

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 Jan. 2, 2011

Through the Roof

Jesus continued to preach and healed many throughout Galilee. One man who was dying of leprosy came to Jesus begging to be healed. "If you will, you can make me clean," the man told Jesus. Jesus was moved with compassion. He touched the man's forehead and said, "Be clean." Imagine how happy the man was to be healed!

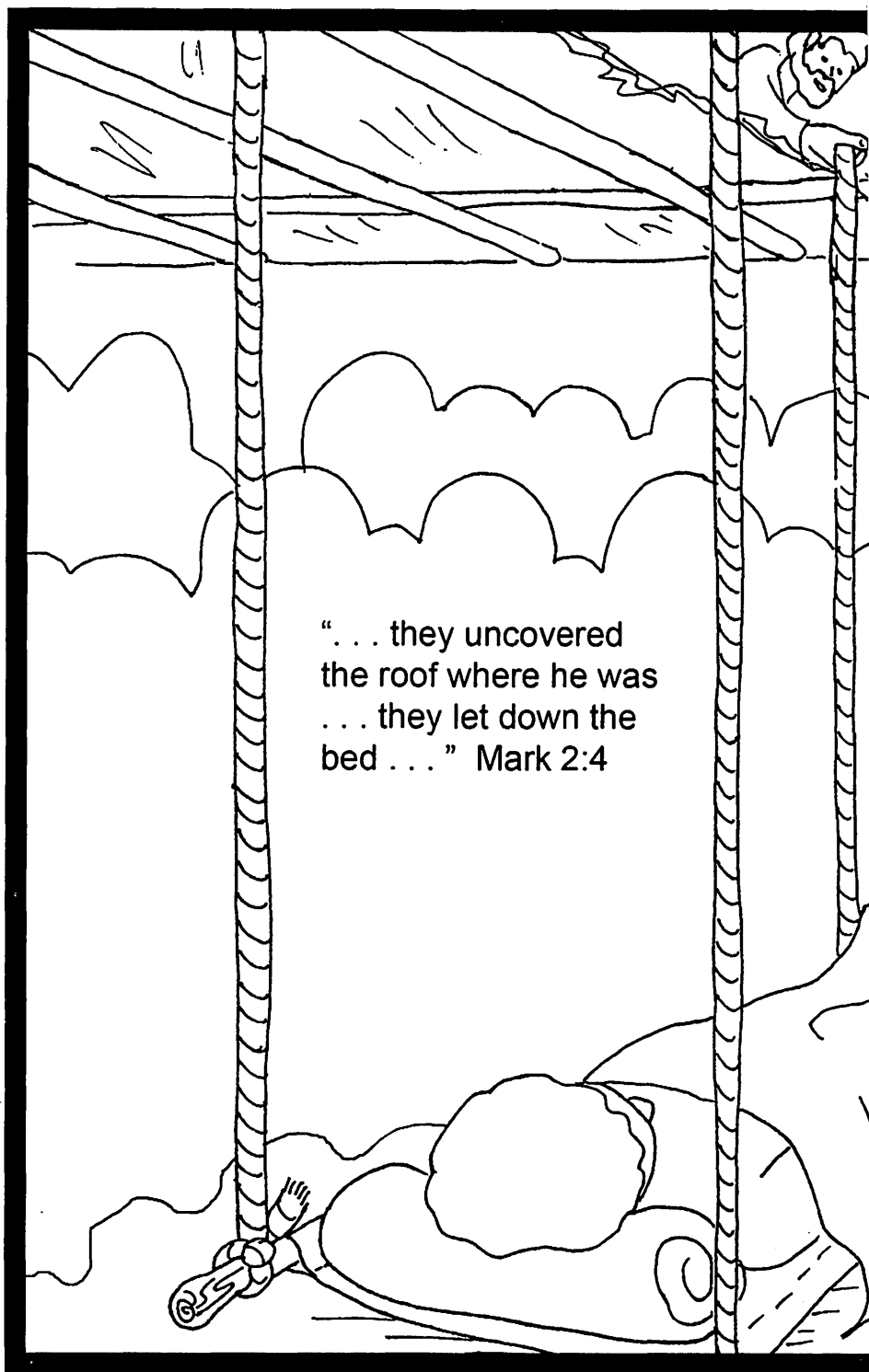
"Remember not to tell anyone about this," Jesus warned. "Go to the temple for cleansing, as Moses commanded. This will be a testimony to everyone that you are now well." But the man left and told many people about his healing. Jesus had more followers than ever. He could no longer come into a town quietly.

Jesus went back to His home in Capernaum after a few days. People heard that He was there and a large crowd gathered in Peter's home. So many people were there that there was not even room to stand outside and listen by the door.

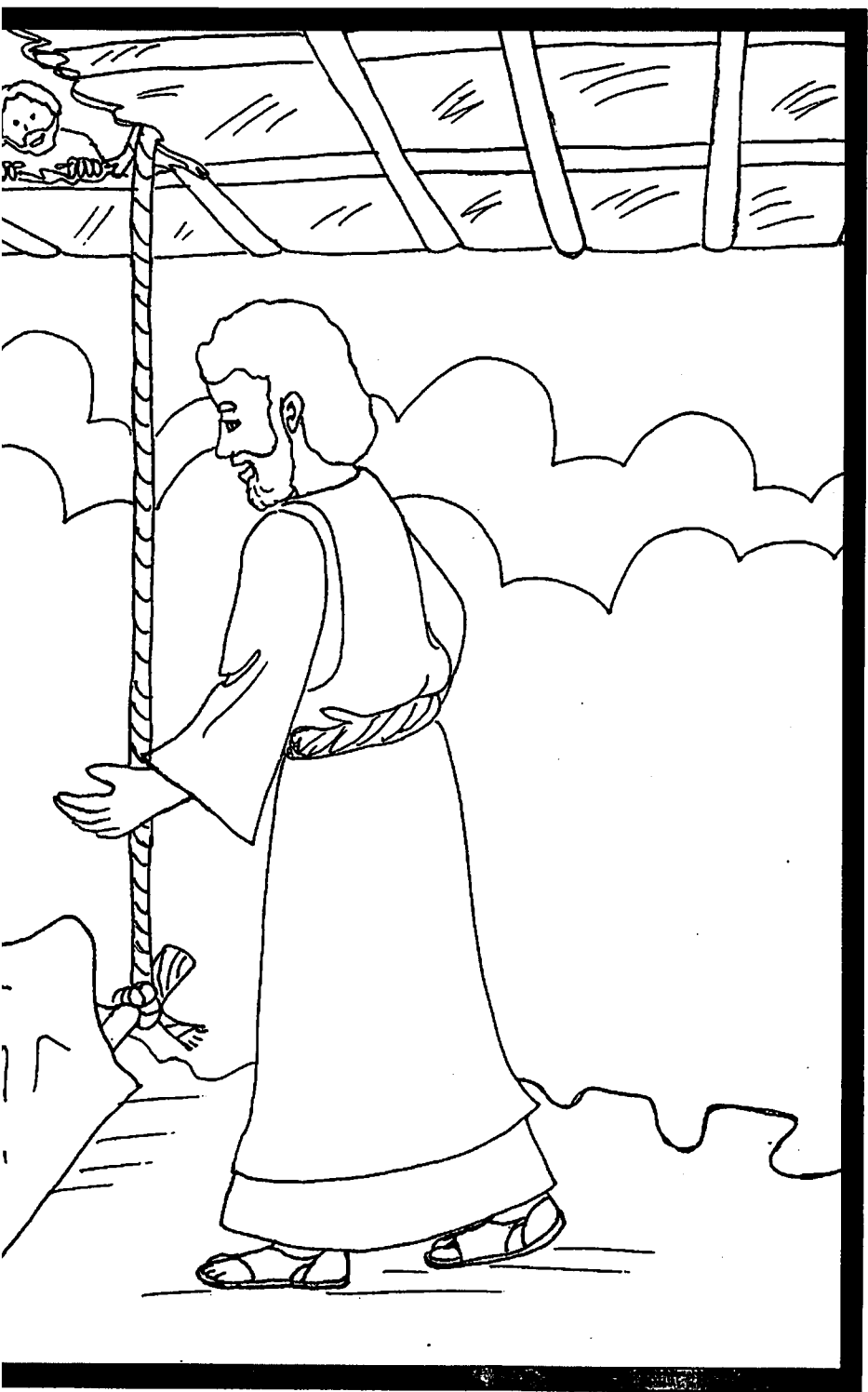
While Jesus was teaching the crowd, four men arrived outside carrying their paralyzed friend. What a problem they had! It was too crowded to get anywhere near Jesus. What should they do? One of them had an idea. The man's friends lowered the mat right in front of Jesus. I'm sure the people inside were surprised to see a man being lowered through the roof!

Jesus saw the faith these men had in Him. "Son, your sins are forgiven," Jesus told the man. Some scribes were in the crowd that day. When they heard Jesus say this, they thought to themselves, "This man is blaspheming! No one can forgive sins but God." Jesus knew what they were thinking. "Why do you think these things?" Jesus asked the scribes. "Is it easier to forgive sins, or to heal the palsy? Now you know that the Son of Man has the power to forgive sins."

Jesus turned to the man lying on the mat. "Rise up, take your bed, and return to your own house," Jesus instructed him. The man obeyed. The people watching were amazed. "Praise God," they rejoiced. "We have never witnessed anything like this before!" —Sis. Monica Murphey



“... they uncovered
the roof where he was
... they let down the
bed ...” Mark 2:4



The Legacy of Mary Elizabeth

Sarah Bird was nearly eighty-six, but her eyes were bright and her mind alert. When I visited her in the Home for the Aged here in St. Cloud, Florida, she reminisced about days gone by, as if talking about them would bring closer the friends and loved ones now gone or separated by distance. Here is one story she told me that has lived in my mind ever since.

Sarah Bird was born on a farm about three miles south of Baldwinsville, New York. She married the boy next door, and the young couple moved with proper ceremony into a home given them by her parents. "Come joy or sorrow, we know that God is head of this home," her husband declared.

At first there was mostly sorrow. Their first baby, a boy, died before he was two. Then little Mary Elizabeth was born and brought much joy. She was a strong and healthy child until she developed heart trouble after a siege of pneumonia at the age of five. For the last few years of her life, Mary Elizabeth lay in her little brass bed in her own brightly furnished room at the head of the stairs.

The child spent much time reading. Once, when a picture of four little orphaned sisters appeared in the local paper, Mary Elizabeth asked a special favor of her father.

"Would you please go to the orphanage and buy them for me? I have eight dollars. Please, Daddy. That one little girl has the same name as me—Mary Elizabeth."

But the father had to say no, explaining that with the cooking for the two hired men, the care of her blind grandmother and all the other work, it would be too much for her mother.

Time passed.

When she was nine, life slowly ebbed away. Somehow Mary Elizabeth knew what was happening. But she showed no fear. Instead, she had one final request. Would her father please buy a baby girl at the orphanage because her mommy would be so lonesome when she left? The baby was to have blue eyes like the sky outside her window.

With heavy heart, her father gave her his solemn promise.

Mary Elizabeth died on Maundy Thursday, and on Easter Sunday was laid to rest in the little cemetery nearby. Weeks later, her father at last told his wife of his promise.

"It would be too much to care for an infant," Mrs. Bird said, still grief-stricken. "I'm busy from dawn until far into the evening."

"But I gave Mary Elizabeth my word," her husband said. "We could hire someone to help you."

They visited the orphanage, made an application for adoption and went home to wait for their baby.

(To be continued)

Questions:

1. What disease did the first man have?
2. Where did Jesus tell him to go?
3. What did Jesus warn him not to do?
4. Whose home was Jesus in?
5. How did the four men let their friend in?
6. "Your _____ are forgiven."
7. Who thought Jesus was blaspheming?
8. What did Jesus tell the man to do?

Answers: 1. Leprosy. 2. The temple. 3. Tell anyone. 4. Peter's. 5. Through the roof. 6. Sins. 7. The scribes. 8. Rise, take up his bed and go home.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 Jan. 9, 2011

Jesus Breaks the Sabbath

One day, Jesus and His disciples were very hungry. They came to a field of corn. The disciples began to pick the ears of corn and ate them. Some Pharisees saw what the disciples did. They were angry that the disciples were working to get food on the Sabbath. The Sabbath was very important to the Jews. It was a day they set aside to worship God.

"Your disciples are doing something against our laws by working on the Sabbath," the Pharisees complained. Jesus rebuked them, "Do you not remember that David went into the house of God and ate bread that was not lawful for him to eat? Or have you forgotten that many priests do bad things in the temple on the Sabbath day and have not gotten in trouble for it? The Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath day."

In Jerusalem by the sheep market, there was a pool called Bethesda. The Jews believed this was a very special pool. An angel went down at a certain time into the pool and made movements in the water. The first person to step into the water after this would be healed of whatever sickness he had. While Jesus was visiting in Jerusalem, He stopped by the pool. A large group of people had gathered around the pool. Jesus stopped and saw a man who had been sick for thirty-eight years lying beside the pool. Jesus asked him if he wanted to be healed. "Sir, I have no friend to put me into the pool. While I am still trying to walk to the pool, someone steps in front of me," the man said sadly. "Get up. Pick up your bed, and walk," Jesus told the man.

The man got up and was well. Jesus had healed this man on the Sabbath day. As he was walking away, the man was stopped by some Jews. "It is the Sabbath day. It is against the law for you to carry your bed," the Jews informed him.

The Jews found out Jesus was the one who healed the man and confronted him about healing someone on the Sabbath. "If one of your sheep fell into a pit on the Sabbath day, any of you would stoop to pull him out. Is not man worth more than sheep?" Jesus replied.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“In these lay a great multitude
waiting for the moving of the



f impotent folk . . .
ter." John 5:3



The Legacy of Mary Elizabeth (Continued)

Two months later the call came; the baby was ready to be taken home. It was a beautiful infant, just six weeks old. But it had brown eyes! The man remembered his promise that it be a blue-eyed baby. Was there one?

The orphanage director admitted there was another child, a blue-eyed girl, eighteen months old. "She is rather sickly, and screams whenever a man comes near her," she added.

The child was named Adelaide. The director would bring her down for Mrs. Bird to see, but perhaps her husband wouldn't mind stepping to the back of the room?

He did so. But Adelaide saw him right away. Her thin arms stretched out to him, and when he held her, she smiled. They took her home that very day.

After a month, Adelaide looked like a different child. Sunshine and good country food put weight on the frail little body and in six months she was healthy and happy. On several occasions the orphanage director visited the farm to see how little Adelaide was getting along. During one of these calls, she asked Mrs. Bird if she would grant her a favor.

"There is a very unusual nine-year-old girl at the orphanage who has never been on a farm," she told Mrs. Bird. "Could you possibly take her for a weekend visit? Her name is Mary Elizabeth."

Remembering her own Mary Elizabeth, Mrs. Bird agreed to take the girl but only for the weekend. On Friday evening the little girl arrived, looking very forlorn, very lost and very subdued in her somber orphanage clothes. Even though

she was staying only two days, the couple decided to pretty her up.

On Saturday they took her shopping and bought her an entire new outfit: pretty black lace stockings to replace her heavy ribbed ones, and slippers with bows, a new blue coat with a hat to match and a dress trimmed with yards of lace. The child stood in front of the mirror at the farmhouse, her hands lovingly caressing the lace, her eyes alive with joy.

Over the weekend, Mary Elizabeth joined the household routine. She insisted on helping with the dusting, making the beds and playing with little Adelaide.

Then Monday morning came and the lady from the orphanage arrived to take her back to the home.

(To be continued)

Questions:

1. What did the disciples do on the Sabbath?
2. Why was the Sabbath an important day?
3. Who was supposed to visit the pool at a certain time each day?
4. What problem did the man by the pool have?
5. What did Jesus tell him?
6. On what day had Jesus healed the man?
7. What did the Jews tell the man?
8. What question did Jesus ask the Jews?

Answers: 1. Picked and ate ears of corn in a field. 2. It was the day set aside to worship God. 3. An angel. 4. He had no one to help him to the pool. 5. "Take up your bed and walk." 6. The Sabbath day. 7. That it was not lawful to heal on the Sabbath. 8. If one of their sheep fell, they would help it up. Is man not more important than sheep?

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 Jan. 16, 2011

A Withered Hand

The Pharisees were angry with the large crowds who followed Jesus. They felt like Jesus' teachings went against everything that they had been taught all their lives. On several occasions, the Pharisees tried to trap Jesus by asking Him tricky questions.

One day, when Jesus went into the temple, He saw a man with a withered hand. "Isn't it against the law to heal on the Sabbath day?" the Pharisees asked. They hoped Jesus would say yes. If He did, they would bring charges against Him for healing on the Sabbath day.

"If one of your sheep fell into a pit on the Sabbath, would you rescue it?" Jesus asked. "Men are of much more value than sheep! So it is not against the law to do good on the Sabbath."

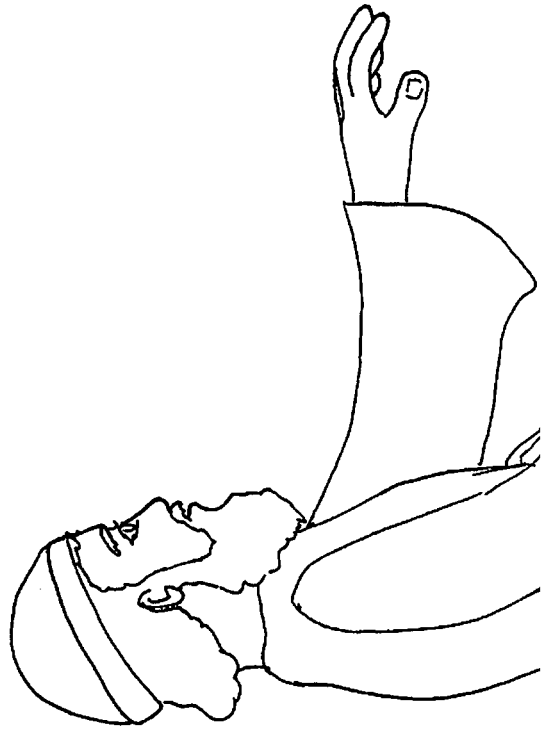
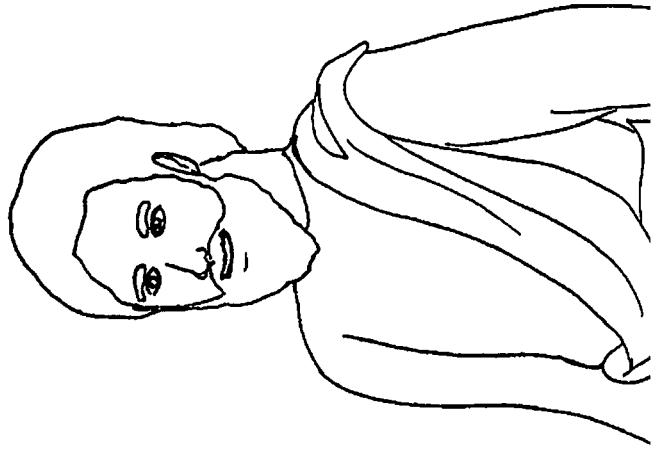
"Stretch out your hand," Jesus told the man. The man held it out, and it became normal, just like his other one. This made the Pharisees very upset. They began plotting how they would kill Him. Jesus knew about their evil schemes and left quickly. He continued to preach and heal the sick, asking them not to tell who healed them.

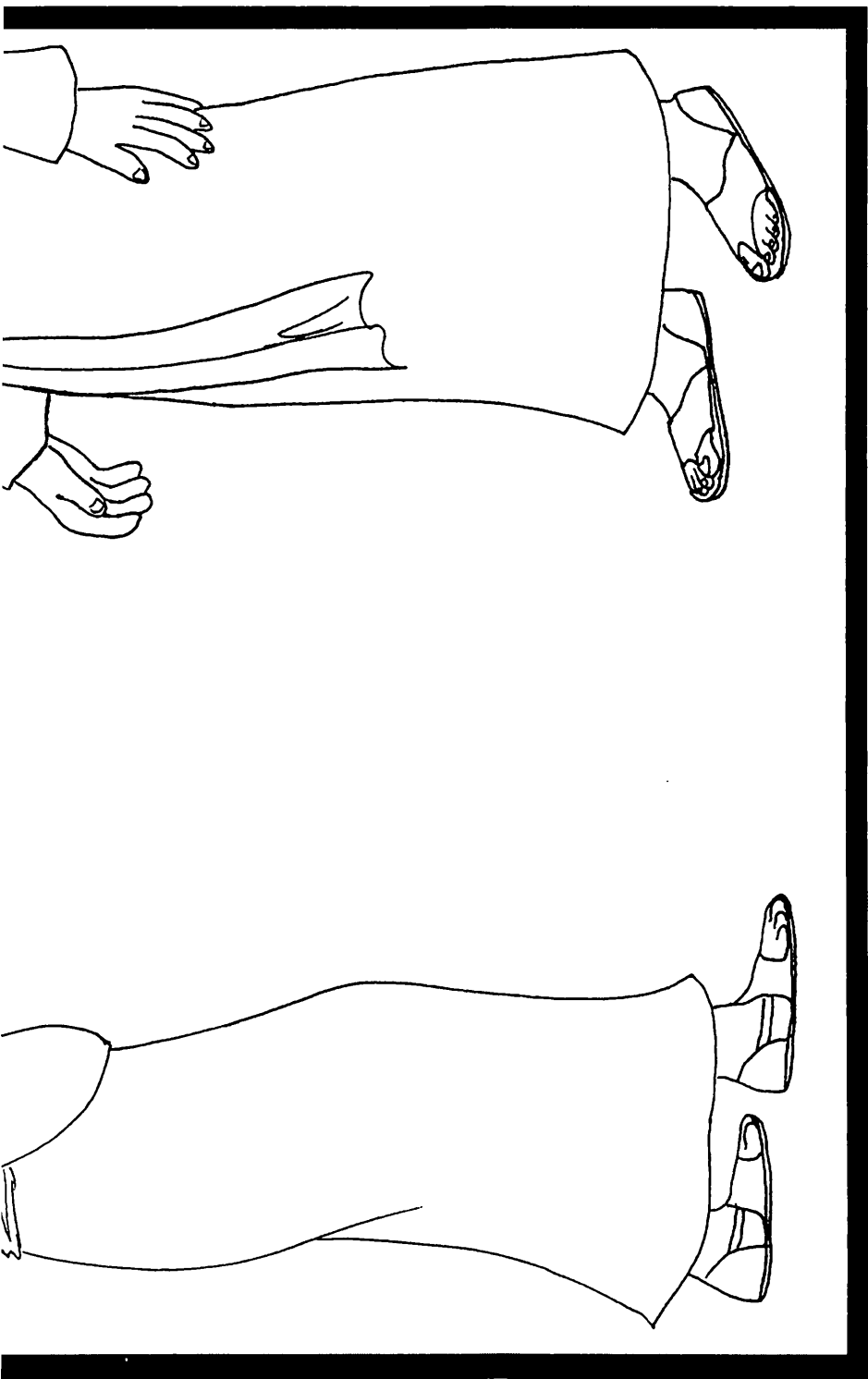
Jesus was fulfilling a prophecy made by the prophet Isaiah. "See my servant, whom I have chosen. My soul is well pleased. My spirit will be on Him and He will preach judgment to the Gentiles. He will not argue or shout. People will not hear His voice in the streets. He will not break a bruised reed, or put out a smoking wick until He has made righteousness victorious. The Gentiles shall trust in His name."

A man was brought to Jesus who was possessed by a demon. He was blind and dumb. When Jesus healed him, the people in the crowd asked, "Could this be the Messiah?" "This man is receiving His power from satan," the Pharisees said. Jesus replied, "If satan drives out satan, he is working against himself. If I cast out demons by God's Spirit, then the kingdom of God has come.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“ . . . he stretched it forth; and it was
restored whole . . . ” Matthew 12:13





The Legacy of Mary Elizabeth

(Continued)

Mary Elizabeth stood at the door with the box of new clothing under her arm. She smiled at Mrs. Bird, thanked her and asked wistfully, "I didn't make good here either, did I?"

