ye thankful. Col. 3:15b.

## How To Live in Peace

The Chinese have a saying that goes like this: "If you talk with a soft voice, you do not need a thick stick."

This saying shows us how to live in peace. Fighting boys and girls do not have many friends. If we carry the big stick, it is sure we will use it. Then others will use big sticks too. Then there will be a lot of fighting.

But the soft word can be spoken. No one can fight against soft words. Instead, it makes us feel ashamed if we have done wrong things.

If you want to make friends with a cross dog, don't stir him up with a stick!

## Thank You, Lord

It is evening on a pleasant spring day. The children of the neighborhood are playing in the front yards of their homes. There is much laughing and merriment among the children because they know that supper time is soon coming. One by one each father drives his car or pickup into his driveway. The children take turns leaving their friends for a few minutes to greet their father.

Soon a mother steps out on her front porch. She calls: "Jimmy! Karen! Come and eat!" Another mother calls: "Bob! Kurt! Time to eat!" And yet another mother calls: "Mike! Sandra! Terry! Kevin! Paul, and Jane! Come eat!"

Jimmy and Karen sit down to eat pork chops, rice, and gravy. Just before they start to eat, everyone bows their heads, and Daddy thanks the Lord for the food. Then they start to eat.

Lisa, Louise, and Linda finish setting the table for Mother. They sit down to eat fried chicken, mashed potatoes, and gravy. Just before they eat, everyone

bows their heads, and Mother thanks the Lord for food and for good health. Then they eat.

Bob and Kurt wash their hands well with soap, and dry them. Their mother has made a delicious beef stew. Just before they start to eat, everyone bows their heads. Bob thanks the Lord for the food, good health, and for a nice home. After prayer, they eat.

Mike, Sandra, Terry, Kevin, Paul, and Jane all wash their hands and then sit down to eat steak and baked potatoes. Just before they eat, everyone bows their heads. Little Jane leads out in prayer. She says, "Thank you, Lord, for food, clothes, and a house to live in. Thank you, Lord, for Mom and Dad, for sisters who share their dolls, and for brothers when they're good. Thank you, Lord, for Grandma and for Grandpa. Thank you, Lord, for happiness. Thank you, Lord, for sunshine. Just, thank you, Lord, for *everything* me has! Amen!"

Now everyone in the neighborhood is sitting around their own family table, eating and talking in a pleasant manner. Each family thanked the Lord for the food before they ate. What a beautiful picture to see! God is pleased with families who pray together. He loves to hear us say: "Thank you, Lord," before each meal.

—C.S.

### Questions:

1. Should we be thankful when people do good things for us?
2. How many men came to Jesus?
3. Did they want to be healed, and did Jesus heal them?
4. How many came back to thank Jesus?
5. Can you think of some things to be thankful for? Tell us about them.

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Part 24

March 11

## **Saul Disobeys God**

1 Sam. 13:1-14

When Saul first became king, he was humble and wanted to please God.

After two years, King Saul and many Israelite men were in battle with the Philistines. For a while the battle was doing well, but then the Philistines began to win. Samuel sent word that he would be in Gilgal in seven days to offer a sacrifice. He would then tell Saul what the Lord wanted him to do.

While King Saul waited for Samuel, many of his men were becoming afraid. They were hiding in caves, deep holes, etc. On the seventh day Samuel hadn't come yet. Saul saw his men leaving, so he thought he had to do something.

Finally he said, "Bring the sacrifice to me; I will offer it." Soon Samuel came and asked Saul, "Why have you done this?" Saul answered, "Because you weren't here and my men were running away."

Samuel told Saul, "Because you have disobeyed God, the kingdom is taken from you and your family."

**Memory Verse:** If ye love me, keep my commandments.  
John 14:15.

## Stay in the Yard

Tony was a brother who had two sisters: Linda and Janet. They all lived together in a big house by a busy street. Every morning when the sun came up; shining in the bedroom window, Tony and his sisters would yawn, stretch, and climb out of bed. While their Mother fixed breakfast, each one got dressed. Then as soon as they were finished eating, they would rush outside to play.

The children had a big yard with lots of soft, green grass to play on. In the corner of the yard was a good sand box with shovels, buckets, and other toys to dig with. In the yard there was a swing set with two swings and a slide. There was also a patio to ride bikes and tricycles on. And guess what went around the yard to keep the children in? It was a tall, sturdy fence with two gates; one in front, and one in the back.

Every morning before Tony, Linda, and Janet went outside to play, Mother would say, "Children, I want you to play only in the yard. I don't want you by the street or in the neighbor's yard. Stay inside our fence." Mother knew that cars went very fast down the big street by their house and she knew that the neighbors had big dogs that might bite little people.

One day, while the girls were playing dolls, Tony went over to a special place where he had been learning to climb the fence. This time Tony climbed up, over, and down the fence on the other side. He felt rather naughty at first, but then he drew out of his pocket a little cap gun. He had brought it along to take care of those dogs should they try to bite him. The cap gun made Tony feel braver so he decided to go down by the busy street and take a look around.

Tony sat down by the edge of the busy street. He watched the cars close by whiz into town. He watched the cars on the other side whiz out of town. Tony was still watching cars when suddenly he heard a deep growl behind him. Cold goosebumps went all over Tony and he was too startled to even look around at the dog he knew was behind him. The dog growled again and breathed right down Tony's back! That was too much for Tony. He jumped up and ran straight into the middle of the street! Cars put on their brakes and skidded to a stop so they wouldn't hit Tony. Then a kind man got out of his car and went over to him. Tony was so scared he could hardly talk. Tony didn't feel brave any more!

Back at Tony's house, Linda and Janet had told Mother he was out of the yard. Mother found Tony just as the kind man was bringing him in. After Mother hugged Tony and thanked the kind man, Tony had to stay inside until Daddy came home. Mother and Daddy were very unhappy with Tony for disobeying. Do you think Tony should have had a spanking? His Mother and Daddy thought so. Now Tony is happy to play cars in the sand box or swing on the swings. He learned that he never will be big enough to disobey. —C.S.

### Questions:

1. Was Saul humble when he first became king?
2. Who were Saul and his men fighting against?
3. In how many days was Samuel to come?
4. Were Saul's men afraid? What did they do?
5. What did Saul do when Samuel did not come?

# ***The Beautiful Way***



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Jan., Feb., Mar., 1984

Part 25

March 18

## **Patient Job**

### **Job 1**

Job lived in the land of Uz. He loved and worshipped God. Job was a rich man, having many cattle, sheep, and camels. Job had seven sons and three beautiful daughters.

One day Satan came to God, saying, "Let me take everything from Job. Let's see if he will still serve you." God told him he could take those things away.

While Job was worshipping God, one of his servants came to him, saying, "While your oxen and donkeys were eating, they were all stolen." Another servant came, saying, "All your sheep have been burned up." Another servant ran to Job, telling him, "All your camels are gone, too." While Job's sons and daughters were feasting, a great wind blew the house down and killed them all.

Wasn't that a pitiful time for Job? But Job remembered that God had given all these things. So he fell down and worshipped Him. Job said, "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away."

In all this Job still loved God. He showed his patience and love for God by continuing to worship Him.

**Memory Verse:** Be patient therefore, brethren. James 5:7a.

"Who is the oldest man that ever lived?" asked Della.

"Oldest man that ever lived," repeated Sammie. "I don't know where you would be able to find out."

"I know," declared Della.

"Where?" asked Sammie.

"In the Bible," said Della. "It was Methuselah and he lived to be 969 years old. You can find that in Genesis 5:27. We learned that in Sunday School."

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## Birthdays Will Come

"Mama, now tell me again—when will my birthday be?" asked four-year-old Daniel. He was so anxious to be five years old.

"It will be in the late spring," replied Mother. "The roses will bloom, little birds will be busy hatching from eggs, and the children will be getting out of school for the summer. When all this comes, so will your birthday."

