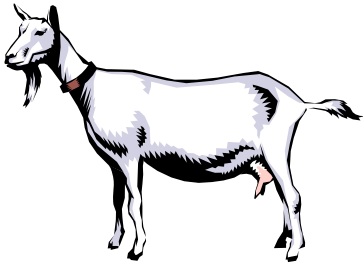


TEMKIT FOR CHILDREN

TEMKIT'S MISSION:

To provide Bible based, true reading material for children and youth.

Year 1 - 2nd Quarter - Issue #7



CREATION CORNER

“SHEEP and GOATS”

We have talked about the animal symbol for our race; sheep. Later we will talk about the bird symbol Jesus used for humans; sparrows. With each symbol that Jesus chose it was because the bird or the animal needed His love, not that it deserved His love.

After sparrows and sheep, there is a third nature symbol used for people in the Bible- goats. This symbol is used together with sheep, but opposite to sheep. The sheep and the goats are together, but God separates them. “Jacob have I loved,” He once said, “but Esau have I hated.” We wouldn’t think that way; We would have loved the goats-and Esau. Goats have many better qualities. They are smarter. “Silly sheep” is a name that is true.

A wise sheep herder, in wolf country, will run a few goats with his sheep; because when the killers appear, the goats will bunch, the sheep will follow their example and crowd around them, and the wolves are not able to scatter the sheep and later kill them one by one.

As far as this world is concerned, Esau was a person far more to be admired than Jacob. He was a bold hunter always out for adventure. He

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was what we would call a real he-man a hero type. Give him the open field, a fast horse, a band of bold men to ride behind him, and he’d show a thing or two to that sneaky sissy Jacob, hanging around his mother’s kitchen. Anybody with half an eye could see that Esau was more of a bold leader than Jacob was. And that was a nasty trick his mother and brother had played on him. So he and his friends thought.

The difference was that God saw him, not with the half eye of human admiration, but with the Eye that read his heart. Why was it that God loved Jacob and turned away from Esau? It was only because Jacob needed and wanted God’s love.

Esau needed it too, but he didn’t want it, not until after he had carelessly thrown it away. So the silly, helpless sheep need the shepherd’s loving care, and they return love for love.

God loved Jacob and Jacob loved God. God loved Esau and Esau loved Esau too. So God withdrew His love from Esau; and He said to the goats on His left hand, “Depart!” = ^ .. ^ =

HISTORY

The Christian Church: part 10 The Light in Bohemia

Our story takes us now into the country of Bohemia. There the true gospel had come as early as the 800s and the Bible translated and preached in the language of the people. But as the power of the pope increased soon this was forbidden. The pope said that God was pleased to have His service in a language the people could not understand. The real reason for this is that as soon as people begin to know even bits of the Bible they could see that the pope, priests and bishops were doing wrong.

Many were burned at the stake for the love of God's word and we will surely meet them in heaven if we are faithful. As one man died he prophesied that a man would come from the common people and expose the errors of the church.

John Huss was born of poor parents. When he was still young his father died leaving his mother a widow. His mother loved God and taught her son the same. She also wanted him to have an education. Huss studied hard at the local school and then was accepted in Prague University as a charity student. As he parted from his mother on the way to Prague she knelt and asked God to bless her son.

He worked hard and did well at school. He was a strong believer in the Roman church and once gave his last bit of money so he could march in a procession and thus, so he thought, receive a blessing. He became a priest and did so well in his learning that he became famous and soon had a job in the court of the king.

He was made preacher in the Chapel of Bethlehem in Prague. Now in this church the teaching of the Bible in the language of the people was still practiced. Huss preached strongly against wickedness and vice. (Bad habits)

Remember that in our story of Wycliffe we learned that two popes were claiming the throne at the same time? Well by this time there were three. The war of the popes against each other was causing terrible trouble to Europe.

In Prague, Huss met Jerome who had spent time in England and had the writings of Wycliffe and believed his teachings. The Queen of England was at this time a Bohemian princess and she

was a follower of Wycliffe. She helped to spread his writings among the people.

