

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 Jan. 5, 1997

WISE MEN FOLLOW THE STAR

Far away from Jerusalem and Bethlehem, in a country to the east, there lived wise men who spent their time studying the stars. They knew the stars so well that it was easy for them to see one night that there was a new star in the sky! God showed them that this star was in honor of the birth of a new King in the country of Judea.

These men feared God. They wanted to see this new King who was to be the Savior of the world. They gathered precious gifts, suitable to give a king, and started on the long journey to Judea. They traveled on camels across the desert during the cool of the night when they could follow the star.

Surely this King would be born in the most beautiful and famous city of Judea, they reasoned. Therefore, they hurried toward Jerusalem. There they asked the people to show them where to find the new King. How surprised they were to find that no one seemed to know where he was!

Soon word came to King Herod that some strange men from the East were in Jerusalem looking for a new king that had been born. Herod was troubled. He knew nothing about the newborn King. He did not want anyone to take his place as king.

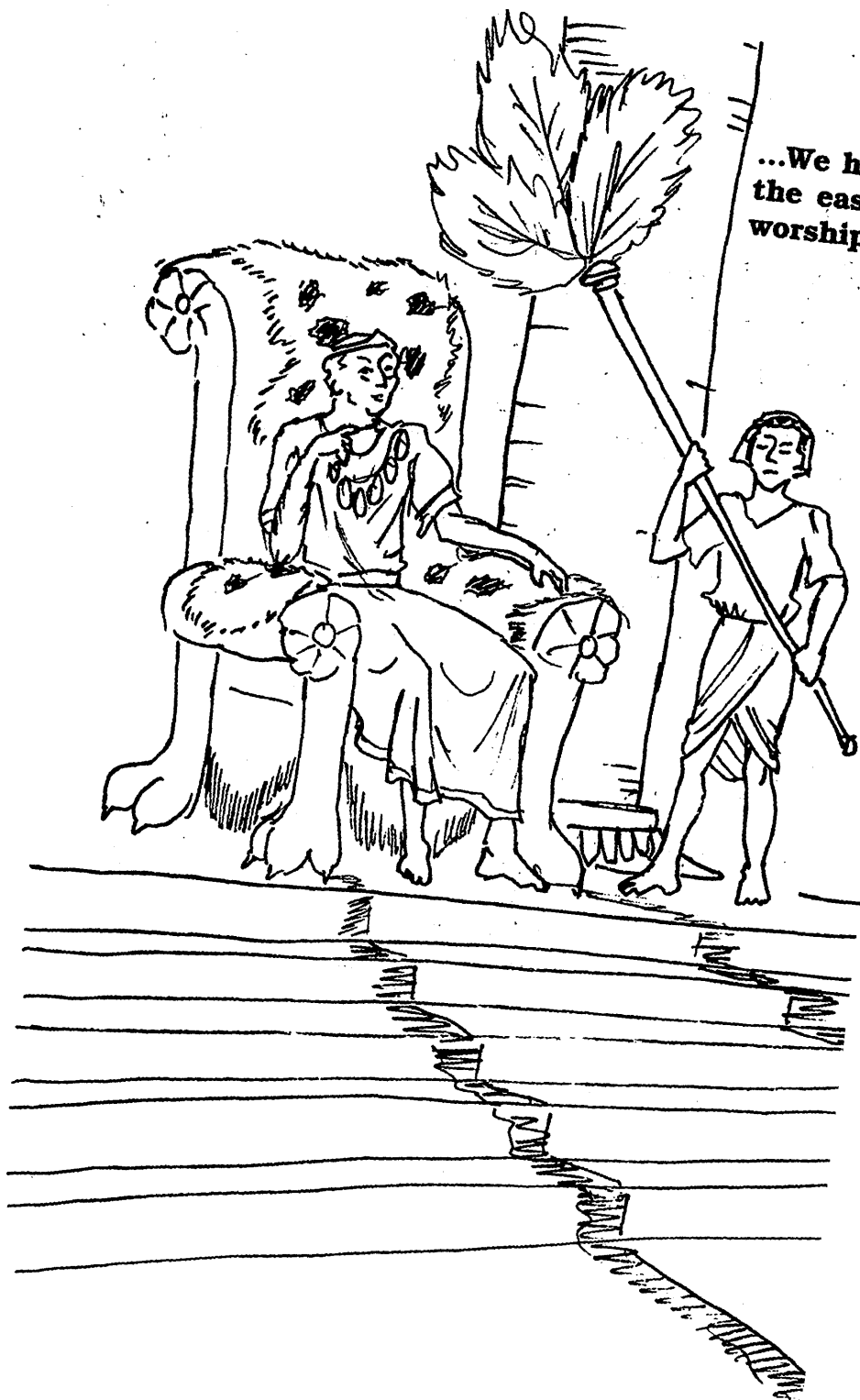
Herod called the chief priests and scribes. "Where is the King to be born?" he demanded.

"He is to be born in Bethlehem," they answered.

Now Herod was more worried than ever. He feared this new King would take away his throne. Secretly he called for the Wise Men. "When did you see this star?" he asked them. When they told him, he said, "Go to Bethlehem and search diligently for the young child. When you have found Him, let me know so I may come and worship Him too."

The Wise Men left Jerusalem and started toward Bethlehem. Outside the city gates they looked up and saw the same bright star that they had been following. They rejoiced to see it again.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



...We have s
the east, an
worship him

tar in
ne to
v 2:2.



Respect Life

(Based on a true story.)

Agba, a young Arabian horseboy, gently stroked the soft nose of the trusting mare by his side. She needed him now more than ever before and Agba was thankful that he was allowed to sleep in the brood-stall with her until her baby colt should be born.

After giving her another drink from her white drinking horn, Agba helped her lie down on the clean bed of sand and straw that he had made. She was a brown and white bay mare with beautiful brown eyes that seemed to understand what Agba was thinking or doing. Now her long eyelashes closed over her eyes. She was too tired to watch Agba sit down in a corner of the stall. She wanted rest and quietness.

Agba sat down crossed-legged where he could see the mare's face. He noticed the light of the full moon as it shone through the little round window on the brick wall. The little spotlight encircled the mare as if to keep her from darkness and fear. Agba smiled. May God bless this mare tonight.

Agba was contented with his place in the Royal Stables of the sultan (king.) He loved to care for the ten horses in his charge. He faithfully fed and watered them. He brushed their coats, manes and tails and if anyone happened to get sick or injured, he carefully nursed that horse back to full health.

Agba planned to stay awake all night and watch this special mare. He wanted to help her with her new baby as soon as it should come. Agba leaned into the protective corner of the stall. He listened to the cooing doves as they settled in the stables for the night. The crickets were singing and the twilight toads were booming their bass voices down at the watering holes. These were the pleasant sounds of evening in

the northwestern slice of Africa known as Morocco. Agba tipped his head farther back as he smelled the rich fragrance of ripening pomegranates, the tangy lemon groves, and the blooming almond trees. He felt calm and.... Suddenly Agba woke up! Sunlight was dancing through the little window, spotlighting the mare and her tall baby colt. Agba had not even heard when the baby colt was born! He rubbed his eyes in surprise. The mare was nudging her baby to make it stand. Agba stared in wonder as he saw the skinniest of legs unfold to hold this new little creature. With shining black eyes, the baby colt looked at Agba. Their eyes smiled at each other. They were already friends.

God had sent this new life into the world and Agba wanted to care for it. Only God gives life to any living thing. He is pleased when we respect the lives of people and of the animals we have in our care.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What did the wise men study?
2. What did they see in the sky one night?
3. Why did they travel to Judea?
4. Where did they think He would be born?
5. Could the people of Jerusalem tell them where to find Jesus?
6. Who heard about the wise men?
7. Why was King Herod troubled?
8. Where was Jesus born?
9. When they looked up, what did the wise men see?

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 2:1-8.

(Answers: 1. The stars. 2. A new star. 3. To see the new king. 4. In Jerusalem. 5. No. 6. King Herod. 7. He didn't want anyone taking his throne. 8. In Bethlehem. 9. The star.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 Jan. 12, 1997

GOD PROTECTS HIS SON

The Wise Men were overjoyed to find the same bright star to guide them. They left Jerusalem and followed the star as it led them toward Bethlehem. At Bethlehem the star stood still over the place where Jesus was. The men got off their camels and went into the house. There they saw the young Child with Mary, His mother.

Falling to their knees, the Wise Men worshiped Jesus. At last they had found the newborn King! Gladly they opened their treasures and presented gold, frankincense and myrrh to the One God had guided them to.

Before the Wise Men left Bethlehem God warned them in a dream that they must not return to Herod. They obeyed and went back home by another road.

Not long after the Wise Men left, God spoke to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Get up! Take the young Child and His mother and flee into Egypt. Stay there until I tell you to return. Herod will look for Jesus and try to kill Him." Quickly Joseph got up, took Mary and Baby Jesus and traveled to Egypt.

Herod waited a long time for the Wise Men to return. Finally he realized they were not going to tell him where to find the newborn King. He thought of a wicked plan to be sure the future King would be destroyed.

Sending soldiers to Bethlehem, Herod ordered them to kill every child who was two years old or less. He was sure this would rid him of the Child who might take his kingdom. But God had protected His Son by sending Him into Egypt.

Herod did not live long after this. When he died, God told Joseph, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother and go back to the land of Israel. Herod is dead."

Joseph obeyed. But before they reached Judea, Joseph heard that Herod's wicked son ruled in his place. Bethlehem would not be safe under his rule. Instead, he took Mary and Baby Jesus to Galilee. The king who ruled there was more kind. At last the family settled in the little town of Nazareth where Mary had lived as a girl.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





**...He took the young child
and his mother by night, and
departed into Egypt.**

Matthew 2:14.



Passing Inspection

(Continued from last week.)

Under the watchful eye of his mother, the newborn colt stretched out his long neck and sniffed at Agba, the stable boy. Slowly, quietly, Agba stroked his wet nose. His hand touched the colt's long fuzzy ears and then curved down his arched neck. Carefully, Agba picked up each tiny leg and inspected each hoof. On one hind heel there was a white spot—a sign of good luck! Otherwise the colt was reddish brown or golden-red in the sunlight. Agba smiled. He knew what to name this skinny little prince. He would call him Sham which is the Arabic word for sun.

Suddenly, the stable door swung open and a dark shadow fell across the stall. "I told you to call me when the mare needed help," growled Signor Achmet, Chief of the Grooms. He stepped inside the stall. The mare raised her head and bared her teeth in defense of her baby. The chief slapped her on the nose. "Don't get bossy with me," he snapped. "I must inspect this newborn to see if it is fit to live in the royal stables of the Great Sultan of Morocco."

The little colt jumped when he felt the chief's bony fingers run over his body. The chief jerked up the colt's head and pried open his tender mouth to inspect his teeth. Agba laid his cheek upon the mare's cheek to keep her from biting the chief. Right now the life of the colt was in the chief's hand. Agba had seen the Chief of the Grooms kill horses he felt "unworthy of the royal stables."

"Ah-hal!" squawked the chief causing both mother and son to jump. "Look here on his chest. See these cross grains of hair. They are in the shape of a head of ripe wheat. That is a bad sign. This colt will bring bad luck to the royal stables. He must not

live!" With these words the chief quickly drew a saber that hung in a sheath from his belt.

Agba smothered a cry. Unmindful of his own safety, he thrust himself between the Chief of the Grooms and the colt. He drew up the hind heel with the white spot and pointed to it. The chief frowned. That was a good sign. This colt would have both good and bad in his life if he lived. Just then the mother nickered to her baby who answered back.

"YOU are responsible for this runt," said the chief to Agba as he put his saber back in its sheath. He turned and stomped out of the stall. Agba put his arms around Sham and led him to his mother for milk. Agba's heart beat with love for Sham. Yes, Agba would care for Sham and some day the chief of grooms would be telling others about Sham's beauty, grace, and speed.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Why were the wise men overjoyed?
2. Where did the star lead them?
3. Where did the star stand still?
4. What did they do when they saw the Child?
5. What did they give Him?
6. Who warned them not to go back to Herod?
7. Where did God tell Joseph to take Jesus and Mary?
8. What did Herod order the soldiers to do in Bethlehem?
9. Who protected Jesus?

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 2:9-23.

(Answers: 1. They found the same star that had guided them. 2. To Bethlehem. 3. Over the place where Jesus was. 4. They worshipped Him. 5. Gold, frankincense and myrrh. 6. God. 7. To Egypt. 8. Kill every child two years old or under. 9. God.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 Jan. 19, 1997

THE FEAST OF THE PASSOVER

As a boy, Jesus lived in the little town of Nazareth. He loved to watch Joseph work. Soon He was helping Joseph in his carpenter shop. When Jesus was old enough to go to school, Mary and Joseph sent Him to the synagogue. It was here Jewish boys learned to read and write. They studied the psalms and the writings of Moses and the prophets. Each book had to be copied by hand in those days, so the boys had no books of their own. They had to learn their lessons by heart. Like other Jewish boys, Jesus memorized many verses.

To Joseph and Mary, just as to other Jews, the most important time of the year was the Passover. Then Jews from everywhere went to Jerusalem to celebrate this sacred feast. Here they were reminded that God had brought their people out of slavery in the land of Egypt. Joseph and Mary had gone to this feast every year since their return from Egypt. When Jesus was twelve years old, they prepared to take Him with them for the first time.

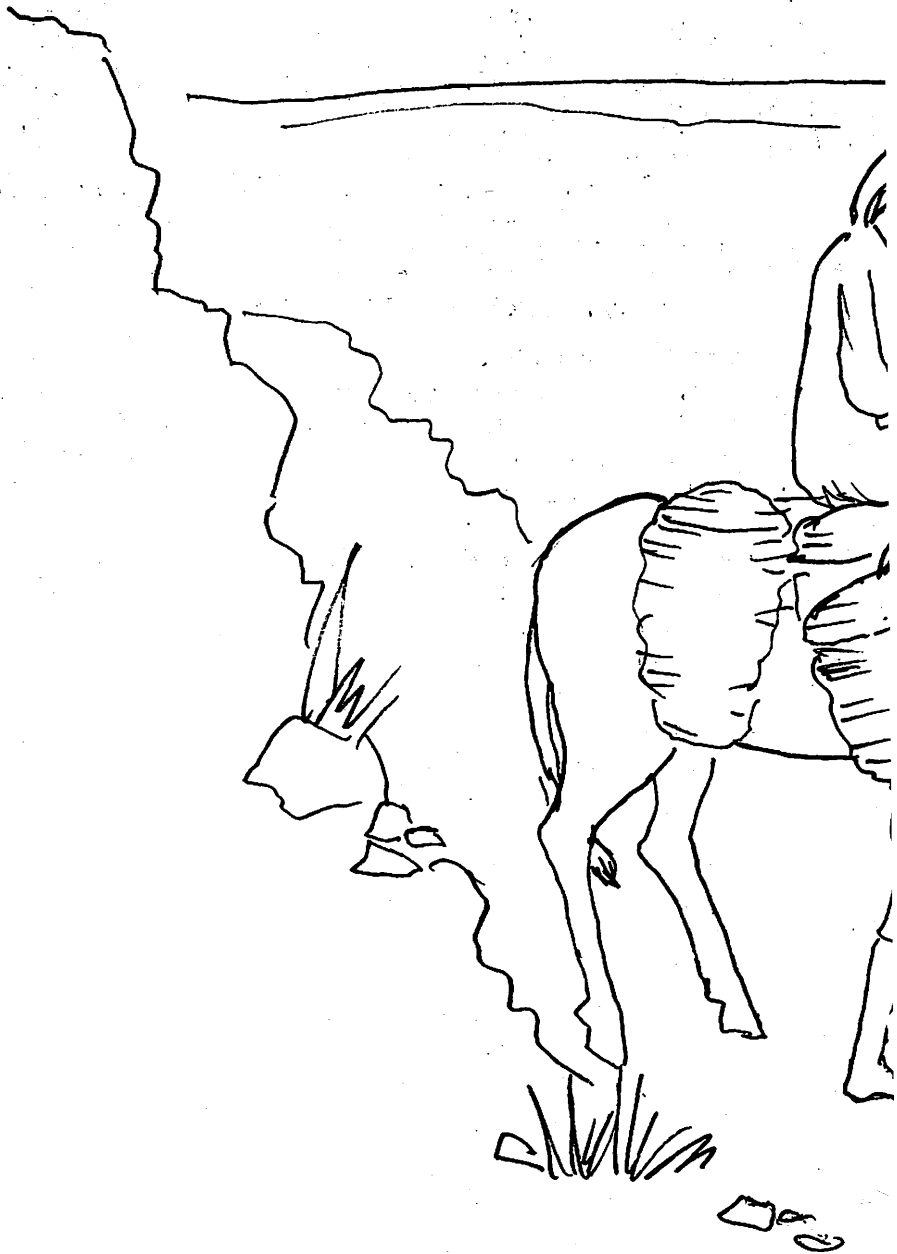
At the appointed time, a large company of Jews left Nazareth to travel the sixty or seventy miles to Jerusalem. Some walked while others rode donkeys in a large caravan. As they moved slowly down the road, people from other cities and villages joined them. They traveled for two or three days, talking, singing, greeting old friends and making new ones.

Finally they saw Jerusalem spread out before them. The great city and the beautiful Temple on Mount Moriah were a welcome sight to the tired travelers.

Jesus' heart was full of love for God, His Father. He loved the Temple and gladly took part in the solemn feast of the Passover. It made Him want to begin the work His Father had sent Him to do. He spent His time in the Temple listening to the chief priests and scribes as they spoke of the law of God.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**And when he was twelve ye
after the custom of the fea**



, they went up to Jerusalem
e 2:42.



Raised By Love

(Continued from last week.)

Faithfully, Agba cared for his favorite mare and her newborn colt. The little one was gaining strength but his mother slowly grew weaker. With a sad heart Agba watched her turn away from the sweet grain that he held out to her. She only wanted to drink water and not much of that. Agba hung his hammock in a corner of their stall and stayed near them except for the time when he had to water and feed the other nine horses in his charge.

One evening Agba came into the stall after doing the chores and found that the mare had died. A sharp cry of grief passed through his lips as he fell on her still body. Just then Signor Achmet, the Chief of the Grooms, was passing by. He stopped when he heard Agba's cry. "So she died," he said dryly as he stepped into the stall. He looked at the little colt that was nuzzling Agba. "This colt will die too," he said with a shrug of his bony shoulder. "There is nothing to be done. Go to your quarters, Agba!"

Agba knew better than to disobey the chief but he did not feel like going to his quarters. With his head lowered in grief, he walked briskly before a long row of stalls to the outside gates. The royal guards at the palace gates knew Agba. They thought he was on another errand for the Chief of Grooms. Immediately, they opened the gates. Like an arrow shot from its bow, Agba raced past the gates. Swiftly, he ran over the foot-worn path toward the market place.

Agba raced through the market place. He did not greet anyone nor did he stop to buy anything. The people thought the royal Chief of the Grooms had surely sent this errand boy on a very important mission. Finally Agba came upon the camel drivers. With

his searching eyes he found a young camel calf following behind its mother.

Agba approached this camel's owner and soon was given a cruse of warm camel's milk and a bottle of honey. Carrying the precious milk close to his heart, Agba hurried back to the little colt. Sham was quietly waiting for him. With gentle fingers Agba guided Sham's mouth to the cruse spout. Patiently, he worked with Sham until the colt learned to suck on the cruse by himself.

A few days later the Chief of the Grooms poked his head into Sham's stall. "So the runt is still living," he remarked. "Perhaps he will grow up."

Agba did not reply. He was tightly holding the cruse so that Sham's strong pulls would not tug the cruse from his hands and spill the precious milk. At the right time, Agba gave Sham sweet grain to eat. Sham grew stronger and more graceful under Agba's loving care. The two were very close friends.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Where did Jesus live when He was a little boy?
2. Where did He help Joseph?
3. Where did He go to school?
4. What was the most important time of the year to Mary and Joseph?
5. Where did the Jews celebrate this feast?
6. How old was Jesus when He got to go for the first time?
7. What was Jesus' heart full of?
8. Who had sent Him to do a work?
9. Where did He spend His time?

LESSON TEXT: Luke 2:40-42.

(Answers: 1. In Nazareth. 2. In the carpenter's shop. 3. In the synagogue. 4. Passover. 5. In Jerusalem. 6. Twelve years old. 7. Love for God. 8. God. 9. In the Temple.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 Jan. 26, 1997

LOST IN JERUSALEM

In Jerusalem, Jesus spent His time in the Temple. He listened to the wise men as they taught the law of God. This was His Father's house and He loved it.

The feast of the Passover lasted for seven days. After this the people of Nazareth prepared to go home. Joseph and Mary left Jerusalem along with the others. Mary did not see Jesus but she was not worried. She was sure He was with their friends and relatives, walking along with those of His age.

Evening came and Jesus still had not joined them! Mary and Joseph began searching for Him among their friends. All through the company they asked, "Have you seen Jesus?" Always the answer was the same. No one had seen Him that day.