"Does all this happen because it is my birthday?" questioned little Daniel.

Mother softly chuckled and smiled her slow and sweet smile. "It happens *when* your birthday comes; not *because* of it," she replied. "You see, God has a time for everything and we must be patient about it. Little green rose buds have to be patient and some day they open to become a delicate pink, red, yellow, or white rose. Little baby birds are all cramped inside their own egg shell. They want to get out so badly, but they have to wait until it is time. Then, when they are big enough, they peck, peck, peck their way out of the shell. They have to wait until God gives us warm summer days."

Daniel sighed. "Well, if I was a bird, I would peck my way out of that shell just as soon as I could!"

"Yes, the little birds *do* want to come out soon, but they must be patient and wait. Do you know what happens to the bird if the egg shell is broken before the bird is ready to come out?" asked Mother, and Daniel shook his head. She continued, "The baby bird doesn't live. It dies. God has everything in nature planned just right. If anything gets impatient and rushes ahead of God's plan, then there is suffering. We need to be patient with ourselves, with others, with nature, and with God."

You have to be patient with birthdays, too, don't you? Because they only come once a year." Daniel was still thinking of his birthday. Mother picked him up and gave him a kiss and a good hug to go with it.

"Birthdays are important," she said. "Then we sing, 'Happy Birthday' to you, eat ice cream and cake, and you get to open up gifts. When you have your birthday, be patient with the candles and don't blow them out before Mother can light all of them. Also, be patient about unwrapping the gifts. Don't ask to do that as soon as they are handed to you. Remember to say 'thank you' after you unwrap the gifts, also. Be patient and polite."

"Well, whenever my birthday *does* come, I will be patient," replied Daniel.

"You must be patient, now, too," said Mother as she kissed Daniel again.

—C.S.

### Questions:

1. Did Job love God?
2. Was he a rich man?
3. Who came to God about Job?
4. Name some things that happened to him.
5. Did Job still love and serve God after all this happened?



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Jan., \ Feb., Mar., 1984

Part 26

March 25

## **Be Humble**

Luke 18:9-14

One day when Jesus was teaching the people, He told them a parable, or story:

There were two men who went into the temple to pray; one was a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

The Pharisee was a religious man. He thought that he was a good man who could do no wrong. He prayed within himself, "God, I'm thankful that I'm not like these other sinners. I fast two times a week and I pay tithes of all my money. I'm not even like this publican." Can you see how good he thought he was?

The poor publican was a tax collector. There were times in the past when he had taken money wrongfully from people. He knew he was a sinner. He didn't even feel worthy to look up to heaven. He only said, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." He knew that only God's mercy could help him. He was humbly asking the Lord for forgiveness.

Jesus told the people that the Publican was the one who received forgiveness of sins because he had been humble.

**Memory Verse:** Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord.  
James 4:10.

## Debbie and Cathy

Debbie was seven years old and in the second grade at school. She was a pretty girl with a pretty smile, but Debbie was often a sad little girl. She didn't have any friends. Debbie had had polio, a very bad sickness, when she was a baby. It had left one leg and foot very skinny and shorter than the other. She walked with a limp all the time. Because of this, the other children would hardly play with her. What a shame! Debbie was a lonesome girl.

One day, a new girl named Cathy started to school where Debbie attended. Immediately Cathy noticed Debbie and her heart went out to her. Instead of avoiding Debbie like most of the other children did, Cathy made a special effort to visit with Debbie.

Soon Cathy and Debbie were good friends. Cathy invited Debbie to come and visit at her house. Cathy's mother had cookies and milk ready for the two girls when they came in from school. Then the girls played dolls for some time. Debbie was very shy and still didn't talk too much. Cathy loved her sweet, humble way when she played. Debbie never fussed over which doll she had nor over the clothes for the doll. She was always eager to please Cathy and keep peace between them. Debbie had such an humble, sweet nature that Cathy wished that everyone could know her.

After the girls had played dolls for a while, Debbie made mention that Cathy surely had a pretty piano.

"Do you know how to play?" asked Cathy.

Debbie looked down bashfully. "Yes, a little bit," she replied.

"Then play something!" exclaimed Cathy.

Debbie went to the piano and was soon playing beautiful pieces of music by memory. Cathy was amazed and so was her mother.

"You play so lovely!" they both told Debbie. "How did you learn to play so pretty?"

Debbie was shy again. "The piano is my friend," she said. "I spend a lot of time playing because it makes me so happy."

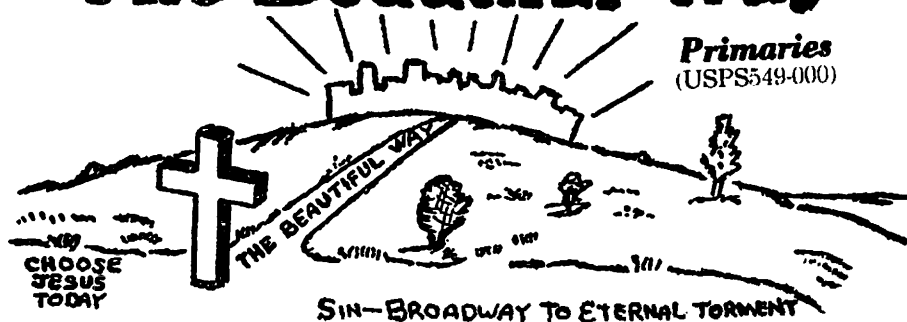
Cathy was pleased about her friend's talent. She told the other children at school about Debbie's wonderful way with music. The music teacher heard Cathy telling about it. She asked Debbie to play her piano in the music room. Although she was rather shy at first, Debbie began to play. The children enjoyed her playing very much. Several told her how lovely it sounded. Debbie smiled her pretty smile and her blue eyes sparkled. The music teacher started letting Debbie play when the children sang songs. Debbie played for the Christmas program and for the last day of school program.

Through her piano playing, Debbie made friends with the other children because they realized she had a talent they appreciated. —C.S.

### Questions:

1. How many men went to the temple to pray?
2. One was a Pharisee, and how did he pray?
3. The other was a Publican, and how did he pray?
4. Which one did Jesus say was forgiven?
5. What were tax collectors called?

# ***The Beautiful Way***



**Primaries**  
(USPS549-000)

Vol. 35, No. 2

April, May, June, 1984

Part 14

April 1

## **BUILDING ON ROCK OR ON SAND**

Matt. 7:24-27

Jesus taught the people in parables, or short stories that helped them learn how to live for Him.

Once Jesus told the story of two men who each built a house for themselves. One man was wise—he wanted his house to stand all the storms that would come. He built his house upon a rock. When the rains, winds, and floods came, his house stayed on the rock. It didn't crumble or fall because a rock is solid to build on.

The other man was very foolish. When he built his house he was careless and forgot all about the rain, winds, and floods. He built his house on the sand. When the storms came, his house was washed away. Sand isn't a good foundation—it's not good to build on.

Let us build our lives for Jesus just like the wise man built his house. First, we should give our heart to the Lord—that makes Him our Rock. Then, each day we should love Him and be good. That way, when troubles come we can stand up for Jesus. We must build our lives on Him.

**Memory Verse:** The Lord is my rock. Psa. 18:2a.

## Three Lessons in One

"Mother." There was disgust in Sandra's voice. "Mother, these blocks keep falling down!"

"Well, Sandra," Mother said. "I see what your problem is. You are putting a little yellow block on the bottom; then a bigger green; bigger red; and then a much bigger blue. Put the blue block on bottom, and then the others will not be too heavy for the stack."

Mother nodded agreement just as Kevin came stomping in the room. In his hand he held a neat little hot wheel car. It was a *fast* red Corvette. Let's say it *was* a fast red Corvette until one of the wheels fell off.

"Mother, just look at this Corvette!" cried Kevin.

"Well, what's wrong with it?" asked Mother calmly, noticing the missing wheel.

