

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 July 6, 1997

HEROD'S BIRTHDAY

King Herod was a wicked man but he respected John the Baptist. He watched John carefully and knew he was a just and a holy man. Herod knew John spoke the truth and he often listened to his wise words.

One day John told Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." These words cut the king deeply. He knew he sinned when he married Herodias, his brother Philip's wife.

Herodias was furious when she heard John's words. She commanded that Herod put him in prison. She wanted John killed immediately but Herod would not permit this. He feared to harm this holy man. Meanwhile Herodias watched for a chance to destroy John.

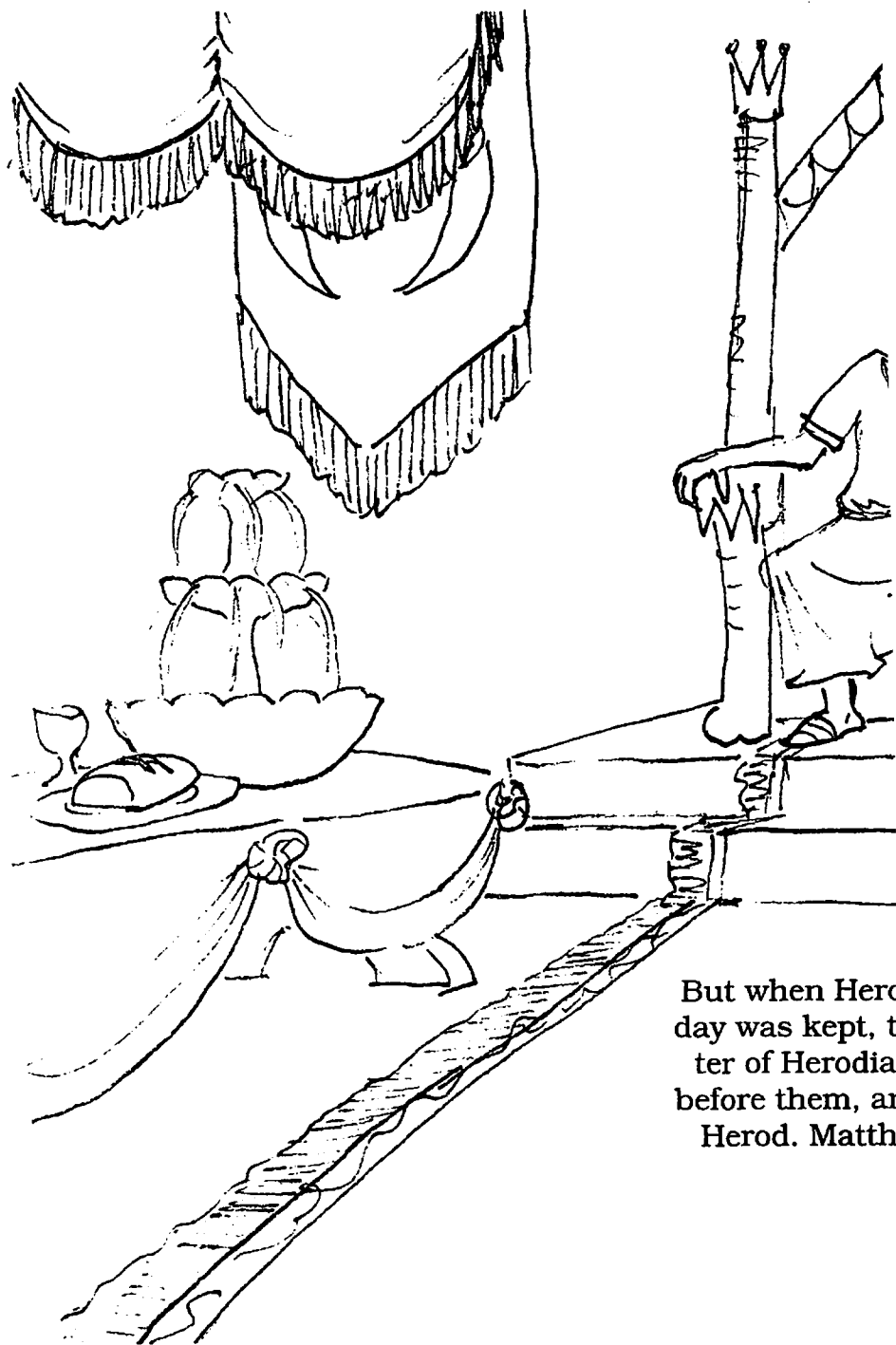
On Herod's birthday the king made a great supper to celebrate. He invited his lords, high captains and the chief men of Galilee. As they ate, Herodias' daughter came in and danced before the king and his guests. Herod was so pleased with her dancing he promised to give the girl anything she would ask for. He said he would even give her half of his kingdom if she asked for it.

The girl rushed out to find her mother. Hurriedly she told Herodias what the king had promised. "What shall I ask?" she asked her mother. Herodias knew this was her chance to destroy John. "Ask for the head of John the Baptist!" the wicked mother instructed.

The girl hurried back to the banquet room where the king and his guests waited to see what she would ask for. "I want you to give me the head of John the Baptist!" she announced boldly.

King Herod was shocked and very sorry. But the great men of his country had heard him make his rash offer to the girl. He did not dare refuse her. When John the Baptist's head was brought in, she took it to her mother, Herodias.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



But when Herod
day was kept, the
ter of Herodias
before them, and
Herod. Matthe



h-
gh-
d
ed
.

Thirsty No More

(A Story from Iran)

Sitting on her sleeping mat, Dabra quietly took out her New Testament to read in secret a few words before her father, mother, brothers and sisters awoke. She had received this New Testament from a kind, missionary woman who told a beautiful story about the Son of God who healed sick people and put peace in the hearts of believers. Dabra had listened so carefully to the foreign missionary that the missionary had given her the New Testament.

"Read this quietly to yourself and I will pray for you," said the missionary. "Sometime soon I will come back to this well by the market place. Meet me here and we will go somewhere to pray, that you may accept Jesus as your Saviour."

Dabra smiled and her dark eyes shone as she turned to carry home the full water pot and the New Testament. The one she put on her head, the other she tucked inside her tunic. At the wise age of twelve years old, Dabra knew her Muslim family would not like the New Testament in their home. Something inside of Dabra was thirsty to know more about this Son of God and she was willing to take the risk of reading from this "forbidden book."

Muslims read the Koran which is a book written by Muhammad, who was a military commander and ruler in the Middle East around 600 A.D. The Koran teaches that a "good" Muslim must punish, fight and kill anyone who does not read the Koran and believe in it. The Koran calls this the Jihad or Holy War. It

is very sad that thousands of Muslims kill and destroy in obeying the Koran. It is not the Word of God.

So when Dabra opened her New Testament and read about the love of God's Son, she found what her soul was thirsty for. She found words of love, peace for the heart, and truth about God. In secret moments throughout the day, Dabra drank in the words from her New Testament.

Then one day her mother caught her reading from the New Testament. Though Dabra was beaten by her father, she would not deny the Son of God. After a year of abuse, Dabra escaped and went to live with the kind missionary who had helped her. Dabra loves the Son of God more than her family or anyone else in the world.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was a wicked man?
2. Who was a just and holy man?
3. Who did Herod marry?
4. Who wanted John killed?
5. Why did Herod make a great supper?
6. Who did he invite?
7. What did Herodias' daughter do?
8. What did Herod offer to give her?
9. Who told her what to ask for?

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 14:1-12; Mark 6:14-29.

(Answers: 1. King Herod. 2. John the Baptist. 3. Herodias, his brother's wife. 4. Herodias. 5. It was his birthday. 6. His lords, captains and chief men. 7. She danced for the king. 8. Anything she would ask for. 9. Her wicked mother, Herodias.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 July 13, 1997

FEEDING FIVE THOUSAND

Everywhere Jesus went people flocked around Him. Jesus wanted to teach all the people but He could not do this alone. One day He called the twelve disciples to Him and began to send them out, two by two, to teach the people.

Jesus and His disciples cast out many devils and healed those who were sick. They taught the people that they should repent of their sins. Soon people everywhere were talking about Jesus and the mighty works He did. More and more people came from all around the countryside to see and hear Him.

After Jesus heard about John the Baptist's death, He wanted to be alone with His disciples and rest for awhile. Gathering His disciples, He got into a ship to sail to a desert place. But the people saw Jesus leave. They followed Him on foot. So when Jesus reached the desert place He saw a crowd of people had already gathered.

Jesus felt sorry for the people. He soon forgot how tired He was as He taught them. The hours passed quickly as the people listened carefully to every word Jesus spoke. It was getting late and the people had nothing to eat. The disciples came to Jesus and reminded Him, "This is a desert place and it is getting late. Send the people away so they can go to town and buy bread. They have nothing to eat!"

The disciples were surprised when Jesus answered, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat!"

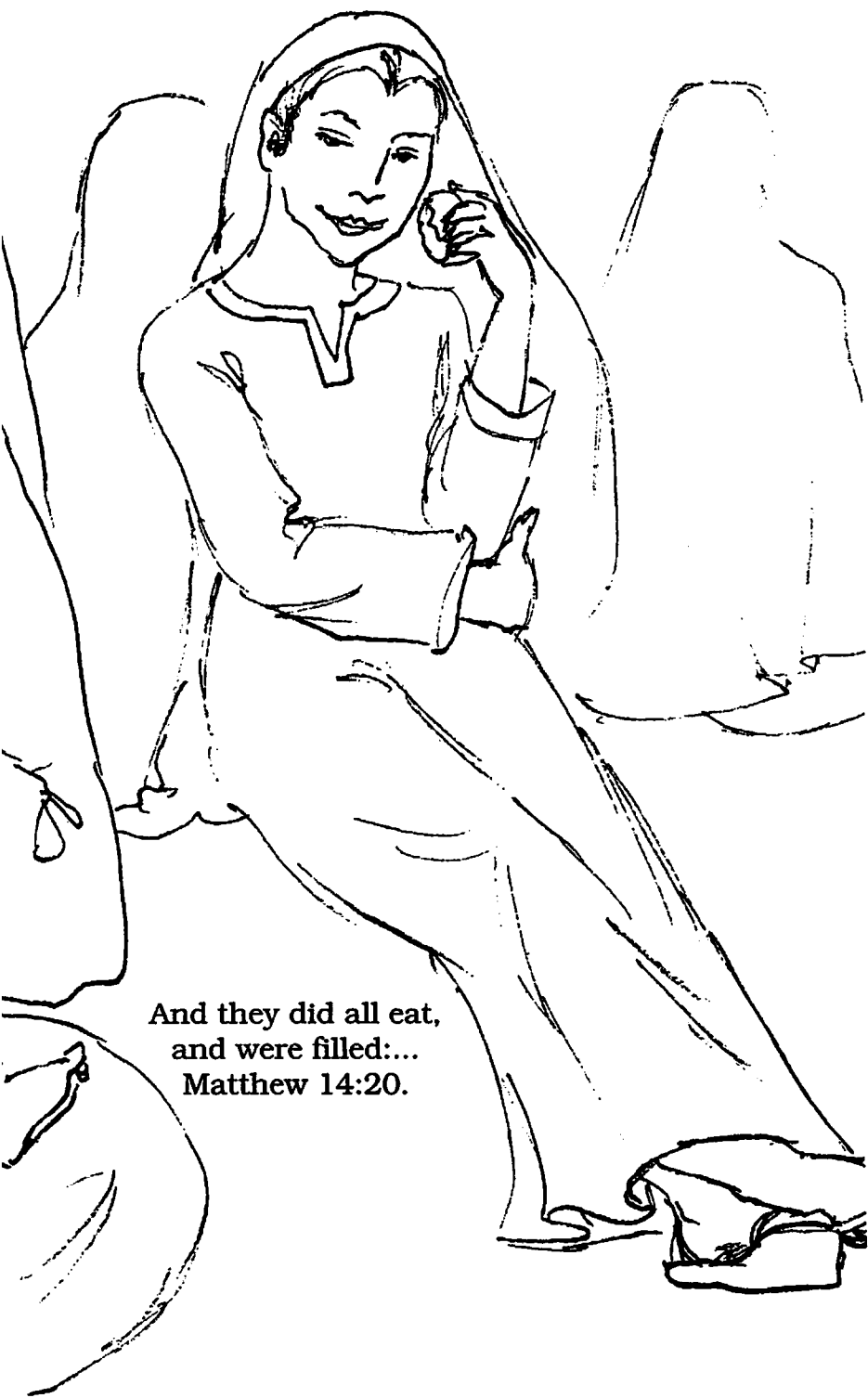
"We have only five loaves of bread and two fish," the disciples explained.

"Bring them here to Me," Jesus commanded.

Then Jesus told the people to sit down on the grass. Standing before them, He took the five loaves and the two fish and thanked God for the food. When he had broken them into serving sizes, He gave the food to the disciples to pass to the people. Everyone ate until they were full. Afterward they gathered twelve baskets of food that was left over! About five thousand men had eaten, besides the women and children.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





And they did all eat,
and were filled:....
Matthew 14:20.

Hungry For The God Of Love

(A True Story)

Atual Haq looked at the Koran with distaste. He had no desire to read from Muhammad's writings. He had heard about a good God of Love who did not demand war, but peace. Atual wanted to hear more about the God of Love but he was living in an Islamic country where fighting was taught as a way of life.

Atual sat quietly on his mat with several other boys his age. Each was busy murmuring the Koran passage to be memorized. Suddenly, the teacher called Atual's group to stand before him and recite from memory the appointed passage of the Koran. When it was Atual's turn, he did not know his part.

The teacher was furious. "You will stay after school," he said to Atual. That afternoon Atual had to write the appointed section of the Koran on the blackboard. With a piece of chalk, he wrote and wrote until his arm was tired. Finally, he had it all written.

"Now take this pail of water and carefully wash the blackboard," said the teacher. "Make sure you pour the water back into the pail after you wash the blackboard."

Atual did as he was told. He handed the chalky water to the teacher. "Now you drink this water," said the teacher. "You must put the Koran in you."

Atual did as he was told. He choked as the smelly water went down his throat. Then he handed the empty bucket to the teacher. "Tomorrow you must recite this passage of the Koran," said the teacher grimly.

Atual nodded politely and left the school hut. He felt sick. Why should

he put in his mind what his heart did not want to do?

The Lord Jesus saw Atual's heart and heard his silent cry unto the God of Love. The Lord sent a missionary into Atual's life. The missionary heard how Atual was beaten because he wasn't memorizing the Koran. The missionary went to Atual's father.

"May I buy your son?" he asked. In Atual's country of Bangladesh, children can be bought.

Greedy for money, Atual's father set a high price. The missionary paid and took Atual with him. Now Atual memorizes the New Testament which tells him about The God of Love.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who did Jesus send out to teach the people?
2. Where did Jesus go to be alone with His disciples?
3. Who followed Him?
4. What did Jesus do instead of resting?
5. Who reminded Jesus that they were in a desert place?
6. Why did they want Jesus to send the people away?
7. What did Jesus tell His disciples to do?
8. How much food did they have?
9. How much food was left over?

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 14:13-21;
Mark 6:32-44.

(Answers: 1. The twelve disciples. 2. To a desert place. 3. Many people. 4. Taught the people. 5. The disciples. 6. So they could go to town and buy bread. 7. "Give them something to eat." 8. Five loaves of bread and two fish. 9. Twelve baskets full.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 July 20, 1997

CALMING THE STORM

As soon as the multitude was fed, Jesus told the disciples to get into a ship. He wanted them to sail to Bethsaida on the other side of the sea. Jesus would come later, after He sent the people away.

Finally the last person headed toward their home and Jesus was all alone. He was tired from the long day of teaching the people. But more than anything He wanted to talk to God, His Father. Jesus climbed up the mountainside and found a quiet place where He could pray.

Evening came. Jesus was still alone on the land but the ship was now in the middle of the sea. Suddenly a violent wind arose whipping the water into huge waves. The little ship was tossed back and forth. Jesus saw the disciples rowing hard against the angry storm.

About the fourth watch of the night (between 3 and 6 a.m.) Jesus went to the disciples, walking on the water! Through the storm and darkness the disciples saw Him coming toward them. "It is a spirit!" they told each other. They knew no person could walk on the sea. They were so frightened they cried out in fear.

Jesus saw their alarm. "Be of good cheer," He comforted the disciples. "It is I; be not afraid!"

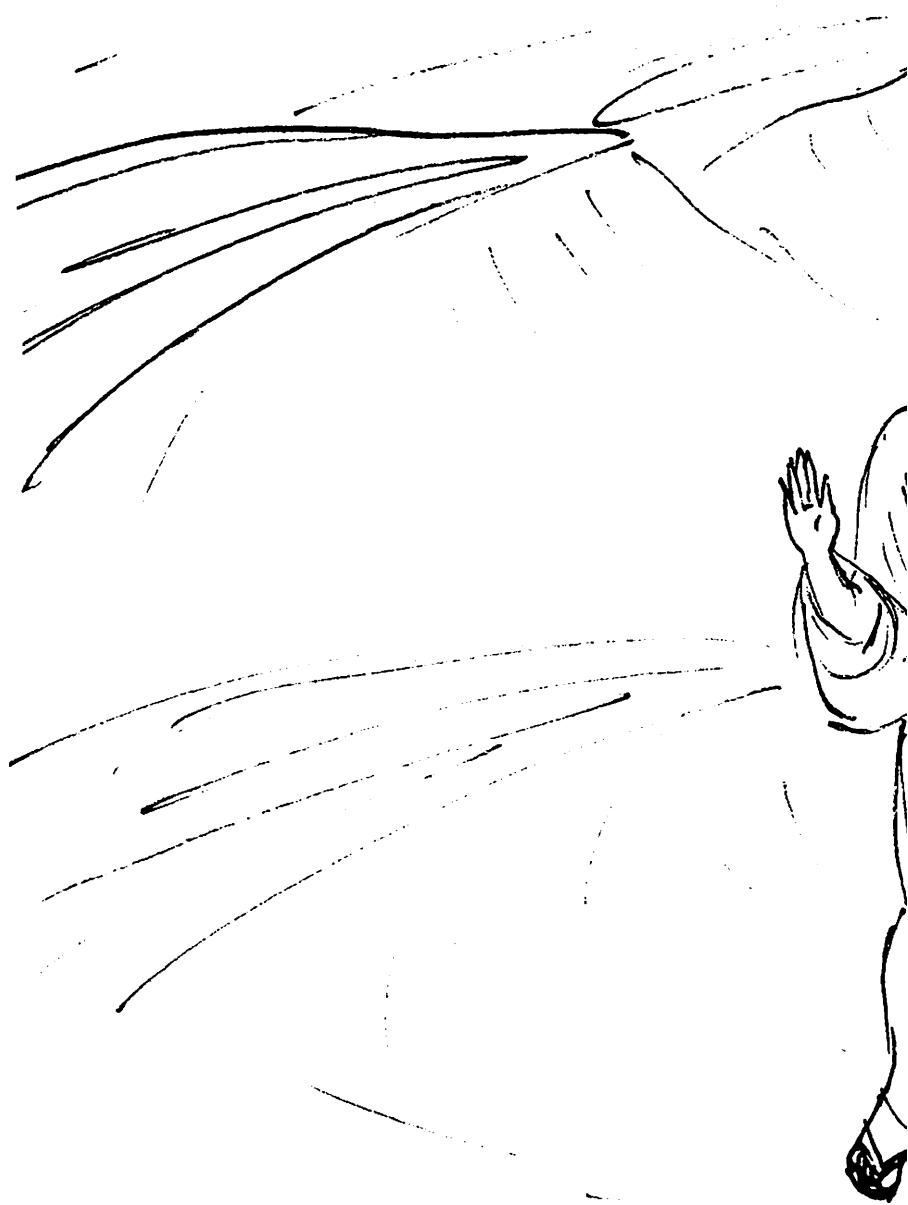
Boldly Peter answered, "Lord, if it is You, bid me come to You on the water."

