

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 Jan. 5, 2003

THEN CAME JESUS

Jesus fed five thousand people with two little loaves of bread and two fishes. After the people had eaten, Jesus said to His disciples, "Get into this boat and go across the lake. I will come later."

Jesus' disciples did as He said, and Jesus sent the people away. Then, He went up into the mountain to pray to God. When the night came, Jesus was praying alone, on the mountain.

The disciples were trying to row their boat across the lake. The wind was blowing and the waves were rocking the boat up and down. In the night, Jesus came to the disciples, walking on the water. When the disciples saw Him, they were afraid. They thought He must be a ghost. They cried out in fear.

Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid. It is I."

Peter said, "Lord, if it is You, tell me to walk on the water to You."

Jesus said, "Come."

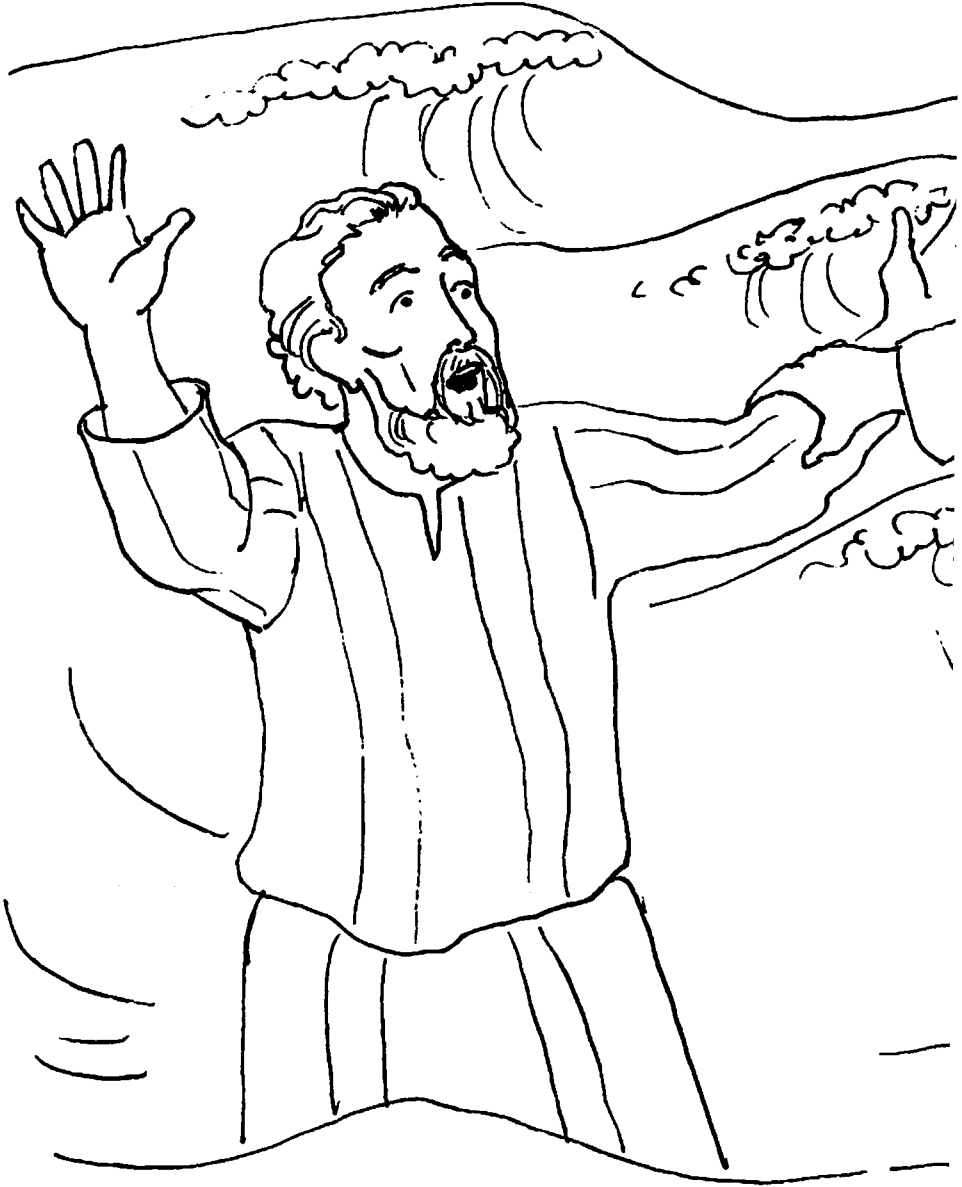
Peter got out of the boat and started walking on the water to Jesus. He was walking on top of the water, but he looked around and saw the wind blowing the waves up and down. He became afraid. Because he was afraid, he started to sink. He said, "Lord, save me!"

Right away, Jesus reached out His hand and caught Peter. Jesus said, "Oh, Peter, your faith was small. Why did you doubt that you could walk on the water?"

They both got into the boat and all of Jesus' disciples came and worshipped Him. They said, "Truly, You are God's Son."

They came to the other side of the lake. This was the land where the man who had been named "Legion" lived. He had gone home and told all his family and friends what Jesus had done for him. Now, when Jesus came to their land, all the people came out and met Jesus happily. They were glad He had come. They brought many sick people to Him. They just wanted to touch Jesus' clothes. All the people who touched Jesus' clothes were made perfectly well. —Joanna Booher

Jesus...said...O thou of little
faith, wherefore didst thou
doubt? Matthew 14:31.





Creation Praises The Lord

"Uncle Ben, what were you doing on New Year's Eve?" Jerry asked as they ate breakfast Saturday morning.

"I was probably reading a book," replied Uncle Ben. Jerry liked to visit his uncle because he always learned something new from Uncle Ben's scientific research. Uncle Ben is called Professor Langley of the science lab at a university.

"What were you reading, Uncle Ben?"

"I was reading in my New Facts Journal," he answered. "You know how DNA is the coded structure of cells? (Jerry nodded.) Now geneticists have found a pattern of bases from which DNA is built. People have a different base than say, a mouse, or a dog."

Jerry chuckled. "I could tell you that by looking."

"Maybe so," replied Uncle Ben. "But this found fact has proven again that a mighty Creator made each being the way it is. This is one more strike against evolution."

"I don't know how anyone can believe that everything started from one Big Bang," Jerry said with a shake of his head.

"Well, Jerry, the more smart scholars try to avoid God, the more they run into His laws of creation. In the sixty-fifth chapter of Psalm, we read how all the earth praises the Lord, and one geneticist has found this to be true. In studying DNA, he found the patterns like a melody to a song, so he has given note names to four DNA bases. Cytosine is for 'do,' adenine is for 're' and 'me' and so on. When you read in the Psalms how 'the little hills rejoice on every side...the pastures...shout for joy, they also

sing,' know this to be true. God has put a melody code in the DNA of all His creation. You have a melody code in your DNA also, though that doesn't mean your voice will always sing in tune." Jerry laughed. "You should have heard me sing the other night, Uncle Ben. We sang the old year out and the new year in and the boys out sang the girls this time."

Uncle Ben smiled. "Was it singing or shouting?"

"Well, maybe a little of both. Bro. Steve told us not to let the rocks have to praise the Lord for us, so I did my part."

"It is good to praise the Lord sincerely," replied Uncle Ben, "but you don't want to be a phony like peanut butter diamonds. Eat your cereal and I'll tell you about them in a minute...."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What did Jesus tell His disciples to get into the boat for?
2. What did Jesus go up on the mountain to do?
3. Was it easy for the disciples to row their boat across the lake?
4. How did Jesus go to the disciples?
5. Did the disciples know it was Jesus?
6. What did Peter want to do when he knew it was Jesus?
7. Why did Peter start to sink?
8. Would Jesus have let Peter sink?
9. Were "Legion's" family and friends glad that Jesus had come to their land this time?

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 14:21-36.

(Answers: 1. To cross the lake. 2. Pray. 3. No. 4. Walking on the water. 5. No. 6. Walk on the water. 7. Because he was afraid. 8. No. 9. Yes.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 Jan. 12, 2003

PRAYING ON THE MOUNTAIN

One time, as Jesus was alone praying, He asked His disciples, "Who do people say I am?"

The disciples said, "Some people say You are John the Baptist. Others say You are Elias, or one of the old prophets come back from the dead."

Jesus said to His disciples, "Who do you say that I am?"

Peter said, "You are the Christ, the Son of God."

Jesus said, "You are blessed, Peter. God showed you that."

Jesus told His disciples that He would be hurt by the chief priests, that He would be killed, and that He would come to life again.

Peter did not like to hear Jesus talk like that. He said to Jesus, "Lord, don't say that. These things will not happen to You."

Jesus said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan. You do not want what God wants."

Jesus said, "If anyone wants to be My follower, he must deny himself, and take up his cross, and be like Me. Whoever tries to save his life will lose it. But, whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. What good is it to own the whole world, but go to hell when you die?"

Jesus took Peter, James, and John into the mountain to pray. As Jesus prayed, his face started to shine and His clothes turned as white as the light. Moses and Elias appeared and talked to Jesus. They talked to Jesus about what He must do: how He must be hurt, and how He must be killed.

Peter, James and John were sleepy. When they woke up they saw Jesus shining and talking to Moses and Elias.

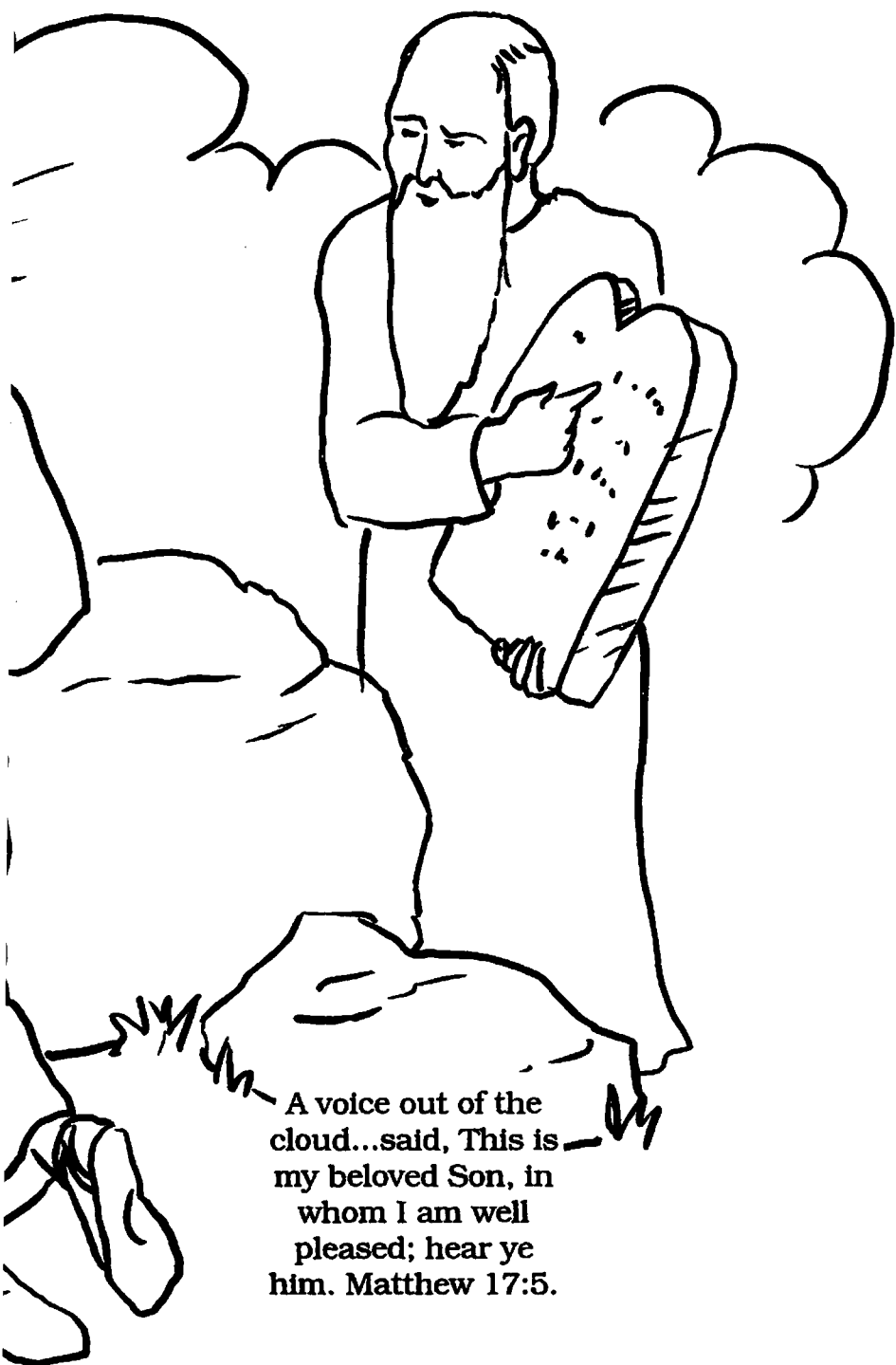
Peter said, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us make three temples, one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elias."

Suddenly a cloud came down and covered Peter, James and John. A voice out of the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him."

When the cloud went away, Peter, James, and John looked up and saw no one except Jesus.

—Joanna Booher





A voice out of the
cloud...said, This is
my beloved Son, in
whom I am well
pleased; hear ye
him. Matthew 17:5.

Peanut Butter Diamonds

(Continued from last week.)

"So what are peanut butter diamonds, Uncle Ben?" asked Jerry as they cleaned the kitchen after breakfast.

"Have you read in school that diamonds are the hardest of all rocks?" Jerry nodded so Uncle Ben continued talking. "Diamonds are made of carbon atoms which are at first black-like soot or charcoal. Under a great deal of pressure and heat these carbon atoms become tightly arranged into careful rows that become crystal clear and hard. Genuine diamonds are mined out of the earth, and the main place they come from is South Africa."

"Yes, in my science book it said that diamonds have black rock around them that has to be cut away before the diamond can be used."

"Right, Jerry. It takes much work to make a beautifully cut diamond sparkle in the sun. Only a diamond is strong enough to cut a diamond so jewelers have used damaged or cheaper diamonds to cut an expensive one."

"What a waste of diamonds!" exclaimed Jerry.

"Evidently others thought the same thing because fake diamonds are now manufactured in laboratories. These man-made diamonds are used in different machinery, tools and in many other ways. The demand for good, hard diamonds has increased so researchers have experimented in making diamonds."

"Who thought that peanut butter could make diamonds?"

"I don't remember his name, Jerry," said Uncle Ben. "But he was able to separate the carbon atoms from the other atoms that make peanut butter. Putting those carbon atoms under intense heat and pres-

sure, he has been able to make hard, crystal stone like diamonds."

"Has he gotten in trouble for selling peanut butter diamonds for real ones?"

"No, I don't think he will be able to fool a good jeweler with his fake diamonds because they say his diamonds have a green color to them. That is because he couldn't get all the nitrogen out of the peanut. The peanut is from the root of the plant, you know, and it draws nitrogen from the soil when it is a root."

"Wow, Uncle Ben, you sure do know all about science!"

"You can learn about all this yourself if you will study science and the Word of God together. When we watch or hear something about God's creation, we need to check with the Bible to see if it matches. The Word of God never uses peanut butter diamonds to cut the facts." —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who did some people think Jesus was?
2. Did Peter know who Jesus was?
3. Who told Peter that Jesus was really God's Son?
4. What did Jesus say the chief priests would do to Him?
5. Who do we have to be like if we want to be Jesus' follower?
6. What happened to Jesus' face as He prayed on the mountain?
7. Who talked with Jesus on the mountain?
8. Whose voice spoke out of the cloud?
9. Whose son was Jesus?

LESSON TEXT: Luke 9:18-36; Matthew 16:13-17:8.

(Answers: 1. John the Baptist, Elias or an old prophet. 2. Yes. 3. God. 4. Hurt Him and kill Him. 5. Jesus. 6. It shone. 7. Moses and Elias. 8. God's. 9. God's.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 Jan. 19, 2003

WHAT FAITH CAN DO

Jesus and His disciples came down from the mountain. A man came running to Jesus. He knelt down and said, "Lord, have mercy on my son. He is a lunatic and sometimes he falls into the water, sometimes into the fire. I asked Your disciples to cast the devil out of him, but they could not."

Jesus said, "Oh faithless and wicked generation, how long will I be with you? Bring your son to Me."

The man brought his son, and Jesus told the devil to come out. The devil came out and the son was well.

Jesus' disciples came to Jesus and said, "Why couldn't we cast the devil out of the boy?"

Jesus said, "Because you had unbelief in your hearts. If you had faith as a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, Move over into the ocean, and it would happen. Nothing would be impossible to you. But, this kind of devil won't go out except by prayer and fasting."

As Jesus went into the city of Nain, His disciples and many people followed Him. A group of people were coming out of the city. They were carrying a coffin with a young man in it. A woman was crying. It was her only son who was dead and her husband had died already too. Jesus felt sorry for her.

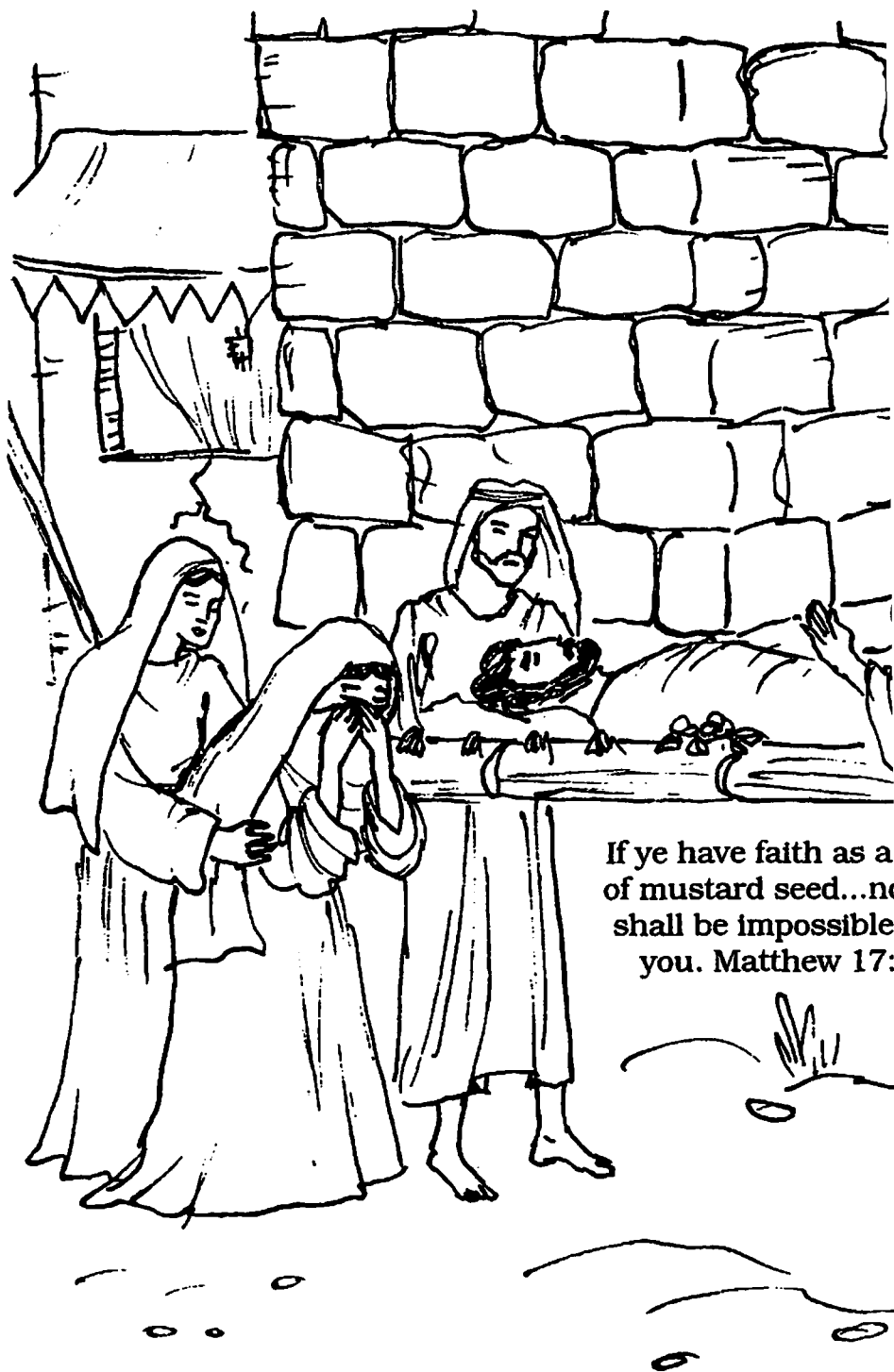
Jesus said to her, "Don't cry."

Jesus touched the coffin. The people who were carrying it stopped. Jesus said to the young man in the coffin, "Young man, arise."

The young man sat up and started talking to the people around. Jesus gave him to his mother. All the people were amazed. They said, "A great prophet has come among us and God has visited His people."

They told this story all around.