"One of the wheels fell off—that's what's wrong with it! Every time I shove it down the track, it keeps falling off the side! Who wants to race a car like that? It won't go anywhere!"

Mother took the car and troublesome wheel from Kevin's hand. In her sewing machine cabinet drawer, she found a small tube of glue. She put a tiny drop of glue in the pin hole on the wheel and then stuck the wheel back on the rod. In just a short time, the car and wheel were back together in good running order.

Kevin was happy now. He smiled and hugged his Mother. "Thank you, Mom! Now my red Corvette should still beat Jason's blue Camero!" Kevin ran outside and began playing with his friends again.

Later that night when Mother was tucking the children in bed, she remind-

ed them of the two problems they had had that day.

"Sandra, do you remember when you stacked the blocks and how you had to put the biggest one on the bottom? That way the stack was steady. The big block was able to hold the little ones, but the little ones couldn't hold the big ones. That is the way Jesus is to us. He is able to hold all of us little people. If we will put our trust in Jesus He will not let us fall down when we need Him."

"Kevin, do you remember how your Corvette wouldn't go when the wheel was off? The wheels hold up the car, don't they? When a wheel is missing from a car, the car drags the ground and can't go anywhere. If Jesus is missing from our life, we can't have peace and joy in our heart. It makes life sad, and we have no hope of reaching heaven. No one can be truly happy in life without Jesus in their heart."

"Kevin, keep all four wheels on your car so it will go in the right direction; and Sandra, when you stack blocks, put the biggest block on the bottom. Children, from these two lessons remember this: always put your trust in Jesus and He will give you the peace, joy, and hope that will take you all the way to heaven."

—Connie Sorrell

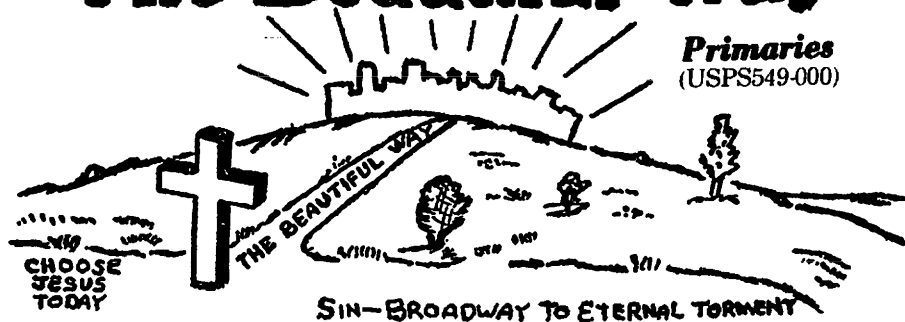
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### Questions:

1. Where did the wise man build his house?
2. When the storms came what happened?
3. Where did the foolish man build his house?
4. What happened when the storms came?
5. Who is our Rock?

# ***The Beautiful Way***

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Vol. 35, No. 2

April, May, June, 1984

Part 15

April 8

## **SEEDS THAT ARE SOWN**

Mark 4:3-8, 15-20

Jesus told another parable about a farmer who took seeds to his field. He walked up and down and scattered the seed. Some seed fell on the road, and birds ate it. Other seed went on some stones. This seed grew, but there wasn't much earth so it died. Some other seed fell in amongst some thorns, and the thorns grew so fast that the seeds could not live. Other seed went on good ground. This seed took root, grew, and made other seeds grow from it.

A minister is like the farmer. He preaches the Word of God and that Word goes into the hearts of people. Some hearts don't want to know God—that is the seed by the road side which the birds ate. Some people gladly hear the Word of God, but don't like to do what it tells them—that is the stony ground. Some other people let the things of the world crowd God out of their hearts like the thorns crowded out the seed in the story. The people that hear and obey the Word of God are like the seed that fell on the good ground. Their lives bring forth other fruit, because when other people see their lives, they will want to live for God, too.

**Memory Verse:** The sower soweth the Word. Mark 4:14.

## Seeds in Mark 4:14-20

"Hello! My name is Wilbur. I doubt that you can guess what I am, though. I'm in a brown paper sack with others just like me—I'm a little brown bean seed! Oh, I may be little right now, but I'm going to be big and strong some day. Inside my little brown shell, I have enough strength to burst open and break through the ground. I'm going to grow tall, green stem with green leaves. I'm going to grow taller and taller. . . but wait! Wait a minute! I just fell out of the sack! I'm laying on the ground. Someone just stepped on me. . . . I'm dying! I'm dying. . . ."

"Hello! My name is Wilma. I was a little brown seed. Someone planted me and now I'm a little green stem shooting up out of the ground. I love to feel the warm, yellow sun shining down on me. Look close. See? I have two little green leaves! I'm going to grow tall and I'm going to grow more leaves some day soon. I hope to grow tasty green beans. Just look how big I'm getting! Now, what is this climbing on top of me? An ugly green bug! Two ugly green bugs?! Help! They're eating me! Help! They're eating me all up . . . until there isn't any more . . . of me!"

"Hello! I'm another green bean plant! My name is Walter. I used to be a little brown seed but then I grew to be a short green stem. Now I'm a tall, sturdy plant living happily under the warm sun. I love to feel the sun warm on my leaves, and I like the gentle rain to come and give me a good drink of water. I'm a big, full, bushy plant. I'm growing pretty well, don't you think? Already I have yellow-white blooms which will become green beans. I'm planted here beside a cucumber vine.

This vine keeps growing my way, and I'm, well, I'm rather leaning its way also. Its wrapping its big sticker leaves all around my smooth stem. I think this cucumber vine wants me to help it hold the big, thick cucumbers that it grows. I'm a good, thoughtful fellow. Guess I'll help my neighbor. My, but these cucumbers are awfully heavy! They're breaking my limbs! This cucumber is taking over! I'm not even growing beans—I'm hidden away under this stickery cucumber vine and its cucumbers! I'm lost . . . lost . . . lost!"

"Hello! Do you know what I am? I'm a full-grown green bean plant, and my name is Weston. I love to grow tasty green beans! At first, green beans are short, dark green, and then they get longer until after a while someone comes along and picks them. I don't mind someone picking my beans because that is what I'm here for—to give pleasure to someone through my beans. Do you like to eat green beans? They're good for you! I used to be a little brown seed; then I grew to be a little green plant. I grew bigger and bigger until I was a bush. Then I put on little yellow-white blooms which became green beans. Ugly green bugs tried to eat me when I was little but I resisted them. Big cucumber vines tried to grow over me but I turned and grew the other way. Now I am a big bush and the sun shines down on me every day. People like my green beans, too. Yes, it is wonderful to live a full, complete life! —Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. Name the different places that the seeds fell.
2. Did they grow well?
3. What happened to each one?

# ***The Beautiful Way***

**Primaries**  
(USPS549-000)



Vol. 35, No. 2

April, May, June, 1984

Part 16

April 15

## **FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER**

Matt. 18:23-35

A certain king was taking account of his servants. He found one servant who owed him very much money, so he told him to pay him all that he owed.

"Oh, please be patient with me, and I will pay you all," cried the servant. "I don't have the money to pay you right now." The king had mercy on the servant, and forgave him of that great debt. How glad and happy the servant was!

Then one day this same servant found a fellow servant who owed *him* some money. It was a small amount, but he took him by the throat and said, "Pay me all that you owe me!"

This other servant fell at his feet, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you all." But the first servant had no mercy on him, and didn't forgive him at all. He had the poor servant put in prison until he was able to pay the debt.

Jesus told this story, also, and He wanted the people to learn to forgive one another. He has forgiven us of the bad things we've done and He wants us to remember that and forgive everyone who needs to be forgiven by us.

**Memory Verse:** Forgive, and ye shall be forgiven. Luke 6:37.

## He Was My Friend

Phillip had a black and tan German Shepherd dog named Corky. They played ball together; they played hide 'n seek together; they scouted the neighborhood together—they did everything but sleep together.