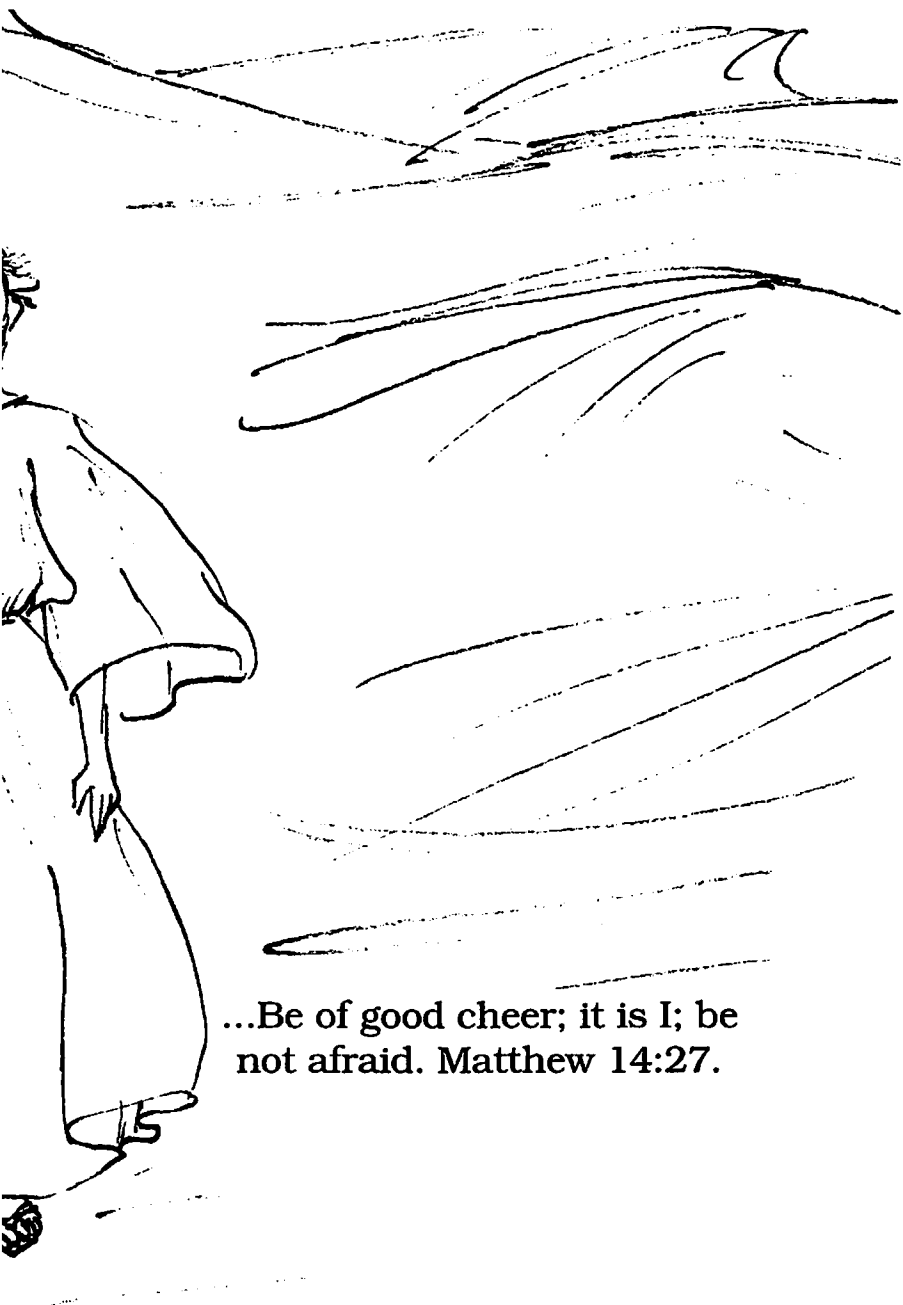
"Come!" Jesus answered.

So Peter climbed down out of the ship and began walking on the water toward Jesus. But when he looked at the monstrous waves he became afraid and began to sink. "Lord, save me!" he cried out in distress.

Instantly Jesus reached out and caught him and helped him back to the ship. As soon as Jesus came into the ship, the wind stopped. The storm was over!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





...Be of good cheer; it is I; be
not afraid. Matthew 14:27.

A Monark Camp Meeting

It was time again for the Monark Springs Camp Meeting. Car tires crunched over the gray gravel road as saints arrived from many places of the United States. There were hugs and kisses as families greeted one another. Lights shone within all the little square cabins and the dorms were humming with life. A Camp meeting is such a blessed time!

In the misty sunrise, saints gathered under the tabernacle for morning prayer service. Breakfast was served at 8:00 before the children's short meeting at 9:00. Then the bell rang loudly at 10:15 and all the saints gathered under the big tabernacle for the morning worship service.

Oh, how beautiful the singing sounded as it floated from under the tabernacle! The Lord seemed to bless the songs. Then there were prayer requests and prayer. Some gave testimonies of thanksgiving about how the Lord had answered prayer for them. After prayer came the anointed message delivered by a minister of the Lord.

Lunch was served right after morning service. What tasty smells tempted the waiting lines of people! Soon the dining hall was full of happy munchers.

Then in the lazy, warm afternoon there was another worship service and meeting for the children. Patient teachers told the children Bible stories and afterwards there were freeze pops for a treat. Yummy!

Right after supper, the young people gathered for their service which is just before evening wor-

ship service. One evening it was cool and dark clouds hung overhead as the saints found seats under the tabernacle. After the singing and prayer, a minister took the pulpit. While he preached lightening cut through the sky and thunder shook the ground. The wind blew and tossed the trees. Different ones went out to roll up car windows and shut cabin windows before the rain came.

Suddenly, all the lights went out! The minister could not read his Bible so the saints began to sing songs from memory. In the dark, several persons found their way to the altar for prayer. The Lord blessed that "stormy" service and turned it into a time of rejoicing.

It was a blessed camp meeting indeed! —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What did Jesus tell His disciples to do?
2. Who did Jesus want to talk to?
3. What happened when the ship was in the middle of the sea?
4. Who saw the disciples rowing hard?
5. How did Jesus go to the disciples?
6. What did the disciples say when they saw Him?
7. Who else walked on the water?
8. What happened when he looked at the monstrous waves?
9. What happened as soon as Jesus came into the ship?

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 14:22-33; Mark 6:45-51.

(Answers: 1. To get into a ship. 2. God, His Father. 3. A violent wind arose. 4. Jesus. 5. Walking on the water. 6. "It is a spirit!" 7. Peter. 8. He began to sink. 9. The wind stopped.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 July 27, 1997

A MOTHER COMES TO JESUS

Once again Jesus tried to escape the crowd. This time He went to the borders of Tyre and Sidon. There He entered a house, hoping no one had noticed Him. But Jesus could not hide. Even here people had heard about Jesus and the wonderful things He had done.

Soon a woman was at the door begging for help. She was desperate to find help for her young daughter who had an unclean spirit. "Have mercy on me, O Lord!" she cried. "My daughter is sadly troubled by an evil spirit."

Jesus did not say a word to the woman. He didn't act like He had even heard her. Still the woman pleaded for mercy. Soon the disciples grew tired of her. "Send her away," they told Jesus. "She cries after us."

"I am only sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel," Jesus answered.

This woman was a Gentile but she felt sure Jesus would have mercy on her daughter.

"Lord, help me!" the woman cried again.

Still Jesus did not seem interested in helping the poor mother. "It is not proper to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs," He answered.

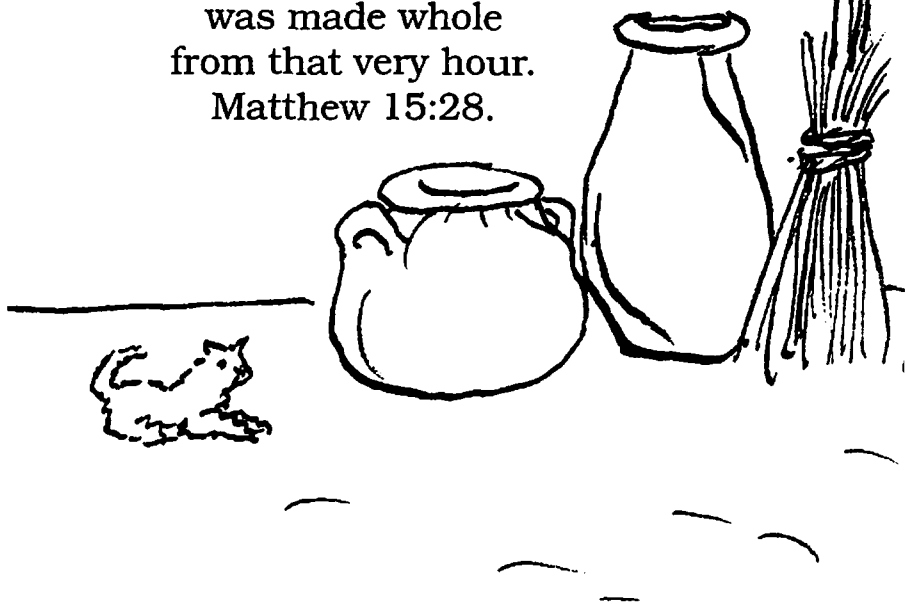
"That is true," the mother admitted humbly, "yet the dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table."

Jesus seemed surprised by the woman's great faith. He was pleased by her strong belief in His power and mercy. "O Woman, you have great faith!" He told her. "Go back home. Your daughter is well."

Gladly the woman jumped up and started for home. She believed Jesus' words. She was sure her daughter was well. When she reached home, the young girl was lying on the bed, resting quietly. The evil spirit was gone. Jesus healed her! —Sis. Nelda Sorrell



...And her daughter
was made whole
from that very hour.
Matthew 15:28.





Prayer Stops Sickness

"Mother, my head hurts," said Linda as she came into the back room where Mother was sitting at the sewing machine. Mother put her hand on Linda's forehead. "You are very hot, Linda," she said. "Go lie down and cool off. You became too hot playing outside."

Linda obeyed Mother. Soon Linda was fast asleep on a quilt on the living room floor. Mother checked on her later and Linda was still warm. "Hum," said Mother to herself. "I hope Linda isn't getting sick with something."

Around supper time, Linda awoke but she didn't want to eat supper. "My stomach hurts," she said as she rubbed her middle.

"Oh, dear, you still have a fever," said Mother, after checking Linda's forehead. "I wonder what you are sick with."

Linda's little brother, Randy, was sitting nearby. "Jesus would know," he said with a nod.

"Yes, let's pray and ask Jesus to take care of you, Linda," said Mother. All three bowed their heads as Mother prayed. "Dear Jesus, You know all about Linda's fever and how she doesn't feel good. Please touch her body and take away the sickness that is working on her body. We know You can make her well. Thank You, dear Jesus, for answering prayer. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen."

Linda still didn't want any supper, so she drank a little juice and went to bed early. During the evening and night, Mother and Daddy took turns checking on Linda who slept very quietly all night.

The next morning Linda was up and singing with the birds. She came into the kitchen where Mother was making breakfast. "Good morning, Mother. I am very hungry," she said, rubbing her stomach.

"Good!" said Mother with a smile. "You must be better. You don't feel hot this morning."

"No, Jesus made me well in the night," said Linda.

"We will thank the Lord in prayer this morning," said Mother. Later that day, Linda learned that the neighbors down the street had the flu for several days. However, the Lord kept Linda and her family from getting that flu.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Why did Jesus go to Tyre and Sidon?
2. Who could not hide?
3. Who did the woman want to find help for?
4. What was wrong with her daughter?
5. Who acted like He did not hear the woman?
6. What did the disciples want Jesus to do with the woman?
7. What kind of faith did the woman have?
8. What was the young girl doing when her mother came home?
9. Who healed her?

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30.

[Answers: 1. To escape from the crowd. 2. Jesus. 3. Her daughter. 4. She was troubled by an evil spirit. 5. Jesus. 6. Send her away. 7. Great faith. 8. Lying on the bed resting. 9. Jesus.]

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 Aug. 3, 1997

JESUS' RETURN

Jesus and His disciples left the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. From there, they passed through the country where Jesus had once healed the wild man called Legion. When Jesus healed him, the many evil spirits left him and went into a herd of pigs that were feeding nearby. The pigs then ran violently down the mountainside. They ran right into the sea and were all drowned. This frightened the people. They came to Jesus and begged Him to leave their coast.

Things were different when Jesus returned. After he was healed, Legion returned to his home and told everyone about Jesus. He told how the power of Jesus had healed him. The people listened with interest. They had been afraid to come near this man, Legion, before. Now he was changed. The people were sorry they had sent Jesus away.

When Jesus returned, the good news traveled fast. The people left their homes and their work to rush out to see Him. They followed Him out into the country and listened to His teachings. They brought their loved ones who were sick to Jesus because they were sure He could heal them. For three days Jesus taught the people and healed those who were blind, lame, crippled or sick in other ways.

Among those whom they brought for healing was a man who could not hear or speak. They begged Jesus to put His hand on him. Jesus took this man away from the crowd. He then put His fingers in the man's ears and touched his tongue. Looking up to heaven, Jesus prayed, "Be opened!"

Immediately the man's ears were opened and his tongue was healed. He could hear and speak plainly! Jesus asked the people not to tell anyone about this healing. But the people could not keep this great miracle a secret. They were so amazed they exclaimed, "He has done everything well! He makes both the deaf to hear and the dumb to speak."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...He hath done all
things well:...
Mark 7:37.





An Excellent Job

(A True Story)

Mother and Daddy were rushing to get ready for church. Maurice, Marcus and Sophia were putting on their shoes while Mother finished dressing. Two-year-old Terry was dressed and ready.

"I'm going to pick up our two riders," Daddy said "Be ready when I come back."

Mother nodded as Daddy went out the door. Terry was scattering some of Mother's things so she said, "Terry, you go with Daddy and be good!"

So Terry went out the door but Daddy didn't know it. Terry was behind the car when Daddy backed the car out of the rutted, dirt driveway.

Across the road, an eighteen-year-old boy saw the car hit the child and he hollered at the father to STOP! The father stopped and was horrified when the teenager pulled the bleeding child out from under the car which had dragged the child ten feet.

Terry was screaming in pain as his father carried him into the house. Mother cried as she saw the skin scraped off of her son's face and body. Worst of all, Terry's back was badly injured. Mother and Daddy were afraid his back was broken.

"Call the church for prayer," Mother told Maurice who obeyed. Mother wrapped Terry in a blanket and held him very still. The family prayed for Terry as he cried. Mother begged the Lord to spare her son and the Lord assured her that he would live.

A kind sister came to help Mother clean and bandage Terry's open cuts. They could hardly move Terry because his back hurt him so much.

All night Mother cared for Terry as he slept and cried.

The next morning the pastor came to visit. He felt inspired to anoint Terry with oil. Gently the pastor held Terry in his arms and put his hand upon Terry's back. Daddy, Mother and the pastor all agreed in prayer that the Lord would heal Terry's back. After prayer the pastor said, "Now Terry, walk to your mama."

Terry climbed down and walked to his mother. The Lord had healed his back! Soon his skin healed also. Years later, Terry was required to visit a doctor for a physical exam. The doctor said, "Who was the specialist that set your broken collarbone and back? He sure did an excellent job!"

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was Legion?
2. What left Legion when Jesus healed him?
3. Where did they go?
4. Who begged Jesus to leave their coast?
5. What did Legion do after he was healed?
6. Who did the people bring to Jesus?
7. How many days did Jesus teach them?
8. What happened when Jesus touched the man and prayed, "Be opened!"?
9. Who could not keep the miracle a secret?

LESSON TEXT: Mark 5:1-14, 7:31-37.

(Answers: 1. The wild man that Jesus healed. 2. Many devils. 3. Into a herd of pigs. 4. The people. 5. Told everyone about Jesus. 6. Their loved ones who were sick. 7. Three. 8. He could hear and speak plainly. 9. The people.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 Aug. 10, 1997

FEEDING THE MULTITUDE

Jesus led the people away from their work and their homes. Out in the desert, away from the busy city, Jesus taught the people and healed their sick. For three days they listened to His teachings.

On the evening of the third day Jesus called His disciples aside and told them, "I feel sorry for all these people. They have been with me for three days, and they have nothing to eat. If I send them away they might faint before they get home."

The disciples agreed with Jesus but they knew they could not feed so many people. "Where could we get so much bread here in the desert to feed such a multitude?" they asked Jesus.

"How many loaves do you have?" Jesus asked.

And they told Him, "Only seven, and a few small fish."

Jesus then turned to the people and commanded them to sit down on the ground. When they had obeyed, He took the seven loaves and the fish and gave thanks for them. After breaking the food into pieces, Jesus gave it to the disciples. The disciples then gave the food to the multitude. Everyone had all they wanted to eat.

Just as when Jesus fed the five thousand with five loaves and two fish, these seven loaves and few small fish became enough food for everyone. Four thousand men, besides the women and children, were fed. After they had all eaten, they gathered up seven baskets of food that was left over!

Jesus then sent the multitude of people to their homes. Many of them had been sick or crippled when they were brought to Jesus. Now they could walk home, well and strong! As they walked, they probably reminded each other of the wonderful things Jesus told them. The people thanked God for sending Jesus to them.

After the people were gone, Jesus and His disciples crossed to the other side of the Sea of Galilee in a boat. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell



And they that did eat w
side women and ch



r thousand men, be-
Matthew 15:38.



East, West, North and South

Jerry listened quietly as his Sunday school teacher explained The Great Commission from Mark 16:15. She held a globe of the world in her hand so that the students could see where different countries were located.

"Our Lord Jesus Christ is the Saviour for all people of the world," said Sis. Ruth. "He did not come just for Israel which is this tiny bean-size country at the end of the Mediterranean Sea but Jesus came to save people in Africa, Europe, Asia, Russia, South America, the United States, Canada, and even for the people living on all these little islands in the Pacific Ocean. Now how do you think all these people are going to hear about Jesus?"

Several hands went up and Sis. Ruth chose one boy to answer. "God can talk to them by His Holy Spirit," he said.

"Yes, that is true," agreed Sis. Ruth. "Even in the second verse in the Bible, Genesis 1:2, it says that the Spirit of God moved on the face of the waters. So we know that the Holy Spirit of God can go anywhere and He visits every person sometime in their lifetime. God is faithful and He is not willing that any should perish. Do you think the Lord can use people to help Him tell the gospel?"

Several heads nodded. "God's people are supposed to tell other people about the Lord," replied one girl. "That is our Christian duty."

"It is our duty," agreed Sis. Ruth again. "The Lord wants you and me to tell our neighbors about Jesus and that He saves from sin. Then we need to live an honest life before them so they can see Jesus in us.

The Lord also wants some of us to work at missions and take the gospel there. God chooses missionaries to go into other countries and tell lost souls about Jesus. This takes a lot of courage and I pray some of you boys and girls will be chosen to be missionaries for the Lord. The Lord says many people are ready to hear the gospel but there are so few laborers."

Everyone was quiet for a moment and then one student reached out and spun the globe in Sis. Ruth's hand. "There are a lot of countries in this world," said the student.

"Yes, and Jesus said that when He comes again He will gather saints from the east, west, north and south. What a great harvest day that will be!" (Luke 13:29.)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Where did Jesus lead the people?
2. What did He do when the people came to Him?
3. How long did He teach them?
4. Why did Jesus feel sorry for the people?
5. How much food did the disciples have?
6. Where did Jesus command the people to sit?
7. What did Jesus do to the food before He broke it?
8. How many people were fed?
9. How much food was left over?

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 15:32-39.

(Answers: 1. Into the desert. 2. He taught them and healed them. 3. Three days. 4. They had nothing to eat. 5. Seven loaves and a few small fish. 6. On the ground. 7. He gave thanks for it. 8. Four thousand men, besides the women and children. 9. Seven baskets full.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 Aug. 17, 1997

MOSES AND ELIAS APPEAR

One day Jesus called Peter, James and John away from the other disciples. He led them to the foot of a mountain, then began to climb. Higher and higher they went until they reached the top of the mountain. There Jesus knelt to pray. Peter, James and John were tired from the long climb up the mountainside. As soon as they got quiet, they fell fast asleep.

Meanwhile Jesus prayed. As He prayed, a great change came over Him. His face shone as bright as the sun, and His clothes gleamed white and shining. Then two men appeared from heaven and talked with Jesus. One was Moses and the other was Elias. The three talked about Jesus' coming death in Jerusalem.

The three were still talking when the disciples woke up. They could only stare in unbelief at Jesus' great glory as He spoke with Moses and Elias. As Moses and Elias were leaving, Peter exclaimed, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us build here three tabernacles—one for You, one for Moses and one for Elias!"

While Peter spoke, a cloud overshadowed the disciples. They were frightened as the dense cloud settled down over them. From the cloud a voice said, "This is my beloved Son. Hear Him!"

When the disciples heard the voice, they fell on their faces and were even more afraid. Then Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," He told them. "Do not be afraid."

When the disciples dared raise their heads to look around, they saw only Jesus. The cloud and the heavenly visitors were gone. Now they believed surely that Jesus was the Son of God.

As they walked back down the mountain, Jesus told Peter, James and John not to tell anyone what they had seen. "Tell the vision to no one," He instructed them, "until I have risen from the dead."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

And, behold, there appeared un
talking with him. M



in Moses and Elias
v 17:3.



The Power Of Daily Prayer

After breakfast, Daddy called the family into the living room for prayer. Jerry, Linda, Randy, Mother and Daddy bowed on their knees before the Lord. Daddy prayed and asked the Lord to bless the family and keep them through the day. He asked the Lord to help them live a Christian life before those looking on.

As soon as prayer was over, Daddy and Jerry left for work. Daddy did carpentry work and he liked to have Jerry closeby to help. Jerry could do small jobs by himself.

"I like how your son helps you," said one client to Daddy. "You don't smoke, drink, or run out on your wife, do ya? Where do you go to church?"