"We told you it was only for a weekend visit," the lady from the orphanage explained.

Mary Elizabeth didn't answer. As she turned to go, Mrs. Bird could see the tears trickling down her face.

"It stabbed my heart," Sarah Bird said. "We couldn't let her go." Within a few weeks the adoption papers were in order, and Mary Elizabeth joined the family. In fact, she moved right into the room at the head of the stairs that had always been kept just as Mrs. Bird's own little Mary Elizabeth had left it—twin dolls sitting up in the corner, her favorite toys neatly arranged on the shelves alongside her book of Bible stories and scrapbooks.

One rainy Saturday afternoon when Mrs. Bird was mixing molasses cookies in the kitchen, the little girl asked if she could look at the scrapbooks. She promised to put them back just as she found them, for she knew that the room was very special to her new mother. The second batch of cookie dough was rolled out on the board ready to be cut when the child ran down the stairs shouting:

"Mother, Mother, your Mary Elizabeth has my picture in her scrapbook!"

Mrs. Bird tried to convince the youngster that it couldn't be. Her own little girl had passed away nearly four years before and had no way of knowing her. But the child insisted:

"Yes, she did. She wanted me. She picked me out!"

Mrs. Bird wiped her floured hands on her long apron and went to the foot of the stairs. The child brought down the old scrapbook and, there, pasted on one of the last pages, was the newspaper clipping with pictures of four little orphaned sisters. Circled in crayon was the oldest one—Mary Elizabeth.

I'll never forget Sarah Bird's radiant face as she finished her story: "I was convinced then that my own little girl had indeed sent me both the blue-eyed baby Adelaide and the second Mary Elizabeth. They were like gifts from heaven."

—Theresa Budinger
HIS MYSTERIOUS WAYS

*God moves in a mysterious way,
His wonders to perform;
He plants his footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm.*
—William Cowper

Questions: (True/false)

1. The Pharisees liked listening to Jesus.
2. Jesus healed a man with a withered hand.
3. Men are of more value than sheep.
4. The Pharisees were happy that Jesus healed the man.
5. Jesus was fulfilling a prophecy made by Jonah.
6. Jesus healed a man possessed by a demon.
7. The Pharisees thought Jesus received power from God.
8. Jesus rescued a lamb from a pit.

Answers: 1. False. 2. True. 3. True.
4. False. 5. False. 6. True. 7. False.
8. False.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 Jan. 23, 2011

Jesus Teaches His Followers

"Do not judge others," Jesus admonished. "Because you will be judged by your own standards. Why does the speck of dust in your brother's eye bother you when you have a log in your own? You hypocrite! If you will take the log out of your own eye, then you can see clearly to take the speck of dust out of your brother's eye."

"If you ask, it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened for you. If your son asks you for bread, who among you would give him a stone? Or if he desired a fish, would you give him a snake? If you, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Heavenly Father give to those who ask Him! In all that you do, do unto others as you would have them do to you. This is the law and the prophets."

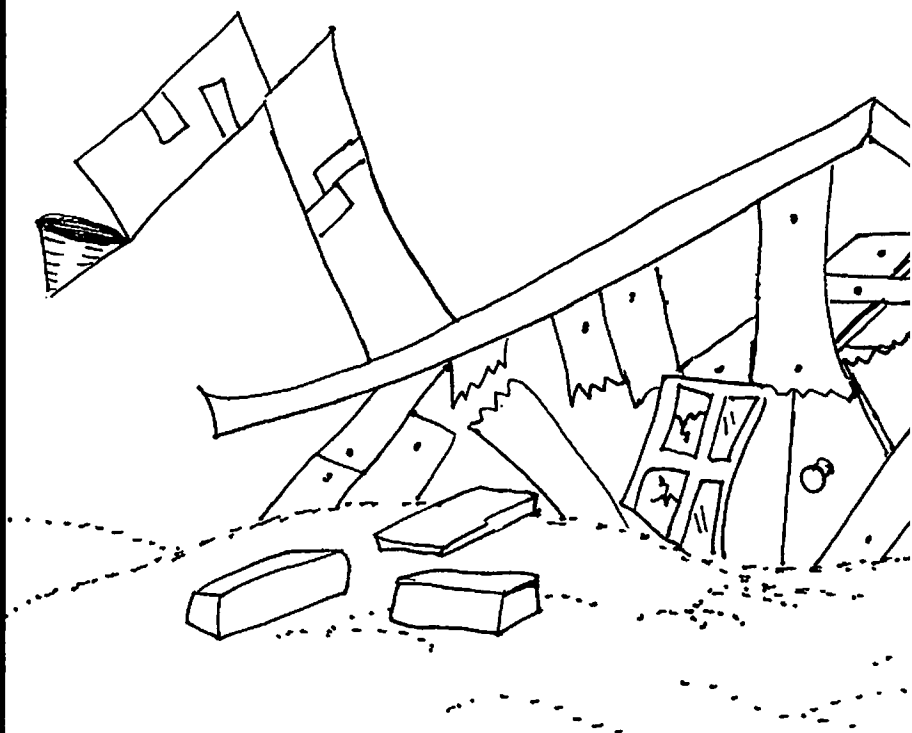
"Enter in the strait gate. The broad gate and the wide way leads to destruction. There are many people who enter through the broad gate. The way to life is through the strait gate and the narrow way. Very few people are willing to follow this way."

"Beware of false prophets. They may look like sheep, but really they are wolves wearing sheep's clothing. You will spot them through the fruit that they produce, or the way they act. Good trees will produce good fruit. Bad trees will produce evil fruit. Trees that do not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. Not everyone who calls me 'Lord' shall enter the kingdom of heaven. These people will say, 'Didn't we prophesy in your name and cast out demons?' But I will tell them, 'I never knew you. Depart from me, evildoers.'"

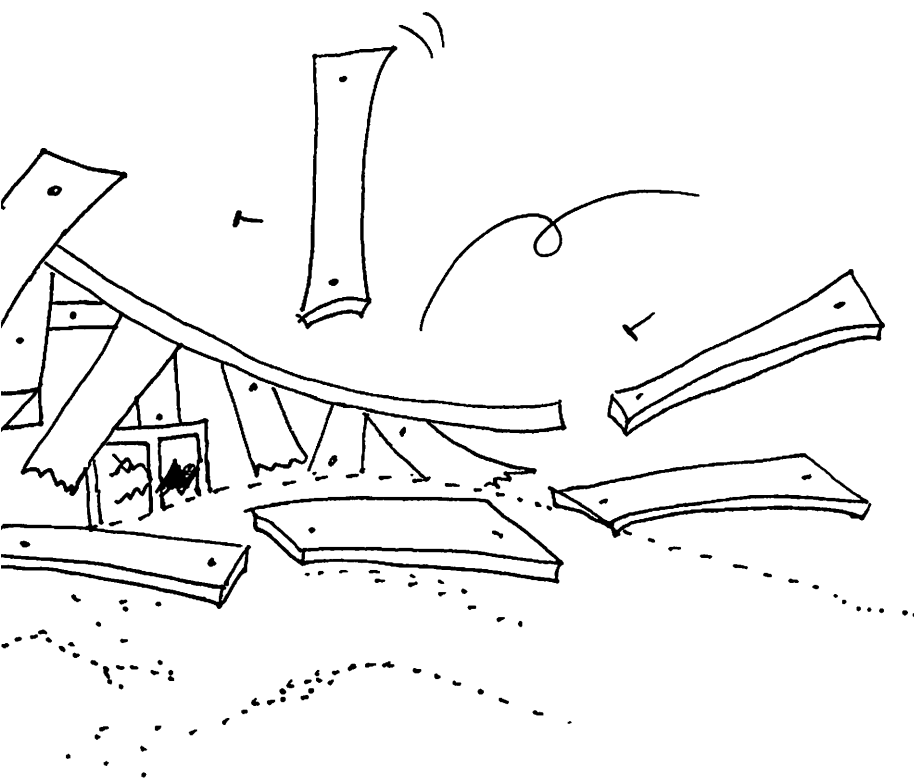
"Whoever listens to my sermons, and obeys what I say is like a wise man who built his house on a rock. Rains may pour down, floods rise, and the wind will beat on the house. The house will not fall, because it's foundation is built on a rock. Whoever does not obey my words is like a man who built his house on the sand. Rains will pour down, floods rise, and the winds will beat on the house. The house will fall, because it's foundation is built on the sand."

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“ . . . and it fell: and great w



the fall of it." Matthew 7:27



THE PRAYER OF A CHILD

There was a little Chinese girl who loved God and often talked to Him in prayer. She lived with her grandfather who was Mohammedan. Whenever he would catch the little girl praying in the Name of Jesus he would beat her.

One day the grandfather saw a band of robbers coming towards the city. He knew they were coming to his home. He was desperate! He knew of no way to protect himself from these vicious men who had invaded his home before.

Suddenly he thought of his little granddaughter. Hadn't she said God would answer prayer? Hurrying home he found her. He shook her roughly to let her know what great danger they were in. Then he cried, "If ever you prayed in your life, pray now! Those robbers are coming back. I have seen them from the city wall. They will soon be here. You say God answers prayer. Go into that room and pray. Pray that they may not come to our house!"

With that he pushed the child into an empty room and closed the door. All alone, the little girl, who was about eight years old, knelt down. Confidently she knelt to tell God about their trouble. Her mother was in the next room and heard her as she poured out her heart to the Lord.

"Heavenly Father," she said, "I am so happy, so thankful because my grandfather has told me to pray. Always before he beat me or kicked me if I prayed and was so angry. But now he has told me to pray. Heavenly Father, now's Your chance. Please show my grandfather that You do answer prayer. Please don't let the bandits come to our house." And her prayer was in the Name of the Lord Jesus.

Meanwhile the soldiers entered the city and sure enough, they headed right for the grandfather's house. His door was standing open. He knew there was no use of shutting it. As the

bandit's leader turned his horse's head to go into the grandfather's courtyard the little girl was in the house praying—"Don't let them come to our house, Heavenly Father. Now's Your chance. Please show my grandfather that You answer prayer!"

Amazingly, the horse would not go in. It backed and kicked; it shied this way and that way, and nothing would make it go in. The officer beat it and dug his spurs into it, but all to no purpose! Finally the bandit realized there must be something very strange in the courtyard. Overcome by fear, he told his men, "Why, this courtyard is full of demons! We cannot see them, but the horse can. Not one of you goes in there!" And he turned his horse and led his men to another part of the town.

The next day the grandfather went to the "Mission House" where his little granddaughter had learned how to pray. The missionary saw tears in his eyes when he met him. Finally he spoke. "To think," he said, "that all the while that little granddaughter of mine was right, and I was wrong. Teach me about the God who answers prayer like that! Teach me to pray."

—Adapted from *Answers to Prayer*.

Reprinted from *Pillar of Fire*.

Questions:

1. Why should we not judge others?
2. Why should one take the log out of their eye?
3. Ask and it will be _____ to you.
4. Seek and you will _____.
5. Knock and the _____ will be opened.
6. Enter in the _____ gate.
7. The broad gate leads to _____.
8. Whoever obeys Jesus was likened to what?

Answers: 1. We will be judged by our own standards. 2. So we can see clearly. 3. Given. 4. Find. 5. Door. 6. Strait. 7. Destruction. 8. A man who built his house on a rock.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 Jan. 30, 2011

The Centurion's Servant and a Dead Man

There was a centurion who lived near Jesus. A centurion is an important officer in the Roman army. The centurion's servant became very ill. The centurion loved his servant and was very concerned about him. When he heard about Jesus, he sent some members of the Jewish council to Jesus to ask Him to come and heal his servant.

"This man is worthy of healing," the elders told Jesus. "He loves our people and has built a synagogue for us." Jesus listened to their pleas and returned to the centurion's home with them. They were not far from the house when they were met by some of the centurion's friends.

"Lord, don't go to any more trouble for me," the centurion's friends gave Jesus his message. "I am not worthy for you to visit. I'm not even worthy to come to you. Please simply say the word and I know my servant will be healed. I am a man under the authority of other officers, but I also have officers under me. If I tell them 'Come', they come. If I tell them, 'Go,' they go."

Jesus was amazed at these sayings. He turned to His followers and said, "I have never found faith so great in all of Israel." The centurion's friends returned to the house and found the servant healed.

Soon after this, Jesus, His disciples, and a large crowd of followers travelled to the city of Nain. A funeral procession was leaving the city gate. A crowd of mourners accompanied the dead man's mother. She was a widow and he was her only son. Jesus saw the weeping woman and was moved with compassion. "Don't weep," He beseeched her. Jesus walked over to the coffin. The coffin bearers stood still as Jesus touched the coffin. "Young man, I tell you to get up," Jesus commanded.

How shocked the crowd was when the dead man sat up and began to talk! Jesus gave the boy back to his mother. "What a powerful prophet!" the townsfolk decreed. "God has visited his people." Rumors of this story spread throughout the countryside.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“ . . . when
he came
nigh to the
gate of the
city, behold,
there was
a dead
man
carried
out. . . ”

Luke 7: 12





THE UNEXPECTED NICKEL

On my library shelves are expensive editions of the Bible printed on gold-edged India paper. I have Bibles complete with concordance, interpreter's notes and historical maps. But none mean as much to me as a battered little New Testament I once bought for a nickel.

I can still remember that day: I was about eleven and, after school, rushed with the other boys and girls to our church where one of Billy Sunday's staff was holding a revival service. At the end of the meeting the speaker offered each child a copy of the New Testament for five cents, saying, "In order that you may fix in your hearts the love of God, you should keep with you a portion of the Word of God. I would give it to you free except that yours will mean more to you if you have to give up something for it."

I got up and left the building disconsolately as the boys and girls crowded about to buy their New Testaments. Few things in my life since then have been so keenly desired as that New Testament. But I had no money.

I walked along with my head down, thinking. I was about halfway home when I noticed something shining in the grass.

I poked at the strange object with my toe. Excitement took hold of me. I had found a nickel! No, I suddenly knew, God had given me that nickel!

Was it too late? Was the

preacher still in church? I had never run faster. Up the street, into the church—yes, he was still there. Breathlessly, I held out my nickel.

"Oh, I'm sorry, they're all gone." Then, seeing my disappointment, he added, "But give me your nickel and your name and address and I'll mail a New Testament to you."

I haunted the postman until my small package arrived. That was my first copy of God's Word, and it introduced me to the riches of the Bible. Who can say how much that New Testament had to do with directing my life in Christian channels?

Others have their one sure proof of God's personal interest in them. I have mine—God gave me that nickel!

—Glenn Asquith

HIS MYSTERIOUS WAYS

Questions:

1. Who was ill?
2. Why was the man important to the Jews?
3. What did the Centurion say Jesus should do?
4. What did his friends find?
5. Where did Jesus travel to next?
6. What was leaving the city?
7. Why was the crowd shocked?
8. _____ visited his people.

Answers: 1. The Centurion's servant. 2. He loved them and built a synagogue for them. 3. Say the word. 4. A healed servant. 5. Nain. 6. A funeral procession. 7. Jesus raised him from the dead. 8. God.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 Feb. 6, 2011

The Sower's Seeds

Jesus left the house where He was staying and went to sit by the seaside. A large group of people gathered round about Him, so many that He had to sit in a ship while the people stood on the shore and listened to His words. Today, Jesus told them many parables. Parables are stories Jesus told that taught a lesson. One of His parables was about a farmer who bought some seeds for his field.

"The farmer went out to plant the seeds," Jesus related. "Some of the seeds fell to the side, and birds came and ate them. Some other seeds fell on stony places. When the sun came up, they were scorched, and because they did not have enough dirt to keep their roots happy, they withered away. Some fell among thorns," Jesus continued. "The thorns sprang up and choked these plants. Others fell on good ground, and gave good fruit.

"When a person hears the Word of God and does not understand it, the devil comes and catches his heart. This is like the seed that fell by the wayside," Jesus explained. "The person that hears God's Word, and listens with joy, but does not have a root in himself is like the seed that fell on stony ground. He will endure for a while, but when trouble comes, he doesn't stay. The person that hears the Word but is loaded with the cares of life and strives to acquire great riches, is like the seed that fell among thorns. The cares of the world choke his seed so that he becomes unfruitful. The seed that fell on good ground are the people that understand God's Word and bear fruit," Jesus concluded the parable with these words.

One time, while Jesus was speaking to a large crowd, His mother Mary and some of His brothers wanted to talk with Him. Someone told Jesus about it. "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" Jesus asked. He pointed to His disciples and said, "These are my mother, and my brothers. Whoever will do the will of my Father, the same is my sister, my brother, and my mother." —Sis. Monica Murphey

“ . . . when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side,
and the fowls came and devoured them up: ”

Matthew 13: 3-4





"We Are Never Alone"

Do you know the legend of the Cherokee Indian youth's rite of passage? His dad takes him into the forest...blindfolded...and leaves him....alone.

He is required to sit on a stump the whole night...and not take off the blindfold until the ray of sun shines through it. He is all by himself. He cannot cry out for help to anyone. Once he survives the night...he is a MAN. He cannot tell the other boys of this experience. Each lad must come into his own manhood.

The boy was terrified...could hear all kinds of noise...Beasts were all around him. Maybe even some human would hurt him. The wind blew the grass and earth...and it shook his stump. But he sat stoically...never removing the blindfold. It would be the only way he could be a man.

Finally, after a horrific night...the sun appeared and he removed his blindfold. It was then that he saw his father...sitting on the stump next to him...at watch...the entire night.

We are never alone. Even when we do not know it, our Father is protecting us...He is sitting on the stump beside us. All we have to do is reach out to Him.

WHAT KIND DO YOU CHOOSE?

About ten years from now you'll meet a man with whom you'll have to live all the rest of your life," said a thoughtful teacher to his class of boys. "He will wear your clothes, eat your food and answer to your name.

What kind of fellow will he be? That all depends on you. Whether you want to or not, each one of you is deciding every day the kind of man he is going to live with a few years hence."

Furthermore, it is an arresting fact that, if the fellow you are going to live with does not turn out to be the kind of man you like, you are going to have a hard job getting away from him. If you do not like your neighborhood, you can move. If you do not like the man across the street, you can let him alone. But if you find that you do not like yourself, what are you going to do about it?

Right now is the time to decide whether you will live with a man who is pure or impure, truthful or dishonest, selfish or unselfish, kind or unkind, religious or irreligious, a man who is ashamed of himself, or a man who holds his head high.

—Selected

Questions: (True/False)

1. A parable is a story told to teach a lesson.
2. Jesus sat on a horse while the crowd listened.
3. Jesus told a parable about a farmer planting seeds
4. Some seeds fell off to the side and birds ate them.
5. Some seeds blew away with the wind.
6. Some seeds fell in good ground and gave good fruit.
7. The seeds that fell on good ground are people that understand God's word.
8. Whoever tries to get their own way is Jesus' brother.

Answers: 1. True. 2. False. 3. True.
4. True. 5. False. 6. True. 7. True.
8. False

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 Feb. 13, 2011

The Enemy's Evil Deed

Jesus told many parables about the kingdom of Heaven. One day, Jesus told another parable about a sower. "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed seeds in his field. While he slept, the enemy came and sowed bad plants, called tares, in among his wheat.

"When the plants grew, the servants were confused. 'Didn't you sow good seed in the field?' they asked. 'Why are these tares here?'

'An enemy has done this,' the master answered.

'Would you like for us to gather them?' the servants asked their master.

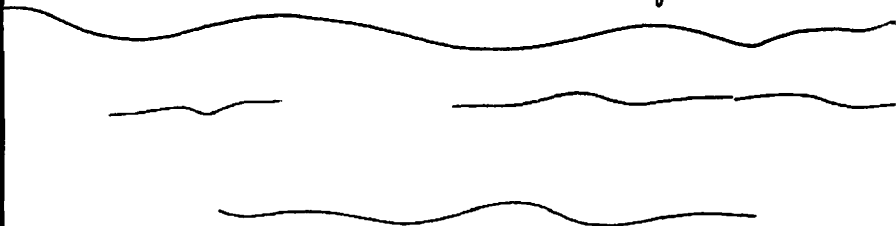
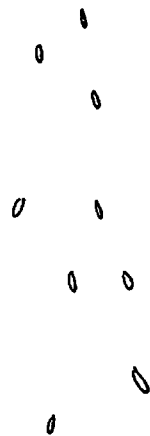
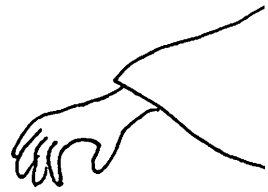
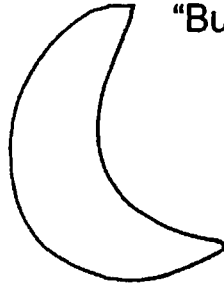
'No, you might pick the good along with the tares. Let the good and bad grow together until the harvest. I will say to the reapers, first pick the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn. Put the wheat into my barn,' their master replied."

Jesus spoke this parable to a great multitude of people. He was sitting in a boat and the people were standing on the shore. After Jesus finished telling this parable, He sent the people away and went back to the house where He was staying. The disciples came to Him. "Tell us the meaning of the parable of the tares," the disciples asked Jesus.

"The farmer that sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom. The tares are the children of the wicked one. The enemy that sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the world. The Son of Man will send out His angels and they will gather all of the ones who do bad things and cast them into a furnace with a hot fire. There will be crying and gnashing of teeth. Then He will gather the righteous, who will shine like the sun into the kingdom of their Father," Jesus explained.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

"But while men slep



enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and
went his way." Matthew 13: 25



A CRY FOR HELP

My minister-father believed that God walked beside you day by day, lending you a hand whenever you needed it. He shared this faith with his four children. I remember one summer night about nine o'clock when we were all returning from a day's outing in the family jalopy.

Suddenly a car with glaring headlights swerved around the bend, side-swiping our car. My father, blinded by the head-lights, veered off the road, crashed through a fence and came to a sudden stop. Our car was leaning precariously toward the right.

"Don't anyone move," Dad warned. "We don't know what's below us. Just sit still until someone comes to help. God is with us."

We scarcely dared breathe. We were even afraid to call for help. Dad said the noise might make the car lean still further.

My baby sister slept in mother's lap. Time dragged on. Cars whizzed by us on the highway. Nobody stopped even though our headlights were on.

When my little brother began to whimper, Dad said quietly, "Just hang on. Help will come. All of you pray." Soon the baby woke up and started to scream. Mother couldn't quiet her. We heard a car drive by slowly, slam on its brakes and stop. Our ears strained as a car door opened and then footsteps approached.

"Great guns," a man exclaimed when he saw all of us in the car. "I'll go get help. There's a garage nearby." The tone of his voice frightened me as he added, "Don't anyone move!"

He disappeared but soon returned with another man and a tow truck. In no time at all we were safely back on the road.

"You're lucky to be alive. There's a river about thirty feet below that fence you crashed through," the garage

man explained. "One little move in the wrong direction and you all would have been pitched right into it."

"If your windows hadn't been open," said our benefactor, "I never would have heard that baby and figured something was wrong."

"The Lord was with us," said my father.

That night, and for many nights, our family prayers were words of gratitude to God for watching over us.

—Karin Asbrand

HIS MYSTERIOUS WAYS

Prayer Is Power

Prayer is reaching

Beyond human scope,

Past reason, past logic,

Past yearning, past hope.

Available always

Through faith every minute;

Prayer is a power

With miracles in it.

—Viola Jacobson Berg

Questions:

1. What did the enemy do while the man slept?
2. Why were they surprised to find tares?
3. What were the servants to do with the tares?
4. What were the servants to do with the wheat?
5. Who was the farmer that sowed the good seed in the parable?
6. Who was the enemy that sowed the tares?
7. What did the harvest represent?
8. Where will the righteous be taken at the end of the world?