—Joanna Booher



If ye have faith as a
of mustard seed...no
shall be impossible
you. Matthew 17:



The Computer Fish

"What kind of fish is this in your aquarium, Uncle Ben?" asked Jerry. He was looking at a seven inch silver fish that moved in quick flashes through the water. "That is a glass knife fish, Jerry. Recently it was named a "computer with fins" in my *New Facts Journal*.

"Why is that?"

"This kind of fish has been studied by two researchers in a university of California and they have found this fish uses electrical impulses to give it direction. Using special equipment, these two scientists found that this fish's brain gets up to seven hundred signals a second to process. This fish was created to do parallel processing which is now being used in the fastest super computers."

"You mean the glass knife fish taught researchers how to speed up computers?"

"Perhaps you could say that. Actually, it is the natural way the fish's brain works that gave these researchers the information that they needed."

"Well, if this fish is so smart, how come it can't talk or read or write?"

Uncle Ben smiled. "Jerry, only human beings can speak words or learn to read or write with their brains. The big sea spider we call an octopus has eyes much like our eyes but he can't read or write. A bat has better eye sight at night but he can't read either. Actually, the most amazing computer ever built was when God made Adam from the dust of the earth. Mankind has a more advanced network system in his body than any man-made computer. You are like a walking computer, Jerry, so be careful what you download into

that brain of yours."

"Oh, I'm careful, Uncle Ben," replied Jerry. "I have a built in chip that stops any evil thing from entering my system."

Uncle Ben smiled. "Well, you listen to that God-given conscience and don't let the devil give you a virus. Remember that God made mankind in His own image. We are fearfully and wonderfully made, so don't let anyone ever tell you that you evolved from a fish."

Jerry laughed. "Not even the smart glass knife fish has learned to talk, read or write. He is only better than us in one way. We can talk to God and He will answer our prayers. I'm glad I'm a human."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What was wrong with the man's son?
2. Were the disciples able to cast the devil out of the man's son?
3. Was Jesus able to cast the devil out of the boy?
4. What did Jesus say the disciples had in their hearts?
5. What did Jesus say it would take to make that kind of devil go out?
6. What were the people carrying out of the city of Nain?
7. How did Jesus feel when He saw the woman crying?
8. What did Jesus tell the young man to do?
9. Did the young man come back to life?

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 17:14-21; Luke 7:11-17.

(Answers: 1. He was a lunatic. 2. No. 3. Yes. 4. Unbelief. 5. Prayer and fasting. 6. A dead man in a coffin. 7. He felt sorry for her. 8. Arise. 9. Yes.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 Jan. 26, 2003

JUST ASK YOUR FATHER

As Jesus was praying one time, His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray."

Jesus said to them, "When you pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation. but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen."

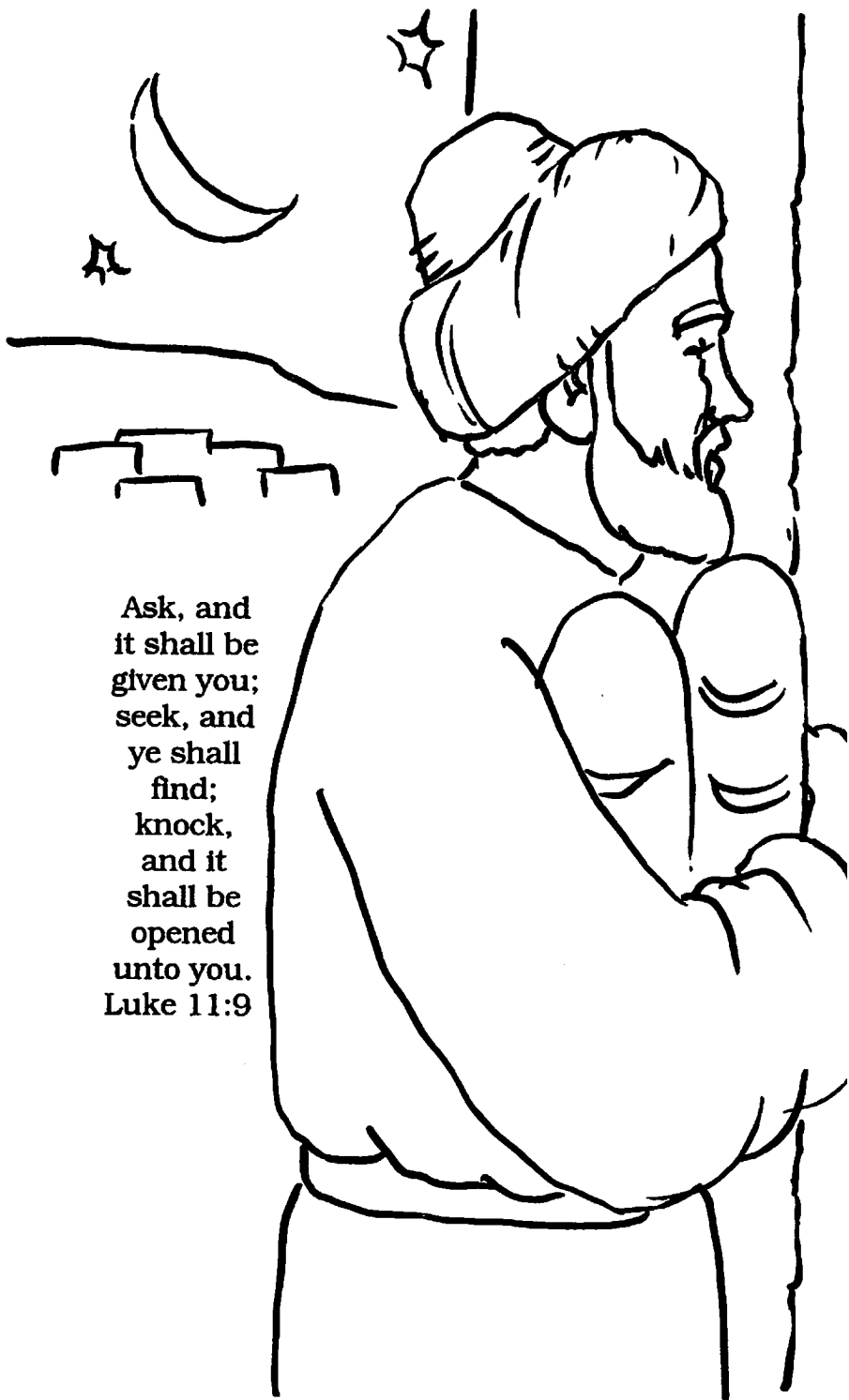
Jesus said to His disciples, "When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites. They like to pray on the street corner where everyone will see them. And don't be like the heathens. They think God will hear them if they say a lot of words. When you pray, go somewhere secret and talk to God. Your Father, God, will see you in that secret place and answer you in a way that everyone will see."

Jesus said, "What if you went to your friend's house in the middle of the night. You knocked on his door and said, 'Please give me three loaves of bread. A friend of mine has come on a trip to see me, and I don't have any food for him to eat.' Your friend would probably say, 'Please don't bother me. I'm in bed.' But, do you know what? Your friend would probably get up anyway and give you some bread. He wouldn't do it just because he likes you, but because you needed it."

Jesus said, "Don't you think that God wants to give you good things when you ask for them? He loves you. Ask, and it will be given to you. Look for, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. If your son asks you for a piece of bread or a fish or an egg to eat, will you give him a stone or a snake or a scorpion?" Jesus said, "People are not perfect, but they want to give good things to their children. How much more does your heavenly Father want to give His Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"

—Joanna Booher

Ask, and
it shall be
given you;
seek, and
ye shall
find;
knock,
and it
shall be
opened
unto you.
Luke 11:9





Funeral Message

(A true story.)

In a small village of Azerbaijan, Central Asia, mourning villagers were preparing their chief for burial. Two Muslim leaders took their places in front of the group, ready to speak their prepared rituals over the dead chief, when Pastor Yasher Ragimov quietly walked into the village. His eyes saw the funeral, and then he walked over to the Muslim leaders.

"Where do you think your chief is now?" Ragimov asked them. "What do you mean?" one stammered. "We aren't god."

"Do you know the true God who can tell you about the place of the dead?" asked Ragimov. Since the men didn't have any good answers, Ragimov told them about heaven and hell, and how to go to heaven.

"If you are so clever," said one of the Muslim leaders, "why don't you speak at the funeral?"

Ragimov nodded. "Yes, I will," he said as he stepped forward by the body of the dead Muslim. There he stood and spoke for two hours about the hope of eternity through Jesus Christ, the Savior of all people. About 150 villagers listened quietly to his message. Even the village policeman and the two Muslim leaders were silent.

After the service was over, some of the elderly village men came to Pastor Ragimov and kissed him on the cheek as a show of respect and acceptance. They said to the two Muslim leaders, "This teacher is much better than any other we've heard. We would like him to return to our village."

Ragimov left that village with a happy heart and a promise to return. It was so wonderful to see the

eager, listening faces of the people before him when he had talked! He wanted them all to know Jesus as their own personal Saviour from sin.

Later Ragimov went back to the village and again they received his message of love and forgiveness. Though they love to hear about Jesus Christ, it has been hard for them to accept Him as a Savior. Also, they know that severe persecution can fall upon Christians in their country of Islamic rule.

Pray for Pastor Yasher Ragimov and the people whom he preaches to. They need the hope of eternal life that is only found in Jesus Christ.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What did Jesus' disciple want Him to teach them?
2. What did Jesus say we can call God?
3. Does Jesus want us to pray just so people will look at us?
4. Does God hear us because we say a lot of words?
5. If you ask your friend for some food in the middle of the night, will he want to get up to give it to you?
6. Does God love us?
7. Does God want to give us good things?
8. Does your father give you good things to eat?
9. Do you think your heavenly Father wants to give you even better things?

LESSON TEXT: Matt. 6:5-13; Luke 11:1-13.

(Answers: 1. How to pray. 2. Our Father. 3. No. 4. No. 5. Probably not. 6. Yes. 7. Yes. 8. Yes. 9. Yes, he does.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 Feb. 2, 2003

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.

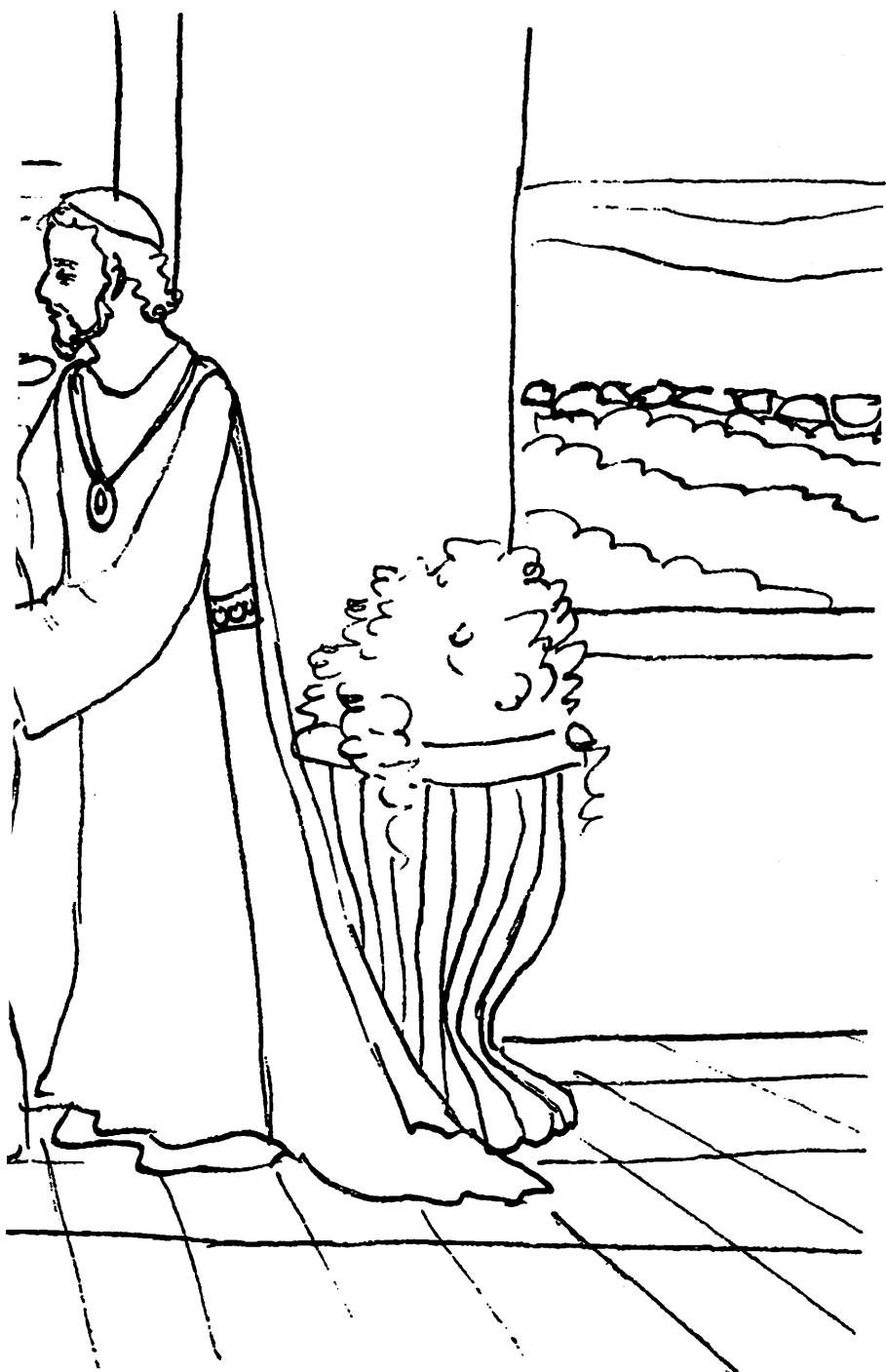
When the stone was rolled away, Jesus lifted His eyes to heaven and prayed. Then He looked into the door of the cave and cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

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





Water Talk

"It is hard to break this thick ice on the stock tank, Grandpa," said Jerry as he hit the ice again with an ax. "Won't you be glad when winter is over and we won't have to work in this snow and ice?"

"Here, son, let me cut the ice," said Grandpa as he took the ax from Jerry. "It won't be long until spring is here and then the hot summer with it's problems. We just take each season as it comes without murmuring or complaining about it." "Right now I can't think of any problems with summer," replied Jerry. "I'll be glad to go swimming here in the summer."

Grandpa chopped a hole in the ice and cold water bubbled up. "Ah, it's good to see the water," said Grandpa. "In the summertime, we can have a draught. Then we don't have enough water because it evaporates and we don't have rain to replace it. You can't go swimming then either."

Jerry was thoughtful for a moment while he helped Grandpa bring up the cows to drink. "Everything needs water sometimes, doesn't it Grandpa?"

"I believe so," he replied. "Even you must have water to survive. In fact, a person is mostly made of water and a little dirt. Naturally speaking, our bodies aren't worth much in dollars and cents but we are valuable because we have a soul that lives forever. God planned for our souls to be like Him."

"People are the only ones with a soul, right Grandpa?"

"Yes, Jerry, and that's the part of us that gives life to our bodies. Do you know what kind of drink our

souls need?"

"Our souls need water?" Jerry wrinkled his nose at that thought and Grandpa laughed.

"Remember the woman at the well and how Jesus told her she needed living water. Jesus said whoever drank of His water would never thirst, but it would be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."

"So our souls need this living water that Jesus gives?" asked Jerry.

Grandpa nodded. "When we get to the house, let's read about it in the book of John, the fourth chapter. This water never freezes, goes stale, or evaporates during a hot spell. It's pure water from the side of Jesus."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

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. 54, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 Feb. 9, 2003

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.



Egyptian Bondage

(A true story.)

The country of Egypt is still a land of bondage today. Anyone who dares to be a Christian in this Islamic nation will suffer for the cross. Many church buildings are closed and have been destroyed in Egypt. The police tell international news reporters that: "Muslims do not like to have a church in their village."

The poor Egyptian people barely survive on little food and cheap housing. Parents have no shame in selling their children into slave labor or prostitution. Despairing and hopeless, Egyptians will steal and lie, and they do not trust one another.

In this sin-sick country, strong Christians secretly give out the message of hope only found in Jesus Christ. Any one who is courageous enough will meet quietly in a hidden place with other believers. Together they will worship Jesus Christ and read a small Bible kept carefully stored away. Though they know they could be killed for worshipping Jesus, Egyptian Christians find peace and hope in the promises of God through His Holy Bible.

In the city of El Mina the police came to one chapel and destroyed the newly remodeled restroom. "The church did not get permission to remodel this restroom!" declared the government. However, if the church had asked for permission, the government would not have said yes. On the other hand, the government will allow a Muslim mosque (temple) to be built right away, even paying for the restrooms to be added.

A pastor in Egypt writes: "As in past centuries, Muslim police officers

and governors think that Allah (their god) will forgive their sins in their eternal paradise when they persecute Christians here on earth."

Recently, in the village of El Kosheh, 29 Christians were killed and 39 were arrested and some are still in jail today. Their only "crime" is that they worship Jesus Christ instead of Allah.

An Egyptian pastor makes this request to all other Christians around the world: "Pray for our brothers and sisters in Egypt. Pray for Muslims who need our redemptive Savior. The next time you see a pyramid, pray for the persecuted church."

Please do remember this request for your prayers.

—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 of leprosy. 4. Martha. 5. To see Lazarus and Jesus. 6. Expensive perfume. 7. A year's wages. 8. Anointed Jesus head and feet. 9. Judas.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 Feb. 16, 2003

BLIND BARTIMAEUS

Many people, along with Jesus and His disciples, were on their way to Jerusalem for the Passover. News of the teachings and miracles He did traveled all over the country. When people heard He was coming close to their city, many would stand by the road hoping to see Him.

Just outside the city of Jericho, blind Bartimaeus sat begging from the people who passed by. All at once he heard the sound of many footsteps coming his way. Wondering why such a crowd was passing by, he questioned those nearby. "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by!" they explained.

Bartimaeus, too, had heard of Jesus. It seemed everyone could tell about something wonderful that Jesus had said or done. Perhaps he heard about the man Jesus healed who was born blind. How much Bartimaeus wished that he, too, could receive his sight. Suddenly he cried out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Many standing around Bartimaeus tried to quiet him. They could not hear Jesus' words because of his loud cries. But Bartimaeus only cried more loudly, "Thou Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Jesus heard Bartimaeus' cry for help. He stood still. Then He commanded the people to call the blind man to Him. Quickly someone rushed to Bartimaeus saying, "Be of good comfort. Rise; He is calling for you!"

Instantly Bartimaeus was on his feet. Throwing off his coat, he rushed to Jesus.

"What do you want Me to do for you?" Jesus asked.

"Lord, please give me my sight!" Bartimaeus pleaded.

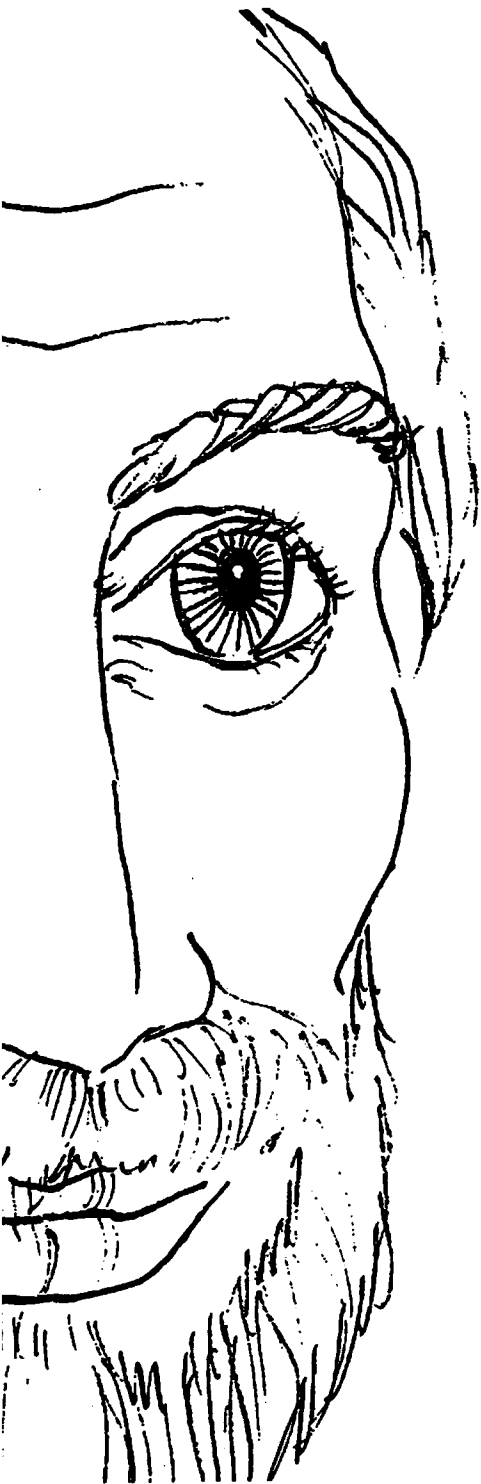
Jesus answered, "Go your way. Your faith has made you well.

Immediately Bartimaeus received his sight. He could see Jesus and all His followers! Bartimaeus was overjoyed. He could hardly contain his great joy. How different life would be from now on! No longer would he sit by the roadside begging. Now he could go about his business like other men.