"We belong to the Church of God," replied Daddy. "I'm thankful my son is a good, Christian boy. Every morning I pray for him and my other children that they will be good Christians."

"Probably I should have done that," sighed the man. "My kids are wild, but then they are like my ex-wife. Of course I like a few beers once in awhile but my kids can't control their drinking." The man shook his head and walked off. Daddy said a silent prayer for the poor man.

At home, Linda was outside watering the flowers when two neighbor girls walked by and stopped to talk. "Hi, Linda! Your flowers do need water today—it's going to get hot! That's why we are in our bikinis—we're going swimming this afternoon. You look hot, Linda. Why don't you go with us?"

"No, thank you," replied Linda.

"Why? Does your mother not let you wear shorts or swimsuits? Do

you always have to wear dresses?"

"Dresses are cool and nice to wear," replied Linda. "I wear dresses because they are girls' clothing. You don't see boys wearing dresses, do you?"

"No," said the girls, "but they don't wear pink bikinis either."

"Girls shouldn't wear bikinis either," replied Linda. "I would be embarrassed to walk outside so naked."

The girls giggled nervously. "We'll see you later," they said and hurried down the street.

That night in prayer, Mother thanked the Lord for keeping her children from the evil of the world. The Lord had answered Daddy's prayer. They had lived a Christian life before those looking on.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who did Jesus call?
2. Where did they go?
3. What did Jesus do when they got there?
4. What did the disciples do?
5. What happened to Jesus as He prayed?
6. Who came and talked with Jesus?
7. What settled down over the disciples?
8. What did the disciples do when they heard the voice from the cloud?
9. Who came and touched them?

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 17:1-9; Luke 9:28-36.

(Answers: 1. Peter, James and John. 2. To the top of a mountain. 3. He prayed. 4. They fell fast asleep. 5. A great change came over Him. 6. Moses and Elias. 7. A dense cloud. 8. They fell on their faces. 9. Jesus.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 Aug. 24, 1997

THE POWER OF FAITH

Jesus and His disciples left the mountain where He had met Moses and Elias. When they reached the valley, they saw a great crowd of people around the other disciples and the scribes were questioning them. When the people saw Jesus coming, they ran to greet Him.

Turning toward the scribes, Jesus asked, "What were you asking them?"

Then a man stepped out of the crowd. Kneeling before Jesus he cried, "Master, I beg You, look upon my son. He is my only child. Often an evil spirit comes upon him and he falls down. He has often fallen into the fire and into the water. I brought him to your disciples but they could not help."

Jesus was disappointed that His disciples did not have enough faith to heal the boy. "O faithless and perverse nation!" Jesus said sadly. "How long shall I be with you to bear with you?" Then turning to the troubled father, Jesus said, "Bring your son to Me."

As the boy was coming to Jesus, the devil threw him down. He lay on the ground, foaming at the mouth.

"How long has your son been this way?" Jesus asked.

The father answered, "Ever since he was a small child. Often it has thrown him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him. If You can do anything, have mercy on us and help us!"

"If you can believe," Jesus answered, "all things are possible to him who believes."

At once the father cried out, with tears in his eyes, "Lord, I believe; help me not to doubt!"

Jesus commanded the evil spirit to come out of the boy and torment him no more. The spirit came out at His command. The boy was cured immediately.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...All thi
him



is possible to
believe.
9:23.



Just The Same Today

On September 8, 1878, Bro. D. S. Warner was in a camp meeting in Marion, Ohio where he preached a few messages on holiness. Many saved persons were eager to receive sanctification and the Holy Spirit really blessed in the meeting. Bro. Warner tells about two healings that took place during the meeting. Let's read about one:

"Brother Rudic took sick not long after he came here. After lying in camp a few days he was taken to Bro. Kennedy's. Prayers were being offered for him, still he grew worse. Last Saturday night he sent word to camp that after meeting a few believers should get together and ask God in faith for his recovery. They did so, and great power and strong assurance came upon them. They claimed the answer to their prayer, and some of the number were able to praise God for the brother's healing...Bro. Rudic had suffered so much during the night and thought he surely must die, and made some arrangements for his death. But early in the morning he began to look to God once more...and he arose, instantly made whole. All glory to God!"

Then in September of 1878, Bro. D.S. Warner became very sick. He had bilious remittent fever and an attack of bleeding in the lungs. The local doctor gave Bro. Warner up to die and friends were sure he was on his deathbed.

Sis. Sarah Warner tenderly cared for him day and night. She kept "unwavering faith" that God would heal her husband—and the Lord did heal Bro. Warner.

Through his lifetime, Bro. Warner was not very strong in body but the Lord gave him extra strength when he needed it. He preached the Word in Spirit and in Truth. Many people were saved, sanctified and baptized because he was a willing messenger of the Lord. He called God's children to come together into one body, the Church of God.

Today the Lord is still healing, saving and sanctifying people. All saints of God are in the Church of God. In the Bible, the Church is only called "The Church of God." (Acts 20:28) We must live a holy life by the Word of God. This is pleasing to God and it will save us from many sins and sorrows. We have found it so. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who were questioning the other disciples?
2. What did the people do when they saw Jesus?
3. What happened to the boy when the evil spirit came upon him?
4. Who could not help?
5. Why was Jesus disappointed?
6. What happened as the boy was coming to Jesus?
7. How long had the boy been sick?
8. What did Jesus say the father must do for his son to be healed?
9. Who commanded the evil spirit to come out?

LESSON TEXT: Mark 9:14-27; Luke 9:37-42.

(Answers: 1. The scribes. 2. They ran to greet Him. 3. He fell down. 4. The disciples. 5. Because the disciples did not have enough faith to heal the boy. 6. The devil threw him down. 7. Since he was a small child. 8. Believe. 9. Jesus.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 Aug. 31, 1997

HOW PETER PAID TAXES

Leaving the north country, Jesus and His disciples passed through Galilee. Jesus carefully avoided attracting attention. He wanted to be alone with His disciples because He had much to teach them.

"The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men," He told them. "They shall kill Him. After He is killed, He shall rise the third day." The disciples listened but they did not understand His words. They could not bear to think that Jesus would be taken from them and they were afraid to ask what He meant.

As they walked along, some of the disciples began arguing over who would be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. They still thought that Jesus would set up an earthly kingdom. Each hoped to have a high position in this kingdom.

When they came to Capernaum, Jesus and the disciples went into a private home where few people knew where they were. When they were all together, Jesus asked the disciples, "What were you arguing about on the way here?"

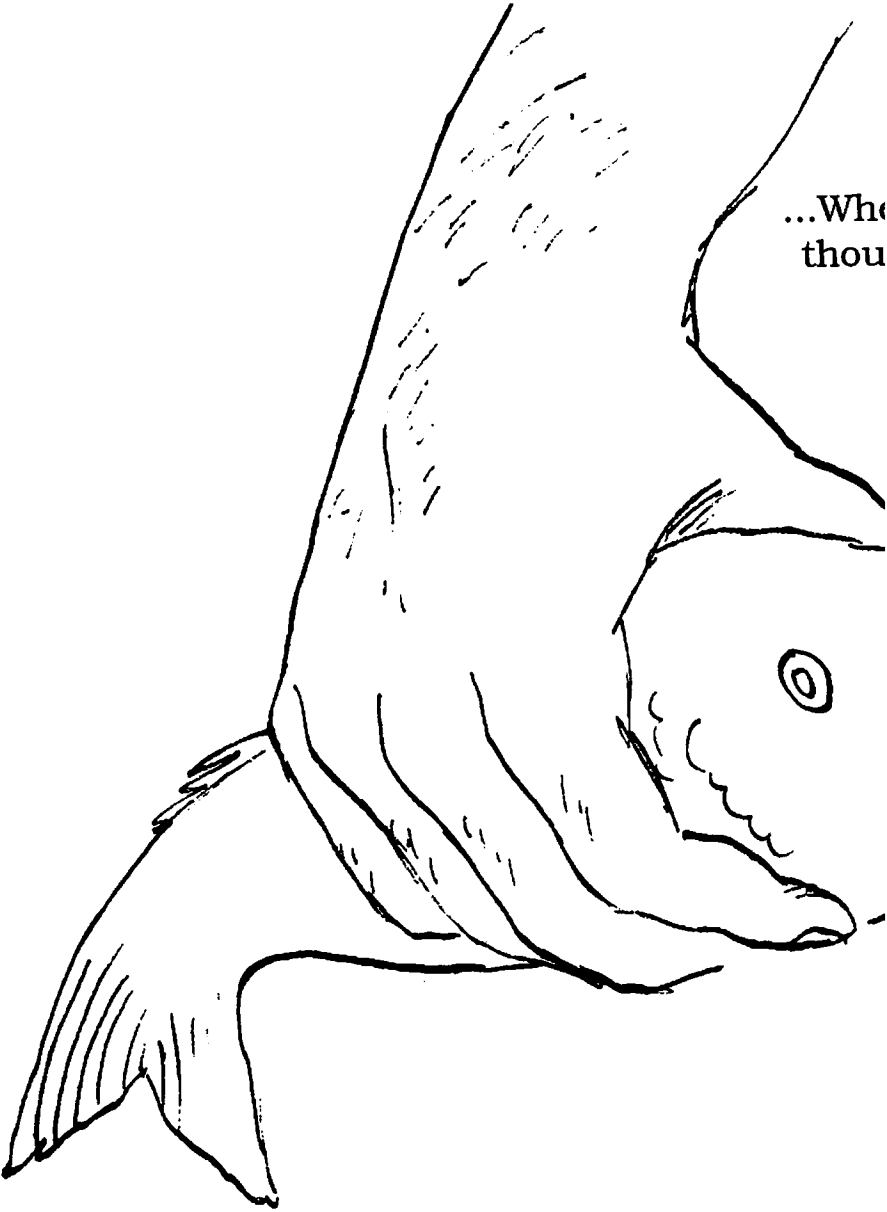
No one answered but Jesus already knew. "If anyone wants to be great, he must serve others," He instructed them. Then, taking a little child into His arms He told them, "No one can enter the kingdom of heaven unless he becomes like a little child. Whoever is as humble as a little child shall be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Later, while they were still in Capernaum, a man who collected tax money for the temple in Jerusalem stopped Simon Peter. He asked Peter, "Doesn't your Master pay taxes?"

"Yes," Peter answered.

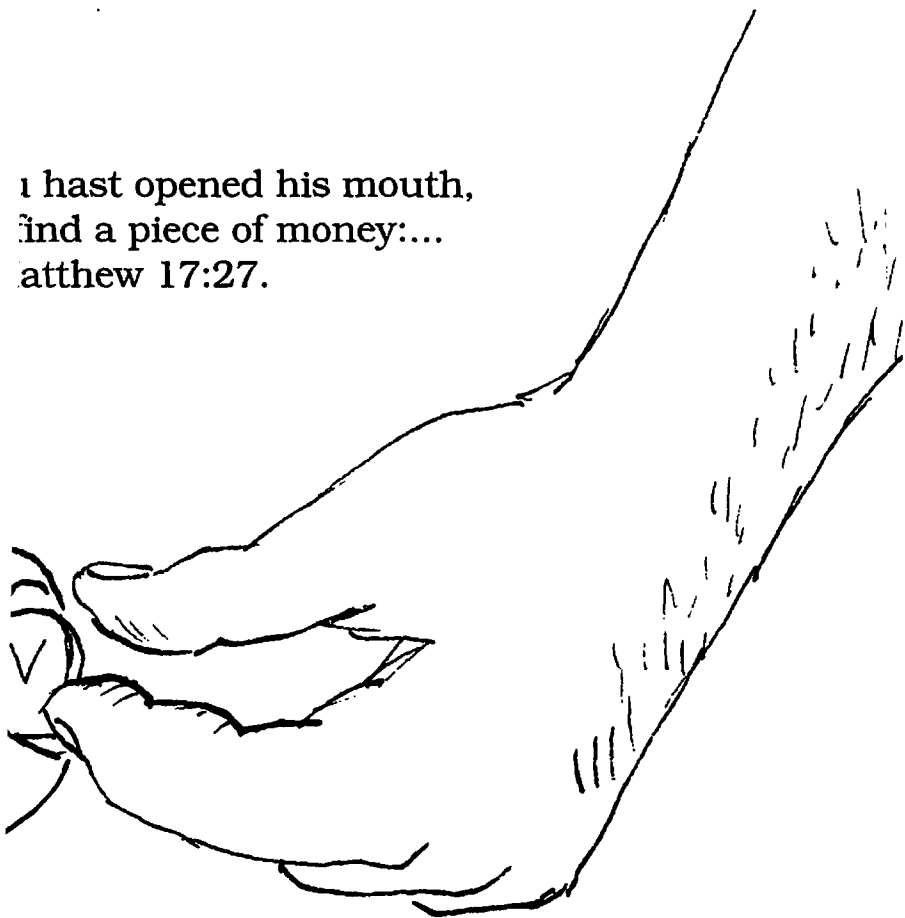
When Peter reached the house, Jesus seemed to read his thoughts as he wondered how he would get the money to pay the taxes. "Go to the sea," Jesus told him, "Cast in a hook and take the first fish you catch. When you open its mouth you will find a piece of money. Take it and pay the taxes for Me and you."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



...Who
thou

1 hast opened his mouth,
find a piece of money:....
attthew 17:27.



Red Dot Paid His Debt

(A True Story)

Betty, her older sister and two younger brothers lived on a farm in Iowa during the 1950's. Every morning each child had chores to do before breakfast. When they were around the table, Daddy would thank the Lord for the food and ask the Lord to protect his family while he was gone to work.

One dark, summer night supper was over and chores were done and still Daddy wasn't home from work. As the children watched for Daddy at the kitchen window, they saw a red dot coming down their long, dirt driveway. On the porch, Sport, their big farm dog, growled at the red dot. Quietly, Mother said, "Hush, Sport. Children, I want you to get under the table."

All four children obeyed Mother for a few minutes then Betty tiptoed back to the window. She gasped. The red dot was a man smoking a cigarette. He was by their garage. By command, Mother kept Sport on the porch.

Betty was angry. "Don't let him steal Daddy's tools! Let Sport get him!"

"No," said Mother. "Tools are not as valuable as our lives. Sport will guard us in the house."

The family was silent as they watched the thief put their father's tools into a burlap bag. After the bag was full, he walked toward the house. When the man entered the yard, Mother did not restrain Sport.

With an angry growl, Sport sprang at the man's head and knocked him to the ground. The man hit Sport with the bag of heavy tools but Sport wasn't going to stop. Sport bit his legs then grabbed the man's arm

and hung on. The man took a heavy wrench and beat Sport until Sport went limp.

Before Mother could stop them, the children ran out the door screaming at the man to STOP! The children startled the thief who had thought no one was home. Quickly, he got up and limped away, leaving the children to cry over their dying dog. They buried Sport in a marked grave by their house.

A few months later, a strange man drove up to their house. "My Collie had pups and I want your family to have one," he said to Daddy. Daddy offered to pay for the registered pup but the man said, "No, I owe you the dog and I want to sleep good tonight." —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Why did Jesus want to be alone with the disciples?
2. Who is the Son of man?
3. What would happen after He was killed?
4. Who did not understand?
5. Why didn't they ask what Jesus meant?
6. What did the disciples argue about?
7. What did the tax collector ask Peter?
8. Where did Jesus say Peter would find some money?
9. What was Peter supposed to do with the money?

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 17:24-18:3; Mark 9:33-37.

(Answers: 1. He had much to teach them. 2. Jesus. 3. He would rise again. 4. The disciples. 5. They were afraid. 6. Who would be greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 7. Doesn't your Master pay taxes? 8. In a fish's mouth. 9. Pay taxes.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 Sept. 7, 1997

THE TEN LEPERS

As Jesus went to Jerusalem, He passed through the middle of Samaria and Galilee. As He entered a certain village on the way, ten men met Him who were lepers. They could not come near Jesus nor go into the village because they had leprosy.

These men had heard that Jesus healed the sick. From a distance they called loudly, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

Jesus could not ignore the poor lepers. He never passed by and refused to help anyone who called to Him for help. When He heard their plea and saw their pitiful condition, He said to them, "Go show yourselves to the priests." At once the lepers started on their way to be examined by the priests, as Jesus commanded.

As they went, something wonderful happened! The leprosy left their bodies. They were completely healed of the dreadful disease.


One of the lepers stopped as soon as he realized he was healed. With a loud voice he glorified God for the miracle. Then, running back to Jesus, he fell down on his face at His feet. Over and over he thanked Jesus for showing mercy on him and healing him.

The other lepers hurried on their way to the priests, never stopping to thank Jesus. They were most interested in getting the priests to declare them healed so they could go back to their homes and families.




Jesus saw that the nine lepers were not thankful. He asked the disciples, "Were there not ten lepers healed? Where are the nine? Only this stranger returned to give glory to God."

Now the leper who returned to thank Jesus was not a Jew. He was a Samaritan. Jesus looked at him lovingly as he knelt before Him. "Get up and go your way," He told him. "Your faith has made you well!" How happy the man was to be well again! —Sis. Nelda Sorrell





....Were there not
ten cleansed? but
where are the nine?
Luke 17:17.



Just Words Or Heart Worship?

(A True Happening)

In a small chapel in the country of Romania, several country people were together singing praises unto the Lord. They were singing songs like:

"Who will suffer with the Savior,
Take the little that remains
Of the cup of tribulation
Jesus drank in dying pains?
Lord, we fellowship thy passion,
Gladly suffer shame and loss;
With thy blessing pain is pleasure,
We will glory in thy cross."

Suddenly two Russian soldiers with automatic rifles burst through the front door of the chapel. With rifles aimed at the startled group, one soldier demanded, "What are you doing here, worshipping God? All those who are faithful to Him, stand to the right side. You will be shot for your faith. You who wish to go home, who wish to keep your life, stand on the left side. You must decide to live or die. Those who are faithful will die. Those who deny Christ can live."

There was a stir in the group as people began to choose the right side for the Lord or the left side to escape. Just minutes before, everyone had been singing a pledge of love and faithfulness to the Lord. Now they must act out that pledge. Who would leave their earthly life to gain eternal life? Some stood on the right; some stood on the left.

The Russian soldiers said to those on the left, "You are free to leave." They were glad to escape and leave the church. The ones on the right remained faithful to their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

After the others had left, the soldiers put down their rifles. "We admire you Christians," they said. "We wanted to know how many of you were really sincere in your worship. You who are faithful, please tell us something about your God."

The remaining saints were very happy to do so.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. How many men met Jesus as He entered a village?
2. What was wrong with them?
3. Why couldn't they come near Jesus?
4. What had they heard about Jesus?
5. What did Jesus tell them to do?
6. What happened as they obeyed?
7. How many returned to thank Jesus?
8. How many were not thankful?
9. Was the thankful man a Jew?

LESSON TEXT: Luke 17:11-19.

(Answers: 1. Ten. 2. They were lepers. 3. Because they had leprosy. 4. That He healed the sick. 5. To go show themselves to the priests. 6. They were healed. 7. Only one. 8. Nine. 9. No, he was a Samaritan.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 Sept. 14, 1997

THE BLIND BEGGAR

As Jesus left the temple one Sabbath day, He saw a blind man by the roadside begging. This poor man had never been able to see; he had been blind from his birth. The disciples had often seen him begging. They asked Jesus, "Master, who did sin, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

"No one sinned. He is blind that the works of God can be shown through him," Jesus said as He stopped in front of the blind man. Then Jesus spat on the ground and made clay. Taking the clay, He rubbed it on the man's eyelids and told the man to go wash in the pool of Siloam.

The blind man got up at once and groped his way to the pool. Here he washed the mud from his sightless eyes. Immediately he could see! He ran home to tell the good news.

Everyone was amazed that the man could now see. The neighbors asked, "Isn't this the blind man who sat and begged?" Someone answered, "This is he." Others said, "He looks like him." "I am he," the man who had been blind answered.

"How were your eyes opened?" the people asked as they gathered around him.

The man told how Jesus mixed a little clay, rubbed it on his eyes, and then sent him to wash in the pool of Siloam. "When I did as He commanded, I could see!" the man explained joyfully.