At first Huss did not fully agree with Jerome's stand but as he saw more and learned more there came a time when he had to realize that Rome was corrupt. About this time two strangers from England appeared in the city and preached until they were stopped by the authorities. Then they went down to a public place and did a strange and beautiful thing.

They were artists and they drew two large pictures. One showed Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey, His disciples plain and travel worn. The other showed the Pope in all his splendour on a fancy horse with rich clothes and gold and jewels, surrounded by soldiers and rich people. The people looked at the pictures and could see a message clearly. Jesus the King of Heaven came as a servant, while the one who claimed to be Jesus' servant came as a king!

Huss saw the picture too and even though the two men soon had to flee for their lives, many people never forgot the lesson. = ^ .. ^ =

TRUE-STORY-TIME

"NO DEVIL STRINGS" part 5 The Old Ways

Old Tatangu lay bedridden in his hut. Nobody knew his real age, for written records did not exist when he was born. In those days the village elders handed down events by word of mouth to the next generation-the years good and bad, victories and defeats, births and deaths. And when memory faded, legend took over, telling of the gallant exploits of tribal ancestors. These were men so mighty that the people believed they lived on as savage spirits, haunting and hunting in the world of demons.

Now with weak limbs, frail body, and fading vision, Tatangu thought of the battles he had fought and the heads he had taken. He thought of the sacrifices he had made to the spirit-gods in the sacred groves, but, he wondered, what had the demons ever done for him? He had fled as a fugitive and had hidden in the swamps and known fear, but the old spirits had not brought the peace which he now saw in his islands nor the peace he felt in his heart.

Chief Tatangu had seen more seasons than he could count; he knew now that no longer would

he climb the hill of the sacred skulls or take a gift for the spirits.

His faithful wife had borne him ten children, and he felt satisfied. Was not Peo the missionary's right-hand man, and Rangoso a respected school-teacher? Could a chief ask for more honor? And the younger ones did well at their studies.

Tatangu was respected among the traders, missionaries, and government officials for his honesty and good judgment. But one day, as Tatangu had walked into a trader's store to look over some merchandise, he was accused of trying to steal. He drew himself up straight and in a chiefly tone pronounced. "I am not a thief-I am Tatangu." He then walked out of the store, and he and his tribe did no more business there until the trader apologized.

Tatangu had accepted the way of the mission for his family and had encouraged them to follow the teachings of the Bible, but he was never baptized as a Christian. But Pana says that Tatangu "believed" and in his latter years lived an upright life.

During these years he guided his actions by a sense of right and justice, and these principles he instilled in his sons, who became the mainstay of the mission. He also influenced the people of his village to give up their secret practices.

Missionaries, who arrived in the Solomon Islands during this early period, living and working under tropical conditions, were greatly helped by the friendliness of Tatangu and his people. Mission houses were makeshift and lacked such luxuries as electricity and refrigeration. Communications were slow, and food supplies often ran very low. Medicine was limited, severe bouts of malaria and other tropical ills hampered the pioneers in their work. But what the missionaries lacked, the villagers often tried to provide as best they could, not always understanding that the tools and supplies so useful to them were often strange and of not much help to the missionaries.

This helpfulness among Tatangu's people and other tribes was a miracle of God's grace when we think that only a few years before they were cruel cannibals. G. F. Jones once wrote: "It is not long since these natives massacred some white people. ...There is not a man that we saw who is not a murderer. ...Human sacrifice has been a common thing among these people."

Kata Rangoso once told of habits of his people prior to the coming of the missionary: "The warriors would assemble; then the message would come from the spirits through the devil priest. 'It is my desire that you go forth in your canoes to some island where you will find people living in their villages. When you find them, take their heads.'

"The warriors would get their spears, their shields, and their large clubs, and away they would go. They would go with murderous thoughts in their minds. On arrival at the shore of an island they would wait to be first guided by the spirits as to which village to attack.

"Then the warriors would rush forward and kill all with whom they came in contact. As soon as they had slain their victims, they would cut off their heads and rush with them back to their canoes. Sometimes they would get thirty, forty, fifty-up to one hundred heads. They would have to wait for the message from their warrior-priests to know when to stop slaying.