Answers: 1. Sowed bad tares among the good seeds. 2. The farmer had only planted good seeds. 3. Put the tares in bundles and burn them. 4. Gather it & put it in the barn. 5. God. 6. The devil. 7. The end of the world. 8. Into the kingdom of the father.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 Feb. 20, 2011

The Kingdom of Heaven

Jesus told many parables about the kingdom of Heaven. "The kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man takes and sows in his field," Jesus explained. "It is a very small seed, but it grows to be a great tree. The birds of the air come and lodge in its branches.

"The kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that is hidden in a field. When a man finds the treasure, he sells everything that he has, and buys the field.

"The kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant who buys pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he sells all that he has, and buys it.

"The kingdom of Heaven is like a net that is cast into the sea and gathers things from the sea. When it is full, they draw out the net, and separate the good from the bad. The bad will be cast away. This is how it will be at the end of the world. The angels will come and take the wicked from the righteous. The wicked will be cast into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth," Jesus explained.

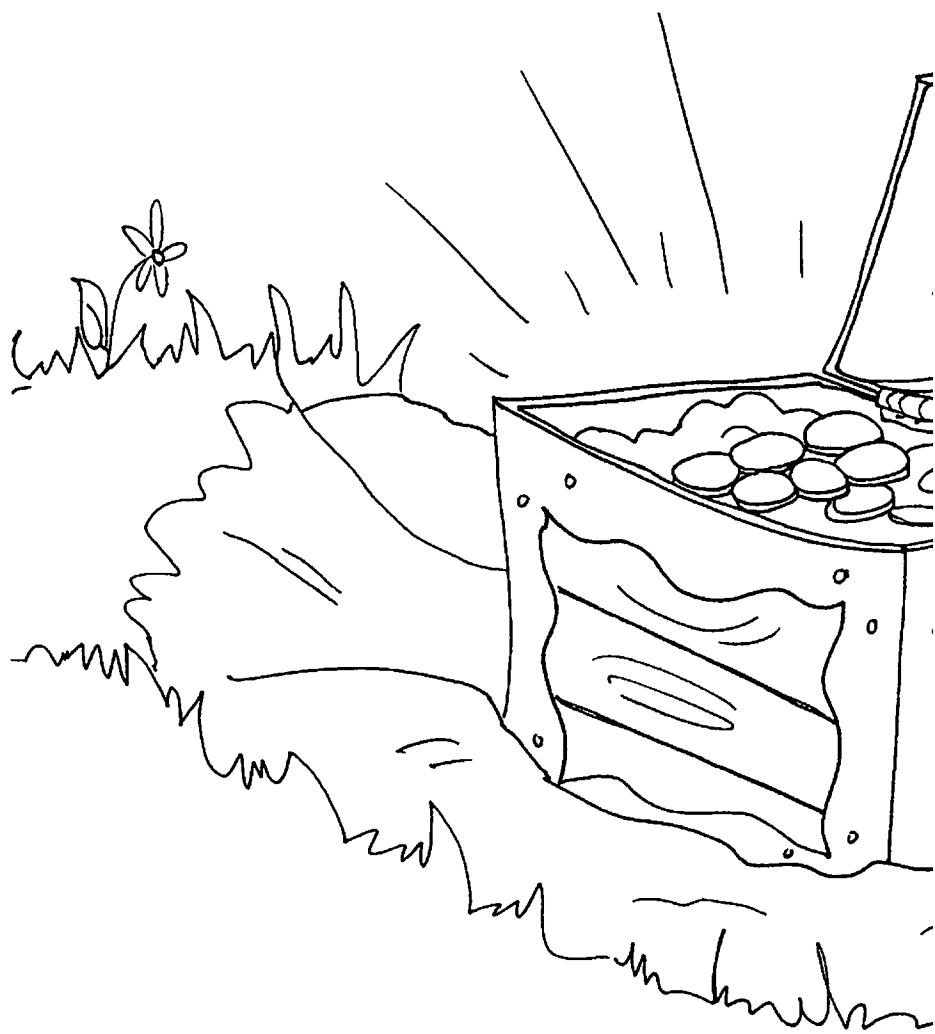
"Repent! The kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" Jesus often advised. This means it is available now; we can have it today!

Jesus said once that it was hard for rich men to get into the kingdom of Heaven. "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into God's kingdom," Jesus portrayed. "Who can be saved?" His disciples asked. "With men, it would be impossible. With God, anything is possible," Jesus answered.

In Romans, Paul says, "The kingdom of Heaven is not meat or drink, but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." Some churches teach that the kingdom of Heaven is a real kingdom that will be set up in Jerusalem, where the chosen holy ones may live. However, from Jesus' own words, we know that the kingdom of Heaven is here now. From Paul's words, we know this is not a literal kingdom, but a spiritual kingdom that is in our hearts. —Sis. Monica Murphey

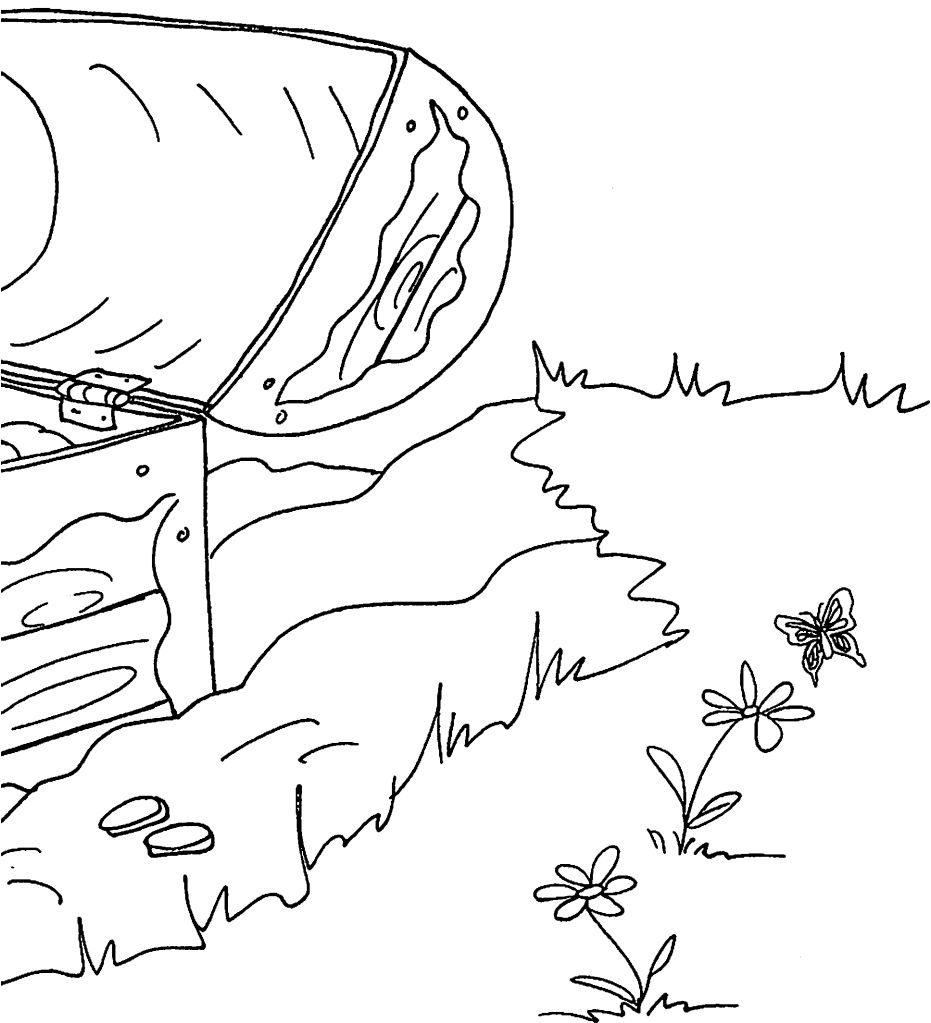
“ . . . the kingdom of heaven is I

Matthe



unto treasure hid in a field . . . ”

3:44



WATER

It was one of the hottest days of the dry season. We had not seen rain in almost a month. The crops were dying. Cows had stopped giving milk. The creeks and streams were long gone back into the earth. It was a dry season that would bankrupt several farmers before it was through.

Every day, my husband and his brothers would go about the arduous process of trying to get water to the fields. Lately this process had involved taking a truck to the local water rendering plant and filling it up with water. But severe rationing had cut everyone off. If we didn't see some rain soon...we would lose everything.

It was on this day that I learned the true lesson of sharing and witnessed the only miracle I have seen with my own eyes. I was in the kitchen making lunch for my husband and his brothers when I saw my six-year old son, Billy, walking toward the woods. He wasn't walking with the usual carefree abandon of a youth but with a serious purpose. I could only see his back. He was obviously walking with a great effort—trying to be as still as possible. Minutes after he disappeared into the woods, he came running out again, toward the house.

I went back to making sandwiches, thinking that whatever task he had been doing was completed. Moments later, however, he was once again walking in that slow purposeful stride toward the woods. This activity went on for an hour: walk carefully to the woods, run back to the house.

Finally I couldn't take it any longer and I crept out of the house and followed him on his journey (being very careful not to be seen—as he was obviously doing important work and didn't need his Mommy checking up on him).

He was cupping both hands in front of him as he walked; being very careful not to spill the water he held in them—maybe two or three tablespoons were held in his tiny hands. I sneaked close as he went into the woods. Branches and thorns slapped his little face but he did not try to avoid them. He had a much higher purpose.

(To be continued)

Questions:

1. What does the man do with the mustard seed?
2. What does the mustard seed grow into?
3. What does the man do when he finds treasure in a field?
4. The merchant sells everything he has to buy what?
5. What happens to the bad things in the net?
6. Finish this sentence. The kingdom of Heaven is at _____.
7. What did Jesus say was easier to do than a rich man entering God's kingdom?
8. What three things did Paul say the kingdom of Heaven was?

Answers: 1. Plants it. 2. A tree, where birds come and stay in its branches. 3. Sells everything and buys the field. 4. A pearl of great price. 5. They are cast away. 6. Hand. 7. For a camel to go through the eye of a needle. 8. Righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 Feb. 27, 2011

Jesus Stills a Storm and Casts out Devils

Jesus got on a ship, and His disciples followed Him. While they were sailing, a terrible storm suddenly arose on the lake. The ship was tossed about by the waves. Jesus' disciples were surprised to find Jesus asleep while the storm was raging about the ship.

His disciples came and woke Him up. "Lord, save us! We are going to die," His disciples pleaded.

"Why are you afraid? You have little faith," Jesus replied. Then He stood up and rebuked the wind and the sea. The storm was stopped. The waves stilled.

"Who is this man? Even the winds and the sea obey Him," Jesus' disciples marveled.

When they came to the other side to the country of the Gergesenes, they met two men possessed with devils, who lived among the tombs. They were so fierce, that people were scared to come near.

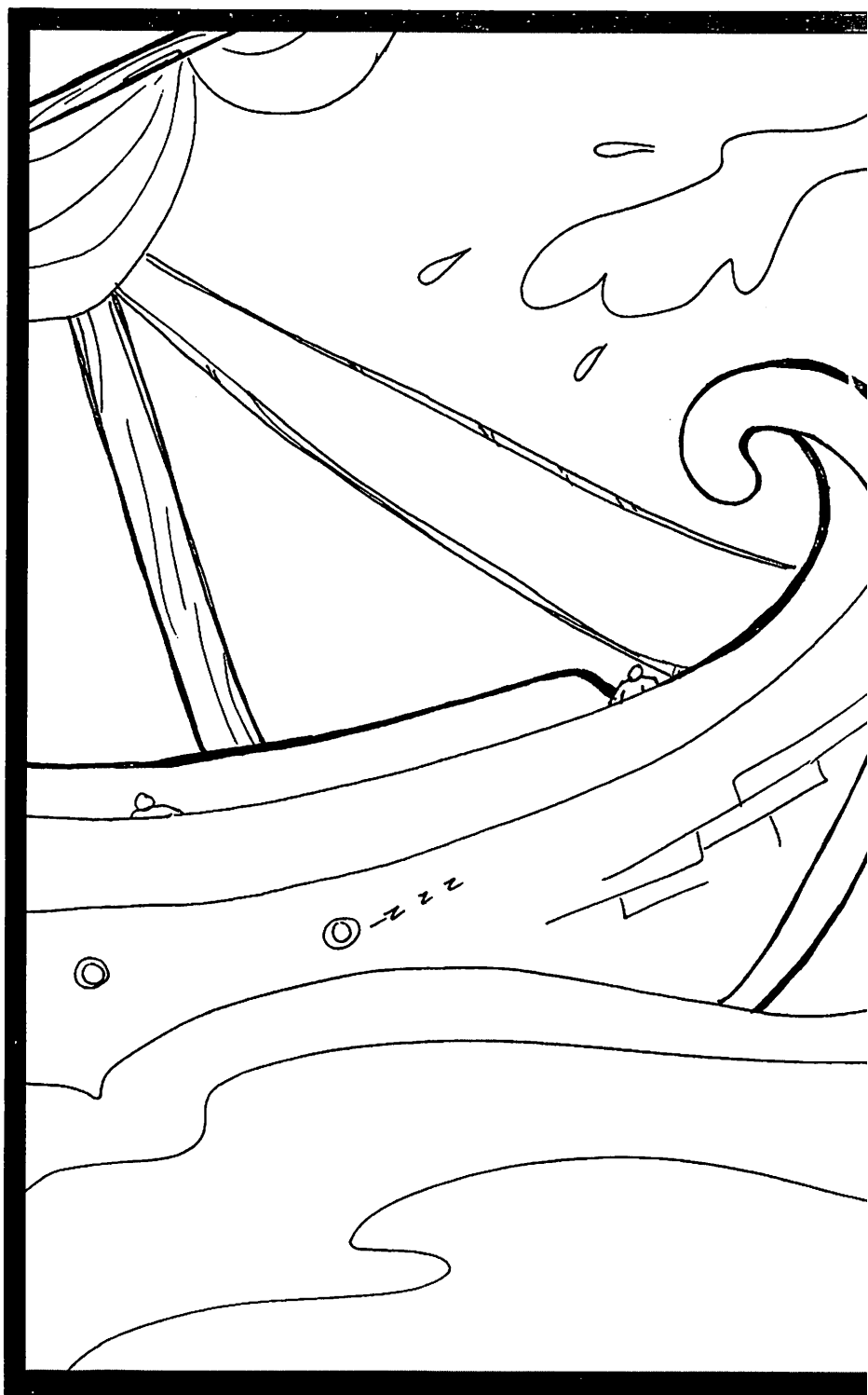
"What have we to do with you, Jesus, Son of God? Have you come to torment us?" the devils inside the men asked.

Not too far away was a herd of pigs. "If you cast us out, let us go into the herd of pigs," the devils pled. And Jesus said, "Go."

The devils left the men and went into the swine. The whole herd ran down a steep hill into the sea, where they were drowned in the waters. Those who had been tending the pigs ran to town, spreading word about what had happened.

Word of the miracle got out to those who lived in the city. The whole city came out to meet Jesus. When they saw Him, they asked Him to leave. Jesus returned to His home. He continued teaching large crowds and healing the sick.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



“ . . . the ship was covered with the
waves: but he was asleep.”

Matthew 8:24



WATER

(Continued)

As I leaned in to spy on him, I saw the most amazing sight. Several large deer loomed in front of him. Billy walked right up to them. I almost screamed for him to get away. A huge buck with elaborate antlers was dangerously close. But the buck did not threaten him—he didn't even move as Billy knelt down. And I saw a tiny fawn laying on the ground, obviously suffering from dehydration and heat exhaustion, lift its head with great effort to lap up the water cupped in my beautiful boy's hand. When the water was gone, Billy jumped up to run back to the house and I hid behind a tree.

I followed him back to the house to a spigot that we had shut off the water to. Billy opened it all the way up and a small trickle began to creep out. He knelt there, letting the drip, drip slowly fill up his makeshift cup, as the sun beat down on his little back.

And it came clear to me. The trouble he had gotten into for playing with the hose the week before. The lecture he had received about the importance of not wasting water. The reason he didn't ask me to help him.

It took almost twenty minutes for the drops to fill his hands. When he stood up and began the trek back, I was there in front of him. His little eyes just filled with tears. "I'm not wasting," was all he said. As he began his walk, I joined him...with a small pot of water from the kitchen. I let him

tend to the fawn. I stayed away. It was his job. I stood on the edge of the woods watching the most beautiful heart I have ever known working so hard to save another life.

As the tears that rolled down my face began to hit the ground, they were suddenly joined by other drops—and more drops—and more. I looked up at the sky. It was as if God, Himself, was weeping. The rain that came that day saved our farm—just like the actions of one little boy saved a fawn.
—Selected

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

Questions:

1. What happened while Jesus was on the ship?
2. Where was Jesus during the storm?
3. What did Jesus tell his disciples when they woke him?
4. What did Jesus meet in the town they came to?
5. Where were the devils cast?
6. What happened to the pigs?
7. Where did Jesus teach in the synagogue?
8. Where did Jesus say a prophet had no respect?

<p>Answers: 1. A storm arose. 2. Asleep. 3. "You have little faith." 4. Two men possessed of devils. 5. Into a herd of pigs. 6. They were drowned. 7. In His own country. 8. In his own country.</p>

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 Mar. 6, 2011

The Spurned Invitations

"The kingdom of God will be taken from you!" Jesus declared, "And given to a people who bring forth good fruits." The chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, and thought that Jesus was speaking about them. They thought about killing Him, but so many people were gathered around Jesus and listening to Him teach, that they were afraid.

Jesus explained what He had told them through a parable. This parable was about a king, who had arranged a marriage for his son. "Servants, go and tell those that I have invited to the supper that everything is ready. My oxen and cattle are prepared and all things are ready."

The servants returned with the news that they would not come. The king decided to try again. He sent out his servants with invitations.

Once again, the servants were met with excuses. "I have just purchased a piece of property. I must see to it. Please excuse me," one of the guests refused.

"I have recently bought five yoke of oxen. I need to see to them," another declined.

"I have just got married. I cannot come," another excused himself.

These people treated the king's servants terribly, and even killed them. When the king heard about this, he was furious. His armies were called to destroy the murderers. Their cities were burned up.

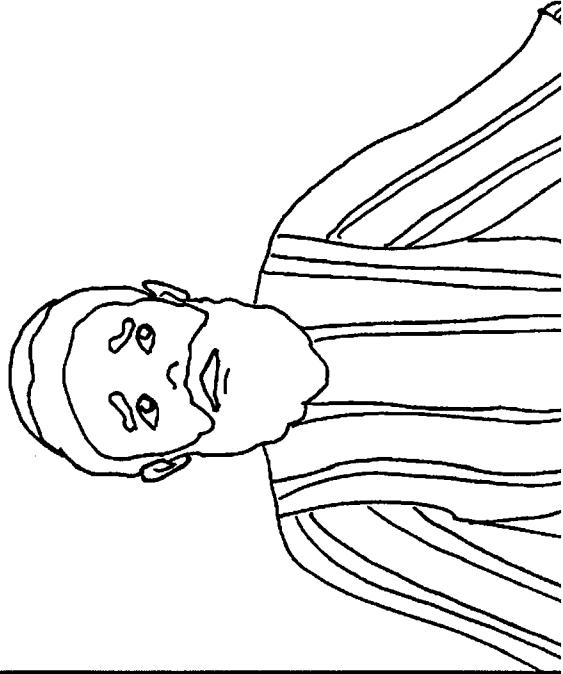
"The wedding is ready," the king said to a servant. "Those who were invited were not worthy. Go to the highways and invite whoever you find to come to the marriage. If there are any too poor to buy proper clothes to attend the wedding in, we will make some for them."

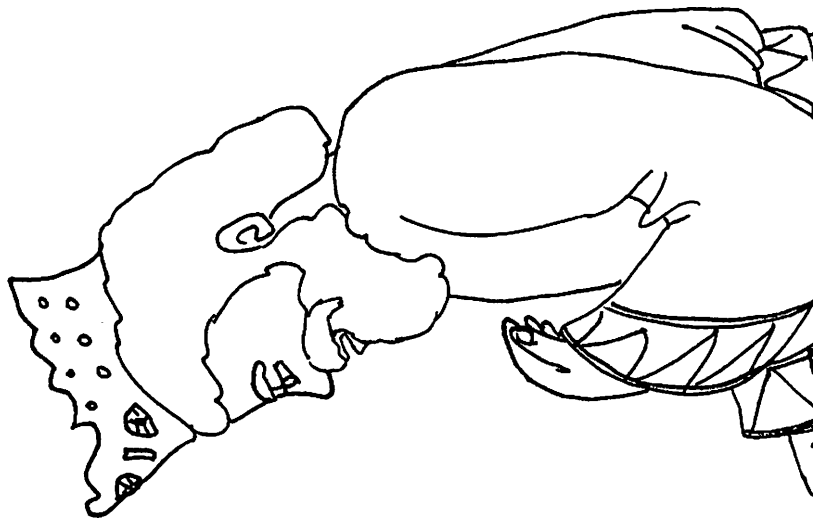
So the servants did as they were bidden. However, the king found one man who was a problem. He did not have on a proper wedding garment. "Why did you come without a garment?" the king asked. "Bind this man up and throw him into outer darkness where there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

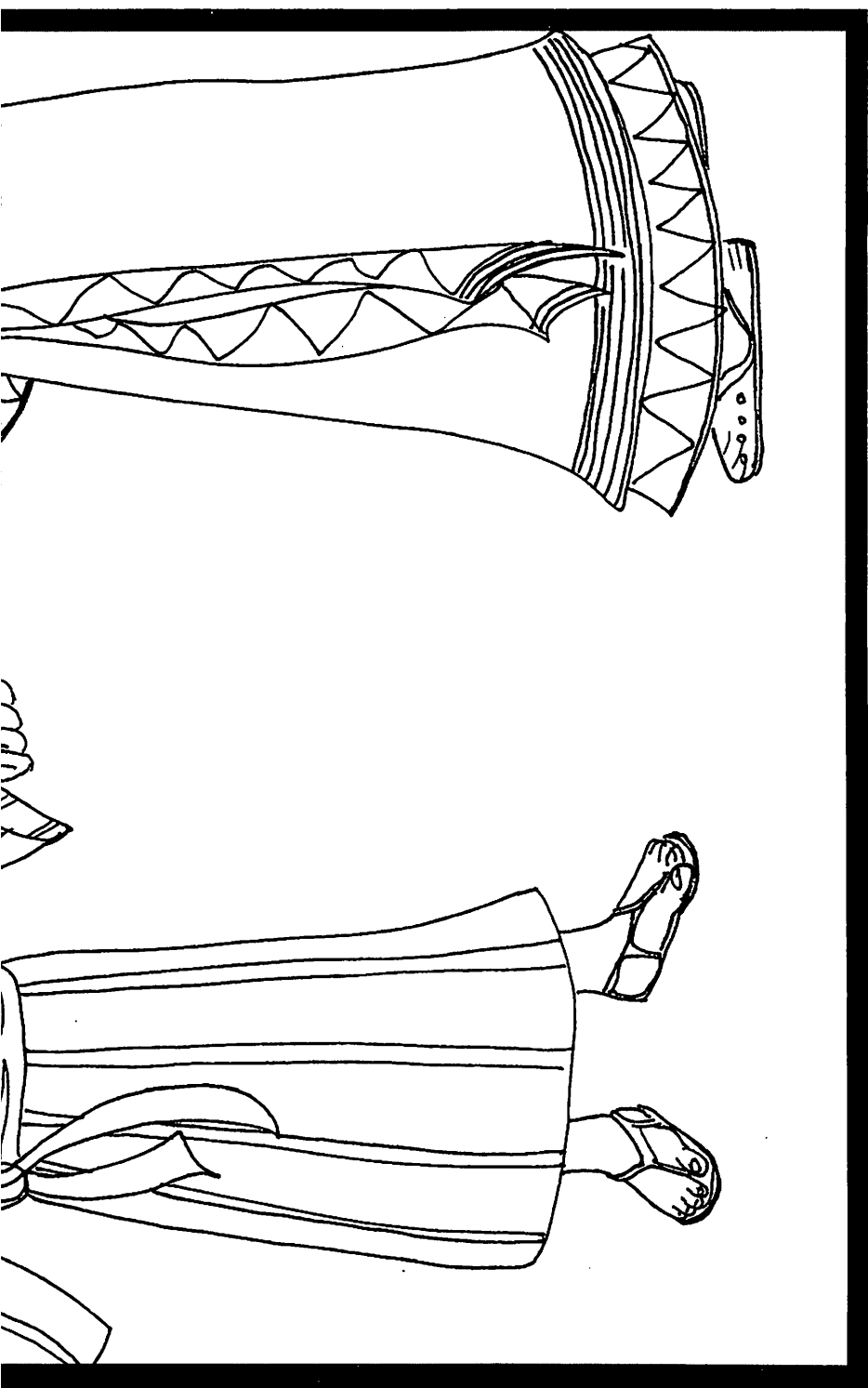
—Sis. Monica Murphey

“ . . . he saw . . . a man which had
not on a wedding garment.”