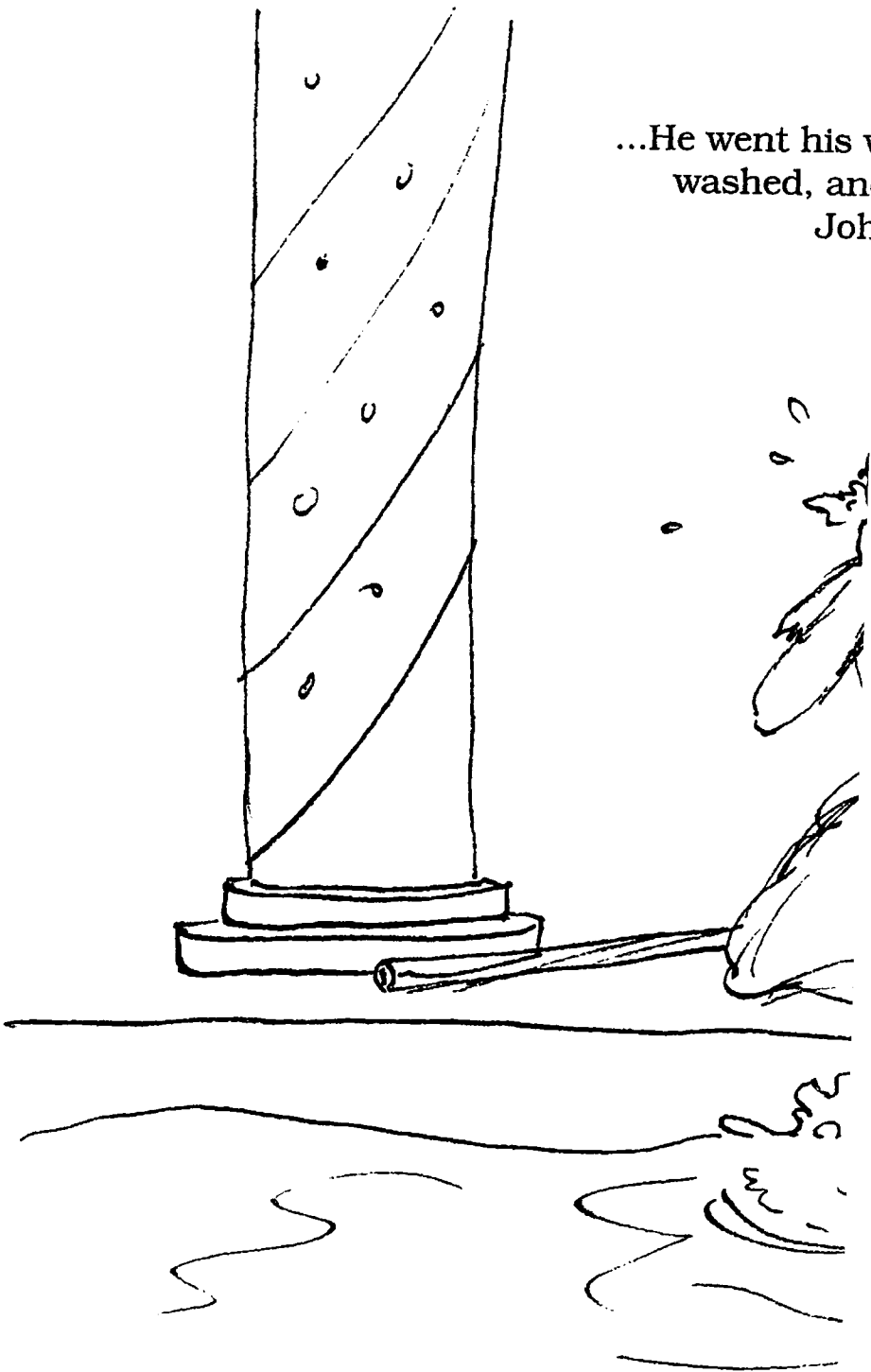
When Jesus' enemies heard about the healing, they tried to prove that the man had not really been blind. They even asked his parents if this were their son. When the man boldly told them that Jesus healed him, they threw him out of the synagogue.

Jesus soon heard what had happened. He found the man and asked, "Do you believe on the Son of God?" He then told the man who He was.

"Lord, I believe!" the man said, and he gladly worshiped the One who had healed his blind eyes.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...He went his v
washed, and
Joh



Therefore, and
seeing.



Believing To See

(Based On A Testimony)

As long as Pat could remember, she had had diabetes. The pancreas in her body did not produce insulin to control the sugar in food that she ate, so Pat had to put insulin in her body every day. It was not pleasant to do.

Pat's parents took her to church where she learned about Jesus Christ and His saving grace. One day, Pat gave her heart to Jesus. This made her peaceful and joyful within. She read her Bible and memorized scriptures. Her favorite chapter in the Bible was Psalm 23: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want..."

Whenever Pat suffered with diabetes, she would say Psalm 23 to herself. These scriptures would comfort her and ease the pain that she felt.

Pat grew up, got married and had children. In time her diabetes afflicted her feet. One leg was swollen and looked blue around the ankles and toes.

One day, the doctor gave her some bad news. "Pat, I am sorry but we must amputate your swollen leg. As soon as we can operate, we will do so." Pat bowed her head and said Psalm 23. The bad leg was cut off just below the knee and Pat spent her days in a wheelchair.

Then something else bad happened. Her eyes began to get weak and they ached. Little blood vessels behind her eyes were breaking, causing her to lose her eyesight. The doctor said that she soon would be blind.

Pat was very sad. She did not want to be blind but the doctors gave

her no hope. She had not been taught to trust the Lord for healing so she just prayed that the Lord would help her when she would be blind. But the Lord wanted to teach Pat that He has power to heal a body.

The next Sunday in worship service, Psalm 23 was sung as a special. Pat closed her eyes while she listened to the song and the Lord talked to her heart. "If you will ask me and believe, I will heal your eyes," He said.

"Yes, Lord, I believe You can heal my eyes," murmured Pat. A peaceful rest came over her. After the song ended, Pat opened her tear-filled eyes. They were not hurting and she was able to see better than any other time in her life. "Praise the Lord!" she shouted over and over.

Today Pat is telling anyone who will listen that her eyes were healed by The Great Physician, Jesus Christ. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who did Jesus see by the roadside?
2. What was he doing?
3. How long had he been blind?
4. What did Jesus rub on his eyes?
5. Where did He tell him to go?
6. What happened when he obeyed?
7. Who tried to prove he had not been blind?
8. What did they ask his parents?
9. Who asked the man, "Do you believe on the Son of God?"

LESSON TEXT: John 9:1-38.

(Answers: 1. A blind man.
2. Begging. 3. From his birth.
4. Clay. 5. To the pool of Siloam.
6. He could see. 7. Jesus' enemies. 8. If this were their son.
9. Jesus.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 Sept. 21, 1997

THE RICH YOUNG RULER

One day a young man came running to meet Jesus. By the expensive clothes he wore you could tell this young man was rich. Kneeling down in the dust before Jesus he asked, "Good Master, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?"

"Why do you call Me good?" Jesus asked. "There is none good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into eternal life you must keep the commandments."

"Which commandments?" the young man asked.

"Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honor thy father and thy mother, and Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself," Jesus quoted.

The young man answered Him, "I have kept all these things since I was a child. But I seem to lack something yet. O Master, tell me what it is!"

Jesus looked into the young man's face and loved him. He longed to give him true peace and joy. Lovingly He told him, "You lack one thing. If you would be perfectly happy, go home and sell all you have. Then give all your riches to the poor. Then you will have riches in heaven. Afterwards you may come back and be My disciple."

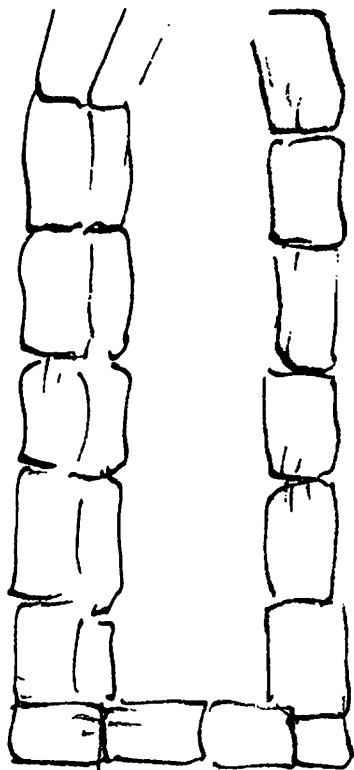
A great change came over the young man's face when he heard these words! He loved his riches. He sorrowfully bowed his head and walked away.

Sadly, Jesus watched him go away. Turning to His disciples He said, "How hard it is for rich men to enter the kingdom of God!"

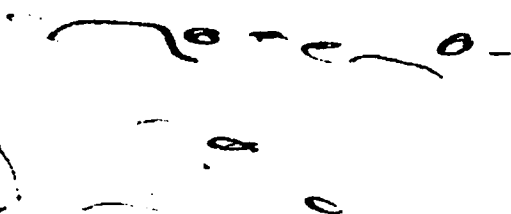
The young man loved his riches more than he loved God. He could not be truly happy, for his heart was not right with God. He would always feel he was lacking something. He could never have a bright hope of eternal life.

But the rich young ruler turned away from Jesus. He chose to be rich in this world, rather than to be a disciple of the Lord. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell





...He went away
sorrowful: for he
had great
possessions.
Matt. 19:22.



Rich With Bibles

This summer the Hmong people received the New Testament written in their language for the very first time. Never before have these people read about Jesus and His saving power. Now they can read about Him.

The thirteen million Hmong live today in three captive Communist nations—China, Laos and Vietnam—where it is forbidden for them to read anything in their own language. Hmong also live in Thailand and Burma. If you can find these countries on a globe or map, that will let you know where they live.

Many of these people have heard about Jesus from missionaries who used to live among them. The missionaries were forced to leave them many years ago but the older Hmong taught the younger Hmong about Jesus. This tribe of people is very hungry to learn more about Jesus Christ.

In our country of America, we have many Bibles and Bible story books. We can read the Bible in our homes, at church and in most practical places, but do we read the Bible as much as we should? Just like you need to eat a good meal everyday, you should read or hear the Word of God every day.

It is a blessing to have parents who have family worship with their children every day but if your parents don't, then you read the Bible or a Bible story or ask your mother or father to read a Bible story to you. It is important to learn all you can from the Bible because it will teach you right from wrong.

From the Bible we learn the way to heaven where the obedient chil-

dren of God live forever in happiness. We also learn that there is a hell where the devil throws his wicked slaves into the fire. We choose who we will serve: Jesus Christ or the devil. The Bible tells us how to serve Jesus and be with Him in heaven some day.

This is one reason why the Hmong people are so eager to read their new Bibles—they want to know the way to heaven. They are willing to walk a hundred miles or more to get a Bible. They know they will be persecuted by the government for having these Bibles but they are willing to suffer for the Word of God.

Do you love the Bible that much?

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who came running to Jesus?
2. How could you tell he was rich?
3. What did he do when he came to Jesus?
4. What did he ask Jesus?
5. Who did Jesus say was good?
6. Who had kept the commandments since he was a child?
7. What did Jesus tell him to sell?
8. What did he love more than he loved God?
9. Who turned away from Jesus?

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 19:16-30; Mark 10:17-31.

(Answers: 1. A young man.
2. By his expensive clothes.
3. Knelt before him.
4. "What must I do to have eternal life?" 5. God. 6. The young man. 7. All he had.
8. His riches. 9. The rich young ruler.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 Sept. 28, 1997

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

A lawyer came to Jesus, testing Him by asking questions. Among other questions, he asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?"

To answer him Jesus told the story about the Good Samaritan. This is the story:

"One day a man traveled the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way robbers stopped him. They took his money, tore off his clothes, beat him, and left him half dead by the roadside.

"Soon a priest came along. He saw the injured man lying there, but he did not stop to help. He did not even say a kind word to the poor man.

"Next a Levite came by. He, too, saw the wounded man lying by the road, but he did not give him a second look. He hurried on, leaving the poor man to die.

"Perhaps the man would have died if a kindhearted Samaritan had not come along. The Samaritan saw the suffering man lying there. At once he stopped his mule, climbed down, and bent over the stranger. The wounded man was a Jew. Even though the Jews were not friendly to his people the Samaritan felt he must help this Jew who was in great trouble.

"First he poured oil on the man's wounds and bandaged them. Then, lifting the man to his mule, the Samaritan took him to an inn. Here he cared for the wounded man.

"On the next day the Samaritan had to continue his journey. He gave money to the innkeeper and asked him to take care of the wounded man. He promised to pay him more money when he got back if he needed it.

"Now," Jesus asked, "which of these three men was a neighbor to the wounded man?"

"The man who treated him kindly," the lawyer answered.

Jesus instructed him, "Go, and do the same." —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...A certain man
went down from
Jerusalem to
Jericho, and fell
among thieves,...
Luke 10:30.





The Mother Of Orphans

(Based On A True Story)

One autumn evening in Memphis, Tennessee, a tired father climbed the stairs to his second-story apartment. His wife and three-year-old daughter were waiting for him. Kelsey came running to hug her father and Danielle called, "Supper is ready when you are!"

"Sounds great!" exclaimed Jackson. "I've had a long, hard week at work and I'm ready to relax with two of the most beautiful women in the world!"

Kelsey giggled at her daddy's compliment then went to help her mother in the kitchen. When they were seated at the table, they held hands to pray. Kelsey prayed, "Dear Jesus, thank You for this food. Bless Mommy and Daddy and help me to be good. Thank you, Jesus. Amen."

As the family ate, Jackson talked about his work and Danielle told about a new women's group forming at the church. "We want to help families who have children in prison," she said. "I volunteered to do some free babysitting if that is okay with you, Honey."

"Sure," agreed Jackson. "Teach our little Sugaroo how to take care of babies. She needs to learn how, you know." Then he and Danielle smiled together about a secret they knew.

Soon it was bedtime. Kelsey was tucked into bed and sound asleep when a loud knocking thundered on their door. Jackson jumped out of bed to see who it was but before he could reach the door, it was broken down by a mob of three angry men. The leader pointed at

Jackson, "There he is—get him!" Guns fired leaving Jackson and his wife lying on their living room floor.

Kelsey was scared by the noise and got out of bed to find her daddy for protection. When the men saw her little form in the doorway, the leader said, "Don't shoot! Lock her in some closet and let's get out of here." These men thought they had killed drug dealers but they killed the wrong couple.

When the police arrived, they called the church pastor to take Kelsey, who was in shock. So many church people wanted to help Kelsey. A mother in the church took Kelsey and fathers gave money to pay for her parents' funeral and for her future. The family of God is caring for Kelsey today.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who came to Jesus, testing Him?
2. What question did he ask?
3. How did Jesus answer him?
4. Who stopped the man as he traveled?
5. How did they leave him?
6. Who came along first?
7. Who came by next?
8. Who was kindhearted?
9. Who was a good neighbor?

LESSON TEXT: Luke 10:25-37.

(Answers: 1. A lawyer.
2. "Who is my neighbor?"
3. By telling him the story of the Good Samaritan. 4. Robbers. 5. Half dead. 6. A priest. 7. A Levite. 8. The Samaritan. 9. The Samaritan.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 Oct. 5, 1997

PETER LEARNS TO FORGIVE

One day Peter came to Jesus. He asked Him, "Lord, when my brother sins against me, how many times must I forgive him? Shall I forgive him seven times?"

"I do not say that you must forgive him seven times," Jesus answered. "You must forgive him seventy times seven!"

Then Jesus told Peter a story about a king whose servant owed him a great amount of money. One day the king called this servant and demanded that he pay his debt. When the servant could not, the king commanded that the man, his family, and all his possessions should be sold so a payment could be made to him.

The servant was horrified to think that he and his family would become slaves! He fell at the king's feet and begged, "Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay all I owe you!"

The king looked at the poor man at his feet. He felt so sorry for him that he forgave the entire debt and let him go free.

Not long after he left the king, this same servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a small debt. Angrily the servant demanded that the man pay what he owed him. When the man explained that he could not pay, the servant became furious. Grabbing the man by the throat, he insisted that the man pay him at once.

Falling at his feet, the man begged the servant for mercy, saying, "Have patience with me and I will pay all I owe you!"

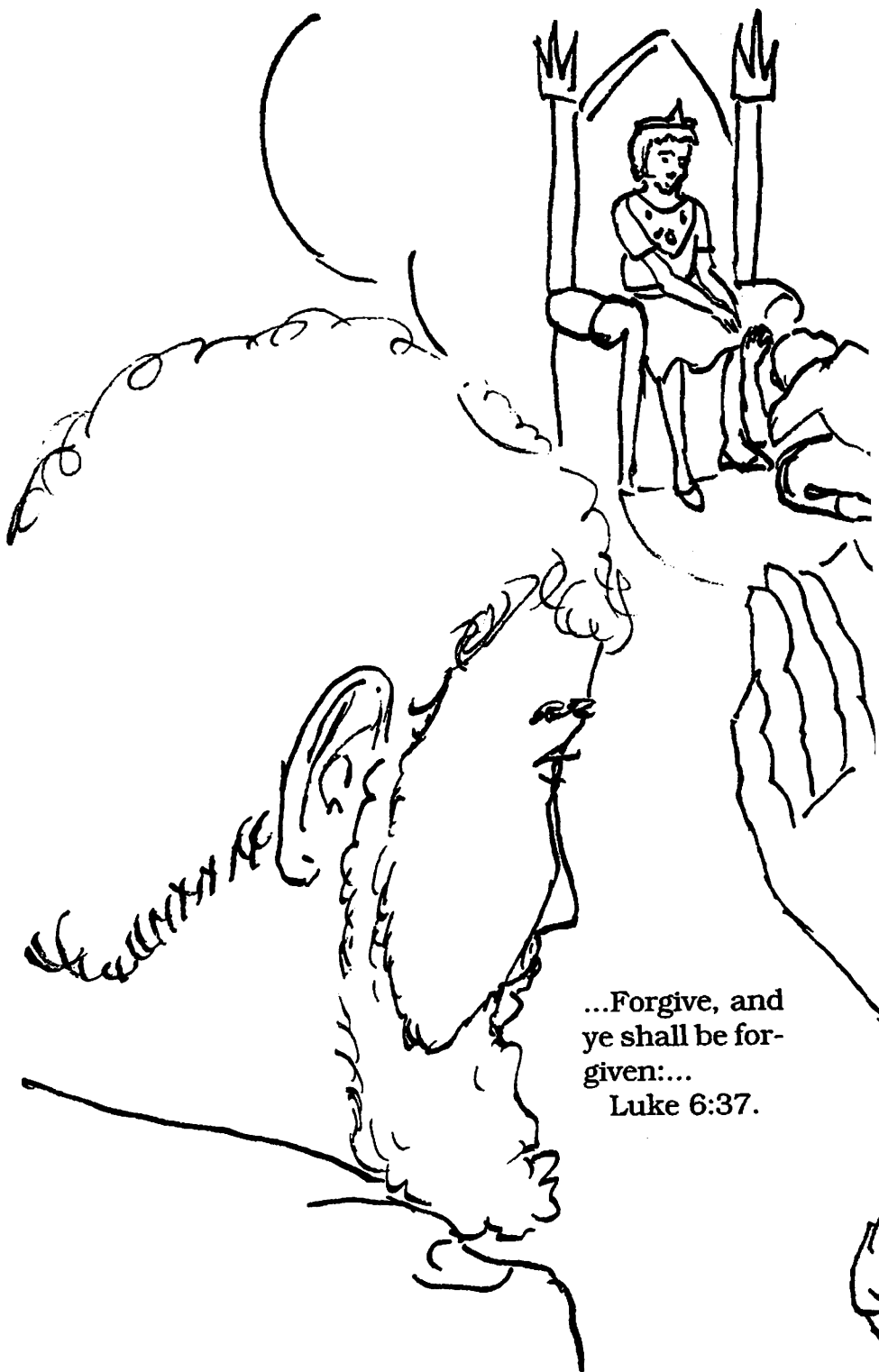
The servant refused to listen to the man's cries. Instead he had him thrown into prison. He would not be free again until he had paid the debt.

Others of the king's servants saw all that happened. They felt sorry for the poor man in prison. Going to the king, they told him how the servant had treated his fellow servant.

The king called for the servant. When he came he said, "Oh, you wicked servant! I forgave you all that great debt because you begged for mercy. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" He was so angry he commanded that the servant should be delivered to the tormentors until he paid the great debt.

Jesus looked at Peter when He finished the story. "My Father will do the same with you if you do not forgive your brother who does you wrong," He warned. "If you do not forgive them from your heart, your heavenly Father will not forgive you!"

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



...Forgive, and
ye shall be for-
given:...

Luke 6:37.



Two Tales Of Woe

Linda carefully set her plates, cups and plasticware on her play table. Two of her dolls sat in matching chairs, patiently waiting to be fed the dried raisins and gummy bears that Linda had stirred in her little pans.

As Linda spooned out food to the dolls, her older brother, Jerry, came into the den where she was playing in a corner. Jerry was tossing a football back and forth in his hands, anxiously waiting for his football buddies to arrive.

"Playing house?" Jerry asked Linda as he came into her corner. "Yes, and don't bother me," replied Linda.

Then Jerry spied the gummy bears and reached for a couple of them on the doll's plate. Linda saw him reach for them and smacked his hand with a spoon, which caused Jerry to jerk back, dropping his football on her neatly set table.

Plop-plop-plop! The football knocked over three cups and spilled a plate of food on the floor. "Jerry! Look what you've done!" wailed Linda.