There was nothing for the worried parents to do but walk back to Jerusalem and look for Jesus. For two days they went to every place in Jerusalem where they thought He might be. On the third day they found Him. He was at the Temple with the wise teachers, listening to them and asking questions.

Mary and Joseph were surprised to find Jesus there. Mary asked Him, "Son, why did you stay here when we were starting for home? Your father and I have been so worried as we looked everywhere for you!"

"Why did you look for Me?" Jesus asked. "Do you not realize that I have my Father's work to do?"

Joseph and Mary did not understand Jesus' words. But Jesus realized that God had sent Him into the world to do a great work. He was old enough now to get ready for that work. Mary kept Jesus' words in her heart and thought about them often.

Jesus went back to Nazareth with Joseph and Mary. He was an obedient, helpful Son. As the years passed Jesus grew to be a noble young man. He pleased God and found favor with all those around Him.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**...Wist ye not that I
must be about my
Father's business?
Luke 2:49.**





The Rising Of Sham

(Continued from last week.)

From a tiny colt nursing upon camel's milk, Sham grew to be a beautiful golden-red horse. In the Arabic language, Sham meant sun and surely Sham did outshine all the other horses in the royal stables. Every morning and night Agba spent an hour brushing Sham's shiny coat. With a soft cloth made of camel's hair, Agba rubbed sweet oils into Sham's coat. Sham liked the way Agba rubbed straight down his back until he came to Sham's hind legs. Then Agba rubbed the cloth in a circular motion the way the hair grew on Sham's body. Agba knew all the proper ways to care for a horse. His love for Sham caused him to be even more particular.

One year passed and Sham now spent time in the pasture grazing with the other horses. Somehow these horses felt Sham was different. They would turn from him, kick at him, or bite at his tail. They seemed to know that Sham was not raised by a mother horse but by a little stable boy. When Sham was afraid, he came running to Agba for protection. When he was cold, he sidled up to Agba for warmth. When he was lonely, he nuzzled Agba and laid his satin nose against the boy's cheek.

Sham was different from the other colts but he did not seem to mind. Instead, he spent time exploring the world around him. He would sniff the delicious smell of clover, the spicy scent of the pine woods, and the fresh breezes blowing over the snow-topped mountains. He watched the geese gliding through the air, the gazelle speeding over the tall grass, and he joined their race, for Sham loved to run.

When the stable boys would ride their horses down to the drinking pool, Agba and Sham were always first to be there. As soon as Sham was

two years old, Agba rode him in the races that the stable boys had. Sham won every race. He even outran the older horses. Agba wasn't surprised. He knew Sham was as fast as the gazelle!

Because Agba loved Sham and cared so tenderly for him, Sham obeyed him. Never did Agba whip Sham but a firm pat, a little pressure of the knees and Sham would go or stop as he desired. Agba and Sham understood each other. No one else ever rode him.

Agba did not know about God and His Son, Jesus Christ. He had been left an orphaned toddler near the palace gates. The guards had brought him in and he grew up in the stables helping with what he could. No one really loved Agba. He was just useful like a tool in the hands of the Chief of the Grooms. However, Agba learned about love through caring for Sham. Never before had Agba loved or felt loved. His love for Sham would one day lead him to the love of God.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Where did Jesus spend His time?
2. Who did He listen to?
3. Why did He love the Temple?
4. How long did the feast last?
5. Was Jesus with Mary and Joseph when they started home?
6. Where did Mary think He was?
7. How many days did they look for Him in Jerusalem?
8. Where did they find Him?
9. What kind of son was Jesus?

LESSON TEXT: Luke 2:43-52.

(Answers: 1. In the Temple. 2. The wise men. 3. It was His Father's house. 4. Seven days. 5. No. 6. With friends and relatives. 7. Two days. 8. In the Temple. 9. An obedient, helpful son.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 Feb. 2, 1997

JOHN THE BAPTIST

John, the son of Zacharias and Elisabeth, lived for some time in the wilderness, where he ate locusts and wild honey. He wore a simple robe made of camel's hair. About his waist was a leather girdle. When John was about thirty years old, he began preaching to the people. "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand," he warned. God sent John to get the people ready to receive Jesus.

It did not take long for word to travel that a new prophet was preaching beside the Jordan River. It had been four hundred years since God spoke to His people through a prophet. People came from every part of the land to hear John preach. They were anxious to see and hear this man who spoke the words God gave him.

As the people listened to the words God spoke through John, they realized this was God's message to them. They wanted to obey. "What shall we do then?" they asked John.

"The person who has two coats should give one to the man who has none. He who has more food than he needs should share with those who are hungry," John answered.

The tax collectors listened carefully. Then they asked what they should do. "Do not ask for more tax money than you are supposed to," John told them.

Next came the soldiers. They, too, wondered what they should do. "Do not hurt or falsely accuse any man," John instructed them. "And be content with your wages."

Many people did as John told them. They confessed their sins and repented of them. John then baptized these believers in the Jordan River to show that their hearts were now clean and pure. Because of this the people called him "John the Baptist."

So many people came to John and accepted his preaching that the word began to spread that perhaps he was the coming Savior. When John heard this, he quickly answered, "I am not the Christ."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. Mark 1:4.





Prepared As A Gift

(Continued from last week.)

One spring morning, Agba was watering the other nine horses in his charge when the Chief of the Grooms tapped him on the shoulder. "Agba," he said with a worried voice, "the Sultan of Morocco commands me to appear before him this day, at the hour when the sun is in the center of the world. He commands six stable boys to be with me. You will be one of the six. After you have watered the horses, you will have your head shaved. Then take a good bath. Be ready."

Politely, Agba nodded but his heart was thumping wildly. The Sultan was not a kind man. He ruled with fear. Agba searched his mind to think if he had done anything to displease the Sultan. He could not think of one thing. Perhaps the Sultan had heard about Sham's swiftness and grace. Maybe he was angry because Sham won every race.

Agba was waiting when the chief called for the chosen boys to follow him. Quietly walking in single file, the boys' bare feet sounded like small ocean waves lapping on the soft sand. Plop! plop! plop! their feet carried them down the long aisle of the stable, past several guards, along a high outer wall, then up a steep ramp to the entrance of the Sultan's palace. Six royal guards opened the heavy gates for the chief and his boys. A little shudder went through Agba as the gates swung shut behind them. Silently, they marched on through a gallery of glazed blue tiles. Plop! plop! plop! their feet carried them down long halls, through three more gates, and into an inner court. A guard stopped them at a grandly carved gate. Here they had to lower their heads. When the gate swung open, they bowed with respect as they came into the presence of the Sultan.

Inside a beautiful garden of flowers and water fountains, sitting cross-

legged on an embroidered red carpet, was Sultan Mulai Ismael. The Chief of the Grooms bowed to the ground and the boys bowed also. Satisfied with their bows, the Sultan waved for them to stand. Then he spoke. "I charge you, as head groom in my service, to select six of the most perfect horses in the royal stables. The horses and these six boys shall be sent as a gift to His Majesty, Louis XV, the boy King of France. Make ready and in seven days you shall depart." The Sultan clapped for his scribe and had a letter written for the King of France.

Agba's head began to spin with excitement. Surely Sham would be one of the chosen horses! They would travel over land and sea to live, perhaps with honor, in the royal stables of France. The Lord was calling Agba out of the wilderness and He would be watching over him through the trials that lay ahead.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was Zacharias and Elizabeth's son?
2. Where did he live?
3. What did he eat?
4. What did he do when he was about thirty years old?
5. Why did God send John?
6. How long had it been since God spoke to the people through a prophet?
7. What did John do after the people repented of their sins?
8. What did the people call John?
9. What did John tell those who thought he was the Savior?

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 3:1-8; Mark 1:4-6; Luke 1:2-15.

(Answers: 1. John. 2. In the wilderness. 3. Locusts and wild honey. 4. To get the people ready to receive Jesus. 5. He began preaching. 6. Four hundred years. 7. He baptized them. 8. John the Baptist. 9. "I am not the Christ.")

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 Feb. 9, 1997

JOHN BAPTIZES JESUS

Many people came to hear John tell them God's Word. News of this strange preacher soon traveled throughout the land. Everywhere people wondered, "Who is this man?"

Finally the Jews at Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask John, "Who are you?"

John quickly answered, "I am not the Christ."

"Are you Elijah?" they asked. John said he was not. Then they asked, "Are you the prophet?" Again John's answer was, "No."

Finally John told them, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.'"

"Why do you baptize then, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" the priests and Levites questioned.

"I baptize with water," John explained. "There is a great One coming Whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Not long after this, Jesus left Nazareth and went to the Jordan River where John was preaching to the people. When John saw Him, he called out, "This is the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world. This is the One Who is greater than I."

Jesus let John know that He had come to be baptized. "I have need to be baptized of You," John protested. He felt unworthy to baptize Jesus, knowing that He was the Son of God.

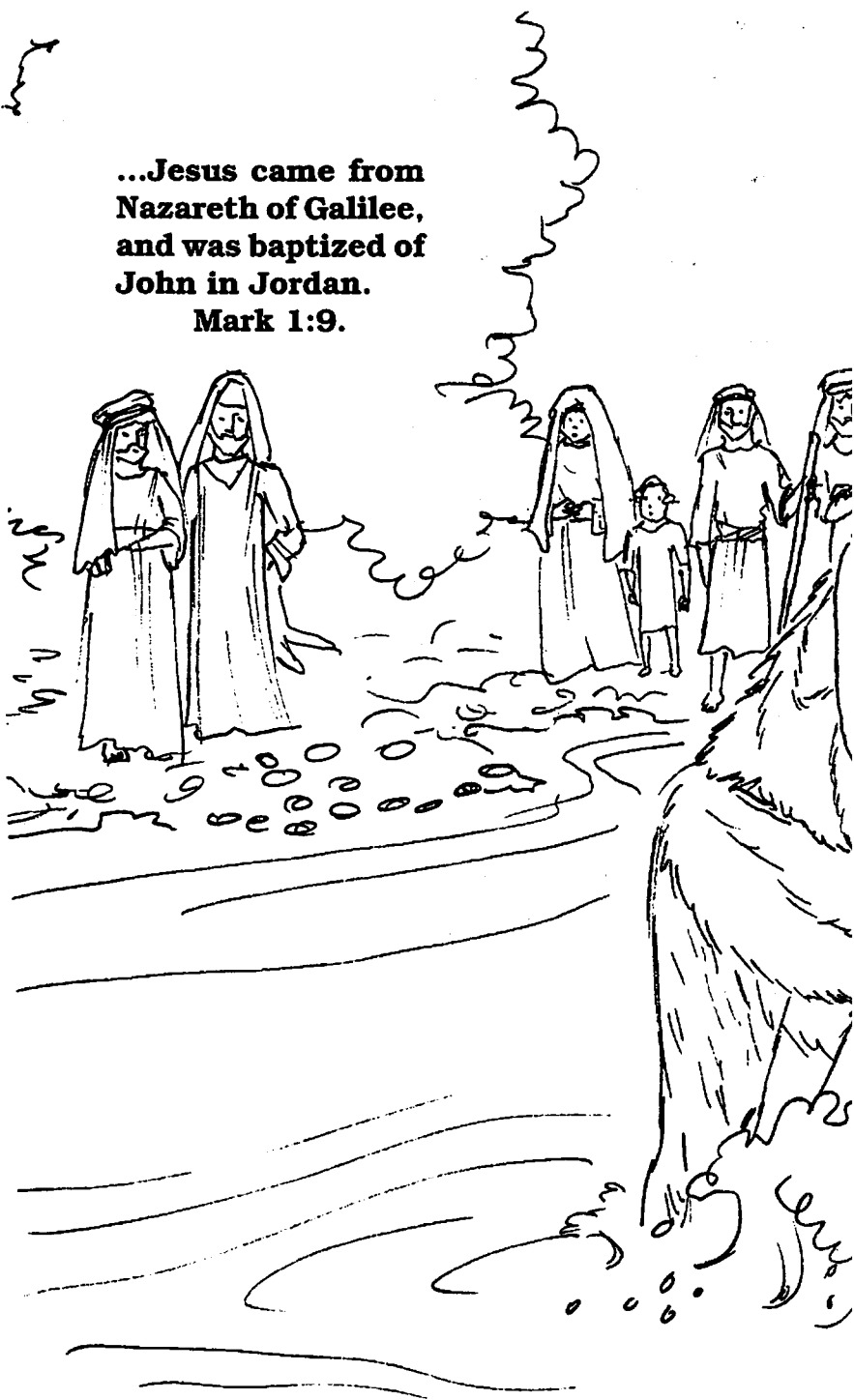
"I must be baptized," Jesus explained. "It is God's plan. Baptize Me now." Obediently, John took Jesus into the river and baptized him there.

As Jesus was coming out of the water, the sky opened and the Spirit of God in the form of a dove flew down and lighted upon Jesus. A voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**...Jesus came from
Nazareth of Galilee,
and was baptized of
John in Jordan.**

Mark 1:9.





By Land And By Sea

(Continued from last week.)

Sham was one of the chosen horses to be a gift for King Louis XV, boy king of France. During the next seven days, Agba was busy brushing and grooming Sham to perfection. He exercised him, increasing the running distance each day. Agba took Sham to the farrier's where the big-muscled man took a knife and a hammer and fitted Sham's hooves with horseshoes.

On the last night in the Sultan's stables, Agba hardly slept at all. He kept jumping down from his hammock and feeling inside the two great pockets which fitted over the cantle of his saddle. He wanted to be sure nothing was missing.

The golden tint of sunlight outlined the Atlas Mountains as the Chief of the Grooms and his six chosen stable boys and horses marched single file through the valley toward the palace. Here the Sultan greeted them. There followed a parade of marching soldiers, playing bands and prancing horses. After the Sultan gave a speech about the wonderful gift he was sending the King of France, he made his way to the six Arabians and tied a silken bag around the neck of each one. "These bags," he said, "contain the pedigree of each stallion. Guard these bags well. Now ride under the sun. Ride through the rain. Ride over the mountains and through the green valleys and to the plains. Cross the rivers and when you reach the Mediterranean Sea, sail the blue waters to France and reach the King in perfect shape." Then clapping his hands he commanded: "Give your horses the heel!"

In a spurt of speed the graceful horses shot off toward the mountains. One horse was a deep-toned chestnut color. One was a yellow dun with a silver mane and tail. One was dark gray and one was pure white from nose to tail. Another was black like a starless

night. Then in the lead was Sham—a golden red in the sun.

Traveling over the land, the horses had plenty of exercise, but they did not like sailing the sea. The waves rocked the ship and made them sick. The captain was dishonest and fed the horses straw instead of the corn and barley for which he was paid. The six boys had to work with the sailors until they became ragged, weak and sickly.

When this tattered assembly finally reached the royal stables of France, everyone laughed at them. Young King Louis XV stared at the six skinny boys and thin horses. He listened to the Sultan's letter. Then he followed Bishop Fleury's advice. All of them but one would be sent to the army to pull supply wagons for the soldiers. Sham was ordered to draw a vegetable cart to market for the chief cook.

Though Agba could not understand French words, he felt the shame. His only comfort was that he was still with Sham.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What did John tell the people?
2. What did the priests and Levites from Jerusalem ask John?
3. Who said he was the voice of one crying in the wilderness?
4. Who came from Nazareth to the place where John was baptizing?
5. Who did John say was greater than himself?
6. What had Jesus come for?
7. Why did John feel unworthy to baptize Him?
8. Why must He be baptized?
9. What did the voice from heaven say?

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 3:11-17; Mark 1:9-11.

(Answers: 1. God's Word. 2. "Who are you?" 3. John. 4. Jesus. 5. Jesus. 6. To be baptized. 7. He knew He was the Son of God. 8. It was God's plan. 9. "This is my beloved Son.")

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 Feb. 16, 1997

JESUS IS TEMPTED

After Jesus was baptized by John, the Spirit of God led Him into the desert. There, alone, Jesus talked with God. He knew God had a great work for Him to do on earth. He spent much time praying that God would prepare Him for this work.

Jesus was there alone with God forty days and forty nights. During all this time He fasted. Then the devil came to Jesus. He knew Jesus was weak and very hungry. "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread," he said, tempting Jesus.

Jesus knew He had this power. He was very hungry, but He refused to use the power God had given Him to please Himself or obey the devil. Quoting the Word of God, He said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

When this temptation failed, the devil tried another. Taking Jesus up to the highest point on top of the Temple, the devil told Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. It is written, 'He shall give His angels charge concerning You.' Prove that You are the Son of God."

"It is also written, 'Thou shall not tempt the Lord thy God,'" Jesus answered.

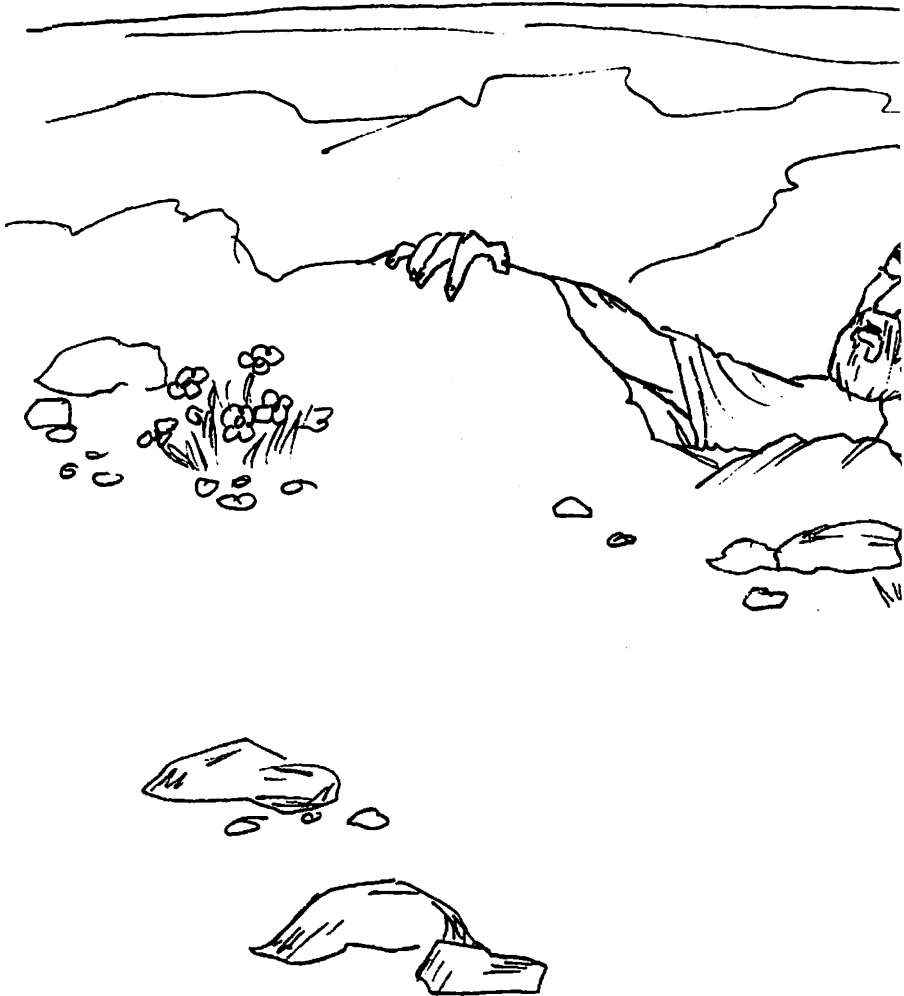
Finally the devil took Jesus to the top of a very high mountain. There, in a moment of time, he showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. "These great kingdoms are mine," the devil told Him. "I can give them to anyone I choose. If You will fall down and worship me they will all be Yours."

Jesus knew He had come to earth to conquer the devil, not worship him. He would not fall down and worship him for all the glory of the world. "Get away from me, Satan!" Jesus commanded. "For it is written, 'Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.'"

At last the devil left Jesus alone. Then the angels came and ministered to Him.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**Then was Jesus led up of the spir
tempted of the devil.**



**the wilderness to be
ew 4:1.**



Separated

(Continued from last week.)

Once Sham gained back his strength, he pulled the vegetable cart in royal style. When Agba was beside him or driving the cart, Sham pranced into the market place as if he was pulling a golden chariot. Soon a few of the market peddlers would give the pair treats to eat. The plump apple lady would hand them each an apple and a sweet vendor would give them a frosted pastry. They admired Sham's glossy coat and Agba's quiet way with the horse.

However, if the chief cook or anyone else was driving the cart, Sham was not so good. This made the chief cook very jealous of Agba. Why was it that such a slim boy could control that horse better than a big, lusty fellow as he?

One day the chief cook insisted upon driving alone to market. He wanted to select a nice suckling pig for the King's birthday dinner and said he needed every inch of space for groceries. Agba was displeased but he had to obey and stay in the kitchen cleaning pots and pans while the chief cook took Sham to market. Sham pulled the cart to market and waited nicely while the cook loaded the wagon with vegetables, fish, live chickens, eggs and the live pig. When the cook turned Sham toward home, Sham resented the load. Suddenly he became forked lightning! In and out among the market stalls he streaked, spilling out the chickens, eggs, pig and the angry cook.