In Phillip's town there was a leash law for dogs, which said that all dogs in town should be chained to a post, or inside a secure fence, or else be on a leash when walking with someone. Phillip's neighbors all knew Corky and that he always stayed with Phillip. Corky had never turned over trash cans, dug up flowers, nor did he bark a lot, so the neighbors didn't complain about Corky.

One night, however, Corky started roaming with three or four other dogs which were not as nice as he was. For a week Corky ran with these dogs in the night until one morning when Phillip stepped out on the front porch to greet him, **CORKY WAS NOT THERE!**

"Mother, Corky's gone!" cried Phillip. "He's not on the porch!"

Mother came outside to look and although they both called and called, no Corky came. Day after day went by and there was still no sign of Corky. Phillip was very, very sad. He didn't want to play ball, nor hide 'n seek, nor scout the neighborhood because Corky wasn't there to go with him.

Then after ten days or so a neighbor told Phillip what he thought had happened to his dog. The dog catcher had set a trap for some rough dogs who were causing trouble at night and Corky had been one of them!

Phillip raced home to tell his parents all about this news. He begged them to take him to the dog pound where bad dogs are fenced in. There at the dog

pound they did find Corky. He was indeed a sad, skinny, raggedy-looking dog, but was he ever glad to see Phillip walking up!

One Saturday afternoon, some time later, Phillip and his parents were driving home from town. Just as they rounded a corner, a ball rolled out in front of them and a lovely white and yellow Collie dog darted after it. Phillip's dad slammed on the car brakes, but it was too late—the car had already run over the dog. A boy Phillip's age came sobbing heavily as he gathered his dog up into his arms. "Copper, Copper—*please* don't die!" but his plea was too late.

Phillip began to cry, too, thinking of Corky and how he would feel if Copper was Corky. Phillip and his parents said they were sorry to the boy and his parents. The boy said, "I know you didn't mean to hit my dog. I saw it happen. I'm really going to miss Copper, but I know you're sorry about it, and I forgive you."

That night when Phillip put the chain on Corky's collar, he told him, "We're going to forget all about the reason you have to wear this chain. There's no need to hold grudges. We're going to learn to forgive and forget. Right, ol' boy?" Corky yawned and sighed in agreement.

—Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. Could the king's servant pay his debt?
2. What did the king do?
3. Did the servant forgive the small debt that was owed to him?
4. What did he do with the other servant?
5. Does Jesus forgive us, and should we forgive others?



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Part 17

April 22

## **JESUS AROSE FROM THE GRAVE**

Mark 16:1-8; 1 Thess. 4:13-18

Really early in the morning, three women went to the tomb of Jesus. They were very sad because they thought they would never see Him again. They saw an angel sitting on the stone near the entrance of the tomb and were afraid. The angel said, "Be not afraid. You are looking for Jesus who was put here after He died on the cross. He is risen; He is not here. Come and look at the place where they laid Him." As they looked into the tomb, it was empty. The angel then said, "Go and tell His disciples and Peter that He will see them in Galilee as He told them before He died on the cross." The women quickly fled from the tomb as they were afraid. They did not know what to think of all they had heard or seen. Jesus appeared to His disciples, as He had said He would. They were really glad to see that He had arisen from the dead. Because He arose, we, too, will arise from the grave in the last day when Jesus comes bursting through the clouds. Be sure that you live so that you are ready to meet Him.

The meaning of Easter is when Jesus arose from the grave. We should serve Jesus so we can go to be with Him in heaven.

**Memory Verse:** He is risen; he is not here. Mark 16:6.

## The Awakening

So many times God's great plans follow a beautiful pattern. He uses this pattern again and again to remind us that it is His own lovely pattern. God has a pattern of resurrection that is repeated again and again. Our dear Lord Jesus was crucified and laid in the tomb for three days. Then He arose in all His glory to show us that we may rise and live with Him forever. It is very interesting to watch for and notice all the ways that God repeats this pattern. The most common one that we are all acquainted with is in the life of a butterfly. The butterfly lays her eggs on or near a plant with nice green leaves. A little worm or caterpillar hatches out and begins to eat the leaves. He eats and grows and eats and grows. The day arrives when he spins his cocoon. He spins it all around him until he is all closed in. Then he goes to sleep until the time is right; then to awaken he works his way out of the little tomb he has been in, dries his wings in the sun, and flies away—a beautiful winged butterfly.

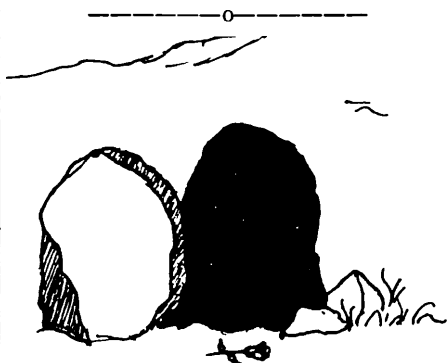
The lady-bug, too, starts out as a bug, and must lie in the tomb a while before she can fly with her pretty red wings.

The earth blossoms in spring, and in summer bears her fruit. But in the fall the flowers wither and fade and fall. The trees lose their leaves and all is covered with a blanket of snow or ice, to sleep the long winter through—but when the time is right the warm sunshine awakens all to life again. The flowers bloom, the leaves begin to grow, and God's nature is working in all.

In the springtime we take little dry hard seeds that look dead, as though there were no life in them. We bury

them in the earth and wait. The rain and sun warm and moisten the earth until the hard covering on the little seed cracks. Then the life that was there all the time begins to force out tender little shoots upward, and tender little roots downward; until that little seed is changed into a beautiful plant!

All this should give you some idea of the great awakening that will take place some day when all the bodies that have been put in the graves will come forth with a new body to live forever somewhere. If we have lived for Jesus, our bodies will be made like His and we shall go to live with Him in heaven. Those who did not live for Jesus will have to go away into everlasting punishment. How sad! —Sis. Marie



**He is risen!**

### Questions:

1. Where did the three women go early in the morning?
2. Who had rolled away the stone?
3. What did the angel say about Jesus?
4. What did the women think about what they had seen and heard?
5. Where is Jesus today?

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April, May, June, 1984

Part 18

April 29

## **THE RICH FARMER**

Luke 12:16-21

Jesus told the people another parable and the story this time was of a rich farmer. God had blessed his land so much that he didn't know where to put all his goods.

"Where shall I store all my goods?" he thought. "I know what I shall do! I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I will have plenty of room for my goods and fruits."

Then he thought, "I have so much that I'll not have to work for many years. I can eat, drink, and do as I please all the time!"

God came to him that night, though, and said, "Thou fool. This night thy soul shall be required of thee. Then who will use all of these things?"

The rich man died that night and left all of his goods for others. It would have been better if he had given to the poor while he was alive and shared his goods. Instead he chose to keep it all for himself and then he didn't even have enough time to enjoy it.

When we help others we are storing up treasures in heaven.

**Memory Verse:** If riches increase, set not your heart upon them. Psa. 62:10b.

## God's Money



Sharon and Shirley were twin sisters. What one sister had, the other sister had one just like it. If Sharon found something, she shared with Shirley, and Shirley did the same with her. They liked to share with each other, but if they had to share with someone else, that was a different story.

Every Sunday morning all the family would go to Sunday School and church. Sharon and Shirley liked to go to Sunday School and they liked their teacher. Every time just before Sunday School dismissed, the teacher gave the children a quarter to put in the missionary offering which was taken up at the last part of Sunday School. The teacher encouraged the children to put their money in the offering box because she wanted them to learn to share and give to the Lord. She explained to them that the money went to others who didn't have nice clothes and as much food as they had. She told them how it pleased the Lord to give to those who need help.