Matthew 22:11







TOO TIRED TO SWIM

When our sons, Chet and Jeff, were teenagers, they always celebrated the end of a long trip home to Florida by dashing out of the car and jumping into our swimming pool. It was the finishing touch to a journey—as much a family tradition as the prayers that started a trip. My wife, Catherine, our children and I never set out without first asking for God's protection from trip's beginning to trip's end.

One year before leaving Virginia, the family prayed together as usual, asking God to be especially close. We made the trip south without incident. But on arriving home, the boys failed to make their customary dash to the pool.

"Too tired," they said.

In checking things around the house, I started to switch on the underwater light that creates a beautiful glow in the pool. But the switch was already on the "on" position. Odd, I thought. Well, I guess the bulb burned out. But then a prickly feeling crept over me.

Immediately I taped the switch in the "off" position and made sure that no one was to enter the pool. The next morning, I called an electrician, who checked the pool light carefully. "You've got an old, obsolete fixture here," he said. "Must've been here before you bought the place. Anyhow, water got into the light socket and shorted the circuit. Good thing nobody went swimming—they would have been electrocuted."

More than a good thing. For our family, it was one more example of how God touches our lives in a

supernatural way when we seek His help.

—Leonard E. LeSourd
HIS MYSTERIOUS WAYS

The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

Psalms 121: 5-8

Questions:

1. What was the king sending out invitations for?
2. How did the ones the king invited respond?
3. How did the ones invited respond the second time?
4. How did they treat the king's servants?
5. What did he do to the ones who refused his invitations?
6. Who were the servants told to invite instead?
7. What was improper about one of the guests?
8. What did the king say to do with the man?

Answers: 1. His son's wedding feast. 2. They refused to come. 3. They sent excuses. 4. They mistreated them and killed them. 5. He had his armies kill them and burned their cities. 6. Everyone they met. 7. He did not wear a wedding garment. 8. To throw him into outer darkness.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 Mar. 13, 2011

Jairus' Daughter

When Jesus came back from casting the devils out of the man who lived among the tombs, the people were glad to see Him. They were waiting on Jesus, because an important leader in the synagogue had a daughter that was dying. When Jairus saw Jesus, he fell at Jesus feet. "Please come to my dying daughter," he begged. As Jesus walked to Jairus' house, many people followed and surrounded Him.

Among the people surrounding Jesus was a woman who had been afflicted with a disease for twelve years. She had spent all of her money seeking opinions and help from doctors, but none of them gave her any hope of healing for her disease. This poor lady came up behind Jesus and touched His robe. Immediately, her disease was healed.

"Who touched me?" Jesus wondered.

"Master, there is a large crowd gathered around you, pressing you on every side, and you ask who touched you?" Peter inquired.

"Somebody touched me. I felt it," Jesus replied.

The poor woman came trembling, and fell down before Jesus. She told Jesus that she had touched His robe, and that she had been healed.

"Your faith has made you whole. Go in peace," Jesus told the woman.

While Jesus was speaking, a man had come from Jairus's house. "Your daughter is dead. Do not worry the Master any longer," the man informed Jairus.

"Do not fear, only believe, and she will be made whole," Jesus told Jairus. When He saw the girl, Jesus said, "She is not dead, but sleeping." Jesus asked everyone to leave the room. He took the dead girl by the hand and called, "Arise!" The girl rose and asked for something to eat. Her parents were amazed, but Jesus asked them to tell no others.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

**“Came behind him,
and touched the
border of his
garment: . . .”**

Luke 8:44







THE MEATLOAF

Recently, God sent a raven to supply for some starving children in India.

It happened like this:

One day two missionaries planned a special lunch together on the porch of the hospital where they were working. Before her friend arrived, one lady unpacked the meat loaf she had made and went inside to get something she had forgotten. She returned just in time to see a large raven snatch up the meat loaf and fly away! She screeched and waved her arms, but the raven was too far away to be frightened by the woman. They ate the remaining part of their lunch, never dreaming they would hear what happened to the meat loaf.

A few days later, however, a poor Hindu woman came to them wanting to know about the Christian's God.

"Three days ago," she said, "My children were starving and I had nothing for them to eat. Knowing that no one would help me, I decided to say a prayer to every god I knew. I knelt and prayed to the god I thought most likely to help me. Then I waited for an answer. No answer. I prayed to another god. Nothing happened. This I did to all the Hindu gods. Not one sent me food.

"Then I remembered the Christian's God. Not knowing how to pray to Him, I just told Him I needed food for my starving children. Before I got up off my knees a large raven swooped down and dropped a nice meat loaf beside me! Now I want to serve this God. Can you tell me how?"

Aren't you happy that you know how to serve such a caring God? Do you have a need? Trust Him and He will supply it.

—Selected

AMONG ROBBERS

ONE NIGHT a band of robbers broke into the house of a Christian man in China. They took away his son and then asked for a great sum of money as a ransom.

The poor man did not have enough money to pay the ransom, and he knew that if the money was not paid on a certain day in an appointed place, the child would be killed by the robbers. But he knew the One who has said: "Call upon Me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me." Psalm 50:15.

The father got down on his knees and prayed earnestly to God to save his child. He prayed the whole day and the following night.

Early in the morning he heard the voice of his boy at the door. He had a happy face, but his clothes were torn and his feet were sore. He told his parents how the Lord had helped him. In the evening, while the robbers were quarrelling among themselves and not watching him, he took the opportunity to steal away in the twilight. He had run all night to get home. With thankful hearts the whole family praised the Lord for this merciful deliverance.

—Selected

Questions:

1. Why were the people waiting on Jesus?
2. What did the sick woman do?
3. What happened when she touched Jesus' robe?
4. What did Jesus tell the woman?
5. What bad news did the man from Jairus's house tell them?
6. What did Jesus say when He saw the girl?
7. What did Jesus tell the girl to do?
8. How did her parents feel?

Answers: 1. Jairus had a sick daughter. 2. Touched Jesus' robe. 3. She was healed. 4. "Your faith has made you whole." 5. His daughter was dead. 6. "She is not dead, but sleeping." 7. "Arise!" 8. Amazed.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 Mar. 20, 2011

A Terrible Dinner Party

John the Baptist continued preaching God's Word and baptizing those who confessed their sins. He made many people angry because he was not afraid to tell them that they were sinners. One of the people that was angry at John was King Herod. "It is against God's law for you to be married to your brother's wife," John said to King Herod. John confused King Herod. Herod knew that John was a righteous and godly man. He enjoyed listening to him speak, but John's words left King Herod feeling very perplexed. But when King Herod heard John's words against his marriage, he had John thrown into prison.

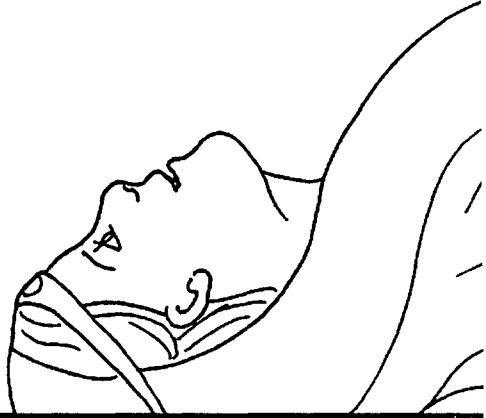
King Herod's wife, Herodias, was angry at John also. Herodias had been married to Phillip, Herod's brother, but they had divorced. She tried to think of ways to hurt John. Finally, the time came. It was King Herod's birthday, and many guests came to visit the palace to help him celebrate. Important men of the military and from Galilee joined King Herod at a huge feast. Herodias' daughter, Salome, entertained the guests with a special dance for her step-father. King Herod was very pleased that she had honored him in this manner. "I'll give you whatever you ask for," King Herod told Salome. "Up to half of my kingdom."

Salome asked her mother for advice. "What should I ask for?" she said. "Ask for the head of John the Baptist," her mother insisted. Salome hurried back into the banquet hall and said, "I want the head of John the Baptist on a platter." This made King Herod very upset, but he had promised to give Salome anything she wanted. He didn't want to look bad in front of all of his guests.

The executioner came back with Salome's gruesome gift. Salome gave it to her mother. John's disciples came and took his body to a tomb. Many people were saddened by the death of this great prophet.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“ . . . she . . . said
unto her mother,
What shall I ask? . . . ”
Mark 6:24







THE LITTLE MISSIONARY

A little girl, when her father was sick, went to the post office and said, "Please give me my father's mail," in a sweet, childish voice.

"Who is your father?" asked the clerk at the window.

"Don't you know my father?" she asked with astonishment.

"Of course, I don't. Why should I?" he answered.

"Why, everybody knows my father," she replied.

"There is certainly one person that does not," he answered.

"Don't you go to meetings on Sunday?" she asked.

"No, I don't go to meetings."

"What! Never go to meetings? That's why you don't know my father. He is the minister and everybody knows him."

"If you will tell me his name, I will see if there are any letters for him."

She told him, and when he said there were none, she said, "Did you say you never go to meeting?"

"That's what I said," he answered, and turned away from the window. He had become worse than careless about such things. The little girl walked away, looking very sad.

Next day the postmaster told her there were no letters yet, and turned away. But she was not to be foiled in her purpose and said, "You never saw my father, did you?"

"No, not to know him," he replied.

"Everybody likes him that knows him, and they say that he is a good preacher."

The postmaster laughed and said he did not doubt it.

"Don't you ever go to meeting?"

"Not in these days."

"You would like to hear my father—everybody does."

The question came too close for him so again he turned away.

The next day he handed her a letter addressed to her father, saying, "It has come at last."

"He will be glad to have it," she said, thanking him. Then with earnestness she continued, "I wish you knew my father, you would like him."

"I have no doubt I should, if he is anything like his daughter."

"I wish you'd come next Sunday, and hear him preach. I know you would be pleased."

"I don't know anyone there, and I would feel like a stranger."

"You'll know me, and I will be so happy to see you. You may sit with us."

He objected again and again, but she kept on in her childish way, until at last he promised to come. He did not look entirely pleased, but she ran off, pleased enough.

Sunday morning she anxiously looked out the window to see if the day would be fine. She was early to meeting and turned nervously a great many times toward the door and at last beckoned with her little hand.

(To be continued)

Questions:

1. Why was Herod angry with John?
2. Who else was angry with John?
3. Why did Herod throw a feast?
4. How did Salome entertain the guests?
5. What did King Herod promise her?
6. What did Salome ask for?
7. How did this make King Herod feel?
8. Who took the body?

Answers: 1. He spoke against Herod's marriage. 2. Herodias. 3. To celebrate his birthday. 4. She danced. 5. Anything she wanted. 6. The head of John the Baptist. 7. Upset. 8. John's disciples.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 Mar. 30, 2011

Five Thousand Are Fed

After Jesus heard about John the Baptist's death, He wanted some time alone so left the multitudes of people that followed Him and went into the desert. However, the people followed Him. Jesus felt compassion for them and healed their sick. It began to grow late. "We are in a desert," one of the disciples informed Jesus. "Send the people away, so that they may go to buy food."

Jesus said, "They do not have to go. Give them something to eat."

"We only have five loaves and two fishes here," they told Jesus.

"Bring them to me," Jesus demanded. "Sit down," Jesus told the people.

Jesus took the five loaves and two fishes. Looking up to Heaven, He blessed the food. Jesus broke the loaves of bread, and gave the loaves to His disciples to give to the multitude.

Everyone ate. They ate until they were full. They took the remaining food and put it into baskets. There were twelve baskets of food left over that day. There were about five thousand people in that crowd that were fed by the five loaves and two fishes.

Jesus sent everyone away. The disciples returned to their houses on a ship. Jesus went up into a mountain alone to pray. Meanwhile, a wind arose on the sea. The disciples' ship was tossed among the waves. Jesus went to His disciples, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the water, they were afraid. "It is a ghost!" they cried.

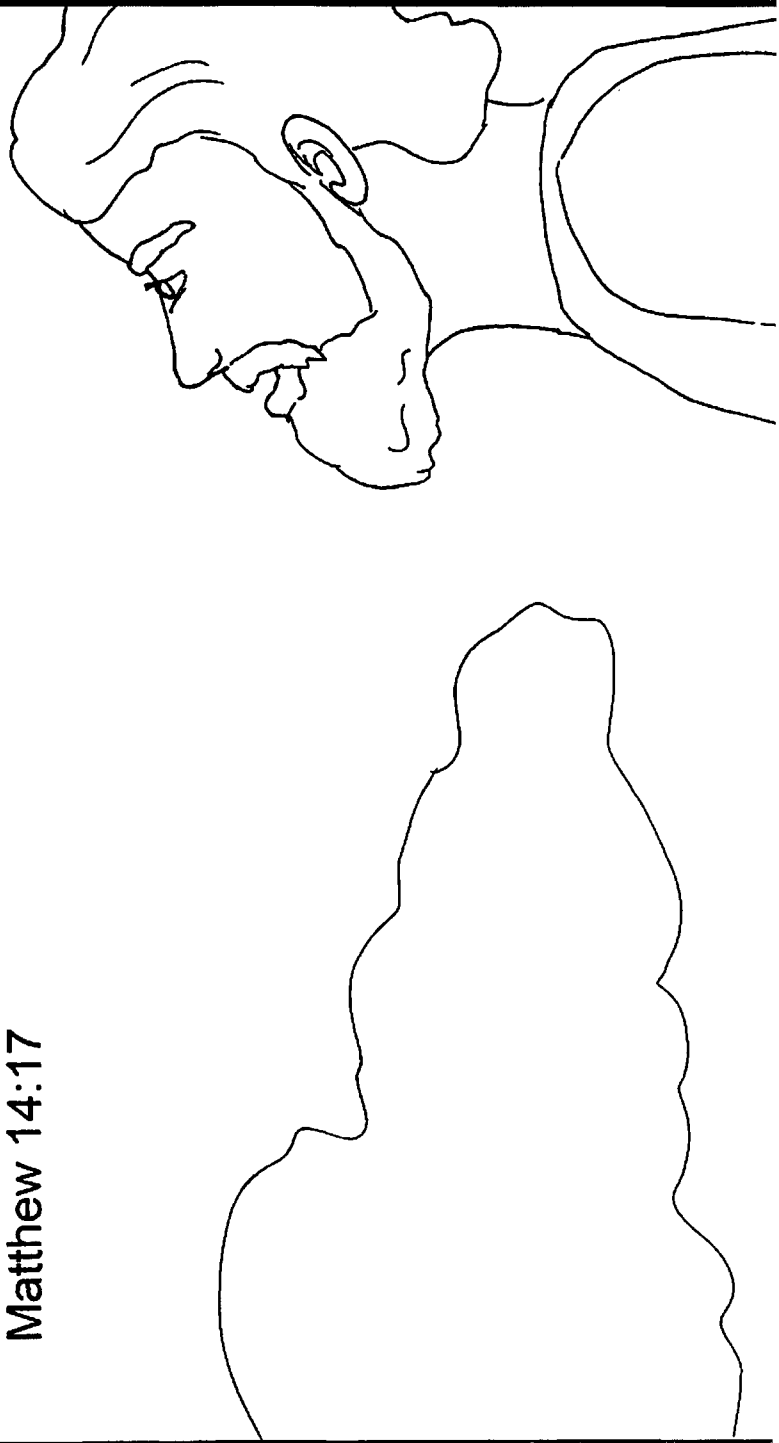
"Be of good cheer; it is I. Do not be afraid," Jesus advised.

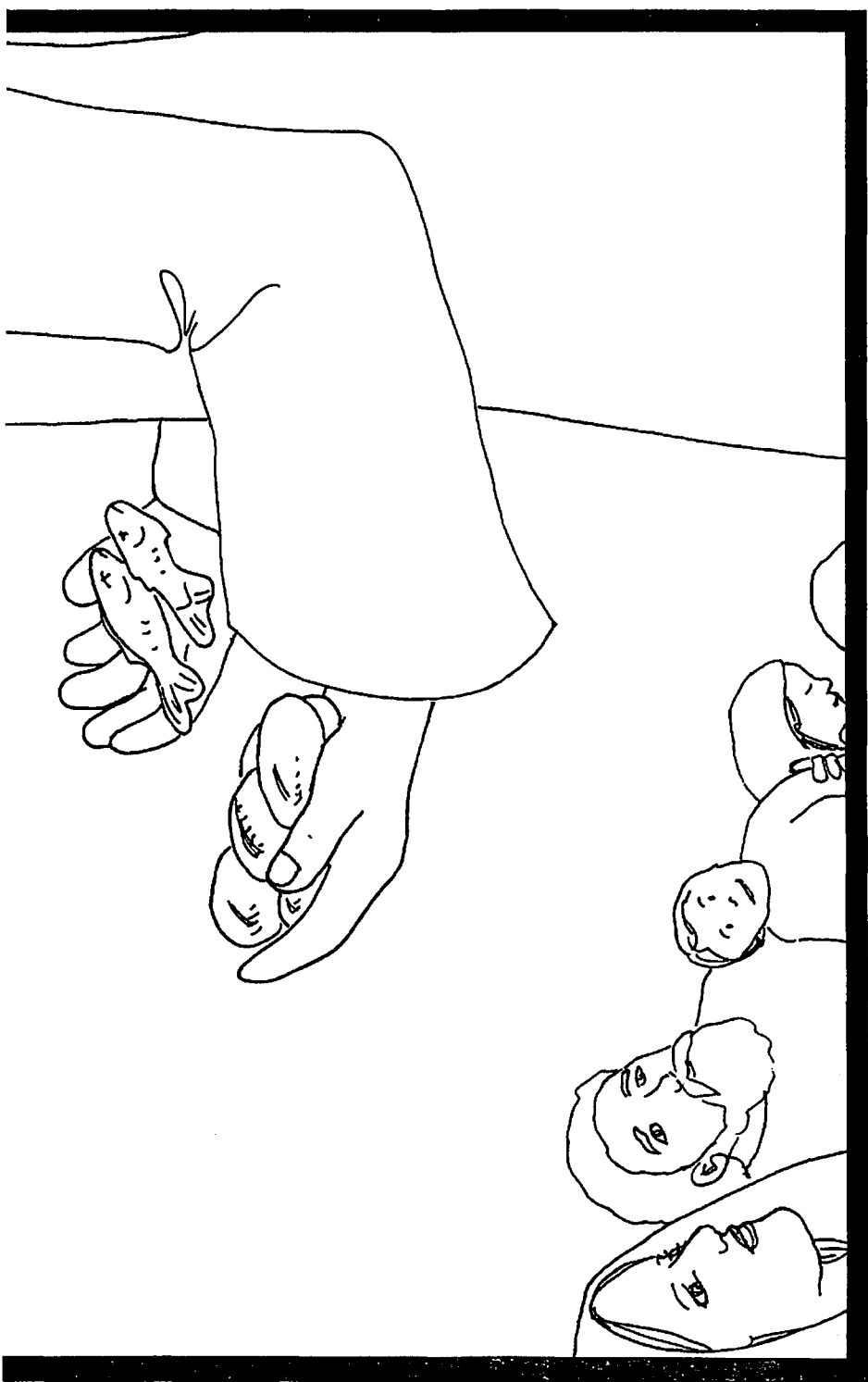
Peter wanted to prove that this person was really Jesus. "If it is you, let me come to you on the water," Peter said. He walked on the water a few steps but when he saw the wind was tossing the waves, he became afraid and started to sink. Jesus helped him.

"Oh you of little faith," Jesus reproached Peter. "Why did you doubt?" When they reached the ship, the storm stopped. The disciples worshipped Jesus. "You are surely the Son of God," they rejoiced.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

**“ . . . We have . . . but five loaves, and two fishes.”
Matthew 14:17**





THE LITTLE MISSIONARY

(Continued)

A tall man came forward and sat beside her.

She thought her father had never preached better, God certainly helped him. She looked up into the gentleman's face and saw tears starting from his eyes, and then she pressed his hand in hers. He hurried out of the church after thanking her for the seat.

The next week, however, he came to see her father and had a long talk with him. The door was shut but there were sounds of a person in prayer.

After the man left, the minister told his little girl that she had brought a soul to Jesus, and that he had found rest and peace. —Selected

THE OLD FORTUNE TELLER

Aunt Jenny was in a tight corner. A few weeks before, at a meeting in a slum post in London, she had been converted. Then, of course, no more fortune telling for her! But here she was, a lonely little woman, seventy years old, and although the gift of God is free, it costs money to keep living on earth! The butcher doesn't give meat in exchange for texts—and what about the rent?

The position was this. The landlord wanted \$5.00, and unless Aunt Jenny could pay, out she must go! She had \$2.50 towards it, but even if she could have sold her few bits of furniture they would hardly have brought in the extra money. She was still wondering what to do when one morning two men knocked at her door.

Unless she could produce the cash, they had orders to put her and her furniture into the street.

There stood Aunt Jenny faced with the difficulty. Must she go? Was there no hope for her? . . . "Take it to the Lord in prayer!" . . . What was that? A strain from a hymn they had been singing the other night at service. "Take it to

the Lord in prayer." Take rent—and furniture—and—? Well, why not?

"Could you please wait while I pray?" she asked the two men.

"All right, Ma," was the not unkind but slightly amused reply.

And so Aunt Jenny knelt down; this lonely little slum woman was daring to call the great God her Father and to ask Him if He would help her to pay the rent!

But the doorbell was evidently sympathetic, for it suddenly said a very loud "Amen!"

Aunt Jenny went to see who was there. The postman with a letter. A very kind letter from a lady who had heard of her conversion. The lady said she was enclosing a money order. It wasn't a big one, but perhaps Aunt Jenny could use it. Perhaps! Could she!

Do you know the value of the money order? I expect you can guess. It was exactly \$3.00! And although it was an order on the post office, nothing will ever convince Aunt Jenny that it didn't come from heaven! —Selected

Questions:

1. Why was Jesus trying to be alone?
2. What did his disciples want him to do?
3. What food did Jesus' disciples' say they had?
4. What did Jesus do with the loaves and fishes?
5. How many baskets of food were left over?
6. How many people were fed that day?
7. What did the disciples see out on the water?
8. What did Peter try to do?

Answers: 1. He had just heard of John the Baptist's death. 2. Send the people away to buy food. 3. Five loaves and two fishes. 4. Blessed them, broke the loaves, and gave them to the people. 5. Twelve. 6. Five thousand. 7. Jesus walking on the water. 8. Walk on the water.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 Apr. 3, 2011

Once upon a Mountain Top

Jesus led Peter, James, and John up into a high mountain. They were by themselves. The disciples saw that Jesus' clothing had become bright and shining, as white as the snow. They had never seen anything so white. Before their eyes, two more figures appeared. It was Elijah and Moses! They stood talking with Jesus.