"No, I didn't do it—my football did, and if you wouldn't have been so selfish, I wouldn't have dropped it on your ol' table!" retorted Jerry as he snatched some gummy bears while Linda bent to pick up the fallen plate and food.

"You could at least say you're sorry and don't take anymore of my doll's food—do you hear me?" demanded Linda.

Jerry shrugged his shoulders and walked away, chewing on gummy bears. Just then their little brother, Randy, came into the den. He was holding Jerry's remote control jeep.

"Randy, you didn't ask to play with that!" Jerry hollered. He rushed to take it from Randy, who dropped

the jeep on the tile floor and broke a side mirror on it. "Now look what you've done!" hollered Jerry.

"Don't holler at me!" said Randy. "You made me drop it when you hollered at me!"

By now Mother had heard the commotion and came upon the scene to hear the two tales of woe. Jerry had to ask Linda's forgiveness for interrupting her play and taking her gummy bears. Then Randy had to ask Jerry's forgiveness for playing with the jeep without permission, and Jerry said he was sorry for hollering at Randy.

A peacemaker learns to be responsible, respectful of others and forgiving. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who did Peter come to?
2. Jesus told Peter he should forgive how many times?
3. What was Jesus' story about?
4. When the man could not pay, what did the king command?
5. What did the servant do?
6. What did the king do for the servant?
7. What did the servant do to his fellow servant?
8. Who saw all that happened?
9. What must we do if we want God to forgive us?

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 18:21-35.

(Answers: 1. Jesus. 2. Seventy times seven. 3. About a king whose servant owed him much money. 4. That he and all his family should be sold. 5. He fell at his feet and begged for mercy. 6. He forgave the entire debt and let him go free. 7. He grabbed him by the throat and insisted he pay his debt. 8. The king's other servants. 9. Forgive from our heart.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 Oct. 12, 1997

A SINFUL WOMAN

Jesus left the temple after a long day of teaching the people. He knew He had many enemies among the religious leaders in Jerusalem. It was not safe to spend the night in the city. Walking through the city gates, Jesus did not stop until He reached the Mount of Olives. Here He spent the night.

Early the next morning He walked back to Jerusalem and went straight to the temple. The people hoped Jesus would come again to teach them. Even though it was early, a crowd soon gathered around Him. He sat down and taught them.

The scribes and Pharisees were determined to find some way to accuse Jesus. So many people believed on Jesus. This made the leaders very jealous. They wanted to destroy Him and planned a way to get Him arrested. This time they would surely trap Him.

That morning they came to the temple where Jesus was teaching. They brought a woman with them and made her stand before Jesus and the crowd that was gathered around Him. Interrupting Jesus, they told Him, "Master, this woman was caught in the very act of sinning. Moses commanded in the law that such should be stoned. What do You say?"

Everyone knew Jesus was loving and merciful. They wondered if He would agree that the woman should be stoned. If He did not agree, then He could be accused of not obeying the Law of Moses. The people watched to see what He would do or say.

Jesus knew His enemies were trying to trick Him. Instead of answering their question, He stooped down and began writing on the ground. It seemed He had not even heard them!

The men were sure they had trapped Jesus. They continued asking and demanding an answer. Finally Jesus stood up and looked them straight in the eyes. "Let the one who is without sin throw the first stone at her!" He said sternly. Then He stooped down again and wrote on the ground.

Jesus' answer caught the men off guard. Each one knew the sins he had committed. The people knew how wicked they were. The men could only stare speechless. Then the eldest quietly slipped away. One by one they left, leaving the woman to face Jesus alone.

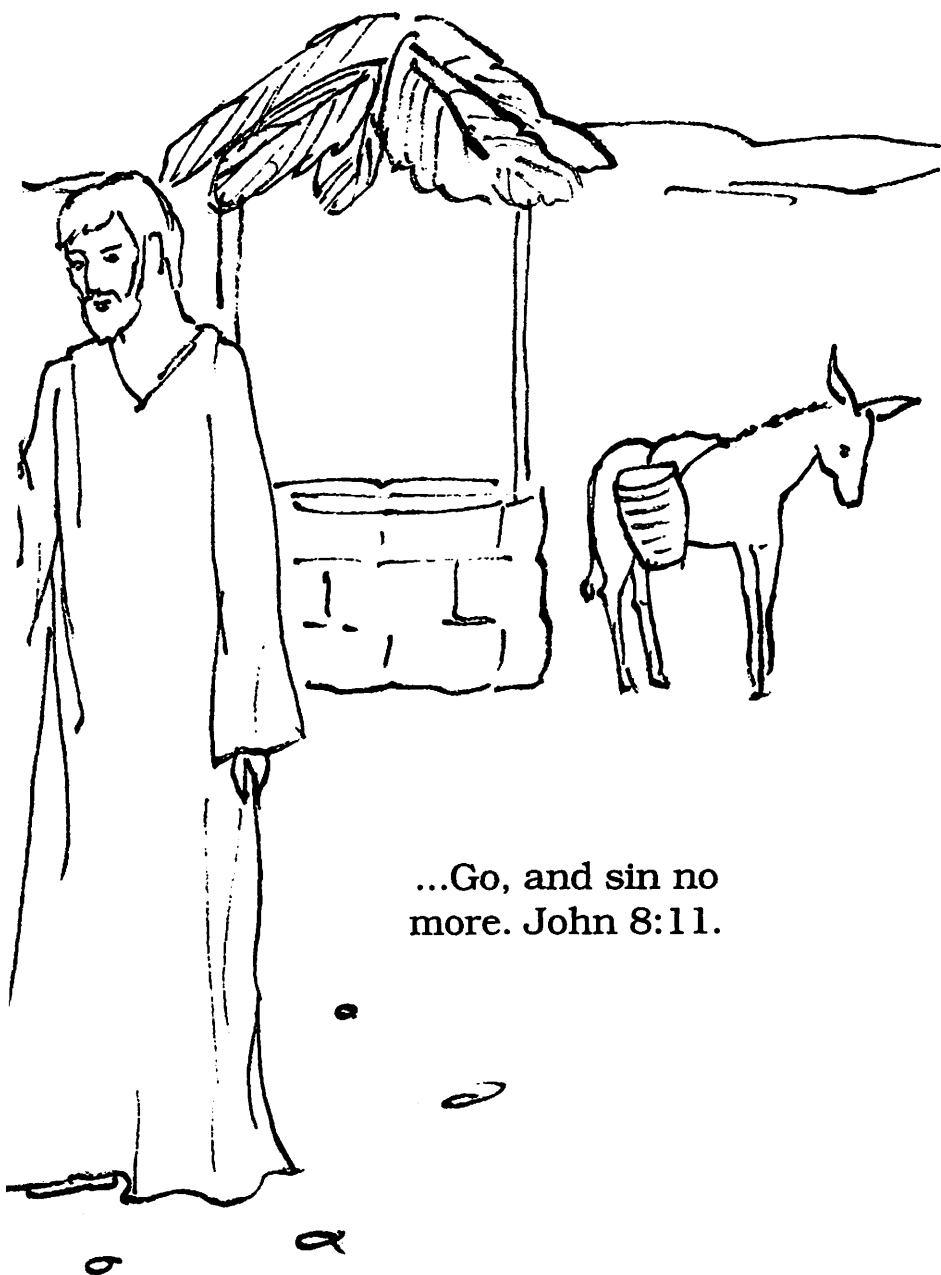
When Jesus stood up again He saw that all the men had left. Looking at the woman He asked, "Where are your accusers? Has no man accused you?"

"No man, Lord," the woman answered quietly.

"Neither do I condemn you," Jesus said kindly. "Go, and sin no more."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





...Go, and sin no
more. John 8:11.

Please Pray For Her

Here are some sentences from a letter that a woman in prison wrote asking for prayer.

"...I need advice and help. You see, I'm 35. I've been on my own since age 13. I carry anger that has made my heart harder than stone...I guess I can't let go of 33 years of abuse as easily as I keep being told. You see, I am angry because people tell me how loving the Lord is and how precious His children are, yet I was sexually, physically and mentally abused from age two. My family was very legalistic and political, so no one would listen to me. It wasn't only me who was abused; it was also my older sister and brother...

"I not only lost myself. I lost my children, my life, my home, every single thing attached to me...I'm angry, yet, have the desire to love and be loved. I still seek for the kingdom of God.

"I've done a lot of things that were wrong. I took drugs to escape the pain, and I sold them. I became a bully. I hated the world, the people in it, and life to the point that I killed myself twice and both times I was sent back, being told it was not my time. This only made me madder. When was it to be my time for the pain to stop and the love, peace and joy to begin?

"Why do I see all these people filled with the light I so desire to be filled with? When will I be able to shatter this heartshaped stone and feel the Holy Spirit?...

"I pray and say, 'Lord, here I am, make me a vessel unto You to do as You desire me to do,' and yet I'm still feeling it all. I pray that the sin will be washed away and made clean. Why does He still not come?...

"I can't do it on my own, Lord. You've got to help me. Yet I'm not whole. I need help. Maybe, just maybe, someone out there, through prayer, can help me....

"I'm not capable of relationships because of this stone in my chest. What must I do to get the Lord to save me? I want to be in the Book, and I want to be in Heaven. I would appreciate all prayers. My soul is lost. I don't want to die and go to hell, and I know I'm not the only one in the world who feels this way. I don't need tough love. I need God's love. I'm crying out for help..."

Children, be thankful for the truth and the light that you have and never stray from it. Also, pray for this woman and other lost souls like her.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Why was it not safe for Jesus to spend the night in Jerusalem?
2. Where did He go early the next morning?
3. What did Jesus do when the crowd gathered around Him?
4. Who wanted to find some way to accuse Jesus?
5. Who did they bring to Jesus?
6. What did Jesus do instead of answering the men?
7. Who did Jesus say should throw the first stone?
8. How many men stayed to accuse the woman?
9. What did Jesus tell the woman to do?

LESSON TEXT: John 8:1-11.

(Answers: 1. He had many enemies. 2. Into the temple. 3. He taught them. 4. The scribes and Pharisees. 5. A woman. 6. He stooped down. 7. The one who is without sin. 8. None. 9. Go and sin no more.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 Oct. 19, 1997

LITTLE CHILDREN

One day as Jesus and His disciples walked along, the disciples began arguing over who would be the greatest in the kingdom of God. They expected Jesus to set up an earthly kingdom and each of them wanted a high position in this kingdom.

When they reached the house, Jesus asked His disciples what they had disputed about along the way. No one would confess what the argument was about but Jesus already knew. Calling a child to Him He took him in His arms. Then He told the disciples, "Except you are converted and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven! Whoever shall humble himself as this little child will be greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

"If you will receive one such little child in my name it is the same as receiving Me," Jesus continued. "Whoever shall hurt one of these little ones is worthy of terrible punishment. In heaven their angels always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven."

As Jesus walked through Judea, Samaria and Galilee, He taught the people about the kingdom of God. When news came that He was coming to a certain village, people would leave whatever they were doing so they could see Jesus and hear His wonderful words. Many ran out to meet Him, others brought their sick friends or relatives to be healed. Everyone came to listen to His stories and learn the great lessons that helped them become better men and women.

Little children loved Jesus. As He taught, they would sit on the ground, as close to His feet as they could get. They could not understand everything He said, but they loved to just hear His kind voice and look into His loving eyes. Some mothers wanted Jesus to put His hands on their children and pray for them. So they brought their little children to Jesus and waited patiently to get near Him.

When the disciples saw the mothers and children, they did not like it. They thought that Jesus was too busy to see so many little children. The mothers and children were greatly disappointed when the disciples told them Jesus was too busy to see them. Some may have walked a long way and now they would not get to speak with Jesus after all.

Before long Jesus noticed the mothers and children. He was not pleased that the disciples had sent them away. "Do not forbid the little children to come to Me," He said. "Of such is the kingdom of heaven. Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God just like a little child can never enter into it."

Then Jesus gathered the little children up in His arms and put His hands on them and blessed them.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...Suffer the little children to
come unto me,...for of such is
the kingdom of God.

Mark 10:14.





Two New White Dresses

A ten-year-old Filipino girl stood outside the doorway of a chapel where the worship of God was taking place. Seeing the lonesome look in the girl's eyes, a missionary went to her and invited her to come inside.

Politely, the girl shook her head and turned to leave. Her father had strictly forbidden her to enter a chapel or have anything to do with Christians. She was afraid to disobey her father, yet she hungered for the love and joy she saw in the Christians' worship to Jesus Christ.

As the girl walked away, the missionary bowed her head and silently prayed for her. The next week the girl was back at the chapel door again. Quietly, she stood without, her eyes shining as she listened to the lovely singing. Oh, how she wished to go inside!

Like a moth drawn to light, this little girl was drawn to the love and happiness that she felt glowing in the worship service. It was so different from the sad cruelty of her home, where her father ruled by fear.

Every time the missionary saw this girl at the doorway, she would go and invite her to come inside. Finally, one day the girl went inside and joined in the worship service. Her face shone as she listened to the story of Jesus Christ, God's dear Son, who shed His blood on the cross for her sins. The missionary said that Jesus died so she could go to heaven where there is no sickness, sorrow or suffering.

"Ask Jesus into your heart," said the missionary, "and He will wash away all your sins and take you with Him to heaven some day."

The girl obeyed. She knelt in prayer and soon felt the love of Jesus glowing in her soul. No longer would

she stand outside the chapel door and listen but now she would eagerly come inside and sing praises to the Lord.

A few weeks later, the missionary bought her a lovely white dress to wear to church. "Thank you!" exclaimed the girl as she took off her ragged dress and put on the new one.

The next worship service, the missionary watched for her at the chapel door, but the girl did not come. Worried, the missionary hurried to the girl's home where she found her lying on the dirt floor, beaten and kicked by her drunken father.

Her new dress was soiled and torn, but as she entered the gates of heaven, Jesus gave her a more beautiful white robe to wear.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who argued as they walked along?
2. Who did Jesus call to Him?
3. What must one be like in order to enter the Kingdom of heaven?
4. Why did the people bring their sick friends to Jesus?
5. Who is worthy of terrible punishment?
6. Who did the little children love?
7. What did the mothers want Jesus to do for their children?
8. Who thought Jesus was too busy to see the little children?
9. What did Jesus do with the little children?

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16.

(Answers: 1. The disciples. 2. A child. 3. A little child. 4. To be healed. 5. Whoever hurts one of God's little ones. 6. Jesus. 7. Put His hands on them and pray for them. 8. His disciples. 9. He welcomed them in His arms and blessed them.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 Oct. 26, 1997

SEVENTY SENT OUT

Wherever Jesus went large crowds gathered to hear His words. As He looked out over the multitudes, Jesus thought of sheep who had no shepherd to lead and protect them. He wished everyone could be taught how to enter the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus knew He must soon lay down His life. He wanted to reach as many people as possible in the short time He had left to preach. So Jesus appointed seventy others to go before Him to teach the people. These men were followers of Jesus. They had heard the gospel message and were true believers, able to tell others the good news. Jesus gave these messengers power to heal the sick. Then He sent them out, two by two, to preach the gospel to the people and heal the sick.

Before they left Jesus warned the messengers that some people would not accept the gospel. "I send you out as lambs among wolves," He told them. He wanted them to be brave and not turn back when evil men persecuted them. They must go to others who were hungry for the truth.

"Do not carry a purse nor bag nor shoes," Jesus further instructed them. "And salute no man by the way." He wanted these men to see how God would provide for His messengers. The mission He was sending them on was so urgent they must not stop to talk or be detained in any way. They were to eat whatever was served in any home where they stayed. Then He instructed, "Whatsoever city you enter, heal the sick that are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is come near you.'"

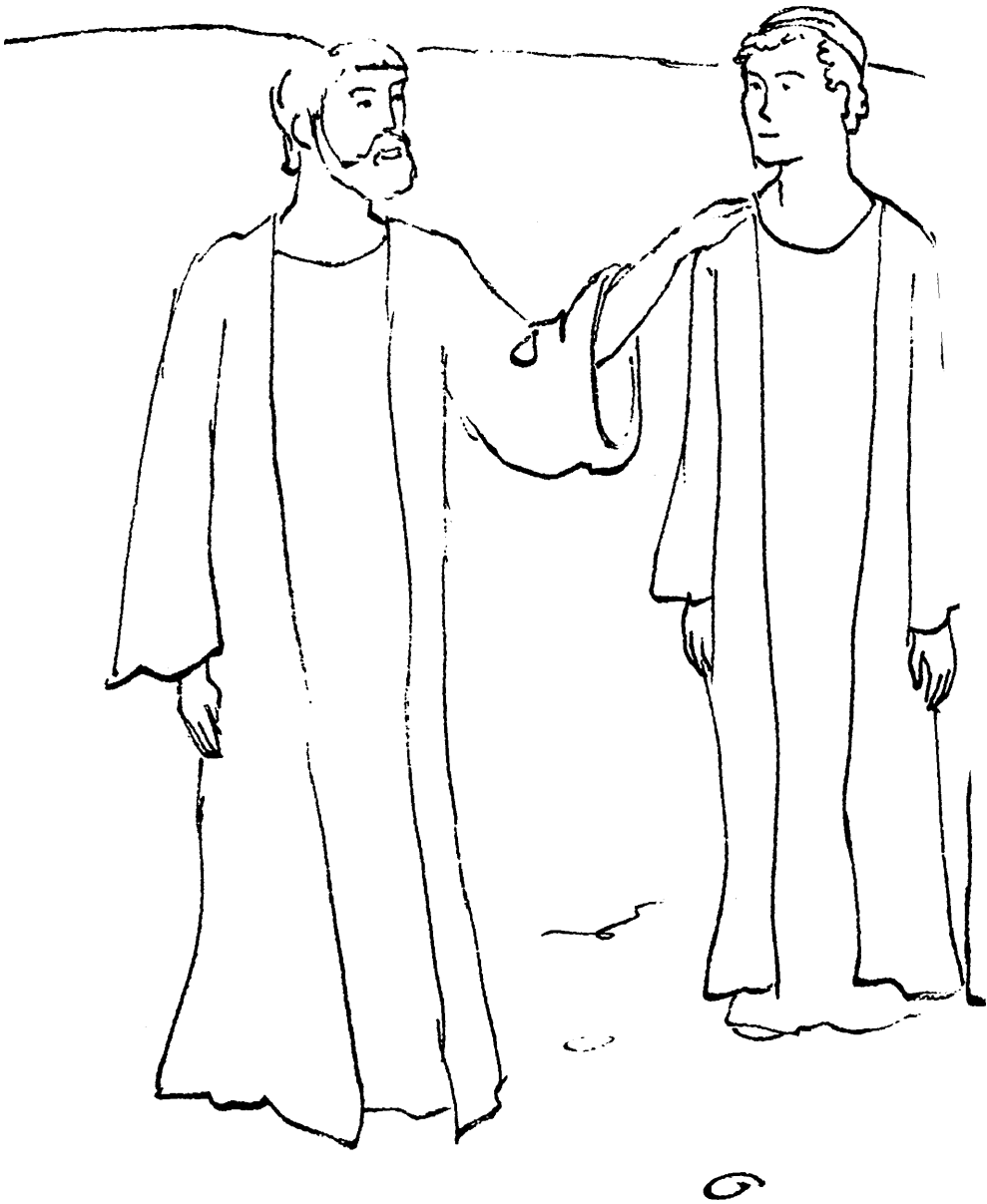
So these seventy men went out healing the sick and teaching the people, just as the twelve disciples had done. They went where Jesus sent them and did as He instructed them. Then they hurried back to tell Jesus of all the wonderful works they were able to do in His name. They were full of joy, saying, "Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through Your name!"

Jesus knew God had worked through these messengers. His heart and spirit had been with them. He knew many had been led out of idolatry into the kingdom of God. "I beheld Satan as lightening fall from heaven," He said. Then He assured them, "I have given you power to tread on serpents and scorpions. I have given you power over all the power of the enemy. Nothing shall by any means hurt you."

"However," Jesus continued, "Do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you. Rejoice because your names are written in heaven!" He wanted them to know that the power to become a child of God was more valuable than even the power to work miracles. Then Jesus prayed, "I thank You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth." He rejoiced that God had worked through these humble messengers to break the power of the devil.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...The Lord appointed other seventy also,
into every cit



ent them two and two before his face
ke 10:1.



The Winter Mission Work

Donna picked up a worn jacket and looked at it carefully for tears that would need repair. She tagged only one tear found in the lining so she laid that jacket aside to be fixed and then she reached for another jacket.

As a volunteer, Donna helped in a worldwide mission to send winter items into foreign countries where the people did not have coats or jackets to protect them from the freezing weather. While she worked, Donna sang a song about the Lord, because it made her heart joyful to be a part of such a helpful mission.

Hundreds of Christians across the United States had sent jackets, coats, mittens, hats, scarves and other winter items to the headquarters where Donna was working. Many other Christians volunteered to come and sort these items and to fix any that needed repair. Some Christians boxed the winter items and loaded the boxes into airplanes. Other Christians volunteered to go with the boxes and give out these items to the needy in foreign countries.