Happily Bartimaeus joined the crowd that followed Jesus, glorifying God as he went. Everyone who saw this wonderful miracle happen praised God with Bartimaeus.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





And immediately he
received his
sight,...
Mark 10:52.

The Back Yard Meeting

(A true story.)

The Cuban dictator, Fidel Castro, has done everything he can to stop Christians from worshipping Jesus in Cuba. He has ordered the police to close churches and have the buildings burned or bulldozed down. He has Christians arrested, kept in prison, and tortured for believing in Jesus. All that Castro has done against Christians has only deepened their faith in the one true God of all creation.

Within the past two years, Moses Dias and his wife, Damaris, started teaching about Jesus to friends who came to their own back yard. Every Sunday a few more friends would join the group quietly worshipping in Pastor Dias' back yard. Soon the group grew in number so that the neighbors knew about the meeting. Some joined them, but others threw stones at the Dias house and called the police.

"You must disband and stop these illegal meetings at once!" demanded the police.

For punishment, strong surges of electricity were sent through the Dias house which burned up their refrigerator and other appliances. Because they are Christians, the Dias will not be allowed to buy another refrigerator or appliances for a long time. They have endured all this trouble so that the gospel can reach more people, and their back yard meeting grew to the number of 500 souls.

The Havana authorities told Pastor Dias to stop his house church meetings. Quickly, he found seven other houses for the people to meet in for worship. The number of people

is now 800 and still growing.

Pastor Dias reports that many Cuban professionals such as doctors, teachers and other leaders are getting saved and leaving their high paying jobs to follow Christ. This means they lose money for Jesus, but their blessing is not more money but more of His presence. Christians are not allowed to make much money in Cuba, but they are laying up treasures in heaven where Castro nor any other ruler can take it away from them.

Let us be encouraged to tell our friends and neighbors about Jesus Christ and His eternal reward for the faithful. It will only cost us a little time and effort.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS

1. What were the people going to Jerusalem for?
2. What news traveled all over the country?
3. Why would people stand by the road?
4. Why was Bartimaeus begging?
5. Who cried to Jesus for mercy?
6. Who did the people try to quiet?
7. What did Bartimaeus do?
8. What did Jesus do when He heard the cry for mercy?
9. What did Bartimaeus do after he received his sight?

LESSON TEXT: Mark 10:46-52.

(Answers: 1. The Passover.
2. News of Jesus' teachings and the miracles He did.
3. They hoped to see Jesus.
4. Because he was blind.
5. Bartimaeus. 6. Bartimaeus. 7. Cried louder. 8. He stood still. 9. Followed Jesus, glorifying God.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 Feb. 23, 2003

TWO SONS

Once more Jesus entered the temple to teach. This time many people were already there waiting to hear Him. The chief priests and elders were also there, but they had not come to learn from Jesus. Because they did not want the people to hear Jesus' words they tried to argue with Him. "By what authority do you teach and work miracles? Who gave you this authority?" they demanded.

Jesus told them, "I will also ask you one thing. If you answer My question, then I will answer yours and tell you by what authority I do these things. Tell Me, the baptism of John, was it from heaven or of men?"

This question caught the chief priests and elders by surprise. They did not know how to answer Him. They whispered among themselves, trying to decide. "If we say John's baptism was from heaven," they reasoned, "then He will ask us why we didn't believe that John was God's prophet. We dare not say his baptism was of men. All these people would rise up against us because they believe John was sent from God."

Jesus' question left His enemies speechless. They were afraid of what the people would do if they answered one way. If they answered as the people believed, then they would condemn themselves. Finally they told Him, "We cannot tell whether John's baptism was from heaven or of men."

"Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things," Jesus answered. "Nor will I tell you who gave Me the authority."

Later Jesus told the people this story: "A certain man had two sons. One day he went to the older son and said, 'Son, go and work in my vineyard today.'

"I won't go!" the son answered rudely. But afterwards he felt sorry for answering his father that way. He went to the vineyard and did the work his father asked him to do.

"The father also asked his second son to work. 'I am going, sir,' he answered respectfully. But the second son did not keep his word."

"Now," Jesus asked, "which of the two obeyed his father?"

"The first son," the people answered.

Jesus then pointed out that sinners were like the first son. They had been rebellious and disobedient to God. Then when they heard John warning them to repent and turn to God, they obeyed. The chief priests and elders declared they were obeying God. Instead they were disobedient and deceitful. Like the second son, they said one thing but did the opposite.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



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



Jesus Christ Is Not an Image

(A true story.)

"I am President for life!" declared Saparmurat Niyazov, President over the country of Turkmenistan, Central Asia. This Communist Party Chief has ruled his country with an iron fist since 1985—over 17 years. He is a very vain man who does not believe in God at all. Instead, he forces his countrymen to worship him.

Gold statues of President Niyazov are in every village of Turkmenistan and his golden image appears at all times on the state-run television. Last year a book about this president was published and he insists that everyone should read it. Recently, he has told his people that the days of the week and the months of the year should be renamed in his honor. Doesn't he sound very proud?

Living under this proud ruler, Christians have been persecuted, churches have been closed, chapels have been bulldozed down, and Christians have been arrested and sent out of the country. Has this stopped the teaching of Jesus Christ in Turkmenistan?

No. One pastor named Murat Sadykov still tells others about the hope found only in Jesus Christ. Secretly, he and other pastors hand out Bibles and Christian literature to hungry souls in his country. They tell fellow Turkmen to: "Believe on the resurrected Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He is the only one who can save you from your sins and give you eternal life."

Not long ago the national secret police broke into Pastor Sadykov's home in Maryh. They found his hid-

den shelves of Bibles that he had ready to hand out to other Christians and interested persons. The police took every Christian book and item that they found in his home. After the police robbery, Pastor Sadykov had only one small Bible left that he had hidden.

Today President Niyazov claims to be the great I AM whom the Turkmen must reverence and obey. He can command the police to destroy chapels and steal Bibles, but he cannot give his people peace in their hearts and the hope of eternal life. The Christians know that he is only a man who will some day die like all other people. That is why the gospel is still spreading underneath the Communist ruler—these people are seeking for the peace and hope found only in Jesus Christ.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Why did Jesus enter the temple?
2. Who did not want the people to hear Jesus' words?
3. What did they ask Jesus?
4. Why didn't the chief priests and elders answer Jesus' question?
5. Who told the people a story?
6. How many sons did the man have?
7. What did the father ask his first son to do?
8. Which son obeyed?
9. Who were like the first son?

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 21:23-32.

(Answers: 1. To teach. 2. The chief priests and elders. 3. "Who gave You this authority?" 4. They were afraid. 5. Jesus. 6. Two. 7. To go work in his vineyard. 8. The older son. 9. Sinners who repent.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 Mar. 2, 2003

THE WICKED FARMERS

"Listen, and I will tell you another parable," Jesus told the people gathered around Him. "There was a man who planted a vineyard. He put a fence all around it. Then he dug a winepress and built a watchtower. Now all he needed were farmers to take care of His vineyard. Then, after He hired the farmers, he left everything in their care and went to a country far away.

"When it was time to pick the fruit, the owner sent a servant to the farmers to get some. Instead of giving the owner his fruit, they mistreated the servant he sent to them. They beat him and sent him back without any fruit.

"The owner sent another servant a second time. This time the wicked farmers, threw stones and wounded him in the head. He was sent back to the owner empty handed after being shamefully handled.

"The third time he sent a servant. This time they killed the servant. Again and again the owner sent servants to the farmers. Some they beat and others they killed.

"The owner had one son whom he loved dearly. He thought to himself, 'I will send my own dear son to the farmers. Surely they will respect him.

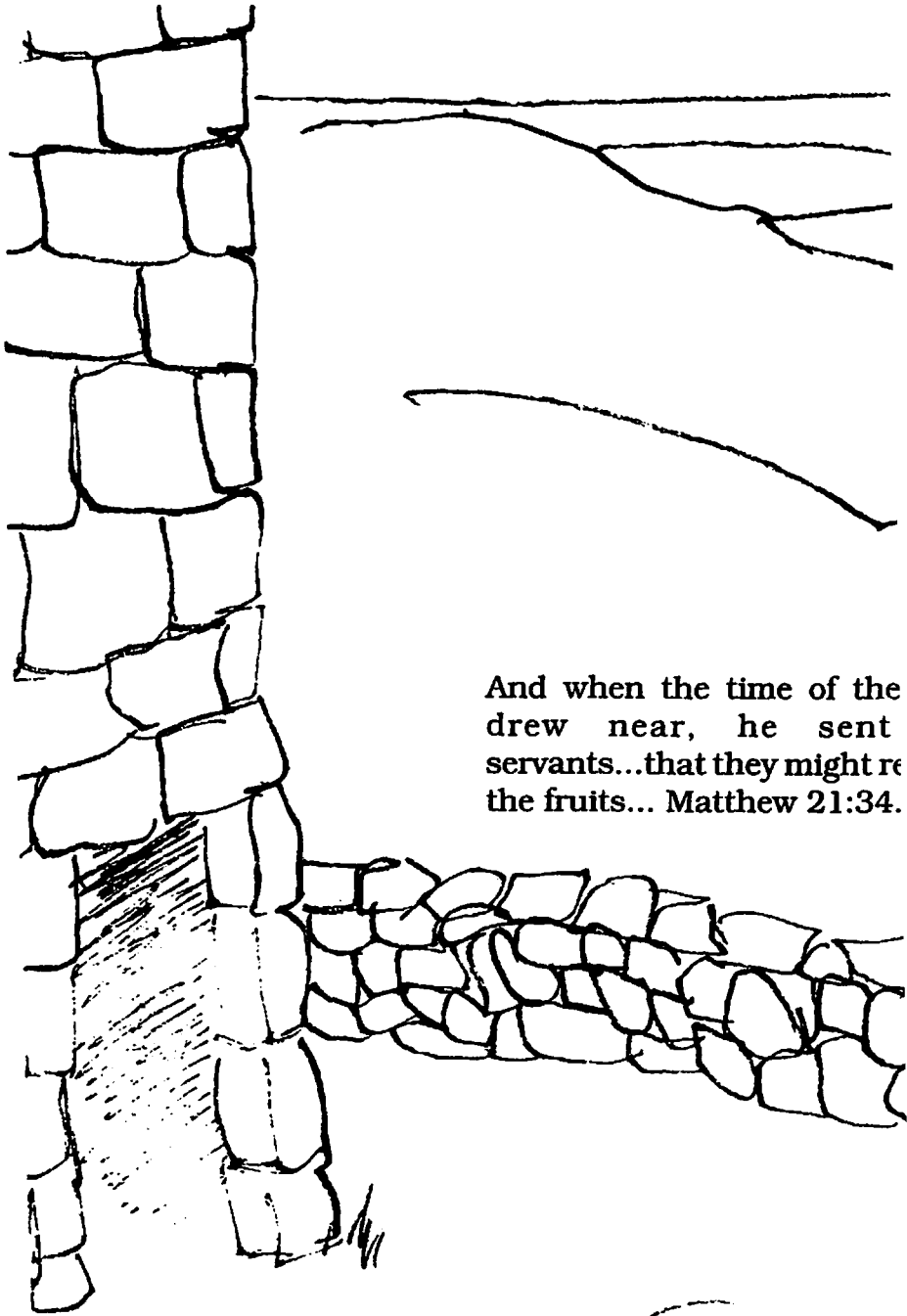
"From the watchtower the farmers saw the son coming. They said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come; let us kill him. Then we will inherit this vineyard!' And those wicked farmers did just that."

Having finished the parable, Jesus asked, "When the owner returns, what will he do to those men?"

"He will miserably destroy those wicked farmers," the people answered. "Then he will hire better farmers to care for his vineyard. The new farmers will give him the fruit when it is ripe."

Jesus then spoke boldly to his enemies who were standing in the crowd. "The kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to another people who will show by their lives that they are the children of God."

The chief priests and Pharisees knew Jesus had accused them in the story He told. In their anger they would have seized Him, but they were afraid of the crowd. The people believed that Jesus was a prophet.



And when the time of the
drew near, he sent
servants...that they might re
the fruits... Matthew 21:34.



No Water in Hell

After Grandpa and Jerry were inside the warm house, Grandpa sat down in his easy chair and picked up his Bible which stayed on the lamp table nearby.

"Grandpa, are you going to read to us?" asked Randy.

"Yes, you and Linda bring your wooden stools and sit down in front of me. We are going to read the story about the woman at the well who Jesus talked with."

"Oh, I remember that story!" exclaimed Linda. "I like to read that one!"

Grandpa read the fourth chapter of John while the children listened quietly. At the end Linda said, "Jesus healed so many people. I wish I had lived back then when Jesus was on earth."

"Oh, He is still here on earth," replied Grandpa. "We can't see Him because He works through the Holy Spirit. Jesus heals people today. He has healed me many times. But do you know what Jesus really wants to do for every person?"

The children shook their heads so Grandpa continued. "Jesus wants to save every person's soul from the burning flames of hell. That has been His most important mission since He came to earth. He died on the cross, came out of the tomb, and now talks to our Father for us that we might not go to hell when we die."

"Oh, I remember another person who wanted a drink of water!" exclaimed Jerry. "That rich man who went to hell. Remember, he wanted Lazarus to just give him a taste of water?"

"Yes, that is right, Jerry," said Grandpa. "In hell there will not be cool water to drink. Hell is a terrible place of fire and torment. Jesus made

a way for us to escape the devil's hell and I want all of you to ask Jesus into your hearts. He will wash away your sins with His blood so that you can go to heaven instead."

"Heaven is up above," said Randy pointing up, "and hell is down below," he added pointing down.

"We think of hell as being down," said Grandpa thoughtfully. "The center of the earth has very hot lava that sometimes spews out from volcanoes. I think hell is somewhere else because it was prepared for the devil and his demons. This earth was created for God's people."

Linda shuddered. "I don't want to ever know where hell is. I just want to see heaven. Grandpa, will you pray with us?"

"Certainly," agreed Grandpa. "Let's kneel and pray."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who told the people a parable?
2. What did the man plant?
3. What did he do after he hired farmers?
4. Why did the owner send servants to the farmers?
5. What did they do to the first servant?
6. What did they do to the second servant?
7. How many sons did the owner have?
8. What did the farmers do to the son?
9. Who was Jesus accusing in this parable?

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 21:33-46.

(Answers: 1. Jesus. 2. A vineyard. 3. Went to a country far away. 4. To get some fruit. 5. They beat him. 6. They threw stones and hurt him. 7. Only one. 8. They killed him. 9. The chief priests and Pharisees.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 Mar. 9, 2003

THE PARABLE OF THE POUNDS

Jesus and those with Him traveled on toward Jerusalem. As they walked, Jesus taught the people. Now Jesus knew that many of the people listening to Him were expecting the kingdom of God to be set up on earth soon. As the crowd listened, Jesus told a parable or story sermon. He hoped this story would help them understand what the kingdom of heaven is really like. This is Jesus' story:

"A certain nobleman went into a far country. He was to receive a kingdom for himself, then he would return. Before leaving home he gave a sum of money, called a pound, to each of his ten servants. They were to use the money until his return.

"Now the people in his kingdom hated him. They sent a message to the nobleman after he had gone saying, 'We will not have you rule over us anymore!'

"The nobleman finished his business and then came back. Right away he called the ten servants and asked how they had used the money.

"The first servant brought the money and said, 'I traded with the pound you gave me, and I have gained ten pounds.' The nobleman was pleased and said, 'Because you have been faithful, you may rule over ten cities in my kingdom.'

"Next came a servant who had gained five pounds by using the money wisely. To him the nobleman said, 'I will give five cities to you to rule over in my kingdom.'

"Then a third servant brought only the one pound the nobleman had given him. 'Here is your pound,' he told his master. 'I kept it wrapped in this napkin while you were away. I was afraid I might lose it, and I knew you were a harsh master.'

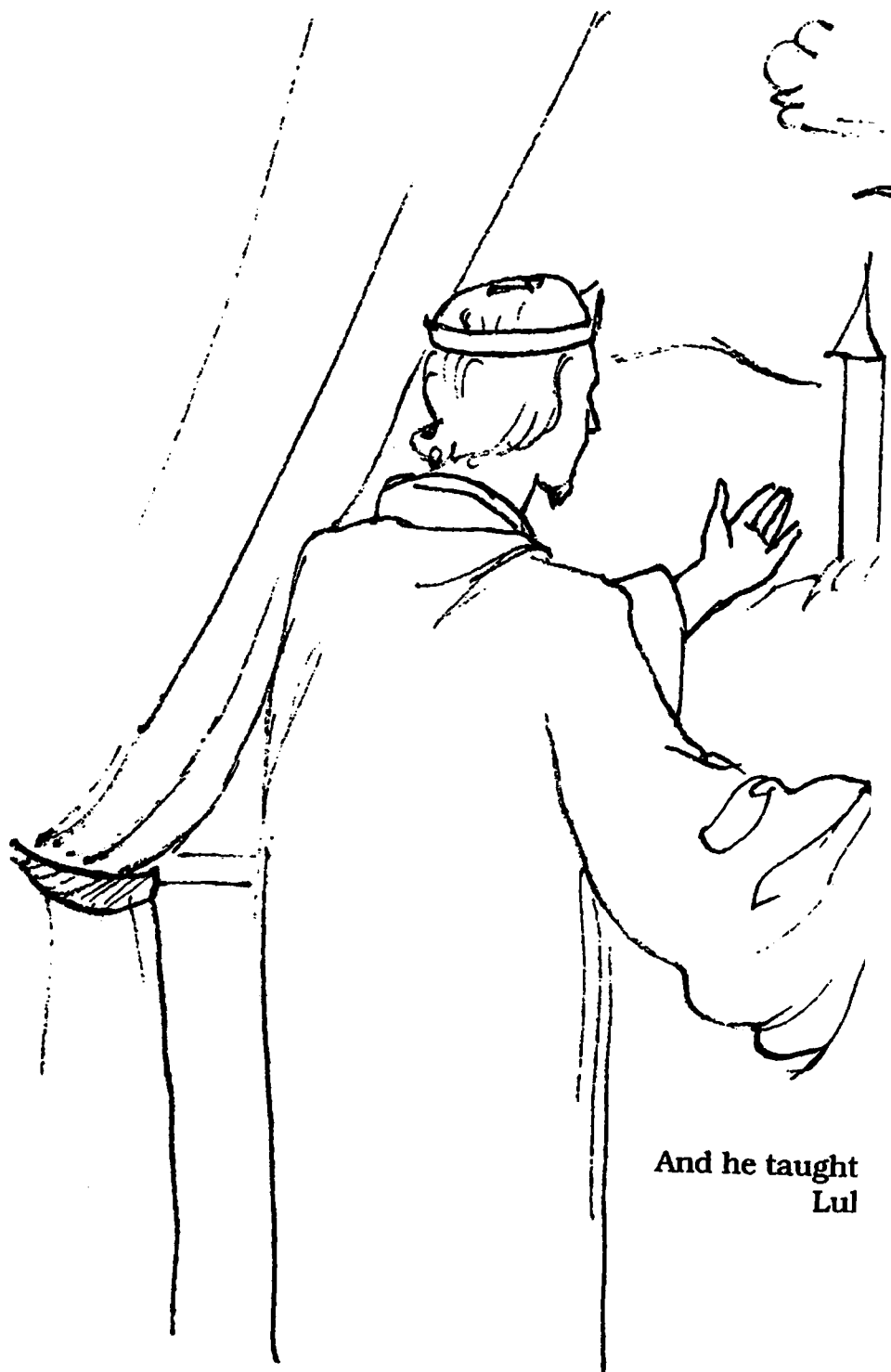
"The nobleman answered, 'If you knew I was a harsh master, why did you not put my money into a bank so I might have it and its interest when I returned?' Then he commanded those who stood by, 'Take the one pound from the unfaithful servant and give it to the one who has ten.'

"'Lord, he has ten pounds already,' the servants protested. 'Why give him more?'

"He answered, 'To every one who uses what he has, more shall be given, but whoever does not use what he has shall have it taken away.'

"Next the nobleman called for those wicked servants who did not want him to rule over them. When they were brought before him, he ordered that they should be severely punished."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



And he taught
Lul



in the temple.
:47.

The Heaven Mystery

At night, in the car riding home from Grandma and Grandpa's farm, Linda sat by the window and looked out at the stars twinkling above. She felt good inside because she had asked Jesus to wash away her sins with His blood and then live in her heart. Now the stars looked so bright and the moon so shiny.

"Mother, which star do you think heaven is on?" asked Linda.

"Honey, I don't believe heaven is on any star that we see," said Mother. "The stars were created when God made the earth. Heaven is where God lives in His kingdom."

"And Jesus lives there, too," added Linda. "All the people who get saved from sin live in heaven with God and Jesus."

"Yes," agreed Mother. "We have grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins—a lot of relatives who are in heaven. We want to be faithful to God like they were so that we can be in heaven with them some day."

"Look! Mother, look!" exclaimed Linda suddenly. "See that falling star?"

Everyone looked up at the sky and saw the flash of light as it fell toward the earth. Even Dad saw it as he was driving.

"That isn't a star, Linda," he said. "That is called a meteoroid. It is chunks of rock that has fallen from a star or another planet."