"It is good for us to be here," Peter told Jesus. "Let us make three tabernacles. One for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." Peter did not know what else he could say. He, James, and John were very frightened. Suddenly, a cloud came over them. A voice spoke clearly out of the cloud. "This is my beloved Son. Hear him," the voice said.

When Peter, James, and John looked around them, Elijah and Moses were gone. Jesus was the only man with them. As they walked back down the mountain, Jesus asked them to tell no other men what had happened until He was risen from the dead.

"But what does this rising from the dead mean?" the three disciples questioned among themselves.

When they returned to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd gathered about them. Scribes were asking them questions. All of the people saw Jesus. They were amazed. They ran to greet Him.

"What questions do you ask them," Jesus asked the scribes.

"I have brought my son, who cannot talk, and who is mentally ill. I asked the disciples to heal him, and they could not," one of the people replied.

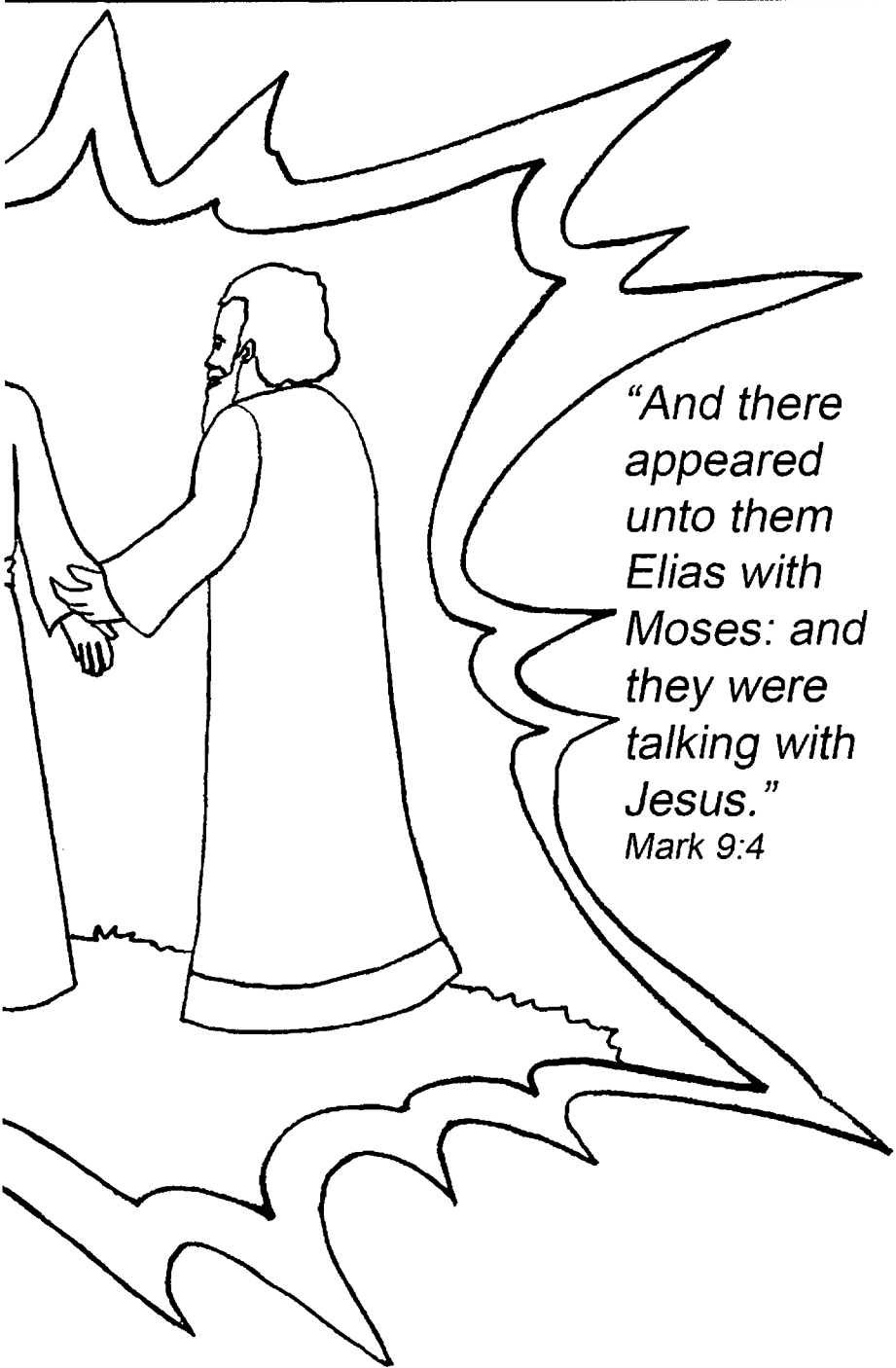
"Oh, what a faithless people!" Jesus rejoined. "If you can believe, all things are possible."

"I believe," the man cried out. "Help my unbelief."

Jesus charged the spirits to leave him and then reached out and took the boy's hand. He lifted him up and he was healed.

—Sis. Monica Murphey





*"And there
appeared
unto them
Elias with
Moses: and
they were
talking with
Jesus."*

Mark 9:4

The Beginning of William Levi

A true story

Born under the spreading branches of a tree in Sudan, Africa, William Levi was welcomed into the family by five sisters and two brothers. Their home was in the small village of Moli on the eastern bank of the Nile River in the equatorial district. William's parents were Messianic Hebrews of the tribe of Levi.

(In Genesis 29:34, we learn that Levi was the third son of Jacob (who was also called Israel.) Jacob was the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham. In Exodus, chapter 2, we learn that Moses and his brother, Aaron, were from the tribe of Levi. Later, in Exodus 29, we read that Aaron and his family were anointed priests to work in the Lord's tabernacle. William Levi traced his family lineage from the Levi tribe who were priests of the Lord.)

William's parents, Ajjugo and Anna Levi, were devoted Christian Hebrews and they taught their children scriptures from both the Old and New Testaments. They also knew the value of prayer and they taught their children by word and example about serving the true God of Creation.

Baby William was only a year old when, in 1965, Muslims jihadists were forcing everyone to be a Muslim in southern Sudan. The Levi family had to leave their home and run to another country for protection against the Muslims. The Levi family loved the Lord Jesus Christ and would not forsake Jesus to become a Muslim.

Sudan is a huge country with wilderness, grasslands, rushing rivers and jungle. William's sisters took turns carrying him on their backs as the family walked for hundreds of miles to the border of Uganda, another African country.

Father Ajjugo encouraged his family: "The Lord God will take care of us just as He did our ancestors when they fled

from Egypt and slavery," he said.

Father Ajjugo knew first hand about slavery. His grandmother had barely escaped Arab Muslims who were capturing Africans for slaves. She ran away from the Arabs to the shelter of the British who had outlawed slave raiding. Soon after her escape, she gave birth to a son, who later was the father of Ajjugo. As he grew older, William heard his parents and grandparents tell over and over the daring stories of their escape by God's help.

When the Levi family arrived at the refugee camps on the border of Sudan and Uganda, Father Ajjugo was uneasy about staying there.

"This is not a safe place for our daughters and sons," he said to his wife. "We must move some place where we can farm and provide food of our own. I will ask around if there is not a fertile piece of land we can obtain for our own."

"We will go wherever you tell us to go," replied Mother Anna. She knew he trusted Jesus for direction, and she trusted her husband's trust in God.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What changes happened to Jesus on the mountain?
2. Who appeared and talked to Jesus?
3. What did Peter wish to do for the three men?
4. From where did they hear a voice?
5. What did the voice say?
6. What was wrong with the man's son?
7. What did Jesus say was possible to them that believed?
8. What happened to the sick boy?

Answers: 1. His clothes became bright and shining. 2. Elijah and Moses. 3. Build tabernacles. 4. A cloud. 5. "This is my beloved Son. Hear Him." 6. He could not talk and was mentally ill. 7. All things. 8. He was healed.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 Apr. 10, 2011

Of Taxes and Children

Some tax collectors came to Peter. "Does your teacher not pay taxes?" they asked. "Yes," Peter replied. Peter went inside the house where Jesus was staying. Jesus asked Peter a question before he could speak.

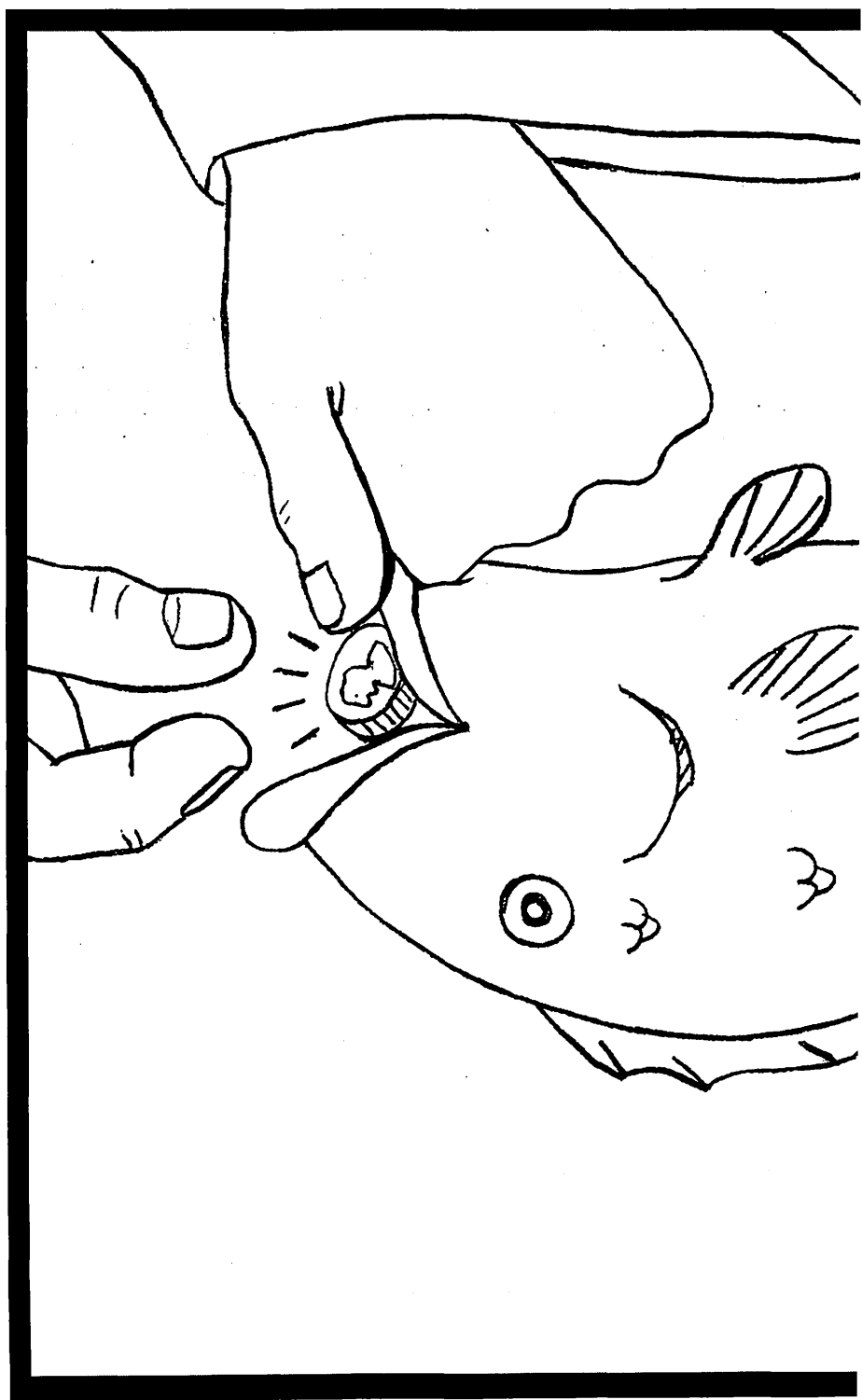
"Peter, do you think kings tax their own citizens, or countries they have conquered?" Jesus asked. "Countries they have conquered," answered Peter. "Then their citizens should not pay," Jesus said. "But we don't want to offend them, so go take a fishing rod to the sea. Look into the mouth of the first fish you catch. There will be a coin inside. Take the coin and pay the taxes." Everything happened just as Jesus predicted. Peter did as he was told.

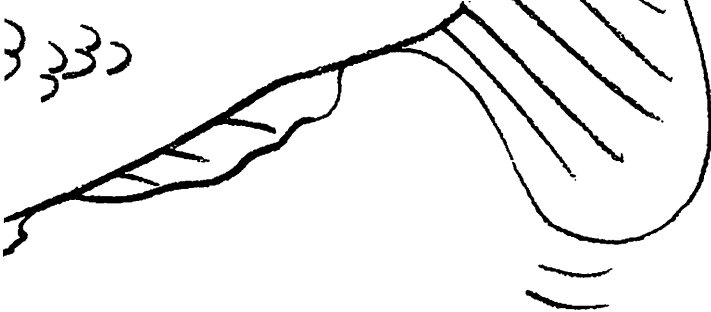
About that same time, Jesus' disciples came to Him with a question. "Who will be the greatest in your kingdom?" they asked Jesus. Jesus called out to ask a small child to come over to join them. "Unless you are converted, and become as little children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven," Jesus told them.

"If you receive a small child for my name's sake, you will also receive me. But if you offend a small child who believes in me, it would be better for you to have a grinding stone hung around your neck and to be drowned in the deep sea. Woe to the man who causes people to sin.

"If you think your hand or your foot will cause you to lose your faith, cut them off. It is better to be handicapped and enter into Heaven than to be whole and cast into the lake of fire. If your eye causes you to lose your faith, pluck it out and throw it away. It is better to come into Heaven with one eye than to be cast in hell fire with two. The Son of man has come to save those who are lost."

—Sis. Monica Murphey





*"...when thou hast
opened his mouth,
thou shalt find a
piece of money . . ."*

Matthew 17:27



The Tamarind Tree

(continued)

Leaving the cluster of refugee tents behind, the Levi family pushed across the wilderness into a jungle. Here they found a giant tamarind tree on top of a hill near Mount Ambuluwa.

"This is where we will settle our family," said Father Ajugo to Mother Anna. "This tree will be an excellent natural protection from the weather."

This leafy giant of a tree was over fifty feet tall. In season, it grew pretty yellow flowers which became edible fruit. The Tamarind fruit, called *iti* in the Madi language, changes from green to brown when it is ripe. The juicy flesh was both sugary and sour. William and his siblings loved to peel away the fibrous brown pod and suck out the juice, spitting out the seeds as they ate. Mother used the fruit to flavor porridge and other food.

When they were not working with the adults, the children would play hide and seek among the tree's leafy branches. For them, this tree was like a natural park with built-in slides, swinging vines, monkey bars, and all. When they grew tired, each child would find a curving limb to lie upon and relax. Sometimes, the boys would climb up into the top branches to look out over the jungle.

In the afternoon, the adults would gather under the dense shade of this wonderful tree and rest from the hot equatorial sun. Laughter and light talk would float up through the tree branches and mingle with the chatter of birds who also liked to rest in that same tree.

Under one side of this tree, Father built the family house. William and his oldest brother, Michael, helped pick just the right reeds, bamboo, and tree bark from the jungle.

Eager to help, little William pointed

to a sturdy-looking tree trunk, "How about this tree bark, Father?" he asked.

Father smiled and reached out to pull the bark away from the tree. "You picked this tree because it looks strong on the outside, right, son?"

William nodded.

"Fine-looking bark, isn't it?" he continued as he peeled away the loose outer layer. As the bark fell off, William could see telltale burrow marks of termites. That tree he had picked was rotten!

"Son, that's the way people tend to judge others—by appearance. Remember, God's looks upon the heart to see if it is pure or not. Be sure you build upon Christ Jesus, the right foundation. Then you will be able to stand the test of time."

Day after day, William was taught lessons illustrated by the giant plants that God formed and watered. He wanted to be like the strong tamarind tree that provided so much for those sheltered under its sturdy branches, so he decided to let God form within him a heart of love and peace just like Jesus.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Who had a question for Peter?
2. Where did Peter find a coin?
3. "Who will be the _____ in your kingdom?"
4. Unless you are _____...
5. And become as little _____...
6. You will not enter the _____.
7. Woe to the man who _____.
8. The son of man has come to _____.

Answers: 1. Tax collectors. 2. In a fish's mouth. 3. Greatest. 4. Converted. 5. Children. 6. Kingdom of Heaven. 7. Causes others to sin. 8. Save those who are lost.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 Apr. 17, 2011

The Unmerciful Servant

Peter asked Jesus, "How often should I forgive my brother that sins against me? Seven times?" Jesus replied, "Seven times seventy."

Then Jesus told another story about the kingdom of Heaven. Jesus compared the kingdom of Heaven in this parable to a king, who was asking his servants to pay him back for money they had borrowed.

One man was brought to the king that owed him ten thousand talents. "I cannot pay you," the servant told the king.

"Take this man and sell him, his wife, his children, and all that he has, so his payment can be made," the king commanded.

"My Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay it all," the servant pleaded.

The servant's petitions moved the king. The servant's debts were forgiven. The forgiven servant left the king's presence and found another servant who owed him one hundred pence. The servant put his hands on the man that owed him and took him by the throat.

"Pay me the money you owe me," the forgiven servant demanded.

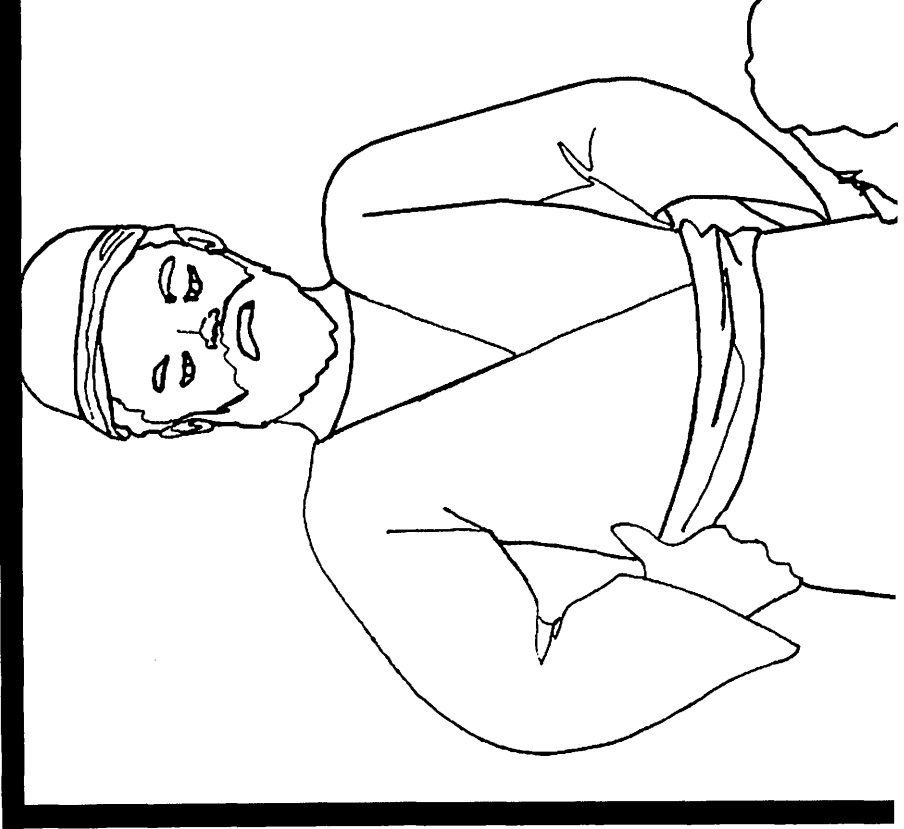
The poor man fell at his feet. "Have patience with me, and I will pay it all!" the man begged.

The forgiven servant refused to forgive him. He had the poor man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. Some of the other servants that worked at the king's palace saw what had happened. They went to the king and told him what the unforgiving servant had done. The king called for the servant.

"You are a wicked servant. I forgave all that you owed me, because you asked. Should you not also be kind to your fellow servant, since I had mercy on you?" the king asked.

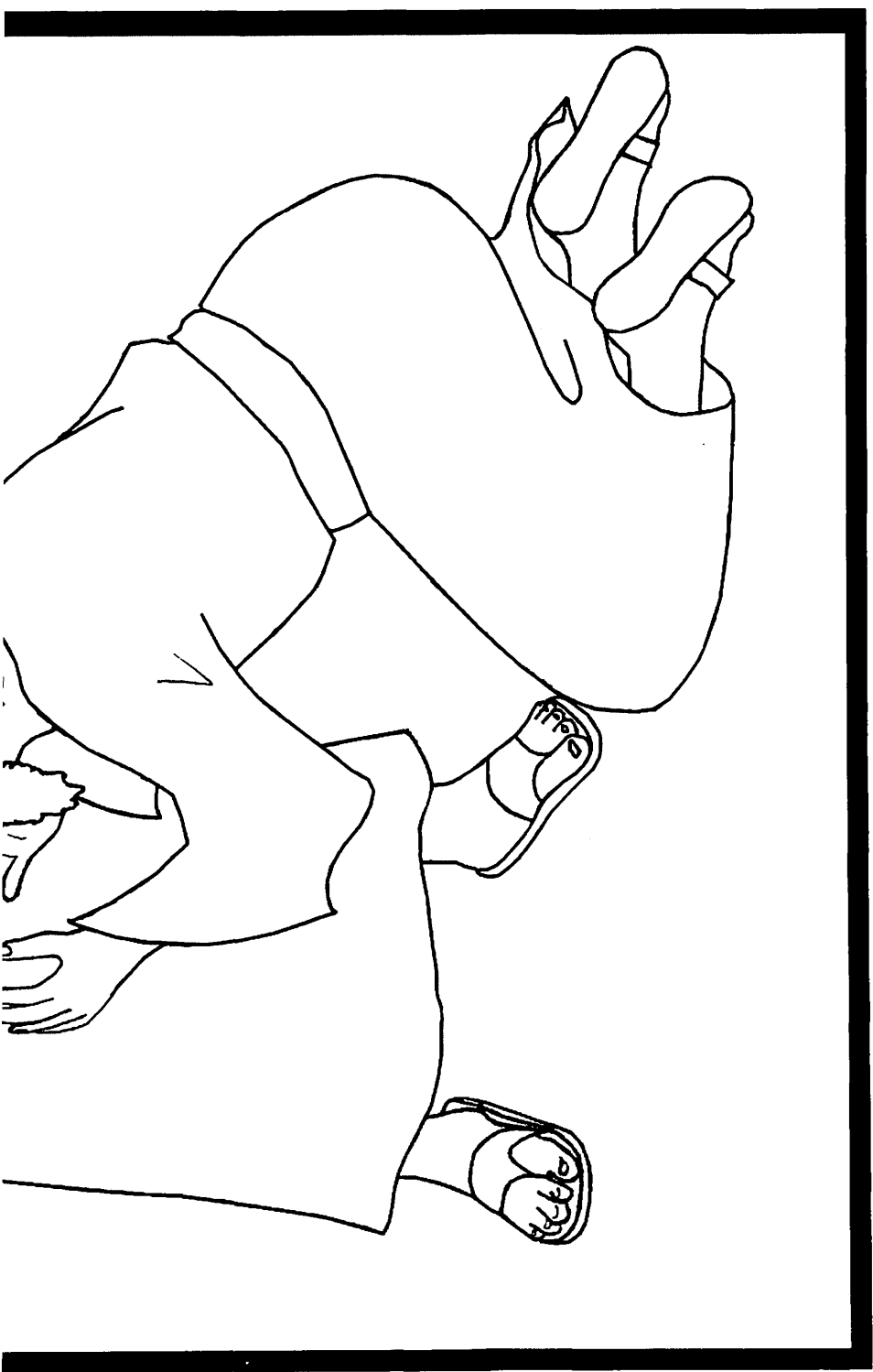
The king had the wicked servant sent to the tormentors until he could pay back his debts. "This is what my heavenly Father will do to you, if you do not forgive your brothers," Jesus concluded.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



*“ . . . his fellowservant
fell down at his feet . . . ”*

Matthew 18:29



Building a Happy Home and Garden

(continued)

William Levi and his brother, Michael, watched as their father selected the finest wood and reeds from the richness of the forest in Uganda, Africa. They helped Father Ajjugo carry the materials to their home site under the tamarind tree by Mount Ambuluwa.