Not only did the volunteers give coats and jackets to the people, but they also told them about Jesus Christ and put Bibles into the people's hands.

The cold, shivering people were grateful for the coats and things, but they were thrilled to receive a Bible of their very own. Some older people had heard about a Bible but they had never seen one. Many of the children did not know what a Bible was. Most people tucked their Bible into a pocket or fold in their clothes for fear that the government might take it away from them.

These people had lived under a Communist government for many

years and they remembered how that government had punished anyone with a Bible. Now they were allowed to have such a wonderful treasure and they would guard it with their life.

Though Donna never saw the happy faces of the people who received the winter items and Bibles, yet she shared in sending God's love to those in need. It takes many Christians working together to do mission work in foreign lands and in our own country. The Lord will always bless those who willingly give money, items, or time to share the gospel with other people. Give your part and find this out yourself.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Why did large crowds gather around Jesus?
2. What did Jesus think of when He looked out over the people?
3. What did Jesus wish?
4. What must Jesus soon do?
5. How many messengers did Jesus send out?
6. What did He give them power to do?
7. Who would be like lambs among wolves?
8. Why did the seventy rejoice?
9. What did Jesus say they should rejoice about?

LESSON TEXT: Luke 10:1-24.

(Answers: 1. To hear His words. 2. Sheep without a shepherd. 3. That everyone could be taught how to enter into the Kingdom of heaven. 4. Lay down His life. 5. Seventy. 6. To heal the sick. 7. The messengers. 8. Because even the devils were subject to them. 9. Because their names were written in heaven.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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

LAZARUS

Jesus had no home of His own. As He walked from place to place preaching to the people, He often stayed in the homes of His followers. Some of these homes He visited time and again when He came back to that village.

About two miles from Jerusalem there was a little town called Bethany. Whenever Jesus came to Bethany, He often stayed in the home of Lazarus. Lazarus' two sisters, Martha and Mary lived with him. These three became close friends of Jesus. They were glad when He visited their home on His way to Jerusalem.

One day when Jesus was far away across the Jordan River, a message came from Martha and Mary. Their brother, Lazarus, was so very sick that they wanted Jesus to come immediately. So they sent the messenger to tell Jesus, "Lord, the one You love is sick!" The sisters knew Jesus could heal their brother. Anxiously they waited for Him to come.

But Jesus did not seem alarmed when He heard the news. He explained to the disciples, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified."

Martha and Mary were greatly disappointed when the messenger returned and Jesus was not with him. They saw their brother was at the very point of death. Then Lazarus died. The sisters were numb with grief. They could not understand why Jesus had not come.

Still they hoped He would come. They knew He had raised the dead to life; He could yet heal Lazarus. The day passed, but Jesus did not arrive. At last the neighbors and friends came to help wrap Lazarus' body for burial. They carried him to a cave to be buried.

Martha and Mary followed the burial processional, weeping bitterly. They watched as Lazarus' body was laid in the cave and saw them roll a great stone over the opening. Still Jesus had not come.

Two days after He received the message from Martha and Mary, Jesus told His disciples, "Let us go back to Judea again."

"Master," the disciples protested, "not long ago the Jews there tried to stone You. Are You going back there again?"

"Our friend Lazarus sleeps," Jesus explained. "I go to wake him up."

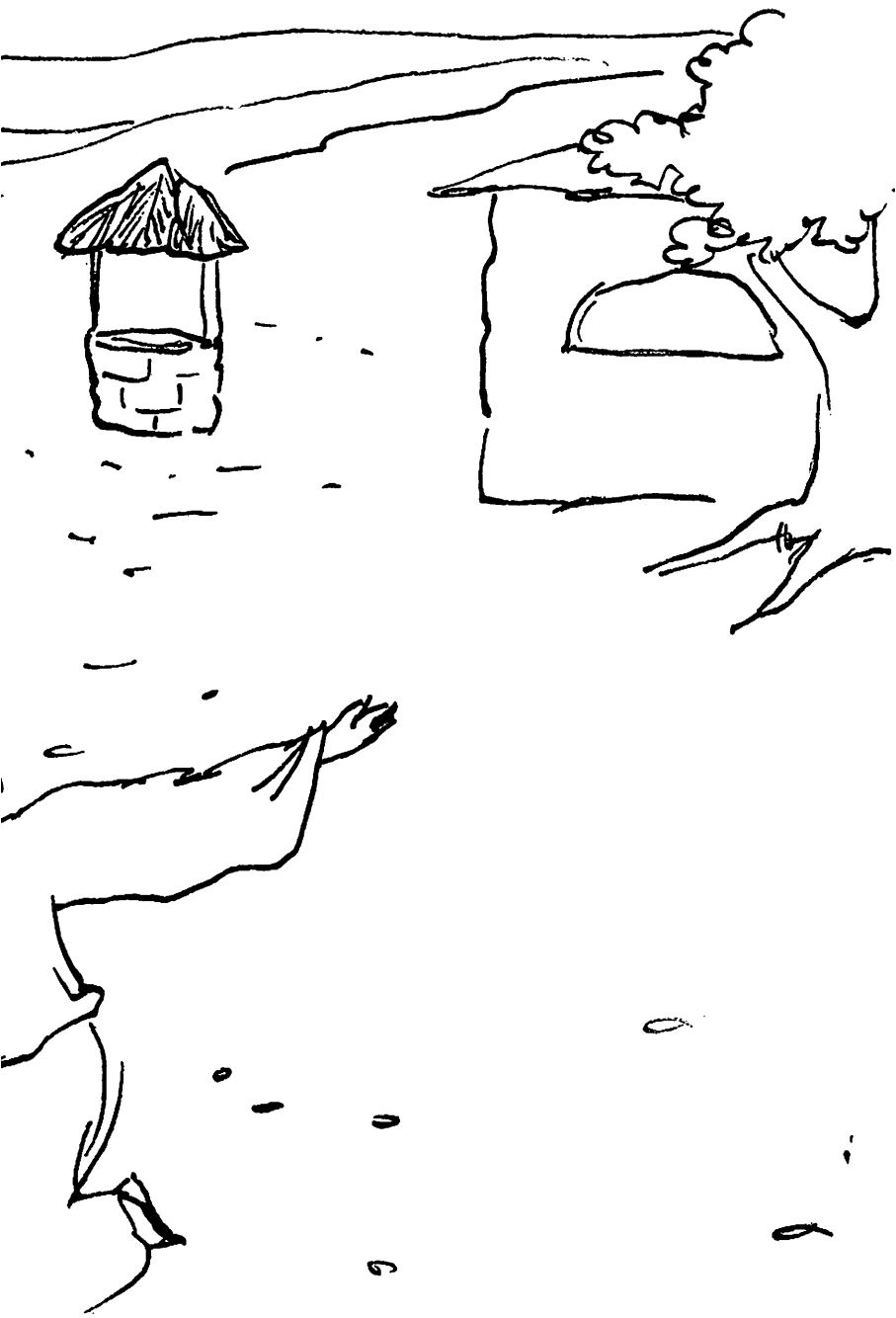
"If he sleeps, he will get well!" they answered.

Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead." Then He continued, "For your sakes I am glad that I was not there, so you will believe. Come, let us go to him."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...Lord, behold, he
whom thou lovest is
sick. John 11:3.





Karen Answered Their Call

As Karen Sallee heard her father tell about his missionary trip to Malawi, Africa, she began to feel a desire in her heart to help the people there. She was especially interested in the children who were eager to hear about Jesus Christ. If she could go and tell them and show them the love of Jesus, would she be able to teach them more about Him?

Karen told her parents about her desire to go and help the children in Malawi. After much prayer and thought, the decision was made that Karen and her father would go to Malawi in July, 1997.

In preparing for the trip, Karen began to gather items to take to the children. She bought many brightly colored pencils to give to them. Also, she included small note pads. She packed in several plastic hand propellers, kick balls and simple craft items. Most importantly of all, she took many picture posters with lessons about Jesus and other stories from the Bible.

Finally, the day to leave arrived. As Karen and her father, Bro. Bob Sallee, left the United States, they prayed that the Lord would be with them and make them a blessing. In a jet airliner, they flew over the Atlantic Ocean, above several countries and across the equator. After they arrived in Blantyre, Malawi, they hired a truck to take them to Msikita Village where they would stay with Bro. Failos and his family.

How excited the people were to see Karen and Bro. Bob! Right away Karen felt a warm friendship toward the women and the children. Although she could not speak their language, they all understood her friendly smile

and the language of love.

In the evenings about 75 to 100 children would gather at Bro. Failos' house and Karen would play with them. The children jumped and shouted for joy when she handed out the pencils, note pads and propellers. They really were thrilled when she brought out two kick balls, one for the boys and one for the girls. They had never seen a ball bounce so high in all their lives! These balls were wonderful compared to the ball they had made by wrapping string around a bunch of plastic bags.

People gathered from miles around for a big meeting the weekend of July 19. Karen and Bro. Bob took 150 Bibles to give to the adults and through an interpreter they spoke about Jesus Christ. Songs of praise arose to the Lord and about 50 new believers were baptized in a nearby river.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who had no home of His own?
2. Where did He stay as He walked from place to place?
3. Where did Jesus stay when He was in Bethany?
4. Who sent Jesus a message?
5. Why were Martha and Mary disappointed when the messenger returned?
6. Where was Lazarus' body laid?
7. How long did Jesus wait after He received the message?
8. Who had tried to stone Jesus?
9. Who told the disciples that Lazarus was dead?

LESSON TEXT: John 11:1-15.

(Answers: 1. Jesus. 2. In the homes of His followers. 3. In the home of Lazarus. 4. Martha and Mary. 5. Jesus was not with him. 6. In a cave. 7. Two days. 8. The Jews. 9. Jesus.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 Nov. 9, 1997

FROM DEATH TO LIFE!

Lazarus had been dead four days. Many of the Jews came from Jerusalem and the surrounding villages to comfort Martha and Mary as they grieved for their brother. The sisters had given up hope that Jesus could help them now, even if He did come.

Then Martha heard that Jesus was coming. She ran out of the village to meet Him. "Lord," she cried, "if You had been here my brother would not have died!"

"Your brother will rise again," Jesus told her comfortingly.

"I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day," Martha answered.

"I am the resurrection and the life," Jesus explained. "He that believes in Me, though he dies, yet he shall live. And those who live and believe in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Martha answered, "Yes, Lord, I believe You are the Christ, the Son of God."

Saying this, Martha hurried back to the house. Secretly she told Mary, "The Master has come! He calls for you."

Hearing this, Mary hurried to find Jesus. Falling at His feet, she sobbed, "Lord, if You had been here my brother would not have died!"

The Jews who had come from Jerusalem to comfort the sisters saw Mary leave the house in a great hurry. They thought she was going to Lazarus' grave, so they followed. When they saw her fall, weeping at Jesus' feet, they wept aloud.

"Where have you laid Lazarus' body?" Jesus asked.

They took Him to the cave. Jesus wept in sympathy when He saw the tears and grief of the sisters and their friends. "See how much He loved Lazarus!" the Jews said when they saw Him weeping. Surely this man who opened blinded eyes, could have healed Lazarus."

Then Jesus commanded that the stone be rolled away from the door of the cave. "Lord," Martha protested, "He has been dead four days! By this time his body is decaying."

"Did I not tell you that you would see the glory of God if you believed?" Jesus answered.

When the stone was rolled away, Jesus lifted His eyes to heaven and prayed. Then He looked into the door of the cave and cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

The people watched in amazement as Lazarus came out of the grave! He was bound head and foot with grave clothes. Even his face was covered. The speechless crowd could hardly believe what they were seeing!

"Loose him, and let him go!" Jesus commanded. The grave clothes were removed. Lazarus was free to go home with his happy sisters. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell



...Lazarus, come
forth. John 11:43.



An Unexpected Illness

In Malawi, Africa, Karen Sallee and her father, Bro. Bob, faithfully gave out the message of Jesus' love to the natives. Karen played games with the children and a warm friendship had formed among them.

A translator was writing Karen's Bible lessons into the Malawi language so that she could talk better with the children. Karen was anxious to tell them more about our Saviour in their own language.

Then on the night of Tuesday, July 22nd, Karen noticed she was very tired. That night she had horrible chills. At about 4:30 in the morning, she got up and went outside the house. Walking back inside, Karen's body became weak and she fell to the ground, unable to get up. No one was awake to help her, but she knew the Lord never sleeps.

"Oh, Lord, please help me!" Karen prayed. Finally, the Lord gave her enough strength to make it back inside to her sleeping bag. The next morning when Karen told Bro. Bob she was sick, he was concerned. He explained to Bro. Failos and the family that Karen needed prayer for her fever. When the natives heard that Karen was sick, they were very worried. It was clear to them that she was sick with Malaria, a dreaded illness that kills many people in Africa every year. "We will pray for Karen," Bro. Bob told them. "Jesus can help her."

Karen's eyes hurt and her head ached. Bro. Bob prayed for the Lord to take this hurting away and the Lord answered prayer instantly. Never again did she have a headache, but her fever would come and go. It made Karen very weak and sick.

On Friday, Bro. Bob decided they must leave Msikita Village and go back to Blantyre where they could

stay in a motel and make telephone calls to the saints for prayer. Karen was so sad to leave her new friends. She knew God would have to give her special help for the long, hard trip over the bumpy roads to Blantyre.

It was a difficult trip, but God miraculously took away her fever and gave her strength as they traveled. After checking into a motel room, she took a bath and went to bed thinking she would be okay, but the battle had just begun for her and her weary father. The fever returned again, leaving her weak and deathly ill. Bro. Bob earnestly prayed, day and night, for the Lord to spare her life.

When Karen's illness was known at the Monark Springs National camp meeting, the saints there and in other places began to fast (not eat food) and pray for her healing.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. How many days had Lazarus been dead?
2. Had Mary and Martha given up hope that Jesus could help them?
3. What did Jesus tell Martha?
4. What did Mary do when she saw Jesus?
5. Why did Jesus weep?
6. What was the first thing that Jesus did after the stone was rolled away from the cave?
7. What did Jesus command Lazarus to do?
8. Did Lazarus come out of the cave?
9. Were the people amazed?

LESSON TEXT: John 11:16-46,

(Answers: 1. Four; 2. Yes; 3. Your brother will rise again; 4. She fell at His feet; 5. In sympathy; 6. He prayed; 7. To come out of the cave; 8. Yes; 9. Yes.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 Nov. 16, 1997

MARY'S GIFT

When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, many Jews from Jerusalem were there. They saw this great miracle and knew Jesus was truly the Son of God. Returning home they told others what they had seen. Many of these people also believed on Jesus.

When the chief priests and Pharisees heard about Lazarus' resurrection, they were alarmed. "What shall we do?" they asked one another. "If we let Him alone, all men will believe on Him!" From that time on they planned how they might capture Jesus and kill Him.

Jesus and His disciples started toward Jerusalem. Six days before the passover they reached Bethany. Lazarus, his sisters and other friends of Jesus welcomed Him. They were anxious to show Him how thankful they were for His great kindness to them.

Simon, whom Jesus healed of leprosy, planned a supper at his house to honor Jesus. Martha at once busied herself helping to prepare the meal. She was very thankful to Jesus for raising her brother from the dead. Helping with the dinner was one way she could show her thankfulness.

Lazarus was especially anxious to see the One who had raised him from the dead. When people heard that both Jesus and Lazarus would be at this dinner, they gathered to see them. Although they were not invited, they crowded in to watch.

At last Jesus and His disciples arrived. Simon welcomed them to his home. The guests were brought into the dining hall and the food was served. The curious onlookers crowded in.

Mary, too, wanted to see Jesus. No women were invited to eat at this dinner with Jesus and His disciples. This could not keep Mary from showing her great love to Jesus.

While the guests ate, Mary brought a container of expensive perfume. It had taken a year's wages to buy it, but she wanted to give Jesus her very best. Mary quietly made her way to the couch where Jesus reclined. Then she poured some of the rare perfume on His head. Kneeling at His feet, she anointed them with the perfume then wiped them with her beautiful, long hair.

As the sweet smell filled the room, the others at the dinner stopped talking and looked at Mary with surprise. "Why wasn't this perfume sold?" Judas Iscariot asked. "The money could have been given to the poor." Now Judas did not care that much for the poor. He loved money.

When Jesus heard this He said, "Let her alone! She has anointed My body for burial. You will always have the poor with you but I shall not be with you much longer. Mary has shown her love for Me. Wherever the gospel is preached it will be told that Mary did this for her Lord."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



...And the house
was filled with the
odour of the oint-
ment. John 12:3.



God Still Answers Prayers

Sick in a motel room in Blantyre, Malawi, Karen Sallee felt the Lord cool her fevered brow at different times. Her father, Bro. Bob, was getting very tired because he had to stay awake day and night to care for her. She had to have his help to eat, drink, or walk within the room. They needed someone else to help her. What person could help Karen the best but her own mother?

As soon as possible, Sis. Irma and Bro. Michael Smith were on an airplane flying to Blantyre. In time the Lord brought them to Karen and Bro. Bob. How happy Karen was to see her mother! Her mother knew just the right way to make her comfortable, but Karen still needed the Lord to take away the terribly hot fever and the painful chills. In just a few short days, she had to be well enough to leave Malawi and fly back to the United States. Karen needed everyone's prayers and a lot of faith in the Lord's help.

The Lord did not disappoint Karen and her parents. When it looked impossible, He gave her strength to make the trip and He provided many helpful blessings along the way. Everyone was thankful when Karen was safely back at home.

However, Karen was still very ill with malaria. Every minute of the day and night, someone was near her bedside to care for her. When the fever would get so hot, saints on several prayer chains were called upon to pray. In a short while, the fever would usually go down. The Lord answered prayer in this way many times when she was in need of

special help.

Karen trusted in the Lord's mercy and wisdom. If He took her to heaven, she would go to see Jesus and the loved ones there. If He healed her, she could testify to others about it and be with her family here. Helpless in herself, Karen rested in the Lord.

Then, at one point in Karen's illness, the Lord stopped the malaria from getting worse. He began to heal her body and take away the sickness. The fever and chills left her and she began to get stronger. Jesus had answered all those prayers for Karen's healing. Praise the Lord!

As soon as Karen was able, she came to church and sang with the young people, "God Still Answers Prayer." Yes, the Lord still heals and does miracles. Karen is living proof.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who were alarmed when they heard that Lazarus was resurrected?
2. Who planned a dinner to honor Jesus?
3. What had Jesus done for him?
4. Who helped prepare the meal?
5. Why did the people gather who were not invited?
6. What did Mary bring?
7. How much did it cost?
8. What did she do with it?
9. Who loved money?

LESSON TEXT: John 11:45-12:9,

(Answers: 1. The chief priests and Pharisees. 2. Simon. 3. Healed him. 4. Martha. 5. To see Lazarus. 6. Expensive perfume. 7. A year's wages. 8. Anointed Jesus head and feet. 9. Judas.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 Nov. 23, 1997

A CRIPPLED WOMAN'S THANKSGIVING

Jesus continued to go from village to village, teaching the people. On the Sabbath He went faithfully to the synagogue. Here He taught those who came to worship God.

In one village Jesus visited, there was a woman who was badly bent over. For eighteen years she had not been able to straighten her back or shoulders. But she did not let her deformity keep her from going to the synagogue to worship God. One Sabbath she went as usual to the synagogue to worship. That was the very day Jesus was there teaching.

Jesus saw the woman as she painfully made her way into the synagogue. He knew how much she had suffered all those years. When Jesus called her to Him she came obediently. "Woman," Jesus said kindly, "you are free from your disease!" As He spoke these words, He laid His hands on her. Immediately she was made straight and well. The happy woman praised God for His great mercy to her. She had not let her deformity keep her from worshipping God. There, where she came to learn more about God, He met her and wonderfully healed her!

Others in the synagogue saw that Jesus had performed a great miracle. This woman who had been crippled for so many years was now standing before them straight and tall!

One person who witnessed the miracle was the ruler of the synagogue. Instead of being thankful for the woman's deliverance, he became very angry. Jesus had dared perform this miracle on the Sabbath. He acted as if a terrible crime had been committed in his synagogue!

"There are six days in which men ought to work!" he told the people angrily. "Come to be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath!" He acted as if the healing was common work that should be done any day besides on the Sabbath.

"You are a hypocrite," Jesus answered. "You only pretend to keep the law. Don't each of you loose your animals from the stall and lead them out to drink, even on the Sabbath day?"

"This woman is a daughter of Abraham. Why should not this poor woman be loosed on the Sabbath from the awful disease that has bound her for eighteen years?"

