

**THE**

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



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

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## The Publican and the Pharisee

Many different kinds of people came to hear Jesus speak. Poor people, rich rulers, sinners, tax collectors, and a lot of times the religious leaders would come and join the crowd listening to Jesus. On this day, Jesus noticed men there that thought they were very important religious men. These men despised the poorer people. Many Pharisees made a show of praying and performing their religious duties. They would pray loudly, standing on street corners and in the synagogues, making sure people noticed them.

The story Jesus told to the crowd was about a Pharisee and a publican. A Pharisee was a religious leader in Israel during Jesus' time. Publicans collected taxes from the people for the government. People of those times did not think well of anyone who took money from the poor. Most of the tax collectors took more money than they were supposed to and kept some of it for themselves.

These two men had gone to the temple to pray. The Pharisee stood and prayed, "God, I thank you that I am not bad like other men, such as sinners or this publican.

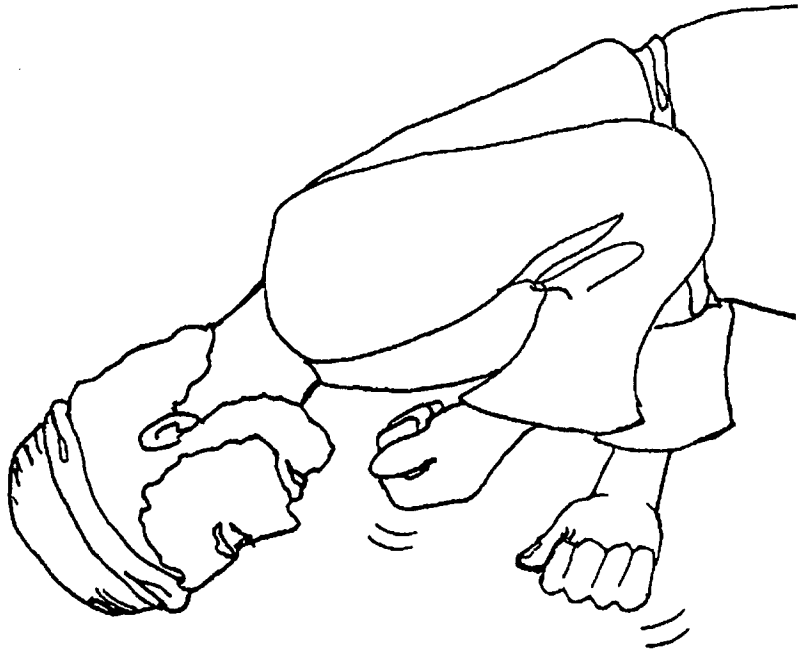
"I fast twice a week, and I always pay my tithes," the Pharisee concluded his prayer. The poor publican would not even lift up his eyes to Heaven. He hit himself on his breast and cried, "God be merciful to me, a sinner!"

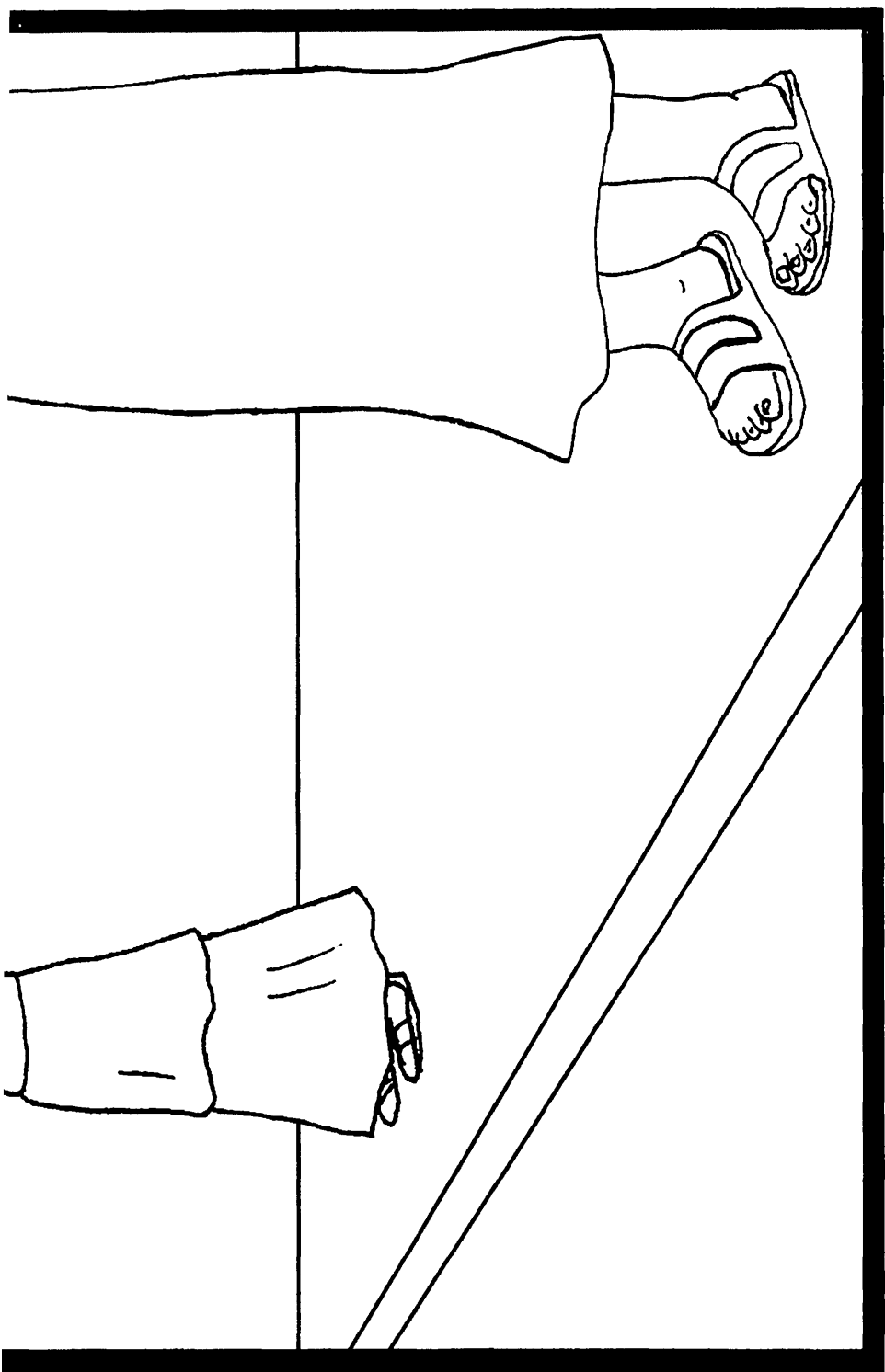
"This man's prayer pleased God more than the prayer of the Pharisee," Jesus said. "Every one that lifts himself up will be brought low. Every one that humbles himself will be lifted up."

Jesus told another parable about a judge who did not fear God or respect man. A widow who lived in that city came to the judge and asked him to punish her adversary. The judge would not do anything for the widow, but she continued to come and ask the same request of the judge. Eventually he gave in to her persistent pleading. Jesus told us this parable so that we would always pray, and not give up.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

*"Two men went . . . to pray . . .  
a Pharisee, and . . . a publican."  
Luke 18:10*





## The Desire to Learn

(Continued)

William was glad to have Mama home again, but she was still weak and frail from her year of illness. His sister, Jemima, and her husband came to visit, and their news about having a baby cheered Mama very much.

"We are so excited about our coming grandbaby!" said Mama. "But now I want to know how is my son, Michael?"

Jemima frowned and looked at Albereto, her husband. Oh, no, thought William, something is wrong with Michael.

Albereto shook his head, "I know you were counting on me to keep him in check because we live near the school, but I haven't been able to keep watch of Michael very well. I am sorry to say that he has left school...."

"WHAT!" Father exploded and Mama gasped. "What kind of rebellion is this? Michael knows our family has invested money and time into his education, and then he leaves?"

William felt his skin grow warm with mixed emotions—anger at Michael for such foolishness and anticipation that Father would let him go to school instead.

"We hope and pray Michael will recover from his youthful folly and get back to serious schooling," continued Albereto. "He became friends with other young men who get drunk and chase girls. We tried to reason with him, but he wouldn't listen."

Mama was crying and William put his arms around her for comfort. Father was quiet for a minute, then he said, "We must keep our hearts open to Michael and pray the Lord will help him change before his life is ruined. I myself went through some troubled times at his age."

Father looked at Mama and smiled. "It was your father who came alongside me and gave me good directions in life. I listened to Grandfather Vuni, gave my heart to Jesus, and I won a lovely wife through my obedience. Michael

needs to see the value in obeying good godly counsel.

William loved his brother, but he was very disappointed that Michael had not esteemed his education over worldly pleasure.

"Oh, Lord, if I could only go to school, I would use my education to help others and to serve You," William prayed silently.

At ten years old, William had only attended one short semester of school all his lifetime. If he did not enroll into a school soon, he would be past the age to ever enter at all.

Later, William's other older sister visited the family.

"Hello, Mama!" greeted Angela. "Korica and I are moving to Bori near Opari. We will be near your father and brother!"

"Oh, that is wonderful!" exclaimed Mama. "Are they still teachers at the Opari Elementary School?"

"Yes," replied Angela. She glanced at William who was sitting near Mama. She saw the look of hope flash through her brother's eyes, and she smiled. The Lord had heard William's prayers!

(to be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. What did the Pharisees make a show of?
2. Where would the Pharisees pray?
3. What was the job of the Publicans?
4. What two men had gone to the temple to pray?
5. What prayer did the Publican pray?
6. Which prayer pleased God more?
7. Jesus said that everyone who humbles himself will be \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Why did the judge do what the woman asked?

**Answers:** 1. Praying and other religious duties. 2. Where men could see them. 3. Tax collectors. 4. A Pharisee and a Publican. 5. "Be merciful to me, a sinner!" 6. The publican's prayer. 7. Lifted up. 8. She kept asking him about it.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 61, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 July 10, 2011

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## A Question From A Rich Young Man

One time while Jesus was preaching, a rich young man came to Him with a question. "Good Master," the young man asked. "What good deeds should I do to gain eternal life?"

"If you want to have eternal life, you must keep the commandments," Jesus answered.

"Which commandments?" the young man questioned.

"Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal or lie. Respect your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself," Jesus told him.

"I have kept these commandments since I was a child," the young man returned. "What is keeping me from gaining eternal life?"

"If you want to be perfect," Jesus explained. "You must sell all of your things and give the money to the poor. Then you will have treasure in Heaven. After you do this, come and follow me."

When the young man heard this, he left sadly because he was very wealthy and was not willing to give up his riches. Jesus continued preaching to the crowd after the young man left.

"I tell you, it is hard for a rich man to enter into Heaven. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into Heaven."

"Then who can be saved?" the disciples wondered.

"It is impossible for men to save themselves, but with God everything is possible," Jesus concluded.

"We have left all that we have to follow you," Peter commented. "What will happen to us?"

"When the Son of Man goes up into glory and sits on his throne, you will also sit on twelve thrones," Jesus said. "Everyone who has left everything to follow me will receive one hundred times as much as that and eternal life."

—Sis. Monica Murphey

*"... It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God"*  
Matthew 19:24



eedle,



## Pursuing a Dream

(continued)

As his sister, Angela, talked with Mama, William kept praying in his heart that he could go to Opari where his grandfather and uncle taught school. He would be willing to work for his keep if only they would let him go to learn at school.

"Mama, if you and father will let William come with us, we can take him to Grandfather Vuni to live and attend school," said Angela.

Sitting by Mama's chair, William felt his chest tighten as he drew in his breath waiting for Mama's answer.

Mama was quiet for a minute. "Ask your Father," she finally said. "Whatever he says, I will agree."

William jumped up from his seat and went to find Father who was sitting outside their house sharpening a knife. William did not waste any time to ask. "Father, may I go to school? I promise I will work hard and make you proud of me. Just give me a chance, Father, please!"

Father shook his head. "A young'un like you needs to be with his parents, son. Your mama needs you here and ...."

"But Francis and Rose can help her while I'm gone. You have said yourself that education is important to the survival of our family. I promise I will use my education to help the family and bless the Lord."

Finally William's begging and promising paid off. Father sighed. "I guess you can go," he agreed, "but you must take gifts to your grandfather and uncle."

So the day arrived that William packed his few belongings and left with Angela to meet his grandfather and uncle who lived in Nyakaningwa, Sudan. He took gifts of cloth and peanut butter to pay for his keep. He never complained about carrying it

during the more than 200 miles that they walked.

His mother's family was happy to see him and they made a feast to celebrate his arrival. William took his heaping plate of rice and chicken and sat down beside Grandpa Vuni.

"I want to go to school where you teach, Grandpa," said William. "Father said an education is very important for us to survive in life."

"He is right," agreed Grandpa quietly. "We will let your Uncle Ezekiel decide what lessons to start you on. I know you will be a good student."

"I will be a quick learner—you'll see!" agreed William. "I have already learned in primary grade one and now I am ready for two. I will study and work extra hard to catch up with my age group."

Uncle Ezekiel chuckled as he heard William's eager plea. "Alright," he agreed. "We will start you in grade two," he said.

"By the Grace of God, I will learn quickly," said William with a very happy smile.

(to be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### Questions: (True/False)

1. A rich young woman came to Jesus.
2. He asked what he must do for eternal life.
3. Jesus told him he must not sneeze.
4. The young man did not want to sell his things.
5. It is hard for a rich man to enter into Heaven.
6. With God everything is possible.
7. The disciples will fly with the angels in Heaven.
8. Everyone who follows Jesus will have eternal life.

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



**THE**

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



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**Vol. 61, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 July 17, 2011**

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## **The Workers in the Vineyard**

Jesus told another parable about the kingdom of Heaven. "The kingdom of heaven is like a man that owns a house. He went out early in the morning to hire workers to tend to the grapes in his vineyard. He agreed to pay the workers a penny a day and set them to work. After three hours, the employer went to the market and saw some people standing idle.

"Why are you not working?' The owner asked. 'No one has a job for us,' they said. 'Go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you a fair wage,' he replied.

"The owner went out three more times during the day and hired workers for a fair wage. At the end of the day, the vineyard owner said to his steward, 'Call the workers together for their pay.' When every man was gathered together, they all received a penny.

"The owner paid us all the same wages, and we worked longer. That is not fair,' some of the workers grumbled. Their complaints reached the ears of their employer.

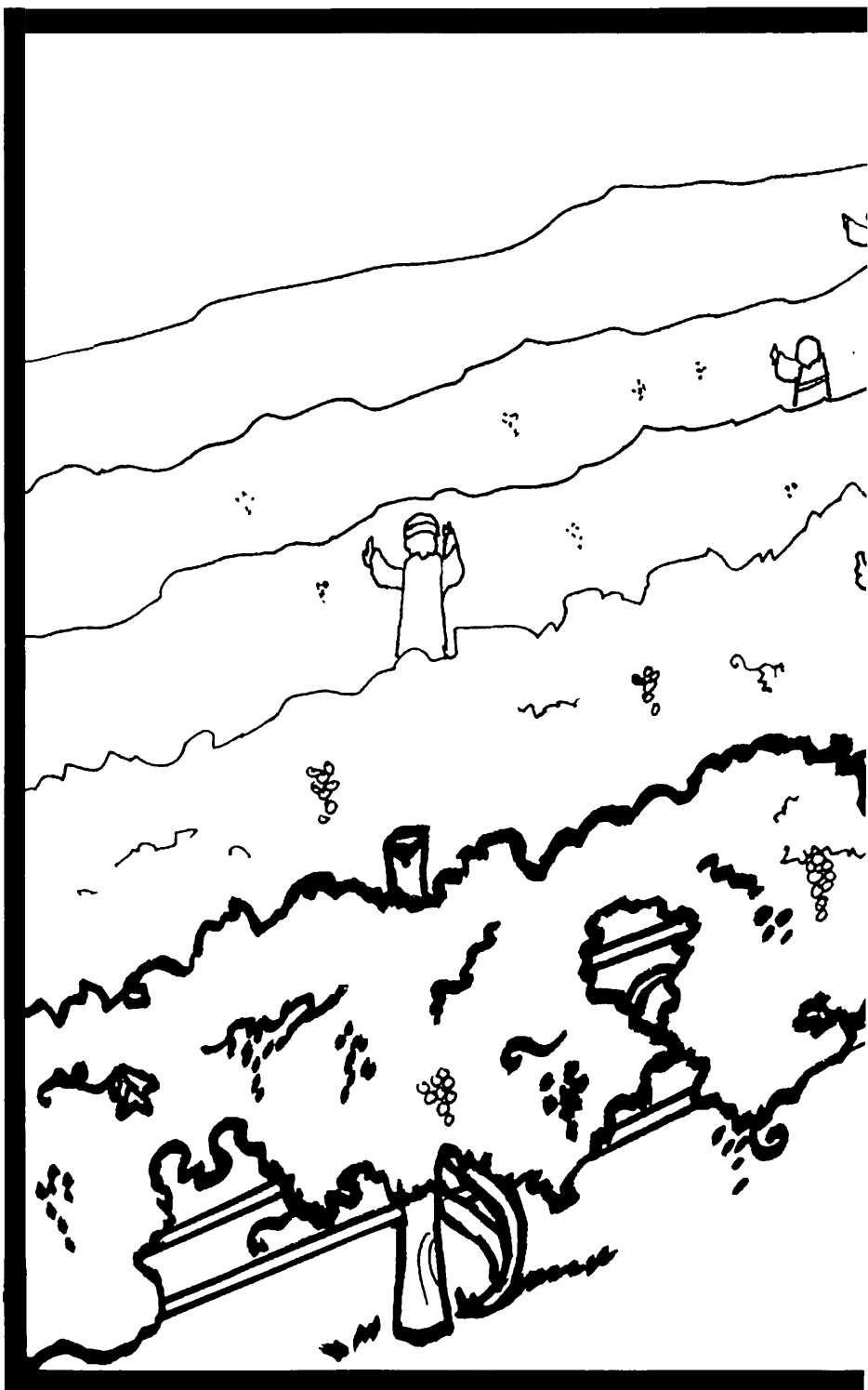
"Some of these men have only worked for one hour, and they have made the same as we have. We worked hard all day,' one of the workers complained to the employer.

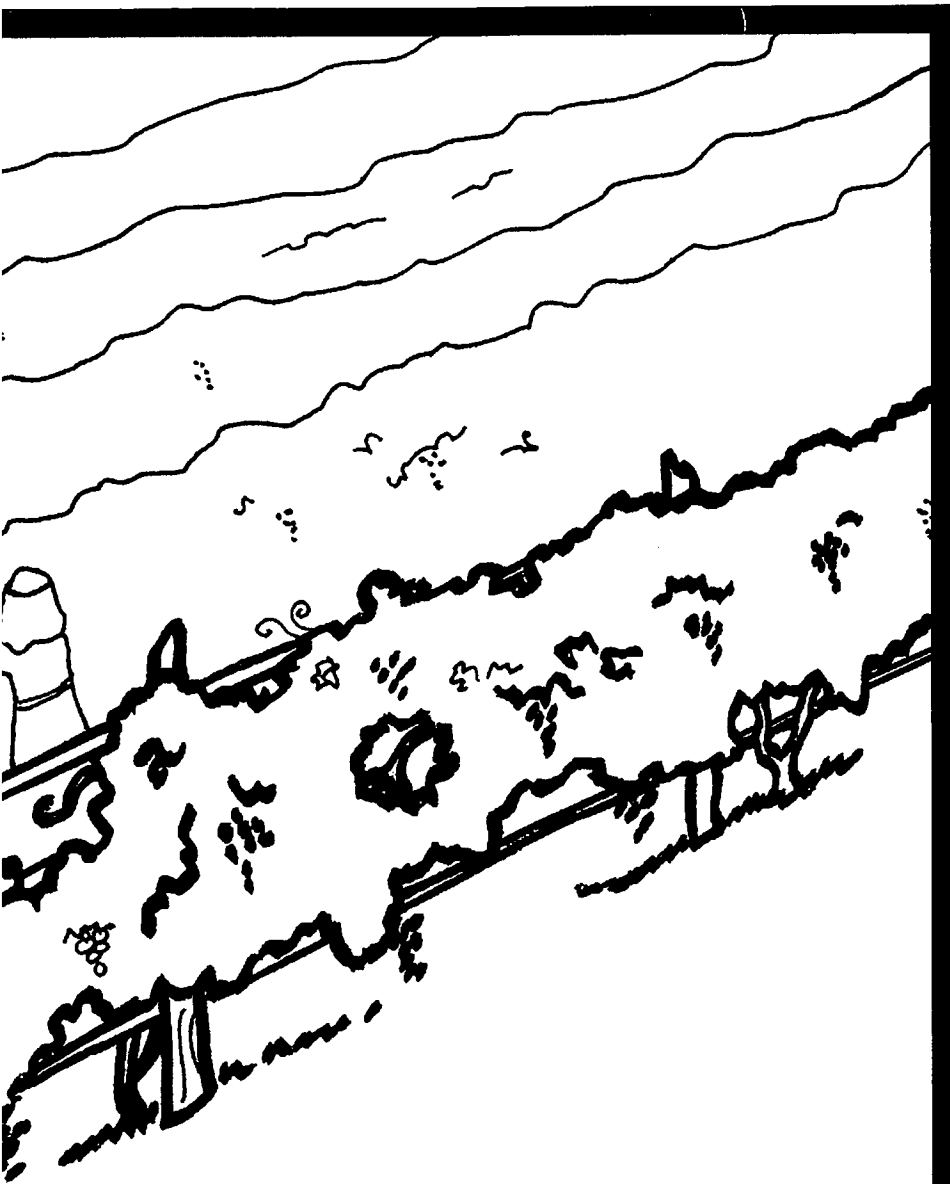
"I did not do anything wrong towards you,' the owner answered. 'Did you not agree to work for a penny? Take your wage and go your way.'"

"In the kingdom of Heaven," Jesus explained, "The last will be first, and the first last. Many will be called, but few will be chosen."

"Unless you become as little children," Jesus taught, "You cannot enter the kingdom of Heaven. Whoever will humble themselves as a little child will be the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven. Whoever will receive one of these children in my name receives me. Whoever offends one of the little ones offends me."

—Sis. Monica Murphey





*"And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard."  
Matthew 20:2*

## Food for the Teachers

(continued)

William lived with his Uncle Ezekiel and Aunt Marietta in a small thatch roof hut about a mile from the school. Two neighboring tribes attended the school of four hundred students so William had to speak both Madi and Ocholi languages.

Every week day William walked the dusty road that led to the mud brick school building in the center of Nyakaningwa, Sudan. He loved learning math, writing, history and all the other subjects that Uncle Ezekiel and the teachers taught. Most of all, William loved his Bible classes that Grandpa Vuni taught.

Though he was only ten years old, William soon realized his uncle and aunt were struggling to feed their family. In their hut lived their two daughters, Rose and Josephine, and their baby boy Kanga Wilson, as well as Moses, William's cousin, and Letiyo, a niece of Aunt Marietta.

William heard the talk. "You spend so much time at the school that you do not have time to plant a crop of food," Aunt Marietta said to Uncle Ezekiel. "We need money to buy food, but the government will not pay you. So what shall we do?"

Uncle Ezekiel was quiet for a moment. "The Islamic government from North Sudan keeps the money we are supposed to have," he said. "They do not like our Christian school and want to close us down. The Lord can help us find a way to work around them."

William began to pray that a way would be found to keep the school open. He did not want the Muslims to stop his education again. Finally, the teachers and parents held a meeting to solve the food and money problem.

It was decided that every Friday

instead of having a Physical Education class, the students would work to clear, plow and plant crops in an unused field by the school. William liked the PE time of playing soccer and races, but he was willing to give it up so that the teachers could have food for their families.

He was glad his father had taught him how to plow ground and plant seeds. The students worked hard and their labor was rewarded. By October, they had a huge harvest of cassava, grain, sorghum, beans, sesame, millet, sweet potatoes, tomatoes and all sorts of green vegetables.

The school families and teachers came together for a feast of Thanksgiving to God for all His blessings to them. William was so thankful that the school would stay open now that food was available for the teachers and their families.