Children screamed. Everyone moved aside to give way to the runaway horse and the trailing cart. The cook didn't know what to capture first—the squawking chickens, screaming pig, or naughty horse. The apple lady coaxed Sham to her so that the cook was able to take the reins again. "This is the last time you will run away from me," the angry cook shouted at Sham. The cook led Sham to the big open shed of the horse trader's barn. He was ready to

sell Sham to the first buyer who came along and he didn't have to wait long.

A big brute of a man came along swinging a horsewhip. A wood carter, he was looking for another creature to work to death. "Ha! ha! ha!" he laughed when he saw the cook. "I saw the whole show! That beast made a fool of you. He freed your pig and scrambled your eggs! Ho! Ho!"

"Name me a price and the horse is yours," replied the red-faced cook. With much jesting the carter handed the cook a little money then led Sham away cracking the whip upon him. Poor Sham! If only he had been obedient for the cook he would not have been in such bad hands now!

Sometimes we think it is hard to obey our parents, our teachers, our pastors but if we don't learn to obey them, we will end up in the devil's hands. The devil is a cruel taskmaster. He has no mercy.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who baptized Jesus?
2. Who led Him into the desert?
3. Whom did Jesus talk with while He was alone in the desert?
4. How long was Jesus alone with God?
5. Who came to tempt Jesus?
6. Why was Jesus weak and hungry?
7. What did the devil tell Him to make bread out of?
8. Did Jesus obey or worship the devil?
9. Who came and ministered to Jesus?

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-14.

(Answers: 1. John. 2. The Spirit of God. 3. God. 4. Forty days and nights. 5. The devil. 6. He had fasted for forty days and nights. 7. Stones. 8. No. 9. The angels.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 Feb. 23, 1997

THE FIRST DISCIPLES

One day, not long after John baptized Jesus, John stood talking with two of his disciples. Looking up, he saw Jesus walking along the road near the river. "Behold the Lamb of God!" John said so that all could hear. John's two disciples turned and followed Jesus. When He saw the two men coming after Him, He asked, "What do you want?"

"Master, where do You live?" they asked. "Come and see," Jesus answered.

The two men followed Jesus. They stayed with Him all day, listening to His wonderful words. Now they were sure that He was the Savior the Jews had been waiting for. Andrew, one of the two, ran to find his brother, Simon.

When Andrew found Simon, he called out, "Come with me. We have found the Messiah!" Immediately Simon dropped what he was doing and hurried back with Andrew to find Jesus.

When Jesus saw Simon with Andrew, He looked at Simon and said, "You are Simon, the son of Jona. From now on you shall be called Peter."

Simon was startled by Jesus' words. How could He know his name? Jesus seemed to know all about him. As Simon listened to Jesus, he too believed that Jesus was the Christ. He was ready to leave everything to follow Him.

The next day Jesus started back toward Galilee. His three new friends walked along with Him. Soon they met a man named Philip who lived in the same town as Simon and Andrew. Jesus called to him, "Follow Me." Philip gladly obeyed.

As Philip walked with Jesus, he too marveled at the wise words Jesus spoke.

He soon left the group and ran to find his friend Nathanael. "We have found the One Moses and the prophets wrote about, Jesus of Nazareth!" he told him excitedly.

When Jesus saw Nathanael, He said, "Look, an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael was surprised. "How do You know me?" he asked.

"Before Philip called you," Jesus said, "I saw you under the fig tree."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...We have
which is
the C



the Messias,
interpreted,
John 1:41.



Searching For Sham

(Continued from last week.)

Agba was very upset when the cook came back without Sham. He dodged the cook's angry kicks and bad frowns. The next day, Agba ran away to the French market. He just had to find Sham! He went to the apple lady and motioned for her to tell him where Sham went. She did not know but gave him an apple to munch. For several days Agba walked the streets of Paris, looking at each horse to see if it was Sham.

One summer evening Agba was sitting quietly by a tinkling water fountain. His mind remembered the visit to the Sultan's inner court a few short months ago. The Sultan had sent his six best horses to France but the gift had not been graciously received. Agba and the other stable boys had been ordered to stay with their horse until he died. Not only did Agba want to obey the Sultan's orders but he loved Sham and could not bear to live without him.

Agba heard horse hooves approaching and quickly turned to see if it was Sham. A dusty horse harnessed to an empty cart was coming toward him. The horse turned to the water fountain as if to drink but the driver jerked him away. Agba jumped up and followed the cart down several streets until the horse turned into a very narrow alley and stopped before a rickety shed.

Hiding behind a barrel, Agba watched as the wood carter hitched the horse to a ring in the shed and tossed him some hay. Then the carter walked away. Agba quietly crept into the shed and stood by the horse's head. The horse turned and saw Agba. A glad knicker escaped his tired lips. He put his head on Agba's

cheek. Sham and Agba were together again.

The carter did not mind Agba staying in the shed with Sham as long as he helped load the wood on the wagon every day. It was ideal for the wood carter because he had a slave and did not have to buy him food nor clothing. However, both friends suffered under the hands of the cruel wood carter. Every evening Sham came wearily into the shed. While Sham ate his little pile of hay, Agba rubbed salve on Sham's sores.

Distance may separate friends for a season but love will bring them together again. There is nothing more warming to the heart than to have a faithful friend who will stay true to you through good and bad times. Two friends can handle trials and troubles better together than alone. Even Jesus chose friends to be with. We want to be a friend to others like Jesus was.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Whom was John talking to?
2. What did he call Jesus?
3. Who followed Jesus?
4. Whom did Andrew bring to Jesus?
5. What did Jesus name Simon?
6. What did Jesus say to Philip?
7. What did Philip do?
8. Whom did Philip bring to Jesus?
9. Where did Jesus see Nathanael?

LESSON TEXT: John 1:35-50.

(Answers: 1. Two disciples. 2. The Lamb of God. 3. John's Peter. 6. "Follow Me." 7. He gladly obeyed. 8. Nathanael. 9. Under the fig tree.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 Mar. 2, 1997

THE WEDDING AT CANA

In Cana, a town in Galilee, there was a wedding. The family had invited many guests. Among those invited were Mary, Jesus' mother, as well as Jesus and His disciples. In those days Jews celebrated a wedding by serving a great dinner feast for all the guests.

This feast lasted several days. Before it was over, the governor of the feast realized that the wine was all gone. Perhaps they had not expected so many guests. When Mary found out there was no more wine, she quietly told Jesus, "They have no wine." She was sure that He could help their friends.

Mary directed the servants to Jesus. Pointing to Him, Mary told them, "Whatever He tells you, do it."

Six large water pots stood nearby. Jesus instructed the servants, "Fill the water pots with water." The servants obeyed, filling them to the brim.

"Now draw some out and carry it to the governor of the feast," He told them.

Again they obeyed. But instead of water, wine came out of the water pot! The surprised servants quickly carried some to the governor of the feast. It was his job to taste everything before it was served to the guests.

The governor did not know where the wine came from. When he tasted it, he was surprised. This was much better than the wine that had already been served.

At once the governor called the bridegroom and told him, "At other wedding feasts the best wine is served first, but you have kept the best until the last."

This was Jesus' first miracle. By it He helped people who were in need. His disciples were surprised by this great miracle. Now they were sure that He was indeed the Son of God. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**His mother saith unto the servant
Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.
John 2:5.**



Mercy Answered The Cruelty

(Continued from last week.)

One cold winter morning the wood carter demanded that more wood be added to the cart. "On mornings like this, I can sell more wood. These icy days are good for my business. Yes, stack that wood up as high as you can."

Agba gave the wood carter a sour look and received a punch for his trouble. Sham was already so weak and then to make his load extra heavy was very grievous to Agba. Slowly he put the last logs upon the huge pile. "That will do!" exclaimed the wood carter as he climbed on top of the wood. He picked up the reins and slapped them on Sham's back. The load was so heavy and Sham was not accustomed to walking on ice. As soon as he stepped out onto the street, his feet went out from under him and he fell to his knees.

"Get up, you old, nag!" hollered the wood carter. Yanking at the reins he pulled Sham up by the bit in his mouth. Sham struggled to his feet and more by sheer determination than by physical strength Sham took the heavy load into the streets. The paving was glazed with ice and the shoes on Sham's feet had long since broken off. His hooves were cut and bleeding as well as his mouth from the cruel yanking of the wood carter. There were cut and torn places on his hide from the lashes of the whip. He looked very sad and forlorn.

The wood carter turned Sham into a steep uphill street covered with ice. Slowly, carefully, Sham pulled the heavy cart up the hill. Just when he reached the top, his feet began to slip. Plop! Down he went on his front knees. The wood carter cursed and lashed out with his whip. A group of people had gathered to watch the heavy laden horse climb the hill. Now a cry of protest went up from several as they saw the wood carter use the whip. "So you won't get up, eh?" he growled at Sham. "I'll light a fire under your tail and teach you to

stand." He grabbed a couple of logs from his pile when a tall man stepped up beside him.

"My friend, may I buy your quiet old horse?" The speaking man wore the collarless black coat and the broad-brimmed black hat of a Quaker. "I have fifteen gold pieces to offer for the creature."

Just then a slim boy knelt at the side of the struggling horse. Agba wanted this man to know he went with the horse. Lovingly he unfastened the horse from the cruel harness of the wood carter. In a matter of minutes Sham was bought by Jethro Coke, the Quaker. Now the two friends were on their way to London, England.

Though Agba did not know the Lord, God was watching over him. Through this Quaker, God taught Agba about His mercy and His love.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Where did Mary, Jesus and His disciples go for a wedding?
2. In those days, how did they celebrate weddings?
3. What happened before the feast was over?
4. What was Mary sure Jesus would do?
5. What did Mary tell the servants to do?
6. What did Jesus tell them to fill with water?
7. What came out of the water pot instead of water?
8. Who thought this wine was better than the first?
9. Who was surprised by this miracle?

LESSON TEXT: John 2:1-11.

(Answers: 1. To Cana. 2. By serving a great dinner feast. 3. There was no more wine. 4. Help their friends. 5. Whatever Jesus told them to do. 6. Six large water pots. 7. Wine. 8. The governor of the feast. 9. Jesus' disciples.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 Mar. 9, 1997

THE PASSOVER

People from every part of the land traveled to Jerusalem at the time of the Passover. Here they would celebrate the Passover feast. Jesus and His disciples were among the many who traveled to Jerusalem for this important feast.

When Jesus entered the temple courtyard, He was saddened to see that it was crowded with men trying to sell live oxen, sheep and doves for the people to offer as sacrifices. It looked like a market, not a place of prayer!

Money changers sat at small tables in one corner. Every Jew over twenty years old had to give a piece of silver money called a half shekel to the priest. Those who came from distant countries had to change their native money for half shekels so they could pay the priest. This money was supposed to be used for sacrifices and for the temple.

As Jesus looked on the confusion, His anger was stirred. Taking some small cords, He tied them together to make a whip. With this whip He drove all the animals and their keepers out of the temple. He upset the money changer's tables, spilling their money across the floor.

When Jesus came to those who sold doves, He told them, "Take these things away. Do not make My Father's house a marketplace!" As His disciples watched, they were reminded of the scripture that said, "The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up."

The Jews were shocked at Jesus' actions. Some were angry. "What sign do You show that You have a right to do such things?" they demanded.

"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up," Jesus answered.

"It took forty-six years to build this temple!" the Jews answered. "Will You raise it up in three days?"

Jesus was speaking about His own body that would be raised from the dead after three days. After His resurrection, Jesus' disciples remembered these words that He had spoken. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**And the Je
passover wa
hand, and J
went up t
Jerusalem
John 2:1:**





Obedient To One Master

(Continued from last week.)

"I have an olden barn at the foot of yonder hill," said Jethro Coke, the Quaker, to Agba, the Arabian boy. "The barn will be a comfortable place for thee and the horse. Come and let us settle thee in before the night falleth."

Agba loved the quaint English that Mr. Coke spoke. He liked the tidy farm and the warm, dry barn. Yes, Sham had a good master this time.

After Mr. Coke fed Sham and helped make their beds, he went to his house which he shared with his son-in-law, Benjamin Biggle, and his daughter, Mrs. Cockburn, a plump, motherly woman, did the cooking.

She met Mr. Coke at the back door. "I saw the poor horse and ragged boy who were with thee. Should I take some warm soup to the boy?"

"That would be most welcome," agreed Mr. Coke with a tired smile. "Under thy careful nursing, the boy and horse will soon be in much better health. When the horse is better, he should be excellent for Benjamin to ride."

Mrs. Cockburn frowned. "I pity the horse that has to carry that lump of lard," she said to her pot of soup. Benjamin Biggle was fat, lazy and grouchy. He did not like the idea of riding Sham. "I would rather ride in a carriage," he said to Mr. Coke. "I do not trust a nervous horse under me."

"Nonsense!" said Mr. Coke. "This horse is tired and worn with use. He will be a gentle mount for thee to ride. This young boy is giving our horse such good care that his scars are mending quickly. Benjamin, thou shouldst be pleased to own such a horse!"

The big day finally came when Benjamin was to ride Sham. No longer was Sham a dusty, skinny, scarred nag but he was alert and eager to go. Agba had already put the saddle and bridle on Sham's glossy golden-red back. Sham raised his head and pricked his ears forward as he let Agba lead him to the big house.

Benjamin took one look at the strong, four-year-old stallion walking behind Agba then he said, "I-I really don't feel like riding today."

"Come, Benjamin," reasoned Mr. Coke. "Let not the horse sense thy fear. Here, take the reins thyself. Put thy left foot in this stirrup, and swing aboard!"

As Benjamin grabbed hold of the saddle horn, his big knee jabbed into Sham's side. Suddenly, Sham turned around, knocked Benjamin's hat off, and sank his teeth into the man's black wig.

"I'll teach this horse to mind his manners," Benjamin roared as he plopped into the saddle. No sooner was he seated than Sham took off in a graceful gallop. Sham ran straight for the open barn door. Sham went through the door but poor Benjamin didn't.

"I will never again ride that devil!" Benjamin declared. Actually, Sham didn't want to give Benjamin a ride. Agba was his rider and master.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Where was the feast of the Pass-over kept?
2. Among many others, who traveled to this feast?
3. How did Jesus feel when He entered the temple courtyard?
4. Instead of a place of prayer, what did it look like?
5. Who sat at small tables?
6. How did Jesus make a whip?
7. What did he do with the whip?
8. How long had it taken to build the temple?
9. What temple was Jesus talking about?

LESSON TEXT: John 2:13-22.

(Answers: 1. Jerusalem. 2. Jesus and His disciples. 3. Sad. 4. A marketplace. 5. Money changers. 6. By tying small cords together. 7. He drove the animals and men who sold them, out of the temple. 8. Forty-six years. 9. His own body.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 Mar. 16, 1997

NICODEMUS

While Jesus was at Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover, He began to teach the people and to do miracles. Many believed in Him when they heard His words and saw the wonderful things He did that no one else could do.

One man who believed in Jesus was a ruler of the Jews named Nicodemus. Although Nicodemus was a rich Pharisee, he was not like the many other Pharisees who rejected Jesus. He wanted to hear more of Jesus' wonderful words.

One night Nicodemus came to the place where Jesus stayed to talk with Him. "Master, we know You are a teacher from God," Nicodemus told Him. "No man can do the miracles You do unless God is with him."

"Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God," Jesus replied.

Nicodemus did not understand Jesus' words. "How can a man be born when he is old?" he asked. "Can a man become a tiny baby again?"

Jesus explained, "Unless a man is born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. Do not be surprised when I tell you that you must be born again. You can hear the wind blow and see it move things but you do not see the wind itself. You cannot tell where it comes from nor where it goes. That is the way it is with those who are born again of the Spirit."

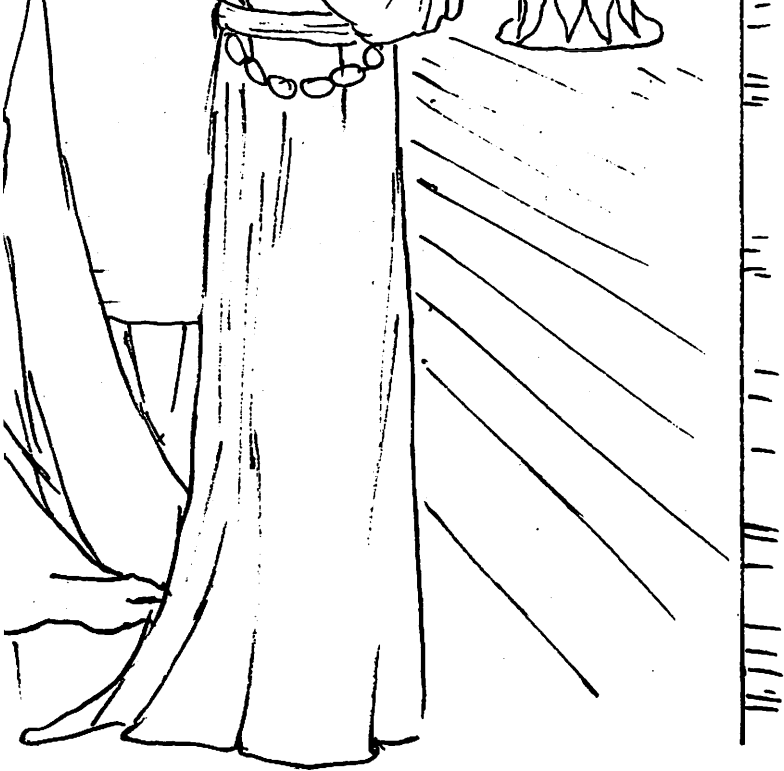
Nicodemus still did not understand. "How can these things be?" he asked.

"Are you a master of Israel and do not know these things?" Jesus asked. Then Jesus taught Nicodemus the meaning of His words. Now Nicodemus understood that, just like the wind, no one could see the Spirit. Yet as a person repented and had his heart changed, he would be as a new person. The Spirit of God would come into his heart and he would be truly 'born again,' spiritually. Although no one could see the Spirit, all could see the great change in the person's life.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**There was a man
of the Phari-
sees, named
Nicodemus, a
ruler of the
Jews. John 3:1.**







Blessed With A Promise

(Continued from last week.)

Agba was busy brushing Sham's coat when a shadow crossed over the barn door. Agba looked up to see Mr. Coke watching Sham. Mr. Coke had his Bible in his hand and on his face was a kind, loving look. Agba had learned to love this man who patiently taught him a better way of life. Never before had Agba felt a person's love until he met Mr. Coke. He knew Sham was devoted to him but Mr. Coke had shown him what merciful love was all about. Mr. Coke had read to Agba about Jesus Christ, God's Son, who healed the sick and brokenhearted ones. Through Mr. Coke's words and actions, Agba had come to know the love of God.

How Agba wanted to tell Mr. Coke that he loved him! Agba also wanted to apologize for Sham's naughtiness to Benjamin Biggle and he wanted to explain that Sham really didn't like for anyone to ride him but himself. However, Agba couldn't say all this because he was a mute. He had never been able to talk with words but he spoke with facial expressions and with hand motions.

Now Agba turned and bowed low to the ground before Mr. Coke. "Come, my boy," said Mr. Coke as he seated himself on a bale of hay. "Thou and thy horse shall ever be dear to me, but thou knowst what happened today with my son-in-law. He is in bed from the bruises of the fall. It is his wish that the horse be sent away at once."

As Mr. Coke talked, tears blurred Agba's eyes. Just when life was so good, evil had struck again. Even though Mr. Coke was a good friend of Mr. Williams, who was Sham's new owner, Agba did not know Mr. Williams. "He is a good Christian man," said Mr. Coke kindly. "I would not sell thy horse to anyone but a good man. Come, lad, listen to the Word of God and let it comfort our hearts, for it grieves me also to send thee away."

Then Jethro Coke read from Isaiah 40:31, "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Mr. Coke put his hand on Agba's head. "I appreciate thy patience with the horse and thy carefulness in nursing him. Be that patient with the Lord and He will bless thee. Be that careful in serving Him and He will keep you and your horse strong and healthy. For the Lord's sake, please serve Mr. Williams as well as thou hast served me. Let us pray."

Obediently, Agba bowed his head. He was in need of God's grace and blessings in the days and years ahead. Agba could not speak his prayer but the Lord heard the prayer of his heart. Agba would miss Mr. Coke but now he would have the Lord with him.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Why was Jesus in Jerusalem?
2. Why did the people believe in Jesus?
3. Who did things no one else could do?
4. What rich Pharisee came to Jesus?
5. Why did he come to Jesus one night?
6. What did Jesus say must happen before a man can see the kingdom of God?
7. What is like the wind?
8. What happens when a person repents and has his heart changed?
9. What happens when the Spirit of God comes into a heart?

LESSON TEXT: John 3:1-21.

(Answers: 1. For the Passover. 2. They heard His words and saw the wonderful things He did. 3. Jesus. 4. Nicodemus. 5. To talk with Jesus. 6. He must be born again. 7. The Spirit. 8. He becomes as a new person. 9. That person is "born again.")