"I learned about meteoroids in school," said Jerry. "They sometimes hit the earth, but they are too small to do any damage."

"The stars are pretty tonight," commented Mother. "Just think how God spoke and put every star in its place."

Dad nodded. "God knows all the stars in the universe. We live in the

Milky Way Galaxy, but astrologists tell us that there are other galaxies of stars beyond the Milky Way."

"So is that where heaven is?" asked Linda.

Dad glanced back at Linda in the back seat. "Do you believe God created the earth, the stars, and even people like you and me?"

"Why, yes, Dad," answered Linda.

"Then believe that God has created a heaven for us to live in after we die because Jesus said He has prepared a place for us. There are some mysteries in life that we must simply trust God about."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. To what town was Jesus going?
2. What did Jesus do as He walked along?
3. What did Jesus tell the people to teach them what the kingdom of heaven was like?
4. How many servants did the nobleman give money before he left home?
5. What did he ask these servants when he returned home?
6. How much had the first servant gained?
7. How many cities did he give the servant who had gained five pounds?
8. Why had the third servant wrapped his pound in a napkin?
9. To whom did they give the pound of this unfaithful servant?

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 21:12-16; Mark 11:15-19; Luke 19:45-48.

(Answers: 1. Jerusalem. 2. Taught the people. 3. A parable or story. 4. Ten. 5. How they had used the money. 6. Ten pounds. 7. Five. 8. He was afraid he would lose it. 9. To the one who already had ten pounds.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 Mar. 16, 2003

THE WEDDING FEAST

Again Jesus spoke to the people by a parable. In this parable He tried to help the people understand what the kingdom of heaven is like. He told them:

"The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who made a great feast when his son was married. He invited many people from all over his kingdom to come and celebrate this happy occasion with him. When everything was finally ready, the king watched expectantly for the guests to arrive. He had clearly told each one the time appointed for the feast. That time came and passed, but not one guest came.

"The king thought surely the people had forgotten. He sent his servants to tell the people that it was time to come to the wedding feast. The servants went as He commanded. They reminded each one of their invitation to the king's feast but no one would come.

"So the king chose other servants to go tell his guests to come. 'Tell them I have prepared a wonderful dinner. Everything is ready. Insist that they come to the marriage supper now,' he instructed his servants.

"Still those invited refused to come for one reason or another. Some made light of the message as if the king's invitation was of no importance at all. Others told the servants they had work that they must do. Others were so wicked they took the king's servants and mistreated them, even killing some.

"When the king heard what had happened, he was angry. He called out his army and ordered them to burn the city and destroy those who had killed his servants.

"Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding feast is ready, but those that were invited are not worthy to come. Go out into the highways and invite everyone to the marriage.'

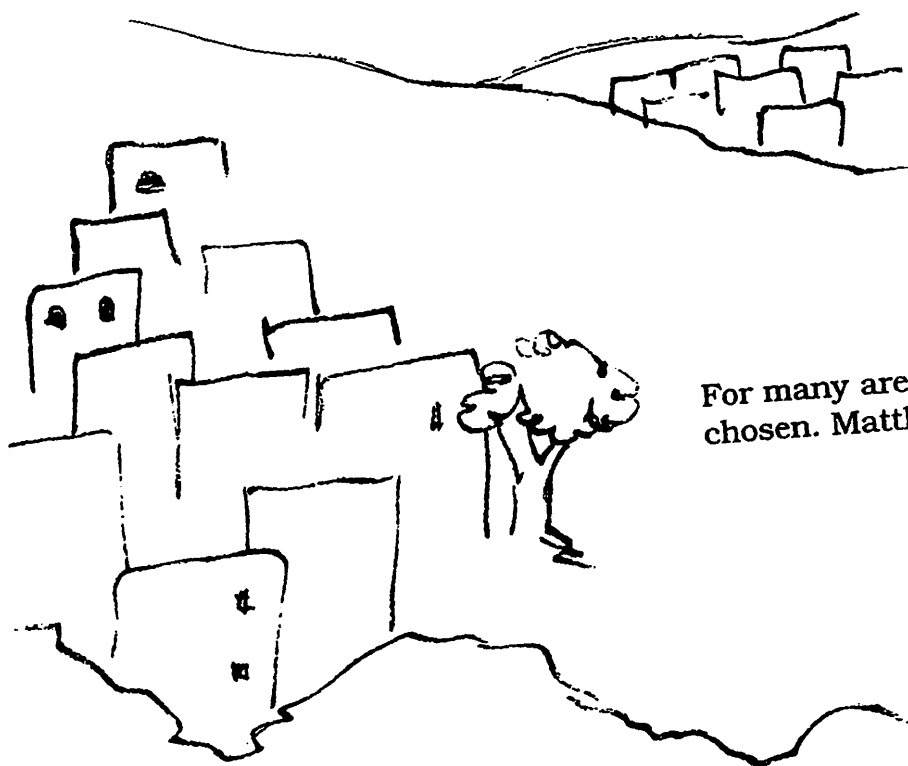
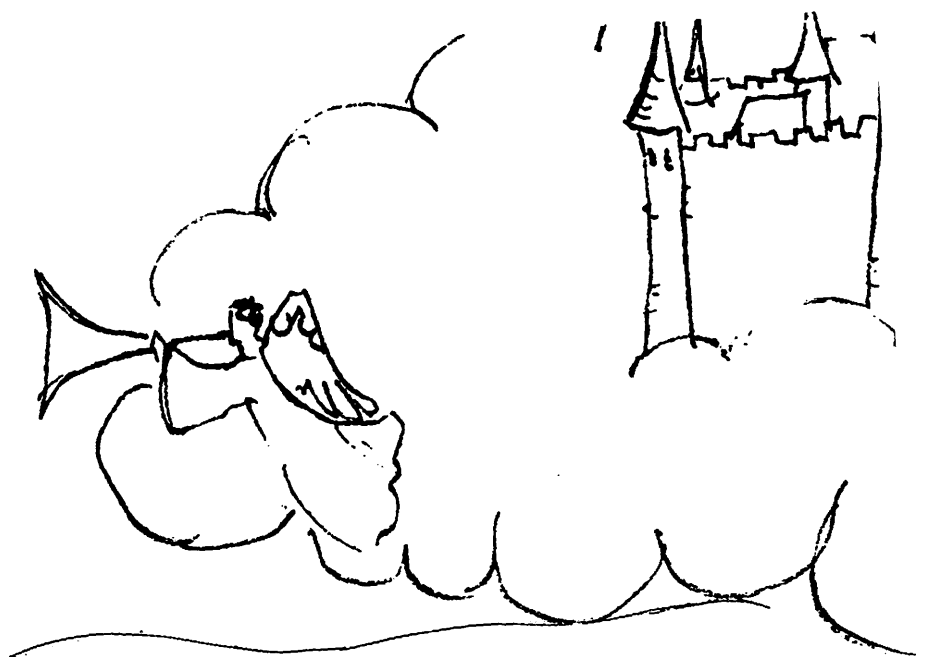
"The servants obeyed. Among these guests were the rich and the poor, the good and the bad. To each one the king gave a special robe to wear for the wedding.

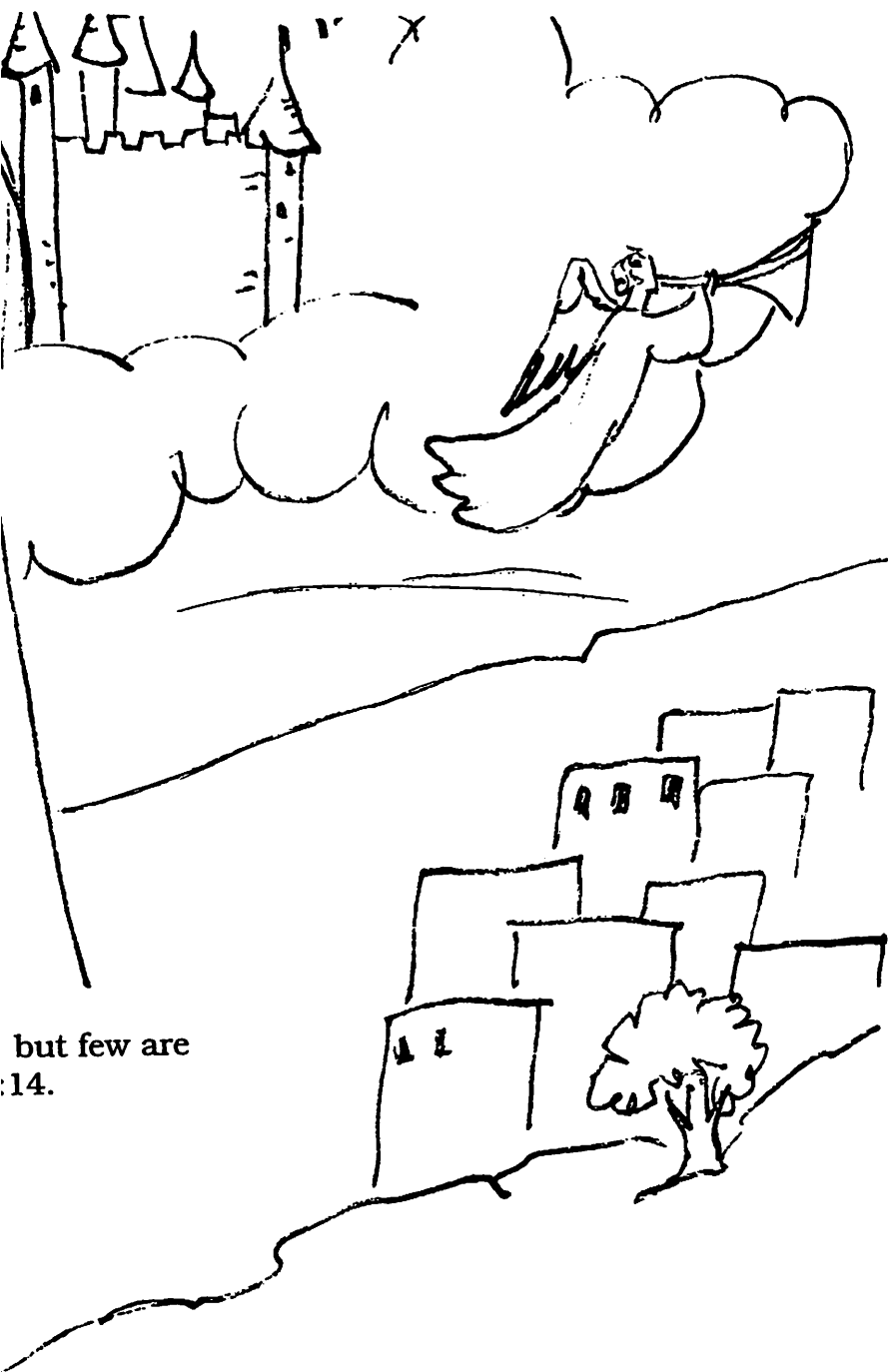
"When the king came to welcome these guests, he saw one man dressed in dirty rags. This man had refused to put on the wedding robe the king provided. 'Friend, why did you not put on the wedding garment I gave you?' the king asked.

"The man could only hang his head; he had no excuse. Angrily the king told his servants, 'Tie him up, hand and foot, and take him away.'"

Jesus wanted to help the people understand that good religious acts alone are not enough. Their own righteousness was like dirty rags. Unless their sins were forgiven and they had on the robe of righteousness that Jesus gave them, they could never hope to enter heaven.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





but few are
:14.

Dirty Drug Deal

(True USA story.)

Angela Dawson looked out her front window in disgust as two figures in her front yard passed a small package. Angela quietly walked to her telephone and called 911. "They're doing a drug deal in my front yard again," she told the dispatcher. "I don't want them in my yard. I have six kids of my own and I don't want this going on around them."

"We will check it out, Mrs. Dawson," replied the police dispatcher.

Soon a police car drove by, but the drug dealers had already slipped away. Later, when Angela went outside, she saw dirty words spray painted on her house.

During the next few months, Angela called the police 36 times to complain about the drug dealers. In turn, the drug dealers threw rocks at her, even tossing a brick through her kitchen window.

The police told her and her husband to move from the Badland in East Baltimore. "Your family isn't safe here and we can't be here to protect you all the time," one officer told Angela.

"Where can we move?" Angela asked her husband, four sons and daughter at the supper table. "I've lived in this area all my life and Dad and I are close to work. God will have to open up the way. But this one thing I know, I don't want any of my kids outside around those dealers. They are trouble—bad trouble!"

Angela made her children promise not to visit with them and to stay inside the house until the drug traffic stopped. She was so concerned about her children.

On the night of October sixteenth, someone kicked in the Dawsons' front door, poured gasoline on the floor and lit a match. In a few minutes the house was in flames—with all the family inside. Only the oldest daughter, who was married and living in another home, was left of Angela's children.

People who take street drugs or sell them have evil hearts that need to be changed. Smoking marijuana, sniffing cocaine, and shooting heroin or any other illegally cooked drug causes a person to commit crimes against others and their own bodies.

Angela was right to call the police and report the drug exchange. The police have now caught the drug dealers, and they will pay for their crimes. No one wins who deals in street drugs. Take Angela's advice and stay away from drug dealers.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Why did the king make a feast?
2. Who were invited?
3. How many came?
4. Why did he send his servants to the people?
5. How many came then?
6. What did the king give each guest?
7. How was one man dressed?
8. What is our own righteousness like?
9. Who will give us a robe of righteousness?

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 22 :1-14.

(Answers: 1. For his son's marriage. 2. Many people. 3. None. 4. To remind them. 5. Not one. 6. A special robe. 7. In dirty rags. 8. Dirty rags. 9. Jesus.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 Mar. 23, 2003

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.'

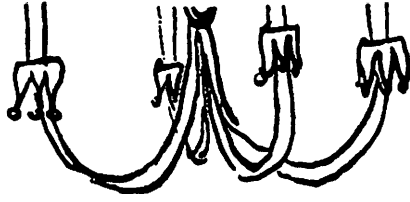
"A third said, 'I have just been married, therefore I cannot come.'

"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.'"

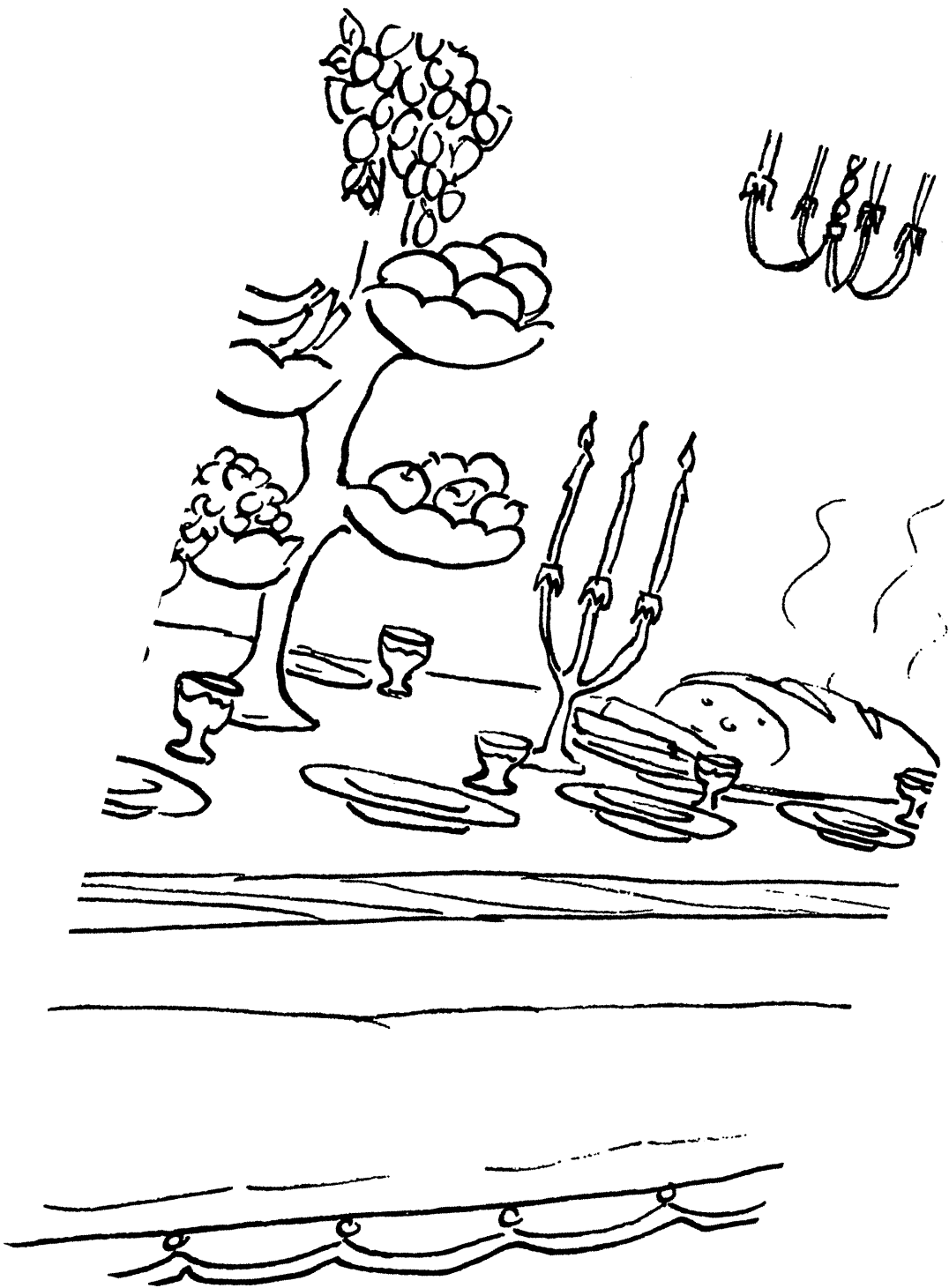
By this parable Jesus taught the guests that although the Jews were first invited into the kingdom of God, they had refused. Now God welcomes everyone to come and be saved!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



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





Christian Funerals

(A true story.)

In Taxila, Pakistan every morning 200 nurses and staff members of a Christian hospital meet in a nearby chapel for a worship service before their daily work with the patients. Though it is a Christian hospital, most of the sick cared for are Muslims. Since the hospital opened in 1922, anyone who needs help is taken in and given the attention that is needed.

One early morning in August, as the nurses filed out of church, Muslim terrorists drove by and threw hand grenades into the group outside the chapel. One witness, Margif Tariq, told about the attack: "I was still inside the church when I heard explosions. Window panes were falling on us, everyone was crying, everyone was in pain.... When I came out, I saw dozens of women lying on the pavement, and most of them were bleeding."

Three of the nurses were killed. Each one was taken back to her home village for burial. At Busra's funeral, 300 Christians sang holy songs and a gospel message was preached to over 1,000 people, some who were Muslims perhaps hearing about Jesus for the first time. At Alishba's funeral, 700 heard a gospel message and some were Muslims there also.

Though the families are sad, the pastors in Pakistan believe that funerals are a good time to tell their Muslim neighbors about the hope Christians have in Jesus Christ. Life is very short for every person but eternity is forever and forever. Jesus Christ made a way for believers to enter into heaven, a beautiful place where there is no sorrow. If anyone, even a Muslim, will accept the blood of Jesus to cover their sins, that person can spend forever and ever in

heaven with Jesus Christ.

Christians in Pakistan have to decide whether to live poor and despised here on earth and gain eternal riches in heaven or if they will become a Muslim, receive better money here on earth but miss heaven as their eternal home.

We all must decide who we will live for—Jesus or the devil? Though we may have friends and family who do not live for the Lord, you and I must do what is right before God. Do you listen and do what unsaved friends want you to do or do you stand for what is good in spite of name calling and peer pressure? Jesus Christ is our best earthly Friend and He will take us to heaven some day if we are faithful to Him. Heaven is worth dying for.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What did Jesus do after dinner?
2. What 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. 54, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 Mar. 30, 2003

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.



I Like Dresses

(Based on a true story.)

It was recess time at Linda's school. Linda and two of her friends were swinging on the swings.

"I'm so glad it is getting warmer outside," said Katie. "Mother said I can wear shorts to school next week if it gets any warmer."

"Me too," said Rhonda. "Are you ever going to wear shorts, Linda?"

"No," replied Linda. "I like to wear dresses."

"I don't see how come!" exclaimed Rhonda. "Dresses can be a problem when you swing on the monkey bars."

"Not if you do it carefully," said Linda. "I can swing on the bars just as well as you can, but I don't kick my legs up in the air."

"Let's see!" challenged Rhonda.

So the girls ran to the monkey bars and Linda showed her friends how she neatly crossed the bars.

"She does do it better than we do," agreed Katie.

"Well, I still like to wear shorts," said Rhonda. "They are cooler in the summertime."

"Not when you sit down on a hot car seat," said Linda. "I know your legs must feel hot when they touch that hot plastic seat. I don't have to worry about getting sunburned on my legs either."

"So you think wearing dresses is better than pants and shorts?" asked Rhonda.

"Yes, I don't have any problem doing what I need to do in a dress," replied Linda.

"You wear your dresses so long that I guess it isn't embarrassing to play games in your dress," commented Katie.

"Mother sews most of my dresses so they are custom made," said Linda. "Do you wear custom made pants or shorts?"

The girls shook their head.