"Yeshua, you are so good!" exclaimed William toward Heaven.

(to be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. What did the employer hire workers to tend?
2. What did the employer agree to pay the workers?
3. How many times did the employer go out and hire more workers?
4. What did the employer pay all of the workers at the end of the day?
5. Why did some of the men complain?
6. Did the owner think that he had done wrong?
7. What will be first in the kingdom of Heaven?
8. What must you become as to enter the kingdom of Heaven?

**Answers:** 1. His vineyard. 2. A penny. 3. Four. 4. A penny. 5. Everyone had received the same wage. 6. No. 7. The last. 8. A child.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 61, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 July 24, 2011

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## Blind Bartimeaus

There was a poor blind man who lived in the city of Jericho. His name was Bartimeaus. The only job Bartimeaus could accomplish was to sit beside the road begging the people journeying through Jericho for money. One day, Bartimeaus was begging as usual when he heard the noise of a crowd passing by. "What is going on?" Bartimeaus asked some of the men beside him.

"Jesus, from Nazareth, is walking by," they answered.

"Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me," Bartimeaus shouted over the noise of the crowd.

"Be quiet!" the men rebuked him.

This only caused Bartimeaus to shout more loudly. "Jesus, have mercy on me!"

Finally Jesus stopped. "Bring him to me," he commanded. "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked the blind man.

"Lord, I want to see," Bartimeaus told him.

"You will be able to see," Jesus said. "Your faith has made you well."

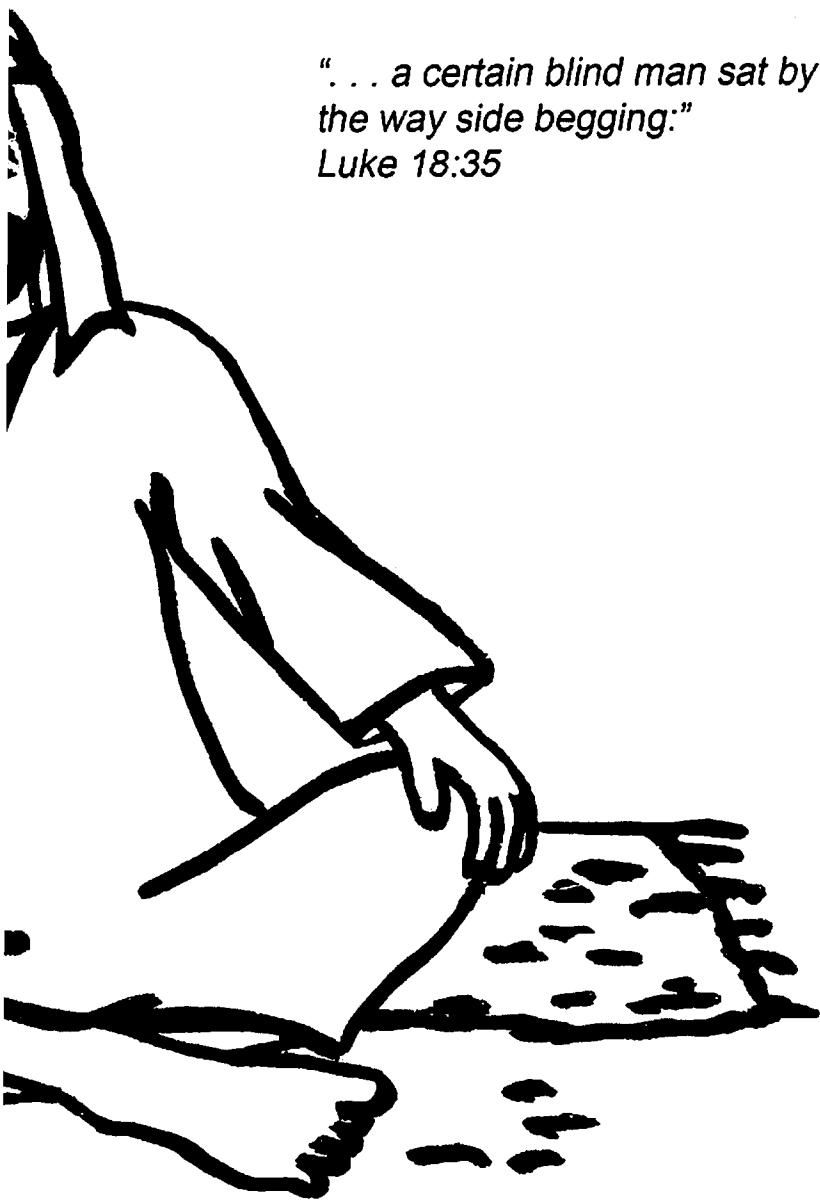
Immediately, Bartimeaus could see! He followed Jesus, praising God for this wonderful miracle! Everyone else in the crowd was amazed and praised God, also.

Isaiah wrote a prophecy about Jesus that Jesus read to an audience one Sabbath day in the synagogue. It reads, "The spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has sent me to preach the gospel to the poor, heal the brokenhearted, preach deliverance to the captives, give sight to the blind, and give freedom to those who are in bondage, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." While Jesus walked the earth, He healed many people who were blind like Bartimeaus. He can cause people who are too blinded to the truth to see, as well.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



*"... a certain blind man sat by  
the way side begging:"  
Luke 18:35*



## Grandpa Vuni's Teaching

(continued)

William was homesick for his own parents, but he was grateful to live with Uncle Ezekiel and Aunt Marietta and attend the Opari Elementary School. During the week he worked hard to complete his studies and labored in the fields, but on Sunday he was ready to attend church in a real chapel.

Grandpa Andrew Vuni had worked hard to repair this simple structure of baked bricks plastered with muddy clay. Open windows let in fresh air and displayed the lovely view of the green banks on the Kulo-jobi River which flowed down the towering mountains behind it.

The walk to the chapel was awesome but what William really enjoyed was Grandpa Vuni's messages. As he preached, William could see in his mind's eye a picture of Moses standing with a shepherd's staff in one hand and a scroll of the Torah in the other. The congregation listened to him with full attention as conviction fell on their hearts. Under his teaching William grew in his understanding of the Bible and God's Laws. One day he made the important decision to repent of his sins and let Jesus take control of his life.

"I want to be baptized, Grandpa," said William after church service.

"You know that I require a three year study and preparation time before being baptized," replied Grandpa. "You are old enough to begin this week."

William smiled. "Thank you, Grandpa!" he said, hugging him. "I love to learn from God's Word and you are a great teacher!"

Bible study classes were in the evenings before the sun went down. The students took turns reading a passage of scripture and then they would discuss it. When the passage in Ephesians 6:10-13 was read, Grandpa asked, "Who is the enemy who would like to erase the name of Jesus from our country and from the world?"

The room full of students was quiet as a breeze blew through the windows

and fanned their hot faces. A hand went up and this student answered, "The Muslims are the enemies. They want to drive out Christians and stop people from believing in Jesus."

Amurmur of agreement stirred the room, but Grandpa waved his hand for silence. "No," he disagreed. "Our enemy is not human. We do not wrestle with flesh and blood, but against spiritual powers. The one who opposes Jesus and hates God our Father wants to destroy both Muslims and Christians. Because he already has the Muslims, he is hard after the Christians."

William listened with the other students and tried to understand what Grandpa was saying. Who really was their enemy?

Grandpa raised his voice to emphasize. "The enemy of all mankind is satan, the Father of lies," he said. "He has deceived the Muslims who fester hatred and revenge in their hearts. The devil wants to do the same with Christians. But remember," Grandpa voice was strong and clear, "Greater is the Love of God that is in you, than the hatred of the devil in the world. Praise God. Satan can kill our bodies, but he can never kill our love for the Lord unless we allow him to do so. Our battle is to keep the love of God in our heart, and by His power we can do so."

(to be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. Where did Bartimeaus live?
2. What was Bartimeaus' job?
3. What noise did Bartimeaus hear?
4. What did Bartimeaus shout?
5. Your \_\_\_\_ has made you well.
6. What did Bartimeaus do after he saw?
7. Who prophesied about Jesus?
8. Was Bartimeaus the only blind man Jesus healed?

<b>Answers:</b> 1. Jericho. 2. He was a beggar. 3. Jesus passing by. 4. "Have mercy on me!" 5. Faith. 6. Followed Jesus & praised God. 7. Isaiah. 8. No.
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# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 61, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 July 31, 2011

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## View from a Sycamore Tree

On one of Jesus' journeys, he passed through Jericho. Word of Jesus' miracles had apparently spread to this town. People were anxious to see Jesus.

There was one man who really wanted to see Jesus. He was a publican named Zacchaeus. Remember, a publican is a man who collected taxes from the people. Zacchaeus had a problem. He was a short man, and because of the crowd around Jesus, Zacchaeus could not see him. Zacchaeus had an idea. He ran in front of the crowd and climbed up into a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus when He walked by.

When Jesus passed by the tree where Zacchaeus was trying to see Him, Jesus looked up and spotted him.

"Zacchaeus, hurry, and come down! I am going to your house today," Jesus told Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus came down. He was very glad that Jesus was going to come to his house. Others in the crowd, however, were not happy that Jesus was going to Zacchaeus' home.

"Jesus is going to be a guest in the home of a man who is a sinner," they complained. Jesus talked to Zacchaeus for a long time that day. Zacchaeus was sorry for the wrongs he had committed.

"I will give half of my goods to the poor. If I have been wrong by taking anything from someone, I will give him four times what I have taken," Zacchaeus promised.

"Salvation has come to this house today," Jesus said to Zacchaeus. "The Son of man has come to seek and to save the lost."

Jesus then told the parable of a man who went on a far journey and entrusted talents to each of his servants. One of his servants did nothing to make more money with his talent. All he did was bury it. It made the owner angry that his servant did not use the money more constructively.

After Jesus told this parable, He left Zacchaeus' home and resumed His journey to Jerusalem.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

"And he . . . climbed up into a sycamore tree . . ." Luke 19:4





## **The Right Weapon**

(continued)

Grandpa told William and all the other students what the best weapon was to fight against the enemy. "Your sword is the Word of God, and the Holy Spirit of God teaches you how to use it," said Grandpa in the lessons. "Read and meditate on the Bible all the time. Pray and keep constant connection with God. He will help you guard your heart and mind against satan. God will give you strength to overcome satan's hatred and lies."

Like a sponge soaking up water, William's mind and heart soaked in Grandpa's words and he lived by them.

Finally, the day for baptism came. It was in the dry season of December, 1977, when the quiet, brown water of the Kulo-jobi River lapped along its rocky banks.

William's bare feet padded softly on the packed dirt path as he walked with the others through the tall savannah grass to the river shore. He breathed in the scents of sun-baked grass and earth; and his eyes lifted up to the mountains outlined against the blue sky. Surely God loves us, to create so much beauty for us to enjoy, thought William as he stood on the river bank under a huge tree used as God's open chapel.

A skinny boy of 13 years, William felt small in comparison to his surroundings. He joined in the songs of praise and listened quietly to Grandpa Vuni's short message. After prayer, Grandpa waded into the water and began to call the names of those to be baptized. At last he called, "William Ochan Levi."

William's heart pounded in his ears as he stepped into the water. Grandpa looked into his eyes and William straightened his shoulders. He drew close to Grandpa and they stood together in the muddy water.

"William, your enemy will come," said Grandpa quietly. He reached over

by the tree's tangle roots and brought out an axe. Beside the axe, Grandpa laid his worn Bible. "When your enemy comes to destroy you, which weapon will you choose? Will it be the axe or the Bible?"

William was silent but his mind was struggling with thoughts. He knew the power of an axe in cutting and destroying life of plants and animals. It could give him physical power, but he remembered Grandpa's words, for our struggle is not against flesh and blood, and he knew an axe was not the weapon against the invisible satan. Suddenly he knew his best protection was God and His Word.

William reached for the Bible. His grandpa smiled. "You have chosen the right way," he said. Then he took hold of William and laid him under the water's surface, representing his death to sin. When William came up out of the water, he was alive in Christ and determined to follow the love of Jesus all his life.

(to be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### **Questions:**

1. Who was especially anxious to see Jesus?
2. What was Zacchaeus' job?
3. What problem did Zacchaeus have when he came to see Jesus?
4. How did Zacchaeus solve his problem?
5. What did Jesus tell Zacchaeus to do?
6. Why were some in the crowd unhappy?
7. What did Jesus say came to Zacchaeus' house that day?
8. Jesus said the Son of man has come to save the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Answers:** 1. Zacchaeus. 2. He was a publican. 3. He was too short and could not see around the crowd. 4. He climbed a sycamore tree. 5. Come down. 6. Zacchaeus was a publican and a sinner. 7. Salvation. 8. Lost.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 61, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 Aug. 7, 2011

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## The Buried Talent

Jesus likened the kingdom of Heaven to a man who was preparing to travel to a far country. The man called his servants to him and entrusted each servant with some of his goods. One servant received five talents. He entrusted another servant with two, and another with one. To each servant, he gave what he felt he could trust them with. Then the man left on his journey.

While the man was gone, the servant that received the five talents made five more. The servant that had the two talents made two more talents. The servant that received one talent dug a hole in the earth and buried it.

After many days, the employer of the servants came and asked about his property. "Lord, you gave me five talents. I give these back to you along with five more," the servant with five talents said to him.

"Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a few things, so I will make you a ruler over many things," the man said to his servant. "Come and receive the joy of the Lord."

"You gave me two talents. Here are two more besides those," the next servant said.

"Well done! You have been faithful over a few things, so I will make you a ruler over many. Come and receive the joy of the Lord," the man told this servant.

"Lord, I was afraid my talent would be lost, so I buried it in the earth," the servant with one talent said.

"You are wicked and lazy. You ought to have put my money to good use. Take the talent from this man and give the talent to the man that had ten talents," the man commanded. "Cast this servant into outer darkness, where there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

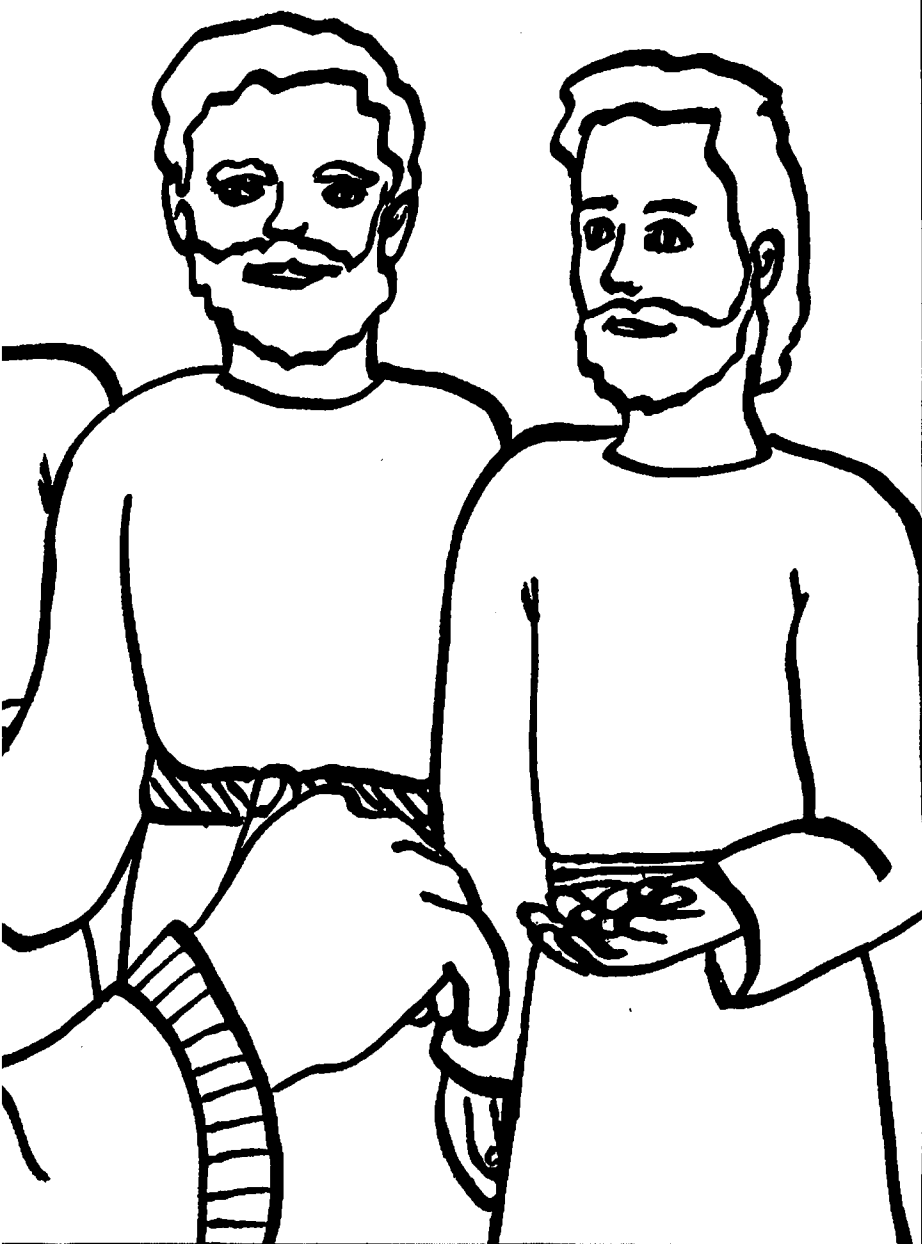
—Sis. Monica Murphey

"... who call  
Matt.



*is own servants, and delivered unto them his goods."*

*25:14*



## William Helps His Family Escape (continued)

All his life, William never forgot Grandpa Vuni words, that satan was the real enemy of all mankind. His words kept William from many snares of hatred and anger that would have caused him to lose his soul.

William graduated from elementary school in 1979, the same year a dictator of Uganda fell from power. William was selling grain to pay for his schooling when he heard the news. "Oh, dear Lord, please help my parents and younger siblings," he prayed as he quickly walked away from the street of Nyakaningwa to help his parents move.

Already people were walking out of the country of Uganda into Sudan. William ran against the flood of people on the trails. His parents prepared some food for the long journey and left as soon as William arrived. Robbers with guns were stopping people all about them.

"Help us, please, Lord!" prayed William as they pushed past people who were leaving the lawless country of Uganda. By the Lord's guidance, his father directed the family to move to Corom, a village surrounded by four mountains and mahogany trees. William's oldest brother, Michael, and his adopted brother, Francis, came to help Father plow and plant crops for food.

All the children worked hard to clear the land and build a house for their parents. Many Ugandan refugees came to Corom to build a house and one of them was the biological father of Francis.

"Francis, I am glad you and your father have come together as friends," William said.

Francis shrugged. "I am glad to meet him," he said, "but I feel I belong to the Levi family. I don't know my dad at all."

William put his arm around Francis' shoulders. "You will get acquainted," he said. "I can see that your dad wants to be friends. Ask the Lord to help you forgive and forget the hurts of the past. It takes divine strength, and the Lord has it for you if you ask."

It took time and effort, but Francis was able to move forward in his friendship with his dad, though he still claimed the Levi family as his own, which was fine with William.

Michael married his childhood sweetheart, Katherine, and they set up housekeeping near Mama and Father Levi. This was a relief to William because he planned to leave and go to middle school in Nimule.

William left for school and was able to attend one semester before the school closed down because there was not enough food for the teachers. The government of north Sudan was closing down Christian schools in south Sudan so that the children could not get a good education. Uneducated people are easier to control than people who can read, write, do math and communicate better.

"Lord, please go before me and open up doors for my higher education," prayed William. "I will give you the praise for it and help others to find freedom in Your great salvation. Amen."

(to be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. What was the kingdom of Heaven likened to in this parable?
2. What did the man give each servant?
3. What did the man with the five talents do?
4. What did the man with two talents do?
5. What did the Lord of these men tell the men with five & two talents?
6. What did the man with one talent do?
7. What did the Lord tell him?
8. What was to be done with the man?

**Answers:** 1. A man preparing to travel on a far journey. 2. What he felt he could trust each man with. 3. Made five more talents. 4. Made two more talents. 5. "Well done good and faithful servant." 6. Buried it. 7. "You are wicked and lazy." 8. Cast into outer darkness.



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 61, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 Aug. 14, 2011

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## A Different Kind of Footwashing

Six days before the Passover found Jesus once again at the home of his dear friends in Bethany—Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. Remember, Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead. Many people came to see Jesus while he visited Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.

The chief priest wanted to put Lazarus to death. A lot of people came to the house of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus because they were interested to see Lazarus, who had risen from the dead. When they saw Lazarus and heard his story, most visitors went away believing in Jesus. The religious leaders did not like this. That is why they wanted Lazarus killed.

His friends made supper for him. Martha served it. Lazarus was sitting at the table with Jesus when Mary appeared with an alabaster box containing a pound of precious and very costly ointment. Mary broke the box and anointed Jesus' feet by pouring the contents of the box over them. When Mary had finished, she wiped Jesus' feet with her hair.

"This ointment could have been sold for a lot of money and given to the poor. Why was this not done?" Judas Iscariot protested.

Jesus knew that Judas did not protest because he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief. Judas had the responsibility of carrying a moneybag, and very few coins came their way.

"Leave her alone," Jesus commanded. "She has done this for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me with you." Jesus had begun speaking to His disciples about His death. One time, Jesus told His disciples that in Jerusalem, the Son of Man would be betrayed to the chief priests and the scribes. Jesus said that He would be condemned to die, and that they would mock Him, beat Him, spit on Him, and crucify Him.

—Sis. Monica Murphy





“ . . . and wiped his feet with her hair . . . ” John 12:3

## Trying Days in Juba

(continued)

Once again William's education was stopped because of Muslim government control. He did not want to live defeated at his parents' home in Corom. He wanted to learn so he would be a better servant in the Kingdom of God.

"You could go to live with my cousin, Gerelina, and her husband, Nicodemous," his mother said to him. "They live in the big city of Juba where there are many schools."

"Oh, Mama, could you contact her and see if that would be possible?" asked William. "I will be glad to work for a bed to sleep on and to buy my own food."

"I will contact her family and find out," replied Mama.

Arrangements were made and William left for Juba with gifts of cloth and food for the relatives he had never met. He was glad to find that they had a son his age, named James.

After he had refreshed himself, William went with James to look over Juba which was the first city he had ever seen with tall buildings. Between the buildings, there were old market places selling spices, ripe vegetables and fruits, meats, and bright cloth and leather items—just a lot of things. It was a feast to William's eyes.

"Do you think I could get a job some where in the market places?" he asked James.

James frowned. "Do you speak Arabic?"

William shook his head.

"Then you won't be able to sell very well," replied James. "Most of the customers are Arabs. You need to learn to speak Arabic first."

Lord, please protect me and teach me how to survive in this place, William prayed silently. Right away he began to look for a job. In a busy market place, he met an old school friend named Michael.

"I work here in this tea market," Michael told William. He spoke brisk Arabic to customers between their visit. "Since you don't speak Arabic, you should go to the Christian mission. You speak good English and should get a job there."

Following Michael's instructions, William found the American mission but when he asked about working there, they told him they did not need any more help.

A weight of discouragement made William feel heavy inside. Why was he not able to work to buy food when all these wealthy Arabs had plenty without trusting the Lord? Had the Lord forgotten him?

With these worries, William opened his Bible and read Matthew 6:33, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Courage flowed into William's heart. The Lord cared and He was going to help him!

(to be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. Whose home was Jesus visiting?
2. Why did many of the guests believe in Jesus?
3. Who did the chief priest want to kill?
4. What did Mary bring to Jesus?
5. What did Mary pour the ointment over?
6. What did Mary use to wipe the ointment off?
7. What did Judas say they should have done with the ointment?
8. What did Jesus say Mary had done this for?

**Answers:** 1. Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. 2. They saw Lazarus and heard his story. 3. Lazarus. 4. An alabaster box filled with precious ointment. 5. Jesus' feet. 6. Her hair. 7. Sold it and given the money to the poor. 8. His burial.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 61, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 Aug. 21, 2011

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## A Journey on a Colt

When Jesus reached the Mount of Olives, He called for two of His disciples. "Go into the village. When you enter it, you will find a colt tied. No man has ridden him yet. Loose him, and bring him to me. If anyone asks why you do this, say, 'because the Lord has need of him,'" Jesus instructed.