Sharon and Shirley listened and they put their quarters in the box quite a few Sundays. Then one morning, they listened to a naughty voice within and they both agreed to keep their quarters back for their own piggy banks. The twins didn't tell anyone about it, but for two or three Sundays, they kept the quarters that the teacher had given them to put in the missionary offering. They didn't think *anyone* knew, but God did. It made God's heart sad to think these two little girls didn't even want to share with Him for that is really who you share with when you give money to church offerings. God wants us to share our money for His work.

Then one day Mike, the twins' big brother, found the girls counting the money they had in their piggy bank.

"Where did you get all these quarters?" he asked the girls.

The twins didn't want to tell him because they felt guilty about what they were doing. "We don't want to tell you where we got the quarters because you might tell Mama!" replied Sharon.

"Yeah, and Mama might tell the Sunday School teacher and then we would be in bad trouble!" agreed Shirley.

"Oh, no!" Mike cried. "Have you been keeping your Sunday School quarters back that belong in the offering? Why, you naughty girls!" At that, both girls looked down and really felt bad.

Soon Mother came to see their piggy bank and to find out if they really had the quarters or not. She was very grieved to find them in their piggy bank.

"Girls," Mother said, "next Sunday I want you to put all these quarters back in the offering where they belong. Also, each of you put five of your pennies in the offering. Never, no, *never* keep money back from the Lord's offering. God will bless you for sharing with him."

Next Sunday, the girls did put their quarters in the offering and five pennies each. They didn't feel bad any more, and God blessed their hearts and made them happy. —Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. Did God bless the rich farmer?
2. What did the farmer decide to do with all his goods?
3. What should he have done with what God had given him?
4. What did God tell him in the night?
5. How can we store up treasures in heaven?

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Part 19

May 6

## **GOOD AND BAD SEED**

Matt. 13:24-30, 36-40

The kingdom of heaven is also like a farmer who sowed good seeds in his field. During the night, while he and his helpers were sleeping, the enemy came and planted tares (bad seed) in his fields. The sun shone and the rains came. The good and bad seeds grew together.

"What shall we do?" asked the farmer's servants. "Shall we take the bad seeds away?"

"No, we must not do that," replied the farmer, "lest we uproot the good seed, too. At the harvest, we'll divide the seed, and keep the good and burn the bad."

The good seed is the children of God, and the bad seed is the children of the devil. The kingdom is the world, and both the good and bad live together in this world. At the last day the children of God will go to heaven, and the children of the devil will be cast into hell.

If we serve Jesus, we are the children of God in this world. At the last day Jesus will come and take us to be with Him.

**Memory Verse:** The righteous shall be glad in the Lord.  
Psa. 64:10a.

## God's Name

"Mama," Kenneth said, coming in from outside one sunny day. "Mama, Jared said a naughty word."

"Jared says naughty words all the time," said Marie to Mother.

"My little ones," began Mother, "not all little children have a Mother and Daddy to teach them right from wrong. Jared's Mother and Daddy don't live with each other any more and he stays with a Grandma and Grandpa who don't seem to have much time for him. This is sad. Jared has probably not yet been taught that saying bad words makes God sad. Don't you children pick up those terrible words. Mother and Daddy love you and want you to please God. In the Bible, God told the people, 'Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.' That is the second commandment so you can see how important it is."

God wants us to call out His name only when we need Him, right, Mama?" asked Marie.

"That is right," agreed Mother. "How would you like for somebody to go around saying, 'Oh, Marie! Oh, Marie! Oh, Marie!' every time something happened? Wouldn't you get tired of that?"

"And you, Kenneth," Mother continued, "Would you like for people to say, 'Kenneth, don't! Kenneth don't! Ah, Kenneth, don't!' when something bad happened?"

"Well," Mother said, "God doesn't like that either. He is a mighty God who made the heavens and the earth. Who should take His mighty name and use it for a slang? Nobody. Nobody has the right to do that. God and Jesus Christ are to be respected and honored. We only call on their names when we

are in need of help. When we want to talk to them, we kneel or show them respect by bowing our heads. We are nothing but a little bitty speck of dust on the earth, but they are throughout the heavens, knowing even the very thoughts of a person. It is a foolish person who will use God's holy name in vain. God will not listen to that person, and then some day when they are in trouble and call for His help, He won't hear them because they said His name too many times without respect or need. Children, be afraid to use His holy name without talking to Him with respect."

"We love God and Jesus very much, don't we? They love us, too. Jesus died for our sins." Marie was speaking very thoughtfully. "Why don't more people love God?"

"Well, the devil won't let them!" exclaimed Kenneth.

Mother smiled. "The devil talks to their hearts and they listen to him. People choose to live for God or the devil. God tells people the truth but the devil speaks lies. Sad to say, many people want to listen to the devil's lies instead of the truth."

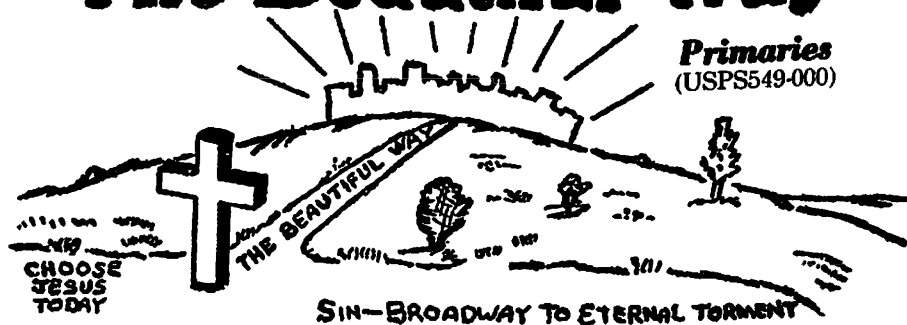
"So what shall we do about Jared?" Kenneth asked.

"Tell him that you don't say words like that because you have been taught better. Only foolish people use God's name as a slang word. —Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. What kind of seed did the farmer sow?
2. What happened during the night?
3. Did they take the tares out right away?
4. Who is the good and bad seed?
5. Who sows the good seed, and who sows the bad seed?

# ***The Beautiful Way***



Vol. 35, No. 2

April, May, June, 1984

Part 20

May 13

## **THE GREAT SUPPER**

Luke 14:16-23

A certain man made a great supper. He invited many guests, and then sent his servants out to gather them in.

When the servants went, however, many of the guests made excuses. They did not want to go to the supper.

One said he had just bought a piece of ground and he needed to see it. Another had bought some oxen and he needed to try them. One man had just gotten married and he told the servant that he wanted to stay with his new wife.

The master was angry when he heard these things. "Go everywhere," he said, "and gather in the poor, the crippled, the old, and the blind." The house was filled and the hungry people enjoyed the good food.

In our lesson the supper is the great plan of salvation. We can all be saved and go to heaven, but we are not supposed to make excuses as to why we cannot go.

Jesus tells us, "Whosoever will, may come." He loves us all and wants us to come to Him and serve Him.

**Memory Verse:** Come; for all things are now ready. Luke 14:17b.

## Take One

Phillip and Paul were excited when their dog, Taffy, had puppies! Taffy was gold and white with long fur like a collie's. Her puppies were so cute and as fat as butterballs. All four of them looked very much like their mother with the same white tip on their tails. The puppies were so much fun to play with!

One day when the puppies were getting bigger, eating a lot of food, and doing mischievous things like puppies are prone to do, the boys' Daddy declared that the puppies needed to find new homes. Phillip and Paul pleaded with their Daddy: "Can't we keep them a little longer at least?"

"Okay," Daddy said, "but when Saturday comes, let's take the puppies to the local grocery store. The manager may let us keep them in a box outside his store and there we can ask people about the puppies when they come by."

The boys were very sad about giving their puppies away, but Mother tried to cheer them. "There are other little boys who don't have any puppies at all," she told them. "They would love to have just one of these cute puppies. Saturday you will probably make at least one little boy or girl happy with a puppy."