"Sons, let me teach you how to lash reeds together with rope," said Father. "Watch how I do it, and do it exactly the same way."

Michael and William watched closely as Father tightly wrapped rope around reeds and wood. "If you do the wrapping this way," said Father, "Our house will be strong and able to withstand the rains and heat. Remember Jesus said we must build our lives on Him? If we let the Words of Jesus tie our life together, we will be able to stand the temptations and trials of life."

These lessons of truth stayed with William as he worked with Father. When the wooden frame of the house stood on the home site, they prepared a weather proof adhesive out of mud and herbs and plastered the walls of the house. Next they weaved mats of bamboo for a roof and covered the mats with the same plaster.

While the house was being built, Mother Anna and the girls were clearing out a place for a garden. They had to pull out unwanted plants and rake the soil so the vegetable seeds would have room to grow. Once seeds were planted little green shoots burst from the soil very quickly. Soon the family was eating mallet, yams and other good food grown in their garden.

Near their home and garden was a stream of running clear water. The family took water pots to the stream and gathered water for drinking, cooking and for the garden when it needed moisture.

Living deep in the jungle, the Levi family saw ostriches, giraffes, leopards,

elephants, buffalo and many other wild animals. Colorful birds lived in the trees and their singing or noisy chatter was daily music for the family.

The Levi family was happy at this time though they never forgot why they had fled to the jungle for safety. Often William's parents would talk about going back to southern Sudan from where they had come. Muslim jihadists had forced them to leave because they were Christians who would not deny Jesus.

Father said his family would only serve and bow to the true God and His Son, Jesus Christ. To keep his family from certain death, he had led them hundred of miles across Sudan to the next country of Uganda. Leaving the refugee camps and villages behind, Father led his family into the jungle where they built their home and garden.

In time other refugees learned about the Levi family's happy home, and some of these families came to build homes beside the Levi's home. They were Christians, too.

(to be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. How many times did Jesus say we were to forgive?
2. How many talents did one of the men owe the king?
3. What did the king do when the man asked for mercy?
4. Who did the forgiven servant go to?
5. What did the forgiven servant do to the poor man?
6. What did the poor servant ask of the unmerciful servant?
7. How did the king feel when he heard of this?
8. What happened to the unmerciful servant?

Answers: 1. Seventy times seven. 2. Ten thousand. 3. Forgave him. 4. A man who owed him money. 5. Put his hand at his throat and demanded his money. 6. For patience. 7. Angry. 8. He was taken to the tormenters.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 Apr. 24, 2011

Jesus Is Our Shepherd

Jesus told many parables (stories with morals) to teach His followers a lesson. One day, Jesus spoke to His followers about a shepherd. "Anyone who enters a sheep pen without entering through the gate is a thief and a robber," Jesus said. "A shepherd will enter through the gate of the pen. The sheep listen to his voice. The shepherd calls them by name and the sheep follow him because they recognize his voice. They will run away if a stranger tries to lead them."

Jesus' followers did not understand this story, so Jesus explained it to them. "I am the gate for the sheep. Whoever comes through me shall be saved. The saved will come in and out and find pasture to graze on. The thief comes to kill, and to steal, and to destroy, but I have come that people might have abundant life.

"I am the good shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. My sheep will recognize my voice and know me just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. There are others who are not yet in the pen. I must lead them, too. They will hear my voice and follow after me."

The Jews that heard His words were confused. Some said, "He is crazy. Why should we listen to Him?" Others said, "This man isn't crazy. Could a crazy man heal the blind?"

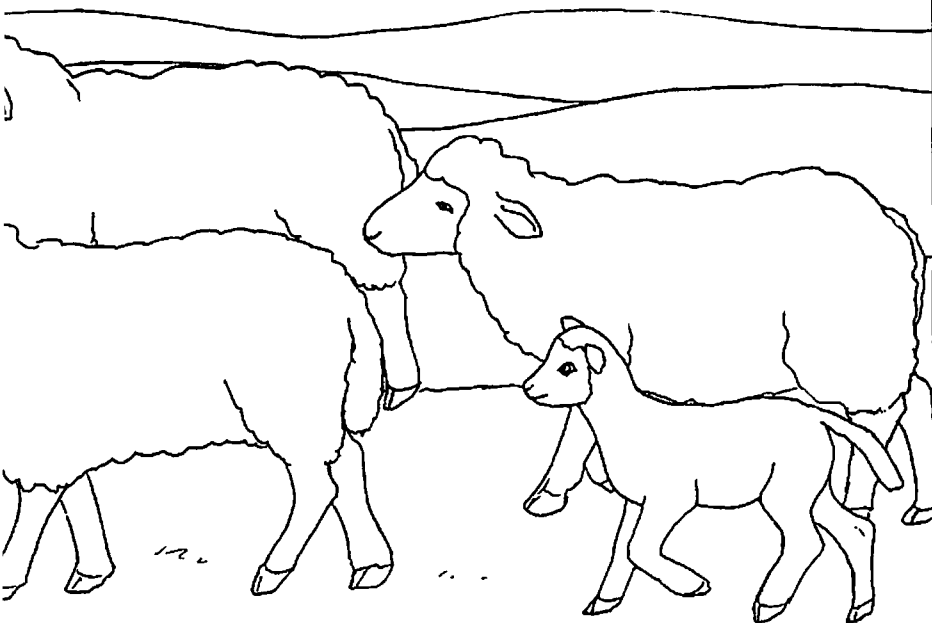
Then it was winter. Jesus was attending the feast of dedication at the temple when a group of people gathered around Him. "Tell us if you are the Christ," they requested. "I told you, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep," Jesus answered. "My sheep listen to my voice and I know them. I give them eternal life. No man can take them from me. I and my Father are one."

The Jews were very angry to hear Jesus' comments. They began picking up stones to throw at Jesus. "I have done many good works," Jesus told them. "For which of these do you stone me?" "We do not stone you for your good works, but for blasphemy, because you, a man, claimed to be God," the Jews replied. As Jesus once again explained that He was one with the Father, the Jews tried to seize Him so they could stone Him. Jesus was able to slip away.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



sheep hear my voice, and I know them,
they follow me:" John 10:27



The Village of Ambuluwa

(continued)

Around the tamarind tree by Mount Ambuluwa in the jungle of Uganda, Africa, the Levi family welcomed other Christian refugee families to build homes near theirs. Father's name, Ajjugo, meant pillar in their native language, and he was just that—a pillar standing for God and His Son, Jesus Christ.

Father Ajjugo told each family that they would be expected to join in the worship time under the tamarind tree. Six days they would work, but one day they would put aside to rest, have Bible stories, sing praise to God, and pray.

Because he was taught by his father the Hebrew feasts, Father Ajjugo kept the traditional Jewish feasts and holidays. They did not have any money, but they joyfully brought the first fruits of their labor as an offering to the Lord.

"Let us never forget the Lord's goodness and mercy unto us," said Father. "He is faithful to those who trust in Him and obey His voice."

In time, the village of Ambuluwa grew as families continued to flee from the hardships of refugee camps. Together the men built houses, and together the women tended to the gardens. Silos were built to store food because no one went hungry in this village. Father Ajjugo made it clear that everyone living in Ambuluwa would live by the golden rule—love your neighbor as yourself. He was leader of his family and of the community that was forming around his family. People respected him and obeyed him.

William and the other children played together and learned to share. They did not steal, lie or hurt one another because Father

would not tolerate it and because they were taught from the Word of God that these things displeased God.

William had older sisters who had carried him on their backs when he was little. According to the Levite tradition, he was expected to obey them like he obeyed his mother. Because his sisters were loving and kind to him, William loved them very much and was willing to help them when they needed his help.

Michael, the oldest son, was nicknamed *Odu*, which means "give thanks to the Lord." When Father learned there was a school a few miles from Ambuluwa, he went to learn more about it. Father and Mother decided to send Michael to school.

"Our family needs someone to be educated," said Father. "We will pray for Michael that he will learn well and be a teacher to the rest of us."

William was glad for Michael that he was going to learn, but in his heart William longed to attend school himself. It became his daily prayer, "Please, Lord, let me have a chance to learn at school."

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What is a parable?
2. Who is the gate to the sheep?
3. Who is the Good Shepherd?
4. My sheep hear my ____.
5. What feast was Jesus attending?
6. What did the people want to know?
7. I and my Father are ____.
8. What did the Jews try to do?

Answers: 1. A story with a moral (lesson). 2. Jesus. 3. Jesus. 4. Voice. 5. Feast of Dedication. 6. If Jesus was Christ. 7. One. 8. Stone Jesus.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 May 1, 2011

Needless Worries

While Jesus and His disciples were traveling, they came to the town of Bethany. Jesus had some very dear friends in Bethany who opened their home up to Him. Mary and Martha lived in Bethany with their brother, Lazarus. Jesus loved Lazarus and his two sisters.

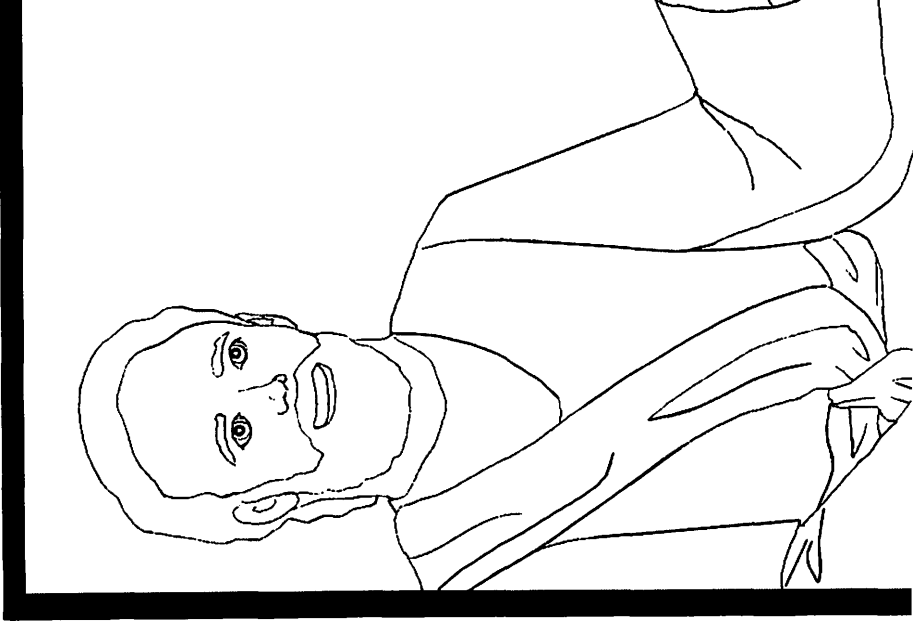
Martha worked extremely hard to prepare a large supper for Jesus and some others that had gathered in their home. Jesus spoke to some people who had gathered there. Lazarus sat, reclining at the table with the others, listening to what Jesus had to say. Mary also sat listening at Jesus feet.

Martha was very busy serving and working hard, cooking the food when she noticed that her sister was sitting and listening very intently to Jesus. Martha became angry when she thought about all of the hard work she had to accomplish by herself. She went up to Jesus to talk with Him about it. "Lord, don't you care that I have had to do all of this exhausting work by myself while my sister only sits here? Tell her to come help me," Martha complained.

"Martha, you are so worried about so many things," Jesus said. "What you are doing is needful, but Mary has made a good choice and it will not be taken away from her."

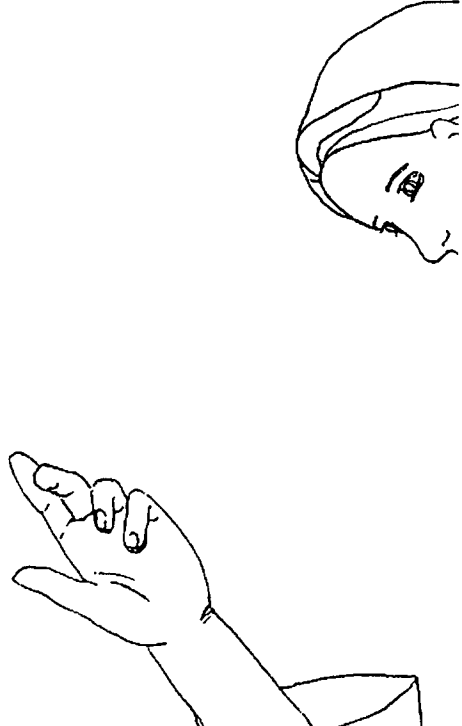
Jesus told His disciples many times that they should not worry so much about what they would eat, drink, or wear. One time, Jesus told them, "Don't work for food that will eventually spoil. Work for the meat that will last for eternal life. I will give you this food."

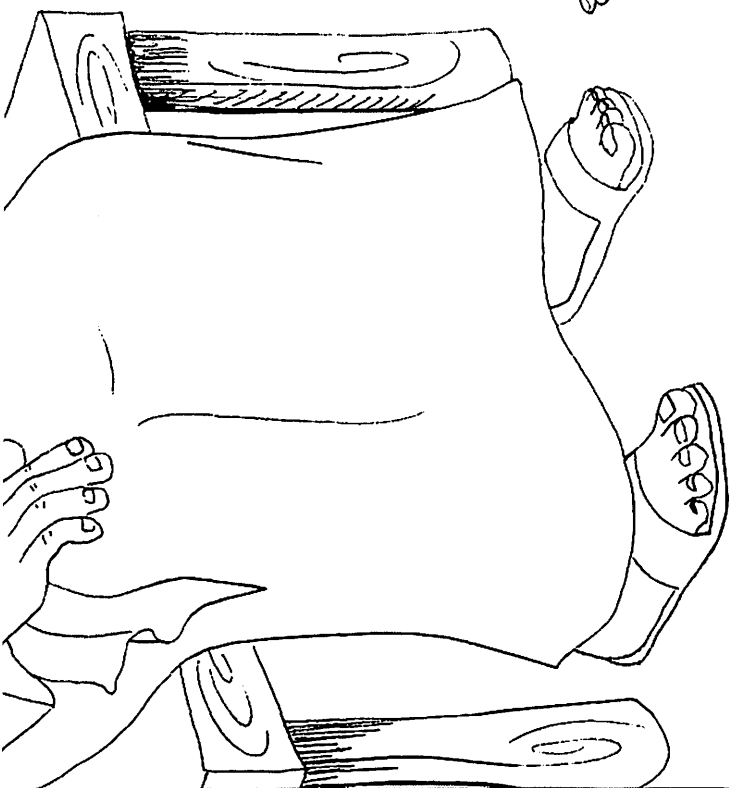
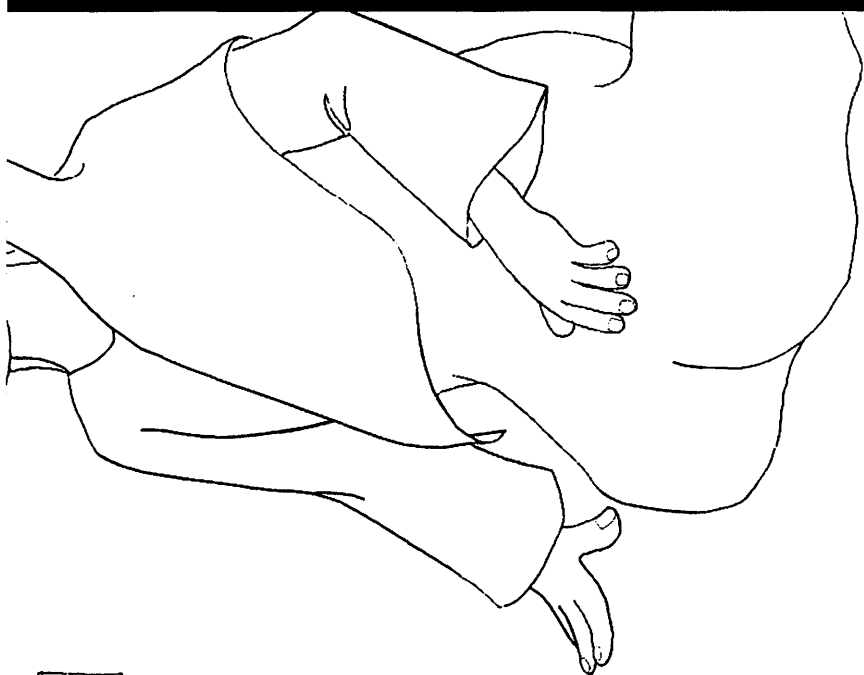
Another scripture explains, "God will supply all of your needs according to his riches in glory." This is talking about spiritual or physical needs that you may have. When His disciples asked Him to teach them how to pray, Jesus instructed us to pray for our daily bread and for help to battle temptation. —Sis. Monica Murphey



*"... she had a sister called Mary,
which also sat at Jesus' feet ..."*

Luke 10:39





Jungle Darkness

(continued)

In the jungle of Uganda, Africa, the Ambuluwa community around the Tamarind tree continued to grow. A family would arrive and the men would help the husband make a house, and the wife would share in the garden work with the other women.

One day a little boy about William's age came with his mother to Ambuluwa. To help this cousin, William's father adopted her son named Francis. Glad to have someone help him with his work, William made Francis a close friend right away.

Many evenings after supper, the entire community would gather around a wood fire to tell stories and visit. William and Francis helped gather the wood with the other children. Then they would sit by Grandpa Karan Levi, who was blind. A kind Christian man, Grandpa Levi often said he had forgiven the Muslims who had put out his eyes because he would not forsake Jesus. He had the Word of God hid in his heart and the boys loved to hear his stories.

It was very dark at night because the jungle trees and plants blocked out the moon light, so the fire light was the only light to see with. Grandpa Levi had just finished one of his good stories when he said, "Eh, Long Neck, take me home! I am tired!"

"Ah, Grandpa, can't you just tell one more story," pleaded William though he knew it was late.

"No more tonight," replied Grandpa. "Bring some wood and coal from the fire to start a fire in my hearth."

William and Francis obeyed Grandpa Levi. William held Grandpa Levi's hand as he guided him to his house door. Though he could not see, Grandpa could feel the house around him as they walked through

the doorway. William almost felt like he was blind inside the hut—it was so dark.

"Here, Francis, bring the wood and hot coals over this way toward my voice," directed William. Suddenly, he stopped walking forward. He *felt* there was something in the house! The hairs on his head stiffened as he *felt* eyes watching him! Then a horrible hissing sound rushed at him!

William hollered and pulled Grandpa back outside. Running to the circle around the fire, William called to his father.

"Abba! Come now! There is something alive in Grandpa's house!" shouted William. Francis nodded in agreement.

Quickly Father and the men made torches and brought them to light the inside of Grandpa's house. Uncurling by the hearth was a fifteen foot long python! A snake this big would have squeezed to death any one of them.

After the men had killed the snake, they thanked the Lord for His divine protection over the boys and Grandpa Levi.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Where did Mary, Martha & Lazarus live?
2. What was Martha preparing?
3. What was Mary doing?
4. How did that make Martha feel?
5. What did Mary ask Jesus to do?
6. What did Jesus say about Mary?
7. What kind of food should we work for?
8. What should we pray for?

Answers: 1. Bethany. 2. Supper. 3. Listening to Jesus. 4. Angry. 5. Tell Mary to help her. 6. She made the right choice. 7. Meat that will last for eternal life. 8. Daily bread and help for temptation.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 May 8, 2011

"Teach Us to Pray!"

Jesus was praying. When He stopped, His disciples had a request for Him. "Lord, teach us to pray, like John taught his disciples," they asked.

"When you pray," Jesus answered. "Say, 'Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.'"

Then Jesus told a story. "A man had a friend who stopped by his house while on a long journey. It was midnight, but this man had a friend who lived close by. He thought his neighbor wouldn't mind helping him out. The man went to his friend and asked him if he could borrow three loaves of bread.

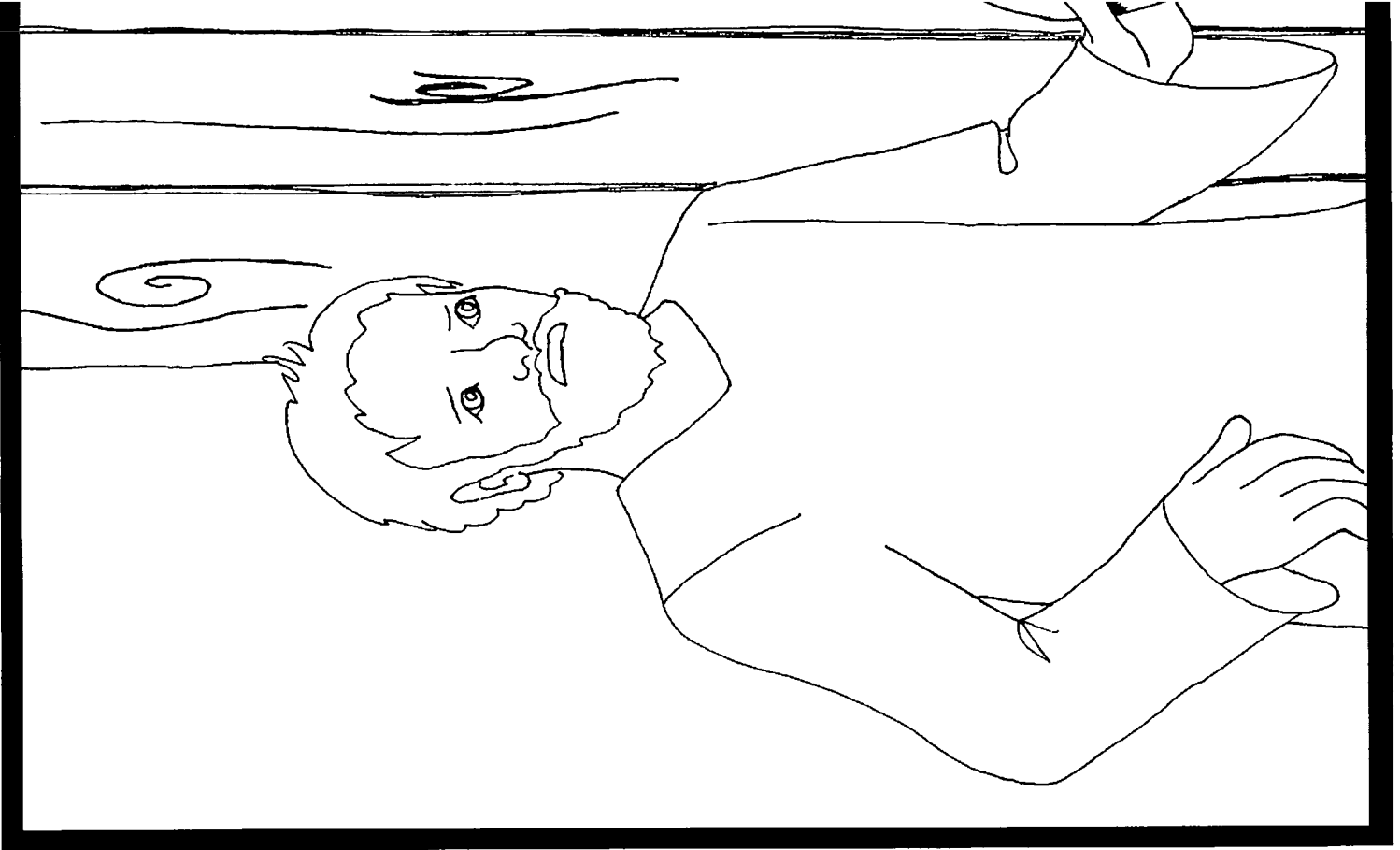
The sleeping man will say, 'Do not wake me. The door is shut.' But when his friend continues to ask for bread, he will wake up and give him bread.