The two disciples went on their way. They found the colt. As they were untying him, the owners of the colt asked them, "Why are you untying him?"

"Because the Lord has need of him," the disciples replied.

The disciples brought the colt to Jesus and put some clothing over the colt's back. Then they sat Jesus on him.

Some of the people had heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. They cut down palm branches and laid them and their garments on the road that Jesus would pass by on. The people went to meet Him, crying, "Blessed is the King of Israel that comes in the Lord's name."

The disciples rejoiced also and praised God with loud voices for all of His mighty works that they had seen.

"Master, tell your disciples to stop," Pharisees from among the multitude implored. "If they did not praise me, the stones would cry out," Jesus told them.

As He passed through the city, everyone in Jerusalem was impressed. "Who is this?" many people asked.

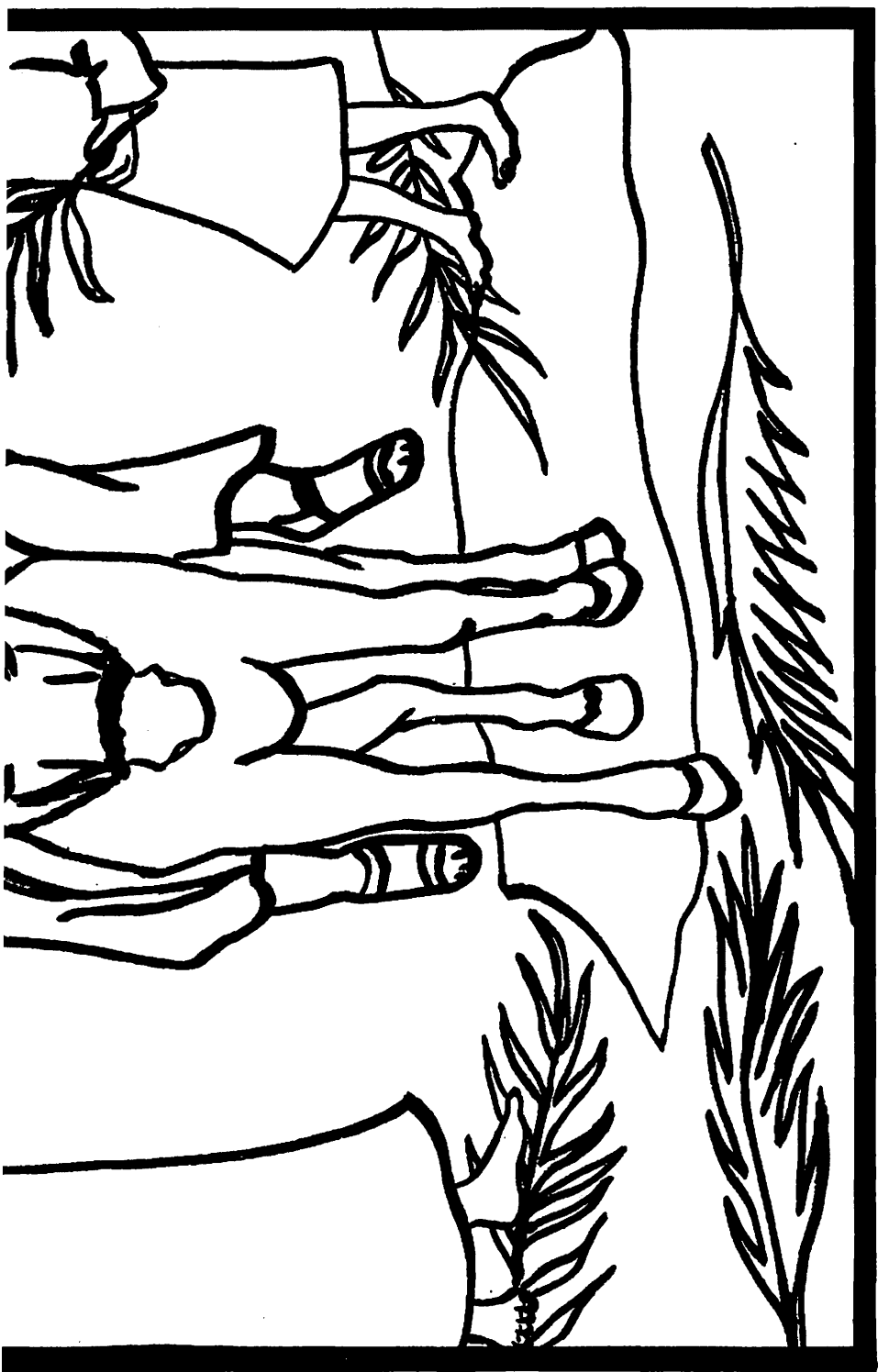
"This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee," came their answers.

Different prophets in the Old Testament told of some of the events that would occur in Jesus' life. His entry into Jerusalem on a colt was one of them. Zechariah was the prophet that told about this event. "Tell the daughter of Sion that your King comes to you. Meekly, sitting on a donkey, on the colt of a donkey," Zechariah prophesied.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

"... Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon ... a colt..."  
Matthew 21:5





## God Answers William's Prayers (continued)

After reading the encouraging verse in the Bible (Mat. 6:33), William went to down town Juba where he had heard a street preacher. That day he preached about the power of the cross and how it does not change with time or circumstance. He asked his listeners to bring their burdens to Jesus and let Jesus take control of their lives.

William stepped forward and asked, "Will you pray with me, Pastor Ben?"

"Yes, young man, let us bow our heads," said Pastor Ben as he put his hand on William's shoulder.

After his prayer, Pastor Ben invited William to attend the Juba Christian Center where he ministered, but he did not offer William a job.

Two months without work! When William felt a wave of discouragement come over him, he would remember the verse: Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. He wanted to keep the Lord's way first in his life.

Cousin Gerelina greeted him at her home, "William, I have good news for you! Your father has walked all the way to Juba to visit you! But the long 150 mile walk made him sick and we took him to the hospital to recover."

"Take me to him!" replied William. He was anxious to see his father, and ask for his counsel.

Father and son were very happy to see each other. They hugged and kissed, then William told his father everything that had happened to him while in Juba.

"Let me pray with you, son," said Father. He reached out his hand while lying on the bed and took hold of William's hands. Father asked the Lord to keep William from the evil of the world, and to provide him with a job that he could buy food, shelter and witness for the Lord.

Father was discharged from the hospital on Sunday morning, so he and William went to a nearby chapel

to thank the Lord for His goodness. After the service, an American couple came to visit with William.

"Aren't you the young man that asked for a job the other day at the mission?" asked the man.

"Yes, sir," said William as he shook the man's hand.

"My name is Chuck," said the man, "and this is my wife, Patsy. If you are still in need of a job, we are looking for a good gardener. Do you think you could help us?"

"Yes, sir!" said William again giving the man's hand a firmer shake.

Father smiled. They were so thankful to the Lord for answering prayer. And the Lord had more answers in store. William enrolled in Buluk Intermediate school where Michael attended. Then Pastor Ben offered William and another friend a place to live if he would clean the chapel every week and keep the grounds tidy.

For the next several months, William's life was happy and he grew in wisdom. He had Bible studies with Pastor Ben and his Christian friends. This was preparation time for future tests and trials.

(to be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. What were the two disciples supposed to find?
2. What were they to say to anyone who asked questions?
3. Who asked them the question?
4. What did the people lay in the road on which Jesus would travel?
5. What did the Pharisees want Jesus to stop?
6. What did Jesus say would cry out if the disciples did not?
7. What prophet foretold this event?
8. What did the prophecy say Jesus would be riding on?

<p><b>Answers:</b> 1. A colt. 2. "The Lord needs it." 3. The owners. 4. Palm branches and garments. 5. The disciples, who were loudly praising God. 6. Stones. 7. Zechariah. 8. A colt.</p>
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# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 61, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 Aug. 28, 2011

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## God's Temple

Do you remember that the Jews set aside a week every year to celebrate the time that Moses and the Israelites fled Egypt and started on their way to their Promised Land? They called this holiday the Passover. God sent ten different plagues on the Egyptian king, the Pharaoh. The last plague was that when the angel of death passed over any house without lamb's blood on the doorpost, the firstborn son would die. So many Egyptian households were affected by this plague that everyone was scared, and the Pharaoh let the Israelites go.

Jesus went to Jerusalem this year to celebrate the Passover. There was a great and beautiful building where the Jews went to worship God in Jerusalem. This building was called a temple. Jesus saw men selling oxen, sheep, and doves. This made him very angry. Jesus took up a whip and drove all of the men and their animals out of the temple. He turned over all of the tables. "Take these things away. Do not make my father's house a house of merchandise," Jesus commanded.

"Destroy this temple and in three days I will build another one," Jesus stated later.

"It took forty six years to build this temple. Do you really think you can build another temple in three days?" the Jews scoffed at Him. The Jews did not know that Jesus was talking about what would happen to the temple of His body. But after He died and rose again three days later, His disciples remembered what Jesus had said about it.

The Bible tells us that our bodies are God's temple. The only time the Bible mentions Jesus was angry was in this story, when He found men doing bad things in God's temple. Since we are God's temple, don't you think Jesus would be just as angry to find sin in our lives as He was to find it then?

—Sis. Monica Murphey

"And  
them  
pour  
John



When he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove  
out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and  
cast out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;"

5



## Passing the Test of Faith

(continued)

Life was the most pleasant it could be for William as he studied at school and with his Christian friends, attending church and studies with Pastor Ben, and working at the mission for pay.

Now it was time for his annual testing so he could move up to the higher level of schooling. It was 1981, and the Islamic regime based in Khartoum made the rules for all of Sudan. They had control of all public schools, and just before William was to take his test, they made a new rule that went into affect right away. All testing was to be done in Arabic. William did not speak or read Arabic. That meant he could not take the test and apply for a higher school level.

Though he had a near perfect score in school, William would not be allowed to attend a higher grade of public school if he did not take the test. This made him very sad and upset. He went to Pastor Ben for advice.

"William, I must tell you," said Pastor Ben, "Attending Juba Day School will not be the Lord's answer to your prayers. The Muslims are tightening their grip on public schools and they are forcing every student to memorize the Koran. Even if you spoke Arabic and were admitted to their school, you would be subject to praying to Allah and obeying the Koran instead of the Lord Jesus Christ."

"What is happening?" asked William.

"Persecution is coming," said Pastor Ben soberly. "You need to be prepared. Let us pray that the Lord will open up a place for you to study at a Christian school."

"Where would that be?" asked William.

"There is one in Juba," replied Pastor Ben. "Let us pray that you will pass the test for this school and be able to study there."

William was not the only one seeking admittance into the Comboni Christian High School. Three hundred young people tested and only eighty were accepted. William was one of the eighty. Later, Michael and Severino were accepted also.

The boys studied lessons and the Word of God together. They worked hard to learn and to earn money for their needs.

However, as they grew older, they became aware that the freedom for Christians was being stripped away by the Islamic government of Sudan. It was a matter of prayer. They asked the Lord to direct them in what He wanted them to do to help their nation and the Kingdom of God.

(to be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. What holiday did Jesus go to celebrate?
2. Where did Jesus go to celebrate the Passover?
3. What was the building called that the Jews used to worship God?
4. What did Jesus find in the building?
5. What did Jesus do?
6. In how many days did Jesus say He could rebuild the temple?
7. What temple was Jesus really talking about?
8. What represents God's temple now?

**Answers:** 1. The Passover. 2. Jerusalem. 3. The temple. 4. Men selling animals. 5. Drove the men & animals out and turned the tables over. 6. Three. 7. His body. 8. Our bodies.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 61, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 Sept. 4, 2011

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## **"Who Gave You Authority?"**

The chief priests and the elders of the people came to Jesus as He was teaching in the temple.

"By what authority do you do these things? And who gave you authority to do them?" they wanted to know.

"If you can tell me the answer to my question, I will tell you who gives me the authority to do these things," Jesus answered. "Was the baptism of John from Heaven, or from man?"

"If we say, 'From Heaven', He will say, 'Then why do you not believe him,'" the men reasoned among themselves. "But if we say, 'Of men,' we may be in trouble with the people, because all of them think that John was a prophet."

Finally, they decided their answer. "We cannot tell," they said.

"Then I will not tell you who gives me the authority to do the things I do," Jesus said.

Then Jesus told a story. "There was a man who had two sons," Jesus said. "He went to his first son and asked him to go work for a day in his vineyard.

"I will not," the first son said. Later, the first son felt sorry for his words, and worked for a day in his father's vineyard.

"The father went to his second son and asked him to work a day in the vineyard. 'I will go, sir,' this son replied. He did not go," Jesus concluded. "Which of these sons did what his father desired?"

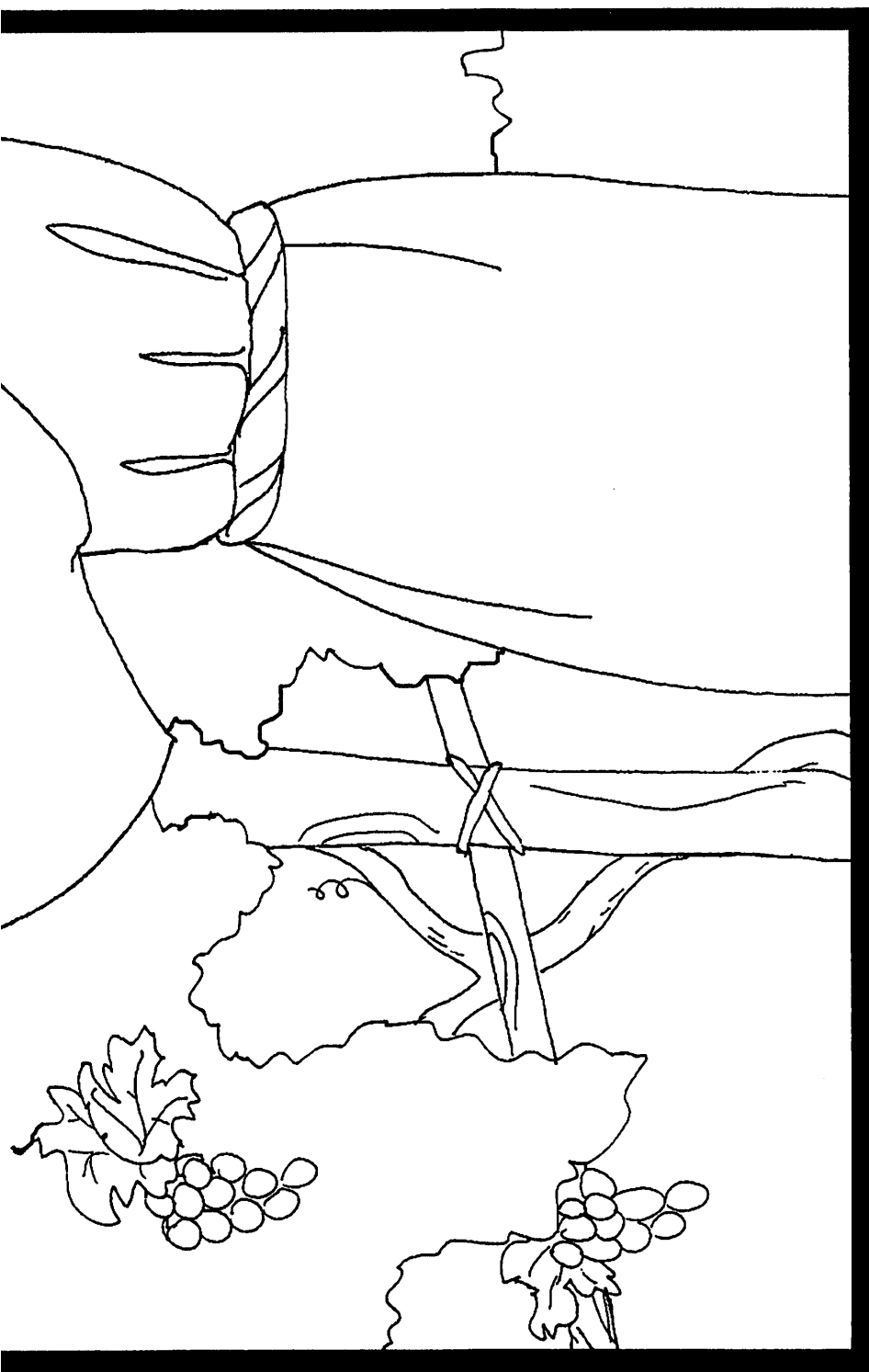
"The first," they answered.

"Sinners will enter the kingdom of Heaven before you, because John came to you and you did not believe him. The publicans and sinners believed him and repented. You did not believe or repent when you had seen him," Jesus told them.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

*"... Son, go work today in my vineyard."  
Matthew 21:28*





## Rumors of War

(continued)

As a student attending the Comboni School in Juba, William was growing in wisdom and in strength. He heard about the trouble in his country between North and South Sudan. The Christians in the South where his family lived were fussing over boundary lines, who had use of chapels, and who had the most power. While they were involved with their family feuds, William saw that the Islamic government was growing bigger and more powerful. Jaafar Mohamed Nimieri, the president of Sudan, was forming armies to take over the South and force everyone to be under Islamic rule.

The Muslims took over the minds of the weak people first. They accused the Christian leaders of being "soft on crime" and allowing people to drink alcohol, steal, kill and lie. The people were told if the Sharia Law (Islamic Law of the Muslims) was fully enforced, hypocrites would be forced to change for the "better". Anyone who opposed the Muslims was called an enemy of the country. This change seemed to happen over night, but in reality it was well-planned for months, even years.

One afternoon William stopped by Pastor Ben's little chapel office to visit. The office was empty and very quiet. "Hello, anyone here?" he called as he stepped inside.

There was a slight shuffling in the storage closet and the door opened. "Oh, it is you," said Pastor Ben nervously. "We thought it was someone else. You can come into the closet with us and listen to the radio if you would like. You are old enough to learn what is going on, William."

William joined the other men of the church in the closet, though he knew it was against the president's orders. The Muslim leader of Sudan did not want anyone listening to the Leaders of the South, who he claimed were rebels.

Pastor Ben leaned back in his chair, folding and unfolding his hands as he shook his head. "I hate this

trouble. It is the work of the devil. We can't remain neutral and survive. We have to stand up for what is right."

"What is the trouble?" asked William of the older men in the closet.

"War, my boy, between the north and south, between Christians and Muslims," explained one elderly man.

War! William remembered back to the Kolo-jobi River when he was baptized by Grandpa Vuni. Grandpa had given him the choice between the Bible or the axe. He had also taught in his Bible studies that the fight was not against flesh and blood, but against the devil, the enemy of all mankind. William had taken the Bible instead of the axe. He knew the battle was spiritual and must be fought with the right weapon.

"It is the Christian way to love and show kindness," said Pastor Ben. "The Muslims call this 'weak' and deceitful, but they force others to bow to their laws and religious ceremonies. We must join ranks with Commander Nimieri in the South and stand for our freedom to teach others about the Lord."

"If that means fighting with guns, I am out," said William quietly.

"You will have to choose between fighting or death," one elderly man said.

William left the meeting and prayed all night for God's strength and help.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. Who did the chief priest question of His authority?
2. What did Jesus say they would have to do before He answered?
3. Jesus asked, "Was the \_\_\_\_\_ from Heaven or from man?"
4. What was their answer?
5. The father wanted his son to work in his \_\_\_\_\_.
6. What was the first son's answer?
7. Did he stick by his answer?
8. What was the second son's answer?

**Answers:** 1. Jesus. 2. Answer a question. 3. Baptism of John. 4. "We cannot tell." 5. Vineyard. 6. "No." 7. No, he worked for his father. 8. Yes, but he did not do it.



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 Sept. 11, 2011

## The Plot of the Husbandmen

Jesus told another parable while He was at the temple. He had just finished telling the story of the two sons. One of them did as his father asked, and one did not.

This story was about a man who grew grapes on his land. It was a popular occupation in Jesus time to put one's time and money into growing grapes. These grapes would later be pressed and made into a drink. The land on which grapes grow is called a vineyard. People who look after vineyards are called husbandmen.

This particular man had taken very good care of his vineyard. He had fenced it in with hedges surrounding it. He built a winepress and had built a tower.

The man was about to take a trip, so he decided to employ a husbandman to look after his property. After this was done, he went to a country far away. The time to pick the grapes drew near, and the owner of the vineyard decided to send his servants to pick the grapes for him. The husbandmen took the first servant the owner sent and beat him. They killed the next servant that came to pick fruit, and they stoned another.

The owner had a problem, but he thought he had a good solution for it. "I will send my son. Surely they will listen to him," the owner reasoned.

When the husbandmen saw the son, they decided, "This is the man who will inherit the vineyard. Let's kill him, and steal his inheritance." So the wicked husbandmen caught the son. They took him out of the vineyard and killed him.

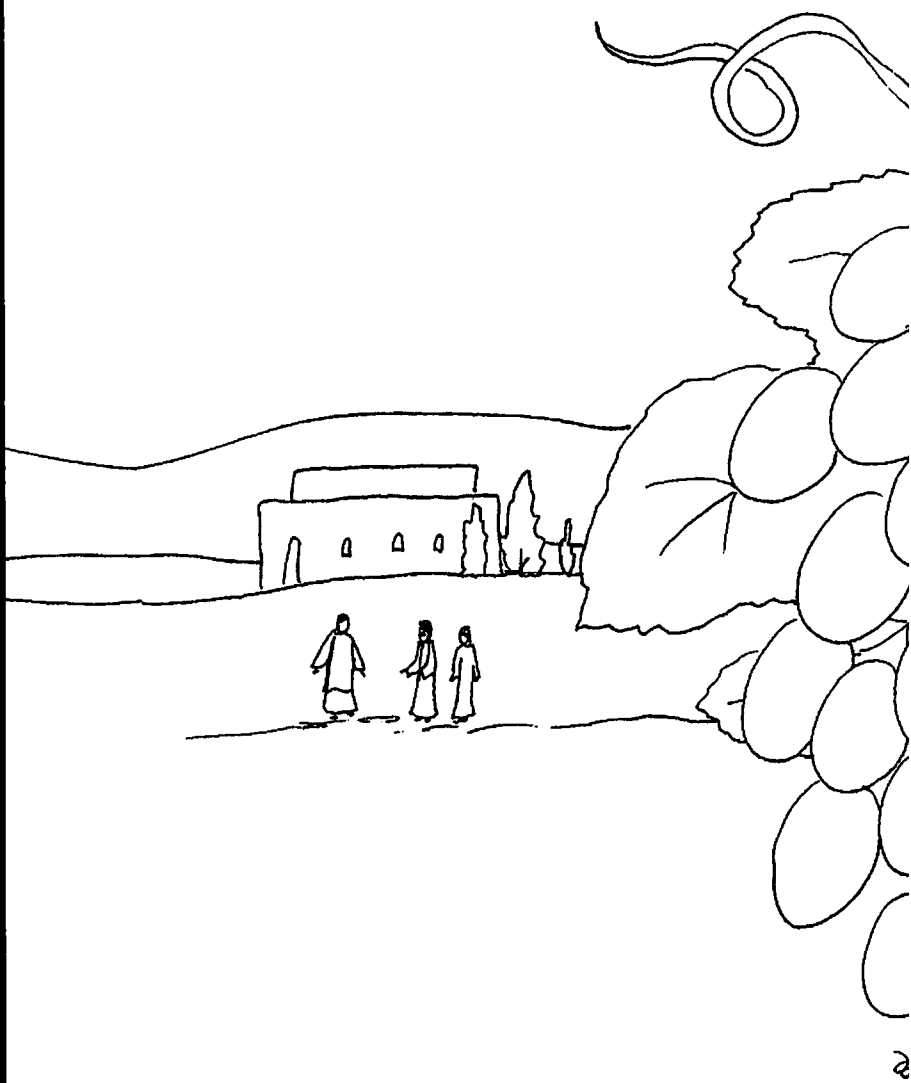
"What will the owner do to those husbandmen?" Jesus asked.