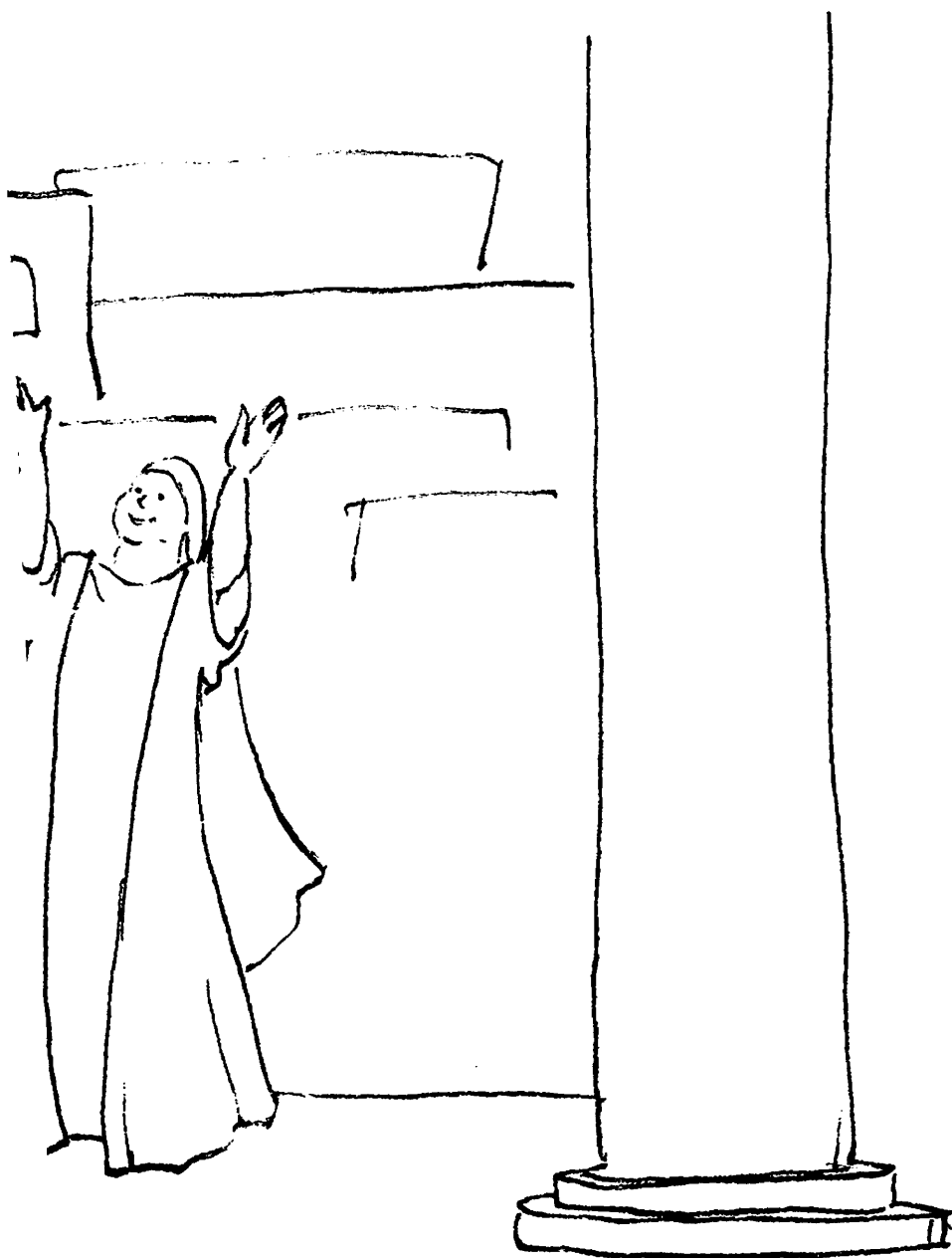
When Jesus said these things it made all His enemies ashamed. None of them would neglect to care for their animals, even on the Sabbath. This woman had suffered greatly for eighteen years. If they were in her condition they would be glad to be delivered on the Sabbath.

Those listening to Jesus' words knew, by this miracle, that He was indeed the Son of God and He spoke the truth. That day was turned into a day of great thanksgiving. They knew God had visited them in the synagogue as they worshiped.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



...And immediately she was made :



it, and glorified God. Luke 13:13.

Thanksgiving Pictures

It was art time in Mrs. Rooney's fifth grade class. Mrs. Rooney carefully counted out 24 sheets of heavy construction paper; one sheet for each student.

As the children took out their pencils and crayons, Mrs. Rooney stood at the front of the room and spoke to them.

"Class, today I want you to draw a picture of something you are thankful for. Think about it before you draw your picture. Then we will take turns showing and telling what we have drawn."

Soon everyone's head was bent over their sheet of paper. Pencils scratched, crayons swished, and the clock ticked away the minutes. Each student wanted a picture that their friends would not have to guess about.

"Okay, class, is everyone finished?" asked Mrs. Rooney. Several hands went up, but Mrs. Rooney waited until the last student was done before she called on the first one to show his.

Mark held up his picture, and all the class knew he had drawn his house and his family standing by the front door. Jennifer had drawn her mother and her pet dog. Kevin's picture was of a thanksgiving dinner—he was thankful for food. Michael drew a flag, because he is glad to be an American citizen.

When it came Caleb's turn to hold up his picture, the students became quiet. He had drawn a picture of Jesus hanging on the cross with red blood dripping from his hands and side.

"That isn't a nice picture," commented Tony.

Mrs. Rooney cleared her throat. "Yes, it is a nice picture," she said.

"Thank you, Caleb. Marcia, you are next."

After every student had shown their work, Mrs. Rooney gathered all the pictures so she could put them on the bulletin board.

The next morning as the students came into the classroom, they looked at their friends' pictures, but most of all, each one hunted for their own picture. Caleb finally found his picture taped to the back of the classroom door. His picture would not be seen so much there.

However, the Lord knew about Caleb's picture, and He put a song in Caleb's heart while he did his schoolwork. Caleb was thankful that the shed blood of Jesus had washed away his sins and he was not ashamed of His Saviour. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What did Jesus do as He went from one village to another?
2. Where did Jesus go on the Sabbath?
3. How long had the woman been crippled?
4. Who saw her come into the synagogue?
5. What happened when He laid His hands on her?
6. What did others in the synagogue see?
7. Who became angry?
8. What did Jesus call him?
9. By this miracle, what did the people know?

LESSON TEXT: Luke 13:11-17.

(Answers: 1. Taught the people. 2. To the synagogue. 3. Eighteen years. 4. Jesus. 5. She was made straight and well. 6. That Jesus had performed a great miracle. 7. The ruler of the synagogue. 8. A hypocrite. 9. That Jesus was the Son of God and He spoke the truth.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 Nov. 30, 1997

A SICK MAN IS HEALED

Jesus went wherever He could help people. He did not hesitate to associate with Publicans even though the Jews despised these tax collectors. Jesus gladly met with sinners. He had come to earth for the very purpose of saving them. Nor did Jesus hesitate to be with the proud Pharisees, though He knew they did not accept His teachings.

One Sabbath day a chief Pharisee invited Jesus to his home to eat with him. Now this Pharisee pretended to be Jesus' friend but his real purpose was to watch Jesus. He was determined to find some way to accuse Him of doing wrong. Jesus knew the Pharisee's wicked thoughts but still He graciously accepted his invitation.

At the Pharisee's house was a man who had a disease called dropsy. Out of all the guests, Jesus took notice of this poor, suffering man. When He saw the man's swollen body, He felt sorry for him and wanted to help him. He wanted him to be well again.

People often came to Jesus begging for mercy, but the man with dropsy did not ask Jesus for healing. Of His own good will Jesus took this opportunity of doing good. As the man stood before Him, He looked around at the proud Pharisee who had invited Him, the lawyers and other Pharisees who were also guests. "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" He asked.

The wicked Pharisee and his guests did not answer. They were sure they had caught Jesus now. If He healed the sick man, they would accuse Him of breaking the Sabbath day. This was a serious crime among the Jews.

Then Jesus put His hands on the man with dropsy. At Jesus' command the disease left him. Instantly the swelling left his body. He was a well man! How glad he was that he had come where Jesus was that Sabbath day!

Jesus wanted to help the chief Pharisee and his guests see how wrong they were to condemn Him for healing on the Sabbath. He asked them, "Which of you, if your animal falls into a ditch, would not pull it out of danger immediately, even on the Sabbath day?" Each one knew they would not let their animal stay in danger. They would rather break the Sabbath than lose a valuable animal. Again, they were silent. How could they say it was right to help an animal on the Sabbath and yet condemn Jesus for helping a man who was in trouble?

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



...And he took him, and
healed him, and let him
go;... Luke 14:4.



Sight for the Blind

Does Jesus still heal blind eyes? I will let you answer that question after I tell you a true story.

In Baton Rouge, Louisiana lives an elderly couple named Bro. Max and Sis. Lula Williamson. They have lived for the Lord 57 years, and during those years Bro. Max preached the gospel to hundreds of people. They taught their eight children to trust the Lord, and the Lord has answered their prayers many times. By their lives, they have proved that it is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.

As Bro. Max grew older, cataracts began to form over his eyes. The white cataract film slowly took his eyesight until he could not see to drive. He could not see the eyes, nose or mouth on his family's faces. His wife had to feed him because he could not see the food on his plate nor his glass to drink from. Bro. Max could tell if it was daylight or night but he could not see anything else.

Many hours throughout the day Bro. Max would sit in a chair, eyes shut, head bent, and the family would work and play around him without a response from him. How sad this made his wife, children and grandchildren! When great-grandchildren were born, Bro. Max could not see their little faces and know who they were. All this made Bro. Max unhappy.

Every morning, noon and night, and often in between, Bro. Max would pray and ask the Lord to heal his eyes. For thirteen years, Bro. Max and Sis. Lula prayed for his eyesight to return. Patiently and faithfully, they trusted in the Lord's timing and healing power.

In the summer of 1997, Bro. Max began to see the forms of people as

they passed by. The cataract in his left eye slowly disappeared. He began to reach out to someone passing by. One day, he surprised a daughter by saying, "I like your blue dress." No one had told him she had on a blue dress—he saw that it was blue.

Soon Bro. Max was able to feed himself finger food from his plate and he could reach his own glass to take a drink. His family is rejoicing over the restored eyesight in his left eye. Bro. Max is happy because he can see his great-grandchildren for the first time.

Does Jesus heal blind eyes? Yes! Let us rejoice and praise the Lord for healing Bro. Max Williamson's left eye. The Lord does answer our prayers of faith. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Why did Jesus come to earth?
2. Who invited Jesus to his home?
3. What day of the week was it?
4. What did the Pharisee pretend to be?
5. What did he really want to do?
6. What did Jesus ask the Pharisee and his guests?
7. What was a serious crime among the Jews?
8. What happened when Jesus commanded the disease to leave the man?
9. What would the Pharisee and his guests rather do than lose a valuable animal?

LESSON TEXT: Luke 14:1-6.

(Answers: 1. To save sinners. 2. A chief Pharisee. 3. The Sabbath. 4. Jesus' friend. 5. To watch Jesus so he could accuse Him. 6. "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath day?" 7. Breaking the Sabbath. 8. Instantly the swelling left his body. 9. Break the Sabbath.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 Dec. 7, 1997

THE PARABLE OF THE SUPPER

After dinner at the Pharisee's house, Jesus began teaching. He noticed that when the guests arrived they each tried to get the best place to sit. Jesus wanted to teach them the beauty of humility.

"When you are invited to a wedding," He instructed, "do not choose the most honored place. A person more important than you may come. Then you will be asked to give your place to him. You will be embarrassed when you are asked to step down. Instead, take the lowest place. You may be called to go up higher. Then your friends will honor you."

Then Jesus turned to the Pharisee who had given the dinner and said, "When you prepare a feast, do not invite your friends and relatives and rich neighbors. They will return your invitation. If you want to be rewarded in heaven, invite the poor and the crippled and the blind to your feasts. Such people cannot repay you, and God will bless you for your kindness."

One of the guests who listened to these words said, "Blessed is he who will eat bread in the kingdom of God."

In answer to this, Jesus told a story as an example of the kingdom of God. He said:

"A certain man gave a great supper and invited many guests. When everything was ready, he sent his servant to bring the guests. But each one made an excuse and would not come.

"The first man said, 'I have just bought a piece of ground, and I must go to see it. Please have me excused.'

"Another man said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen and I want to try them out. I'd like to be excused.'

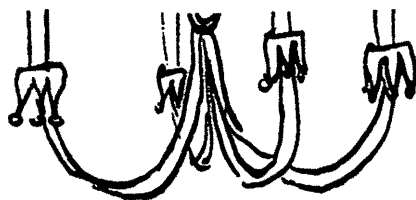
"A third said, 'I have just been married, therefore I cannot come.'

"Everywhere the servant went, the guests asked to be excused. He returned and told his master that no one would come. The master was very angry. 'Go quickly into the streets and lanes of the city. Bring the poor, the crippled, the old, and the blind!'

"Quickly the servant went and did as his master commanded. But still there was room for more. 'Go out into the highways and hedges,' the master commanded. 'Compel them to come in so my house will be filled. None of those who were first invited will taste of my supper.'"

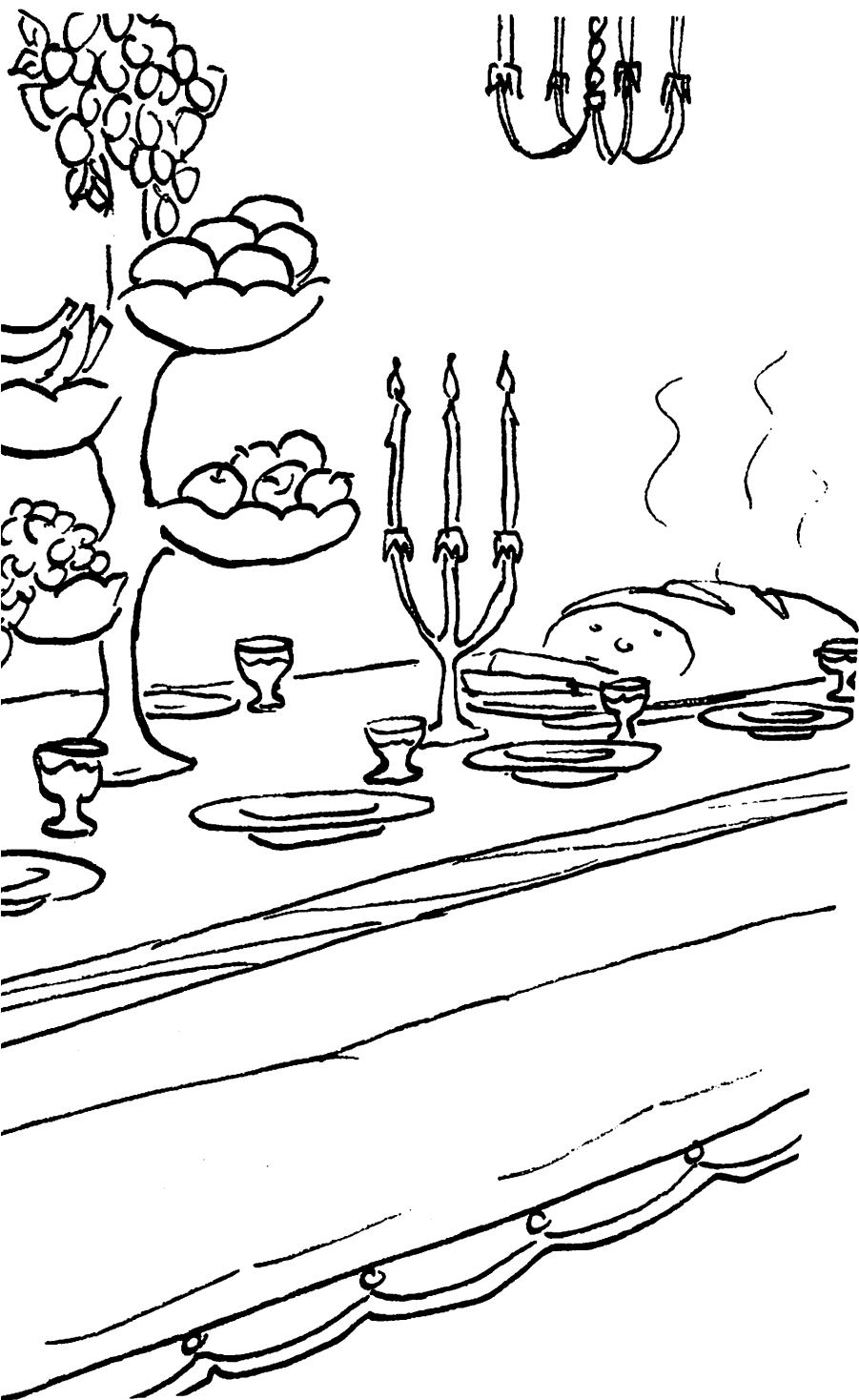
By this parable Jesus taught the guests that although the Jews were first invited into the kingdom of God, they had refused. Now God welcomes everyone to come and be saved!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



...A certain man made a great
supper,... Luke 14:16.





Eat Your Bowl Of Stew

Linda sat at the table and stared at a bowl of stew that was set in front of her. Why did Mother put onions in the stew? She didn't like the blackeyed peas in it either but it was really the slimy tomatoes and awful onions that made the stew terrible.

Daddy said she had to eat all her stew before she left the table, so she guessed she would spend the night on that chair staring at that bowl of stew.

Mother said it was healthy food for her but it sure didn't look healthy to her—in fact, it made her sick to look at it. When she grew up, she would never eat a bite of stew!

Mother came into the kitchen and glanced at Linda. "Do you want me to warm it again in the microwave?" she asked her daughter. Linda shook her head. Hot or cold, she didn't think the stew would taste good either way.

Mother warmed the stew and sat down by Linda. "Now I want you to eat a bite and then I will eat a bite," said Mother. "You are being very stubborn about something that is not such a big deal. Everything in this stew is good for you. You must learn to eat the things you really like along with the things you don't like so well. That is the way life is."

As Mother talked, she had Linda eat a bite of stew, then she took a bite. Linda wrinkled her face and choked a time or two, but she finally ate the last bite.

"Now go clean up and get ready for bed," said Mother. Linda stood up to obey. Though she didn't want to admit it, she did feel better.

Mother drew Linda close and gave her a hug and a kiss, and Linda skipped away to prepare for bed.

Sometimes in life we don't want to eat healthy foods or do the hard things, but when we learn to take the bad with the good, then we are happier.

Linda did eat stew again and she will probably eat stew when she grows up. Strong, healthy grown-ups know it is wise to eat healthy food.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What did Jesus do after dinner?
2. Who did He want to teach?
3. Which place should we choose, the lowest or the highest?
4. Who will bless us if we help those who cannot repay us?
5. Who said, "Blessed is he who will eat bread in the Kingdom of God?"
6. Jesus told a story as an example of what?
7. Why wouldn't the first man come to the dinner?
8. Who were first invited into the Kingdom of God?
9. Who is now welcome to come and be saved?

LESSON TEXT: Luke 14:7-24.

(Answers: 1. He began teaching. 2. The beauty of humility. 3. The lowest. 4. God. 5. One of the guests. 6. The Kingdom of God. 7. He had bought a piece of ground. 8. The Jews. 9. Everyone!)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 Dec. 14, 1997

A RUNAWAY COMES HOME

As the people listened eagerly, Jesus told them this story:

"A certain man had two sons. One day the younger son told his father, 'Father, give me my share of the money that I am to have when you die.'

"So the father divided his wealth between his two sons. The younger packed his things and went on a long trip. He spent his money having a good time. At first he had many friends, but when his money was all spent he lost his friends too.

"About this time there was a famine in the land, and the young man got very hungry. The only job he could find was taking care of hogs for a farmer. He still did not have enough to eat. He was so hungry he felt like he could eat the food that was given to the hogs. No one offered him food.

"Finally the young man became so miserable that he came to himself. He thought, 'How many of my father's servants have more than enough to eat and I am about to starve! I will go back to my father and tell him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am not worthy to even be called your son. Just let me be one of your hired servants.' He made up his mind to go back home.

"The father missed his younger son. Every day he thought about him and wished he would come home. Each day he watched the road, hoping to see him coming.

"Then one day, in the distance the father saw a man coming. As the man got nearer, the father could see that he was ragged. Soon the father recognized the young man as his son. Running to meet him, the father threw his arms around the boy.