"If you ask, it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock and it will be opened to you. How many of you that are fathers would give your son a stone if he asked for bread? Or if he asked for a fish, will you give him a snake? Or if he should ask for an egg, will you give him a scorpion?

"You fathers of this earth are naturally evil, but you know to give good things to your children. How much more will the heavenly father give of the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?" Jesus concluded.

Jesus also gave us instructions on how to pray. "When you pray," Jesus said, "You should pray secretly. Many love to pray standing in the synagogues and on street corners, so that men can see them. When you pray, go into your closet. When you have shut the door, pray to your heavenly Father in secret. The heavenly Father who sees in secret will reward you openly."

—Sis. Monica Murphey





"... shall go unto him at midnight,
and say unto him, Friend,
lend me three loaves;"
Luke 11:5



Shepherds

(continued)

Living in the community of Ambuluwa, every person had a duty, including the small children. The youngest ones were to keep the wild birds from eating seeds or fruit from the planted garden. William Levi and his adopted brother, Francis, would each throw a stone and see whose stone would hit a naughty bird dipping into the garden goods. In this way it was more like a game instead of work.

Then one day, their father called them. "William, Francis, come here to me," he said, while pounding stakes into the ground. Father spoke to them while he worked. "Now that Michael is in school during the day, he is not able to care for the sheep. Boys, it is time for you to learn how to be shepherds. While you help me build this holding pen, I want you to listen to me."

William handed his father another stake and Francis handed him the twine. "Why are you putting the stakes so close together and so deep in the ground?" asked William. "The sheep won't dig out."

"The pen is more about keeping harmful creatures out than it is about keeping the sheep inside the pen," replied Father. "Hyenas are very bad to dig under and steal a lamb. Sometimes they kill several at a time."

Just the thought of seeing a mean hyena made William and Francis become very quiet and thoughtful.

"You will be responsible to call for help if you see danger," continued Father. "Some man will be near enough to come with a spear or axe to protect the sheep. You boys must keep close watch, and know when to call for help."

"Yes, sir," they replied.

"During the day, you will stay with the sheep while they are eating on the

mountain. Be especially careful near a cave because wild animals like to hide in caves and watch for an easy dinner. In the evenings when you bring the sheep to the pen, be careful by the bushes because a python might be hiding in the bushes. A big snake can grab a sheep in an instant. You know how to watch for poisonous snakes. Don't let the sheep step on one."

"Yes, sir," answered the boys.

Early the next morning the boys woke up to be shepherds. Before they left her presence, Mama prayed for them. She prayed for Michael, who had to walk about ten miles to school. She prayed for her daughters who were getting married.

As they left the protection of Mama's arms, her prayers held them safe. The Lord heard her prayers and He watched over her two five year old sons as they watched over the sheep.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What did the disciples want Jesus to teach them to do?
2. We are supposed to pray for our daily _____.
3. What did the man ask his friend to borrow?
4. What did Jesus say the man's friend would do?
5. What did Jesus say the heavenly Father would give to those that ask?
6. Where did Jesus say some men liked to pray?
7. Why did these men pray there?
8. Where should we pray?

Answers: 1. To pray. 2. Bread. 3. Three loaves of bread. 4. Let him borrow them. 5. The Holy Spirit. 6. In synagogues and on street corners. 7. So men could see them. 8. In secret.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 May 15, 2011

The Important Things of Life

Jesus was traveling in Judea, preaching and teaching the Gospel. One day, he was preaching to a crowd when someone called out, "Teacher, tell my brother to give me my share of our family's inheritance." "Who appointed me to be an arbitrator between you and your brother?" Jesus said. "Beware of greed. Your life consists of more than all of the things you own."

Jesus told the crowd a parable to explain His answer. The story was about a rich man who had an abundance of crops from his harvest. "What should I do?" the rich man thought. "I have no place to store all of this produce." Later, he said, "I will tear down my smaller barns and build bigger ones. Then I will have enough room for everything. After that I can take a break. I'll say to myself, 'You have enough things to last you for many years. Eat, drink, and be merry.'"

God told the man, "You are foolish. Tonight you will die. Then who will benefit from your riches?"

"This is what will happen when a person stores up treasures for himself and not for God," Jesus explained. "Do not worry about what you will eat, or drink, or wear. Isn't life more than food, and the body more than clothing? The birds don't work so hard storing food away in barns. The heavenly father provides for them. Aren't you worth more than they are? Why do you worry about clothes? The lilies don't work or spin and are still clothed in glorious garments befitting kings. If God cares so much for the grass of the field, He will take care of you, also."

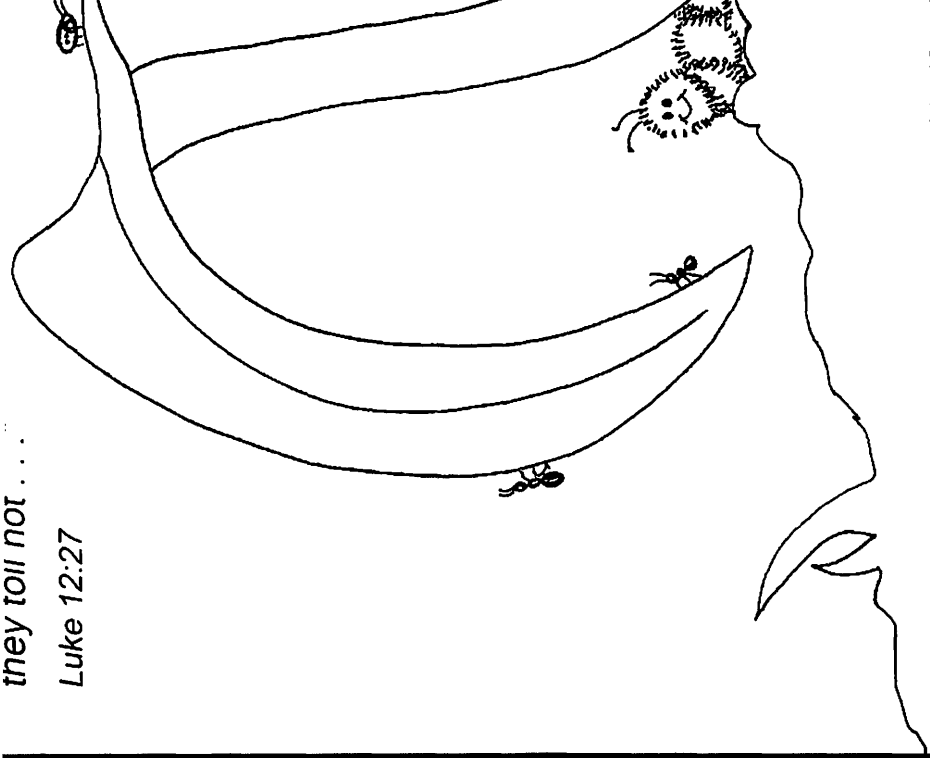
"The heathens run after temporal things, like food and clothing. God knows you need these things and will provide them for you. You should seek God's kingdom first, and His righteousness. Then all of these things will be given to you."

—Sis. Monica Murphey



they toil not . . .

Luke 12:27





A Lesson on Laziness

(continued)

William and his adopted brother, Francis, learned to care for the sheep and have fun at the same time. From the resin of a tree in the forest, they made rubber slingshots. Taking stones from the stream, the boys would practice hitting a mark with a smooth stone. Perhaps the shepherd boy, David in the Bible, had practiced with this sling in the same way.

Father taught them how to make spears that would fly through the air in an arch straight for the target. Spears were important weapons against wild beasts that might threaten the sheep or the boys.

For food, the boys would eat fresh, sweet fruit from the trees and they drank water from the clear stream in the forest. Sometimes the boys would fish in the stream and bring home a catch for Mama to cook for the family.

These days were pleasant and relaxing for William but he also learned some important lessons that stayed with him for life.

One warm lazy day, William and Francis made a hammock to swing between two trees. After it was made, William climb in it to rest. The gentle swaying of the hammock soon put William to sleep.

"William!" Father's commanding voice suddenly woke William from his sleep.

"Yes, Father?" he answered. He climbed quickly from the hammock and jumped to the ground.

"William, you let the sheep get into our neighbor's field. Our sheep have destroyed a large area of their beans and cassava. What do you have to say for yourself?"

William hung his head in shame.

Father had watched him climb down from the hammock where he had been sleeping. What was there to explain?

Father was angry. "You know our neighbors need their crop for their daily meals. We will have to give them some of our crop to replace what our sheep have done. I shall punish you so you will not do this again."

"I am sorry," said William through his tears. He did not like to be disciplined, but he knew he deserved it. From then on, when he was tempted to leave the sheep for a nap, he remembered his father's wrath, and decided against the nap.

Growing up in the jungle of Uganda, Africa, William learned that it was better to obey his parents and to do his job well than to be lazy and cause sorrow for himself and others. It is a lesson all boys and girls must learn if they want to be successful and responsible adults some day.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Where was Jesus traveling?
2. What did someone want Him to do?
3. Who was Jesus' parable about?
4. What problem did the man have?
5. What was the man's solution?
6. What did God say would happen?
7. What should we not worry about?
8. What should we seek first?

Answers: 1. Judea 2. Advise his brother about their inheritance. 3. A rich man. 4. He didn't have enough room for his crops. 5. He would tear down his barns & build bigger ones. 6. He would die that night. 7. What we eat, drink, or wear. 8. The kingdom of God & His righteousness.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 May 22, 2011

The Lost Sheep

Jesus was eating and preaching to a large crowd of people. Among them were tax collectors and other men who everyone knew were sinners. This made the Pharisees and the scribes unhappy with Jesus. "He welcomes sinners and even eats with them," they muttered to one another.

Jesus responded to their accusations by telling a parable. "If one of you had one hundred sheep and lost one of them, would you not go and search for it until you found it? When you found it, you would joyfully carry it home on your shoulders. You would call all of your friends and neighbors and say, 'Be happy for me, because I have found my lost sheep.' There will be rejoicing in Heaven over the one that returns.

"Imagine that a woman has ten silver coins. If she loses one, she will light a lamp and search everywhere in her house until she finds it. When she does find it, she'll call her friends and say, 'Be happy for me! My lost coin has been found.'

"The angels in heaven rejoice when a sinner repents." God doesn't want anyone to be lost in hell. One verse says, "The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise. He is patient toward you, not wanting to see anyone destroyed, but wanting everyone to repent of their sins."

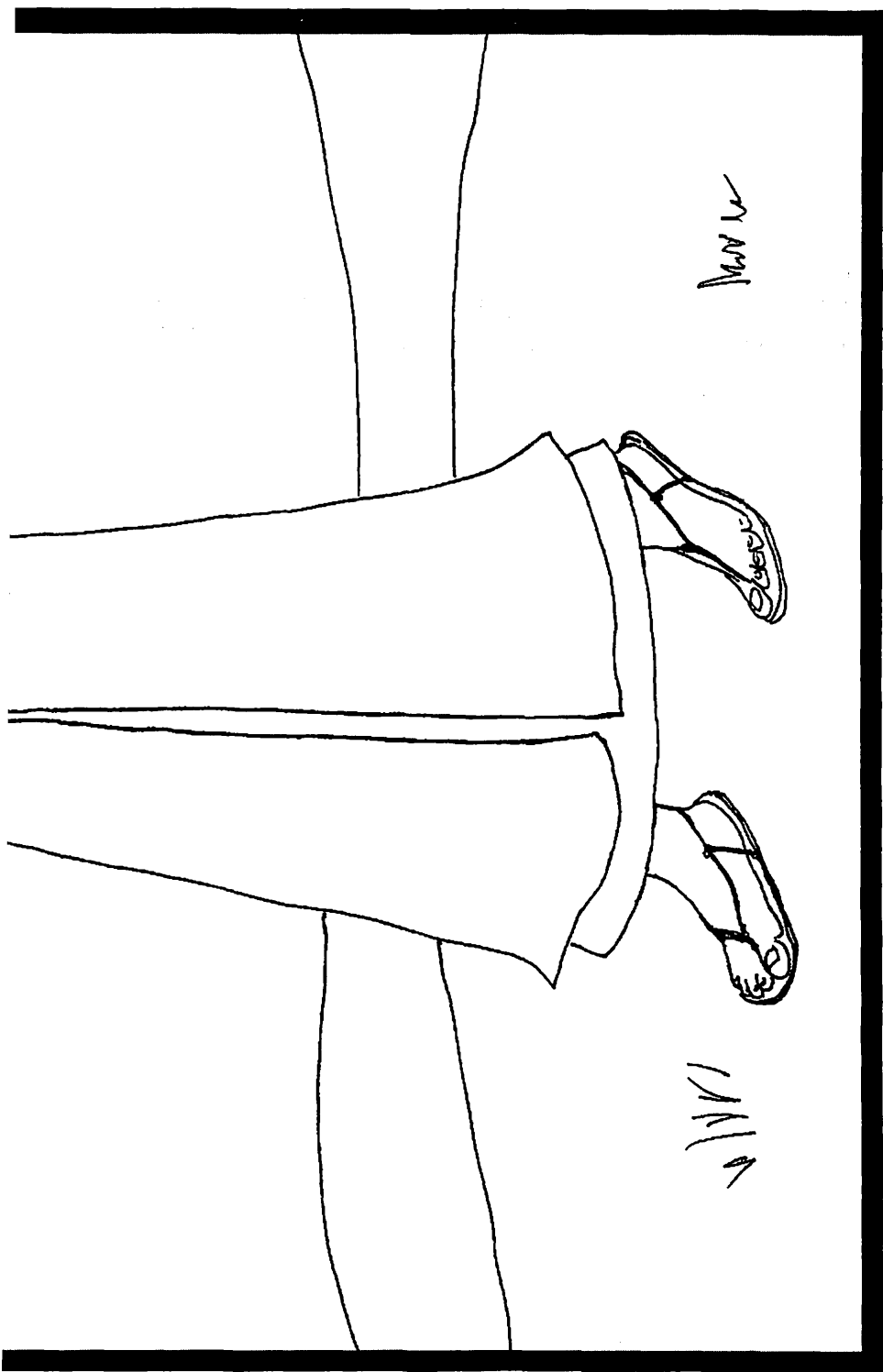
Another verse says, "...God wants us to live quiet and peaceful lives in all holiness and godliness. This pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to have knowledge of the truth." God did give us the power to make the choice to serve Him or to choose to serve the devil. You have the power to choose to serve God today. The angels in Heaven will rejoice with you if you do.

—Sis. Monica Murphey,

*“And when he hath found it [the sheep], he layeth it on his
shoulders, rejoicing.”*

Luke 15:5





Facing a Monster

(Continued)

William Levi and his family lived in Uganda, Africa right on the earth's equator, which is the imaginary line that divides the earth north and south. This part of the earth faces the sun all the time as the earth spins around the sun. Because of this, the tropical forest never has cold winters. There are the rainy season and the dry season. Both seasons could cause trouble for the two shepherd boys who watched a growing herd of goats and sheep.

One day William and Francis brought their herd into a clearing where there was plenty of grass for the animals to munch. The dry heat caused the boys to seek a shady spot to rest and snack on fruit they had picked from nearby trees. Listening to the birds in the trees, they heard a change in their chatter. Some of the birds were screeching. Then Francis pointed to a billy goat.

"Look, William," he said. "That goat is acting strange."

The male goat pawed the ground and lifted his head up high to sniff the air. Something bad was coming! William jumped to his feet and grabbed his spear. By now the boys were seven years old, and they could throw a spear accurately at a wild beast. They watched the bushes. Suddenly the underbrush shook and many small animals burst into the clearing, running like crazy from something.

"Francis! What are they running from?" asked William in a panic.

"I don't know, but lets take the sheep and goats home!" replied Francis.

By now their herd was spooked and some of them were straying. More and more wild animals of all sizes were running past them.

The air had been hot and still but now was rushing past their ears with a great whooshing sound. Their herd of goats and sheep broke into a run

as a thunderous roar swung through the trees. Then the boys saw the blaze of fire speeding toward them!

"Fire!" shouted William. "We have to get the animals out of here! Run!"

Cinders flew overhead as they drove the herd toward the village.

"Over here, boys!" called Father's voice. He rushed to help them drive the herd into their pen. Other fathers were helping their shepherd sons bring their herds into their night pens also.

"Thank God you are safe!" exclaimed Mama as she put her arms around her two sons.

"Yes, and thank God the fire is blazing away from Ambuluwa," said Father. "Men, grab your spears and let us seek out suffering prey that we may bring in for food."

William and Francis wanted to stay close to Mama once their herd was safe. Mama took time to hold them close and comfort them until they stopped trembling. Wildfire is a terrible monster for anyone to face.

In a few days, fresh green shoots carpeted the forest floor. God was good to restore life after destruction.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What made the Phat sees unhappy?
2. Why would the owner leave 99 sheep?
3. What did the woman lose?
4. Who will she call to celebrate?
5. Who rejoices in Heaven when a sinner repents?
6. Does God want to see everyone destroyed?
7. What kind of lives does God want us to live?
8. What do you have the power to do?

Answers: 1. Jesus eating with sinners. 2. One was lost. 3. A coin. 4. Her friends and neighbors. 5. Angels. 6. No. 7. Quiet and peaceful in holiness & godliness. 8. Choose to serve the Lord today.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 May 29, 2011

The Prodigal Son

Jesus told a parable about a man that had two sons. The youngest son was anxious to begin his own life. "Father, let me have my inheritance," the youngest son requested. The father divided his fortune and gave the youngest son his share. Not many days after this, the youngest son set out to experience life. He went to a far country, where he wasted his money on what he thought was having fun and enjoying life. Soon, all of his money was spent.

A terrible famine arose in the land where the youngest son was living. He began to be hungry. He found a man who let him have a job feeding his pigs. The youngest son was so hungry, that he ate some of the food he was to feed the pigs.

"My father's servants have enough bread to eat, with some left over. I am dying from hunger," the youngest son thought. "I will go to my father, and tell him that I have sinned against him, and am no longer worthy to be his son. I will ask him if I can be one of his servants."

The youngest son made the long return journey to his father. When he was still a ways off, his father saw him coming. His father felt compassion towards his wayward youngest son. His father ran to him, hugged him, and kissed him.

The son told the father those words that he had practiced. But his father said to the servants, "Bring the best robe, and put it on him. Put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. Bring the fatted calf, and kill it. Let us eat and rejoice."

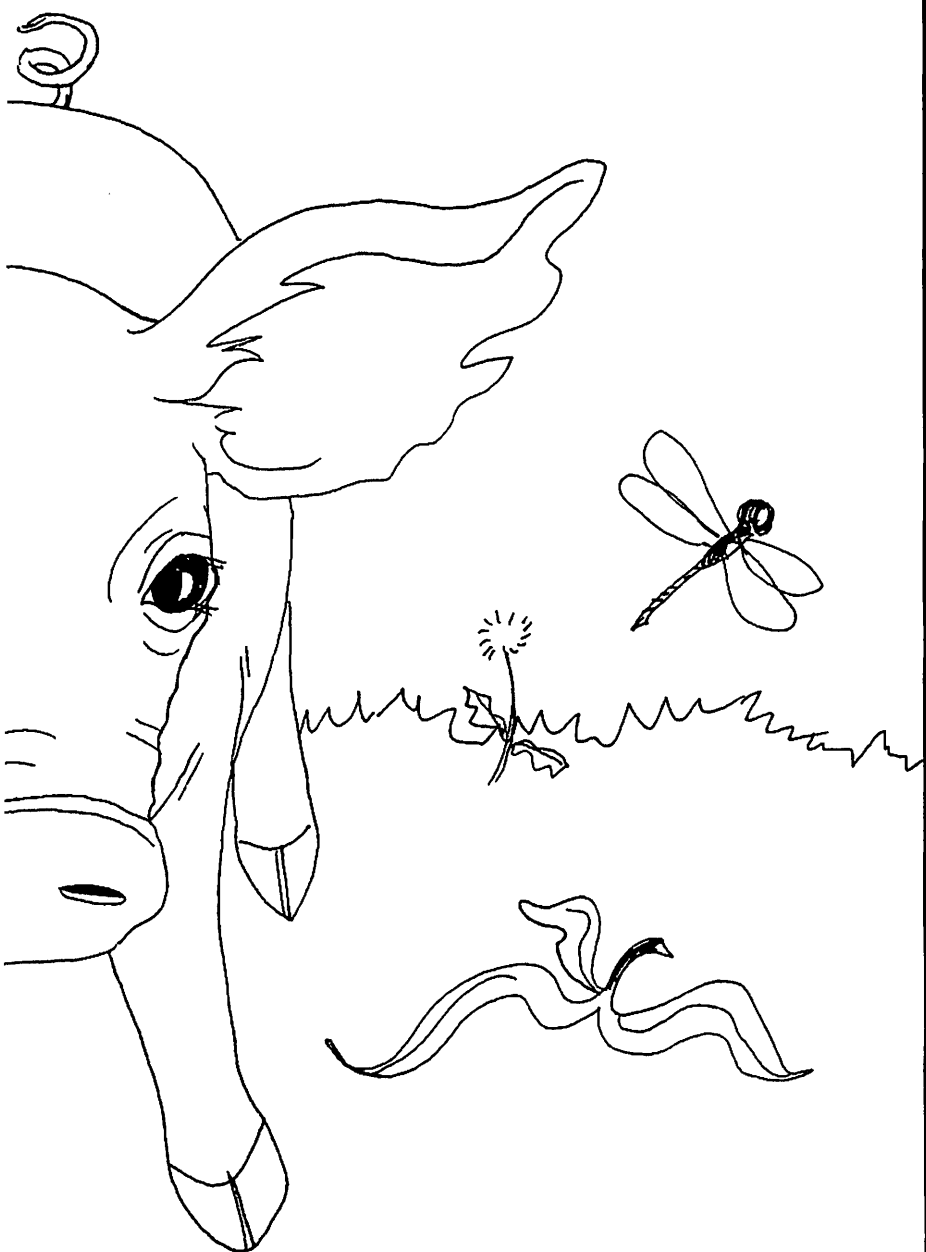
The oldest son was working in the field. When he returned to the house, he heard music and dancing. He asked his father what was going on. When he found out that the party was for his brother, he was angry. "I have worked for you for many years, and you have never given me a party," he said jealously.

"Son, whatever I have is yours. Your brother was dead, and is now alive. He was lost, and is found," the father replied.

—Sis. Monica Murphey.

*"... he sent him into his fields
to feed swine." Luke 15:15*





Good News to William

(Continued)

William and Francis learned responsibility as shepherds watching the sheep and goats for the family. The jungle of Uganda, Africa had many hidden dangers, but their parents trained them not only how to survive, but how to thrive in their environment.

In the morning when William and Francis were leading the sheep out of the pen, Michael was leaving for school. Michael, their older brother, walked to a school which was about 10 miles away.

"I wish we could go to school," William said to Francis.

"Me, too," agreed Francis.

"Father said that a person who can read and write will do better in life and can also read the Bible. Some day I want to read the Bible and help my family," said William as they led the herd into a grassy clearing where dew glistened on the ground.

Often the boys mentioned their longing for school to their parents. Then one evening they overheard Father and Mama discussing school plans for them!

"Mama, a Christian school has opened up for younger children," Father said. "It is for children up to 11 years old. Michael and Francis are eight now, aren't they?"

"Yes," nodded Mama. "Who would watch the sheep if they boys walked to school with Michael?"