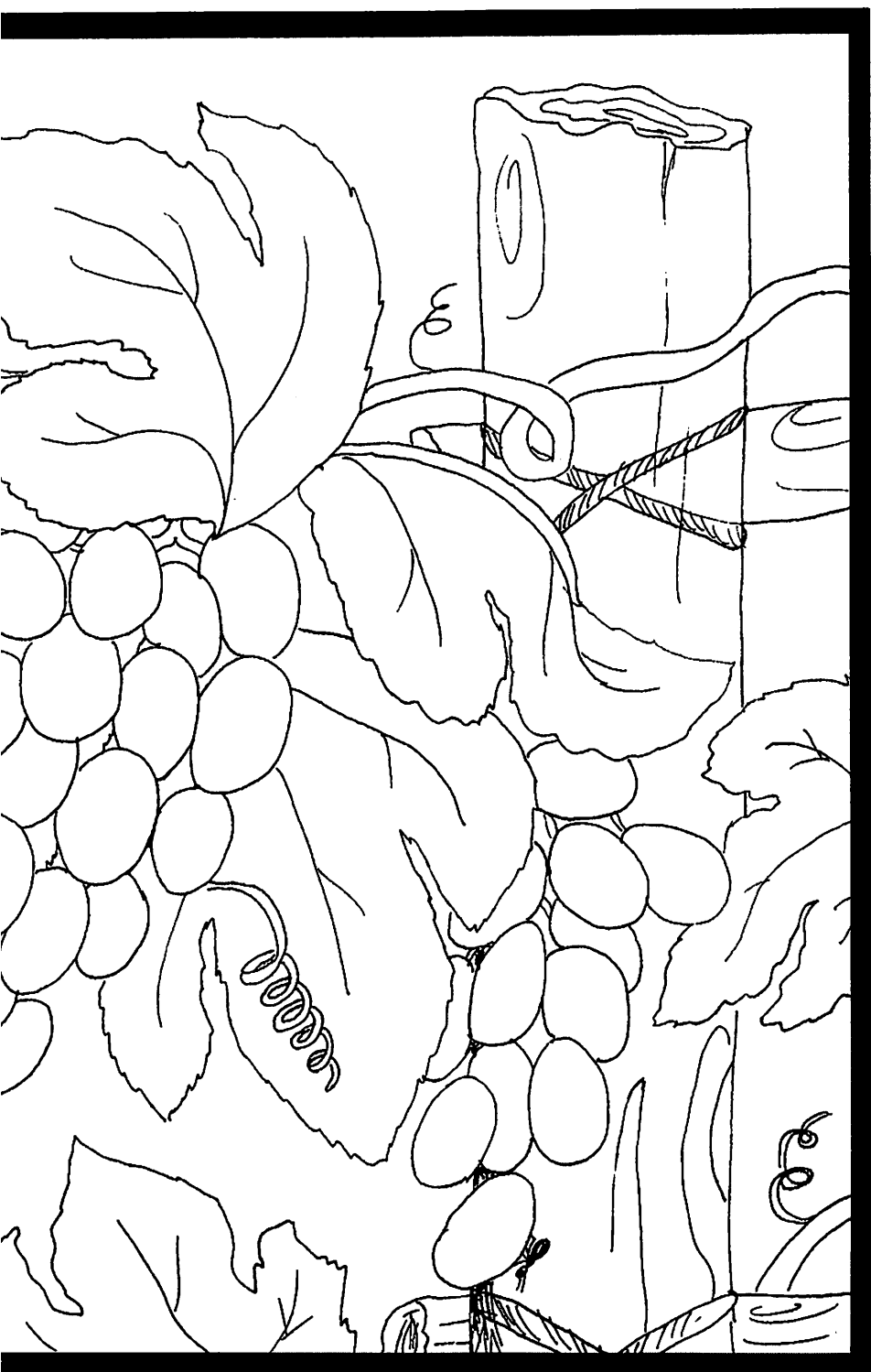
"He will destroy these wicked men, and will get new workers," the people answered.

"The Scriptures say that the stone which the builders rejected is the head of the corner. The kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a nation bringing forth better fruit," Jesus told the Pharisees.

The Pharisees thought Jesus was talking about them. It made them angry, and they looked for ways to kill him. —Sis. Monica Murphey

*"... and let ... [his vineyard] out to husbandmen . .  
Matthew 21:33*





## Proclaiming Christ

(continued)

As a young adult student, William joined other students at Juba Christian Center to protest the North Sudan Government. This Islamic controlled leadership allowed the Egyptian government to build a canal that drained 90 percent of the water out of south Sudan, which caused huge crop loss for the southern farmers. All this was done to weaken the Christians in the south and cause them to surrender to the Muslims. The Christians were not surrendering.

William did not carry a gun, but he and his friends gathered together and prayed. Then he joined hundreds of other young people who filled the downtown streets of Juba with signs demanding justice and freedom. They were peaceful in their march, chanting their desires for fairness between north and south Sudan.

The sun was shining, people were looking, and William was in the front leading when he suddenly realized the chanting was sounding less and less loud. He looked around and saw that the protesters were fewer because the Government of North Sudan had sent out armed military forces. Soldiers in dusty fatigues were walking toward them. Protesters were fleeing for shelter.

An officer with a hard face looked over the crowd. "Who is in charge here?" he demanded.

William looked him in the eyes. "I am," he replied.

The commander gestured to a group of soldiers, and William felt hands grab his arms from behind and he was jerked back with a rough tug.

"You are under arrest," said the commander.

The soldiers had captured Michael and Gosh also. They were separated and rode in jeeps to the ghost house, a place where prisoners were kept for crimes of conscience.

William remembered again his baptism and his promise to Grandfather that he would choose the Bible over the axe. He did not have an axe, but he had a Bible in his pocket.

As William walked into the dark, smoke filled room of the ghost house, a hard blow to his face knocked him to his hands and knees. A fist grabbed his shirt and pulled him up.

"What connection do you have with south Sudan?" demanded a rough voice.

"I am not working with the southern army. I am a peaceful protester," replied William.

"You liar!" said the voice again with another hit. "We will find out about you!"

The soldiers were commanded to beat William until he confessed all he knew and denied Jesus Christ.

As the blows of metal cable hit and cut his bare skin, William recited Scriptures in his head. He struggled to keep his heart from hatred and his mind from breaking. When he was finally limp and nearly unconscious, a soldier leaned over and said, "You can stop all this beating if you want to. All you have to do is proclaim Allah is great and join Jihad."

"No," whispered William. He would die before denying Jesus Christ.

(to be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. What did the man in this parable do for a living?
2. What did he do with his vineyard while he was gone?
3. What did he send his servants to do?
4. What did the husbandmen do with the first servant?
5. What solution did the owner think of?
6. What did the husbandmen decide to do with the son?
7. What did the people say the owner would do?
8. Who did Jesus tell them the kingdom of God would be given to?

**Answers:** 1. He owned a vineyard. 2. Let it to some husbandmen. 3. Pick the grapes. 4. Beat him. 5. Sending his son. 6. Kill him. 7. "Destroy the men & get new workers." 8. A nation who brings better fruit.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 61, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 Sept. 18, 2011

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## The Two Mites

"Watch out for scribes," Jesus warned. Scribes worked in the temple. The scribes and Pharisees did not like Jesus. Lately, they had been asking Jesus questions. They were trying to find something about Jesus to get Him in trouble. "Scribes want to walk in long robes and like to be well known. They like the highest seats in the synagogues, and the best rooms at feasts. They take widows' houses and make a show with their long prayers," Jesus continued. "Men like these will be punished."

Jesus looked up and saw the rich men giving their money to the temple. A poor widow also was in the temple. She gave two mites to the treasury. "This poor widow has put in more than all of these men," Jesus commended. "All of these others are rich and have given a little from their riches. This poor woman has given everything that she has."

This was still the week of the Passover, and Jesus was visiting Jerusalem. During this week, Jesus prophesied many things. Once, Jesus' disciples were showing Him the buildings of the temple. "There will not be a stone left on top of one another. They shall all be thrown down."

"Do not let men deceive you," Jesus instructed. "People will come and say that they are Christ. Many will believe them. You will hear about wars, and rumors of wars. All of these things must come to pass. The end of time will not be yet. These are just the beginnings of troubles. You will be delivered up, and they will kill you. People will betray and hate one another. Whoever keeps true until the end, he shall be saved.

"After the darkness of these days," Jesus continued. "The sun will be darkened. The moon will not give light. Stars will fall from heaven. The tribes of the earth will see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and glory. His angels will come blowing trumpets and will gather God's children from one end of heaven to another."

—Sis. Monica Murphy

*“ . . . there came a . . . poor widow, ar*



...he threw in two mites . . .” Mark 12:42



## Discussing Options

(continued)

William endured torture for several days in the dark cell of the Ghost house. By reciting scriptures and singing songs to himself, he was able by God's grace to stay true to the Lord.

Finally, he was released and pushed out into the bright daze of the sunlight to walk alone to his apartment. His body was bloody, he had broken bones and he had trouble remembering where he was to go. The Lord helped him to find the way back home. His broken fingers fumbled with the latch, and as the door swung open he tumbled into the room.

"William! Thank God you are back!" exclaimed Michael. "The Muslim soldiers let me go this morning also. They want to make us bow to Allah and join jihad, but our Lord and Saviour has something better for us than they can give."

"You are right," agreed William as he laid his aching body on his bed. "Those soldiers are so hardhearted and bitter. Only through Jesus Christ can we be free from hatred and evil."

"Yes, but what are we going to do?" asked Michael. "I don't feel safe here any more. They will come against us again because the Islamic government is forcing everyone to be Muslims."

"Let me rest right now," said William wearily. "Then we will discuss plans. We need a way of escape."

William washed his wounds with cold water and straightened his broken fingers as best he could. Then he went into an exhausted sleep for several hours.

Michael and Gosh woke him up to eat. "You need some food on your empty stomach," Michael told him. "Then we need to talk."

After eating in silence the three friends discussed their options. They were not going to join jihad, so they had to leave Juba and their school. If they lived in south Sudan with their families, they would either be farmers or soldiers there.

"Our best choice is to leave this country and get an education in another place so we can come back to Sudan

and help our people," said William.

"Yes, but where can we go? How can we go without money or connections with someone outside of Sudan?" asked Michael thoughtfully.

"We need to cross the border into Kenya where some Sudanese people already have made camps," said William. "Let's pay our bills in Juba, collect what money is owed us, and leave tomorrow. We must go now."

The other two young men nodded in agreement. They learned that their school was already closed because it was Christian. The three young men walked to South Sudan by making their own path home. They wanted to tell their families good-bye before crossing into Kenya.

William found his parents in prayer. "We are so concerned for you, my children," said Father. "I have lived a life of exile, and I had hoped so much that my children would have more freedom and a better education than me. Your mother and I will always be praying for you, son, and for the future of our country."

"Thank you, Father," replied William. He hugged his parents, sisters and brothers. It was time for him to leave.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. Who did Jesus see giving money to the temple?
2. How much money did she give?
3. Jesus said that the woman had given \_\_\_\_\_ she had.
4. What did Jesus say about the stones in the temple?
5. How did Jesus say people would act in the end times?
6. Who did Jesus say would be saved?
7. Where did Jesus say the Son of man would come?
8. Who will blow trumpets and gather God's children together?

**Answers:** 1. A poor widow. 2. Two mites. 3. Everything. 4. They would be thrown down. 5. Evil. Answers may vary. 6. Whoever keeps true to the end. 7. In the clouds of heaven. 8. His angels.



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 61, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 Sept. 25, 2011

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## Burning Lamps

"The kingdom of Heaven," Jesus proclaimed, "Is like ten virgins."

Jesus told a parable of how the kingdom of Heaven was like these ten ladies who were going to meet the bridegroom at a wedding. Five of these ladies were wise, but five of them were foolish. The foolish ones took their lamps and did not take any oil. The wise virgins took oil in their lamps.

While the bridegroom got ready, these young women slept. At midnight, there was a loud cry. "The bridegroom is coming! Go out to meet him!"

All of the virgins woke up and got their lamps ready. Then the foolish virgins realized they had made a mistake. "Give us some of your oil. Our lamps are out," the foolish virgins pled to the wise.

"We will not! Then there will not be enough for us. Go to the merchants and buy some oil for yourself," the wise virgins advised.

So the foolish virgins went out to buy their oil. While they were gone, the bridegroom came. The ones that were ready went in with him to the marriage. The door was shut.

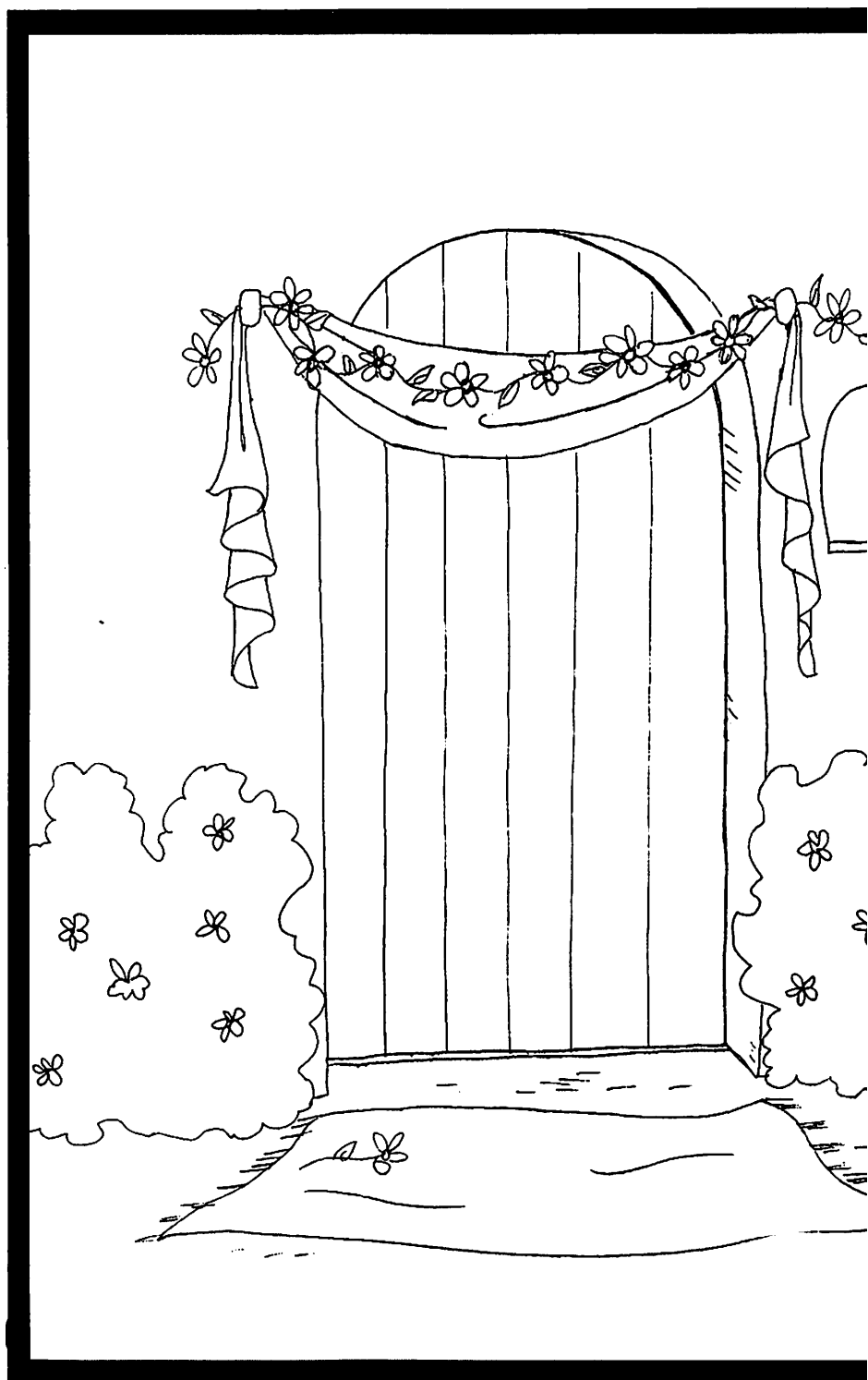
When the five foolish virgins returned from buying their oil, they found that they were shut out.

"Lord, Lord, open the door for us," the foolish virgins cried.

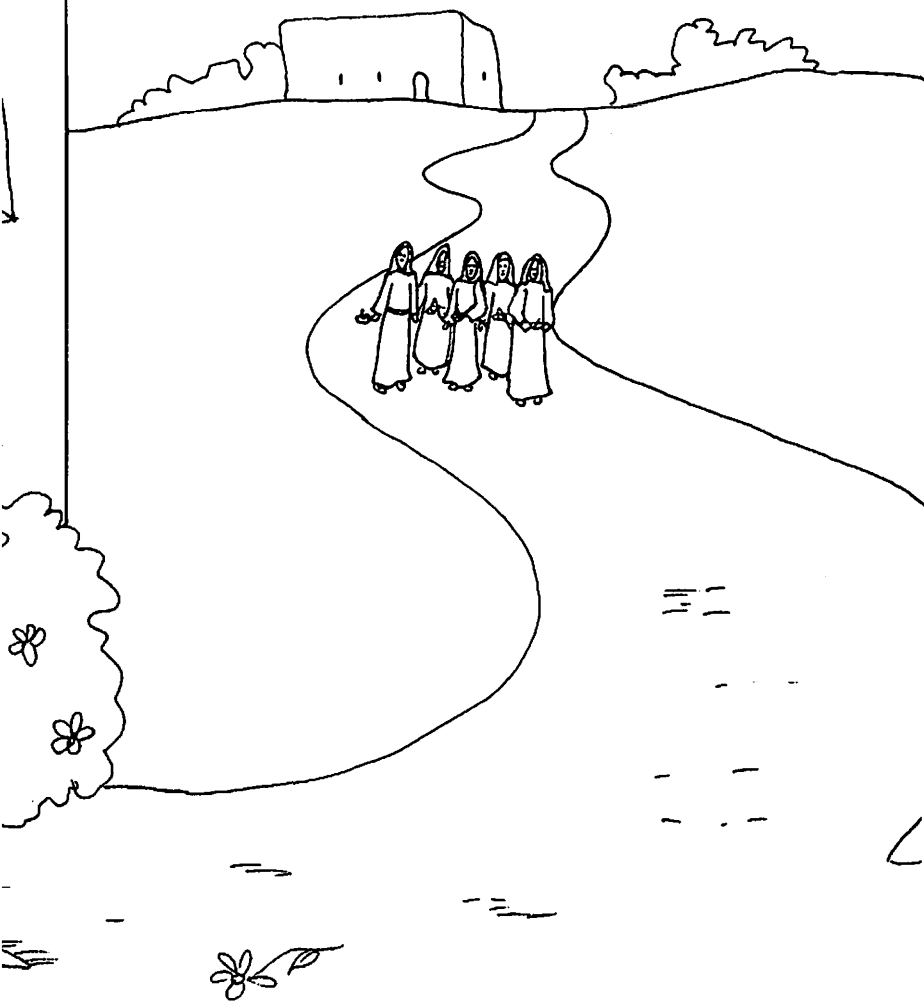
"I do not know you," the bridegroom answered.

"Watch. You do not know the day or the hour when the Son of Man will return," Jesus concluded this parable. Jesus often advises us in the Bible to watch and pray, because no one knows for sure when He will come back. In one place, Jesus says that He would return as a "thief in the night."

—Sis. Monica Murphey



*"And while they went to buy . . .  
the door was shut." Matthew 25:10*



## Escaping

(continued)

William, Michael, and Gosh bought seats to ride in an open topped, crowded Austin lorry which carried sheep, grain and farmers to Kapoeta. From this small border town, they planned to slip across the Sudan border into Kenya.

When the lorry (truck) stopped and the three climbed out, they realized how difficult crossing the border was going to be. The government of North Sudan had soldiers walking among the people. They were looking for young men to capture and force into jihad.

The three separated to avoid being noticed as a group. They listened to conversations to learn what lorries were crossing the border. While eating lunch, Michael visited with a man who was willing to sell him three seats on his lorry, carrying sheep and grain into Kenya.

Michael passed the word to the other two who agreed with the plan. They each quietly went toward the lorry at separate times. All three of them were inside when the driver realized his lorry was surrounded by Muslim soldiers with assault rifles. The soldiers pointed at Michael, William, and Gosh.

"GET OUT!" the officer yelled.

The lorry left for Kenya without them as they walked under gunpoint to military barracks. William began reciting scriptures in his mind. He committed his life into the hands of Jesus Christ. He prepared to die.

Again the hard blows came, but William kept his mind filled with songs, prayer and scriptures. That was his weapon of defense in the spiritual battle he was fighting. They could destroy his body, but they would not destroy his soul, by the grace of God.

Finally, the three friends were put in a lorry as prisoners. That night they traveled over the rough road toward Juba where they would be made public examples of rebels.

As the lorry lunged into the night, William kept praying.

Suddenly, the lorry's engine began to grate and grind. The old truck shook and then stopped on the road.

The moonless night made William feel alone but he heard the cursing of the soldiers as the driver climbed out and raised the hood. The five soldiers guarding William, Michael and Gosh jumped out of the lorry also.

Without a word to each other, the three young men slipped out of the back and ran into the darkness. They crashed into the underbrush and kept running. For a short time the soldiers chased them, but they were hindered by their heavier gear and guns.

The three young men ran until they came into a clearing.

"Where are we?" asked William.

"I know," said Michael. "We are only a few miles from Torit where my mother lives. Follow me."

In the middle of the night, Michael knocked on the door. His brother, Wilson, opened it. The house was full of people who were crying and praying—for them!

Michael's mother ran to him. "Michael! You're really here, alive!" she hugged him tightly.

"Praise God! He brought them out of the lion's den!" said a prayer warrior.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. What did Jesus liken the kingdom of Heaven to in this parable?
2. What were these virgins preparing to do?
3. What did the five foolish virgins not do?
4. What did the five foolish virgins ask the wise at the appearing of the groom?
5. What did the wise virgins tell them to do?
6. What happened while they were gone?
7. What did the bridegroom tell them?
8. What two things does Jesus advise us to do?

**Answers:** 1. Ten virgins. 2. Meet the Bridegroom. 3. Bring oil for their lamps. 4. To give them oil. 5. Go buy some oil. 6. The Bridegroom came & the door was shut. 7. That he did not know them. 8. Watch and pray.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 Oct. 2, 2011

## The Talents

Jesus and his disciples were at the Mount of Olives. Jesus sat and taught them many things. He knew that He would soon leave them, and that the disciples would be teaching others on their own. Jesus used parables, stories that teach a lesson, to help make teachings clearer to the disciples. One of his parables was about a man who was preparing to go on a long journey. The man called for his servants.

"I will be gone for a long time," the man informed his servants. "I am entrusting you with my property."

The man went on to distribute talents to each of his servants. He gave five talents to one servant, two to another, and one to another servant. Then the master left on his trip.

The servant with five talents promptly invested his money. He worked hard, and by the time his master returned, he had doubled his money. The servant with two talents did the same. His money was also doubled. The servant with one talent took his money and buried it.

After a while, the master returned. He called for each servant to give him an account of what they did with their talents. "Master, you entrusted me with five talents," the first servant said. "See, I now have five more." "Well done, my good and faithful servant," the master praised. "Since you have been so faithful with only a few things, now I will put you in charge of many things. Come and celebrate with me!"

The second servant approached his master. "Master, you gave me two talents. I have also doubled them." "You have done well, my good and faithful servant." His master replied. "Since you have been so faithful with only a few things, I will put you in charge of many things, too. Come and share in our happiness!"