When Saturday came, Daddy and the boys boxed three puppies and went to the local grocery store. (The boys kept one puppy.) All morning they sat by the door, each holding or playing with a puppy. "Oh, what cute, darling little puppies!" some ladies would say, and then they hurried on into the store before Paul or Phillip could ask them if they wanted one. Children stopped and looked at the puppies who would bark "Hello," and wag their tails so friendly. "I want that one!" one little boy told

his mother. "Look how funny he is! He wobbles when he walks—he's so fat!" The mother smiled and took a hold of her son's hand. "We can't have dogs in the apartments we live in," she said, and they hurried into the store.

By mid-afternoon, Paul and Phillip still had three puppies. Phillip was rather upset about it. "We have the cutest, fattest, healthiest puppies in the whole world!" he said. "People ought to be paying for them—and we can't even give one away! What is wrong with these people, anyway?"

"Maybe if we put bows around their necks and gave them away with a sack of dog food," began Paul, but Phillip wouldn't listen to that. Phillip turned over a sign they had made and instead of just saying: "Free Puppies—Take One!" he wrote: "Great Watchdogs; Good Friends; Need GOOD Homes; Not Expensive—Take One!"

A boy who had seen the puppies earlier, came back by and took one home. Soon an older man came by, watched the puppies for a while, and then he took one. Later on, three little brothers came by and immediately took the last puppy. "Do you have any more?" they asked Phillip.

"Well, we're keeping the last grand puppy for a souvenir," he told them.

—Connie Sorrell

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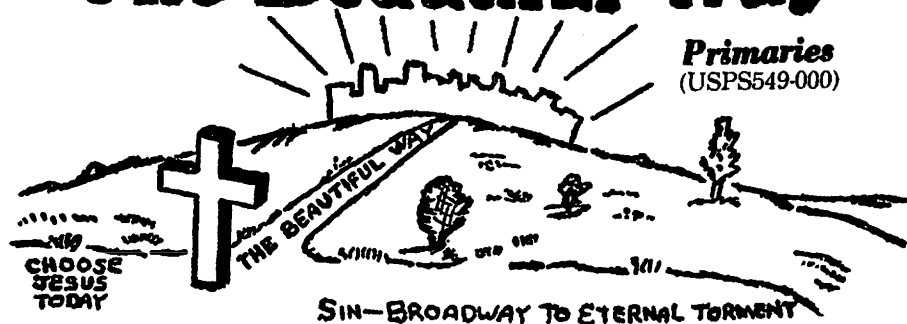
### Questions:

1. Did the people want to come to the supper?
2. What did some of them say?
3. Should we make excuses when Jesus calls us?
4. Can everybody come to Jesus?
5. Does Jesus love us and want us to come to Him?



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Part 21

May 20

## **THE WOMAN AND THE JUDGE**

Luke 18:1-8

God does not always answer prayer right away all the time. Sometimes He wants to teach us precious lessons.

In a certain city was a poor woman whose husband had died. Someone had done something to hurt her, and she couldn't do anything to help herself.

She went to the city judge and asked him to please help her and avenge her of her enemy.

The judge was not a good man. He didn't care to help anyone, nor did he fear God or man. At first he didn't pay any attention to the poor widow woman. She kept coming again and again and asking him to help her.

Finally he was tired of her coming and said to himself, "I don't care about this woman's troubles, but I will help her because I am tired of her bothering me."

Jesus told those around Him: "Just as the unjust judge helped the woman because she kept coming, so we need to keep praying and believing in God."

**Memory Verse:** Men ought always to pray, and not faint.  
Luke 18:1b.

## Praying for Father



It was during World War II when John and Anna's father was called into service. Their father had to leave them and go far away across the ocean to fight in a war. He went where there was shooting and bombing and it was very dangerous. The day he left, John, Anna, and their mother cried very hard. They didn't talk about it, but they were all fearful that they would never see their father again. They had known of other men—uncles, cousins, fathers, brothers—who went and never came back alive. War is a terrible thing!

"We don't want you to go!" Anna had sobbed, clinging to her father one last time.

"I've tried every way I can think of to keep from going," Father had said as he stroked Anna's soft, golden hair. "They need more men to protect more territory. They insist that I come."

"No," Mother said softly. "God knows about this war also. He doesn't want this war any more than we do. God can protect our precious father and bring him home safely. We will pray, children, every morning and every night and many times in between that God will bring our father home safely and soon." So their last parting words had been, "God be with you!" and, "We are praying for you!"

Days, weeks, months—a long time went by. John and Anna missed their father ever so much! Their mother also grieved for their father. The children knew this so they didn't bother Mother with a lot of questions. They all learned to take their fears and thoughts to the Lord in prayer. In the morning they would all pray for Father that he would

be safe. Then often through the day, Mother would hear little Anna and John pray. Then together at night they all prayed earnestly for their father's protection.

They received many letters from their Father. He tried not to tell them of all the terrible things—the deaths and the destruction—but he always wrote: "Keep praying for my protection, and for the other men who have been called like I have been."

John and Anna did pray for a whole year until they heard the grand news—the war was over! Their country had won, and there would be no more fighting with guns and bombs! The men were coming home!

John and Anna were so excited the day their father came home that they could not sit still. They watched him get down from the train and come to them through the crowd of other men. Their father was back safely with them! He wasn't hurt by any bullets or bombs and he wasn't crippled or sick! God had surely protected John and Anna's father, and they were so thankful. They knew that God had answered the prayers that they had prayed in the morning, evening, and throughout the day.

—Connie Sorrell

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### Questions:

1. When the widow was in trouble, to whom did she go?
2. Did the widow ask the judge many times?
3. Why did he help her?
4. Does Jesus always answer us when we pray right away?
5. Should we keep praying to Jesus?
6. Does Jesus love us, and will He help us?

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Part 22

May 27

## **BE YE READY**

Matt. 25:1-13

There were ten young woman called virgins, and they were invited to a wedding feast. Five of the women were wise and five were foolish and they all had a lamp. The foolish had no extra oil for their lamps, but the wise had oil and were always ready.

They waited a long time for the bridegroom. As they waited they all slept. At last the cry came, "The bridegroom is coming!"

They all rose up in a hurry and trimmed their lamps. The wise women had oil of course, and were all ready, but the foolish weren't ready, and asked for some of their oil. "No, we might not have enough," was the answer. "Go buy for yourselves."

While the foolish were gone to get the oil, the bridegroom came. They that were ready went with him to the feast, and the door was shut.

Then the foolish came and wanted to be let in, but the bridegroom said, "You were not ready. I don't know you."

Jesus wants us to be as the wise virgins and keep ourselves ready to meet Him when He comes. We will never know when He will come so we have to be ready all the time.

**Memory Verse:** Be ye also ready. Matt. 24:44a.

## **"Just-A-Minute" Janet**

Janet was a very good girl who always had a desire to please her mother and daddy. She wanted to do right but Janet did have one problem that her parents didn't like.

She wanted to do right but Janet did have one problem that her parents didn't like.

When her mother said, "Janet, pick up your toys now, and let's get ready for bed," Janet would say, "Just a minute, Mama." When her father would say, "Janet, stop playing now, and get ready to go to church," Janet would say, "Just a minute, Daddy." This is the reason her father called her, "Just-A-Minute" Janet.

Janet's mother tried to be patient with her and sometimes she would tell Janet, "Now get ready, Janet, because I want you to come with me to town in a little while." But then when Mother would call, Janet always said, "Just a minute, Mama."

Janet's father often scolded her for making them wait. "Why can't you be ready on time? You need to practice being ready when you know we are going to church," he would say. Or when Janet would tell her father, "Just a minute, Daddy," he would say, "No! Right this minute! Now!" Then Janet would try to hurry.

One evening Janet was playing out in the back yard under a big shade tree. She was playing dolls and having a grand time. Each of her three dolls had their own plate, cup, and spoon, and they were all sitting around the little play table, eating a quick lunch when Janet's mother called, "Come in, Janet. Come help me set the table."