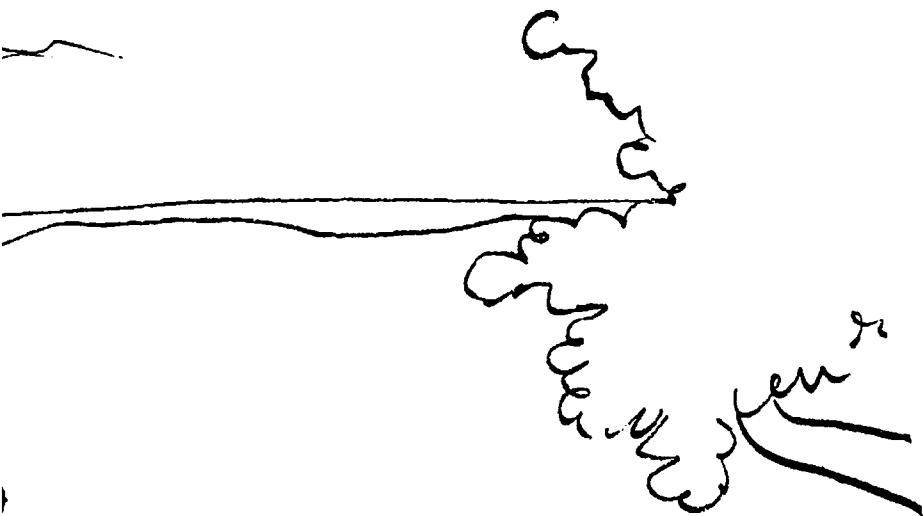
"'Father,' the son said, 'I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be your son....'

"Before the son could finish, the father ordered the servants to bring the best robe and shoes and put them on him. Then he commanded a feast to be prepared saying, 'Let us eat and rejoice, for the son whom I thought was dead is alive. He was lost, but now he is found!'

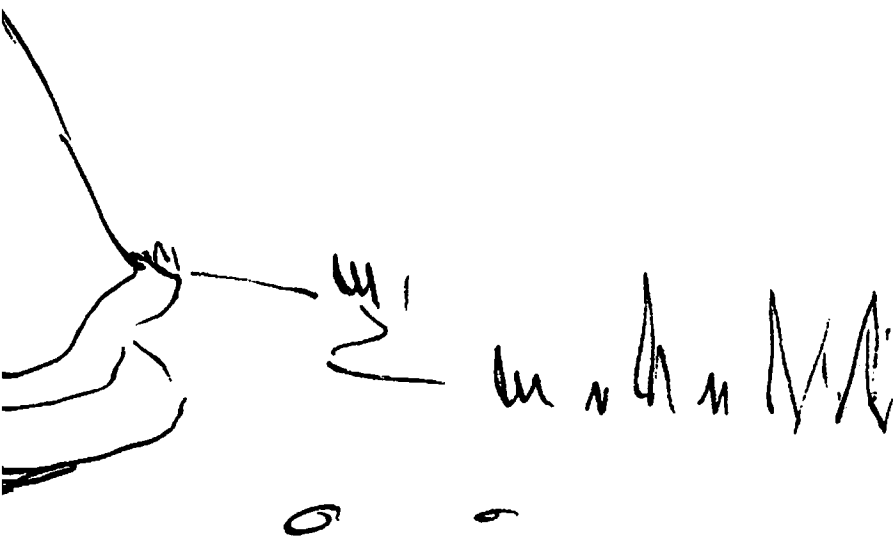
"Soon the older son came in from the field. When he found that a feast had been prepared for his wayward brother, he was angry. He complained to his father that he had never been given a feast although he had stayed home and worked hard."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





I will arise and go to my father,...
Luke 15:18.



God Visits Death Row

(A True Story)

Rick was considered the scumbag of the prison where he had been locked up for seventeen years. He had scraggly hair, a scraggly beard and a red rag tied around his head. Rolled-up sleeves on his army shirt showed several tattoos on his arms. The way Rick walked and talked said to others: "Don't mess with me!"

Rick stood in the back of the prison chapel as a Prison Fellowship chaplain named Terri sang gospel songs, read a few scriptures and testified about the change Jesus Christ had made in her life.

After the service, Rick spoke to Terri. "Liked what ya said. Liked yer singing, too."

"Thank you," said Terri with a smile. Then she felt prompted to talk to the rough looking inmate. In time, she learned more about Rick and his past.

Rick's stepdad had been a cop who had mistreated him as a little boy. Rick became rebellious and began to steal from stores. Then he started taking street drugs and running with a gang. Finally, the law enforcers caught Rick and he was sent to prison at the age of 18.

Potosi Prison in Missouri is a cruel place to be at such a young age. Rick learned more ways to fight for survival and in two different fights he killed two other prisoners. This put Rick on "Death Row"—his life would be taken because he had taken other lives.

The Lord put a heavy burden on Terri's heart to pray for Rick's salvation. She knew he was a very hard, wicked man, but the blood of Jesus was able to wash all the hate and sin away and make a new person out of

Rick. Terri requested prayer for Rick and many Christians prayed for him.

One day Terri got a call that Rick was in trouble and locked up in solitary confinement. "Rick is hurting real bad—could you come?" asked the caller.

Terri went. For four hours they talked together over phones on opposite sides of a glass partition. Rick told Terri that God had dealt with his heart. He realized his awful sins and felt ashamed. He had curled up on the cell floor and cried like a baby, asking God to forgive, pleading the blood of Jesus, and surrendering his life to the Lord. Terri could see in Rick's eyes that he had made a change to do right. His life began to prove it. Later, Rick died a saved child of God.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who listened eagerly as Jesus told them a story?
2. Who told his father to give him his share of the money?
3. What did he do when he got the money?
4. How did he spend his money?
5. What did he lose when his money was all gone?
6. Why did he take care of a farmer's hogs?
7. Who did the father watch for every day?
8. Who told the servants to prepare a feast?
9. Who was angry because a feast was prepared?

LESSON TEXT: Luke 15:11-32.

(Answers: 1. The people. 2. The younger son. 3. Took a long trip. 4. Having a good time. 5. His friends. 6. It was the only job he could find. 7. His younger son. 8. The father. 9. The older son.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 Dec. 21, 1997

CHRIST IS BORN!

Travelers were going in every direction. The people of Nazareth, where Joseph and Mary lived, were excited! The Roman emperor had commanded that everyone must go to the city or town from which his family had come to be taxed.

Joseph and Mary were going to Bethlehem, for they were both of the family of David. Many from Nazareth were traveling south to Jerusalem. Joseph and Mary traveled in their company. But when they reached Jerusalem, Joseph and Mary had to travel further south until they reached Bethlehem.

By the time they got there, Bethlehem was crowded with people. There was no more room for new arrivals. The journey from Nazareth had been long and hard. Mary badly needed a good place to rest! The only place Joseph could find was the stable of the inn. That night Baby Jesus was born. Mary wrapped him in soft cloths called swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger.

Meanwhile there were shepherds watching their flocks that night near Bethlehem. Suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared to them, and a great light shone through the darkness. The shepherds were afraid. Why had an angel come to them?

The angel said, "Fear not, for I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And you shall find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

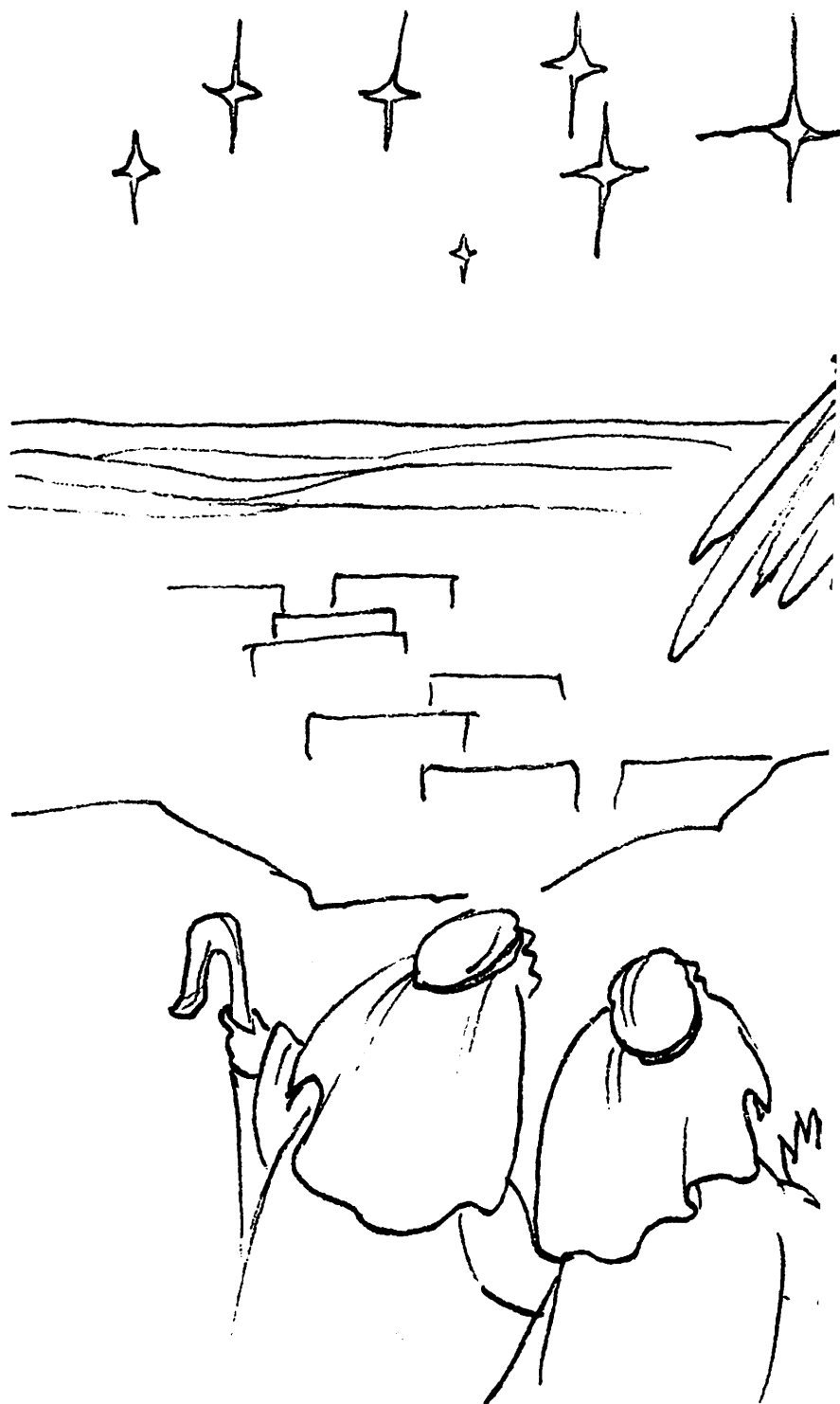
Then many angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." The angels then returned to heaven, and the glorious light faded into darkness again.

"Let us go now to Bethlehem," the shepherds said to one another. "We must see this wonderful thing that the Lord has made known to us!"

Leaving their flocks, they hurried to Bethlehem. There in a stable they found Mary and Joseph and the baby Savior. Kneeling before the manger, they worshiped the little babe who lay quietly sleeping on the hay.

They told Mary and Joseph, "An angel of the Lord told us the good news, and a host of angels sang praise to God as we were in the field." Then the shepherds returned to their sheep glorifying and praising God for all the things they had seen and heard. On the way they told everyone they met about the angel's visit and the Savior's birth.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





For unto you is born this day in the city
of David a Saviour,... Luke 2:11.

Do You Know A Poor Baby Girl?

(A True Story)

Ursula was a young Swiss girl who came to live with a wealthy American family. She wanted to learn to speak English better. In exchange for her room, Ursula helped with the housework. Also, the family gave her a small weekly allowance that she carefully saved.

As Christmastime approached, Ursula helped different family members sneak in expensive Christmas gifts which she wrapped in beautiful paper, ribbons and bows. The richness of the gifts made Ursula's head spin. To her it seemed that the family already had everything they needed or should want. Yet the pile of gifts kept stacking higher. Some even had her name on them.

Then Ursula realized she should buy something for the family since they were giving her things. She counted the allowance money she had saved and sadly shook her head. With the little money she had, there was nothing she could buy to compare with the expensive gifts already bought.

Suddenly, Ursula had an idea. On Christmas Eve, she put on her coat, tucked some allowance money safely into her pocket, and went to a nice department store. She shopped in the baby section until she found a practical baby dress at a reasonable price.

After paying for the dress that was gift-wrapped, she spoke with a Salvation Army volunteer who was ringing a bell just outside the door. "Could you please tell me where a small, very poor baby girl lives?" she asked the man.

The man stopped ringing his bell and looked kindly at Ursula. "Why do you ask?"

"I have a little present for a poor baby girl—do you know of one?"

The Salvation Army man nodded. "If you can pay a taxi, then I will take you to a poor baby girl."

Soon the two were in a taxi, riding down a narrow, dirty street of Harlem, New York. The taxi stopped in front of a dark, decaying apartment building. Ursula put the little gift into the man's hands. "Please take the gift for me. Say that it is from someone who has everything." The man did as she requested.

The next morning as Ursula opened one beautiful gift after another, she thought how pretty that poor baby girl must look in her new dress. When she shared her secret with the family, they thought she had given the best of all.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who commanded that the people must go to be taxed?
2. Where must Joseph and Mary go?
3. Why couldn't Joseph find a room to rest?
4. Who badly needed rest?
5. Where did he find room?
6. What happened that night?
7. Who appeared to the shepherds?
8. Why did the shepherds decide to go to Bethlehem?
9. What did they do when they saw the Baby?

LESSON TEXT: Luke 2:1-20.

(Answers: 1. The Roman emperor. 2. To Bethlehem. 3. The town was already crowded. 4. Mary. 5. In the stable of the inn. 6. Baby Jesus was born. 7. An angel. 8. To find the Baby. 9. They worshiped Him.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 48, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 Dec. 28, 1997

LAZARUS AND THE RICH MAN

Once there was a certain rich man who had all he could wish for. He thought only of himself and his own comfort. He wore expensive clothes. Every day he ate the best kind of food. He had many servants and they were all quick to do everything that he commanded. He lived only to enjoy himself.

At this rich man's gate lay a beggar named Lazarus. He was too sick to work for a living. The only way he could get food was to beg for it. He only asked for the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table. He was not too proud to beg and felt he had a right to ask the rich man for help. They were both descendants of Abraham, making it an obligation for the rich man to help him. But the rich man would not help Lazarus at all. The dogs seemed sorry to see Lazarus so miserable. They licked his sores but the rich man showed no concern.

Finally Lazarus died. There were angels watching over him. They carried him to heaven. Here he was not a beggar. He could live in peace and happiness with Abraham and other saved people who had left the world!

Later the rich man died also. His friends prepared an elaborate funeral and buried him in a new cave. Many mourned his death. But the rich man did not go where Lazarus was. Instead he was taken to a place of torment. There, in hell, he lifted up his eyes. Far, far away he saw Lazarus.

How happy Lazarus looked! The rich man also saw Abraham there. He cried out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. I am in torment in this flame!"

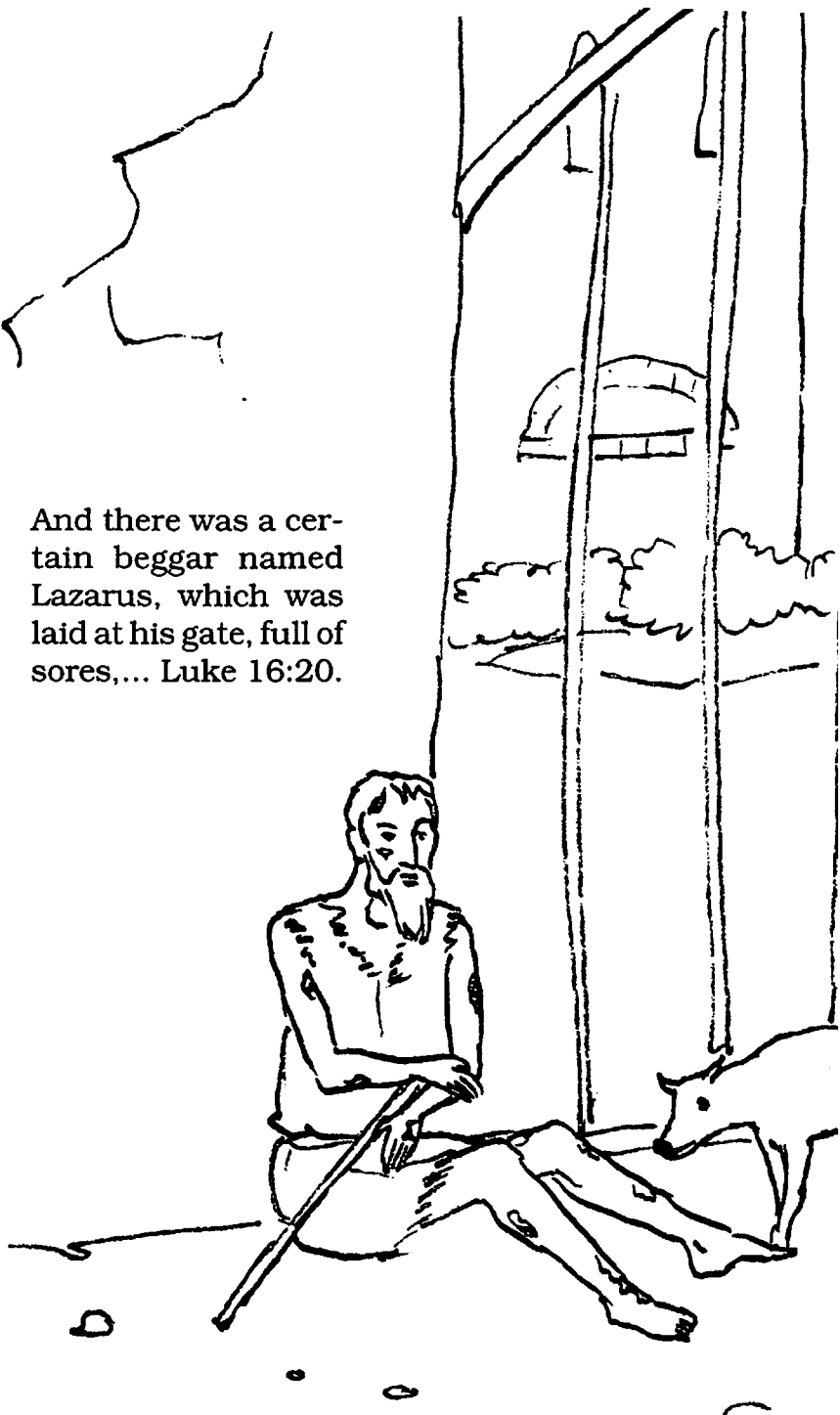
But Abraham answered, "Son, remember! In your lifetime you had your good things. Lazarus had only trouble and suffering. Now he is comforted and you are tormented. I can send nothing to you because no one can pass from this place to your place of torment. Neither can anyone come from there to this place."

The rich man remembered his wicked brothers who were still living on the earth. He did not want them to come to this place of torment. He begged, "Please send Lazarus back to my father's house. He must warn my five brothers about this dreadful place!"

Again Abraham refused. "They have Moses and the prophets. Let them hear them," he answered.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,... Luke 16:20.





New Sight On A Blind Man

(A True Story)

It was another busy day in the big city. Well-dressed business men and women rushed from one skyscraper office building to another. In the heavy traffic, horns honked impatiently and pedestrians scurried out of the way. Everyone seemed in a hurry and no one had a smile.

Only one man was different. He stood straight and tall on the street corner even though his dirty sneakers had holes in them and one pant leg was ripped out. It was this man's deep baritone voice that a church minister heard as he hurried down the sidewalk.

The minister would have walked on but the singing man touched a cord in the minister's heart. He paused a moment to notice that the man held a white cane in one hand and his other hand reached out, palm up, to take money offerings. The sightless beggar couldn't see the frustrated, worried, pushing crowds about him. He was sealed in his own world, waiting patiently for enough coins to buy a sandwich for that day.

"Give him some money," whispered a voice to the minister. He took a few coins from his pocket and put them in the singing man's hand. "Thank you, and may you have good health," responded the blind man.

The minister started down the street when the same voice said to him, "If Jesus were here. He would do more for the blind man. Go back and befriend him."

So the minister turned and walked back to the blind man. For a few minutes, he watched how the

people ignored the singer or gave him a cold look. No one seemed to appreciate his cheerful song in the noisy city life. Yet the man continued to sing and wait patiently for coins.

"He's probably hungry," suggested the voice to the minister. Clearing his throat, the minister stepped up to the blind man. "Hello, sir, would you like something to eat and drink?"

The blind man turned his face toward the minister. "Yes, I would, kind sir." In a few minutes the minister was back with a warm sandwich and cold drink. They sat down on a nearby bench to visit. Though the blind man couldn't see the world about him, he had a good vision of love, hope and happiness. His peaceful trust in the Lord opened another world to the eyes of the minister.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who had all that he could wish for?
2. Who was a beggar?
3. Where did he lay?
4. Why didn't he work?
5. How did he get food?
6. What did the dogs do for him?
7. What happened when he died?
8. Who did the rich man want Abraham to send to him?
9. How many brothers did the rich man have?

LESSON TEXT: Luke 16:19-31.

(Answers: 1. The rich man. 2. Lazarus. 3. At the rich man's gate. 4. He was too sick. 5. He had to beg for it. 6. They licked his sores. 7. The angels carried him to heaven. 8. Lazarus. 9. Five.)