Now it was the third servant's turn. "Master, I know you are a strict man. I was afraid your talent would be lost, so I buried it in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you." "What an evil and lazy servant you are!" his master roared. "You knew I was a strict man? You should have at least given your money to the bankers so it could draw interest. Take the talent from this man and give it to the servant with ten talents. Everyone who is a wise steward of the things they are given will have more than enough. Those who do nothing will have their things taken away. Toss this worthless servant into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

—Sis. Monica Murphey

# Unscramble

wicked servant, master, well done, talents, servant, steward, faithful, cast into outer darkness, buried, invest

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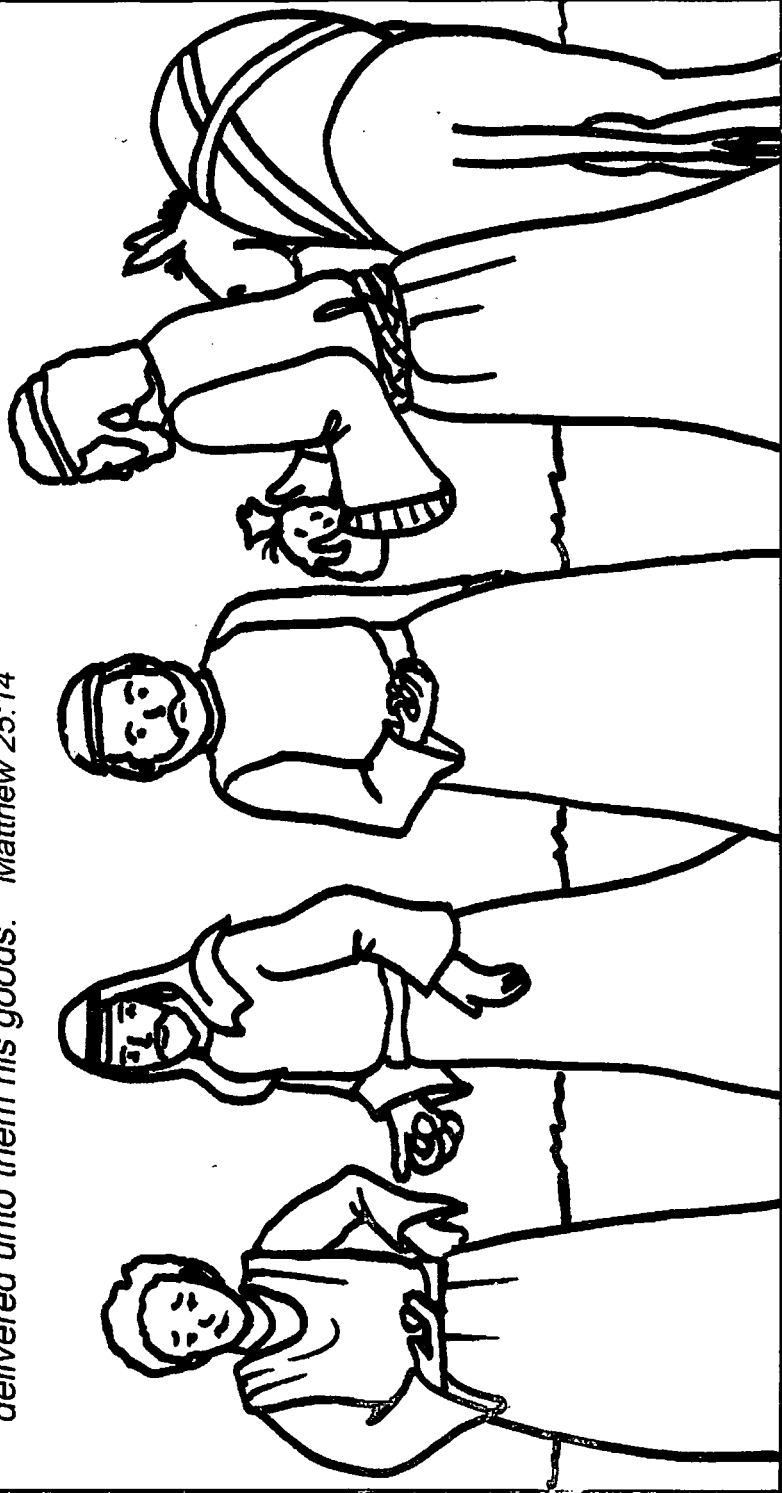
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*"For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods." Matthew 25:14*



## Making Plans Again

(Continued)

After a good night of sleep, William woke up thankful to be alive after his escape from the guards. Michael's mother fed the three boys a hearty breakfast. She was upset with William because she felt he had made Michael want to escape from Sudan into Kenya, so she made her son stay with her. William and Gosh wanted to go to their homes also.

By word of mouth William's family had heard about his capture and escape so his father hurried outside when William walked into the yard. Father and son embraced tightly.

"I am so sorry you didn't make it to Kenya," whispered Father into William's ear. "But I am so thankful to God that you are alive. The Lord has other plans for you this time."

"I believe so," replied William. "I'm not sure what they are right now."

"First we will thank God for protecting you," said Father. "I'm not afraid for you, because nothing will happen to you unless God permits it. I believe that with all my heart. That is how I keep going in these hard times. God has promised to watch over those who trust in Him."

By now members of his family were surrounding William and his father, eager to get their hug from the loved one they had been so earnestly praying for. To them it was like William had returned from death because they all knew how cruel the Islamic Government of Sudan soldiers were to Christian young men trying to escape.

Mama Anna cried as she held her son but she was not angry at him as Michael's mother had been. She wanted to feed him the best she had, so Mama and his sisters kept busy cooking.

After two days of rest, William said to his father, "How can I know what God has planned for me to do next?"

Father was quiet for a minute while sitting beside his son under a tree. Then he said, "I will ask your

grandfather and your uncle to come and talk this through with us. God uses the wise counsel of men when decisions are tough. I think by God's help we can help you take the right way."

"Thank you, Abba," said William. He was so grateful he had a praying family who knew how to listen to God.

The next morning Grandpa Vuni and Uncle Ezekiel joined them to discuss William's escape. They prayed, asking God for wisdom. Then Father said, "We need a plan that the enemy won't expect William to do."

Everyone was quiet, thinking. Suddenly a thought entered William's mind. He gasp. All the family looked at him. "They won't expect me to walk through the very eye of my enemy."

"What are your thoughts, son?" asked Father.

"Where is the GOS headquarters? How many men would head to Khar-toum to cross the border?"

Grandpa Vuni's mouth flew open as he leaned back in dismay. "No one in his right mind would go there to escape the jihad forces! That's their strong hold."

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. What was the man about to do?
2. What did the man give to his servants?
3. What did the first and second servant do?
4. What did the third servant do?
5. What did the master tell the first and second servant?
6. What was the master's response to the third servant?
7. What will happen to those who are wise stewards?
8. Where was the worthless servant tossed?

**Answers:** 1. Go on a long journey. 2. Talents. 3. Invested their talents, worked & doubled them. 4. Buried his talent. 5. "Well done." 6. He was angry. 7. They will have more than enough. 8. Into the outer darkness.



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 61, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 Oct. 9, 2011

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## Keep Watch

Jesus was teaching his disciples on the Mount of Olives. "Please tell us," the disciples had asked Jesus. "When will the end of the world happen? What signs should we expect?"

"Be careful that no one deceives you," Jesus warned. "Many will come and claim to be Christ. A lot of people will be deceived by them. You will hear wars and rumors of wars. Do not be afraid when you hear of them. These things must happen, but the end is yet to come. Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes. This is just the beginning.

"You will be handed over and put to death. At this time, many people will doubt the faith. They will betray and hate each other. Because of hatred and wickedness, many will wax cold. The false prophets will perform great miracles. Do not believe it if anyone tells you, 'Christ is in the desert,' or 'he is in the inner room.' Lightning is visible in the east and in the west. So shall the Son of man be.

"After all of these trials, the sun will not give out light. The moon will be dark. Stars shall fall from the sky, and the heavens will shake. Every nation will see the Son of Man in the sky in all of His glory. He will send his angels to make a mighty call on their trumpets. He will gather up the righteous from all of the ends of the earth.

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. No one, not even the Son, knows the day or the hour, except for the Father. It will happen just like the flood in Noah's days. The people ate, drank, and were married. They had no idea what was going to happen until the flood swept them away.

"Keep watch, because you don't know when the Lord will return. The day of the Lord will be like a thief in the night. If the owner had known the thief planned to come, he would have arranged to protect his goods. You must also be ready. The Son of Man will return when you don't expect it."

—Sis. Monica Murphey


# Crack the Bible Verse Code!

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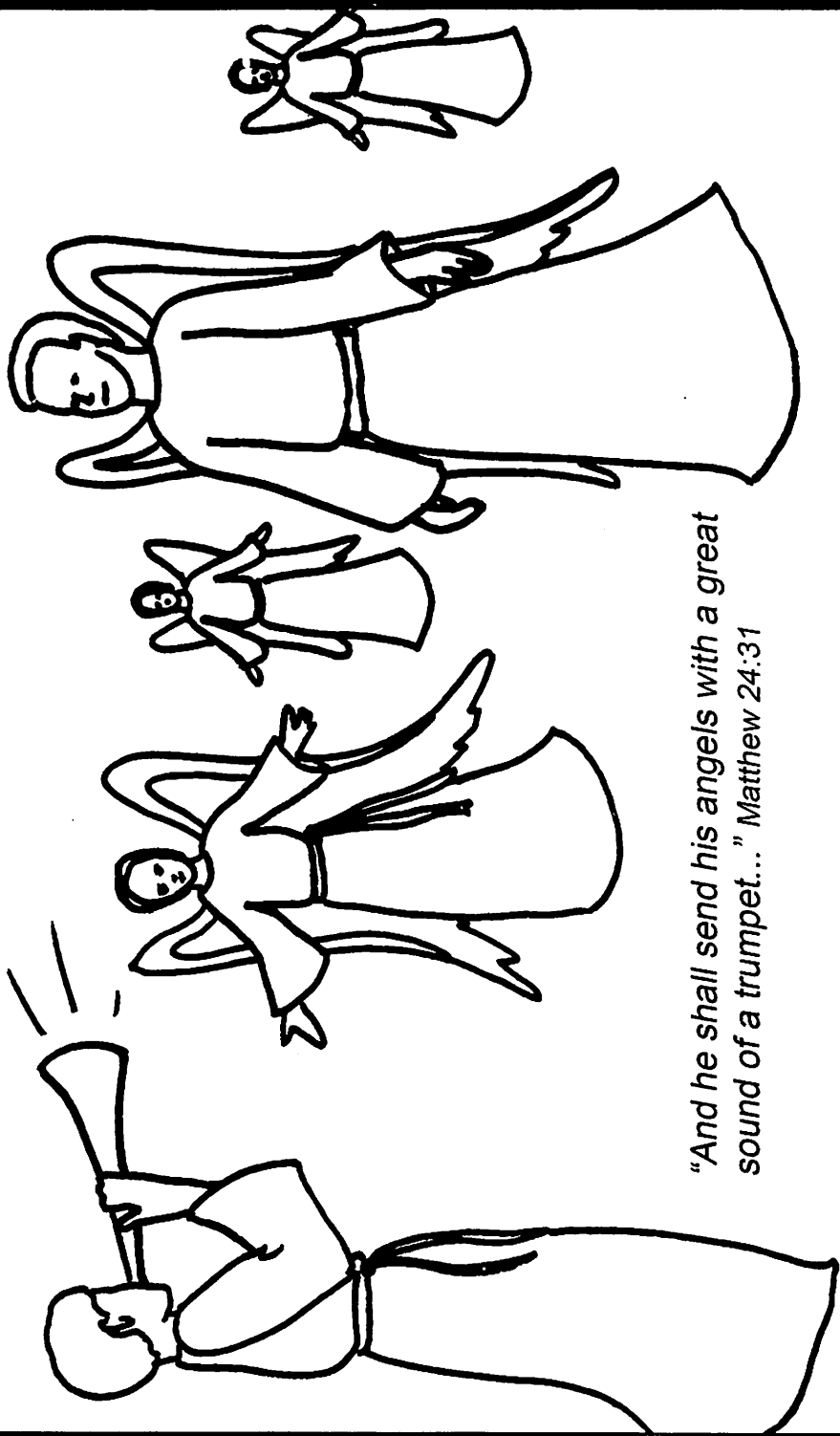




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Use your own code for your favorite Bible verse. See if your friends can figure it out.

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"And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet..." Matthew 24:31

## Saying Good-bye Again

(Continued)

Discussing his plan to escape Sudan, William's father, grandfather and Uncle Ezekiel talked about the risks he would take if he went to Khartoum and crossed the border into Egypt.

"The Islamic Government of Sudan would never expect a Christian young man to go through their capital to escape," agreed Uncle Ezekiel.

"From there William could travel north into Egypt," said Grandpa Vuni thoughtfully. "It is a very risky plan but if God is leading you, William, He will protect you and take you through."

Everyone nodded agreement. So it was settled. "William, you won't be alone," said Father. "God will be with you in Khartoum and in Egypt. We pray you will find work there until you can travel to the United States."

William's eyes shone with hope. "Yes, I can speak enough Arabic to find work in Egypt and pay for my flight to the USA. They have the best universities and the people in that country have freedom to think as they please and worship God. When I get a good education, I will be back to help my family."

"Yes, son, we know you will," said Father and a murmur of agreement arose from the circle of men. William felt confident and happy, drawing from the strength of his family's faith in God. There were tears when he told Mama good-bye that evening. She held her son in her arms for a long time. "You will come back as soon as you can, right, William?"

"Yes, Mama," he replied quietly. He did not want to tell her how far away the United States was from her little home in Sudan.

Later that night his father took him outside into the warmth of the night air. William breathed in deeply, wanting to remember the scent of firewood mixed with the earthy musk of the tall grasses and tilled fields surrounding the village. He straightened his back as his father placed his strong arm across his shoulders. They

were silent, each wrestling with deep emotions of love, sorrow at parting, and hope for the future.

Finally, Father spoke. "William, your mother and I want you to know that we love you very much. We are so pleased that you live for Jesus Christ and serve Him the Bible way. We might never see you again on this earth, but we have a hope of living with Jesus and with you some day."

"Yes, Abba," William listened with his heart. He tried to memorize every move and word about Father.

"You will always be with your family, William, when you are with the body of Christ," continued Father. "Wherever you go, find your family first."

"Yes, Abba" William swallowed the lump in his throat. He knew Father was releasing him into the unknown future. He cleared his throat, "Tell Mama not to worry about me. I will be careful and God is with me."

Father chuckled. "Your mama is so proud of you. She prays for you all the time and she feels God will take care of you some way, and don't you worry about her. God is her strength also."

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. What did Jesus' disciples ask him?
2. What did Jesus say many would claim?
3. What are some more signs of the last day?
4. What will never pass away?
5. What will happen to the righteous?
6. Who knows when the end of time will come?
7. What did Jesus compare the end of time to?
8. What can you do to prepare for the end of time?

**Answers:** 1. When the end of the world was & what would happen. 2. To be Christ. 3. Answers will vary. See paragraphs 1-3. 4. Christ's words. 5. The Lord will gather them up. 6. No one except God. 7. A thief in the night. 8. Answers will vary.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 Oct. 16, 2011

## Feet Washed By Jesus

Every year, the Jews remember the time Moses and the Israelites prepared for their flight from Egypt. The Israelites were slaves in Egypt when baby Moses was born. When Moses became a man, he and his brother tried to influence the ruler to let the Israelites leave. God sent many plagues, but Pharaoh still would not let them go. On the night before their long journey, the Israelites stood with their bags packed, eating a meal, and waiting for word that they could leave. God sent the Death Angel to pass over the Egyptians' homes. Every firstborn child was killed in homes that were not sprinkled with goat's blood. This terrible night is known as the Passover. The Israelites still observe it as a holiday.

Jesus and his disciples were getting ready to celebrate the Passover. "Go to Jerusalem," Jesus told his disciples. "You will meet a man carrying a jug of water. Ask him where I can find a room to celebrate the Passover with my disciples. He will show you to a large room. It is already prepared for the meal." Everything happened just as Jesus said it would.

As the evening meal was being served, Judas Iscariot was watching closely. Men had approached Judas earlier. They wanted Jesus killed. They would pay Judas thirty pieces of silver for betraying Jesus. The devil had persuaded him to take their offer. Jesus had the power to know what everyone at the table was thinking. He was also confident that God was in control. God had sent Him to earth, and Jesus would return to God.

Jesus stood up and wrapped a towel around his waist. He put water into a basin. Jesus knelt down and carefully washed each disciple's feet. When He came to Peter, Peter asked, "Lord, why are you doing this?" "You may not realize why now, but you will later," Jesus told him. "No, Lord," Peter protested. "You can never wash my feet!" "You will not belong to me if I do not wash your feet," Jesus replied. "Then wash my hands and my head, too!" Peter exclaimed.

"Do you understand what I have done?" Jesus asked. "You call me Lord and Master. If I, your Lord and Master wash your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet, also. I have done this so that you will follow my example. A servant is not greater than his master. A messenger is not greater than the one who sent him."

—Sis. Monica Murphey

## I Spy Jesus' Disciples!

Color the names of Jesus' disciples. Start with Peter. Then, write their names down on the lines. See Mark 10:2-4.

Peter	Luke	Caleb	Timothy
Daniel	John	David	Saul
Nicholas	Jesse	Bartholomew	Nathan
Zacchaeus	Seth	Michael	Stephen
Isaac	Thomas	Matthew	Samson
Jonah	Paul	Titus	Abraham
Thaddaeus	Jacob	Bartimaeus	Silas
Nathanael	Ahab	Apollos	Joseph

Andrew	Mark	James
Philip	Hosea	Alexander
Elisha	Samuel	Methuselah
Ruben	Judah	Amos
Onesimus	Uzzah	Felix
James	Obadiah	Hezekiah
Esau	Michah	Simon
Elijah	Joel	Judas

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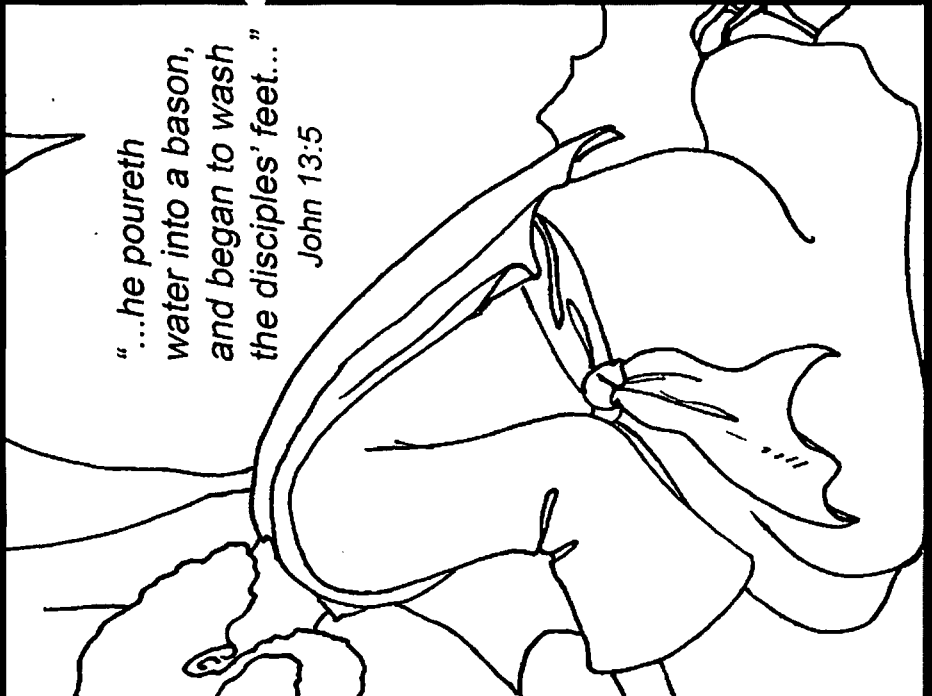
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*"...he poureth  
water into a bason,  
and began to wash  
the disciples' feet..."*

*John 13:5*





## Going Toward the Goal

(Continued)

Word spread through the village of Corom that William was leaving and for the next two days well-wishers came by the Levi home to tell him good-bye. Sunday morning the little chapel was packed with people wanting to encourage William.

As expected, William stood up during the service and gave his testimony. He thanked the Lord for protection and for their prayers. Standing in front of the people, he looked out over the small sea of friendly faces.

These are my people, he thought. Some day I want to come back to serve God here and help them.

At the end of his testimony, William said, "Brothers and sisters, God is calling me to leave my precious homeland. I will be facing uncertain dangers, and those of you who remain will be also facing difficulty."

Heads nodded solemnly.

"When I was baptized, Grandpa Vuni asked me to make a choice. He asked me to choose the weapon I would use to face my enemy—the Bible or the axe. I chose the Bible, which is sharper than any two-edged sword."

A few amens arose from the assembly.

"I believe that God has called me to use the Scriptures to fight this war that we're in. I feel that God has a plan for me, and I believe He will use me some how to bless you, my people. I don't know how that will happen, but for me it will not happen through violence. For that reason, I must leave you. I beg you all to pray for me, and I will pray for you all as well."

Amens were spoken through the crowd. Then as William stepped forward the congregation gathered around him to offer up their prayers for his safety and success. At the end, Grandpa Vuni blessed him with the Aaronic blessing.

William soaked in the blessings because he knew he would need the memory of this time to encourage him when he was alone in an unfamiliar city.

Pleased to help William, the family of God sold field crops for cash so that he could buy a one-way airplane ticket to Khartoum, the Islamic headquarters of Sudan. As the little propeller

plane idled in a nearby field, William gathered his two extra changes of clothes and told his parents good-bye.

Trying to keep calm, he kept his back straight, his shoulders squared as he walked to the plane and climbed aboard. After he was seated and buckled in, he pressed his face to the glass and watched his family, their home, the village and his friends fade into the background of the green savannah edged with short trees. The Nile River curved into the land to the north. The loud hum of the plane motor made it impossible to visit with the pilot, so William talked with God until he fell asleep.

He awoke to a completely different atmosphere. The rush of city life in Khartoum nearly took William's breath away. No one paid attention to him, which he was grateful. Speaking his broken Arabic, he was able to find the train station where he bought a ticket to Wadi Halfa, a small border town in the northern desert between the Sudan and Egypt. At this town he bought a ticket to take a steamer ship going up the Nile into Egypt.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. Why do the Israelites' celebrate the Passover?
2. Who did Jesus say the disciples would meet?
3. Why was Judas watching Jesus?
4. What was Jesus confident about?
5. Why did Jesus put a towel around his waist?
6. Who protested when Jesus came to them?
7. Should we wash each other's feet? Why?
8. How do you think Jesus felt when he washed Judas' feet?

**Answers:** 1. See paragraph one.

2. A man carrying a jug of water.  
3. So he could betray him. 4. That God was in control. 5. So he could wash the disciples' feet. 6. Peter. 7. Yes. Jesus did it to be an example to us. 8. Answers may vary. Encourage them to think about it.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 Oct. 23, 2011

## The Lord's Supper

Jesus and his disciples were reclining around the table, partaking of the Lord's Supper. Jesus had just washed each disciples' feet. Jesus broke the bread and gave thanks for it. "Take this and eat," Jesus told his disciples. "This bread represents my body." Then Jesus took the cup. He gave thanks for it. "Take this and drink it," Jesus requested. "This represents my blood, which will be poured out for many for forgiveness of their sins. I will not drink this drink again until I am in the Kingdom with my Father. The hand of the man who will betray me is sitting here even now at this table."

The disciples began to wonder who the betrayer would be. As they were talking, some of the disciples began to argue. They were wondering who would be the greatest in God's kingdom.

"The kings and rulers of the world like to flaunt their authority over others," Jesus said. "You should not be like that. Your leader should have a child-like attitude. He should be a servant to you. Who is greater, the servant, or the ones sitting at the table? I have served. You have been there to support me, so I give to you a kingdom, just as my Father did for me. You will be able to sit and eat with me at my table with the Father. You will judge the tribes of Israel."

"I tell you the truth," Jesus informed them. "One of you sitting at this very table will betray me tonight." "Who is it?" the disciples wondered. "The man to whom I give this piece of bread," Jesus answered. Jesus gave the bread to Judas Iscariot. "Go quickly and do what you are about to do," Jesus told him. Judas rose from the table and left.

After they finished eating, they sang a hymn, and left for the Mount of Olives. "All of you will be turned away from me this very night. The Scriptures predict, 'I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered. I will go to Galilee after I have risen.'"