As usual, Janet said, "Just a minute, Mama," and went on with her play.

Soon Mother called again: "Janet! Daddy is home. Come and eat supper." She still wanted to play some more with her dolls, so Janet said, "Just a minute, Mama."

Janet's daddy was going to call Janet himself when suddenly the most awful screaming was heard from the back yard! Then there was a terrible barking. Janet's daddy raced to the door to see what had happened.

A big German Shepherd dog had come to visit Janet and her dolls. He was barking and wagging his tail and trying to be friendly, but Janet was very scared. She cried, "Mama! Mama! Come here! Mama! Come get this awful dog!"

By now Mother and Daddy were both looking out at poor Janet and the dog. "Just a minute, Janet," Daddy told her. "If you had come when your mother called you, the dog would never have bothered you. When will you ever learn to come right when you are called?"

"I'm going to learn right now," Janet promised. "I don't like people to wait when I need their help!"

Next Sunday morning as they were all getting ready for church, Daddy said, "Let's go! Are you ready, Janet?"

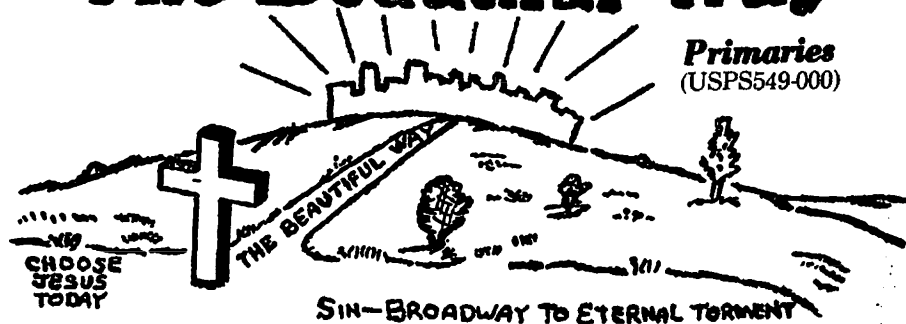
Janet didn't say, "Just a minute," like her old habit had been. She said, "Right here I am, Daddy," and walked out the door with him. —Connie Sorrell

### **Questions:**

1. How many virgins were there in our story?
2. What did the foolish virgins have to get for their lamps, when the bridegroom came?
3. Were the wise virgins ready to go with the bridegroom?
4. Did the foolish virgins get to go with the bridegroom?

# ***The Beautiful Way***

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Part 23

June 3

## **THE YOUNG MAN GOES BACK HOME**

Luke 15:11-32

There was a man one time who had two sons. The youngest son said, "Father, give me the money that is my share." His father was sad, but he gave him the money. Soon his son gathered his things and left home.

The son went to a far country and spent his money on things that were wicked. Before long, his money and friends were gone. There came a famine in the land, and he became hungry. The young man took a job caring for some pigs. He even wished he could have some of the food that was thrown to the pigs.

Finally he thought, "Here I am starving while my father's servants have plenty to eat. I will go home and tell him that I am sorry that I have sinned."

His father was watching for his boy and when he saw him he ran to meet him. How happy he was!

"My son is home," he said. "Let us have a feast. Put on him a robe, ring, and shoes."

Jesus is watching and waiting for us to come to Him.

**Memory Verse:** Let the wicked forsake his way. Isaiah 55:70.

## Obey; Don't Run Away

Jason had good parents who loved him very much. They all got along very well when Jason obeyed, but when Jason didn't obey, they all had problems. Jason seemed determined to have his own way. Daddy wanted the best way for Jason but Jason didn't think it was the best.

One morning Daddy asked Jason to get dressed and go with him to work. Daddy was working at a nearby ranch.

"Be sure to wear old clothes!" Mother called from the kitchen where she was fixing breakfast.

"Old clothes, old clothes!" mumbled Jason. For some reason he never did like to wear just any old clothes. He had favorite things he liked to wear over and over until Mother would buy him something else he liked. This time his favorite clothes were a red plaid western shirt with snaps on the two front pockets, good cowboy boots, and a pair of black corduroy jeans that had pockets in front and back. Jason put on his favorite clothes.

"I told you to put on old clothes," his mother said as he walked into the kitchen all ready to go.

"But I won't get them dirty," Jason defended himself.

"Now, Jason," Mother reasoned with him, "you always get dirty when you go to the ranch. Besides you will get holes in the knees of your pants and in the toes of your boots. Your shirt will get stained. Go put on some old clothes."

Daddy came into the kitchen to hear Mother and he agreed with her. But Jason didn't want to change clothes. Instead of obeying, he went out the front door. "I'll go to the store down the corner," he thought, "and show the

store clerk my new clothes. He'll like them." That is what Jason did, too. He did not obey his mother and daddy. He thought he would hide and do as he wanted.

Time went by. Jason was having a fun time talking to the store clerk and showing off his new dress clothes. He was trying to forget about the ranch when the door opened and in walked his daddy.

"Come with me, son," his daddy said, taking him by the hand.

They went back to the house. Do you know what happened? Jason received a spanking. He changed his clothes like he was supposed to and they went to the ranch.

Later that evening, Daddy said to Jason, "Look at the hole in the knee of your pants. Aren't you glad that those aren't your good black pants?" Daddy asked. Jason nodded.

"Remember," Daddy said, "to do as you please will never make you happy. When you are little, obey Mother and Daddy. When you get older, obey God. Even listen for God's voice when you are little. You won't be able to hide from God. Learn to mind Him early in life, because that is the best and happiest way."

—Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. What did the young man want his father to do?
2. After he had his money, where did he go?
3. Was he good when he went away, and what did he do with his money?
4. Did the young man go home again?
5. Was his father happy, and what did he do?

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June 10

## **ONE LOST SHEEP**

Matt. 18:10-14

One day Jesus was telling the ones around Him that His Father loves everyone. "He watches from heaven and cares for all the men, women, boys and girls."

He told them this parable. A man had one hundred sheep. One day as he was counting them he found that one was missing! He loved all of his sheep and cared for them. Now, one was gone!

He thought: "What shall I do? I feel so sorry for the one sheep out in the cold night alone. I will have to leave the ninety-nine others and search for my lost sheep." With a lamp and a staff he went out into the night, looking and calling. Soon he heard a soft cry. Hurriedly he went towards the noise and there in a crevice was his sheep. How thankful he was to find it! Tenderly he picked up the one sheep and carried it home rejoicing.

Because God loves us so much, He sent Jesus to look for us and save us. He doesn't want anyone to be lost.

**Memory Verse:** For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. Matt. 18:11.

## You Are Special



The Collins family was a big family. There was Tony and Walter, Susan, Linda, Marie, Kevin, David, John, and there was Sarah. Sarah was four and in the family line-up she was really between David and John, but this story is about Sarah.

Let us talk about the nice, cozy farm the Collins family lived on. They lived in a big, old-fashioned, two-story house with a wide lawn full of shade trees. The children loved to play outside games on the lawn, and romp with their two dogs. They had a pet horse, white-faced cows, a bull, black and white pigs, and plenty of cats.

One game that the family liked to play was hide-n-seek. Sometimes the older children thought they were too big to play but the younger children's merriment and laughter soon drew them to the game one way or another. They would hide all over the farm, leaving two people to find the rest. In the summer-time the children liked to play hide-n-seek right before supper. The evening would be getting cool and usually a pleasant breeze made being outside a pleasant place to play.

This one particular day they talked Tony into finding the rest of them by himself. Tony was a nice, good natured brother, so he agreed. While he turned his back, hid his eyes, and counted to twenty, everyone ran as fast as they could to the hardest spot they could find to hide. Tony soon found each one because he somehow knew where each brother or sister chanced to be. It was great fun! Everyone was busy talking and laughing when Mother called them to supper. Everyone, that is, but. . .

"Where is Sarah?" Mother asked as they gathered around the table. "She isn't with you."