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 Mar. 23, 1997

GOD'S GREATEST GIFT

Jesus' enemies finally got their way. Pilate called the Roman soldiers and told them to lead Jesus away to be crucified. The soldiers took Jesus and beat Him. They dressed Him in a scarlet robe and put a crown of thorns on His head. They put a reed in His hand to be His scepter. Then they mocked Him and spit upon Him.

Without a word Jesus stood, calm and composed, in the middle of a howling, angry mob. But the beating had left Him exhausted. When they ordered Him to carry His heavy cross, He stumbled under its weight. One of the soldiers grabbed a man named Simon from the crowd and ordered him to carry Jesus' cross.

A crowd gathered as Jesus walked through Jerusalem beside Simon who carried the cross. Many of those who watched were Jesus' enemies; others were friends who longed to help but could not.

When they reached the hillside of Calvary, the crowd stopped. The Roman soldiers stretched Jesus out upon His cross and nailed Him to the wooden beams, driving heavy spikes into His hands and feet. Across the top they fastened a sign that read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Next they stood the cross upright and dropped it into the hole they had dug. There Jesus hung, dying just like the two thieves on either side of Him. Looking down, He prayed, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

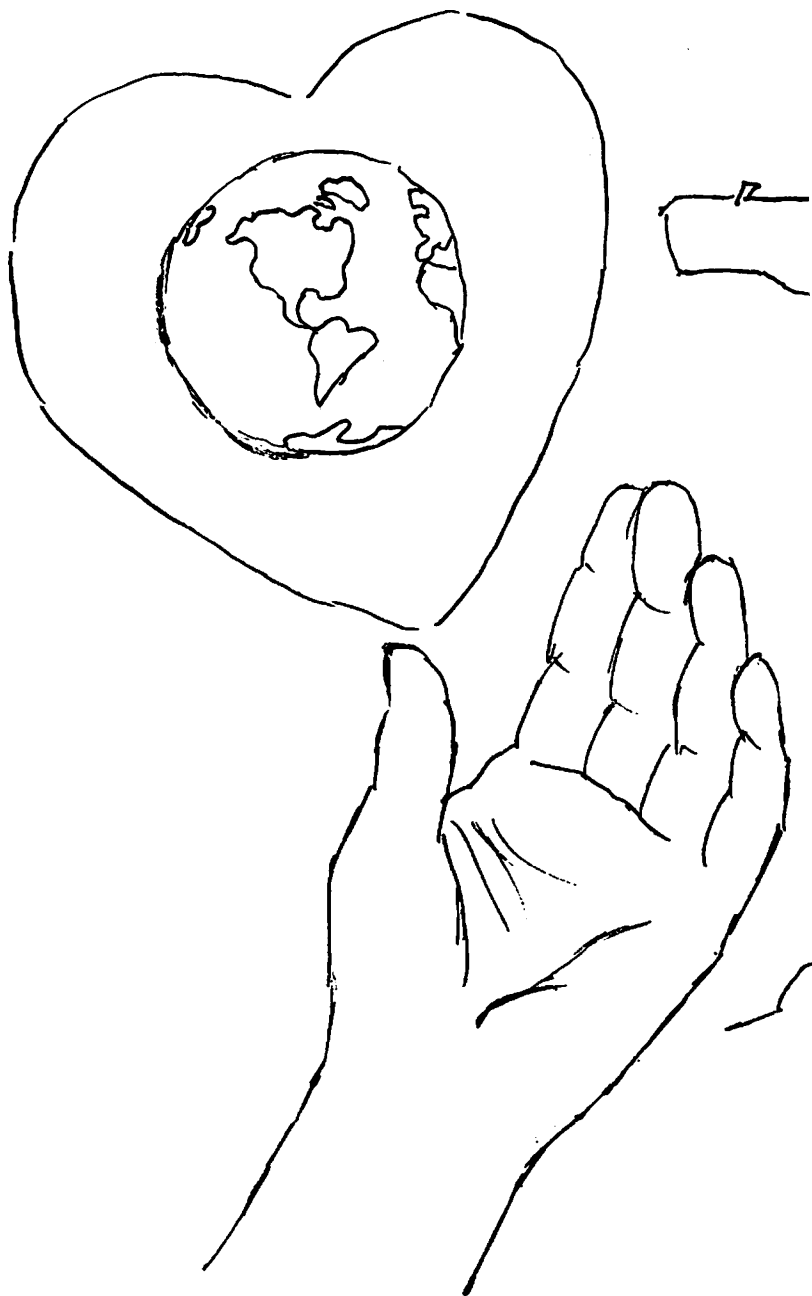
Even in His great suffering, some of Jesus' enemies still mocked Him. They looked up and said, "He saved others; He cannot save Himself. If He is the King of Israel, let Him come down from the cross, and we will believe Him."

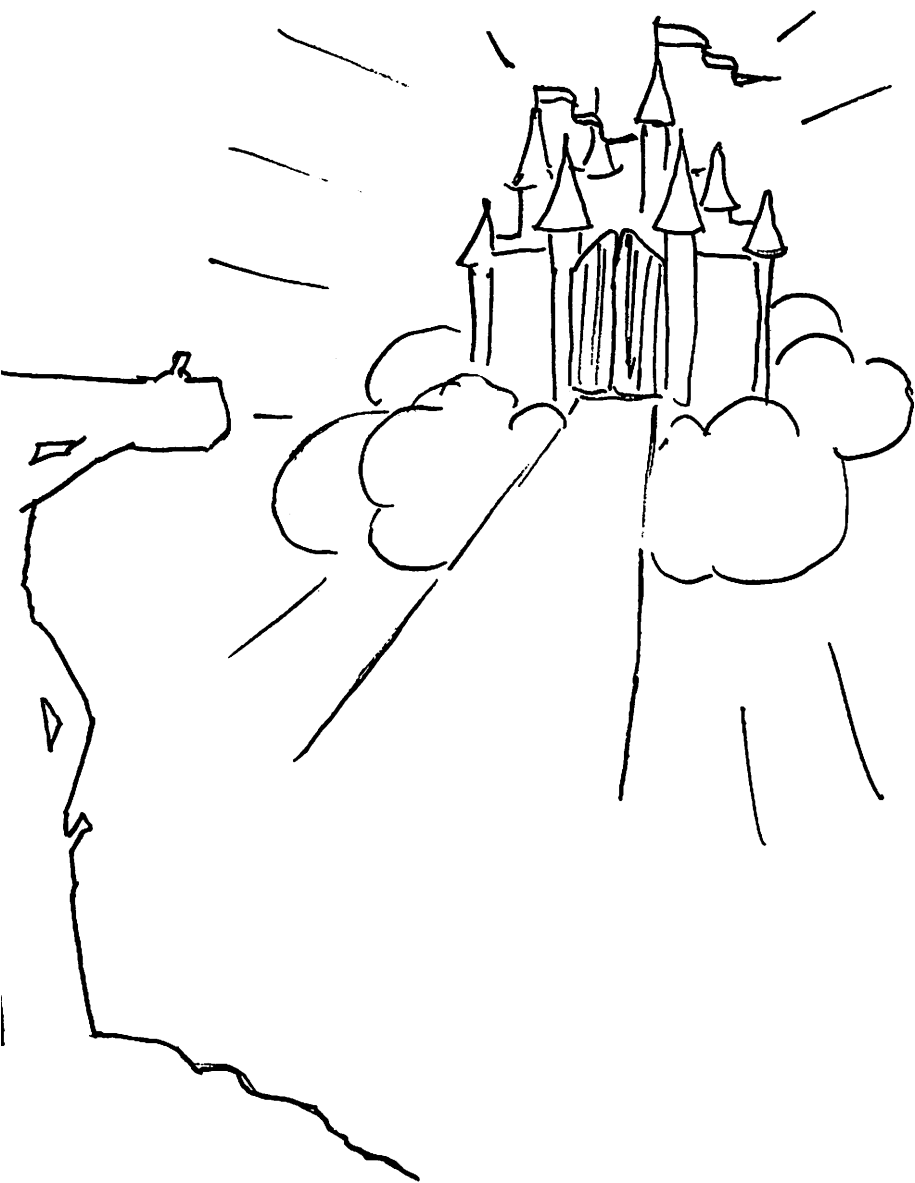
Jesus, who had done nothing but good all His life had to bear this awful pain and die for man's sins. There was no other way that Satan's power could be broken and men could be saved from their sins. God loves us so much He gave us the greatest gift—His own Son!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16.





Not Forgotten

(Continued from last week.)

At the Red Lion Inn, Mr. Williams was nice to Sham and Agba but he had a wife who did not like Agba. She didn't like the white hooded mantle that he wore nor his soft pattering sandals. Within two weeks Mrs. Williams told her husband that she or Agba had to leave. So it was that Mr. Williams turned Agba out on the road but he kept Sham.

Now Mr. Williams was pleased with the beauty of Sham but he did not know how to handle him. Any time Mr. Williams went into Sham's stall, he took a pitchfork, hoe, or some other tool for protection. Of course Sham felt Mr. Williams' fear. He would snort and rear, pawing the air with his front hooves. Neither did Sham let other men ride him. He would turn and twist, kick and rear until no one wanted to ride him. One day a horse trainer told Mr. Williams to put Sham into a little stall and feed him only one cup of oats and a little water every day. "That ought to take the meanness out of 'im!" he declared.

One moonlit night Agba decided to visit Sham. He did not know that Sham was imprisoned in this little stall. Agba was in the big barn quietly looking for Sham when Mrs. Williams came into the barn for a bag of salt. "Ah ha!" she screamed when she found Agba. Guests at the inn came running to the barn where Mrs. Williams was accusing Agba of being a "horse thief." One guest was a policeman who promptly arrested Agba and led him away to prison.

There in the farthest corner of the dungeon, Agba prayed. He remembered the promise Mr. Coke had read from the Bible. He wanted to be patient though sometimes it was hard.

Time passed and Mrs. Cockburn thought about Agba and Sham. She remembered the way Agba liked her cooking and how Sham liked carrots.

So Mrs. Cockburn packed some goodies in a basket, and walked all the way to the Red Lion Inn to visit them.

She was shocked when Mrs. Williams rudely told her that Agba was sent to prison for horse thieving and Sham was kept securely in a small stall. Mrs. Cockburn left the Red Lion Inn so troubled that she was nearly run over by a fine team of horses and an elegant carriage.

"Why are you so sad?" asked the well-dressed man in the carriage. Mrs. Cockburn told him about Agba and Sham and how she was concerned for them. "Come with us," said the gentleman. "We are the Earl and Duchess of Godolphin. Today we are going to visit the prison and review each prisoners' case. We will see what we can do for your two friends."

So it was that Mrs. Cockburn and her basket of goodies arrived at the prison. Agba thought he was dreaming when his cell door opened and she was standing there. He was weak, dirty and chained, but he bowed before her as soon as he was released. Once again the Lord rescued Agba and Sham.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who told the Roman soldiers to lead Jesus away?
2. Who beat Jesus?
3. What did they order Jesus to carry?
4. What happened when He tried to carry it?
5. Who carried it for Him?
6. How did they fasten Him to the cross?
7. What did Jesus pray as He looked down from the cross?
8. Who did nothing but good all His life?
9. What was God's greatest gift to us?

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 27:1-42; Luke 23:1-34.

(Answers: 1. Pilate. 2. The soldiers. 3. His cross. 4. He stumbled. 5. Simon. 6. With nails. 7. "Father, forgive them." 8. Jesus. 9. The gift of His own Son.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 Mar. 30, 1997

HE AROSE!

Mary Magdalene got up very early. It was the first day of the week. She had been waiting for this time so she could go to Jesus' sepulchre. It was still dark when she reached the grave. As she peered through the darkness, she was shocked to see that the heavy stone that covered the mouth of the sepulchre had been taken away!

Badly frightened, Mary ran to find Peter and John. "They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre!" she told them excitedly. Hearing her words, Peter and John both ran to see for themselves. John reached the sepulchre first. Stooping down, he saw the linen clothes that had been on Jesus' body.

Peter was right behind John. When he got to the mouth of the sepulchre he bravely went right in. He, too, saw the linen clothes lying to one side. John followed Peter into the sepulchre. The sepulchre was indeed empty; Jesus was not there! Peter and John slowly walked back home, wondering what all this could mean.

But Mary could not leave the sepulchre. She stood, crying because of her great sorrow. With tears in her eyes, she stooped down to look in the sepulchre again. This time the sepulchre was not empty. She saw two angels dressed in dazzling white robes! One was at the head and the other at the feet where Jesus' body had lain.

Mary could not believe her eyes! Then the angels spoke to her. "Woman, why are you crying?" they asked.

"Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid Him," she answered.

As she said this she looked behind her. There she saw a man whom she supposed to be the gardener. Through her tears she did not recognize that it was Jesus. When Jesus spoke her name, she knew Him. She hurried to the disciples again, as Jesus commanded her. This time she told them Jesus had risen from the grave. She had seen Him and talked with Him!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**Mary Magdalene
seen the Lord,...**



l told the disciples that she had
18.



Patient Unto Victory

(Continued from last week.)

The Earl of Godolphin bought Sham and Agba then brought them to his fine stables and lovely, green meadows. The Earl was nice to Sham and Agba but the chief groom, Mr. Twickerham, did not give a promising report concerning Sham. He looked the horse over from head to tail, then said, "Your Lordship, this here beast would be the laughing stock at the race course. He's not lusty enough and with the best care in the kingdom, he'll still be a broken-kneed cob! We can feed him until he loses his skinny look. Then perhaps he can work the machine that pumps water into the fish pond."

Agba was upset but he knew he must be patient. His Sham would some day mount up like an eagle—he would prove this! Daily Agba nursed Sham back to health and in time he was again a sleek golden-red stallion.

One special day, a team of fine horses pulled a new horse carriage before the stables. Inside the horse carriage was a prize mare named Lady Roxanne. Everyone on the farm was down at the stables to meet this royal horse. As she was led out of her carriage, Lady Roxanne nickered. A stallion answered. Now the Earl thought his prize stallion, Hobgoblin, had answered but Agba knew better. The Earl commanded that Hobgoblin be released to greet Lady Roxanne but Agba had different plans. He raced to Sham's stall and opened the door.

Like a flash of golden lightning, Sham flew to Lady Roxanne just as Hobgoblin was released. A fierce fight followed in which Sham won. Agba and Lady Roxanne were pleased but the Earl and Twickerham were not. Agba and Sham were punished and sent to a swamp land for two years but the Lord had not forsaken them. Lady Roxanne gave birth to Sham's son who soon became the fastest race horse on the green. The Earl of Godolphin sent for

Agba and Sham who rode back to the stables in the same carriage that Lady Roxanne had ridden in.

Sham was given the title, The Godolphin Arabian, and he saw his sons grow to become unbeatable race horses. Lath, Cade and Regulus each won their race during the famous Newmarket Race. Sham and Agba were brought before the royal stand of King George II and Queen Caroline of England. There, amid the cheers, they watched the Queen give the Earl of Godolphin a purse with golden coins.

Agba cared for Sham thirty years. When Sham died, Agba went back to Morocco. He could not tell others about the Lord, but he lived a loving, patient life before them.

Through his sons, Sham mounted up on wings of eagles. Today the best race horses have some of Sham's blood running through their veins. Ask anyone who knows about race horses and they will tell you the Godolphin Arabian horses are swift, enduring runners.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

—THE END

QUESTIONS:

1. Who got up very early?
2. What day of the week was it?
3. Where did she go?
4. What had been taken away?
5. Whom did she run to?
6. Who went into the tomb first?
7. What did Mary see in the sepulchre after the disciples left?
8. Who stood behind Mary?
9. What did Mary tell the disciples?

LESSON TEXT: John 20:1-18.

(Answers: 1. Mary Magdalene. 2. The first. 3. To Jesus' sepulchre. 4. The heavy stone. 5. Peter and John. 6. Peter. 7. Two angels. 8. Jesus. 9. That she had seen and talked with Jesus.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 April 6, 1997

JOHN SPEAKS OF JESUS

Jesus and His disciples went into the land of Judea. While staying there, Jesus' disciples baptized many people. John was also baptizing in a place called Aenon. He chose this place because there was much water there. Many people came to him there to be baptized.

Seeing that both Jesus' disciples and John baptized, some Jews came to question John's disciples. These Jews were wondering whose baptism was most effective, John's or that of Jesus' disciples. John's disciples brought the Jews to John. He would be able to answer them.

Coming to John, they said, "Rabbi, Jesus, the One to whom you here witness, is baptizing. All men come to Him."

Perhaps the Jews thought John would be disturbed to know men were being baptized by Jesus instead of coming to him. But this did not trouble John. He answered calmly, "I told you that I am not the Christ. I am only sent before Him. He must increase, but I must decrease."

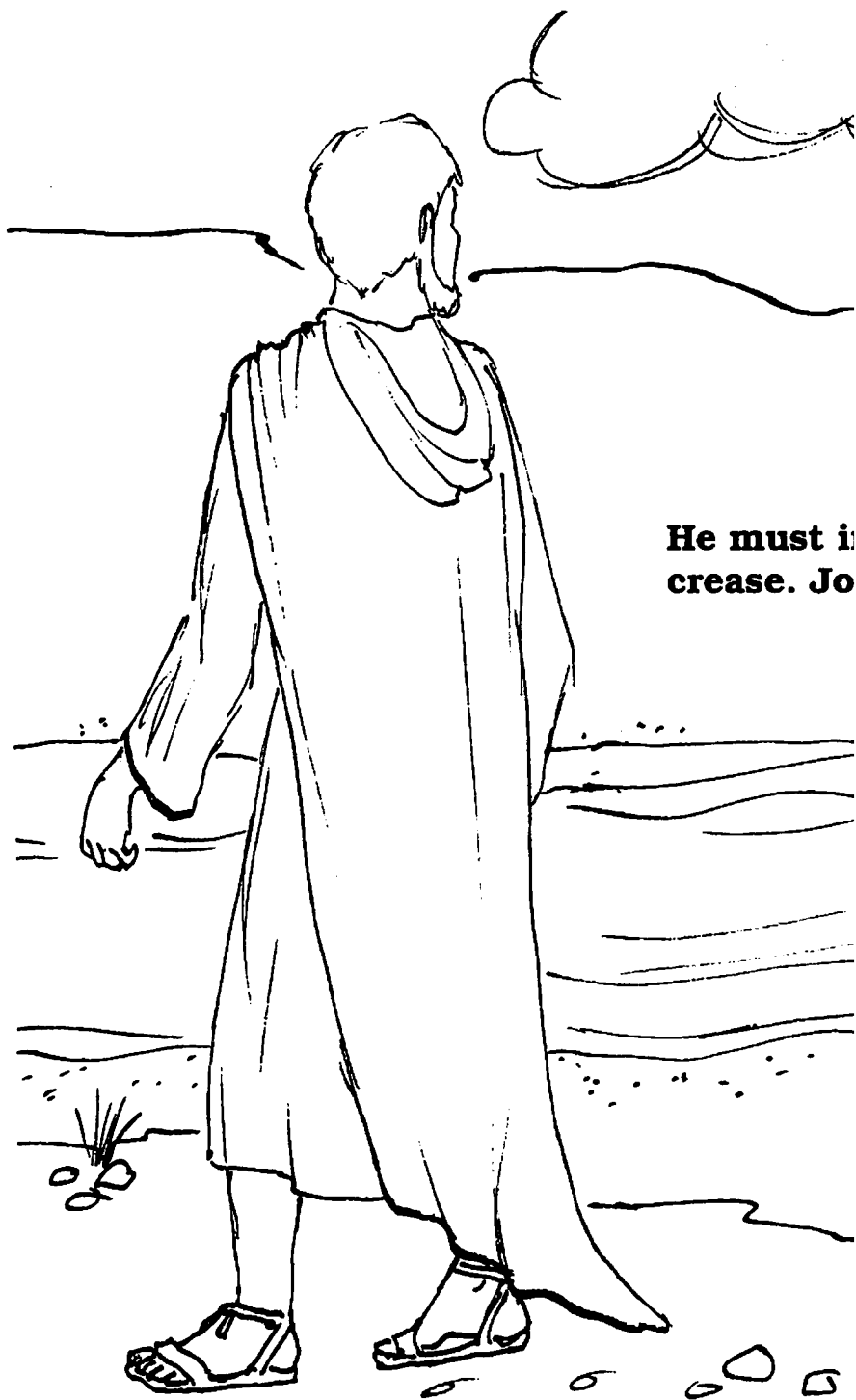
John took this opportunity to point these Jews to Jesus, assuring them that He was, indeed, the promised Savior. "He that cometh from above is above all," he told them, referring to Jesus. "He that is of the earth is earthly and speaketh of the earth," he continued, speaking of himself.

"He that cometh from heaven is above all," John said again. "Jesus tells about heavenly things which He has seen and heard but men do not receive His words. I have received His testimony and know it to be true."

John wanted everyone to know Jesus was the great Teacher—far greater than any prophet or divine messenger who had ever appeared. He alone was God's own Son.