"I wear dresses to church," said Katie. "My mom says dresses cost more money than shorts and stuff like that so she only lets me wear dresses to dressy places. I guess you are pretty lucky, Linda, to have a mom who can make you pretty dresses. Maybe she could sew me one sometime."

"Maybe so," agreed Linda. "I'll ask her. She will want you to pick out the fabric and the pattern and try it on while she makes it so that it will be just right."

"Let's see if she will make all three of us dresses alike," said Rhonda. "Wouldn't that be fun?"

The girls giggled at the thought.

—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. 54, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 April 6, 2003

THE SON WHO WAS SORRY

Jesus said, "A man had two sons. The man was going to give all his money and possessions to his sons some day. The younger son did not want to wait. He came to his father and said, 'Father, give me my money and possessions now.'

"The man gave his son the money. A few days later, the younger son left. He went to a far country. He spent all his money on silly things. After all his money was gone, a famine came. The famine made it so there was not much to eat. The young son was very hungry. He asked a man for work. The man sent him out into his fields to feed the pigs. The young son was so hungry he would have liked to eat what the pigs were eating. No one gave him any food to eat.

"Finally, the son said to himself, 'My father has servants and I'm sure they aren't hungry. Why am I staying here to starve? I will go to my father and say to him, Father, I don't deserve to be your son anymore. Just make me one of your servants.'

"The young son got up and went to see his father. The father had not forgotten about his son. He was watching the road, hoping his son would come back. When the father saw his son coming down the road far away, he ran to him. The father hugged his son and kissed him.

"The son said, 'Father, I don't deserve to be your son. Make me one of your servants.'

"The father didn't listen to him. He told his servants, 'Bring a robe to put on my son. Put shoes on his feet. Put a ring on his hand. My son was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found. Let's have a party.'

"When the older son came up to the house, he heard the music. He asked a servant, 'What is going on?'

"The servant said, 'Your brother has come home and your father has made this party for him.'

"The older son was angry when he heard that. He would not go in to the party. The father came out and asked him to come in.

"The older son said, 'I have helped you here for years and you never gave me a party. And now my brother comes home, after having spent all his money on foolishness, and you give him a party.'

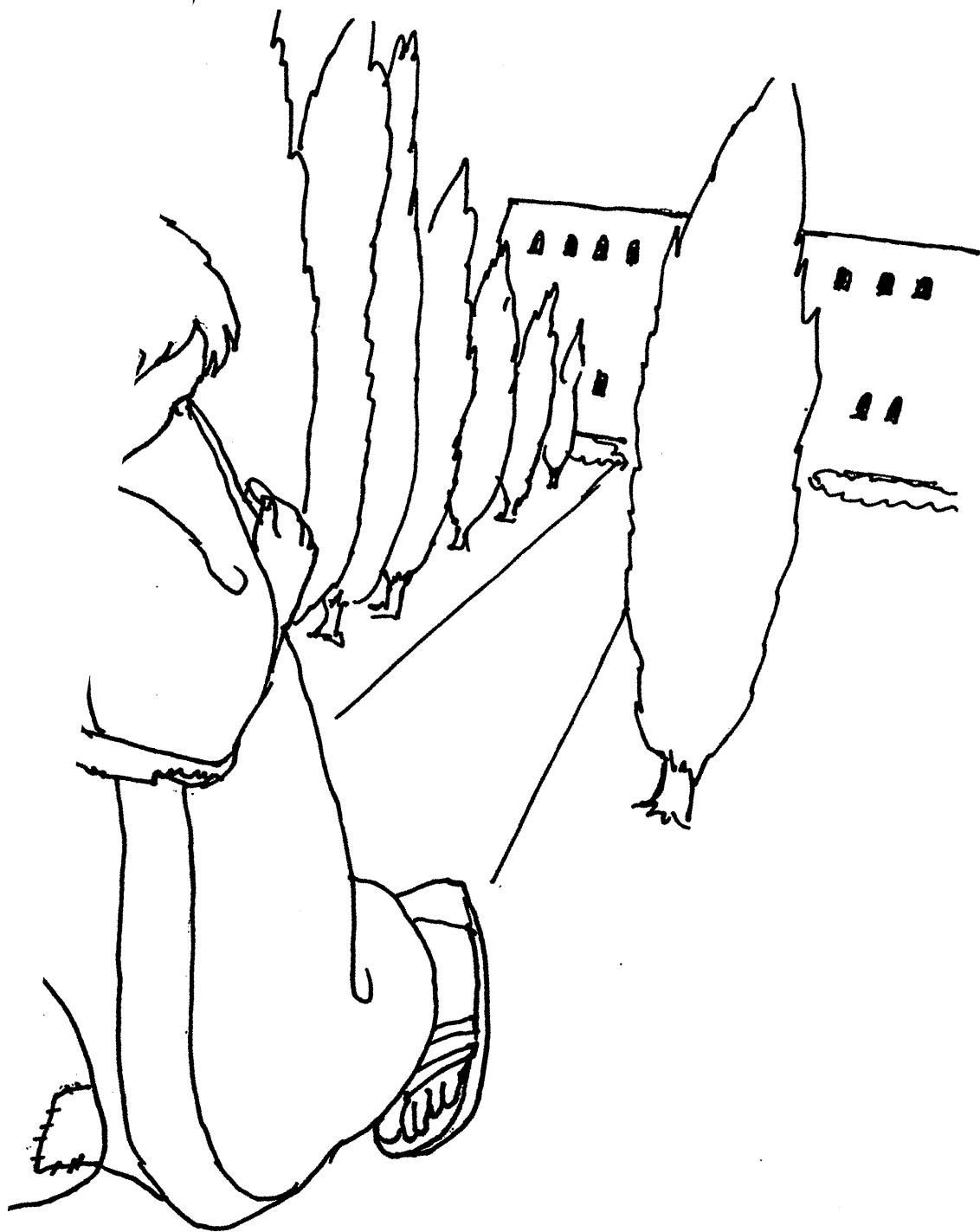
"The father said, 'Son, everything I have belongs to you. Everything. It is right for us to be glad that your brother is well. We should be glad that he has finally come home.'"

Jesus told this story to tell us how much God loves us.

—Joanna Booher

His father...had compassion,
and ran, and fell on his neck,
and kissed him. Luke 15:20.





Picture of Jesus

"Good-night, Randy," said Mother as she tucked the covers down on his chest.

"Good-night," replied Randy carelessly because his eyes were on a picture beside his bed. "I'm glad you put that picture of Jesus on the wall by my bed," Randy said to Mother. "It makes me think that Jesus is watching over me while I sleep."

Mother looked at the 8x10 picture of the head of Christ which was copied from a painting by Warner Sallman, an 18th century artist. The face of Jesus looks majestic yet so kind.

"This is a very popular picture of Jesus," said Mother. "For several decades many people have been comforted by it. When we think of Jesus, in our mind's eye we envision this picture. Somehow it gives us a face to go with the name of Jesus though we don't know for sure what Jesus looks like."

"Well, He looks like my picture to me," said Randy sleepily as Mother turned out his light.

The next day Randy hurried into the kitchen to show Mother a section of the newspaper he had seen. "Look, Mother, here is my picture of Jesus right in the newspaper!"

Mother dried her dishwater hands before she held the paper with Randy. "Why, it sure is, Randy! This story is telling about a big road sign that has this picture of Jesus on it.

"People who travel on Interstate 75 in Oakland County, Michigan see this sign in front of a chapel."

"Wow! Is it a big sign?" asked Randy.

"Yes, the picture is 16 feet tall which is as tall as our one story house. The arches that hold the picture are 50 feet tall with lights so

people can clearly see the face of Jesus day and night when they pass by. The pastor of this church says many letters have come to him saying that this picture sign has caused people to pray for salvation, healing or help when in trouble. This picture of Jesus witnesses to around 43,000 drivers a day."

"That's more people than we can get into our chapel, isn't it, Mother?"

"Yes, Randy, that is a lot of people and probably more see it who are on vacation passing by. Under the picture there is a question that says, 'Are you on the right road?' If we have Jesus in our hearts, then He will keep us on the Highway to Heaven."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What did the younger son want his father to give him?
2. What did the younger son spend his money on?
3. Was there much to eat when the famine came?
4. What would the younger son have liked to eat?
5. Who did the younger son come back to?
6. Was the father glad to see his son?
7. Did the father make his son be a servant?
8. Does God love us even when we've been bad?
9. Does God want us to come back to Him like the son did?

LESSON TEXT: Luke 15:11-32.

(Answers: 1. His money and possessions. 2. Silly things. 3. No. 4. The food the pigs ate. 5. His father. 6. Yes. 7. No. 8. Yes. 9. Yes.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 April 13, 2003

CLAY ON HIS EYES

As Jesus walked down the street, he saw a man who was blind. The man had been blind all his life. Jesus' disciples said to Him, "Jesus, why is this man blind? Was it because his parents sinned, or because he sinned?"

Jesus said, "It's not because any of them sinned. This man was born blind so that God could show everyone something."

Jesus spit in the dirt and made some clay. He put the clay on the blind man's eyes. He said to him, "Go and wash your eyes in the pool of Siloam."

The blind man went to the pool and washed his eyes. After he had washed his eyes, he wasn't blind anymore. He could see.

The people were amazed. They said, "Is this really the man who used to sit and beg because he was blind?"

The people asked him, "How is it that you can see now?"

The man told them how Jesus had made clay and put it on his eyes. He told how he had washed them as Jesus told him to, and that now he could see.

The people brought the man to the Pharisees. The Pharisees asked him how he could see. They found out that Jesus had made him to see on the Sabbath day. They said, "Jesus is not of God because He didn't keep the Sabbath day." Some of them said, "How can Jesus be not of God if He can do a miracle like this?" The Pharisees did not agree. They did not even believe that this man had been blind until they asked his parents.

The man's parents said, "Yes, this is our son, and he was blind. But we don't know how he can see now. Ask him."

The Pharisees asked the man again how he had been made to see. The man said, "I have told you already. Why do you want to hear it again? Will you also be Jesus' disciples?"

The Pharisees got angry. They said, "We are Abraham's disciples. We don't know if Jesus is from God."

The man said, "How can you not know that Jesus is from God? How could He open my eyes if God did not make Him able to?"

The Pharisees said, "You're a sinner yourself. How dare you try to tell us anything." They made him leave their church.

Jesus came to the man. He said to him, "Do you believe in God's Son?"

The man said, "Who is He, Lord, so I can believe?"

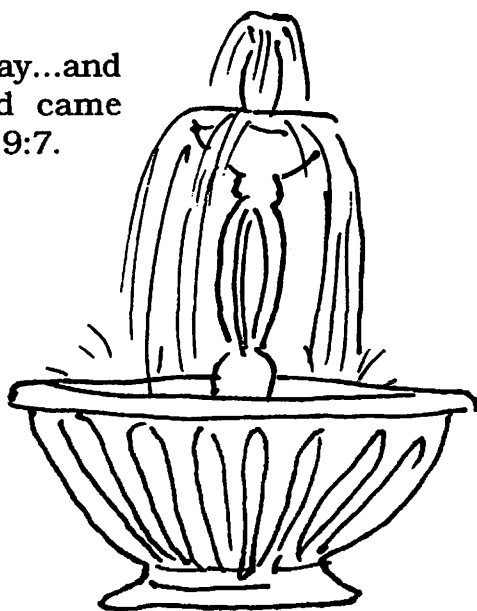
Jesus said, "I am He."

The man said, "Lord, I believe that You are God's Son." He knelt down and worshipped Jesus.

—Joanna Booher



He went his way...and
washed, and came
seeing. John 9:7.



Prepared to Die

(A true story.)

From the country of China, the Lord called out a young woman named Li Ying to publish a magazine about Jesus. She knew it was risky business because the Communist Party of China only allows their magazines to be printed and read.

Li Ying's heart was full of peace as she wrote and edited articles for the Christian magazine. She heard how her work was blessing so many believers of all ages. Truly God was pleased with the printed Gospel going forth in China.

Then one day the PSB (police) raided Li Ying's small home in South China. The PSB destroyed her belongings and took her to prison. When she appeared in the Middle Court of Jingmen City, she was sentenced to die because she was printing and distributing illegal Christian magazines.

Today Li Ying is in Jingmen Detention Center where she is treated harshly and must work very hard. Her mother and other believers in China are praying for Li Ying that she will be strong under all the persecution she is suffering.

Some American friends have talked to Li Ying's mother.

"How is your daughter?" she was asked.

"Li Ying is a godly daughter, full of integrity. She has never complained, even when facing huge pressure from the government. She has been loving the Lord, full of fire. She knew to follow the Lord means suffering. Her suffering for Jesus is glory."

"Your daughter may die for serving the Lord. She is the only child you have—are you prepared for that?"

Li Ying's mother said, "If that is God's will for Li Ying, I will accept that. I have no regrets or complaints.

"We have been well prepared. Because the Lord Jesus has died for us, once we follow Him, death is nothing fearful."

"You do not seem worried?"

"No," said her mother, "I believe that I will see her some day even if that means in heaven. The Lord Jesus loves her better than me as her mom. I would tell her to rely on the Lord and continue to follow Him."

Such faith like this removes mountains! Though Li Ying and her mother are mistreated by the police and government, they have peace in their hearts because they know heaven is waiting for those who stay faithful to Jesus Christ, their Saviour who prepared a way for their escape.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. How long had the man been blind?
2. Was it the man's fault that he was blind?
3. What did Jesus put on the man's eyes?
4. Was the man able to see after he washed his eyes?
5. Did everyone know that the man was the same one who had been blind?
6. Were the Pharisees glad to know Jesus had made the man see?
7. Why did the Pharisees think Jesus was not of God?
8. Did the man believe Jesus was from God?
9. Who was Jesus?

LESSON TEXT: John 9:1-38.

(Answers: 1. All his life. 2. No. 3. Clay. 4. Yes. 5. No. 6. No. 7. Because he had healed the man on the Sabbath day. 8. Yes. 9. God's Son.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 April 20, 2003

JESUS' FOLD

Little children were brought to Jesus. Their parents wanted Jesus to lay His hands on their children and pray for them.

Jesus' disciples said, "No. Don't bring your children to Jesus." They probably thought Jesus was too busy.

Jesus stopped the disciples. He said, "Let the children come to me. God's kingdom is made of children. Everyone who wants to be in God's kingdom has to be like a child. If you humble yourself like a little child, you will be great in God's kingdom. If you love a little child for My sake, you are loving Me."

Jesus said, "Be careful that you don't hurt one of these little children because God is looking out for them. They have angels in heaven who are always waiting to tell God what is happening."

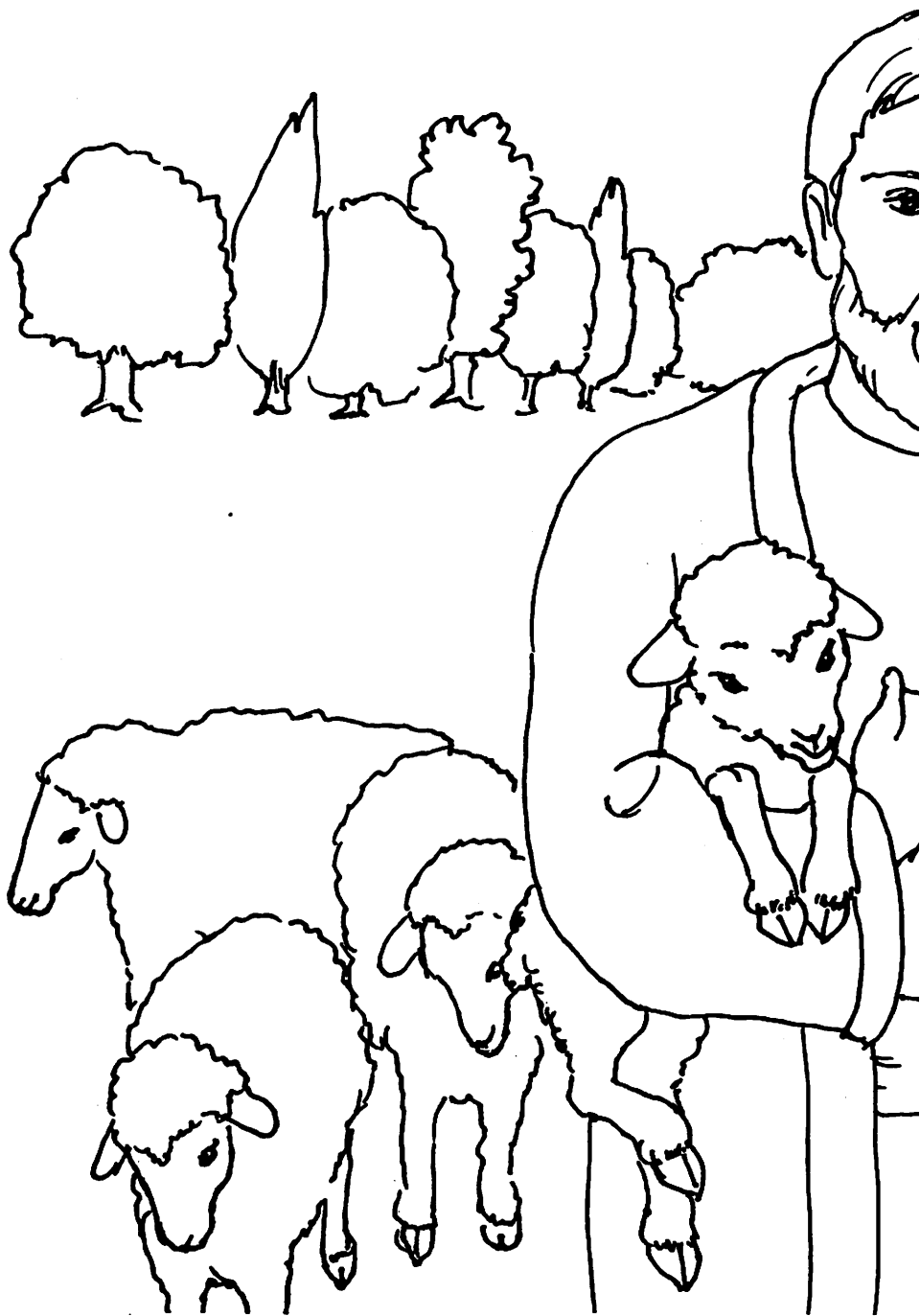
Jesus said, "I came to save people. I am like a shepherd who has sheep. What if a shepherd had one hundred sheep and he lost one? Wouldn't that shepherd leave the other ninety-nine sheep and go looking for the one lost sheep? And when he finds the sheep, he is happier about finding it than he was just to have the other ninety-nine sheep. That is how happy God is when one person is saved."

Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd. The shepherd goes into his fold through the door. A thief comes into the fold some other way, maybe over the wall. A thief will run away and leave the sheep when a wolf or bear comes. I will take care of My sheep. I will fight the wolf or bear, even though they will try to hurt Me. I will not let the wolf or bear steal My sheep.

"I know each of My sheep. My sheep know Me too. They know My voice. They know it's Me and so they will follow Me."

Jesus said, "I am the door of the fold. Anyone who wants to come into My fold has to come through Me. I will keep them safe if they will come into My fold. I want to keep My sheep safe and give them life forever."

—Joanna Booher



I am the good shepherd: the
good shepherd giveth his life
for the sheep." John 10:11.



New Easter Clothes

"Mother, is next weekend Easter Sunday?" asked Linda as she helped clear the dirty dishes from the supper table.

"Yes, it is," replied Mother. "I have been sewing on a new dress for you and I hope to have it ready for Easter Sunday."

"Why do people want to wear new clothes to church on Easter Sunday? Does the Bible say we have to?"

"No, it is just a habit," replied Mother. "We don't want to wear new things with pride to show off but I think of it as representing the new life we have because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He left behind the linen clothes that had wrapped His bleeding body and He came out of that tomb alive. The disciples and others saw Him wearing spotless white clothes and His face glowed with love."

"Oh, that makes me think of a bride," commented Linda.

"Me too," agreed Mother. "The Scriptures tell us that Jesus Christ is the bridegroom and we, meaning the Church, are the bride of Christ. If we have love in our hearts for the Lord, then our faces will shine with that love."

Randy came into the kitchen just in time to hear Mother say something about "shine" which reminded him of a song.

"This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine," sang Randy. Mother and Linda joined in and together they sang all the song.

While Mother washed the dishes and Linda dried them, they continued talking. "Remember that pretty pink fabric that you liked?" Mother asked Linda who nodded. "I made

your Easter dress with that fabric. It has a Peter Pan collar and full puff sleeves. The fabric is nice and it doesn't need any lace to spoil it."

"When can I try it on?" asked Linda.

"As soon as we finish these dishes," replied Mother.

Later Linda was trying on the dress parts for size. "I think I will like this dress," she said. "Next Sunday when I wear it I will feel like a resurrected butterfly."

"Then think about our resurrected Saviour who gives us the new birth we celebrate at Easter. Because He left behind those grave clothes for His heavenly raiment, we will some day do the same and join Him in heaven." —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What did the parents want Jesus to do for their children?
2. Did the disciples think Jesus wanted to pray for the children?
3. What did Jesus say God's kingdom was made of?
4. What do people have to be like to be in God's kingdom?
5. What did Jesus say He is like?
6. Would Jesus go looking for one sheep that was lost when He already had ninety-nine?
7. Will Jesus let a wolf or bear steal one of His sheep?
8. Does Jesus want to keep His sheep safe?
9. What does Jesus want to give His sheep?