All the children looked at each other, and Daddy glanced around the table. "Sarah? Where's Sarah?" Nobody knew where Sarah was.

"I'll go and find her," Tony said because he felt responsible. As Tony left the room, everyone tried to remember where they had last seen Sarah. Tony didn't come back for such a long time, that Walter wanted to go and look also, but Daddy went instead. Daddy and Tony called and looked for Sarah all around the barn. They looked down over the green meadow and the cows raised their heads when Daddy and Tony called. Still they didn't find Sarah.

"I hope she isn't hurt," Tony began to worry. About that time Chow-Down, their dog, started barking and running to his dog house like he had found the missing girl. He had! There behind his dog house, lying on a soft cluster of green grass was Sarah. She was sound asleep in the warm evening sun. Daddy picked her up gently. "Come, little one," he said. "You're missing your supper."

At the house, her mother told Sarah, "Even though I had Tony, Walter, Susan, Linda, Marie, Kevin, David and John all at the table, I missed my Sarah. You are the only Sarah I have you know. That makes you special."

—Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. How many sheep did the shepherd have?
2. What happened to one of them?
3. Did the shepherd go to find it?
4. Was he happy when he found it?
5. Does Jesus love and seek after us?



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June 17

## **HIDDEN TREASURES**

Matt. 13:44-46

Did you ever look for something that you liked so much? When you found it, weren't you happy? Jesus told the people a parable about two men who were looking for something.

There was a treasure hidden in a field. A man came by searching for that treasure. He looked and looked. He finally found it, and went his way rejoicing! He didn't have enough money, so he sold all he had to buy the field with the treasure.

Another man was searching for good pearls. One day he found a pearl of great price. He wanted that one pearl so much that he sold all the others, and bought the one, precious pearl.

When we seek for Jesus with all our might, He will come into our hearts and make us happy. Then we will want to give up everything and just keep Jesus and the joy He gives us. We cannot love the things in the world more than Jesus. He has to be first in our hearts. Let's all love Him and serve Him all of our lives, because that is the only way we can be truly happy in this life.

**Memory Verse:** Buy the truth and sell it not. Proverbs 23:23a.

## Boys and Bikes

Raymond quietly walked into the living room where his father was sitting in an easy chair reading the evening newspaper. Raymond sat down on a couch near his father. He folded his arms, stuck his lower lip out a little, and kept looking down at the hole in the toe of his sneakers. After a while his father noticed him. "What's wrong, Raymond?" his father asked calmly, never lowering the newspaper.

"Daddy, when you were a little boy, did you ever have a bicycle? I mean, a *really good* bicycle?"

At this, Raymond's father lowered his newspaper. "What's wrong with your bicycle?" he asked in return.

"Well, I guess it still works—but it's getting so little and it doesn't go fast either. Besides, it only has one speed."

Daddy smiled. "So you're wanting a big ten-speed bike for your birthday next month?"

Raymond's face brightened. "How did you guess what I wanted for my birthday?"

"Well, I was a little boy once," his father began thoughtfully. "I had an old bicycle that had a lot of loose bolts. Every day or so I had to tighten up some bolt so the bike wouldn't fall apart. I liked that old bike, though. It took me many miles—up and down hills, over bike trails, down to the pond to swim or fish, and many places in the town. I was down town riding my bike one day, when I passed by the Coast to Coast store and there in the front display window, I saw the neatest looking bike you ever saw. The tag said \$36.95 and that was a lot of money! I couldn't forget that bike so I told my Dad about it. He checked into it and agreed that I

could have it but he had me get a paper route to save up the money."

"I wish I was old enough to have a paper route," Raymond said.

"Let's try something you can do," Daddy said thoughtfully. "If you'll be faithful to take the trash out for your mother and be a help around the house, I'll check with the bicycle shop and see if they will consider a trade-in on your old bike. Maybe some other smaller boy would like it, since it still works."

Raymond was ready to agree with his father's suggestion. He took the trash out to the big barrel every night after supper. He really tried to be a help around the house, too.

The day before his birthday, Raymond's father took his little bike down to the bike shop. Raymond went along, too, and there he picked out just the bike he wanted. It was a swift, sky-blue bike with a white seat.

Raymond thanked his father for the new bike. He didn't mind at all leaving his other little bike at the bicycle shop because he had a bigger, better bike now.

—Connie Sorrell

Be thoughtful in dealing with others.

### Questions:

1. What was hidden that the first man found in the field?
2. Was he happy when he found it, and what did he do to buy it?
3. Did the other man find the pearl of great price?
4. Was he happy, and what did he do to buy it?
5. What will Jesus do when we seek Him with all of our hearts?
6. Will we then be happy and have joy in our hearts?

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## **WORKING FOR JESUS**

Matt. 25:14-29

A man planned a trip to a far away country. He called in his servants and gave them each some talents. To one he gave five talents, to the other two, and to the last servant he gave one talent. Talents are a certain amount of money, and the servants were to use the talents and gain more money while their lord was away.

After a long time, the man came back and he called in his servants. The one to whom he had given five talents showed him five more. His lord was pleased and said, "Very well, you have been faithful in a few things, now you will have more." He did the same with the servant who had two talents and had gained two more. The servant who had only been given one talent brought it to his lord and said, "I knew you were a hard man so I hid my talent and didn't make any more with it." His lord answered, "You are wicked and lazy; I will take your talent and give it to the one with ten."

We need to be faithful to Jesus and do all we can for Him.

**Memory Verse:** It is required . . . that a man be found faithful. 1 Cor. 4:2.

## Three Brothers

Mr. & Mrs. Morton had three sons. There was Big Brother, Middle Brother, and Little Brother.

One fine summer day, Mrs. Morton had to go to town and do some shopping. She asked Big Brother to mow the lawn while she was gone. She asked Middle Brother to trim the lawn and cut the hedge, and she asked Little Brother to pick up all the trash and put it in trash barrels in the alley. Mrs. Morton told the boys she would bring them an ice cream bar if they would have their work done when she came home from shopping.

Right away Big Brother got out the lawn mower, started the motor, and began to mow the lawn. Middle Brother found the hand clippers and carefully trimmed the grass around the house and sidewalks. Little Brother was bad. He sat on the front porch and pouted.

Pretty soon Big Brother came to the house for a drink of water. He saw Little Brother sitting on the front porch pouting. "You had better start picking up the trash, Little Brother," he said. "Mother will be home before you know it, and then you won't get your ice cream bar."

"You pick up the trash," answered Little Brother. "Why can't I mow the lawn?"

"I picked up the trash when I was your age," replied Big Brother. "If you do a good job at that, then some day you can mow."

Soon after, Middle Brother came to the house for a drink. He saw Little Brother pouting on the porch. "Get up, Little Brother," he said, "and pick up the trash!"

"I've done it before and I don't like it! I want to mow like Big Brother or trim like you're doing. It just isn't fair!" pouted Little Brother.

"You will get an ice cream bar, too," said Middle Brother, "so you ought to obey Mother and get busy!"

Later that afternoon Mother came home from shopping. Right away she noticed that the lawn was mowed, the sidewalks were neat, and the hedge was trimmed. She was very pleased with the work and gave Big Brother and Middle Brother each an ice cream bar and a grape sucker. Then she asked where Little Brother was.

They found him lying on the front porch sound asleep. When he woke up, Mrs. Morton did not give him an ice cream bar nor a sucker. Instead, she gave him a brown paper sack and had him pick up every piece of trash on the lawn and under the hedge. After he was finished, Mrs. Morton told him, "Thank you," but she never did give him an ice cream bar nor a sucker.

The next chance he had, Little Brother minded. He knew he would have to mind anyway, so why not get the reward, too? It is better to obey right away.

—Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. How many talents did the man give each of his servants?
2. How many more talents did the first servant have when the man came back?
3. How many more did the second servant have?
4. What did the third servant do with his talent?
5. What did the master say to him?
6. What are we supposed to do with our talents?