"The Father loves the Son," John continued. "He has given Him all power. Whoever believes on Jesus has everlasting life."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**He must i
crease. Jo**

e, but I must de-
O.



More Than Boards And Nails

(True Account)

BAM! BAM! BAM! Went the hammer as nails were driven into the boards that blocked a chapel door in Cuba. Boards were nailed across the chapel windows by three big Cuban policemen. One policeman lit his cigarette and with a smirky grin put it between a crack of two boards.

"We could set it on fire," he said. "The honorable Castro won't care."

"He didn't give us orders to burn this one," replied another policeman. "Maybe later we can."

The three stout men in blue then walked away from the quiet, forlorn-looking chapel. This building was now marked as a disgrace in the community. Policemen would be spying on it from time to time to see if anyone would dare to come near it. Anyone bold enough to remove one board and enter this chapel would be arrested and punished.

Since the first of this year, over 70 chapels in Cuba have been boarded or burned or bulldozed over. The ruler or dictator of Cuba is terrified that there are many Christians in Cuba who do not like his wicked ways. This ruler, Castro, does not want people to know the truth. He wants people in Cuba to believe his lies so he can control them. Christians believe that God is the supreme ruler and judge over all. Castro wants Cubans to believe HE is the supreme ruler.

Castro is very tricky. He has told other nations that Christians are welcome to live in Cuba. All Christian missionaries must report to Castro and he must approve of their books and papers before they can teach with them. Castro wants incoming missionaries to obey him. Do you think God's true missionaries will

obey Castro? NO! It is God who rules over true missionaries!

This ruler can board up chapels and put pastors in prison but he cannot stop the Church of God from worshipping the Lord Jesus Christ. Dedicated Christians meet together in tree groves. Only a few at a time meet but sometime through the week all Christians strive to attend a worship service. They sing songs, pray, and read a little scripture from the Spanish Bibles that they pass around to each other. They know that at any time the police may come and take some of them away to prison for worshipping Jesus Christ, yet they will not stop meeting together.

The Church of God is not made of boards, nails and shingles, but the Church of God is made of saints who let Jesus Christ live within them.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who went into the land of Judea?
2. What did Jesus' disciples do?
3. What was John doing in Aenon?
4. Why did he choose this place?
5. Who said he was not the Christ?
6. Who did John point the Jews to?
7. Where did Jesus come from?
8. Who was the great Teacher?
9. Whoever believes on Jesus will have what?

LESSON TEXT: John 3:22-36.

(Answers: 1. Jesus and His disciples. 2. Baptized. 3. He was baptizing. 4. There was much water there. 5. John. 6. Jesus. 7. Heaven. 8. Jesus. 9. Everlasting life.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 April 13, 1997

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

Jesus and His disciples left Judea. On their way to Galilee it was necessary to pass through Samaria. About noon they were near Sychar, a city of Samaria. Many, many years before Jacob gave this parcel of land to his son, Joseph. Jacob had dug a well there. Now the people of Sychar came to this same well to get water.

It was a long walk home from Judea to Sychar. The noonday sun beat down on Jesus and His disciples. They came to Jacob's well, Jesus realized how tired He was. He sat down on the edge of the well while His disciples went into town for food.

Soon a woman of Samaria came to the well to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."

The woman saw Jesus as she walked toward the well. She noticed that He was a Jew. She was shocked when He spoke to her.

"How is it that you, being a Jew, ask me, a woman of Samaria, to give you a drink?" she asked in surprise.

Jesus answered, "If you know Who it is that asks for a drink, you will ask Him to give you living water."

The woman looked at Jesus, "Sir," she said, "You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. How can You give me living water? Are You greater than our father, Jacob, who gave us this well?"

"Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again," Jesus explained. "But whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst."

"Sir, give me this water so I will never be thirsty!" the woman said excitedly.

As Jesus continued talking with her, the woman suddenly exclaimed, "Sir, I see that You are a prophet!"

Jesus then explained to her how to worship God. "God is a Spirit," He instructed. "All who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**...Jesus saith
unto her, Give me
to drink.**

John 4:7.



God's Son And Yang's Son

(True account)

A quiet knock sounded on the door of Yang Qun's home. Then a friend quickly stepped inside and closed the door behind her. In fifteen minutes or so another quiet knock rapped on the door and another friend came inside and quickly shut the door. Within an hour seven or eight friends came into Yang Qun's home. There they knelt and prayed in mumbled voices until all the expected worshippers were in the tiny room.

This is the beginning of church services in a house located in China. The Chinese government says that Christians can worship freely in China but this is not true. If a Chinese Christian is caught attending worship services, he can be arrested and put in prison. That is why Yang Qun's friends come one at a time and at different times. They do not want the police to notice.

After praying, the Christians read a few scriptures from a torn Chinese Bible. It is very unusual to see a complete Chinese Bible because they divide their few Bibles among many of them. This is so the police will not take all of the Bible should a Christian be arrested. There are a few Chinese hymn books but most sing songs from memory.

One day Yang Qun's 17-year-old son was coming home and two policemen stopped him. "Why does your mother have church meetings in her home?" asked one policeman. "Tell her to stop these meetings!"

Jiang went home but he did not tell his mother to stop having the meetings. He knew it was better to

worship the Lord, Jesus Christ, than to obey laws that are against Jesus. Again friends gathered at Yang Qun's home to worship the Lord.

Later, on his way home from work, Jiang was stopped again by the police. They put handcuffs on him and took him to police headquarters where they asked him questions and beat him if he didn't answer the way they wanted him to. Jiang stayed true to Jesus and would not promise to stop worshipping God and reading the Bible. Yang Qun went to the prison where her son was taken. The police told her that if she would stop worshipping God, they would let her son out of prison. Yang Qun loves her son and she asks for prayer that he may be released. However, she says she will never deny Jesus because Jesus has done too much for her. She still worships the Lord.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who left Judea?
2. What time was it when they came near Sychar?
3. Who dug a well there?
4. Where did Jesus sit?
5. Why did His disciples go into town?
6. Who came to draw water?
7. What did Jesus ask for?
8. What kind of water could Jesus give?
9. How must we worship God?

LESSON TEXT: John 4:5-26.

(Answers: 1. Jesus and His disciples. 2. About noon. 3. Jacob. 4. On the well. 5. To get food. 6. A woman of Samaria. 7. A drink. 8. Living water. 9. In spirit and in truth.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 April 20, 1997

THE SAMARITANS BELIEVE

Jesus was still talking to the Samaritan woman when His disciples came back from town. They were shocked to see Jesus talking to her. But no one dared ask why He spoke with a woman who was a Samaritan.

The woman listened carefully. The wonderful words Jesus spoke amazed her. She was sure He must be the Christ! The news was too good to keep; she must tell others.

In her hurry to tell the men of Sychar about Jesus, she forgot that she had come to draw water. Leaving her waterpot at the well, she rushed back to the town. "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I ever did!" she told the men excitedly. "Isn't this Christ?" The men decided to go see Jesus for themselves.

Meanwhile, the disciples laid out the food they brought for lunch. Each man hungrily helped himself. Then they noticed that Jesus wasn't taking any of the food. "Master, eat!" they begged Him.

"I have food to eat that you know nothing about," Jesus answered.

"Did someone bring Him something to eat?" the puzzled disciples wondered.

"My food is to do God's will and finish His work," Jesus explained.

About this time the men of Samaria reached the well. Many believed Jesus was the Christ because of the woman's words. They were eager to learn more about Him. They begged Him to come to Sychar and stay with them awhile.

For two days Jesus did stay and teach the people. Many more believed because they heard His own words. "Now we believe," they told the woman. "We have heard Him ourselves. We know this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world!" —Sis. Nelda Sorrell



And many more believed because of his own word. John 4:41.



Bibles For The Hmong Tribe

(True Account)

This year for the first time the Hmong Tribe will have the complete Holy Bible written correctly in their own native language. The Hmong Tribe lives in China, Myanmar, Vietnam, Laos, and Thailand. Many people in the Hmong Tribe are hungry for the Word of God.

In the 1970's, Xaypao heard about Jesus Christ and His saving power from sin. The gospel message touched Xaypao and he became a believer in Jesus. Xaypao stopped selling opium (a bad drug) and he burned all of his wooden idols of Buddah. He changed the big Buddhist temple he had built and allowed two poor families to live in it. Instead of fighting with the French against the Japanese, Xaypao said he would not fight now that he is a Christain. He became a humble rice farmer and began to share the gospel with others in the Hmong Tribe.

Xaypao's wife and children also believed on Jesus. They helped plant and harvest the rice so that their father could spend more time witnessing for Jesus.

The new Christians did not have any Bibles, so their only way to learn more about Jesus was to listen to a radio broadcast each evening. The poor Hmong sold eggs, chickens, pigs, and other animals so that they could buy a radio and hear more about Jesus.

Then the bad government of Communism demanded that the Hmong Tribe stop learning about Jesus Christ. The Communists said, "There is no God! Do not talk about this lie!" Many in the Hmong Tribe obeyed the Communists but not Xaypao. He

and his family left Laos and hurried to the United States of America.

"I want my people to have the Word of God written in our Hmong language," said Xaypao. "I want them to be set free by the Truth of Jesus Christ!"

Xaypao's son agreed with his father. This son worked very hard to translate and organize the Word of God into the Hmong language. This year missionaries with Hmong Bibles will be giving these books to the Hmong Tribe scattered throughout five different countries.

Xaypao has asked us to pray for these missionaries that God will protect them from the Communist government. He wants his people to read the Bible and learn about Jesus. Even at 78 years of age, Xaypao is still telling everyone he can about Jesus Christ. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was Jesus talking to?
2. Why were His disciples shocked?
3. Why did the woman forget the waterpot?
4. Who wasn't taking food?
5. Who begged Him to eat?
6. What did Jesus say His food was?
7. What did the men of Sychar beg Jesus to do?
8. How long did Jesus stay in Sychar?
9. Who did the people believe Jesus was?

LESSON TEXT: John 4:27-42.

(Answers: 1. The Samaritan woman. 2. Because He talked to the woman. 3. She was in a hurry to tell the men about Jesus. 4. Jesus. 5. His disciples. 6. To do God's will. 7. Stay with them awhile. 8. Two days. 9. Christ, the Savior of the world.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 April 27, 1997

THE NOBLEMAN'S SON

Jesus stayed in Sychar, a city of Samaria, teaching the people about God. After two days He told the people, "Good-bye," and continued His trip to Galilee.

The people of Galilee were happy to see Jesus. They were at the feast of Passover in Jerusalem. They saw the miracles He did there.

Jesus came to Cana, a city of Galilee. This was where He turned water into wine at His mother's request. It was His first miracle.

There was a certain nobleman who lived in Capernaum. This man had a son who was very sick. When the nobleman heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to meet Him. He was sure Jesus could heal his son.

When the nobleman found Jesus he begged him to come to Capernaum and heal his son. Anxiously he explained to Jesus that his son was at the point of death. He must come at once!

Jesus listened with great sympathy to the father's plea, yet He did not start for Capernaum at once. Instead he said, "Except you see signs and wonders you will not believe."

Alarmed by the delay, the father insisted, "Sir, come down before my child dies!"

Gently Jesus assured him, "Go your way; your son lives."

The nobleman believed the words Jesus spoke to him. Immediately he started back to his home in Capernaum.

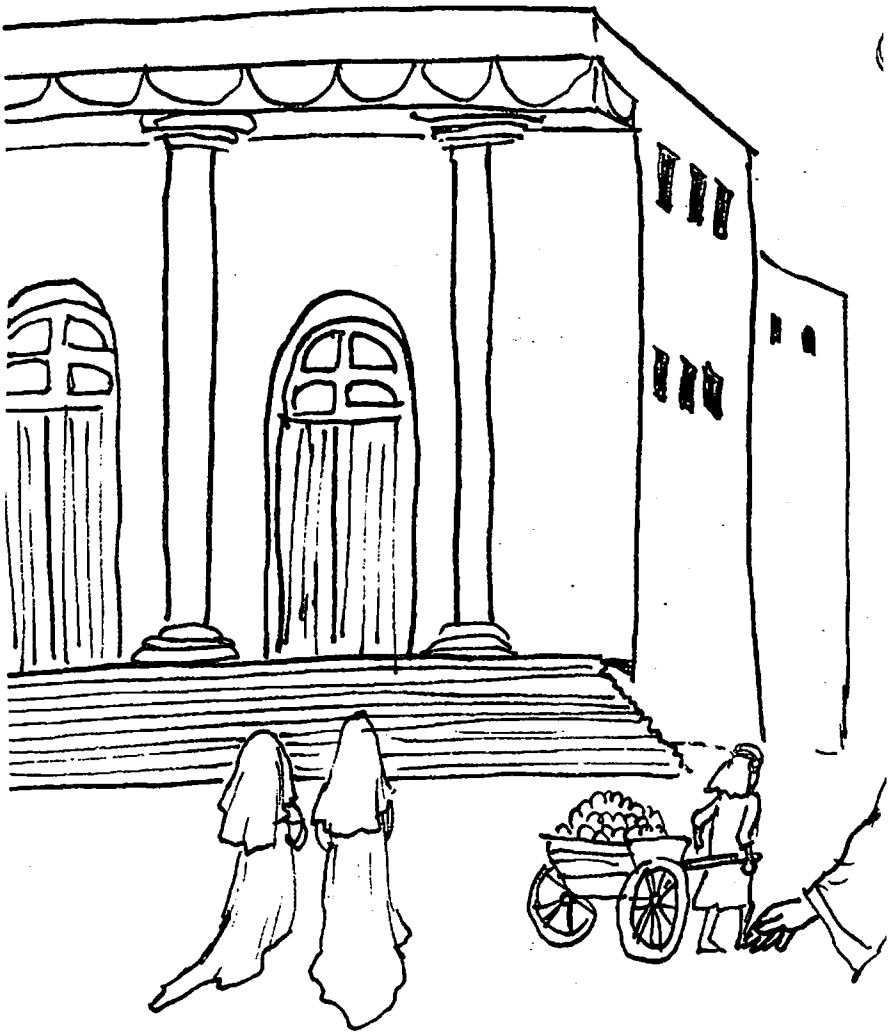
The next day, as he walked toward home, the nobleman saw his servants rushing to meet him. "Your son is alive!" they shouted excitedly.

"What time did he get better?" he asked.

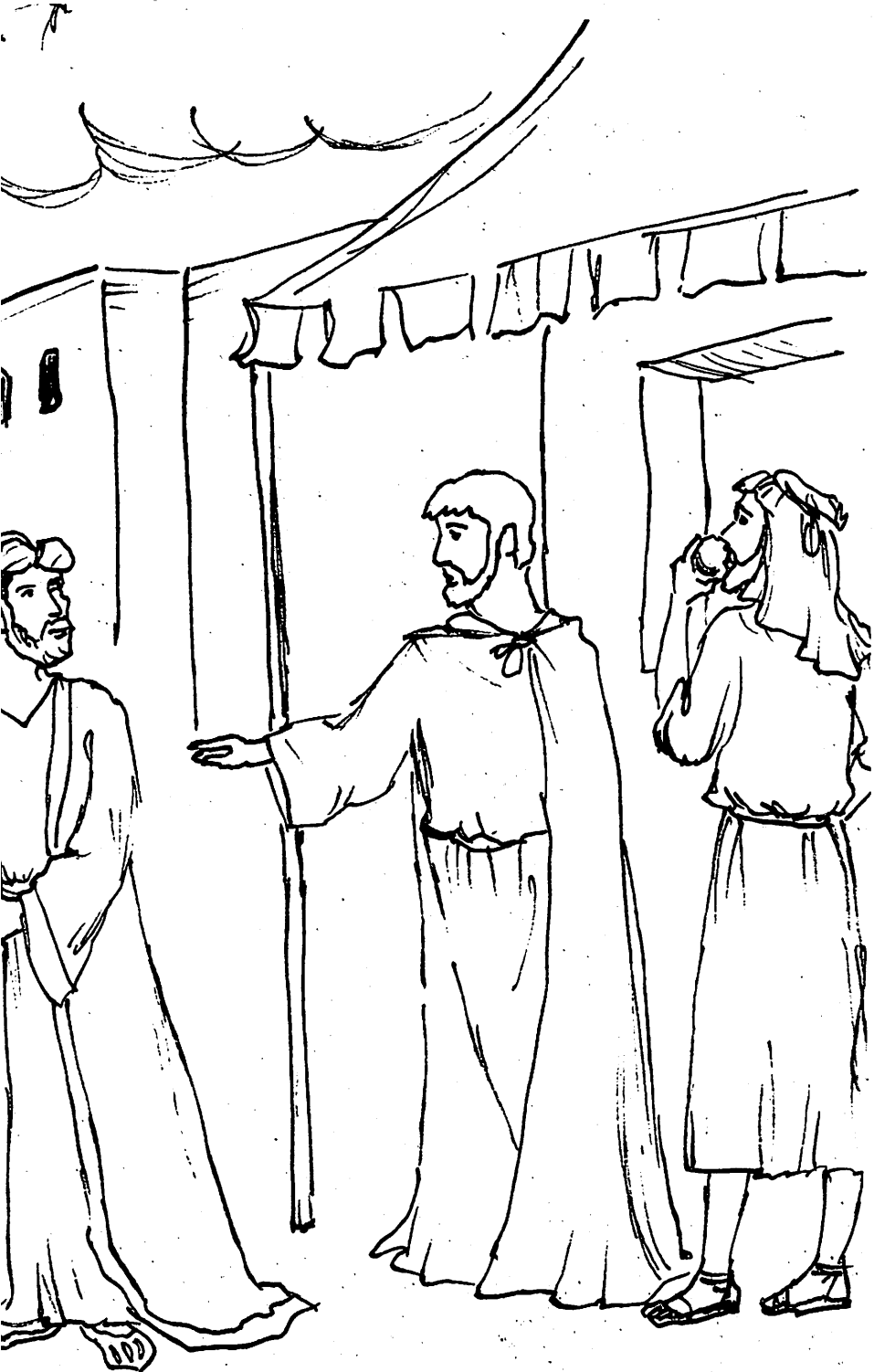
"Yesterday at one o'clock the fever left him," they answered.

The nobleman knew that was the very time Jesus told him, "Your son lives."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**...Go thy way; thy son
liveth.... John 4:50.**



Faith In Sight

(A True Story)

There is a beautiful picture of a father kneeling beside the bed of his sleeping son. Behind the praying father is a window through which is seen a listening angel. The man who drew this picture has a story behind it.

An eye doctor told this father that his son had glaucoma which could cause his son to go blind. The eye doctor handed this father an eyedrop solution. "Put this solution in your son's eyes four times every day. We hope this will slow down the disease but your son will always have glaucoma. Surgery can help but there is no complete medical cure for it."

The father did as the eye doctor told him to do. His son, Grant, did not like having the eyedrops put into his eyes. "We must do it, Grant," said the father quietly. "We don't want your eyes to get worse."

However, Grant resisted when his father, mother, or a health nurse put the eye drops in his eyes. Soon they only put the drops in his eyes two times a day and then once a day. His eyes grew worse. After two and a half years, Grant's eyes were so bad that the eye doctor said, "We've done all we can. I'm referring you to glaucoma specialists at the University of Illinois Medical Center."

One night, before the appointment with the specialists, Grant's father sat down on his bedside. Grant was sobbing. "I can't take this anymore," he cried. "I have to wear a brace on my knee because of a car accident. I have allergies. I have braces on my teeth, I wear glasses, and the eyedrops don't make my

eyes any better. I want God to take all this away!"

This touched his father's heart. "Grant, Jesus said, 'I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my father in heaven.' Let's pray."

Grant stopped crying as his father laid both hands on him and began to pray. "Lord, we ask you to take this glaucoma away. When the doctors give us their report, we don't want to hear that Grant is just better; we want to hear that his eyes are perfectly normal. Amen."

Later, at the Medical Center, Grant went through several tests. The specialists looked over the results and then tested Grant again. After testing Grant the third time, a bewildered specialist came to Grant's father. "We have run every test there is. Grant does not have glaucoma."

God had answered this father's prayer. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What did Jesus teach the people of Sychar?
2. Who were happy to see Jesus?
3. What miracle did Jesus do in Cana?
4. Who lived in Capernaum?
5. What was wrong with his son?
6. What did the nobleman want Jesus to do?
7. What did Jesus say to assure him?
8. Who met the nobleman?
9. What did they tell him?

LESSON TEXT: John 4:46-54.

(Answers: 1. About God. 2. The people of Galilee. 3. He turned the water into wine. 4. A certain nobleman. 5. He was very sick. 6. Come and heal his son. 7. "Your son lives." 8. His servants. 9. "Your son lives.")

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 May 4, 1997

THE MAN AT THE POOL

An important feast of the Jews was to be celebrated in Jerusalem. Jesus went up to Jerusalem, along with many more Jews.

In Jerusalem there was a pool named Bethesda. This pool was surrounded by five porches. In the protection of these porches lay many, many sick people. All were waiting, hoping to be healed.

At a certain time an angel went down into this pool and troubled the water. Whoever stepped into the water first, after the water was troubled, was healed of whatever disease he had.