LESSON TEXT: Matt. 19:13-15; Matt. 18:3-5, 10-14; John 10:1-14.

(Answers: 1. Pray for them. 2. No. 3. Little children. 4. Little children. 5. A shepherd. 6. Yes. 7. No. 8. Yes. 9. Life forever.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 April 27, 2003

FORGIVE

Peter came to Jesus and said, "If my brother does something wrong to me, how many times do I have to forgive him? Do I have to forgive him seven times?"

Jesus said, "You shouldn't just forgive him seven times, you should forgive him seventy times seven."

Jesus told this story, "A certain master wanted to find out what his servants were doing. He called each of them to come to him. He found out that one of his servants owed him millions of dollars. The master said to the servant, 'You will be sold to be a slave. Your wife and children will be sold too. Everything you have will be sold, and you must pay me the money.'

"The servant fell down in front of his master and said, 'Lord, please, have patience with me. I will pay you.'

"The master felt sorry for his servant. He said, 'That's all right. You don't have to pay me.'

"The servant left. He found another man who owed him about fifteen dollars. The servant grabbed this man by the throat and said, 'Pay me the fifteen dollars you owe me.'

"The man fell down on his knees and said, 'Please, have patience with me. I will pay you.'

"But the servant would not have patience. He threw the other man in jail. He said he had to stay there until he could pay the fifteen dollars.

"Some of the master's other servants saw what had happened. They were sad when they saw it. They went to the master and told him what the servant had done.

"The master called for the servant. He said to him, 'You wicked servant, I had mercy on you and told you that you didn't have to pay your big debt. You should have had mercy on this other man and forgiven him his little debt.'

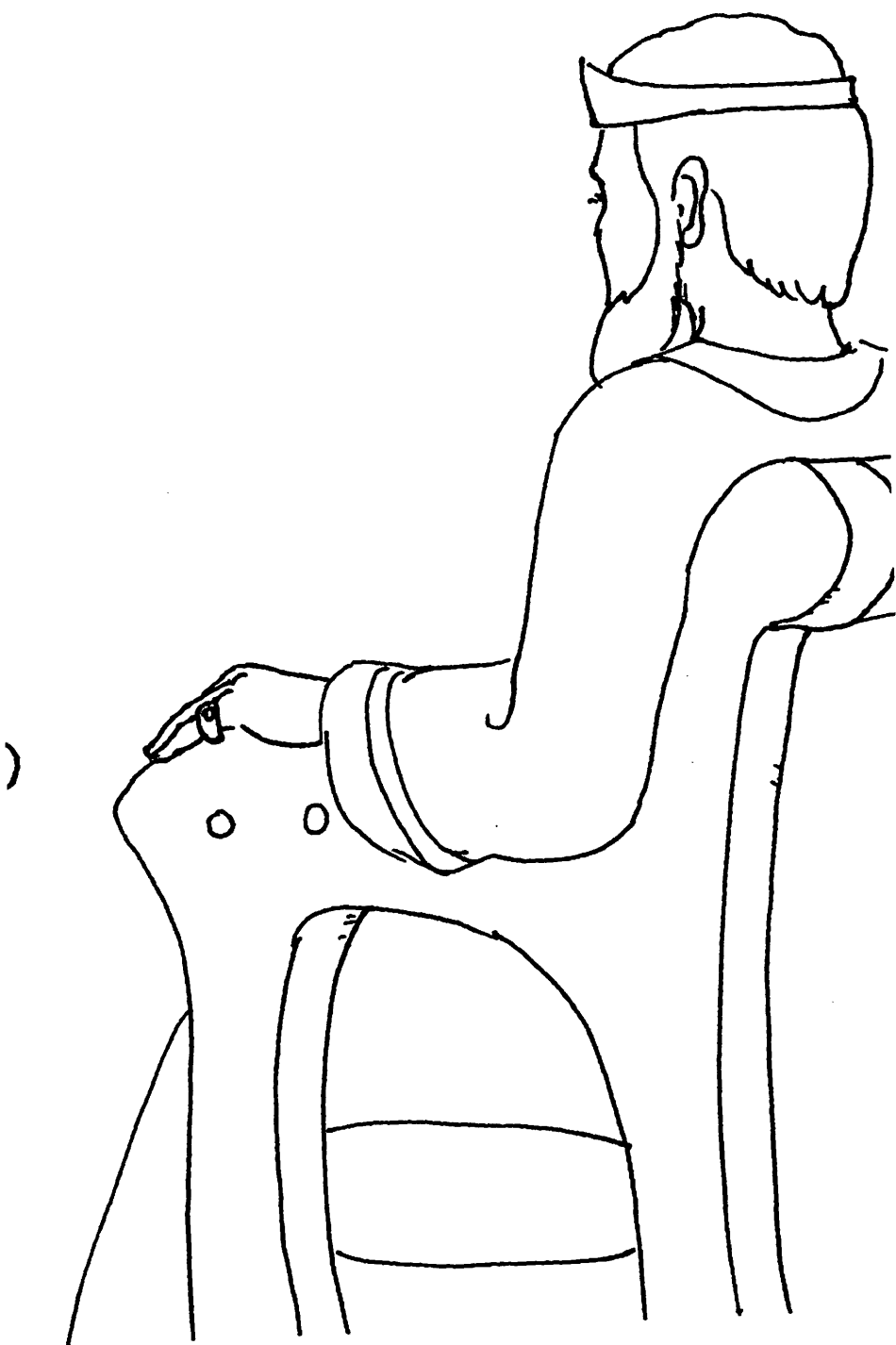
"The master was very angry. He commanded the servant to be given to the tormentors until he could pay all the money that he owed."

Jesus said, "This is what God will do to you if you don't forgive other people who have done wrong to you."

—Joanna Booher

Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion,...and forgave him the debt. Matthew 18:27.





Discovering

(A true story)

Chatra lives in Nepal, a small country north of India and in the Himalayan Mountains. Born to a Hindu priest, Chatra learned at a young age about the Hindu worship of gods and goddesses. When he was 22 years old, Chatra became a Hindu priest like his father. This meant he could enjoy a higher status and respect in the Nepali society.

However, Chatra knew deep in his heart that he was not happy and he longed for something better. He married and had children but that didn't fill the longing in his heart. He went to Delhi, India to a Hindu seminary and became a Hindu missionary.

After graduation, Chatra was assigned to a Persian Gulf state to teach others about Hinduism. "You must read the Koran, learn it, and teach it to others," said one man to Chatra. "The Islamic religion is more powerful than Hinduism."

"Maybe the Koran will tell me how to be happy," thought Chatra. He began to read the Muslim holy book to see what it had to offer. It spoke to him of war and judgment and of a fierce Ali who offered no mercy.

When reading the Koran, Chatra discovered a passage about Jesus Christ. "Who is this Jesus Christ?" wondered Chatra. This question led him to read a New Testament someone had given him. "I searched and searched the New Testament for the weaknesses of Jesus but couldn't find any," said Chatra. "Instead of finding weaknesses in Jesus, I discovered my own weaknesses. The Bible said I was a sinner."

Later, Chatra went to a secret Christian book store in Nepal where

he found more literature about Jesus Christ. The Christian store owner testified to Chatra about the love of Jesus. When Chatra turned to Jesus for salvation, it was then that the longing he had in his heart was satisfied. Chatra shared the Gospel with his wife and children and they are Christians too.

Because they are Christians, Chatra's family are despised by his parents, his wife's parents and all other Hindus. He knows that he could be beaten and thrown in jail at any time but Chatra believes it is worth the peace and happiness Jesus Christ has put in his heart.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. How many times did Jesus say Peter should forgive someone?
2. How much money did the servant owe his master?
3. Could the servant pay his master?
4. What did the master say would happen to the servant because he couldn't pay?
5. Did the master make the servant pay the money?
6. How much did the other man owe the servant?
7. Did the servant say the man had to pay him?
8. Was the master happy that the servant threw the other man in jail?
9. Do we have to forgive other people who do bad things to us?

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 18:21-35.

(Answers: 1. Seventy times seven. 2. Millions of dollars. 3. No. 4. He would be sold to be a slave. 5. No. 6. Fifteen dollars. 7. Yes. 8. No. 9. Yes.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 May 4, 2003

DON'T BE A HYPOCRITE

Some of the Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus. They saw Jesus' disciples eat without washing their hands first. They thought that was wrong. They said to Jesus, "Why aren't Your disciples keeping the tradition that our elders gave to us?"

Jesus said, "You Pharisees and scribes are hypocrites. You honor God with your lips, but your heart is far from Him. You don't do what God said. You just follow tradition.

"You Pharisees say that people have to wash their pots and pans so God will accept them. That is not true. Nothing that you eat or drink will make you go to hell. It's what comes out of your heart—bad thoughts, hating other people, wanting what other people have, thinking you're better than other people—that's what will make you go to hell."

Jesus said, "A certain man decided to have a big dinner. He invited a lot of people. On the night of the dinner he sent his servant to tell the people to come. The people started to make excuses for why they couldn't come. One said, 'I have bought some land and I have to go and look at it.' Another said, 'I have bought some oxen and I have to go and see if they're good at plowing.' Another one said, 'I have married a wife and I can't come.'

"The servant went back and told his master what had happened. The master was very angry. He told his servant, 'Go out into the street and tell the poor people to come to my dinner. Tell the blind and the crippled people to come.'

"The servant did as his master told him. Then he told his master, 'There is still room for more people.'

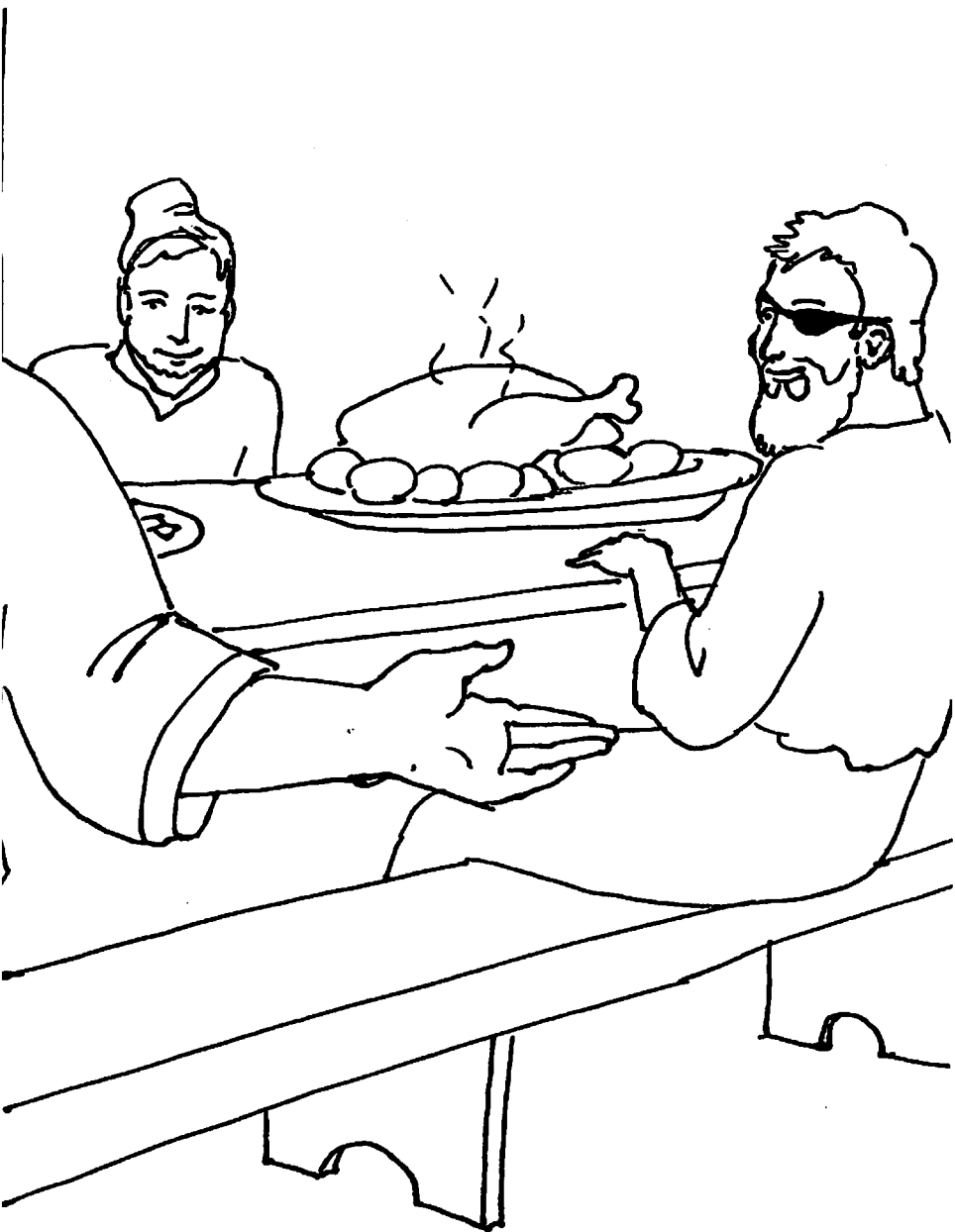
"The master said, 'Go out into the alleys and make people come in. I want my house full. I don't want there to be any room for those people who made excuses.'"

Jesus told this story to show what God would do to people who don't really love Him. People who just pretend to serve Him are hypocrites.

—Joanna Booher



...out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to
come in, that my house may be filled. Luke 14:23.



Being Friends

"Mother, can Bree come home with me after school?" asked Linda as Mother drove her and her brothers to school. "Bree said that she doesn't like to go home anymore since her dad left and her mother just cries a lot."

"Oh, I'm sorry to hear that," replied Mother. "When did her father leave?"

"Last week sometime. Bree didn't know anything about it until he took his things and left while she was at school. I think she really needs a friend right now."

"Yes, she does," agreed Mother. "Invite her for supper tonight. I will try to call her mother and invite her also. Let Bree know the Lord can help them and we will pray for her family."

"I will," promised Linda. At school, Linda invited Bree who was glad to come to Linda's house for that evening. Her mother came over after work.

"This is so nice of you to invite us for dinner," said Sarah, Bree's mother. "It is always fun to eat someone else's cooking."

"Thank you," said Mother with a smile. "We will have to do this more often." The two mothers could hear the girls, in Linda's bedroom, talking and laughing.

A pleasant look came over Sarah's face. "This is so good for Bree to be with a friend. I really appreciate Linda's kindness to Bree."

"Oh, Linda likes to be with Bree," replied Mother. "Now I need to finish the salad and dinner will be ready."

"Let me help you," said Sarah.

While the mothers finished preparing dinner, they had a pleasant visit. When it was ready, the family was called and everyone sat down.

Dad offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the Lord's blessings and the dishes of food were served.

"It is so nice to see my mother smiling," whispered Bree to Linda. "She is eating better, too. I like to see Mother have a nice time."

The evening quickly passed and all too soon Bree and her mother had to leave. "Thank you so much for the enjoyable evening," Sarah said to Mother as they hugged each other.

"I enjoyed it, too," replied Mother. "We will have to do this more often." The girls smiled in agreement.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Did Jesus think it was wrong not to wash your hands before you eat?
2. Will what you eat or drink make you go to hell?
3. Were the Pharisees obeying what God said?
4. If you think you're better than other people or want what they have, will that make you go to hell?
5. What did Jesus call the Pharisees?
6. Did the man want a lot of people to come to his dinner?
7. What happened when his servant invited the first people to come?
8. How did the master feel about the people who made excuses?
9. What kind of people did the master invite after that?

LESSON TEXT: Matt. 21:45; 22:1-14; Mark 7:1-23; Luke 14:16-24.

(Answers: 1. No. 2. No. 3. No. 4. Yes. 5. Hypocrites. 6. Yes. 7. The people started to make excuses for why they couldn't come. 8. He felt angry. 9. The poor, the blind and the crippled.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 May 11, 2003

LAZARUS AND THE RICH MAN

Jesus said, "There was a certain rich man who wore fine linen and purple clothes. He ate nice food every day. A poor man named Lazarus was laid at the rich man's gate. Lazarus asked the rich man to let him eat the crumbs that fell off his table. Lazarus had sores on his body and the dogs came and licked them

"After a while, Lazarus died. The angels carried him to paradise, to Abraham's bosom. The rich man died too and was buried. In hell, the rich man was tormented. He looked up and saw Lazarus far away in Abraham's bosom.

"The rich man called out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me. Please tell Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and bring it to put on my tongue. I am burning in this fire.'

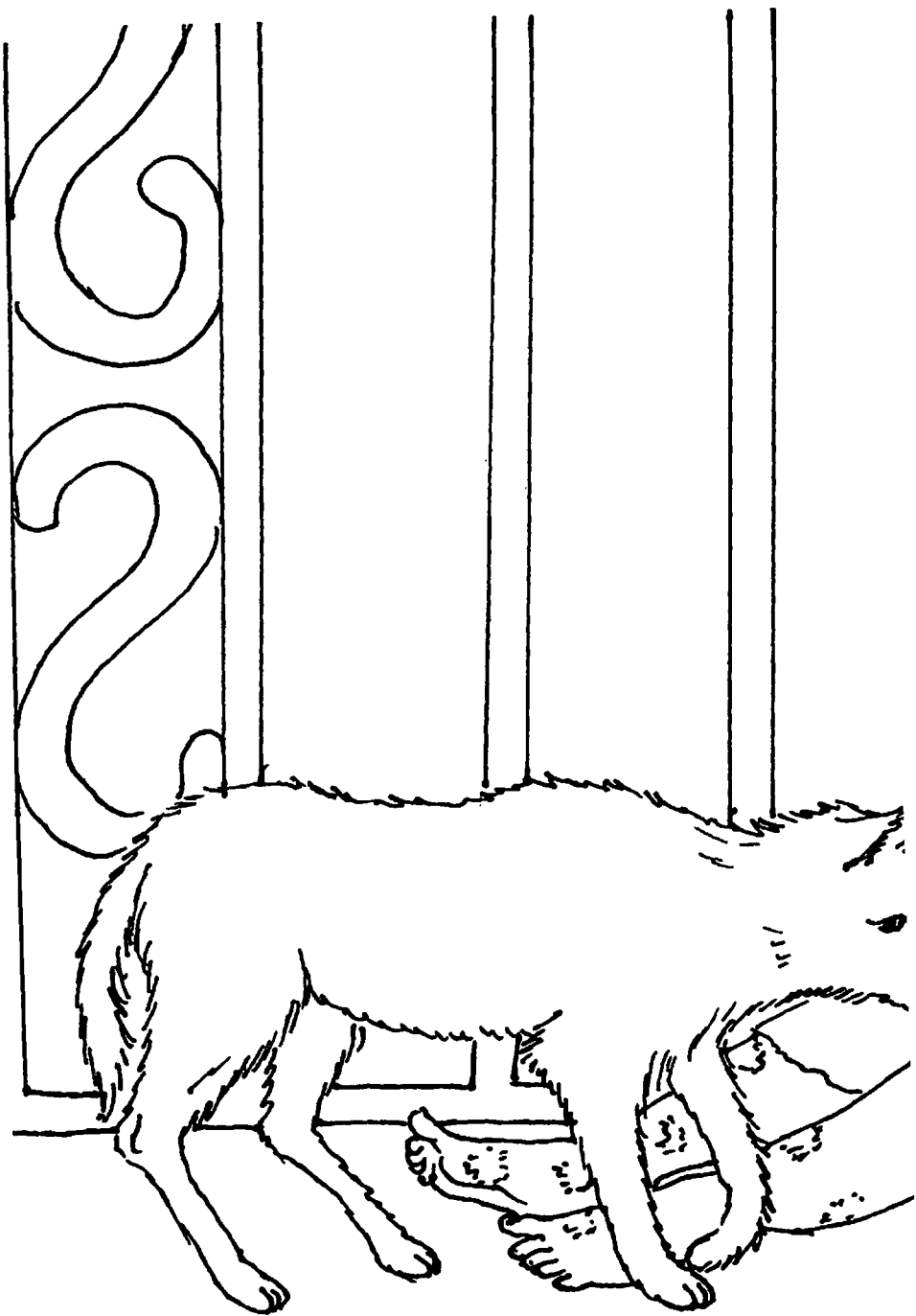
"Abraham said, 'Son, remember how that when you were alive you had food and nice things. Lazarus was poor and in pain. Now he is happy and you are tormented. And also there is a big distance between us and you. People who are where you are can't come here and we can't come there.'

"The rich man said, 'Then please, Father Abraham, send Lazarus back to my father's house. I have five brothers. I want him to tell my five brothers about this place. I don't want them to come here.'

"Abraham said, 'Your brothers should listen to Moses and the prophets. Moses and the prophets talked about hell.'

"The rich man said, 'No, Father Abraham. They need someone to come to them from the dead. They will listen to him. Then they will repent.'

"Abraham said, 'If they won't listen to Moses, they won't listen to someone who comes from the dead either.'" —Joanna Booher



Remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst things, and likewise Lazarus evil things. Luke



good
5.