"Even if all of the others leave, I will never leave you," Peter protested. "Today, even tonight, before the rooster crows twice, you will have denied me three times," Jesus informed him. "I will never deny knowing you, even if I have to die for it," Peter insisted vehemently. The other disciples agreed.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

## Good Attitudes vs. Bad Attitudes

Write the following words into the columns that they belong in. Add your own words to each column.

cheerful

unforgiving

kind

joyful

angry

disobedient

helpful

lazy

sharing

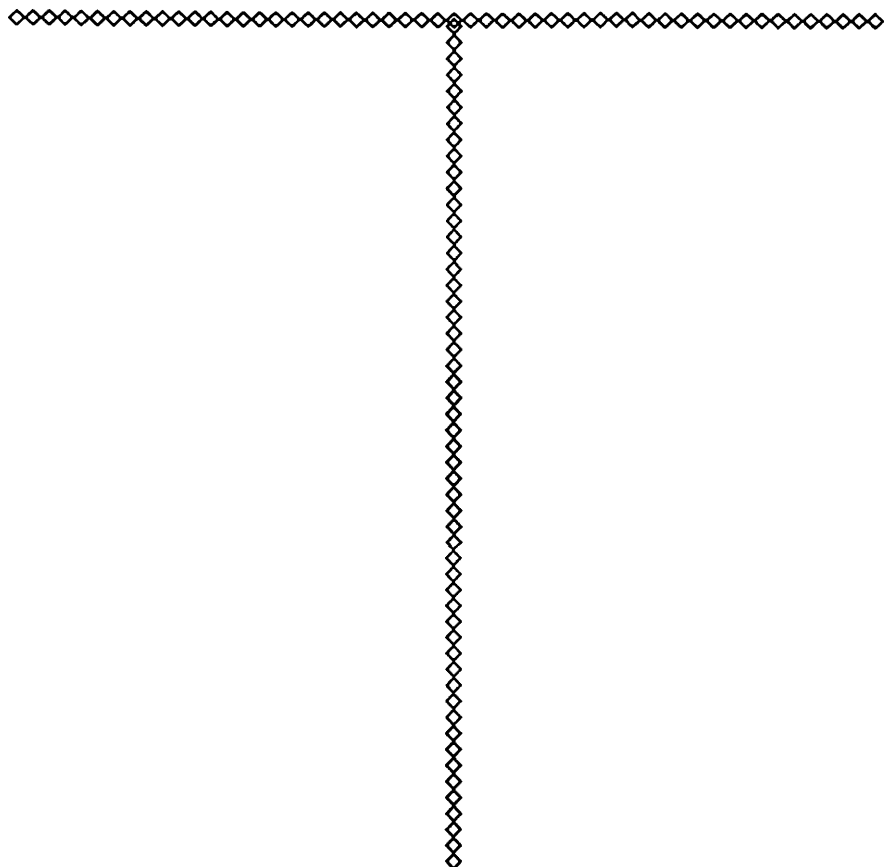
bossy

thankful

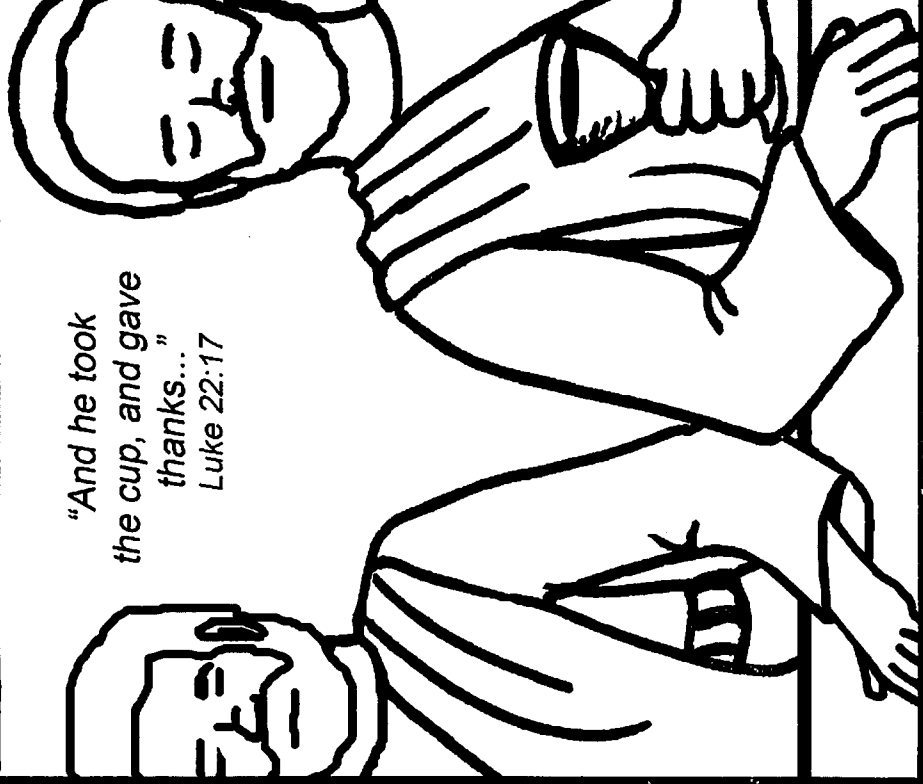
gentle

## Good Attitudes

## Bad Attitudes



"And he took  
the cup, and gave  
thanks..."  
Luke 22:17





## Stranger in a Strange Land

[Continued]

The Egypt bound ship was crowded and the crew rude and impatient. William stayed on deck as much as possible so he could have fresh air and more quiet time. The weather was scorching hot so he looked for an out-of-the-way place with shade. After two nights without much sleep, not much to eat, and long hot days, William was exhausted when the ship docked at Aswan, Egypt.

Happy to leave the ship, William felt relieved to be in Egypt. Yet he still had to travel to Cairo, so he could get a job and pay for a plane ticket to the United States. Though alone, he felt safe because he knew the Lord was with him and his family back in Sudan was praying for him.

Changing his little bit of money into Egyptian pounds, William also bought a train ticket going to Cairo. He breathed a sigh of relief when the train rumbled to a stop in Cairo. Though he did not know a person there and he could barely understand their Arabic accent, he blessed the Lord for safety thus far.

With only a little money in his pocket, William wandered through the mazes of narrow, winding streets, taking in the sights and sounds of the city. He was hungry and very tired, but he had only two pounds (three dollars) in his pocket.

Oh, dear Lord, he prayed, I am counting on You. Show me where to go. I need your help.

William took a deep breath and tried to focus on his walk, but the ground began to spin before his eyes. People's faces blurred and the bright colors of their clothing swirled in his vision. The strong odor of food stung his nose and he felt his legs weaken under him. Then he opened his eyes and saw a dusty sign hanging from an old building. **HOTEL BAGHDAD** it read in English! He decided to go inside.

This five story hotel had once been a nice place, but now the interior carpet and furniture was faded and worn in spots. However, the clerk offered

William a cot to sleep upon that he could afford. He slept soundly until the hot morning light woke him up.

Walking down the stairs to the lobby, William felt a handclap on his shoulder.

"Welcome to Hotel Baghdad," said a stranger giving his hand for a friendly shake. "You look like you aren't from around here."

"Yeah, my name is William and I am from Sudan," he replied slowly in English. He wasn't sure he could trust this man.

The man chuckled. "I am from Iraq. This hotel name makes me think of my home town, but it isn't the cleanest place. So, what brings you to Cairo?"

"I'm on my way to America," stated William. "I am looking for freedom."

"That's a big adventure for such a young man as you. How old are you?"

"I'm eighteen, sir," replied William.

"You seemed very honest and a hard worker," said the man thoughtfully. "I would guess you to be a Christian."

"Yes, I am," replied William knowing this could be risky.

"I am a Christian, too," said the man. "Christians are not treated well in Iraq either. At least we know that this world is not our true home. We are strangers and pilgrims here looking for a better home in eternity."

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. What had Jesus just done?
2. What did Jesus do with the bread?
3. What did the bread represent?
4. What did the wine represent?
5. What did the disciples wonder?
6. What should a leader act like?
7. What did they do before they left?
8. What did Jesus tell Peter he would do?

**Answers:** 1. Washed the disciples' feet. 2. Broke it, and thanked God for it. 3. His body. 4. His blood. 5. Who would be the greatest in Heaven. 6. Child-like and a servant. 7. Sang a hymn. 8. Deny Jesus three times.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 61, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 Oct. 30, 2011

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## **"The Spirit of Truth Will Come"**

After Jesus and his disciples ate supper, they walked to the Mount of Olives. Gethsemane is an orchard at the foot of the Mount of Olives. The book of John tells us that Jesus taught his disciples here. "Do not allow your heart to feel troubled. Believe in God. Believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions. I am going to prepare a place for you there. You know the way there."

"Lord, we have no idea where you are going," Philip pointed out. "How will we know how to get there?" "I am the way, the truth, and the life," Jesus replied. "No one can come to the father except through me. If you know me, you know my father as well." "Lord, let us see the Father," Philip requested. "Then we will be satisfied."

"Philip, do you not know who I am after spending so much time with me?" Jesus asked. "If you have seen me, you have seen my Father. For I am in my Father and my Father is in me. If you ask anything in my name, I will do it. If you love me, you will follow my commandments. The Father will send the Spirit of Truth. The world will not accept him, because they do not know him. You will know him because he will live in you. When the Counselor, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will teach you all things and help you remember what I have taught.

"Love each other even as I have loved you. No man has greater love than this, that he should lay down his life for his friends. When the Counselor comes, he will reveal sins, righteousness, and judgment. He will show you things to come. Soon you will see me no more, because I am going to the Father. You will grieve, but your sorrow will soon turn to joy."

—Sis. Monica Murphey

# Word Search

"The Spirit of Truth Will Come"

O	Z	N	K	D	T	S	N	O	I	S	N	A	M
R	Y	S	L	W	G	G	Z	E	X	X	Y	Z	J
I	K	E	T	B	I	C	C	M	F	F	I	C	J
G	L	L	T	B	T	D	J	I	R	C	O	Q	O
H	F	P	Y	C	M	J	U	D	G	M	E	N	T
T	H	I	Z	R	O	O	U	N	M	B	R	N	T
E	Y	C	H	T	C	U	E	A	E	M	J	D	R
O	A	S	P	T	A	V	N	R	V	V	J	X	U
U	R	I	E	S	E	D	O	S	J	L	A	I	T
S	P	D	Z	I	M	V	N	Y	E	T	O	E	H
N	S	J	L	E	L	O	Q	G	E	L	F	V	H
E	Z	E	N	W	V	D	G	A	O	T	O	T	E
S	B	T	K	J	F	J	C	E	H	H	K	R	I
S	S	A	T	H	P	H	T	K	Y	A	N	I	S

counselor	truth	righteousness	sin
teach	pray	disciples	judgment
mansions	heaven	believe	commandments
love			





*"And he came and found them  
asleep again..." Matthew 26:43*



## **William Gives His Testimony**

(Continued)

In an Egyptian hotel speaking English with a Christian man from Iraq, William told his testimony and his hope of helping his family some day. The man listened, his eyes shining with admiration at William's courage.

"You have done a lot for being only eighteen years old," he said to William. "May the Lord continue to bless your life. Listen, William, I know someone who may be able to help you. There is an Anglican church by the name of All Saints Cathedral not too far from here. Maybe they could help you find a place to stay and some work to do."

"Thank you, my friend!" exclaimed William. He remembered what his father had said to him that one night before leaving Corom: "You will always be with your family, William, when you are with the body of Christ. Wherever you go, find your family first."

William took down the directions and soon was at the entrance of the old chapel. The pastor was friendly and helpful in that he knew a group of young Sudanese men students who attended the Cairo University.

"Let's check and see if they will let you stay with them for a while," said the pastor. "They are from Christian homes."

At the first knock on the door, a young man named Martin opened it. After introductions, William was happy to learn that they knew how to speak Madi, a language of Sudan, and they would let him stay with them.

"You will have to help with the expenses," said Martin.

"Yes, I will get a job some where," agreed William.

"William, why are you in Cairo?" asked one room mate. "Why leave home with no where to go?"

Choosing his words carefully, William gave his testimony to the four men who were his room mates for a season. They listened in awe because they did not know about the recent pressure the Islamic Government of Sudan was putting on Christians.

"We are here on scholarships," one told William. "We are supposed to help our country after we get our degrees. I don't know if I want to go back if there is so much trouble."

The others agreed. William was quiet. In a few days he had work at a down town super market. He also brought home food for his room mates who were friendly, but he soon learned that they were not honest, pure or faithful to God.

In the evening, they would drink beer while studying their lessons.

"Here, William, have one," joked one room mate.

"Uh, no, thanks, I don't need it," replied William going to his bed for rest. Oh, Lord, help me to keep faithful to You through these days of trial, he prayed.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### **Questions:**

1. Where is Gethsemane?
2. Who should we believe in?
3. What did Philip want to know?
4. What is the truth?
5. What did Philip want to see?
6. Jesus said, "If you have seen me\_\_\_\_\_."
7. Who did Jesus say the Father would send?
8. How will the Holy Spirit help guide us?

**Answers:** 1. At the foot of the Mount of Olives. 2. God and Jesus. 3. How do we get to where Jesus was going. 4. Jesus. 5. The Father. 6. You have seen my Father. 7. The Holy Spirit. 8. Teach us, reveal sins, show us things to come.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 61, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19, Nov. 6, 2011

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## Betrayed

Jesus asked his disciples, "Please sit here. I'm going over there to pray." Jesus took James and John with him. "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to the point of death," Jesus confided. "Stay here with me and keep watch."

Jesus went a little farther into the orchard called Gethsemane. "My Father, if it is possible, take this cup from me," Jesus prayed. "But, do not do what I want, do what You want to do." Jesus returned to his disciples and found them asleep. "Can you not keep watch with me for one hour?" Jesus asked. "Watch and pray. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." Then Jesus went to pray a second time. Jesus went back to find his disciples asleep again, so he went to pray a third time.

When he returned to his disciples, once again they were asleep. "Are you still sleeping?" Jesus asked. "The hour is near. The Son of man has been betrayed to sinners. Let's go. My betrayer is here now."

Jesus was still speaking when Judas Iscariot arrived with a great crowd of men armed with swords and clubs. The religious leaders had met with Judas and offered him thirty pieces of silver to give them information about Jesus. Judas agreed to bring them to Jesus. He told them that the man he kissed in greeting would be Jesus.

Judas went straight to Jesus. "Greetings, Master," Judas said. Then he kissed Jesus. "Judas, do you betray the Son of man with a kiss?" Jesus responded. Jesus' followers realized what was happening. "Should we defend you with our swords?" they shouted to Jesus. Immediately Peter took out his sword and managed to cut the ear off of one of the soldiers. "Put your swords away," Jesus commanded. "Those who live by the sword also die by it." Then Jesus touched the soldier's ear and it was healed.

"Why do you come for me with swords and clubs?" Jesus asked. "Am I leading a rebellion? I taught with you in the temple every day, and you did not arrest me there. But the scriptures must be fulfilled." Jesus' disciples saw everything going on and fled, leaving Jesus alone.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

## Unscramble

disciples	pray	asleep	Judas
kiss	sword	ear	healed
soldier	fulfilled	Gethsemane	

ARE

\_\_\_\_\_

USADJ

\_\_\_\_\_

RYAP

\_\_\_\_\_

REDLIOS

\_\_\_\_\_

SEEEMNGATH

\_\_\_\_\_

EFFLLLIUD

\_\_\_\_\_

ORSDW

\_\_\_\_\_

PALSEE

\_\_\_\_\_

ISKS

\_\_\_\_\_

IILPESSCD

\_\_\_\_\_

LEDAEH

\_\_\_\_\_



*"...he goeth  
straightway  
to him, and  
saith, Master,  
master; and  
kissed him."  
Mark 14:45*



## Abstaining from Evil

(Continued)

"Come on, William, one beer won't hurt you," said a room mate one evening. The four students were sitting around the room with books open, trying to study, while dulling their minds with beer.

"I have told you before that I don't drink anything that impairs my mind," replied William quietly.

"Ah, beer loosens up your mind and body, man," said one room mate. "You need to relax and not be so careful."

William shook his head and went to his bed to relax. Oh, Lord, please keep me safe and strong enough to resist the temptations of beer, he prayed silently. I do not want to pick up this habit that will harm my body, cost me much money and disgrace my life with You and my family.

One night while his room mates were drinking, there was a knock at the door. It was a pretty young woman asking to come in. William was grieved and shocked at his room mates for taking up her offer.

"Friends, you know that in the book of Proverbs it says that you are not to join yourself with a woman before marriage."

"Mind your own business!" snapped one at him.

"Yeah, don't be such a religious fanatic!" declared another.

"Leave us alone, you nerd!" stated another.

William left them but his heart was grieved for the sins they were committing to their own bodies and to another. Silently, he prayed, Oh, God, please show my room mates their awful sins and cause them to repent. Please give me a spirit of love toward them instead of bitterness. Show me what to do.

The Lord gave William his answer. He had his room mates to agree to let the young woman tell her story about her needs, and then pay her for her story. The next time there was a knock on the door, William took charge. He protected the young woman, and they listened to her sad tale of poverty and hungry children to feed. One by one, the young men in the room felt guilty for what they had been doing.

At the end of the evening, William collected money from them and they gave the young mother several coins.

"Go in peace to your children," William told her. "Know that it was the love of Jesus Christ who protected you this night."

The woman began to sob and though a Muslim, she asked for prayer. William prayed for God's mercy upon every one in that room. His prayer pleased the Lover of Souls, Jesus Christ.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. What did Jesus ask his disciples to do?
2. Where did Jesus go?
3. What were the disciples doing when he returned?
4. How would the religious leaders know who Jesus was?
5. What did Peter do with his sword?
6. What did Jesus do?
7. Jesus said, "The scriptures must be \_\_\_\_."
8. What did the disciples do then?

**Answers:** 1. Stay and keep watch. 2. To pray. 3. Sleeping. 4. Judas would kiss him. 5. Cut off a soldier's ear. 6. Healed the ear. 7. Fulfilled. 8. Fled.



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 Nov. 13, 2011

## Before the Rooster Crows

The angry mob arrested Jesus and took him to see the high priest. Jesus' disciples ran away. Jesus was alone with the crowd armed with swords and clubs. Peter caught up with the mob escorting Jesus to the high priest's house and followed behind them at a safe distance. The crowd entered the courtyard. So did Peter. He sat down by the fire to get warm. He began talking to the guards that were sitting there also.

Meanwhile, Jesus was taken inside. All of Jerusalem's religious leaders were in attendance at this very important event. They desperately wanted Jesus put to death, but they did not have sufficient evidence. Many false witnesses testified against Jesus. To the disappointment of the religious leaders, they couldn't keep their stories straight.

"Will you not answer the charges brought against you?" the high priest demanded. Jesus silently refused to satisfy them with an answer. "Are you the Holy One, the Christ?" the high priest interrogated. "I am," Jesus replied finally. "You will see the Son of man sitting by his Father and returning on the clouds of heaven."

The high priest tore his clothes. "We need not hear any more. The laws of our scriptures forbid blasphemy against the Lord our God. You have all heard what Jesus claims! What do you think?" The infuriated throng agreed that Jesus should be killed. They began spitting on him. They blindfolded Jesus and beat him. They hurled insults at him.

Peter was still anxiously waiting outside by the fire. One of the servant girls passed by. She stopped for a closer look. "You were with Jesus, weren't you," the girl said. "I don't know what you're talking about," Peter rebutted. He got up angrily to stand in the doorway. After a while the girl told her friends, "I am sure this is one of Jesus' disciples." "I don't know him," Peter insisted. A little while later, some of the people milling about in the courtyard approached Peter. "Surely you are with Jesus. You are a Galilean." Cursing loudly, Peter answered, "I tell you, I don't know the man." Then, Peter heard the rooster crow twice. He remembered Jesus' prophesy at supper, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will have denied me three times." Peter broke down and wept.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

# CRACK THE BIBLE VERSE CODE!

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13

p	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

“ 8 5 23 1 19 23 15 21 14 4 5 4

$$\overline{6} \quad \overline{15} \quad \overline{18} \quad \overline{15} \quad \overline{21} \quad \overline{18} \quad \overline{20} \quad \overline{18} \quad \overline{1} \quad \overline{14} \quad \overline{19}$$

7 18 5 19 19 9 15 14 19, 8 5

23 1 19    2 18 21 9 19 5 4    6 15 18

$$\overline{15} \quad \overline{21} \quad \overline{18} \qquad \overline{9} \quad \overline{14} \quad \overline{9} \quad \overline{17} \quad \overline{21} \quad \overline{9} \quad \overline{20} \quad \overline{9} \quad \overline{5} \quad \overline{19} \quad \overline{\vdots}$$

...  $\overline{23}$   $\overline{9}$   $\overline{20}$   $\overline{8}$        $\overline{8}$   $\overline{9}$   $\overline{19}$        $\overline{19}$   $\overline{20}$   $\overline{18}$   $\overline{9}$   $\overline{16}$   $\overline{5}$   $\overline{19}$

$$\frac{23}{5} \quad \frac{1}{18} \frac{5}{5} \quad \frac{8}{5} \frac{1}{12} \frac{5}{5} \frac{4}{4}$$

Use your own code for your favorite Bible verse. See if your friends can figure it out.

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m
							.					

[illegible]

*"...he sat with the  
servants, and warmed  
himself at the fire."  
Mark 14:54*





## Trusting God In Every Move

(Continued)

After boldly showing his room mates their sin, William saw a change in their life style. They repented to Jesus Christ and asked the Lord to help them live a pure life. They stopped drinking beer, also. This let William know God had brought him to this apartment to witness to his room mates. Now they would be better soldiers for the Lord when they went back home to Sudan.

Again He felt it was time to move forward. He was not making much money at the super market, and most of it went into the cost of the room and food. So he had little money to save for an airline ticket to America.

One day he was tired and discouraged while standing at the register adding up each customer's groceries. One steady customer noticed his tired look.

"Hey, William," he said. "Are you having a rough day?"

"Good day, Mr. Ibrahim," replied William as cheerful as possible. "My back is hurting again. After standing twelve hours every day my lower back complains. I guess I am not made for this type of work."

"Why not look for a new job?" Mr. Ibrahim suggested. "You are young and educated. In fact, I know a Japanese lady who owns a farm outside of Cairo, she is looking for someone who can read and write in English to help her manage the farm. Her name is Madame Seiko."

William leaned forward. "Tell me how I can talk to her?" he asked.

Mr. Ibrahim smiled and gave William the directions. "Tell her that I sent you to her and will guarantee your work. That will get you the job sure enough!"

"Thank you, Mr. Ibrahim!" replied William with a lighter voice. "I appreciate your confidence in me and I think I will apply."

Later that day, William boarded a train that took him near Madame Seiko's farm. He walked the rest of the way to her dairy farm. Being in the country reminded William of his family in Corom, Sudan. He had been away from them a few months now

and he missed hearing their voices. He could see his Mama's face as she had gazed upon him. He seemed to feel the weight of his father's strong arm resting on his shoulders.

Oh, Lord, please protect my family and me, he prayed. Without You, we would be hopeless in many ways. Please direct my life right now; in Jesus name I pray. Amen.

Madame Seiko received William's application for the job and hired him right then. "I like your English skills, you grew up on a farm and you are a smart young man," she told William. "When can you start working for me? Today?"

William liked the wages and the thought of working on a farm but he had a request to make. "I can only work for you if I can have off on Sundays."

Madame Seiko stared at him for a moment. Then she shrugged her shoulders and sighed. "Very well, William," she said coolly. "I see no reason why you should not live as your religion tells you to do. Just see that you do your work properly all the other days."

"Yes, ma'am! Thank you!" agreed William. He thanked the Lord for again directing his foot steps.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. Where did Peter sit?
2. Who testified against Jesus?
3. What was the last question the high priest asked?
4. What did Jesus answer?
5. Why did the high priest tear his clothes?
6. What did the servant say to Peter?
7. How many times did Peter deny Christ?
8. What did Peter do after he heard the rooster crow?

**Answers:** 1. By the fire. 2. False witnesses. 3. "Are you the Christ?" 4. "I am." 5. He thought Jesus blasphemed against God. 6. She thought he was a follower of Jesus. 7. Three. 8. Cried.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 61, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 Nov. 20, 2011

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## Before Pilate

The high priest did not have the authority to put Jesus to death, so the religious leaders took Jesus to appear before the governor of Judea. "Are you the king of the Jews?" Pontius Pilate asked Jesus. "I am," Jesus replied. Various witnesses testified against Jesus. He stood silently, making no rebuttal.