Jesus was touched with sympathy as He looked at the great crowd of sick and crippled people. Among the crowd was a man who had been sick thirty-eight years. Jesus knew how long he had suffered. Walking up to him, He asked, "Do you want to be made well again?"

The sick man answered, "Sir, I have no one to put me in the pool. When the water is troubled someone else steps in before I can get there!"

"Get up!" Jesus commanded. "Take up your bed and walk!"

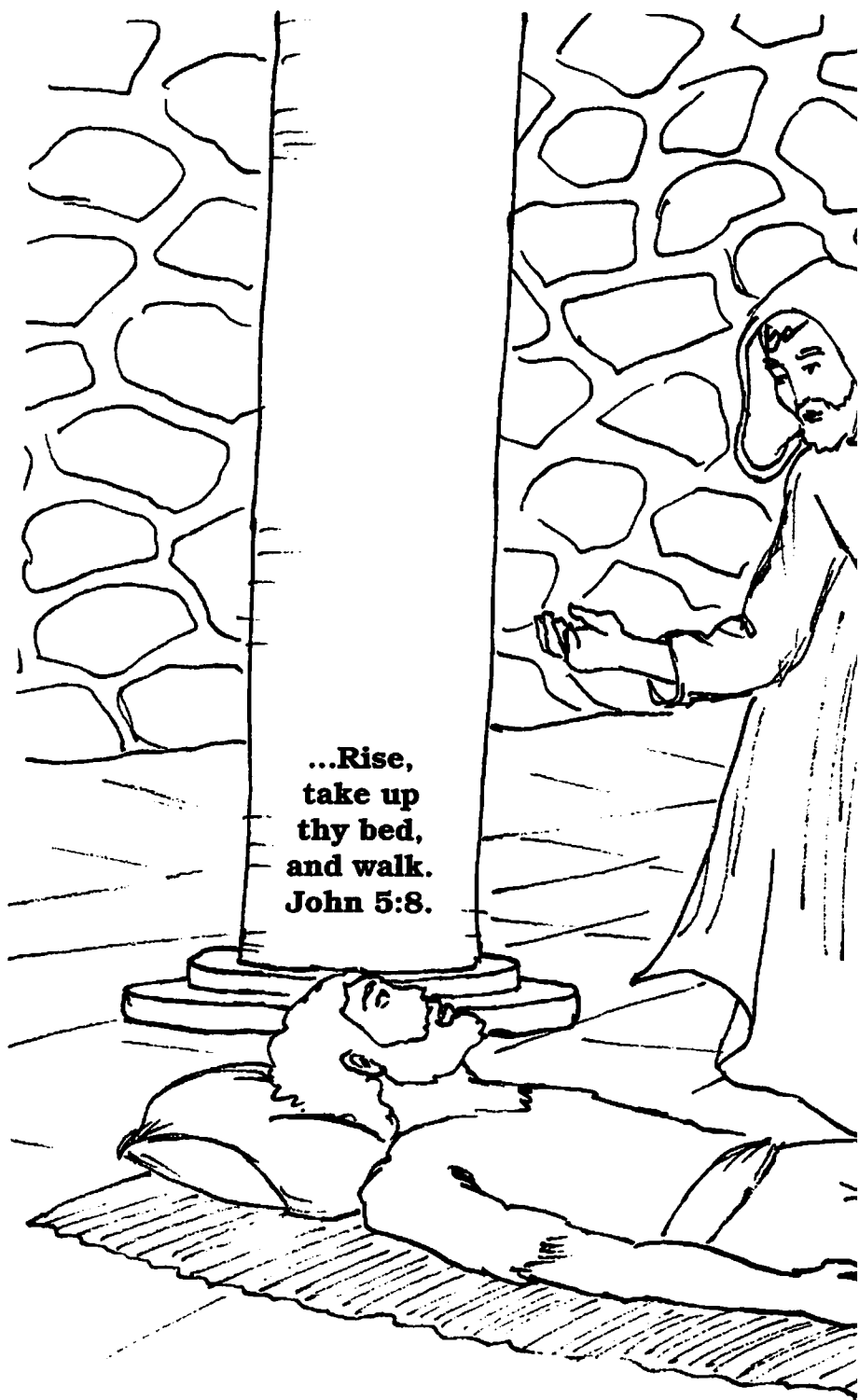
Immediately the man was made perfectly well. Joyfully he picked up his bedroll and walked toward his home.

When the Jews saw him they said, "It is the Sabbath day. It is against the law for you to carry your bed today!"

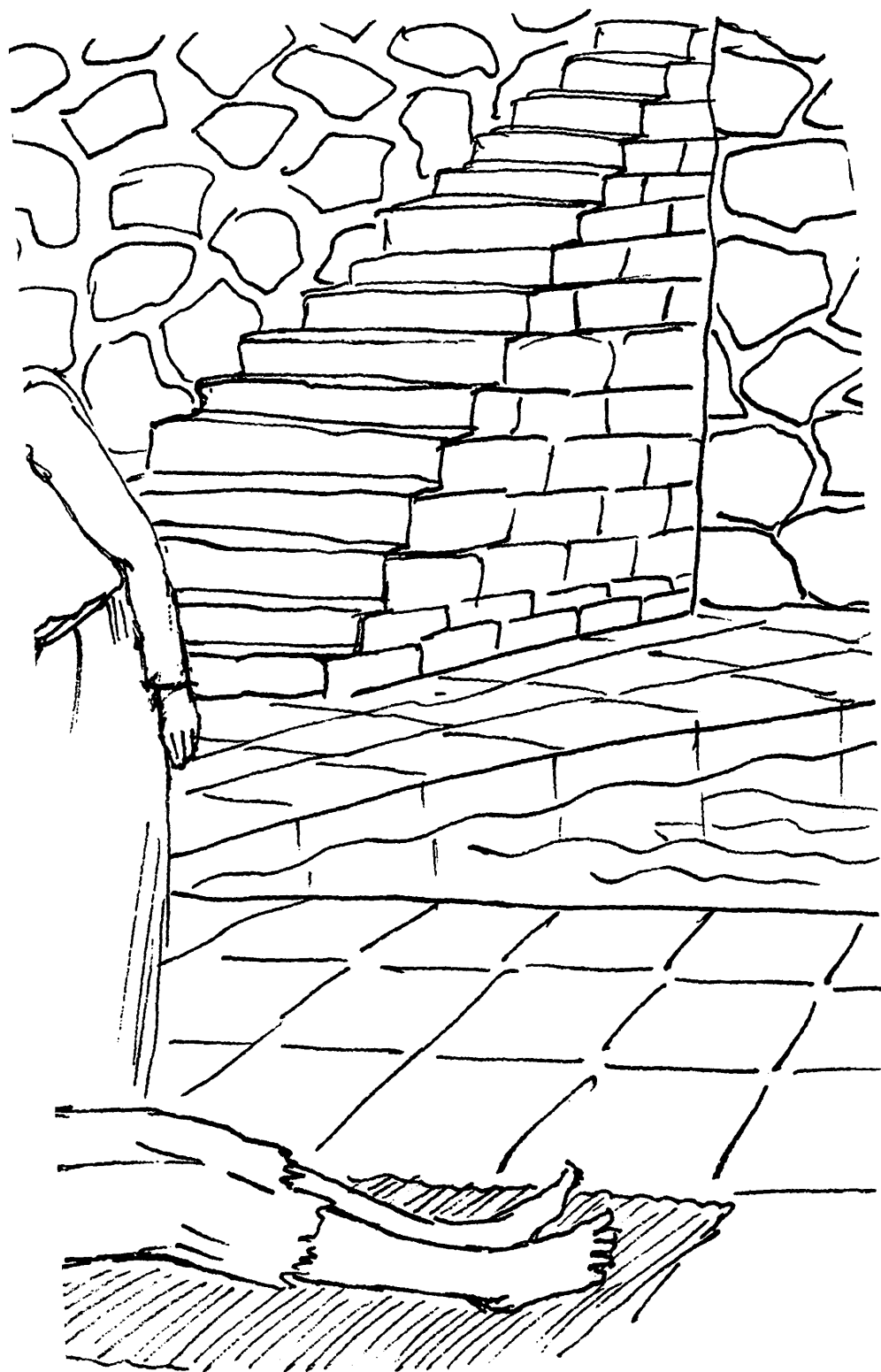
The man explained that the One who healed him told him to pick up his bed and walk. The Jews wanted to know who would dare tell him to do this on the Sabbath. The man did not know who it was that healed him.

Later, Jesus found the man in the temple. "You are well now," Jesus told him. "Do not sin anymore." Now he knew it was Jesus who had healed him.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**...Rise,
take up
thy bed,
and walk.
John 5:8.**



A Dressy Lesson

(A True Story)

Jeanne really wanted that pink dotted swiss dress displayed in a store down the street. She day-dreamed about it as she swept the floor of her mother's little hamburger stand. She knew Mother and Daddy didn't have much money but maybe, just maybe, she could bribe enough money from them to get the dress.

That night as Mother came to Jeanne's bedside to tuck her in, Jeanne asked her mother for the dress. Mother sighed. "Jeanne, you know we can't afford a new dress right now. I'm sorry."

Jeanne was angry. After Mother left the room, Jeanne whispered to White Ear, her terrier, "She's a tight-wad and I'll never forgive her."

However, the next morning Jeanne forgot her anger as she awoke to the cinnamon and sugary smell of her mother's apple pies baking. Then she hurried to school in the warm sunshine.

On the way home from school, Jeanne saw dark, angry clouds hanging low in the sky and she felt a cool wind in the warm air. Suddenly thunder crashed and golfball-sized hail pounded the ground. Jeanne hurried inside her home but she could not get away from the noisy storm that rattled on the kitchen roof.

"Turn on the radio for news," Mother said. Daddy, Mother, Jo (Jeanne's sister) and Jeanne sat together in the kitchen and listened to the crackling news report. A tornado had touched down on the ground and destroyed many homes in a nearby town.

"I wish we could do something to help," sighed Mother. In a couple

hours Mother's wish came true as an open-air cattle truck full of soaking wet people poured through the doors of her small hamburger stand.

Jeanne and the rest of the family obeyed Mother as they helped people hang up their wet clothes to dry over the potbellied stove. Jeanne and her sister loaned dry family clothing to the shivering visitors while Mother and Daddy prepared food for everyone warming by the stove.

As Jeanne went to get her one last dress for another little girl to wear, she realized how blessed she was to have such a thoughtful Mother and Dad. As the little girl happily put on Jeanne's worn, blue dress, Jeanne gave up the desire for the new, pink dotted-swiss dress. After all, she still had nice things to wear—even enough to share.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Where was the pool named Bethesda?
2. How many porches surrounded the pool?
3. Who lay in the porches?
4. What were they hoping for?
5. Who came down and troubled the water?
6. What happened to the first person stepping into the pool?
7. How long had the man been sick?
8. What did Jesus tell him to do?
9. Who told him it was against the law?

LESSON TEXT: John 5:1-16.

(Answers: 1. In Jerusalem. 2. Five. 3. Many sick people. 4. To be healed. 5. An angel. 6. They were healed. 7. Thirty-eight years. 8. "Take up your bed and walk" 9. The Jews.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 May 11, 1997

JESUS HEALS A LEPER

John the Baptist was imprisoned by wicked King Herod. John boldly told the king that it was not lawful for him to have his brother's wife. This made Herod angry. He arrested John and threw him into prison.

When this sad news reached Jesus, He left Nazareth and went to Capernaum. There He preached to the people, saying, "Repent, because the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

As Jesus went through Galilee preaching and teaching, He healed the people who were sick. Soon His fame spread far and wide. People brought all their sick to Jesus and He healed them.

A great multitude gathered from all parts of the country. They came to see the One who healed all manner of sickness. They wanted to hear the wonderful words He spoke. When Jesus saw the multitude He went up into a mountain where He could teach the people.

The people listened intently to Jesus' words. They had never heard anyone teach with such power. When Jesus ended His sermon, the people followed Him back down the mountain. As Jesus walked along, a man who had leprosy came and worshiped Him. "Lord," he pleaded, "if You will, You can make me clean."

Jesus' heart went out to this poor man with the deadly disease. In pity He reached out and touched him, saying, "I will; be thou clean." Instantly every sign of the dreadful disease disappeared. His skin was clean and clear!

"Go now and show yourself to the priest," Jesus instructed the thankful man. "Offer the gift that Moses commanded as a testimony to the priest that you are healed." —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...I will; be thou clear



rk 1:41.



Needy Visitors

(Continued from last week.)

A terrible tornado in a nearby town brought many people to Jeanne's home which housed her mother's hamburger stand. Two times a load of people came in an open-air cattle truck and unloaded at Mother's hamburger stand.

Jeanne and her older sister, Jo, helped their wet, cold visitors into dry clothes. They strung up ropes and hung clothes on these lines to dry inside while the rain beat on the house outside.

It was 10:30 at night and Mother was busy at the grill flipping hamburgers. Jo and Jeanne were washing dishes when Mother called to Dad. "Frank," she said, "I am running out of meat. Please go wake up the butcher and get more hamburger and hot dogs."

Dad was startled. "Marie, we already have a big bill at the butcher's..."

"Frank, don't worry about that. God wants us to take care of these soaked, homeless people. Please hurry!"

Dad left while Mother turned to Jeanne. "Go to the grocer, Jeanne, and tell him I need six dozen hamburger buns and six dozen hot dog buns."

Jeanne pulled on her rain coat and slipped out into the rain. It wasn't pouring so hard now. She hurried to the grocer's house and soon was back with the bread.

More people had arrived. Through the night all beds, chairs, and the floors were covered with sleeping women, men and children. In the early morning light, Jeanne slowly looked at the shelves bare of food. What would her mother do now? They didn't have any money and the food was gone.

As Jeanne got up from the kitchen floor, she saw her mother cooking oatmeal, preparing toast, and a hot drink for the waking people. Jeanne hurried to help.

After all the people had been fed, they all left to go back where their homes had been and salvage what they could from the remains. "What are we going to do without any more food to cook," wondered Jeanne. None of these visitors had paid them because Mother wouldn't let them.

Mother put her arms around Jeanne. "Jesus said, 'Take no thought what shall we eat? or what shall we drink? or how shall we be clothed? For your Heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.' The Lord will take care of us because we have put His needs first."

Jeanne found this to be true.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was in prison?
2. Who put him in prison?
3. What did Jesus do when He heard the sad news?
4. Who preached to the people?
5. Who did the people bring to Jesus?
6. Where did Jesus go to teach the people?
7. What was wrong with the man who worshiped Jesus?
8. What did Jesus do for him?
9. Who did Jesus tell him to show himself to?

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 7:28-8:4; Mark 1:40-44.

(Answers: 1. John the Baptist. 2. Herod. 3. He left Nazareth. 4. Jesus. 5. All their sick. 6. Up into a mountain. 7. He had leprosy. 8. He healed him. 9. The priest.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 May 18, 1997

THE CENTURION'S SERVANT

When Jesus ended His sermon on the mountain, He entered Capernaum. Now there was a certain centurion whose servant was so sick it seemed he would soon die. This servant was very dear to the centurion. He watched anxiously as his servant grew worse and worse.

Then the centurion heard about Jesus. He heard of the many sick people Jesus had healed. He believed Jesus could heal his servant.

The centurion did not feel worthy to go to Jesus himself. He was a Roman. Most Jews hated the Romans and would have nothing to do with them. He decided to send the elders of the Jews to Jesus. They could tell Him about his servant and beg Him to heal him.

When the elders reached Jesus they immediately told Him about the centurion's request. They assured Jesus that the centurion, though a Roman, was worthy of this healing. "He loves our nation," the elders explained. "He even built us a synagogue."

Jesus went with the elders toward the centurion's house. When they were a little ways away, the centurion sent his friend to meet Jesus with a message.

"Lord, do not trouble Yourself," the centurion had his friends tell Jesus. "I'm not worthy for You to come under my roof. I did not feel worthy to come to You myself."

"I know if You only speak the word my servant will be healed. I have soldiers under me. When I give them orders, they obey me. Now I know if You command it, my servant will be healed."

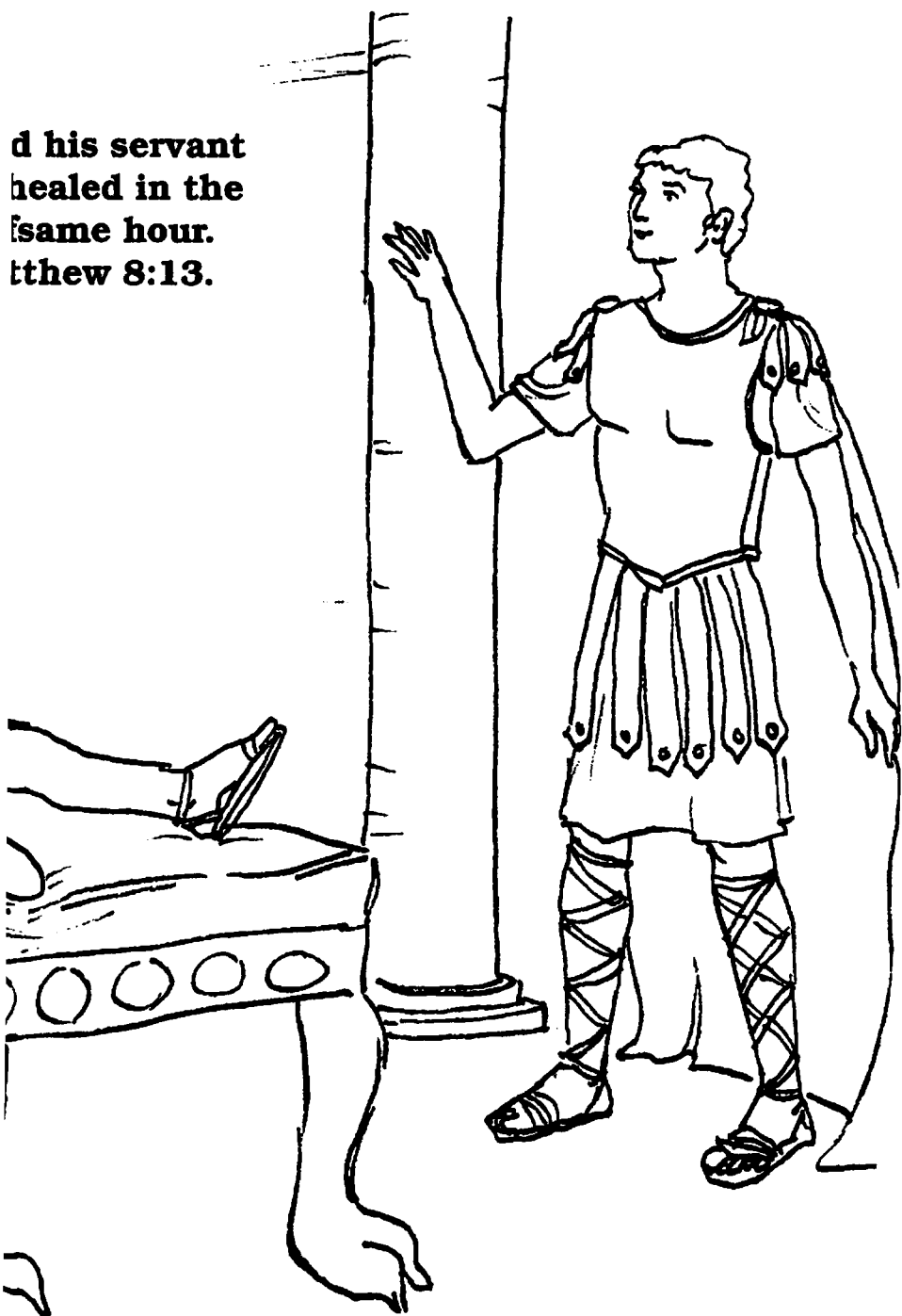
When Jesus heard the centurion's message, He was amazed by his great faith. He sent a message back to the centurion saying, "As you have believed, so let it be."

The friends returned to give Jesus' message to the centurion. When they reached the house they found the servant was perfectly well!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**and his servant
healed in the
same hour.
Matthew 8:13.**



The Storm Of Tears

(A True Story)

Dawn sighed as she watched a big passenger airplane land on the Seattle Airport Runway. This jet was her way home. She was ready to return to Washington D.C. where her family lived.

In time the arriving passengers came down the extended hallway to the terminal so that the oncoming passengers could board the plane. With her handbag in hand, Dawn made her way down the hallway. She edged herself down the aisle of the plane and squeezed into a middle seat on Row Four.

Dawn found place for her handbag and buckled her seat belt. Then her eyes saw the babies already on board the plane. There were five of them on the first row with three adults caring for them. The babies were awake and fussing as their attendants organized bottles, blankets, and other baby items.

The plane door was closed, announcements were made, and the plane began to move down the runway. As soon as the plane left the ground, all the babies began to cry. The crying echoed around and around and down the aisle of the plane. Every passenger on the plane could hear the babies cry and many began to complain.

Finally, a passenger asked one of the babies' attendants, "What is the matter with your babies?"