Taking Mother Out

"Today is Mother's Day," said Dad to Jerry, Linda, Randy and baby Allen. "Let's do something special for your mother. Do you all have any ideas?"

"Take her out to eat," Jerry and Linda replied together. They smiled at each other.

"That's a good idea," Dad agreed.

"Do you all have any money you could pitch in?"

"Yes," said Linda. "I can give a dollar. If we each give one dollar, that would be five dollars. Where can we take Mom for five dollars?"

"McDonald's!" exclaimed Randy. Everyone laughed.

"No, Mom's favorite place to eat isn't McDonald's, Randy," chided Linda. "She likes to eat at the Rose Garden but it is so expensive. Where is a good place that doesn't cost so much money?"

"We can eat at Golden Corral," suggested Jerry. "Their buffet offers something for everyone."

"But they cost more than five dollars a piece," said Linda.

"Do we have to only spend five dollars on Mom?" asked Jerry. "I can afford to spend two dollars and who is going to pay Allen's part? He doesn't have any money."

"I will pay Allen's part," replied Dad.

"Maybe we ought to ask Mom where she wants to eat," said Randy.

"That's a good idea!" agreed Linda. "Then we will know for sure that she likes to eat at that place."

Together the family went into the kitchen where Mother was ironing a shirt for Sunday school. "Happy Mother's Day to you!" they sang as they entered. "We want to take you out for lunch after church," said

Jerry, "but we don't know where you would like to eat."

"Oh, I am not particular," answered Mother. "This is very thoughtful of you all to want to do this for me."

"Say you like to eat at McDonald's so I can play on their playground," whispered Randy to Mother.

"No, you pick a nice place," said Jerry, "and we will pay for it."

"Well, this is a difficult decision," said Mother. "I guess we could eat at Golden Corral."

"Hurrah!" shouted the children. Even baby Allen clapped his hands and laughed. It makes the heart happy to give honor to Mother.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who wore purple and linen clothes and ate nice food every day?
2. Who was laid at the rich man's gate?
3. What came and licked Lazarus' sores?
4. What happened to Lazarus and the rich man?
5. Where did Lazarus go after he died?
6. Where did the rich man go?
7. Was Lazarus able to go to the rich man in hell?
8. Would the rich man's brothers listen to someone who came back from the dead?
9. Should we listen to what Moses and the prophets say?

LESSON TEXT: Luke 16:29-31.

(Answers: 1. The rich man.
2. Lazarus. 3. Dogs. 4. They both died. 5. Paradise.
6. Hell. 7. No. 8. No. 9. Yes.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 May 18, 2003

PROUD PEOPLE

Jesus saw how that some people liked to make themselves look better than other people. They wanted the best things. He told a story about them.

Jesus said, "When someone invites you to come to a wedding, don't go and sit in the most special seat. Someone more important than you might come and you will have to move to give them room. Then you will be embarrassed. When you go to the wedding, sit in the place that is not special. Then the person who invited you to come might ask you to sit in a special seat. Then everyone will think better of you."

Jesus said, "If you try to make yourself look better than other people, you will be embarrassed. But if you treat others as though they are better than you, you will be honoured."

Jesus told another story about people who thought they were good people and other people were not.

Jesus said, "Two men went up to the temple to pray. One of them was a Pharisee, a very religious man. The other man was a publican. The publicans worked for the Romans whom everybody hated.

"The Pharisee stood and prayed, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people. I am not an extortioner, or unjust, or an adulterer or even like this publican. I fast twice a week. I give You part of everything I have.'

"The publican stood far away. He would not even look up to heaven. He beat on his chest and said, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner.'"

Jesus said, "I tell you, God accepted the publican. God didn't accept the Pharisee. Everyone who thinks they're better than others will be shown that they are not. People who treat others better than themselves will be honoured."

—Joanna Booher

This man went down to his house justified rather than the other. Luke 18:4.





Baseball Fairness

It is warm outside and baseball weather. Jerry and his classmates are on the baseball diamond having a fun game. Jerry was pitching for his team and he had already struck two out.

"Come on, Jerry, give me a good ball," said the next batter as he swung his bat. "Put the ball right here. I need to make a home run."

"Okay," replied Jerry. He knew how to put a spin on the ball and pitch it where the batter wanted it. The ball sailed right over the batter's base and made contact with the bat. The batter took off running to first base but the ball beat him there. It smacked the first baseman's mitt just before the batter touched the base.

"You're out!" called the first baseman.

Jerry's team hollered and hooted as they ran toward the batter's fence, ready to make more points.

"I'll get you for that," the last batter snarled under his breath to Jerry.

"Why? What did I do?" asked Jerry.

"You know what you did!" exclaimed the other boy. "You put a spin on that ball and it sailed right to the first baseman. You did the same thing the other two times our team struck out. That isn't fair to do."

"Why isn't it fair?" asked Jerry.

"Because my team didn't have a chance with you pitching!"

"Boys, stop talking and get to your places," called the coach.

The game moved along and at the end Jerry's team won.

"It wasn't fair!" muttered the one boy as he walked past Jerry.

"Lord, help me to know how to answer this boy," prayed Jerry. Suddenly, Jerry had a good idea—he would talk to the coach about the problem.

"Mr. Shields," Jerry called to the

coach. "Is it fair for me to put a spin on the ball when I pitch it?"

"Yes, Jerry," replied his coach. "The object of the game is to get the other team out before they can make a point with a runner. You did good today, Jerry."

"Thank you, sir," responded Jerry.

"It sure has made one guy mad at me. He said I wasn't fair to spin the ball."

"I'm sorry he is such a poor sportsman," said Mr. Shields. "I will talk to him about it."

The next chance the coach had, he talked to his students about fairness and the rules to the game of baseball. "Playing games is fun," said Mr. Shields. "We don't threaten others, call names or fight. That is not good sportsmanship."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Should you think you're better than someone else?
2. How would you feel if you sat in the most special seat at the wedding and someone asked you to move?
3. How would you feel if you sat in the not-so-special seat and then someone told you to move to the special seat?
4. What two men went to the temple to pray?
5. Who did the Pharisee thank God he was not like?
6. What did the publican ask God to do for him?
7. Which man did God accept?
8. If we are proud will God accept us?

LESSON TEXT: Luke 14:8-11; 18:9-14.

(Answers: 1. No. 2. Embarrassed. 3. Honoured. 4. A Pharisee and a publican. 5. A publican. 6. Be merciful. 7. The publican. 8. No.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 May 25, 2003

KEEP BUSY

Jesus walked around on earth two thousand years ago. He preached about God's kingdom. He preached that people should do right so they could be part of God's kingdom. The people thought that God's kingdom was going to come right away. Jesus told a story to show them that that's not what would happen.

Jesus said, "A certain ruler went to a far country to get a kingdom. He said he would come back again. Before he left, he called his ten servants to him and gave them money. He told them, 'Keep busy till I come back.'

"When the ruler came back he sent for his ten servants. He asked them, 'What have you done with the money I gave you?'

"The first servant said, 'Lord, with your one pound, I made ten more pounds.'

"The ruler said, 'Well done. I will give you ten cities to rule over.'

"The second servant said, 'Lord, your one pound has become five pounds.'

"The ruler said, 'Well done. I will give you five cities to rule over.'

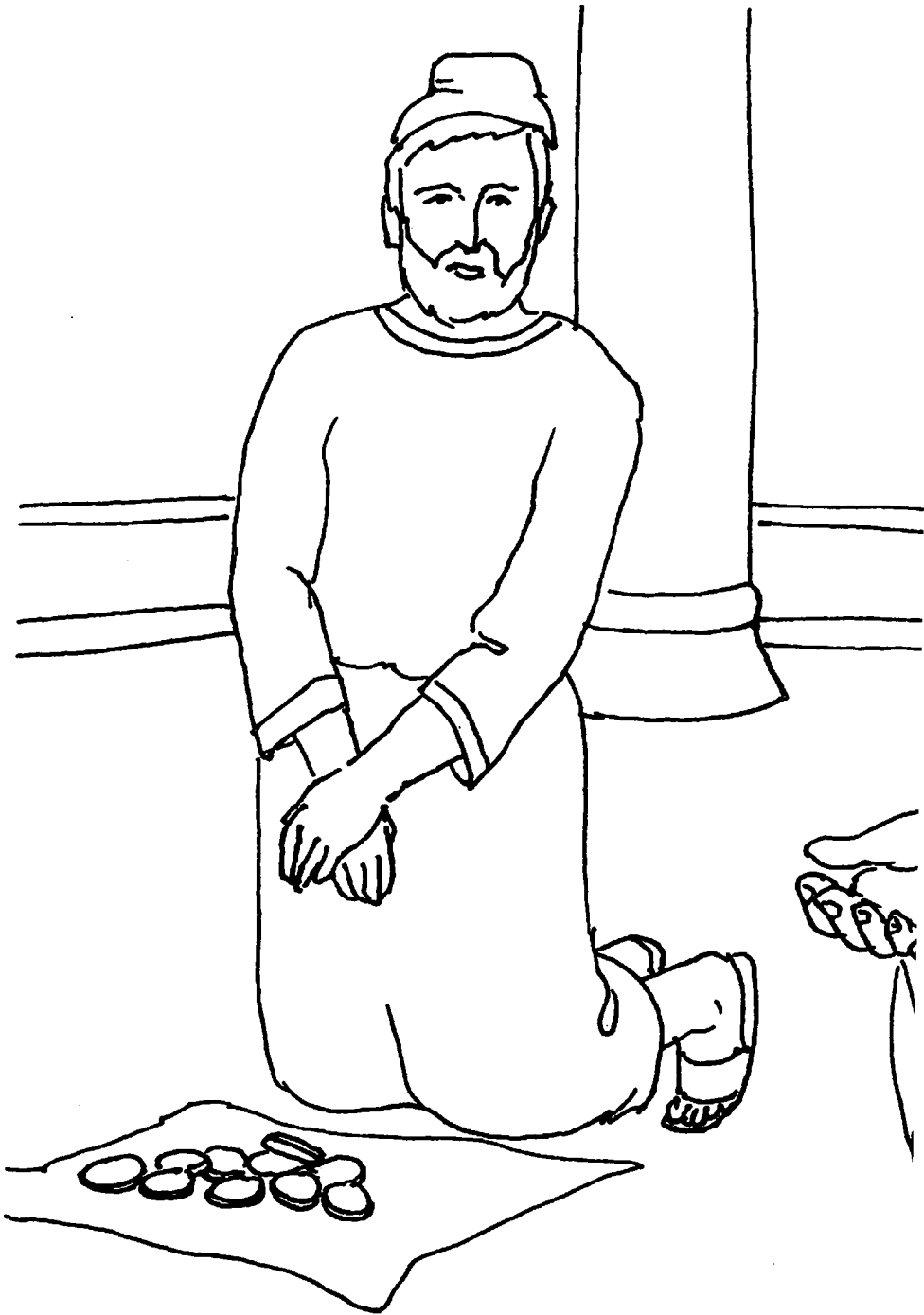
"The third servant said, 'Lord, here is your money. I put it in a napkin and saved it for you because I was afraid of you. I knew that you would ask for more than you gave me.'

"The ruler said, 'That's true. And that's why you should have at least put my money in the bank so I could have gotten some interest.' The ruler said to his other servants, 'Take the pound from this servant and give it to the servant who has ten pounds.'

"The servants said, 'Lord, why should we give it to him? He already has ten pounds.'

"The ruler said, 'I know that. Everyone who has something already will be given more. Whoever doesn't have anything, even what he has will be taken away.'"

—Joanna Booher



Unto every one which hath shall
be given;... Luke 19:26.



Cancer

Do you hope to some day be old enough to drive a car? Do you hope to graduate from school some day? Do you plan to buy a house and get married and have a family? These are common hopes and plans of most children.

What if you were told today that you had cancer and that you may not live very long? Would you think differently about life? Would you pray more?

Some children do have cancer and it has changed their lives forever. Cancer is a disease that destroys body cells where it attacks and cancer attacks in different places on different people who have it. There is no sure medical cure for cancer, though some people do survive who have had it. Also the Lord has healed people of cancer. Perhaps you know someone who has had cancer or is battling it right now. Pray for them and be their friend.

Daniel was about ten years old when he was told he had stomach cancer. His mother bought a notebook and put it in his hospital room. Every person who came to visit Daniel was to trace his or her hand on a page and then write their name in their hand print. When Daniel finally left the hospital, he had a collection of forty-two hands—big hands, little hands, hands that mopped the floor of his room, hands that had held the bowl when he threw up after chemotherapy, hands that had held the scalpel during his surgery.

From the day Daniel heard he had cancer everything in life had taken on a new meaning of importance. He appreciated every friendship, every kindness and every tomorrow that he lived, even though

he often felt sick most of the day. Daniel also learned to appreciate the Lord and His answers to prayer. He was thankful for healing and a chance to live on earth longer than the doctors had thought he would live.

Some of Daniel's friends in the hospital did not go home with their parents. Instead Jesus called them to come home with Him in heaven. Their parents have fond memories of their children and hope to some day see them again.

None of us know what tomorrow will hold for us. The most important thing is to know Jesus Christ and have Him wash your sins away in His blood. Then if He calls you to come live with Him, you will be ready to go.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Where did the ruler go?
2. What did the ruler go to get?
3. What did the ruler give to his servants when he left?
4. What did the ruler tell his servants to do while he was gone?
5. How many pounds did the first servant make with his one pound?
6. How many pounds did the second servant make?
7. Did the third servant make any money with his one pound?
8. What did the ruler do to the servant who hadn't made any money?
9. Should we do something with what God has given to us?

LESSON TEXT: Luke 19:11-26.

(Answers: 1. To a far country. 2. A kingdom. 3. Money. 4. To keep busy. 5. Ten. 6. Five. 7. No. 8. He took the pound from that servant and gave it to the servant who had ten pounds. 9. Yes.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 June 1, 2003

THE WORKERS IN THE VINEYARD

Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, we have left everything to follow You. What are we going to get for it?"

Jesus said, "Whoever leaves their mother or father will receive many good things. They will also live forever in heaven."

Jesus said, "God's kingdom is like a man who owned a vineyard. A vineyard is a field where they grow grapes. The man went to town in the morning to find men to work in his vineyard. He found some men and told them, 'I will pay you a penny to work in my vineyard.' The men said they would and went to work.

"Three hours later the owner went out and found some more men to work in his vineyard. He told them, 'I will pay you a penny to work in my vineyard.' The men said they would also and went to work.

"After another three hours the owner went out and found some more men to work. He said he'd give them a penny to work in his vineyard. They went to work too.

"In the evening the owner went to town and found some men just standing around. He said to them, 'Why are you standing around doing nothing?'

"The men said, 'No one gave us a job to do.'

"The man said, 'Go and work in my vineyard and I will pay you what is right.'

"At the end of the day the man called all the workers together. He told his steward to pay them, starting with the workers who had come last. The steward gave a penny to each of the men who had worked last.

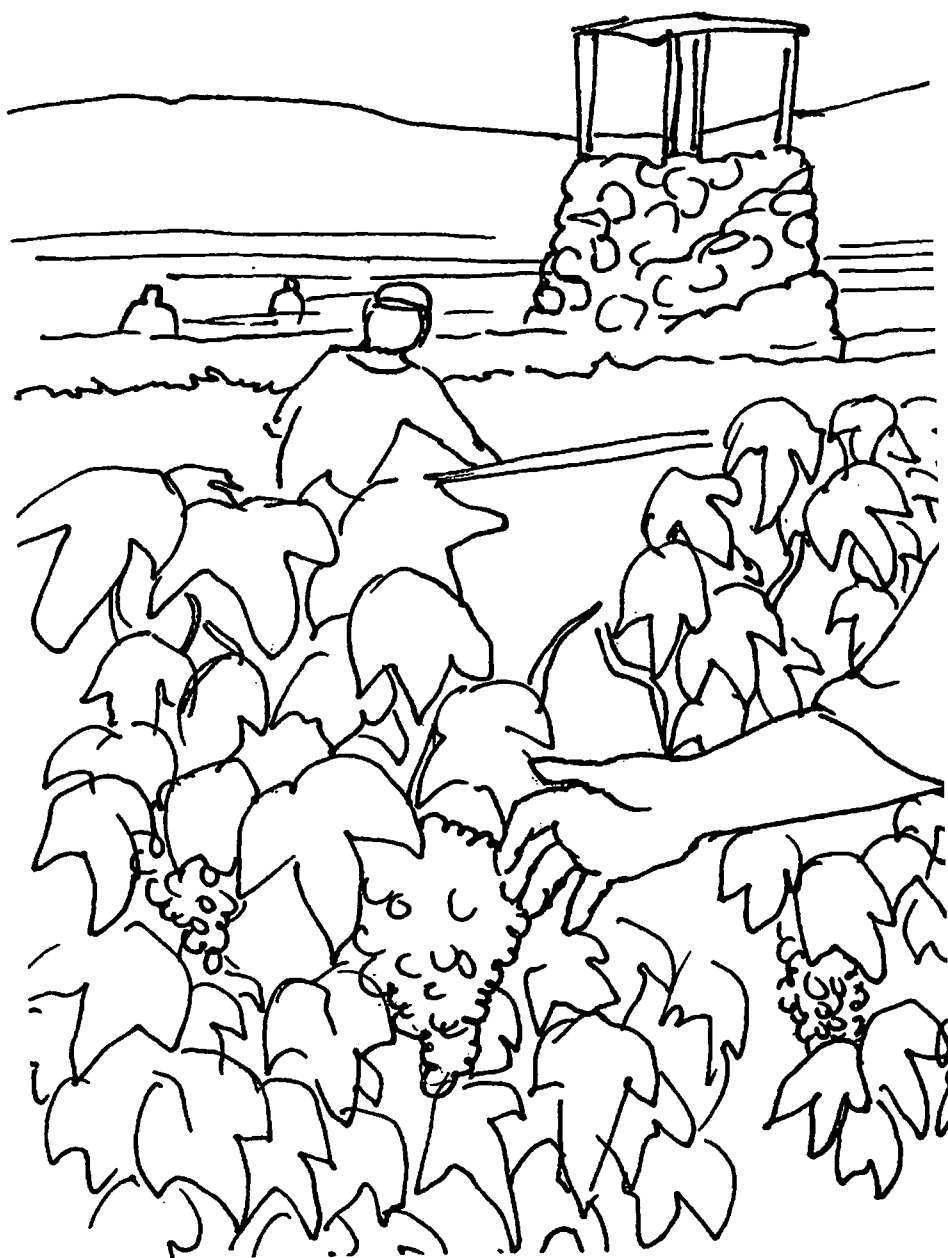
"The workers who had worked all day thought that they would get more money because they had been there longer. The steward gave them each a penny too. These workers did not like that. They said, 'We worked all day in the heat. Why did we only get as much as the workers who came last? That's not fair.'

"The owner said, 'I gave you what I said I would pay you. I am allowed to do what I want with my money. That is fair.'"

"The first will be last and the last will be first."

—Joanna Booher

Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever



ght I will give you. Matthew 20:4.



Operation Bible

(A true story.)

"The soldiers who are stationed at Fort Hood need Bibles," Military chaplain Randall Ridenour told a small church congregation in Norman, Oklahoma.

"Okay, Randall," replied Chris Kennedy, "how many Bibles do you need?"

"At least 3,000 to start with," replied Randall.

The number needed did not overwhelm Chris and his friends. On the internet, by e-mail, over the telephone and with printed fliers handed out door to door, Chris and his friends asked people to give money to buy Bibles for military soldiers. Soon money began to come in for Operation Bible, the name they had given to this project.

"This is a way to honor the soldiers," Kennedy told American citizens. "If people are asking for Bibles, I think we should give them to them. If they care enough to fight for us, that's the least we can do."

Within two weeks after the first requests went out for money or Bibles, Operation Bible had enough Bibles to give 4,000 soldiers. Not only have Bibles been sent to Fort Hood, Texas, but soldiers and military people in other units have received Bibles also.

"I have been completely surprised, amazed and awed at the response," Chris said. This shows that there are American Christians who do want to send the

Word of God wherever it is needed. Most of these Bibles will be in other countries as the soldiers are deployed overseas.

May we pray that soldiers who have Bibles will read them and learn how to pray. Let us pray for the men and women who are serving our country in the military. Then let us remember to pray for people in other countries who do not know about the Lord nor have a Bible. Perhaps some of these Bibles may find their way into the hands of many others who need the Lord. —Sis Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What kinds of things will we receive if we leave everything to follow Jesus?
2. Where will we live forever if we leave everything and follow Jesus?
3. What is a vineyard?
4. What was the owner of the vineyard looking for in town?
5. How much did the owner say he would pay each of the workers?
6. Did the owner say he would pay anyone more than a penny?
7. Did the men who had worked all day think they should get more than a penny?
8. Did the owner have to give the workers more than a penny?

LESSON TEXT: Matt. 19:27-20:16.

(Answers: 1. Good things. 2. In heaven. 3. A field where they grow grapes. 4. Workers. 5. A penny. 6. No. 7. Yes. 8. No.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 June 8, 2003

THE TEN VIRGINS

Jesus said, "God's kingdom is like ten virgins. The virgins were part of a wedding. In this wedding, the bridegroom would come to take his bride away. He would make her his wife. No one knew when the bridegroom would come. The virgins had to be ready all the time to go to the wedding. They carried lamps with them in case the bridegroom came at night.