"Don't you hear these accusations?" Pilate asked. But still Jesus made no reply to the charges brought against him. The governor was amazed.

Pilate thought Jesus was innocent, too. He knew the religious leaders wanted Jesus killed because of jealousy. Every year during the Passover Feast, it was traditional for Pilate to release a prisoner. Pilate decided to give the crowd a choice now. One of the worst prisoners in captivity could be freed, or Jesus.

"I will give you a choice," Pilate declared. "Do you choose Barabbas or Jesus the Christ to be freed?"

Pilate was sitting in the judgment seat and listening to the testimonies when someone gave him a message. It was from his wife, Claudia. "This man is innocent," she related to Pilate. "I have had a very disturbing dream about him. Please don't have him punished."

"Which prisoner would you have me free—Barabbas or Jesus the Christ?" Pilate asked again.

Unfortunately, the high priests had already been making a stir among the crowd. "Barabbas, Barabbas," the mob hollered. "What shall I do then, with Jesus the Christ?" Pilate asked them. "Crucify him," they chanted in reply.

Pilate saw that the aggressive crowd was getting out of control. He took water and washed his hands in front of the mob. "I am innocent of this man's blood," Pilate announced. "His death will be your responsibility."

"Let his blood be on us and our children," the people shouted back. So Pilate released the prisoner Barabbas. Jesus was beaten and handed over to the religious leaders to be crucified.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

# Missing Vowels

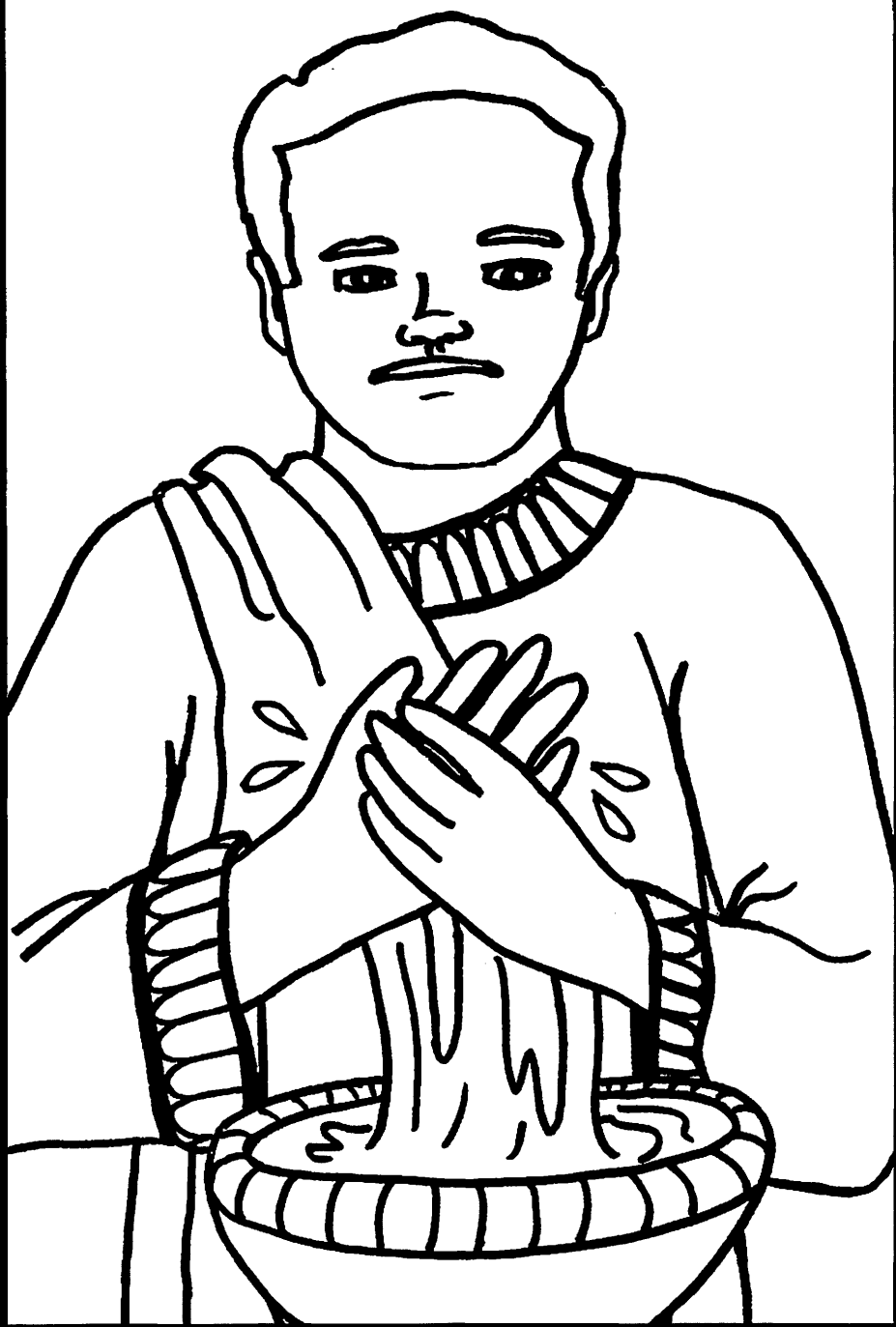
There are 26 letters in the English alphabet. Some are vowels; some are consonants. The vowels are a, e, i, o, and u. Fill in the missing vowels to find out what the Bible verse is.

H\_\_ w\_\_s \_\_ppr\_\_ss\_\_d  
 \_\_nd H\_\_ w\_\_s \_\_ffl\_\_ct\_\_d,  
 y\_\_t H\_\_ \_\_p\_\_n\_\_d n\_\_t  
 h\_\_s m\_\_ \_\_ th, H\_\_ \_\_s  
 br\_\_ \_\_ght \_\_s \_\_ l\_\_mb  
 t\_\_ th\_\_ sl\_\_ \_\_ght\_\_r, \_\_nd  
 \_\_s \_\_ sh\_\_ \_\_p b\_\_f\_\_r\_\_  
 h\_\_r sh\_\_ \_\_r\_\_rs \_\_s d\_\_mb,  
 s\_\_ H\_\_ \_\_p\_\_n\_\_th n\_\_t  
 H\_\_s m\_\_ \_\_ th.

See if you can figure this out on your own at first. If you can't here is a clue:

\_\_s\_\_ \_\_ \_\_ h 53:7

*"...he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude..." Matthew 27:24*





## Name Calling Darts

(Continued)

Madame Seiko, William's new employer, was married to a Muslim man, but she was raised a Buddhist. She really did not care much for any religion. The Muslim community took off Fridays for religious service. For William to work on Friday and be off on Sunday made it known that he was a Christian.

William learned his duties quickly which pleased Madame Seiko and she knew he was honest with his words and by his actions. All her other employees were Muslims and they took off on Friday while William worked. They did not complain about that, but his trouble began when he took off from work on Sunday.

While the other farm workers were preparing for another day of work, William quietly walked two miles to the train station. He was happy to go to church in Cairo and see his friends again. Singing songs of praise to his Lord and Saviour refreshed his soul and prepared him for the tests that were to come the next day.

It was dark when he came back to the compound where his room was located. He tumbled into bed tired but happy. The next morning as he went to get his tools from the barn, the other farm workers hissed at him: "Kafir!" Each said this to him as he passed by. William knew the Arabic word meant, "infidel," who was someone to be stoned to death because he was a Muslim traitor.

William felt his face flush warm but he kept his pace, preparing for work.

"You are a lazy dog, Kafir," one man yelled at him from across the barn. "You refuse to work like a man on Sunday, and instead you go to wallow in your filthy idolatry."

William was quiet on the outside, but he silently prayed to God for protection. These men were big and strong and there were plenty of sharp farm tools within easy reach. He remembered his choice to use the Bible instead of the Axe.

Another farmhand came near William and spat on him. "Who do

you think you are? You take a job that should have belonged to one of us, and then you go lie around with those Western devils while we do your work."

Without a word, William began to walk backwards toward the barn door. He dared not turn his back on these two big angry men as they moved toward him.

"William! Where are you!" demanded the voice of Madame Seiko.

Hearing the boss's voice, the farm workers stepped back into the dark barn as William stepped outside into the bright sunlight.

"There you are, William!" she said cheerfully. "See my new tractor!" she was standing beside a shiny new green American brand tractor. "I want you to learn how to run this important piece of equipment because you know how to read the English manual," she said.

"Yes, ma'am!" exclaimed William. Eagerly he climbed up on the powerful tractor and opened up the manual. In his heart, he knew God was protecting him from working side by side with the other farm workers who were now angry at him for being a Christian. Thank you, Lord, for protection today. Please continue to protect me from evil while I am here, he prayed.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. Who did the leaders take Jesus to?
2. What did Jesus do when hearing the testimonies?
3. What did Pilate think about Jesus?
4. What choice did Pilate give the crowd?
5. What did Pilate's wife tell him?
6. Who did the crowd choose?
7. What did the crowd say to do with Jesus?
8. Why did Pilate wash his hands?

**Answers:** 1. The governor, Pontius Pilate. 2. Stood silently. 3. He was innocent. 4. To free Jesus or Barabbas. 5. She had a dream about Jesus. 6. Barabbas. 7. Crucify Him. 8. To prove he wasn't the guilty one in Jesus' death.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 Nov. 27, 2011

## Thanksgiving

"Praise the Lord! Give thanks to the Lord, because He is good. His mercy endures forever." When should we give thanks?

One day, when those following Jesus were tired and hungry, a boy offered to share his loaves and fish with the crowd. Jesus offered a prayer of thanks to God before he ate. At Jesus' last supper with the disciples, He gave thanks before He broke the bread. Jesus left us an example, giving thanks before eating a meal.

As Jesus was traveling to Jerusalem, He was met by ten lepers. "Have mercy on us," they cried. "Go, show yourselves unto the priests," Jesus instructed them. As they went, they realized they were healed. How happy they were! One of them, a Samaritan, returned to Jesus, singing his praises with a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus feet in worship. "Thank you," he told Jesus. "Weren't there ten of you?" Jesus asked. "Where are the other nine? Rise and go. Your faith has made you whole." Don't ever forget to thank the Lord when He answers our prayers!

There are many other verses that tell us when we should be thankful. One of them says that we should offer praise continually, giving thanks to His name. Another says, "In every thing, give thanks, for this is the will of God concerning you." So we should give thanks, even during bad times.

Other verses tell us why we should be thankful. We should be thankful for victory through Jesus Christ. We should be thankful for God's indescribable gift, the gift of His Son.

—Monica Murphey

## **Matching**

### **Match the verse to the verse's reference.**

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

1 Corinthians 15:57

"...I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth."

Psalms 44:8

"But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Thessolonians 5:18

"In God we boast all the day long, and praise thy name for ever. Selah."

Hebrews 13:15

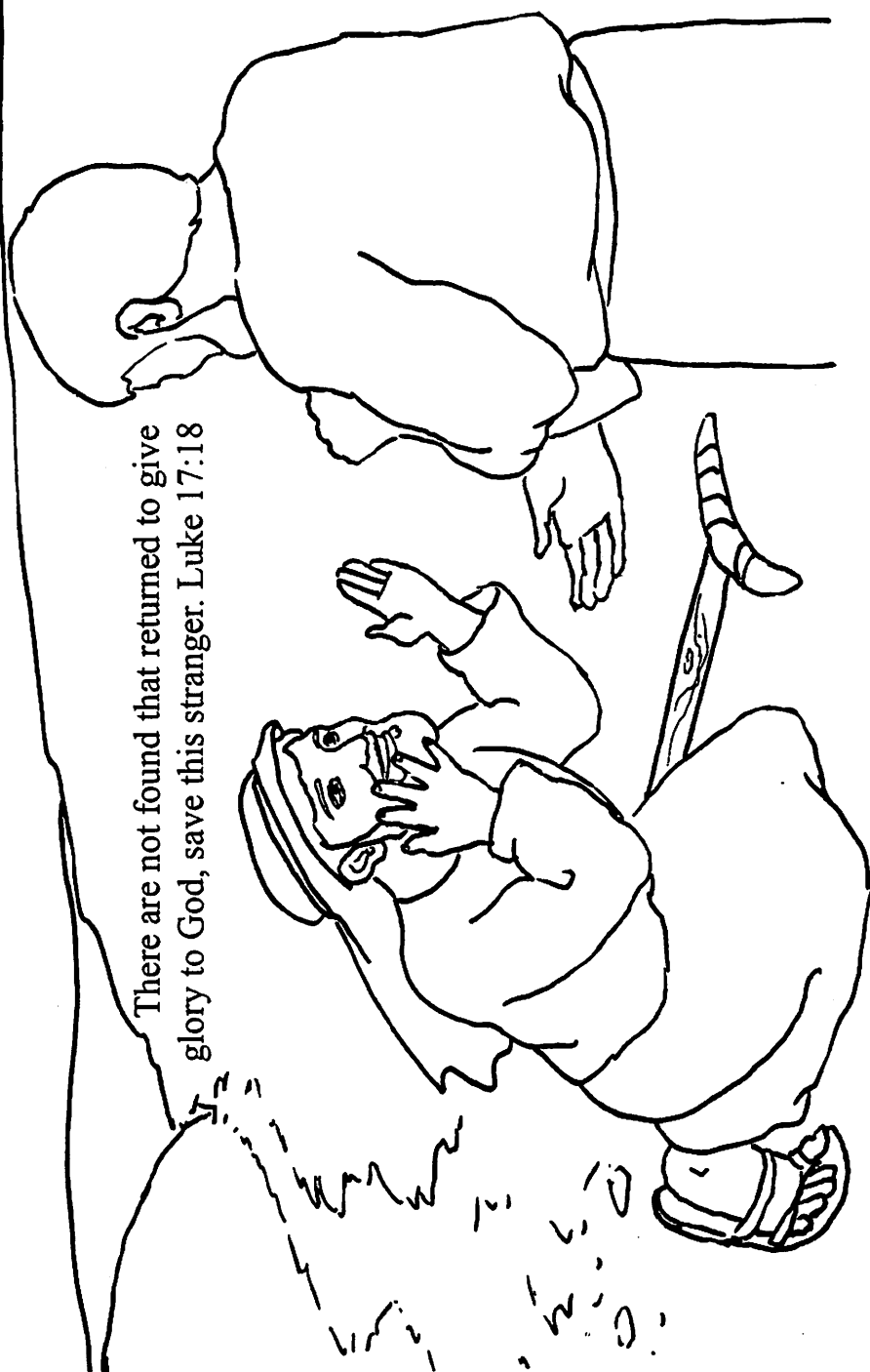
"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;"

Psalms 34:1

"By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name."

Ephesians 5:20

There are not found that returned to give  
glory to God, save this stranger. Luke 17:18



## Praying for Grace and Mercy

(Continued)

William spent Monday learning to use the new tractor that Madame Seiko was very proud to own. He was careful to read the instructions and soon understood the levers, gauges and switches to run the tractor and plow properly. He put the rig in gear and felt the rumble of the machinery vibrating up through his hands. This thrilled him. He threw the gearshift into drive and took off toward the fields.

Not ever driving a tractor before, William did a good job of tilling the fields with neat rows. He prayed to the Lord as He plowed, asking for protection and wisdom on his new job at the farm. He knew it was only the Lord's mercy that he was not harmed that day.

Madame Seiko was very pleased with his work, which caused the other farm workers to be jealous of William. He kept quiet during supper time, and quickly retired to his room and bed.

Alone in his room, William opened up his Bible and read about Jesus Who was not accepted by others either. Softly he sang a song to the Lord, and then he prayed. "Father, I know that these men are not my enemy. My true enemy is Satan. Please give me the strength to be a witness for You to these men. I know that You love them. Help me to never return evil for evil, so that You will be honored. Amen."

Then William stretched out on his cot to sleep. He knew he needed God's grace to be kind to these men who hated him because he loved Jesus. He desired to show them the love of God in spite of the fact that they would be willing to harm him.

All that week, William took every chance he had to show the other farm hands that he liked them and was not lazy. Some of the workers thanked him gruffly. He could not speak their Arabic language very well, but he was trying to learn it better.

Then Friday came and William

knew his faith would be tested. While the Muslim farm hands went to pray at the mosque, William worked on the tractor. When they came back, they were angry and came to him as he sat on the tractor. The same man who had nearly hit him in the barn stood beside the tractor, glaring up at him.

"There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet. Do you believe this? Do you?"

William knew he would not give the answer that this man wanted so he turned the key in the tractor. The motor rumbled to life and he drove it carefully through the men and toward the field. Above the roar of the tractor, he could hear the men shouting at him.

"You pig!"

"Blasphemer!"

"Dog! Infidel!"

William felt a flush of warmth flow over his body. Silently, he prayed. Why, Lord, are they so hateful to me when I have only shown them kindness this week? Please give me grace and protection! I must have your help!

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. Give thanks to the Lord, because \_\_\_\_\_.
2. What example did Jesus leave of giving thanks?
3. Who remembered to thank Jesus?
4. When should we give thanks?
5. In \_\_\_\_\_ give thanks.
6. We should offer praise \_\_\_\_\_.
7. We should be thankful for the \_\_\_\_\_ through Christ.
8. What is God's indescribable gift?

**Answers:** 1. He is good. 2. Thanking God before he ate. 3. One of the lepers. 4. Answers will vary. 5. Everything. 6. Continually. 7. Victory. 8. His Son.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 Dec. 4, 2011

## Blood Money

Judas Iscariot brought the angry mob of people to Gethsemane to arrest Jesus. He had taken thirty pieces of silver to show the religious leaders where Jesus was. He had betrayed Jesus with a kiss. Now Judas watched as Jesus was arrested. He saw how violent the crowd was. Suddenly he knew there was no hope for Jesus to be acquitted.

Judas was very sorry for what he had done. He seized the thirty silver coins and went to the high priest. "I have committed a terrible sin," Judas told them. "I put an innocent man into your hands." "That doesn't matter to us," they informed Judas. "It was your responsibility." Judas threw down the coins. Then he went away and hung himself.

The chief priests fingered the money Judas had left. "It is against the law to put this in the treasury," they decided. "This money was bought with another man's blood." They ended up purchasing a field with the money. The field was used to bury unknown bodies. From that day on the Jews called it "Aceldama"—The Field of Blood.

After Pilate gave Jesus over to the religious leaders to be crucified, Pilate's soldiers took Jesus to the Praetorian. All of the soldiers gathered round. They took Jesus' clothes and put a purple robe on him. They formed a crown out of thorns and placed it on his head. They gave him a staff to hold. The soldiers knelt down in front of Jesus. "Look, it is the king of the Jews," they mocked. They struck him in the face and spit on him.

Once more, Pilate defended Jesus. "I find no fault in this man," he said. Then Jesus came out wearing the purple robe and crown of thorns. "Here is the man," Pilate said. "Crucify! Crucify!" the people roared. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. A cross had been prepared. The soldiers placed the heavy cross on Jesus' back, and he began the long walk to Golgotha.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

## Hidden Bible Verse

Make a slash over all of the J's, K's, and X's. Write down the letters that are left to find out what the verse is.

FXKORJTJJHKJEPXKJREJAKCXHIKNJGXOXJFKTHXEX  
CKJROXSKSJISTJJOKCTXHEKMTJHXATKJPEJRXKISXX  
HFKJOXOJLJISXHNXEJSKSBXUJTUJNXTJOXUSWJX  
HIJCKHKAJRXESJAXVJEJDXITJISXTKJHKXEKPJOXK  
WJEKRJOXFGJKOXD

[illegible]

What do you think this verse means?

*"...they bowed the knee  
before him,  
and mocked him, saying,  
Hail, King of the Jews!"  
Matthew 27:29*





## A Smooth Talking Tempter

(Continued)

In his room alone William remembered the words of Jesus: "I will never leave you nor forsake you." But at that moment, he felt very much alone. He missed his family and the little church in Corom, Sudan, but he knew he could not go back there. The news on the radio about Sudan was not good. Villages were being attacked and burned to the ground.

William was concerned for his family's safety but he had no way of contacting them. There was not any electric where his parents lived and no phone service. Night after night he cried for God's mercy on them all. His comfort was the Word of God and the voice of the Holy Spirit talking to his heart. No one else encouraged him.

The rough Muslim farm hands insulted him all the time but two men who came to the farm to work sometimes were different. They were Muslims also, but they did not insult him. The young man, Nabil, talked with William in Arabic so that William learned how to speak better.

"William," began Nabil, grasping his shoulders, "why do you refuse to accept Muhammad and worship the man, Issa. Allah will punish you for worshipping a man!"

"It is wrong to worship men," agreed William, "but Issa (Jesus) was not a mere man. He is the Messiah, the Anointed One, the Son of God. He was with God who created the heavens and the earth, but He came to this world to save man from his errors or wicked deeds."

"Ah," Nabil shook his head. "You have been brainwashed by the Europeans and the Americans! You should accept the true religion of our people—Islam!"

"My people are the Hebrews," William corrected him. "My father traces his family lineage to Levi, a son of Israel. My surname is Levi. My family accepted the Messiah, Jesus Christ, and we have worshiped him for generations. My family heritage goes much farther back than Muhammad."

Nabil looked around quickly and nervously. "You must not blaspheme against the great prophet! You could

be harmed—even killed—for such bad talk!"

William was silent. He could see that Nabil was not willing to understand the Truth and William wasn't going to worship any other god.

"Let us try to be friends even though we don't agree," he said to Nabil, but his young friend insisted on talking about Islam most of the time they were together. William felt like Satan was tempting him through the smooth, friendly talk of this co-worker. He had no desire to forsake the Lord, but the daily pressure was wearisome.

The battle raged in his mind. If you will just agree with him, you will get him to hush up, whispered Satan. No one will know and it will relieve this pressure.

Then the soft voice said, You can not agree with him and lie. Remember one lie leads to another sin, and you will displease the Lord who is your only true Friend.

Oh, Lord, I need wisdom and strength! cried William in his mind.

William had been faithful to the Lord this far. He just could not forsake Jesus who had died for his sins. Jesus was his best Friend who had helped him so much in his life.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. Why did Judas change his mind about betraying Jesus?
2. What did Judas try to give the chief priests?
3. Why couldn't the chief priests put it in the treasury?
4. What happened to Judas?
5. What happened to the money?
6. How did the soldiers clothe Jesus?
7. What did the crowd say when Jesus came out?
8. What did the soldiers make Jesus carry?

**Answers:** 1. He knew Jesus would die. 2. The thirty pieces of silver. 3. It was blood money. 4. He hung himself. 5. The priests bought a cemetery with it. 6. In a purple robe, a crown of thorns. 7. "Crucify!" 8. A cross.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 61, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 Dec. 11, 2011

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## The Crucifixion

Pilate's soldiers put a heavy wooden cross on Jesus' back to carry. Now they are walking with Jesus to Golgotha. Golgotha means the Place of the Skull. A large crowd of people are following. Many women and children who are Jesus' followers are mourning. The cross becomes heavy on Jesus' shoulders. He stumbles. The soldiers spot a man watching the procession. "You, there," the soldiers shout to Simon. "Come carry this cross!"

Finally they reach the hill. Two others are being crucified with Jesus. They are both thieves. The soldiers nail the two criminals to their crosses. They nail Jesus hands and feet to his cross. Pilate writes a sign to place over Jesus head. "This is the King of the Jews." "Do not write King of the Jews," the chief priests protest. "Write this man claims to be King of the Jews." "What I have written, I have written," Pilate insists. The soldiers gamble to win Jesus robe. "Father, forgive them, for they do not realize what they are doing," Jesus prays.

People passing by the cross shake their heads and hurl insults at Jesus. "If you are the son of God, come down from the cross," they mock. The religious leaders also make fun of him. "Jesus could save others, but he couldn't save himself," they laugh. "If he comes down off of that cross, we will believe in Him. He trusts in God; let God save Him!"

Jesus is hanging in the middle of the two criminals. One of them hears the others and asks the same question. "Aren't you the Christ?" he asks insultingly. "Save yourself and us." The other criminal rebukes him. "Do you not fear God? We are being punished for crimes we committed, but this man hasn't done anything wrong. Jesus, remember me when you arrive in your Kingdom." "Today you will be with me in Paradise," Jesus replies.