"I am sorry about the crying," replied the attendant. "These babies are weary. We have traveled all the way from Korea so they can be adopted by waiting parents."

"Would it help if some of us held them?" asked another passenger. So the babies were passed down the

aisle and one by one someone took a baby to hold. Dawn held a baby girl wrapped in a fluffy white blanket. She smiled at the little black eyes staring up at her.

As soon as the babies were snuggled into caring arms, the crying stopped. Compassionate hearts and gentle hands calmed the storm of tears. All through the flight the babies were contented to drink their bottles and sleep in the arms of friends.

Sometimes we can be in heart-breaking trouble and cry little rivers down our cheeks. Then Jesus comes to our rescue. He takes us in His arms of love and He calms the fears that rage within us. We are safe in His care. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What was wrong with the centurion's servant?
2. Who did the centurion hear about?
3. Why didn't the centurion feel worthy?
4. Who did he send to Jesus?
5. What did the centurion build for the Jews?
6. Why didn't the centurion want Jesus under his roof?
7. Who had soldiers under him?
8. What amazed Jesus?
9. What did the friends find when they reached the house?

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10.

(Answers: 1. He was very sick. 2. Jesus. 3. He was a Roman. 4. Elders of the Jews. 5. A synagogue. 6. He was not worthy. 7. The centurion. 8. The centurion's great faith. 9. The servant was perfectly well.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 May 25, 1997

JESUS STOPS A FUNERAL

It was just the day after Jesus healed the centurion's servant in Capernaum. Leaving there He walked toward a city called Nain. Jesus' disciples and many other people followed Him.

As Jesus and His followers approached the gate of Nain they saw many people coming out of the city. Leading the procession were men carrying a coffin. The dead man was his mother's only son and she was a widow.

Jesus stopped to watch as the funeral procession came closer. Following the coffin, the poor, widowed mother walked, sobbing loudly. Jesus felt great pity for the heartbroken mother. Stepping up to her He said kindly, "Don't cry."

Then Jesus walked up to the coffin and touched it. Immediately those who carried the coffin stood still. The people were startled when Jesus called out, "Young man, I say to you, 'Get up!'" Then, at the word of Jesus, the dead man sat up and began talking!

Great fear came on the people. They glorified God and said, "A great Prophet is among us! God has visited His people."

Soon people throughout Judea and the surrounding countries heard how Jesus had raised a dead man to life. John the Baptist also heard. He was still in prison but his disciples told him all that happened. After hearing this, John sent two of his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are You the promised Messiah?"

When John's disciples reached Jesus they told Him what John asked. Jesus did not answer immediately. Instead He continued to heal the blind, lame and sick people who crowded around Him. Finally, turning to John's disciples, He told them, "Go tell John what you have seen and heard. Tell him the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are healed, the deaf hear and the dead are raised to life."

When John heard Jesus' message he was reassured that Jesus was the Messiah.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**...Young man, I
unto thee, Ar
Luke 7:14.**



Punished Feet

In her bedroom, Cathy looked down at her red, itchy feet. Where had she been lately? How had her feet caught this miserable disease?

"I must have caught this affliction going barefoot in public places," she thought. "Mother always tells me to put on thongs, sandals, or shoes when I go shopping but I haven't minded her. Now I'm in trouble."

Cathy sat down and rubbed some cooling cream on her swollen toes. Then she put on some clean, white socks, and canvas tennis shoes. Relieved for awhile, Cathy went out to play but soon her feet were itching so much that Cathy returned to her bedroom to take off her shoes. She didn't want her mother to know how bad her feet were because she knew she had caught the affliction through disobedience.

Like most children Cathy enjoyed barefoot freedom in the summertime. She enjoyed digging her toes into the warm, soft garden soil and kicking up little puffs of dust as she ran. Of course Mother let her roam barefoot around the house and yard but Mother always told her children to slip on thongs or wash and put on shoes when they went to town.

Cathy had been with a friend for a couple of days and had gone to different stores without her shoes on. "It's a dumb rule, anyway," Cathy had said to herself as her bare feet skipped over the smooth floors. "These floors aren't any dirtier than the garden dirt at home."

A couple days later Cathy realized Mother had been right about the unseen bacteria that can be on public floors. She was ashamed of

her disobedience and suffering from the pain of it.

While Cathy washed her feet with a cool, damp washcloth, she began to pray. "Oh, Lord, please forgive me for disobeying Mother. I know I should have obeyed her even though she wasn't there to tell me to put on my shoes. I am so sorry I didn't mind. Please forgive me and please heal my itchy feet. Amen."

All day Cathy cared for her hurting feet. Mother realized what had happened and she silently prayed for Cathy. That night, Cathy washed her itchy feet, put cream on them, and went to bed.

The next morning Cathy awoke and began to dress for the day. Suddenly, she thought of her feet and looked down. They were not red and itchy any more. Jesus had healed them during the night!

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Where did Jesus go after He left Capernaum?
2. What were the men carrying?
3. Who was his mother's only son?
4. Who stopped to watch the procession?
5. What did Jesus tell the sad Mother?
6. Who walked up and touched the coffin?
7. What did He tell the dead man to do?
8. What did the dead man do?
9. Who was reassured that Jesus was the Messiah?

LESSON TEXT: Luke 7:11-22.

(Answers: 1. To Nain. 2. A coffin. 3. The dead man. 4. Jesus. 5. "Don't cry." 6. Jesus. 7. "Get up!" 8. He sat up and started talking. 9. John the Baptist.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 June 1, 1997

JESUS STILL A STORM

The sun had just set. Outside the house where Jesus stayed, many people began to gather. Soon the house was surrounded. It seemed the whole city had gathered outside the door. These people had heard of the many people healed by Jesus. They brought their own loved ones who were sick or possessed with devils so that they, too, could be healed.

Jesus didn't disappoint them. He healed all the sick people. At His command the evil spirits had to leave. This was a fulfillment of the words the prophet Isaiah wrote many years before. He wrote saying, "Himself took our infirmities and bare our sicknesses."

Some time after this, Jesus and His disciples got into a ship. Jesus told His disciples, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." So they set sail.

Jesus was very tired from teaching and healing the people. As they sailed, Jesus fell fast asleep. Suddenly a great storm of wind hit the ship. The water rose in monstrous waves then crashed over the ship, filling it with water.

Some of Jesus' disciples were expert fishermen. They knew the sea well and how to handle the ship. They also knew this was a deadly storm. Their lives were in great danger. They must wake Jesus.

Rushing to Him, they cried, "Master, Master, we perish!"

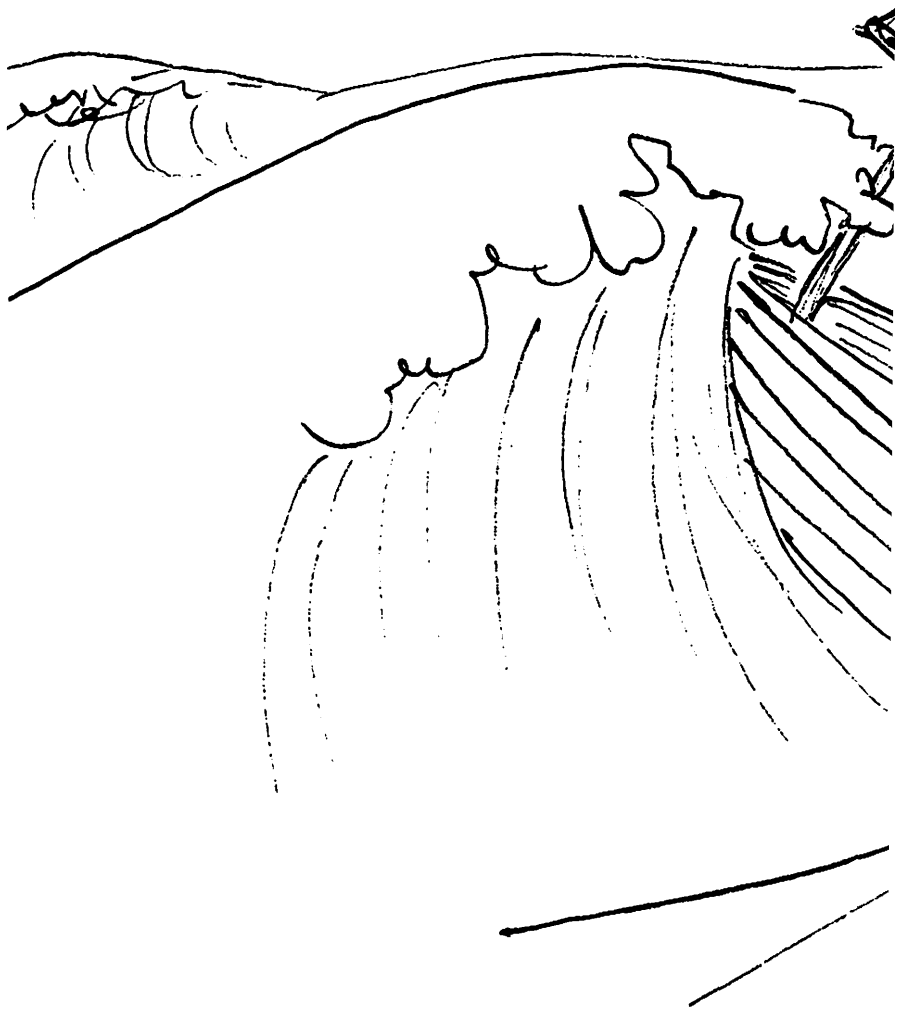
Jesus heard the raging wind and saw the water swirling at His feet. Calmly, He got up. Then He commanded the wind to stop. He spoke to the sea, saying, "Peace; be still!" Immediately the wind and water obeyed Him. There was a great calm!

Then Jesus turned to the disciples and asked, "Why are you so fearful?"

The disciples could not answer Jesus. They wondered among themselves, "What kind of Man is this? Even the wind and sea obey Him!"

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**And there arose a great storm of
wind... Mark 4:37.**





Sojourner Truth

(A True Story)

Two hundred years ago, Isabella was born a slave on a farm in New York. She worked as a house servant and a field hand and eventually earned her freedom with some help from white friends. After her five children were grown, she decided to change her life.

Isabella had learned that men may be cruel, but God was kind. Her mother had taught her to pray, so it was that she prayed for direction in life as she trudged the roads of New York. She decided to change her name to Sojourner Truth which described her well.

Sojourner stopped at camp meetings and talked to people about her experiences as a slave and her trust in God. People liked to hear her talk and she became a well-known speaker at meetings. Her personal songs touched the hearts of listeners and brought tears to their eyes. She spoke against the sin of slavery and the law of love and forgiveness.

In 1851, Sojourner began to speak at women's rights conventions as well. She saw that women were not allowed to own land, vote, and in some places denied a good education.

One time a thunderstorm interrupted Sojourner as she was speaking in a meeting. A nervous man leaped up, crying, "It's the wrath of God coming down on me for listening to you say slaves should be free and women should be equal to men."

"Don't be scared," Sojourner said. "I don't expect God's ever heard of you."

During the Civil War, Sojourner spoke to Union troops and worked especially hard to support blacks in the Union Army. President Abraham Lincoln welcomed her to the White House in 1864. "I never heard of you before you ran for President," she said to President Lincoln.

"But I heard of you," Lincoln replied.

In her lifetime, Sojourner devoted years of service to help freed slaves begin new lives. Everywhere she went she shared what her Lord Jesus Christ meant to her. Praying, preaching, singing—Sojourner trusted in God's love and mercy for herself and for others. She fed the multitudes spiritual food that is still good to think about today.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who did the people bring to Jesus?
2. What did He do for them?
3. Who wrote about Jesus many years before?
4. What did Jesus tell His disciples when they got into the ship?
5. What did Jesus do as they sailed?
6. What suddenly hit the ship?
7. Who were expert fishermen?
8. Who did the wind and sea obey?
9. What did Jesus ask His disciples?

LESSON TEXT: Mark 1:32-34; 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25.

(Answers: 1. Their sick loved ones. 2. He healed them. 3. The prophet, Isaiah. 4. "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." 5. He fell fast asleep. 6. A great storm of wind. 7. Some of Jesus' disciples. 8. Jesus. 9. "Why are you so fearful?")

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 June 8, 1997

THE FIERCE MAN

After Jesus stilled the storm, He and His disciples sailed on until they reached the other side of the sea. There they came into the country of the Gadarenes.

As soon as Jesus stepped on shore a man possessed with many unclean spirits met Him. This man lived in the graveyard, among the tombs. He was extremely fierce. No one dared come near him. Men had tried to bind him with chains many times. Each time he broke the chains and escaped. No one could take him prisoner.

All day and all night this man wandered over the mountains among the tombs. As he walked he cried out, often cutting himself with sharp stones. But when he saw Jesus he ran to Him. Falling at His feet, he worshiped Him. Then he cried loudly, "I beg You, do not torment me."

Jesus knew the devil was causing all of this man's trouble. He asked, "What is your name?"

The man answered, "Legion," because many evil spirits lived in him.

On a mountainside nearby a large herd of pigs was feeding. Speaking through the man, the evil spirits begged, "If You cast us out, let us go into that herd of pigs."

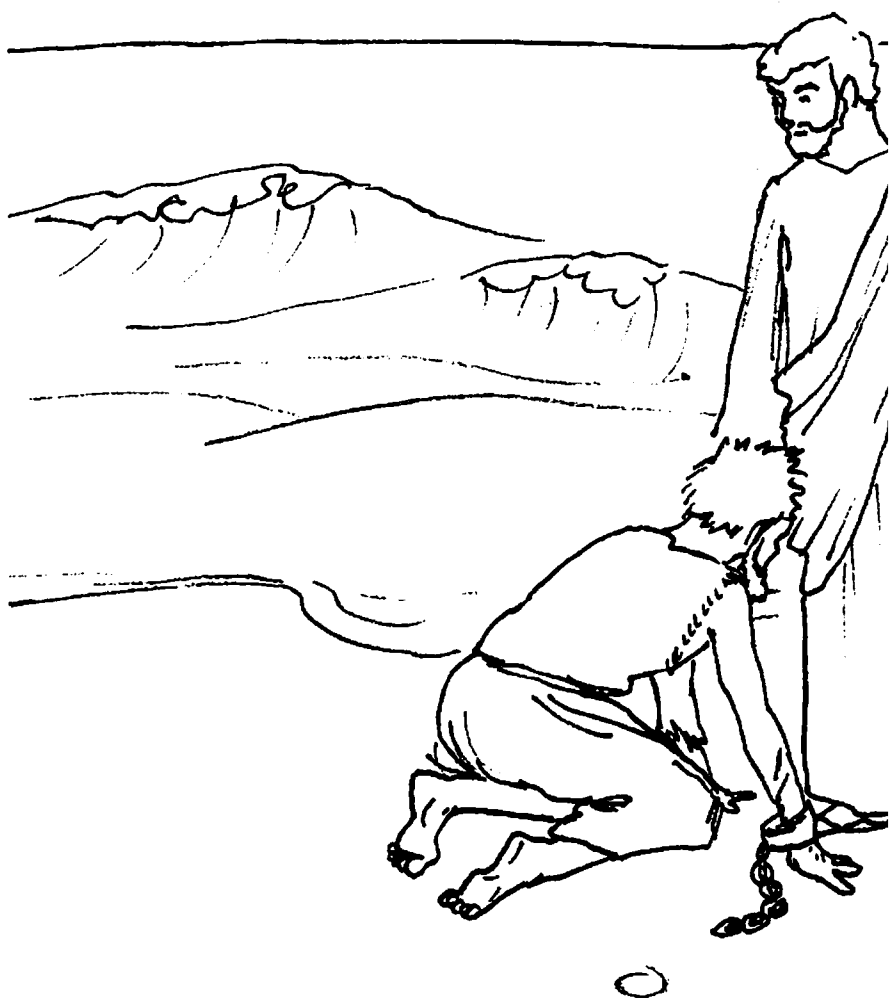
"Go!" Jesus commanded.

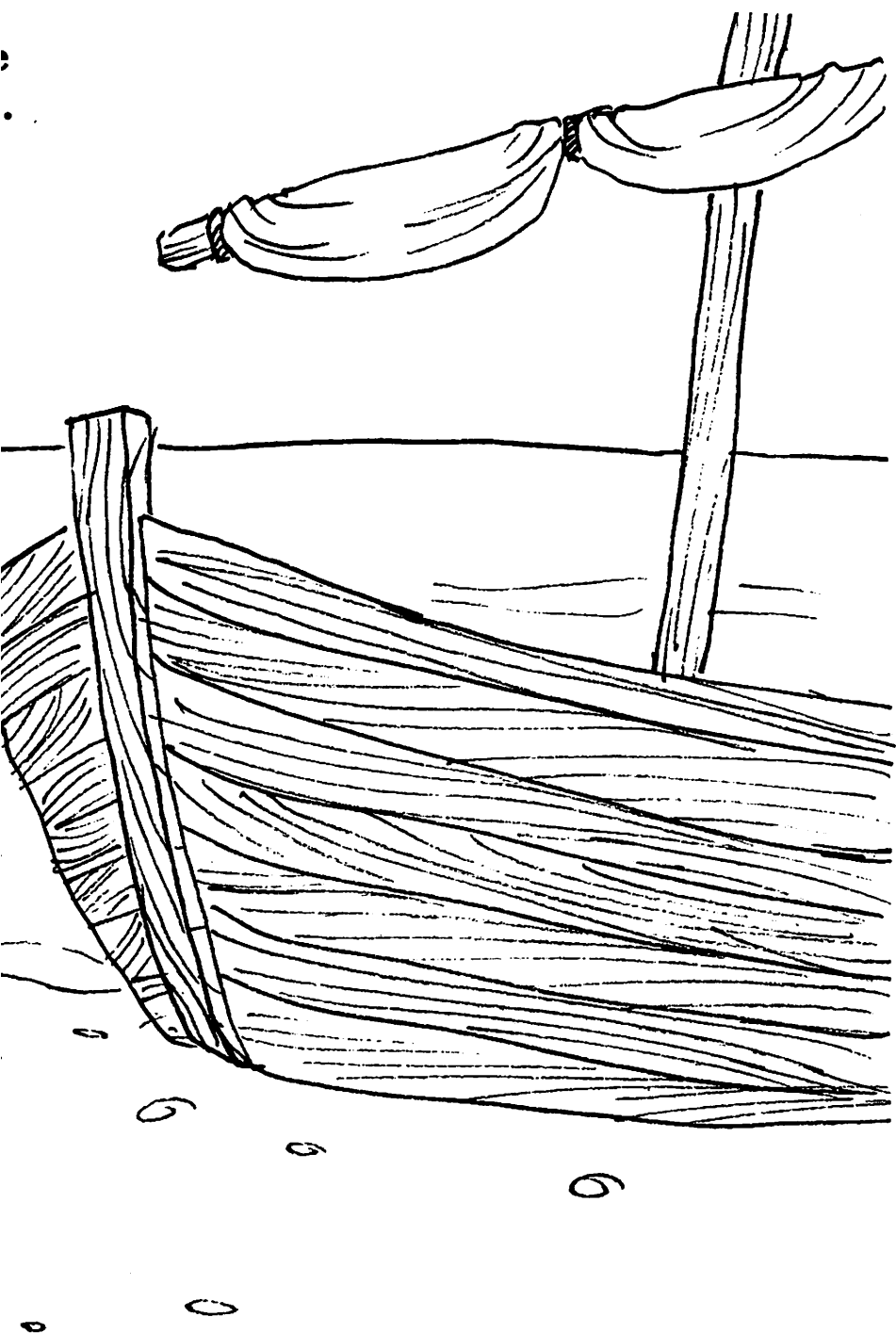
Instantly the evil spirits left the man and went into the herd of pigs. The men who cared for the pigs were shocked when the entire herd suddenly ran violently down the steep mountainside into the sea. Soon they were all drowned!

The men were so frightened that they ran into the city. There they told everything that happened to the man with the evil spirits. When the people heard that all the pigs were drowned, the whole city went to meet Jesus. They were frightened by His great power. They begged Him to leave their city.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**But when he saw Jesus afar c
ran and worshipped him. Mar**





Is *Star Wars* Evil?

It was late eveningtime at Grandma and Grandpa's farm. A soft breeze fanned the family members sitting on the porch. Jerry was near the porch steps petting Toughie, the dog. His little sister and brother, Linda and Randy, were swinging together in the porch swing. Grandma was snapping fresh green beans from the garden and Grandpa was snoozing in his old rocker.

"Look how the stars twinkle at us," said Jerry. "I wonder what is going on up there in the sky."

The only reply was the snap of beans in Grandma's hands.

"I wonder if people really live on those stars like Lance said they do," continued Jerry. "Grandma, do you think 'Star Wars' is true?"

"No, Jerry," replied Grandma. "that is a made up story that one man dreamed up and wrote. Have your friends told you about *Star Wars* and the characters in it?"

Jerry turned to look at Grandma. "Everybody hears about *Star Wars*. I haven't seen the movie but there's all kinds of things with *Star Wars* pictures on them. Mother doesn't like to buy any *Star Wars* stuff and everybody has some but me. It doesn't seem so bad to me."