"Five of the virgins were wise and five of them were foolish. The wise virgins had oil with their lamps. They could fill their lamps with oil if they ran out. The five foolish virgins had lamps but didn't have any oil with them.

"The ten virgins fell asleep while they were waiting for the bridegroom to come.

"In the middle of the night someone shouted, 'The bridegroom is coming.'

"All the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamp wicks. The five foolish virgins said to the wise virgins, 'Give us some of your oil. Our lamps are going out.'

"The wise virgins said, 'No. If we give you some of our oil there won't be enough for us. Go to the people who sell oil and buy some.'

"The five foolish virgins went away to buy oil. While they were gone, the bridegroom came. The five wise virgins went with the bridegroom to the wedding. The doors to the wedding were shut.

"The five foolish virgins came to the wedding and the doors were shut. They knocked on the doors and said, 'Please, let us in.'

"The lord of the wedding said, 'Go away. I don't know you.'"

Jesus said, "You should be ready like the five wise virgins. You don't know when I am going to come back." —Joanna Booher

They that were 1
marriage. Matth



went in with him to the
5:10.



One Church Invitation

(Based on a true story.)

One hot June afternoon, a grandmother sat on a park bench watching her small grandson play in the sand when a twelve-year-old boy walked up to them.

"Hi, ma'am," said the boy as he sat down beside her. "My name is T.J. What is your cute grandson's name?"

"Hi, T.J." replied the grandmother. "His name is Braiden and I'm Mrs. Lori Maples. What brings you here to speak to me?"

"Oh, you look really nice so I thought I would come and invite you to church," said T.J. "If I bring a guest with me to church tomorrow, then I can put my hand into the penny jar and bring out as many pennies as I can hold."

Mrs. Maples laughed pleasantly as she looked at T.J.'s smiling face. "And just where do you go to church, young man?"

T.J. told Mrs. Maples the address to his church and the time of Sunday school and services. "You are welcome to come any time," he said.

"Thank you, T.J., I may just surprise you," replied Mrs. Maples.

The next morning T.J. came out of Sunday school and saw Mrs. Maples sitting on the back pew. So when the children sang, "I'm in the Lord's Army" and marched up to the front, T.J. paused at the penny jar and pulled out a fistful of pennies and pushed them into his pants pocket. He was quick to thank Mrs. Maples for coming and he brought Pastor Rollins and his wife to meet her.

Mrs. Maples enjoyed the service very much! She came the next Sunday and the next. Then she joined the women's prayer group. "I appreciate your kindness to me," she told her new friends. "Please pray for my husband that he will come with me to church."

"We will pray for him," said Sis. Jean, the pastor's wife.

Around midnight that night, Mr. Ben Maples heard his wife fall out of bed. Quickly, he checked on her and saw she was unconscious. He dialed 911. The paramedics worked with her all the way to the hospital where the doctors said she had a brain aneurysm. (A swollen artery of blood in the brain.)

When Mrs. Maples' new church friends heard about her illness, some went to the hospital to be with her. Sis. Jean began to call church members for prayer. Mr. Maples was amazed at the love the church showed him and his wife. He knew that it was their answered prayers that saved her life. When Mrs. Maples was better, her husband took her to church services. In time, both of them were saved and became active church members. Now they bring their daughter and her son to church.

As T.J. watches the Maples sing and pray, it encourages him to invite others to church. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who were the ten virgins waiting for?
2. Did anyone know when the bridegroom was going to come?
3. What happened to the ten virgins while they were waiting for the bridegroom?
4. What did the five wise virgins have with their lamps?
5. When did the bridegroom come?
6. What did the five foolish virgins want the five wise virgins to give them?
7. Were the five foolish virgins on time for the wedding?
8. Were the five foolish virgins allowed to come in to the wedding?
9. Who should we be like?
10. When is Jesus coming back?

LESSON TEXT: Matt. 25:1-13.

(Answers: 1. The bridegroom. 2. No. 3. They fell asleep. 4. Oil. 5. In the middle of the night. 6. Oil. 7. No. 8. No. 9. The five wise virgins. 10. We don't know.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 June 15, 2003

HERE COMES THE KING

Jesus came to Jerusalem. He sent two of His disciples ahead of Him. He told them, "Go into this city and you will see a donkey tied up. There will be a baby donkey there too. Untie both of them, and bring them to Me. If anyone asks you why you are untying them say, 'The Lord has need of them.' They will let you bring them."

Jesus' disciples did as He said. They found the donkey and her colt just as Jesus said. They brought them to Him. Jesus sat on the donkey's colt and rode it into Jerusalem.

Many people came out to see Jesus. They waved palm branches in the air and shouted, "Hosanna! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord." They took off their coats and laid them in the path so Jesus could ride over them.

Other people asked, "Who is this?"

The people said, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Galilee."

The scribes and Pharisees came to Jesus and said, "Tell us who said You could preach and do miracles?"

Jesus said, "I will also ask you a question, and you must answer Me. Did God tell John the Baptist to baptize people?"

The scribes and Pharisees said to each other, "If we say God did, then Jesus will say, 'Why didn't you get baptized by him then?' If we say John the Baptist baptized people because he wanted to, all of the people will be very angry with us. They think that God told John to baptize."

The scribes and Pharisees said to Jesus, "We can't tell You."

Jesus said, "I won't tell you either."

The scribes and Pharisees were very mad at Jesus. They wanted to kill Him.

One of Jesus' disciples, Judas Iscariot, decided to give Jesus to the scribes and Pharisees. Judas Iscariot said to them, "What will you give me if I bring Jesus to you?"

The Pharisees said they would pay Judas thirty pieces of silver. From that time on Judas tried to find a time to give Jesus to them. —Joanna Booher

Blessed is he that
cometh in the
name of the Lord.
Matthew 21:9.





Would Dad Come In Time?

Linda smiled at herself in the mirror as she combed her hair. She wanted to calm the nervous butterflies jittering in her tummy. In a short time she would be playing the piano before a crowd of parents and fellow piano students.

"Are you ready to go, Linda?" called Mother from the front door.

"Okay, Mother," answered Linda. She joined her mother and together they drove to the university hall music center.

"Dad does know where to come?" Mother asked Linda.

"Yes, I told him and he wrote down the place and address," replied Linda.

Mother and Linda arrived in plenty of time for Linda to play the scales on the piano. As guests began to come, they found a seat close to the front and sat down. Linda kept looking toward the two main doors. What was keeping Dad? Maybe he had decided not to come because he had more work to do? Maybe he was lost because she had made a mistake in the address?

Linda noticed that she was the third performer on the program. If Dad was too late, he would miss hearing her. She glanced at the doors one more time as Mrs. Hamilton walked to the platform.

"Good evening, parents, guests and students," began Mrs. Hamilton. Linda sighed. Dad was going to miss her first piano recital. Well, she might mess up anyway and embarrass him. Maybe that's why he didn't want to come. Linda slid down in her seat and the world became a blur before her eyes.

The first student went up to the platform to play. Scott bowed to the clapping audience.

To Linda, the piano sounded scared as Scott picked out his song but Mother whispered, "That was good!"

Suddenly, Linda felt someone's presence sit down beside Mom. She knew without looking that it was Dad. He had made it after all!

Linda blinked her eyes and sat up straight. The girl who played next sounded confident and prepared. When it was Linda's turn, Dad whispered, "You can do it!" as she slipped past. If Dad thought she could, then Linda was going to show everyone else that she could.

With calm hands she touched the keyboard and began her song. She was playing for Dad and Mom. Before she knew it the song was done and everyone was clapping loudly. "That was great!" Dad whispered to Linda as she went back to her seat with a smile on her face. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. How many donkeys did Jesus say His disciples would find in the city?
2. Which donkey did Jesus ride on?
3. What did the people wave in the air?
4. What did the people put on the ground for Jesus to ride over?
5. Did the scribes and Pharisees like Jesus?
6. Did the scribes and Pharisees think God told Jesus to preach and do miracles?
7. Did the scribes and Pharisees think God told John the Baptist to baptize?
8. Who did tell John to baptize and Jesus to preach and do miracles?
9. What did Judas Iscariot say he would do for the scribes and Pharisees?

LESSON TEXT: Matt. 21:1-11, 23-27; 26:14-16.

(Answers: 1. Two. 2. The donkey's colt. 3. Palm branches. 4. Their coats. 5. No. 6. No. 7. No. 8. God. 9. Give Jesus to them.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 June 22, 2003

THE LAST SUPPER

Jesus said to Peter and John, "Go into the city and you will see a man carrying a water pitcher. Follow him to a house. Ask the owner of the house where the room is that I can eat the Passover feast with My disciples. He will show you a room upstairs. Get ready for the feast there."

Jesus' disciples went and did as Jesus said. They found the man and the room just as Jesus said.

In the evening, Jesus and His twelve disciples sat down to eat the Passover feast. Jesus said, "I have wanted very much to have this feast with you." He took the cup and said, "Drink from this cup. It is the testament of My blood that I am going to give for you. I won't drink of this cup again until I have completed the work I was sent here to do."

Jesus took the bread and thanked God for it. He broke the bread and said, "This bread is My body that I am going to give for you."

Jesus tied a towel around His waist. He knelt down in front of each of His disciples and washed their feet. When he got to Peter, Peter did not want Him to wash his feet. Peter thought Jesus was too great of a person to wash his feet.

Peter said, "Lord, You will never wash my feet."

Jesus said, "Peter, if I don't wash your feet, you aren't one of My disciples."

Peter said, "Lord, don't just wash my feet then. Wash my head and hands too."

Jesus said, "I only need to wash your feet and you are clean."

Jesus said to His disciples, "One of you is going to betray Me."

The disciples started to say, "Lord, is it me?"

John asked, "Lord, who is it?"

Jesus said, "It is the person I give a piece of bread to." Jesus gave the piece of bread to Judas and said, "What you are going to do, do quickly."

Judas got up and went out. The other disciples thought he was going somewhere to buy more things for the feast.

Jesus and His disciples sang a hymn together and went to a garden on the Mount of Olives.

—Joanna Booher

This is my body which is given for
you: this do in remembrance of
me. Luke 22:19.





Angel Painters?

(A true story.)

It can be very hot in Atlanta, Georgia, during June without an air conditioner! Home can be like an oven to live in—so it seemed to Derek and Rebekah Maul who were newly weds living on the third floor of an old apartment building. Money was tight for them their first summer of married “bliss.” They could not afford to buy an air conditioner for their rented apartment and their landlord didn’t offer to buy one.

“Let’s get out of here for awhile,” Rebekah said to Derek one scorching Friday evening. “Why don’t we go down to the mall and enjoy their air conditioning?”

That sounded cool to Derek so together, hand in hand, they walked to a shopping mall nearby. They enjoyed window shopping in the busy mall. They relaxed on a soft couch in the main plaza and sipped on iced tea for awhile.

“I guess we had better go back to the apartment,” Derek said with a sigh.

Rebekah nodded. They did have things to do and maybe now she would be able to bear the heat better. When they reached their apartment, they suddenly realized they had locked their keys inside.

“Let’s borrow the extra key from the building manager,” said Derek. But the manager had a note on his office door, “Gone Till Monday.”

“We can’t wait until Monday to get inside!” exclaimed Rebekah. “What shall we do?”

“Remember seeing those two painters painting the chapel about a block from here?” asked Derek. “Let’s ask them if they have a ladder we can borrow that might reach to the bathroom window. Then I can climb in and open the door.”

The two painters were up on ladders themselves but they were able to hear Derek’s request for help. “Take

that forty-footer on the truck,” replied one of the painters. Rebekah couldn’t help but notice how spotless white the painters’ overalls and caps were. They looked so clean and cool, she thought as she helped Derek carry the ladder which did reach to the bathroom window. After they were back in their apartment, Derek and Rebekah took the ladder back to the painters and thanked them.

Next Monday morning, Derek and Rebekah stopped at that same chapel to get the address of the painters so she could send them a thank-you card. The church secretary was surprised. “Painters?” she asked. “The chapel needs painting, but we don’t have painting planned for this year.”

All three of them went outside and looked at the dry paint peeling off the eaves. The chapel did not have a sign of fresh paint on it though Derek and Rebekah both agreed that was the exact place they had borrowed the ladder.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What feast did Jesus want to have with His disciples?
2. What did Jesus tell the disciples to do with the cup?
3. What did Jesus say the cup was a testament of?
4. What did Jesus do with the bread?
5. What did Jesus say the bread was?
6. What did Jesus do to the disciples’ feet?
7. Did Peter want Jesus to wash his feet?
8. Did Jesus know who was going to betray Him?
9. Where did Jesus and His disciples go after they sang a hymn?

LESSON TEXT: Luke 22:7-22, 39; John 13:1-10, 21-30.

(Answers: 1. The Passover feast. 2. Drink it. 3. His blood. 4. Broke it. 5. His body. 6. Washed them. 7. No. 8. Yes. 9. The Mount of Olives.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 June 29, 2003

THE TRIAL AT NIGHT

Jesus and His disciples went to a garden on the mount of Olives. Jesus said to Peter, "Tonight you will say you don't know Me."

Peter said, "Lord, I would die before I would do that."

Jesus took Peter, James and John into the garden. He said to them, "Please pray with Me."

Jesus prayed to God, "Father, if it is possible, please don't make me do this. But, no...let Your will be done, not Mine."

Peter, James and John had fallen asleep. Jesus came to them and said, "Couldn't you have prayed just one hour with Me?"

Judas came to the garden with a band of men who had torches and swords. Judas said to them, "I will give Jesus a kiss, that is how you will know which one is Him."

Judas came to Jesus and said, "Hail, Master." He kissed Him.

Jesus said, "Judas, would you betray Me with a kiss?"

Peter pulled out his sword and cut the high priest's servant's ear off.

Jesus said, "Peter, put away your sword. Everyone who uses the sword will die by the sword." Jesus put the servant's ear back on.

All of Jesus' disciples turned around and ran away.

The men brought Jesus to the high priest. They put Jesus on trial. They tried to find a reason to kill Him.

The high priest said to Jesus, "Tell us if you are the Son of God."

Jesus said, "You say so."

The priest said, "We don't need any more proof. Jesus deserves to die."

Peter followed Jesus to the trial. He stayed outside. A girl said to him, "Aren't you one of Jesus' disciples?"

Peter said, "No, I'm not."

Another girl said to him, "You are one of Jesus' disciples, aren't you?"

Peter said, "No, I don't know Him."

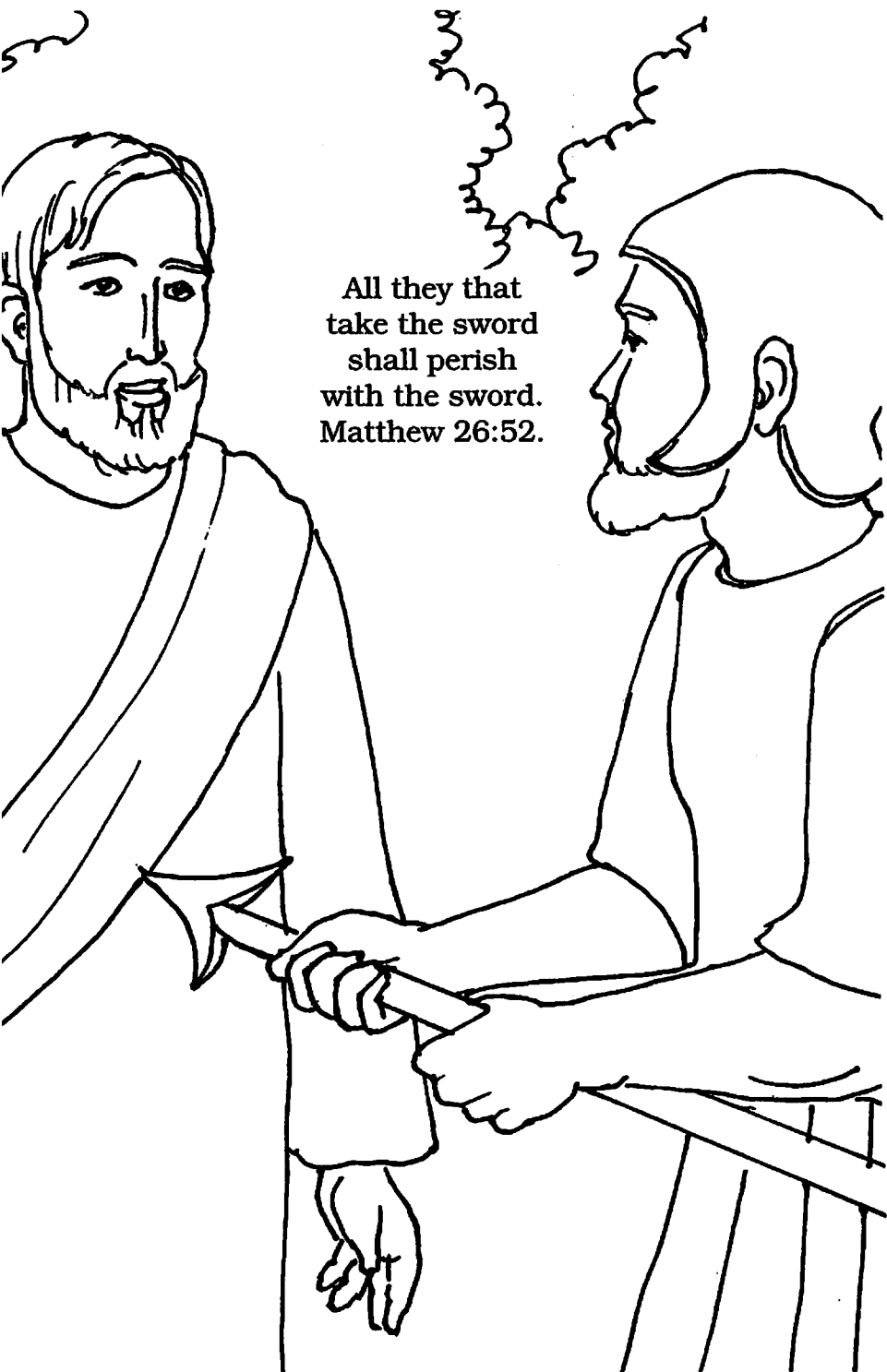
A man said, "I know you are one of Jesus' disciples."

Peter swore and said, "I do not know Jesus."

A rooster crowed, and Jesus turned and looked at Peter. Peter remembered what Jesus had said to him. He went out and cried. —Joanna Booher



All they that
take the sword
shall perish
with the sword.
Matthew 26:52.



Play Baseball With Me?

"Jerry, would you play baseball with me?" Randy asked his big brother.

Jerry glanced up from the model car he was gluing together. "I don't want to right now," he replied. "It's hot outside."

"Well, can I help you work on this car?" asked Randy.

"No, now bug off, will you," replied Jerry with an edge of anger in his voice.

"I only want to be your friend," said Randy as he picked up a piece of the car.

"Don't touch that!" demanded Jerry, taking it from Randy. "Now go play with someone your own size—I'm busy!"

Randy looked sad as he slowly left Jerry. He went outside with his baseball and bat. Who would play with him? Tony, his best friend, was gone on vacation and all the other neighbor children were older. He sat down on the porch step and leaned against the wall and prayed for someone to play with.

Suddenly he heard voices. He looked up and saw Uncle Tom and his two boys walking toward his house.

"Hi, Randy! Is your dad home?" asked Uncle Tom.

"No, but Mom is," said Randy as he stood up.

Right then Mom came to the door. "Well, hello, Tom, Ryan and Jason. Bill will be home from work in about thirty minutes. Would you like to come in?"

"Thank you, Jeanie," replied Uncle Tom. "We will just wait outside." Then he looked at Randy's bat and baseball. "It looks like this young man is ready for a game. Where's your team, Randy?"

"Would you like to play with me?" asked Randy hopefully.

"How about it, boys?" Uncle Tom asked Ryan and Jason.

"Sure! Do you have a couple of mitts?" replied Ryan.

Soon Randy, his older cousins and Uncle Tom were throwing, hitting and catching the ball. Even Dad joined in when he came home from work. Mother brought out cool glasses of lemonade and they all sat down under the big shade tree and visited.

That's where Jerry found them later. "Hi, Uncle Tom, Ryan and Jason," Jerry said. "When did you all come?"

"God sent them to play baseball with me," Randy told his brother. "I just prayed for a friend my size and God sent someone even bigger than you!"

"Okay Randy," said Jerry, quietly. "I'm sorry I didn't come out and play a while with you."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who did Jesus say Peter would say he didn't know?
2. What did Jesus ask His disciples to do with Him?
3. Whose will did Jesus say should be done?
4. Who came with a band of men to get Jesus?
5. What did Peter do to the high priest's servant's ear?
6. Did all of Jesus' disciples stay with Him?
7. What did the high priest want to do to Jesus?
8. Did someone think Peter was Jesus' disciple?
9. What did Peter do after he said he didn't know Jesus?

LESSON TEXT: Luke 22:39-71; John 18:1-27; Matt. 26:30-75.

(Answers: 1. Jesus. 2. Pray with Him. 3. God's. 4. Judas. 5. Cut it off. 6. No. 7. Kill Him. 8. Yes. 9. Cried.)