Father leaned back against the house wall and pressed his hands together while in thought, but Grandpa Levi had an answer. "I will," he declared. "Yes, I am a blind old man, but here is my plan: we will drive stakes into the field, one for each sheep. I will tie each sheep to a tether, and the sheep can graze as much as they want without wandering away. When they have eaten all the grass within their reach, we can place the stakes in fresh pasture. I can sense danger when

it is around and call for help if I need it. So don't worry about the sheep."

"Very well," agreed Father, and Mama smiled.

William and Francis jumped up and down for joy! They hugged Grandpa for his willingness to help them. "Thank you, Grandpa," said William.

With his hands, Grandpa patted William's face and neck. "You are a good boy," he said, "I want you boys to get an education so you can be more successful in life than what I have been."

"Oh, Grandpa!" William hugged his grandpa tightly. "You are successful—you know Jesus and you have shown your family how to live for Him! Thank you for sacrificing your time to do my work so I can fulfill the dream of my life!"

"You are welcome, my son," replied Grandpa. "We will pray that the Lord will protect you boys and guide you in your schooling."

"I will learn quickly, you'll see!" declared William. "I will soon be able to read the Bible to you and other books, too!"

"Now the next thing to think about is school clothes and supplies," said Father. "We must make a trip to the village tomorrow."

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What did the youngest son want?
2. What happened to the youngest son's money?
3. What kind of job did the youngest son get?
4. What did the youngest son eat?
5. What did the youngest son decide to do?
6. Was his father unhappy to see him?
7. How did his older brother feel?
8. What reason did the father give the oldest son for the party?

Answers: 1. His inheritance. 2. He spent it. 3. Feeding the pigs. 4. Pig slop. 5. Ask his father if he could be a servant. 6. No. 7. Jealous. 8. He had found his son that was dead.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 June 5, 2011

The Rich Man's Torment

One time Jesus told a story about a rich man. This rich man wore purple clothing made out of fine material. The color purple was rare and very special to the people in Jesus' time. Only the rich wore clothing that color. The rich man ate grand foods every day.

There was a beggar named Lazarus who sat at the rich man's gate. He was sick, with sores all over his body. The dogs would come and lick his sores. Lazarus begged for crumbs from the rich man's table.

One day, the beggar died. Angels carried Lazarus to Abraham's bosom. The rich man died and was buried, also. The rich man was tormented in hell. He lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus in his bosom.

"Father Abraham, have mercy on me! Send Lazarus, that he may dip his finger in water, so that I can cool my tongue. I am tormented in this flame," the rich man pleaded.

"Remember in your life, you had good things," Abraham replied. "Lazarus had evil things. Now he is comforted, and you are tormented. Besides this, there is a great divide between us that no one can pass over."

"Please go to my father's house and warn my five brothers, in case they also have to come to this place of torment," the rich man petitioned.

"There are still prophets on earth that they may hear," Abraham responded.

"But if someone came to them from the dead, they will repent," the rich man protested.

"If they do not hear the prophets, they will not be persuaded, even if someone rose from the dead," Abraham told him.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“ . . . there was a certain beggar name



azarus, which was laid at his gate . . .”

Luke 16:20



Buying School Supplies

(Continued)

The next morning William and Francis helped Father bundle up three loads of freshly picked cotton and fill some jars with water. While they worked, Father talked.

"We are walking to town this morning. We're going to trade this cotton for school supplies, cloth, and for two pairs of shoes. You boys can help me carry these loads to town."

"Yes, sir!" they agreed happily.

Quickly, they obeyed Father so they could leave soon, but after all was ready to go, Father paused. "Anna," he called to Mama, "bring all the family over here by the cotton. We need to pray before we leave."

William's older sisters and brother gathered in a circle as they joined hands in prayer. "Dear heavenly Father," prayed Father, "we dedicate this cotton to You. May it buy the items we need to send these boys to school. As we send William and Francis to school, we pray they grow into educated men in Your service. Oh, Lord, we dedicate them to You and Your work. Amen."

William felt calm and warm as he looked up to see his family smiling at him and Francis. Yes, he would study hard to help his family and please the Lord! He would make them glad they had sacrificed so he could go to school.

The ten mile walk seemed as nothing to the travelers because they were so excited to visit a town and buy things at a store. In Wili-Will Father took them to a tailor shop.

"Let us show you some very fine cotton," said Father to the tailor.

The tailor fingered the piece of cotton that Father gave him. "So what do you need?" he asked Father.

"We need some of that green cloth for shirts and some of the heavy brown for pants. We need some khaki for backpacks." Father pointed to the fabric he needed.

The tailor smiled at William and Francis. "You boys going to school?"

"Yes, sir," they replied.

"We need boys like you to learn and help our people," replied the tailor. "Never forget to help those who help you."

"Yes, sir," replied the boys.

The tailor was one of thousands who had fled Sudan when the Islam military took control. Like the Levi family, he knew hardship, the struggle to survive and start over.

The Lord blessed and the tailor was generous in pricing the cotton. It bought each of the boys a shirt, a pair of pants, and their first pair of shoes. William's fingers itched to use the purchased slate and white chalk needed for his lessons.

Walking home with Father that day, William felt light and happy. A prince could not have felt more blessed. In fact, he was a prince, a child of the most high King. William began to sing praises to God, and Francis and Father joined in. Forgetting the past, they were happy for the day and hoping in a better tomorrow.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Who sat at the rich man's gate?
2. What was wrong with the man?
3. What would Lazarus beg for?
4. What happened to Lazarus and the rich man?
5. What did the rich man plead for?
6. Why couldn't Abraham grant his request?
7. Why did the rich man want someone to go to his father's house?
8. Who did Abraham say his brothers should listen to?

Answers: 1. Lazarus the beggar. 2. He had sores and was poor. 3. Crumbs from the rich man's table. 4. They both died. 5. A drop of water for his tongue. 6. There was a great divide between them. 7. To warn them of his torment. 8. The prophets on earth.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 June 12, 2011

Out of the Grave

One day, Jesus was teaching when He heard that His beloved friend Lazarus was sick. Mary and Martha, Lazarus' sisters had sent Jesus the message, "Lord, the man you love is sick." But Jesus did not leave immediately. "This sickness is not going to result in death, but it will result in the Glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified," Jesus responded. Jesus waited two days to go to the home of His friends. "Our friend Lazarus sleeps. I will go, so I can wake him out of his sleep," Jesus informed His disciples.

"If Jesus says he is sleeping, Lazarus must be better," His disciples commented.

"Lazarus is dead," Jesus stated. "I am glad for your sakes that I was not there to heal him. Let us go."

When Jesus arrived in Bethany, He found Lazarus was dead and had been lying in a grave for four days. Many of the Jews had gathered at his house to comfort the sisters of Lazarus. Martha heard that Jesus was coming. Martha ran to meet Him. "If you had been here, my brother would not have died," Martha told Jesus. "I know that even now, whatever we ask of God, He will give it to us."

"Your brother will rise again," Jesus told her. "I am the resurrection, and the life. Whoever believes in me will never die." Jesus asked for Mary to come. When she came, she said the same thing that Martha did. "If you had been here, my brother would not have died," Mary wept. "Where have you laid him?" Jesus asked Mary. They took Jesus to the tomb, and He wept. "See how Jesus loved him," the Jews said. Some of the Jews complained, "Couldn't he have stopped Lazarus from dying?"

Jesus walked toward the tomb. It was a cave with a large stone covering the entrance. Jesus said, "Roll the stone away." Then Jesus prayed. "Lazarus, come forth," Jesus commanded. Imagine how shocked everyone was when Lazarus walked out of the tomb. There was much rejoicing. Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead!

—Sis. Monica Murphey

*"And he that was dead
came forth . . ."*

John 11:44





Changes for the Levi Family

(continued)

William and Francis left at 6:00 in the morning to walk with Michael to school in town. They walked briskly down the beaten trail of ten miles which led them through four rivers before arriving in Nyigeri. They arrived at 8:00 a.m., ready to learn.

Because it was a Christian school, class started with prayer and Bible lesson. William was like a sponge, eager to soak up all the lessons he could get. He studied English, but his lessons were taught in Madi because the teachers, like most of the students, were refugees who fled Sudan when Islam took over the government.

All of them were seeking a better life with trust in God, love in family, and hope in education. The headmaster taught them many songs which made learning easier, and those songs helped William many times in his life. The Lord was laying lesson upon lesson in William's training and because he learned to obey, William benefited from it even when he was an adult.

During lunch break, the boys played soccer with a real ball. There were so many new adventures and learning in William's life that he came home tired, ready to sleep. These were happy days for William and his family—days of bonding with family and friends with a vision of hope before them.

Then news of change spread through the town like a brush fire in the forest. North and South Sudan were going to unite. The war in Sudan was ended. All refugees from Sudan were called to come back "home" and help rebuild their country. A big treaty signing and celebration was announced. The school would close that week as all the teachers and students would walk to Chinyaquia, a town on the border of Sudan and Uganda, to hear the leaders speak.

William was excited about the walk because he wanted to see cars, trucks,

helicopters and soldiers. He did not realize all the change this signing would bring to his family and their peaceful way of life. He had heard stories about how his family had fled from their homes and crops to escape death, but he had not lived through that kind of hardship.

The town was packed shoulder to shoulder with refugees ready to walk back to Sudan. Leaders made speeches with promises and the crowd cheered. Then a red ribbon was cut to allow southern Sudanese to return home. As people pushed forward, Father held his family back.

"We will return to our home in Ambuluwa," he said quietly. "We must pray about a move. I do not want to be hasty."

Mama nodded. The Levi family left the celebration behind. Together they walked back across the wilderness to the forest where they had built a house and garden.

The community was not the same. Many of their neighbors had left for Sudan. Life was changing for the Levi family.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Cora Scirell

Questions:

1. Where did Jesus' friends live?
2. What were the names of his friends?
3. What bad news did Mary & Martha send Jesus?
4. How long did Jesus wait before He left to see them?
5. How long had Lazarus been in the grave?
6. Did Mary and Martha believe Jesus could have healed him?
7. Jesus said, "Whoever believes in me will never ____."
8. What miracle occurred?

Answers: 1. Bethany. 2. Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. 3. Lazarus was sick. 4. Two days. 5. Four days. 6. Yes. 7. Die. 8. Lazarus was risen from the dead.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 June 19, 2011

Be Thankful!

On His way to Jerusalem, Jesus passed through Samaria and Galilee. He went into a village where ten lepers met Him. Men with leprosy were not supposed to come near healthy men. Leprosy was a fatal disease. People who had leprosy were confined to a part of the country away from everyone else.

These ten lepers stood at a safe distance from Jesus. They shouted, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

"Go and show yourself to the priest," Jesus told them.

Men with diseases such as this had to go to a priest in order for a cleansing ceremony to be performed before they could return to their normal lives. These men went to the priest, and were cleansed on the way.

One of the lepers saw that he was healed. He turned back and praised God in a loud voice. He fell down on his face at Jesus' feet and thanked Him. This man was a Samaritan.

"Were there not ten lepers healed?" Jesus asked. "Where are the other nine? Was no one else willing to come back and praise God except for this man who is not a Jew? Arise. Go your way. Your faith has made you well."

Many scriptures in the Bible tell us that we should be thankful. Why?

"....Be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations." Psalm 100 gives us three reasons to thank the Lord: His goodness, His mercy, and His truth.

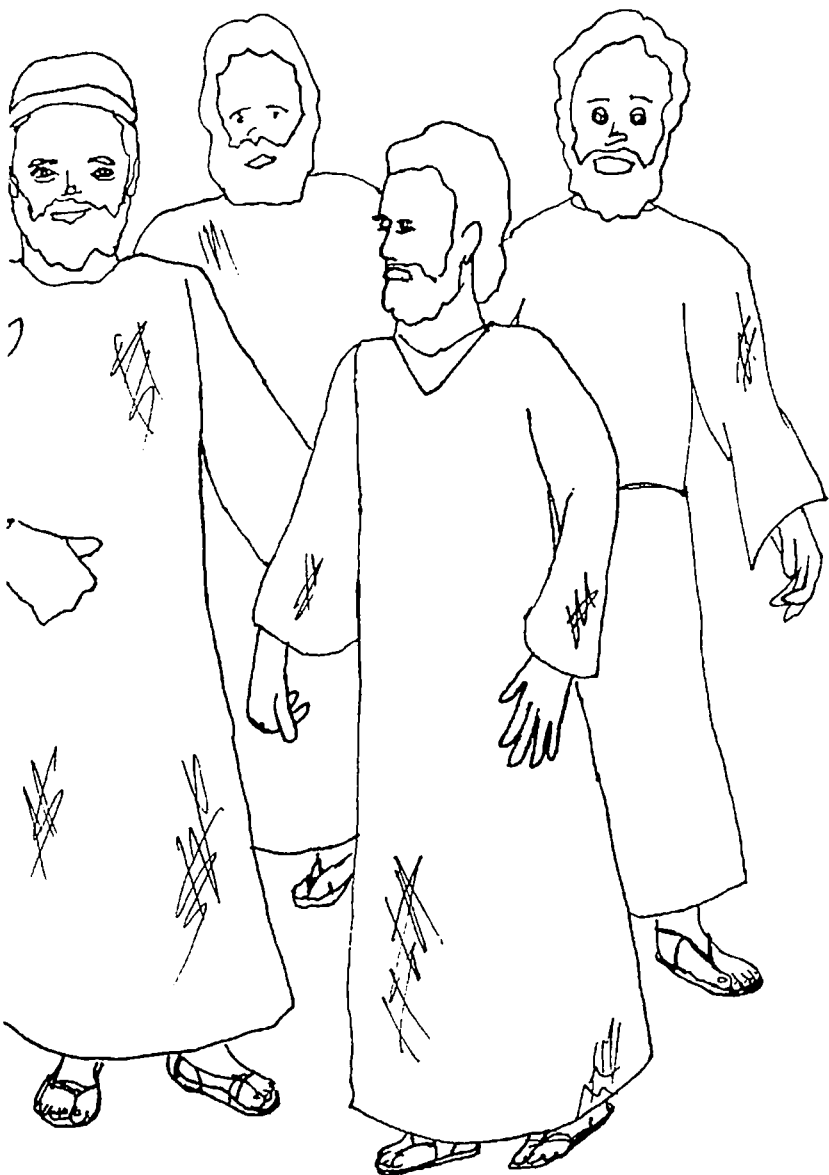
"In every thing give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." This verse in Philippians chapter five takes the thanksgiving we should have to God to a different level. We should be thankful for all things. If we are committed to God, all things are going according to His will. Even during the bad times. So don't forget to be thankful!

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“ . . . there met him ten men



were lepers . . .” Luke 17:12



Saying "Good-bye" to Friends

(Continued)

Excited with all the news, William and his brothers, Michael and Francis, walked quickly down the ten mile trail to Nygeri where they went to school. William wanted to talk with his new friends about the cars, tanks, airplanes and other things he had seen at the "Welcome Back to Sudan" assembly he had just attended with his family.

It was mid-March of 1972. William had attended school for half a semester and already he could read and write. Learning was fun to William and he was eager to learn more.

Arriving at the school, Michael joined advanced class, while William and Francis went to the first primary class. After devotions, the headmaster gathered all the students together.

"Children," said the headmaster in an excited voice, "How many of you saw the ribbon cutting ceremony at Chinyaquia?"

Every hand went up with a "yes."

"That's wonderful!" continued the headmaster. "That day the Addis Ababa Agreement was signed. The government in North Sudan has agreed to let the people of South Sudan govern themselves. That means it is safe to go back to South Sudan to live if you are a refugee from Sudan."

The head master cleared his throat and wiped his brow with his handkerchief. "I have chosen to take my family back home. I have enjoyed teaching you..."

William's head began to spin in a panic. His teacher was leaving? Who was going to teach him more about reading, writing and numbers?

"...who else is planning to leave for Sudan?" asked the headmaster.

All hands went up except for William and Francis's hands.

The headmaster nodded. "Today is my last day to teach at this school. May God bless you all."

A knot of pain twisted in William's stomach: the end of school? It wasn't

fair! He had barely started to school and now he would be forced to stop!

William told his friends at school, "good-bye" and wished them well in their moves. Then he cried on the walk home. His dream of getting an education had crashed before him. Michael put his arm around William's shoulder. "Cheer up, little brother," he said. "Father may have some ideas to send you to another school."

That night the Levi family discussed the new changes taking place in the community of Ambuluwa and at the school. So many families were leaving in hope of a better life in Sudan. After family devotions, Father told his family what his plans were.

"We will not go back to Sudan right now," he said. "I believe the Lord wants us to wait and make sure the government is telling the truth before we make a move."

Mama nodded her approval. William was quiet. That didn't answer his question about school and a better education, but he trusted Father's decisions.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Who met Jesus in one of the villages?
2. What did the men want Jesus to do?
3. Where did Jesus tell the men to go?
4. How many lepers came back to thank Jesus?
5. How should we feel toward God for all that He does?
6. What three reasons does Psalm 100 give us to be thankful?
7. In what circumstances should we be thankful?
8. If we are committed to God, what will happen?

Answers: 1. Ten lepers. 2. Have mercy on them. 3. To the priest. 4. Only one. 5. Thankful. 6. For His goodness, His mercy and His truth. 7. All things. 8. Everything will be according to His will.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 June 26, 2011

A Stoning Stopped

Jesus went up into the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning, He returned and went to the temple. All of the people came to hear Him speak. He sat down and taught them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought Him a woman who they could prove had committed adultery. They put her in the midst of the people.

"Master, this woman was caught doing something bad, something that Moses wrote that we should not do in his Ten Commandments," the men told Jesus. "Moses says in his laws that anyone who disobeys this law should be stoned to death. What do you say?"

The leaders of the temple did not really care to hear what Jesus said. They simply wanted to catch Jesus saying something they could use to hurt Him later.

Jesus ignored the men. He knelt down and wrote on the ground with His finger. The men continued badgering Him with questions.

Finally Jesus responded. "The man that has never sinned may cast the first stone," Jesus offered. Again Jesus stooped and wrote on the ground.

When the men heard that statement, they knew they had all done bad things before. One by one, each man left, from the oldest to the youngest. Jesus was left standing alone with the women.

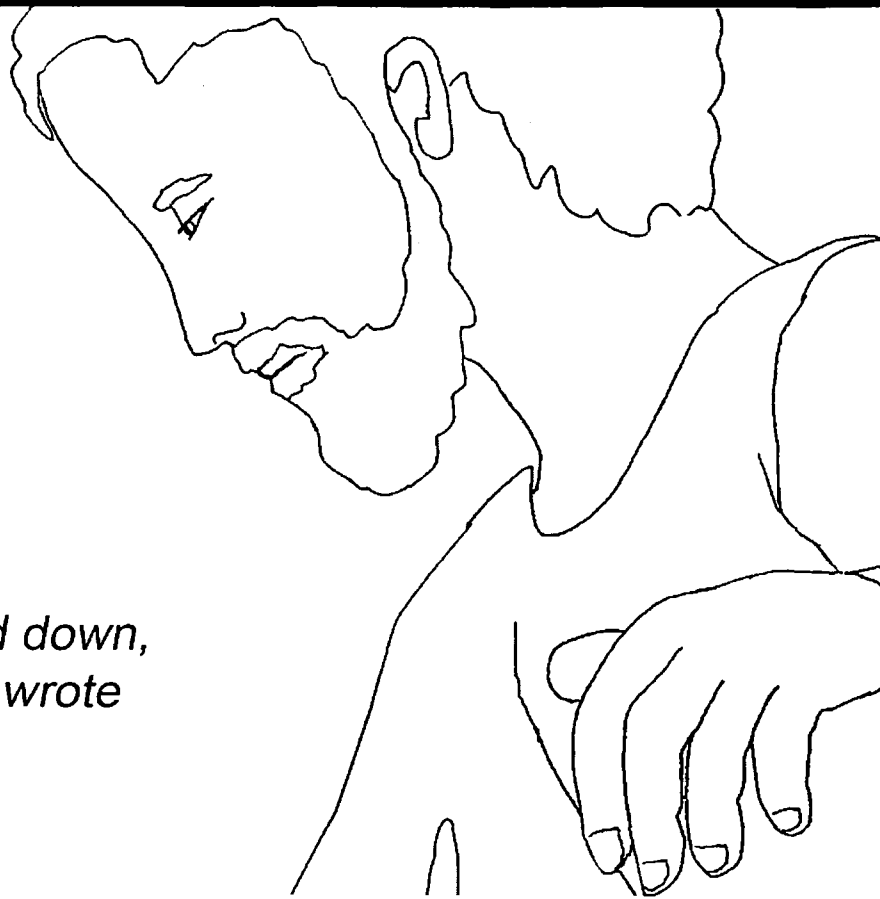
"Woman, where are the men that accuse you?" Jesus inquired. "Has no man condemned you?" "No man has, Lord," the woman replied. "I do not condemn you, either," Jesus said. "Go, and sin no more."

The religious leaders of this time became more and more angry as Jesus bested them in arguments and was friends with the poor and sinners.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

*“ . . . Jesus stooped down,
and with his finger wrote
on the ground . . . ”*

John 8:6





Moving Changes

(continued)

William soon learned that other changes were coming into his eight-year old life. His older brother, Michael, left to live at a secondary school in far away Loa. Ambuluwa neighbors left. Even his two oldest sisters married their boyfriends and moved back to Sudan. In this area of Uganda, there were no telephones or electricity. The roads were bad so mail did not reach them often. When would they ever be together again?

Not only was William worried about the changes but it affected Mama. She became very ill after her older children left. During the day William and Francis took turns herding the sheep and goats or helping Father with his chores. In the evening, William helped his little sister, Rose, with Mama's work.

The four of them worked hard to care for the garden and other needs of the community but still they could not keep up with the demand. It seemed to William that he barely slept at all. Mama was not able to feed herself so they took turns feeding her.

William sat next to Mama who was lying on her bed mat. He held a spoonful of porridge to her lips. "Mama, try to eat a few bites," he said softly. "You need it for strength."

Mama nodded slightly, but she did not open her mouth to take the bite. Father stepped into the room and knelt beside Mama. With a gentle hand, he smoothed back her hair. "Anna," he said. "I have decided we should leave Ambuluwa. We need to get you to a healthier place to heal."

William, Francis and Rose sighed with relief. They did not like this new ghost town that the once happy Ambuluwa had been. They were ready to have help in caring for Mama.

Before they left behind their home, the Levi family had prayer. Father prayed for Mama to get better and for the safety of Michael, Angela, Jemima and all of the family. William could feel Father's concern for his family.

The family moved to a tiny house in Nyigeri, Uganda. Then they took Mama to a United Nations hospital. It was hard to live without Mama in the home. It was also strange living in town and without any school to attend. The school building looked like a hollow shell and it made William want to cry every time he saw it.

Over the year, Mama's health improved until she was able to come home in Nyigeri. It was great to have her home! Then his older sister, Jemima, came for a visit. Everyone was so happy to see her!

After the hugs and kisses, Mama asked, "What is the news from Loa? How is Angela? How is Michael? Is he doing well in school?"

Jemima paused a moment before saying, "First, let me tell you some good news—I'm going to be a mother!"

Everyone laughed. "Wonderful!" exclaimed Mama. "Ajugo, did you hear—we are going to be grandparents!"

William was glad to hear this exciting news, but he was interested in knowing how Michael was doing in school—where he wanted to be.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Who did the Pharisees bring to Jesus?
2. What did they want Jesus to decide?
3. What did Jesus do?
4. Who did Jesus say could cast the first stone?
5. What did the men do when Jesus said that?
6. Who was left?
7. Did Jesus think it was right to stone the woman?
8. What did Jesus tell the woman to do?

Answers: 1. A woman who had committed adultery. 2. If they should stone her. 3. Wrote something in the sand. 4. Any man without sin. 5. They left. 6. Jesus and the woman. 7. No. 8. Go, and sin no more.