It is now the sixth hour. The sun stops shining. The land is covered in darkness.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

## **The Crucifixion Word Search**

Each of the following words can be found in the lines below. Search for one word on each line. Circle the word that you find.

<b>CROSS,</b>	<b>PILATE,</b>	<b>GOLGOTHA,</b>	<b>SKULL,</b>
<b>GAMBLE,</b>	<b>JESUS,</b>	<b>ROBE,</b>	<b>CRIMINALS,</b>
<b>SOLDIERS,</b>	<b>PRIESTS,</b>	<b>INSULTS,</b>	<b>DARKNESS</b>

1. S T R J E S U S M

2. H P I L A T E X L

3. T G O R O B E P D

4. H J D A R K N E S S

5. L M N C R O S S D G

6. W D S O L D I E R S

7. S K S K U L L L L M


8. P I N G A M B L E M

9. G O L G O T H A D X

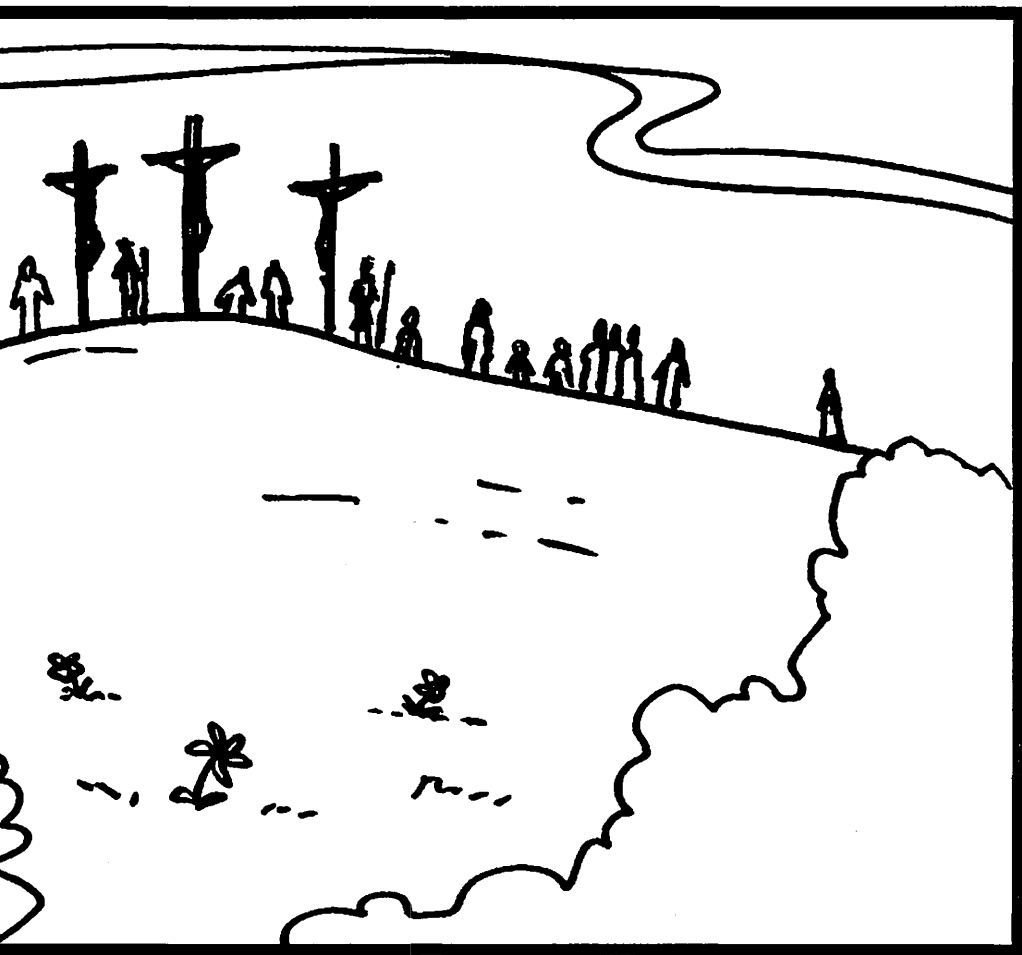
10. B I M P R I E S T S O

11. D C C R I M I N A L S

12. Y R I N S U L T S



*"...two thieves  
crucified with  
him, one on  
the right hand,  
and another  
on the left."  
Matthew 27:38*



## Staying with the Bible

(Continued)

William was finding it more difficult every day to live for the Lord Jesus Christ on Madame Seiko's farm. The rough farm hands called him names and treated him rudely. Nabil was nicer, but he spoke constantly about Islam and how William must become a Muslim to please Allah.

Then there was Saide, a wealthy neighbor living near Madame Seiko's farm. He came to help with the dairy cows and he noticed William as a hard worker.

One day he said to William, "You are a hard worker and Madame Seiko likes your work. Why do you insist on being a kafir and blaspheme Allah? You could be happy here if you would forsake Issa."

William carefully chose his words. "I can't reject my faith in Jesus Christ," he said calmly. "He is everything to me now and He will give me everlasting life in eternity."

Saide laughed. "Allah will take care of you if you follow the Koran. He will take away your misery here, too."

Then Saide leaned over William who was working on a farm tool. "I have a good plan for you, my boy," he said. "I have a beautiful daughter who is only seventeen. If you will become Muslim, she can be your wife. You could have children and a good life. I will give you a car for your wedding gift. If life becomes difficult on this farm, you could live with us in Fayum, my home town in southwestern Egypt. What do you say?"

William sighed. He was so weary with all the pressure. Should he just give up his faith in Jesus Christ and yield to this nice man? He really did not know him very well, but the idea of getting married, being accepted into a family who farmed, having a car—it all sounded peaceful and happy.

Then he remembered the story of Esau and Jacob. Esau had sold his birthright for a little bowl of beans. How foolish of Esau to be so desperate to think he was going to die before he would eat another meal! William did not want to be foolish like Esau and sell out to the enemy.

He squared his shoulders and quietly said, "No, Saide, I cannot forsake Jesus." Saide walked away shaking his head as if William was a fool.

That day William's heart ached for his father and mother and his ears rang with the insults from the rough hired hands. He was so unhappy that he did not notice the farm hands were surrounding him after supper.

"Let's get the dog that has become Madame Seiko's little pet," snarled one man.

"Yeah, she lets him ride on the tractor and take Sundays off," growled another.

Suddenly William felt punches on his chest and back, then face and neck. William tried to escape, but he was surrounded as the punches fell on him. The men intended on taking his life, but God somehow freed him and he ran to his room.

There in the dark lying across his cot, William cried out to God for help both for his body and soul. He wanted to remain faithful to God and Jesus Christ, but his strength was so small. Then he thought of his father and mother praying for him. He remembered the promise he had made to Grandfather Vuni to always take the Bible way and not fight his way with an axe or weapon. He slept a painful sleep.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. Why did Simon carry Jesus' cross?
2. What does Golgotha mean?
3. Who else is being crucified with Jesus?
4. What does Pilate write on the sign?
5. Who protests?
6. What happens to Jesus robe?
7. How do the two other thieves feel about Jesus?
8. What happens to the sun?

**Answers:** 1. It was causing Jesus to stumble. 2. The Place of the Skull. 3. Two criminals. 4. "This is the King of the Jews." 5. The chief priests. 6. The soldiers gamble for it. 7. One insults him, the other asks to be remembered. 8. It stops shining.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 Dec. 18, 2011

## Jesus' Death

It is the sixth hour. The sun has stopped shining. Darkness is covering the land. Jesus is hanging on a cross on a hill called Golgotha. His cross is between two thieves. Religious leaders are calling out insults to Jesus. Soldiers are keeping watch. Some of Jesus followers are watching, also, and mourning. Jesus' mother is standing near the cross. Jesus sees her. He also sees John standing close by. "Here is your son," Jesus tells his mother. From then on, the disciple John lovingly cared for Jesus' mother.

At the ninth hour, Jesus cries out, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" This means, "My God, My God, why are you forsaking me?" "He is calling to Elijah," some of the spectators think. "I am thirsty," Jesus says. Someone brings him a sponge dipped in wine vinegar. They put the sponge at the end of a long stick and hold it to Jesus' lips. Jesus takes a drink. "Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit," Jesus cries with a loud voice. "It is finished." After saying this, Jesus breathes his last breath.

The earth shook. The curtain in the temple tore in two from top to bottom. Rocks split into pieces. A centurion and several others were standing around the cross guarding Jesus. When they saw everything that had happened, they were terrified. "Surely this man was the son of God," the centurion said. The earth was dark for three hours during Jesus' crucifixion.

It was the day before the Sabbath. Because of their laws, they could not take the criminals down from the crosses on the Sabbath day. Many times criminals would hang on crosses for days before they died. The Jews requested that the legs of the criminals be broken and their bodies taken down. The soldiers came and broke the legs of the other two criminals. When they came to Jesus, they saw he was already dead. One of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with his sword. Blood gushed out of the wound. While the disciple John watched, he remembered the prophecy from the scriptures that read, "None of his bones will be broken." Another scripture said, "They will look on him that they pierced." —Sis. Monica Murphey

## **Matching:**

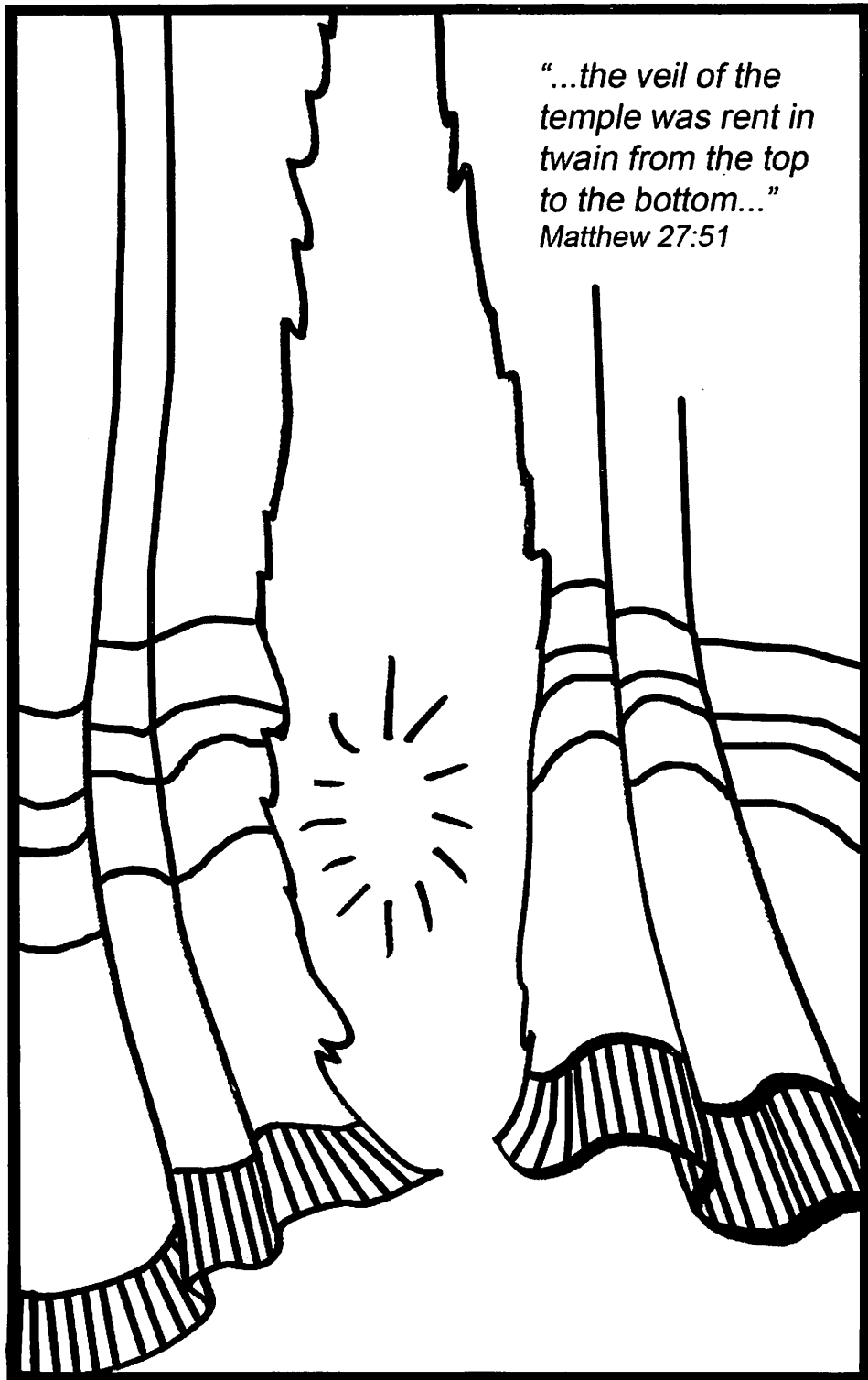
### **Review of Jesus' Last Days**

Draw a line from the word to the description of the word.

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. Judas Iscariot   | A. Peter heard this after he denied Christ.     |
| 2. Golgotha         | B. He carried Jesus' cross.                     |
| 3. Thirty           | C. He felt sorry for betraying Jesus            |
| 4. Rooster          | D. Peter cut this off of a soldier.             |
| 5. Gethsemane       | E. Jesus asked his disciples to watch and_____. |
| 6. Pray             | F. Soldiers put this on Jesus' head.            |
| 7. Pilate           | G. "The Place of the Skull."                    |
| 8. Field of Blood   | H. The place Jesus was arrested.                |
| 9. Barabbas         | I. "Surely, this man was the Son of God."       |
| 10. Passover        | K. The amount of coins Judas got.               |
| 11. Ear             | L. The holiday Jesus celebrated.                |
| 12. Crown of Thorns | M. Made a sign, "This is King of the Jews.      |
| 13. Centurion       | N. Was set free instead of Jesus.               |
| 14. Simon           | O. Was bought with "blood money."               |



*“...the veil of the  
temple was rent in  
twain from the top  
to the bottom...”  
Matthew 27:51*



## Stranger in White

(Continued)

After saying NO to Saide's marriage offer and after the farm hands had beaten him, William felt more alone and miserable than ever. Madame Seiko continued to show him favor and kept her promise that he could go to Cairo for Sunday church with his friends. On the train ride this Sunday, he prayed silently, Lord Jesus, you were born in a lowly stable and King Herod wanted to end your life before you were very old. Your parents took you to Egypt for safety, the same place you have lead me. Please open up a way for me to escape before I die in Egypt.

The worship service at the chapel ended too soon. William felt sick in his stomach as he climbed down from the train to walk the two miles back to the farm. The night was pitch black and he felt tired in body and in spirit.

He walked along the edge of a canal built to guide little rivers of water to the farmland below. With every step his feet seemed heavier until at last his body felt too heavy for his legs to move. He sank to his knees, tears flowing down his cheeks like little rivers.

"Why, God? Why have You left me here all alone? I need You to help me so badly! Please, God, help me!"

Then his ears heard footsteps. He caught his breath—someone had heard him and probably saw him! In fear William looked about him. He saw a man dressed in simple white walking toward him. A Muslim farmer! William had no place to hide so he calmed himself as he knelt there, wondering what the man would say.

The man in white stopped a few feet from William. "Why are you crying?" he asked politely.

At first William did not want to answer. Then he just blurted out the truth. "I am praying. I feel like God has forsaken me and my people. I would rather die than to keep living like this."

With a quiet manner, the man

looked at William. He said, "Why don't you go to the mosque to pray?"

William gasp. Maybe he had said too much but the man probably couldn't inflict much more pain than he already felt. He took a deep breath and replied, "I do not go to the mosque. I worship the God of Abraham. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son. Jesus can hear me pray wherever I am because my body is His temple."

William was surprised when the man smiled. "You have answered correctly," he replied calmly. "Don't be afraid; get up! The Lord is with you; He is closer to you than you think!"

William blinked his eyes as he felt strength come into his legs and body. The man continued, "Nothing will harm you, and the Lord will be with you wherever you go."

William stood up, staring in amazement at the man and at the strength he felt come into his body. "Go now," commanded the man and William began to walk. He reached his room in quick time and slept peacefully all night.

Never again did William meet that stranger who gave him such encouraging words.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. Who does Jesus see by the cross?
2. What does Jesus tell John?
3. What did Jesus cry at the ninth hour?
4. What do they bring him?
5. What were Jesus' last words?
6. What happened to the curtain in the temple?
7. What did the centurion think?
8. What prophecies were fulfilled?

**Answers:** 1. His mother & John. 2. Here is your mother. 3. Why are you forsaking me? 4. A sponge dipped in wine vinegar. 5. "It is finished." 6. It tore in two. 7. Jesus was God's son. 8. See paragraph four.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 61, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 Dec. 25, 2011

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## Jesus' Birthday!

Baby Jesus' birth did not take place in a hospital or even in a comfortable room like many children are born in today. Jesus was born in Bethlehem in a barn, which was probably a cave. Instead of having grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers and sisters waiting outside to hear about his birth, Jesus had cattle and sheep surrounding him. In fact, after Jesus was born, his mother didn't have a nice cozy cradle or crib for him. Instead, Mary wrapped Jesus up in a piece of cloth and laid him in a manger filled with hay for the cattle to eat.

Later, several visitors did arrive to see the baby. Some of them were shepherds. While they were watching their sheep, an angel had appeared to them and announced that a baby Savior had been born. The shepherds hurried down to Bethlehem to see the baby.

Jesus had some very important visitors, as well. Three wise men came from very far away, following a strange star that they had spotted in the night sky. The star was hanging right over the place Jesus was staying! The three visitors bowed down and worshipped the baby king and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Many Jewish prophets had predicted things about the coming Messiah. They talked about the town he would be born in, the ancestors the Messiah would descend from, and they even predicted that the Messiah would die for everyone's sins. All of the pieces came together when Jesus was born. Every single prediction made about the Messiah happened in Jesus' life.

Christmas is a time of remembering Jesus' birthday. How thankful we should be that our Savior was willing to come down to be born in a dirty barn and later die for our sins! We can give Jesus a gift, too. A believing, willing heart is what Jesus would like as a Christmas gift from us. —Sis. Monica Murphey

# Jesus' Birth Word Sort

angels

hospital

animals

shepherds

star

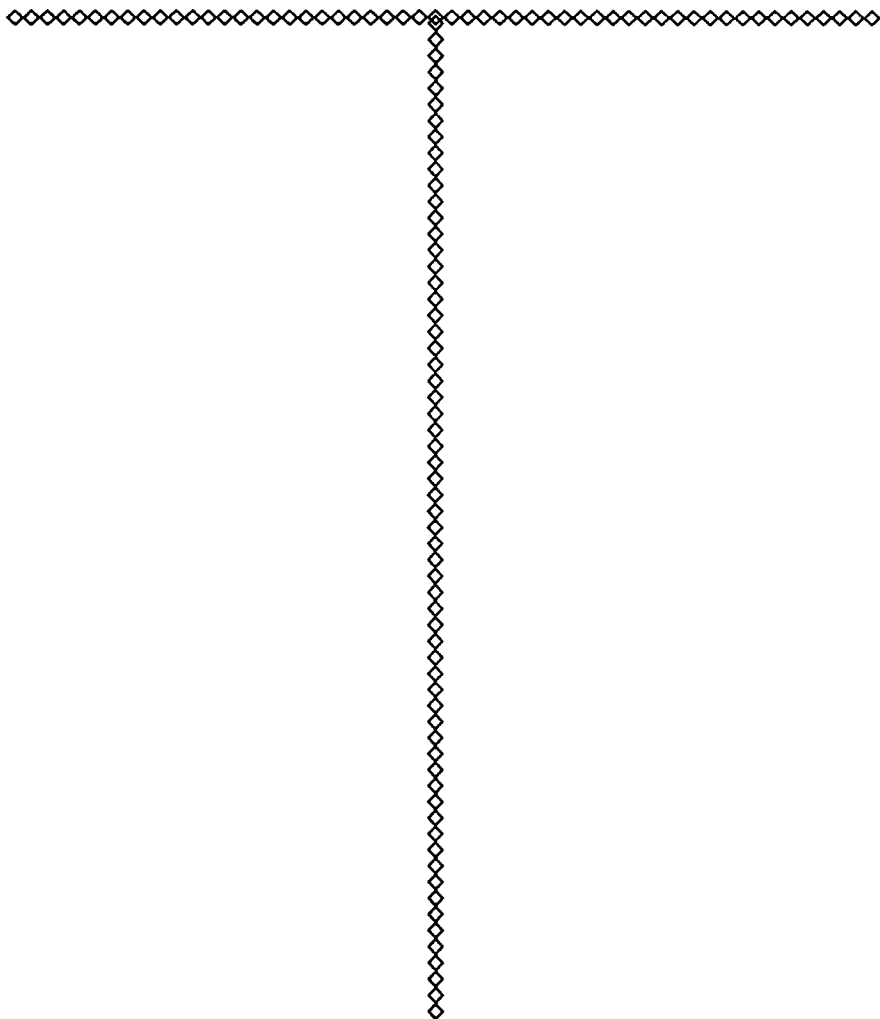
cradle

wise men

teddy bears

## Things found at Jesus' Birth

## Things not found at Jesus' Birth



*"...she...  
wrapped him  
in...clothes, and  
laid him in a manger..."*  
Luke 2:7



## Gifts of Blessings from God

(Continued)

The man in white on an Egyptian canal had given William the gift of hope and renewed trust in God. He knew the Lord would care for him but how, he was not sure.

William told Madame Seiko that it was time for him to leave. She was sad to say good-bye to her best farm worker, but maybe she realized he could not live there any more. He left with a little money in his pocket, but he needed much more in order to buy an airline ticket to the United States.

William took the train to Alexandria, an ancient city of trade beside the Mediterranean Sea. There was work available unloading ships, but competition was heavy among the workers. William was not rude and aggressive in pushing others aside so he often did not get as much work and pay.

Then the Lord blessed him with the gift of friendship—a young Sudanese Christian named Steven. Together they worked for a kind Irish-British man who needed help wiring a high-rise building for electricity. The man paid them with American dollars which was another gift to William.

The young men rented a modest apartment and soon William was having Bible studies in the evenings. He invited men from Ghana, Congo, Ethiopia and many other African nations. He spoke Arabic, English, and dialects of other tongues so that they could understand more about the Bible. This was a growing time for William, and though he was tired from the daily work, he was glad to use his gift of teaching to bless the Lord.

After a few months of work and savings, William and Steven had enough money to buy airline tickets to the United States. However, they found out they need visas to leave Egypt. The authorities told them they had to get permission from the Sudanese government before any visa would be given them. Besides one visa cost three thousand dollars! More money than William had ever seen!

At the train station in Cairo, the young men slowly walked among the tourists, discouraged at what they were told. Suddenly, Steven jabbed William with his elbow. "Look over there!" he exclaimed, pointing to a tall man with English words on the back of his shirt: JEUS IS LORD! they read.

"I'd say that man is an American! Maybe he can help us!" said Steven.

"Oh, I don't know," William paused. "He doesn't even know us!"

"Let's ask him any way!" insisted Steven tugging at William's arm.

It turned out that the man named Michael was an American Christian headed for Turkey. He helped the boys get a visa to go with him into Turkey where it would be easier for them to get a visa to the United States.

William was awe-struck when he realized he was really in an airplane flying through the air to Istanbul, Turkey. In the last few months, the Lord had given him work, a place to stay, Bible study lessons to teach, and two new Christian friends. He was so thankful he had stayed true to God during the days of testing on Madame Seiko's farm. Now he was eager to press forward and see what new gifts the Lord had prepared for him to open.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. Where was Jesus born?
2. What city was Jesus born in?
3. Where did Mary lay Jesus?
4. Who told the shepherds about Jesus?
5. What did the wise men follow?
6. What did the wise men bring Jesus?
7. Who predicted things about the Messiah?
8. What should we remember at Christmas?

**Answers:** 1. A barn/stable/cave. 2. Bethlehem. 3. A manger. 4. Angels. 5. A star. 6. Gifts. 7. Prophets. 8. Jesus birthday.