Grandma snapped a few more beans before she replied. "What we see with our eyes makes images on our mind, Jerry. The creatures that are in *Star Wars* and other such movies make impressions on our mind that will hinder our faith in God. God is the Master of the universe—the great I AM. He has commanded that we worship Him only and that we put no other gods before Him. People of the world rush after movies like *Star Wars* and they worship the high, excited feeling that the movie gives them.

I would say worldly people worship the images in the movie because they will buy anything with *Star Wars* pictures on it."

Jerry nodded. "All my friends have tee-shirts with Luke Skywalker or Darth Vader on it," he said. "Lance said that the movie is about good and evil. The force helps the good to win."

"That is one hidden evil of the movie," said Grandma. "The force in *Star Wars* is not the great God I AM whom we serve and obey. Thousands of children and young people are being deceived by this belief in a force." Grandma set down her bowl of beans on the porch. "In family worship tonight, let's see what the Word of God says about this," she said.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who met Jesus as soon as He stepped on shore?
2. Where did this man live?
3. What did he do when he was bound with chains?
4. What did he do when he saw Jesus?
5. What was his name?
6. What was feeding nearby?
7. Where did the evil spirits ask to go?
8. What did the pigs do?
9. Why did the people beg Jesus to leave their city?

LESSON TEXT: Mark 5:1-20.

(Answers: 1. A man with many unclean spirits. 2. In the graveyard. 3. He broke the chains and escaped. 4. He ran to Him and worshiped Him. 5. Legion. 6. A herd of pigs. 7. Into the herd of pigs. 8. They ran violently down the steep mountainside, into the sea. 9. Because they were frightened by His great power.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 June 15, 1997

"WHO TOUCHED ME?"

The Gadarene's begged Jesus to leave their city. So Jesus and His disciples got back into the ship and sailed back to the other side of the sea. There the people were glad to see He had returned. As the word spread, many people gathered around Him by the seaside.

As Jesus spoke with the people, one of the rulers of the synagogue rushed up to Him. This man, named Jairus, fell at Jesus' feet. His only daughter, about twelve years old, lay at home, dying. Jairus begged Jesus to come and heal her.

Jesus followed Jairus. As they walked, more and more people gathered around Him. He could scarcely make His way through the crowd. In the crowd was a woman who had been very sick for twelve years. This woman had gone from doctor to doctor hoping they could help her. Now she had spent all her money. Instead of getting better, she only grew worse. The doctors could not heal her.

The woman had lost hope of getting well. But then she heard about Jesus. When she learned He was passing through, she believed He could heal her. She thought, "If only I can touch His clothes, I will be healed."

So, pressing her way through the crowd, the woman struggled to reach Jesus. When she finally got near Him, His back was toward her. Without attracting His attention, she reached out and touched the hem of His garment. Instantly she knew she was healed!

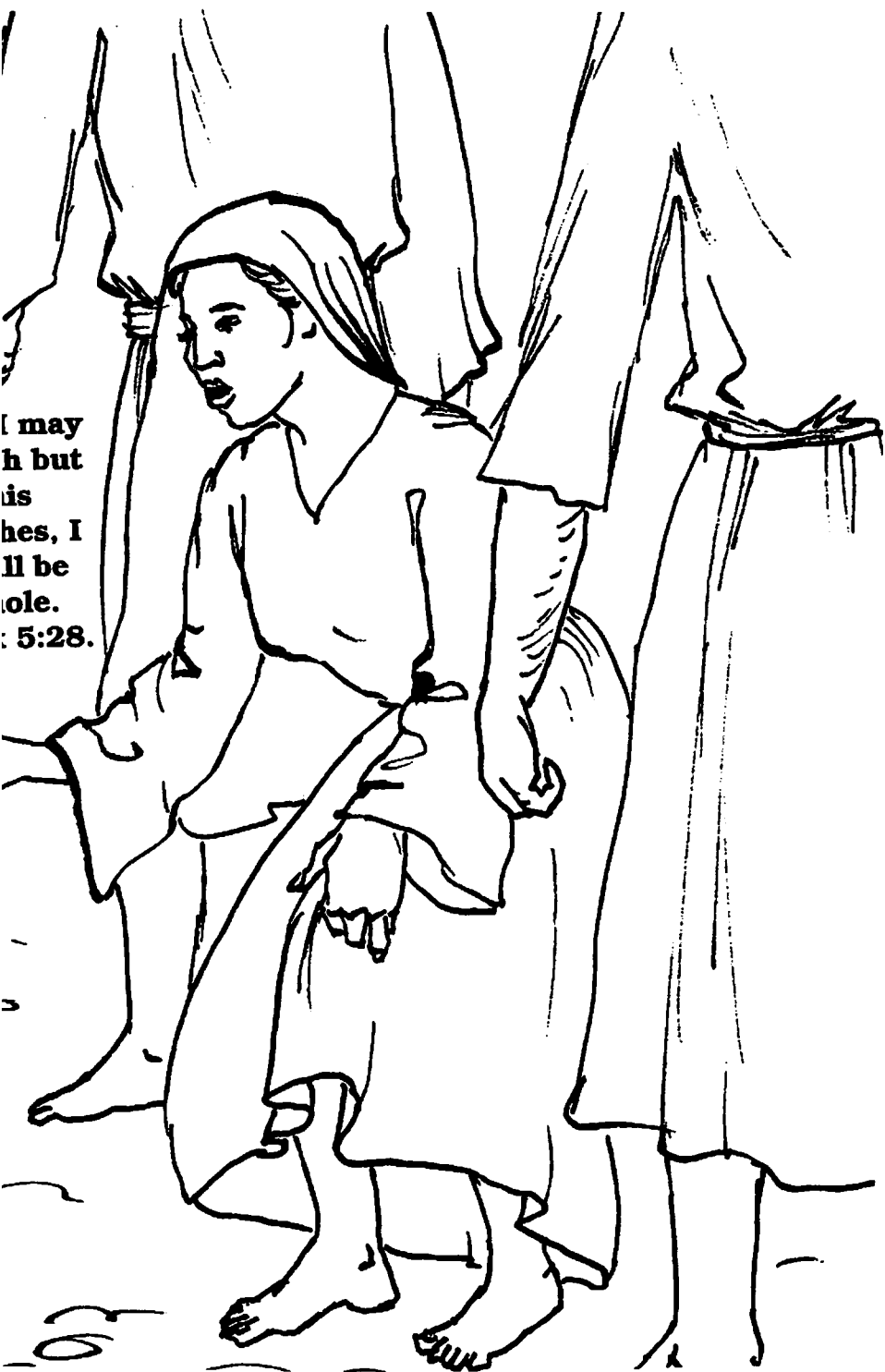
As the woman sank back into the crowd, she was sure no one knew what had happened. But Jesus knew. Looking around, He asked, "Who touched Me?"

"Why do You ask, 'Who touched Me?' when people are pressing all around?" His disciples asked.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



[may
h but
is
hes, I
ll be
ole.
: 5:28.



The Evil In Star Wars

(Continued from last week.)

It is bedtime at Grandma and Grandpa's farm. Jerry, Linda, and Randy are in their night clothes, sitting in the den ready for family devotions. Jerry had asked Grandma why the movie *Star Wars* was wrong and Grandma had said they would look into the Word of God and find out.

"Let's read about the tower of Babel in Genesis 11," said Grandma. All these people wanted to build a huge tower to reach into the sky. 'We want to be great and mighty,' they said to each other. While they were building, God saw them. He was not pleased. In the sixth verse it says God did not want them to do what they imagined to do. Remember how God stopped them from building?"

"He mixed up their talk," said Linda.

"That's right. They could not understand each other's speech so they quit building. God stopped them because the imagination of their minds was not right. What type of imagination do you need to have in order to like a movie like *Star Wars*?"

A clock ticked quietly for a few moments before Jerry answered slowly, "You need a big, wild one."

"Yes," nodded Grandma. "That's why worldly people like *Star Wars* and *Return of the Jedi* and *E.T.* and other such movies, because it speaks to their imagination and makes them feel smart—exalted. George Lucas, the man who wrote and directed *Star Wars* believes in the New Age. The force that Luke Skywalker talks about is a combination of all gods

that have ever been worshipped. I have read about the movie and the effects it is having on children and young people. Thousands of young people admit 'praying to' or 'tapping into their inner force for help. That is just what New Age leaders want. They want children and young people to believe "I can do it myself by my own power within." Now think for a minute about the words of Jesus. Did Jesus tell us to pray in our own name and trust in our own selves?"

"No!" said three-year-old Randy. "Jesus wants us to pray to Him!"

"That's right," agreed Grandma. "Jesus told us to pray in His name and He would answer. He also said that we must deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him. The force in *Star Wars* gives the very opposite message. It was created by an evil imagination."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was a ruler of the synagogue?
2. What was wrong with his daughter?
3. How old was she?
4. How long had the woman been sick?
5. Who could not heal her?
6. Who did the woman hear about?
7. What did she do when she reached Jesus?
8. What happened when she did this?
9. What did Jesus ask?

LESSON TEXT: Mark 5:21:33; Luke 8:40-47.

(Answers: 1. Jairus. 2. She was dying. 3. About twelve years old. 4. Twelve years. 5. The doctors. 6. Jesus. 7. She touched the hem of His garment. 8. She was healed. 9. "Who touched Me?")

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 June 22, 1997

"MAID, ARISE!"

Thankfully, the woman mixed with the crowd that pressed about Jesus. She had touched just the hem of His garment and was instantly healed! She was sure no one noticed.

Then Jesus turned and asked, "Who touched Me?"

"People are pressing all around You," His disciples answered. "how can You ask, 'Who touched Me?'"

When the woman saw she could not hide from Jesus, she came and fell down before Him. Trembling with fear she told Him why she had touched Him. "Daughter, be of good comfort," Jesus told her. "Your faith has made you well. Go in peace!"

Meanwhile Jairus waited anxiously. Jesus must come to his house at once to heal his daughter! Then someone came with the message he dreaded, "Your daughter is dead! There is no need to trouble the Master."

Jesus heard the message too. "Don't be afraid," He told the grieving father, "Just believe and she will be healed!"

With renewed hope Jairus led Jesus to his house. The people there were crying loudly and lamenting the girl's death. "Don't cry," Jesus told them. "She is not dead. She is only sleeping."

The people laughed scornfully at Jesus' words. They knew the girl was dead.

Jesus allowed only the parents, Peter, James and John to go in with Him. Walking over to the girls' bed, Jesus took her by the hand. Then He commanded, "Maid, arise!"

Instantly life came into her. The girl got up and walked! It was almost more than the parents could believe. To assure them she was healed, Jesus told them to give her something to eat. Jesus asked the thankful parents to tell no one about the miracle.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**...Weep not; she is not
dead, but sleepeth.
Luke 8:52.**





Peanuts For Taxes

In the warm summertime, Jerry, Linda, and Randy liked to spend a few days at the farm with Grandma and Grandpa. Jerry and Toughie, the dog, tagged behind Grandpa as he went to the barn to milk the cows and feed the calves.

"May I hold the bottle for that tiny baby calf?" Jerry asked.

"I don't know why not," said Grandpa with a smile. He prepared the six bottles for the calves and let Jerry carry a couple to the back of the barn where the calves were.

In the last few days, Jerry had really grown fond of these Holstein calves with their big brown eyes and wet noses. He had already named each one and knew them apart by the black and white patterns on their backs.

As soon as Grandpa and Jerry entered the back barn door, the calves began to bawl. They saw their bottles and some skipped toward them ready for their supper.

Jerry called each calf by name: "Now Fudge, Cream, Chocolate, Ripple, Vanilla, and Peanuts, how are you all doing? I guess you don't want to talk to me but you want your bottles. Okay, here's yours, Ripple and Cream."

Each calf eagerly latched onto a bottle nipple with a firm tongue. Then Jerry noticed that the smallest calf was still lying down. He called to her in a cheerful voice. "Come on, Peanuts. Come and get your bottle. I have it right here."

But Peanuts wasn't going to get up. She just looked up then put her head down lower. Jerry felt sorry for her. "Grandpa, is she sick?" he asked. "Can you make her well?"

"We will give her some special formula and do what we can to make her better," replied Grandpa.

After the other calves had drank their milk, Jerry went to the smallest calf and stroked her neck and back. "She won't die, will she, Grandpa?" he asked. Grandpa was helping the calf.

"I can't promise that she won't die," he said. "Like the old saying, 'The two sure things in life are taxes and death.' A farmer has to deal with both of these unpleasant things."

"Grandpa," said Jerry. "I will pray that Peanuts will get better so you can sell her to pay your taxes. Surely the Lord will want to heal her." Grandpa smiled and the Lord heard Jerry's prayer.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. How was the woman healed?
2. How did Jesus know someone touched Him?
3. Who was waiting anxiously?
4. What message came to Jairus?
5. Who else heard the message?
6. What did Jesus tell the grieving father?
7. Which three disciples went into Jairus' house?
8. What did the girl do after Jesus spoke to her?
9. What did Jesus tell her parents to give her?

LESSON TEXT: Luke 8:47-55.

(Answers: 1. By touching Jesus. 2. Power went out of Him. 3. Jairus. 4. "Your daughter is dead" 5. Jesus. 6. "Don't be afraid; just believe." 7. Peter, James and John. 8. She got up and walked. 9. Something to eat.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 June 29, 1997

JESUS HEALS

Jesus and His disciples left Jairus' house. As they walked, two blind men followed. "Thou Son of David," they begged, "have mercy on us!"

Jesus did not stop. He kept walking until He came to the house where He stayed. He even went into the house as if He did not hear the blind men's cry for help.

The two blind men were sure Jesus could heal them. They followed Him right into the house. Jesus was pleased to see the great faith of the blind men. To prove their faith He asked, "Do you believe I am able to do this?"

"Yes, Lord!" both blind men answered.

"According to your faith," Jesus told them, "so let it be." As He spoke He touched their eyes. Immediately their blind eyes were opened. They could see clearly!

As the two men left the house, they brought in a man who was possessed with a devil. Because of the evil spirit, the man could not talk. Jesus cast the devil out and the man began talking.

Those who crowded around were surprised by Jesus' great power. They said to each other, "We have never seen anything like this before in Israel!" Even the greatest of the prophets were not able to do the miracles Jesus did. This was further proof that Jesus was, indeed, the Messiah.

Some of the Pharisees saw Jesus cast the devil out. "The prince of the devils gives Him power to cast out devils," they said angrily. They were jealous because many people believed in Jesus. Great crowds followed Him.

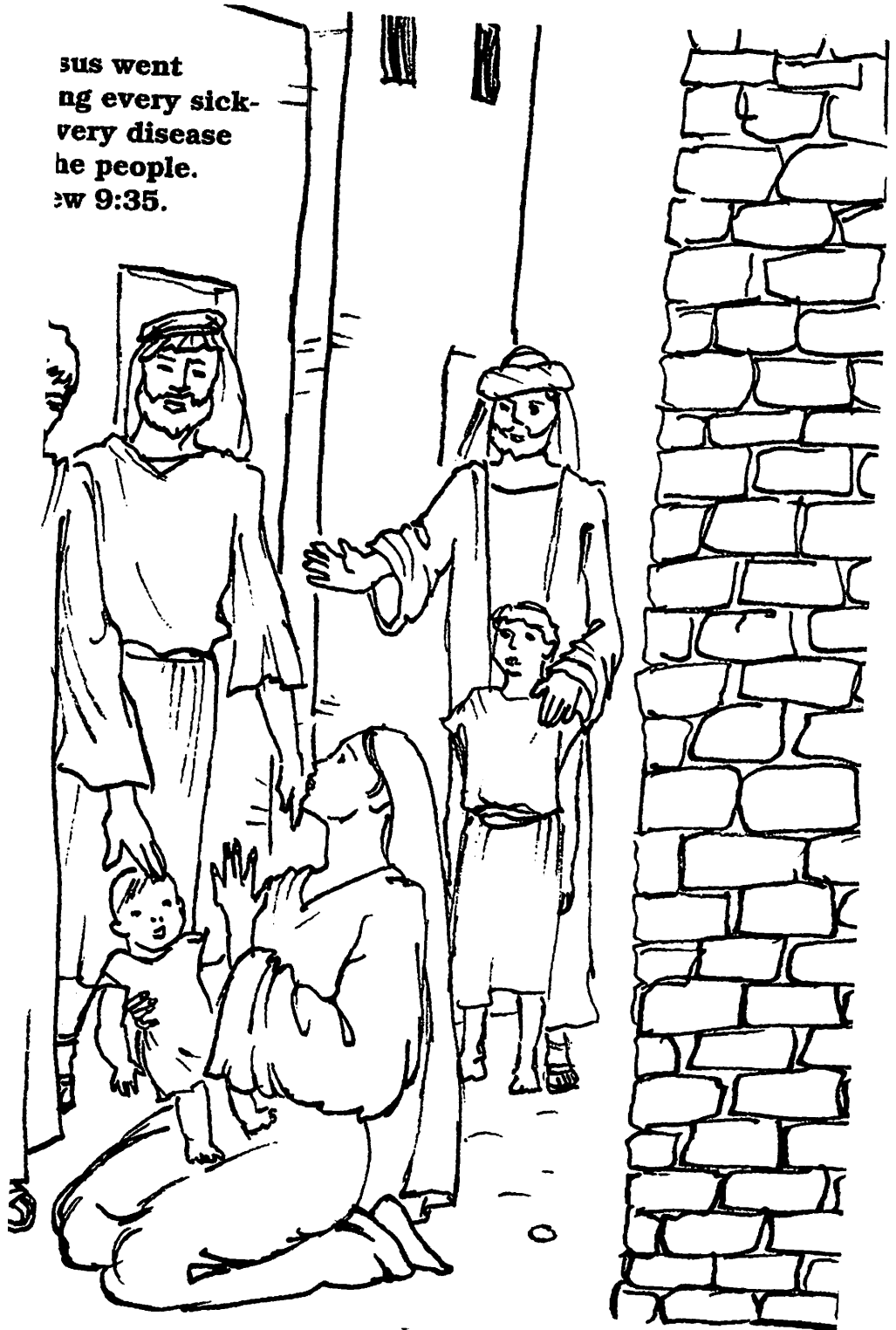
Everywhere Jesus went He healed people. He felt sorry for the great crowds of people who followed Him. As He looked out over them they reminded Him of helpless sheep who had no shepherd.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

about
nes
a



sus went
ng every sick-
very disease
he people.
w 9:35.



Common Horse Sense

Jerry watched as his cousin, Tom, rode a pony around Grandpa's corral. "It isn't hard at all to ride a horse," Tom called to Jerry. "See, I can make old Buttercup go wherever I want her to go. All I have to do is pull her reins in the direction I want to go. See, it's easy! I can make her trot too! Watch!" With this, Tom clicked to Buttercup and she began to pick up speed as she circled around the corral.

Sitting on the top fence rail, Jerry watched with excited eyes. He was ready when it came his turn to ride Buttercup. "Now put your left foot in the stirrup and swing your right leg over," instructed Tom. "Hold the reins firm but not tight. Tap Buttercup with your heels when you are ready to go and pull in on the reins when you want to stop. Okay?"

On top of Buttercup, Jerry nodded his head then tapped her side with his heels. He jerked backward as she stepped forward but quickly regained his balance as he was determined to sit up straight and command Buttercup. She was a good pony but all horses know when they have an inexperienced rider on board.

While she walked, Buttercup snorted, pulled at the reins and put her head down to her legs. Jerry tugged at the reins and Buttercup sidestepped a little which made Jerry worried, so he pulled the reins for her to turn but Buttercup didn't want to turn.

Tom had ridden Buttercup so easily but she wasn't obeying Jerry very well. First Jerry felt embarrassed. Timidly, he pulled on Buttercup's reins but she wouldn't turn. Then Jerry felt angry that this

horse wouldn't mind him. Yanking the reins to one side, he felt Buttercup turn but she turned completely around. On her own, she started walking back to Tom who was laughing. This horse was making fun of Jerry!

He felt his face turn red. "She's a dumb horse who doesn't mind at all!" retorted Jerry as he attempted to get off Buttercup. "Oh, Jerry, she is just being naughty. Stay on her and spend some time with her. After you ride her several times, she will start respecting your commands," said Tom.

Jerry did as Tom said and in time he learned how to control her and she obeyed because he was consistent and reasonable. Jerry and Buttercup began to understand and respect each other. They became friends. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who followed Jesus?
2. Who acted as if He did not hear?
3. Where did they follow Him?
4. What was Jesus pleased to see?
5. What happened when Jesus touched their eyes?
6. Why couldn't the man talk?
7. What did Jesus do for this man?
8. Who was jealous of Jesus?
9. What did the crowds remind Jesus of?

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 9:27-36.

(Answers: 1. Two blind men.
2. Jesus. 3. Right into the house. 4. Their great faith. 5. Their blind eyes were opened. 6. He was possessed with a devil. 7. He cast the devil out. 8. The Pharisees. 9. Helpless sheep.)