"They would find at times some little children, take them alive in their canoes, and away they would go. As the headhunting party neared their home villages they would blow a certain sound on the conch shell, and the people would know they had been victorious."

When the village people heard the message of the shell, they would come in thousands to the shore to welcome the warriors. Then they would pay special homage to the idols and spirit images which were on the prows of the canoes and which they believed had given them success.

Part of this homage would be to offer a human sacrifice before the images. Describing this sacrifice, Rangoso said: "On the day when the warriors would kill these little captured children, they would put them into their stone ovens and [after cooking] divide the bodies among the men." Some of the captured children would be kept and cared for and offered to the idols later.

"The tribal priest would catch some of the blood, and sprinkle it on the idol and on the ground in front of it. The body would then be lifted up on a wooden cross and waved about in front of the idol, accompanied by weird chanting and incantations.

"When this part of the ceremony was over, the child's body would be wrapped in banana leaves and placed in the hot-stone oven for several hours. A cannibal feast then followed, the people

taking a small piece of flesh and eating it in the belief that extra spiritual power would be transferred to them in this way.”

Tatangu was one of the first of the village chiefs to forbid human sacrifice and this gruesome cannibal ritual. Jugha, who had originally been captured for this purpose, thus escaped death and eventually became a missionary of great courage.

In their early years, Jugha, and Tatangu's eldest sons, Peo and Rangoso, witnessed tragic events which they never forgot. Peo once told the following story to Missionary Wicks:

“Oliver Burns was a white man who traded in Marovo Lagoon when I was a boy before the mission came. He had a piece of land near the village of Nono and had a little store there. He had a trading boat and generally had a boat's crew of six Malaita men, including a cook boy. Burns sailed between the various villages along the shores of the lagoon, trading with the people. “One day as he sailed out of Nono Bay, he was met by a canoe load of Marovo people. He stopped and the people came aboard and traded with him for various items. Then one man asked him for an axe; so he went to his cabin and brought one out. Oliver Burns handed it handle first. The man quickly grabbed it and gave the axe a swing, bringing the sharp blade down on the trader's neck, severing the main vein. Burns died within a few minutes.

This was the signal for the others to kill the boat's crew. Soon they were all killed with the exception of the cook boy, who jumped overboard, dived and swam under water for some distance, thus out-witting the attackers. He was the only one who escaped.”

Peo had been aboard the attacking canoe, not knowing the plans when they left shore, and in horror had seen the tragic death of the trader. The cruel men sailed the boat farther down the lagoon, then they took everything and burned it. This was one of the last incidents of this kind in the Solo- the guilty persons were eventually brought to justice by the government officer.

Wicks later learned the amazing sequel to this event. In 1924, on his first trip to the island of Malaita, he was sailing aboard the mission ship. With him were Kata Rangoso and Pastor and Mrs. Anderson and their four-year-old daughter. The Andersons were on their way to pioneer mission work on the very primitive island.

The second evening out they anchored about four o'clock at the north end of Malaita. Very soon dozens of canoes had tied alongside, and the decks of the mission ship were crowded with people from the nearby villages who had come to see the ship and its passengers.

One island man approached Pastor Wicks and spoke to him in the Morovo language. The missionary stared at the man in surprise. “How did you learn to speak Marovo? Here on Malaita you're a long way from our islands.”

“I used to work in the Marovo district for the trader, Oliver Burns,” he replied. Were you with Oliver Burns when he was murdered?” Pastor Wicks asked.

The man nodded solemnly. “Then you must be the cook boy!” the missionary exclaimed. The Malaita man said he was the cook who had dived overboard to escape the attackers. Pastor Wicks further questioned him.

“How did you get away, and where did you go? You were in enemy territory.”

“I swam to the Tombas,” was the reply.

Pastor Wicks thought of the uninhabited islands to the south of Nono Bay. “Where did you go from there? You could not have lived long in the Tombas. The ones who killed Burns would have found you.”

The man agreed. Then he gave an account of his long swims from island to island to escape enemies-how he had lived on shellfish that he found on the rocks, and how he had traveled long distances at sea by “swimming with the sharks.”

The man continued, “I swam with the sharks again and reached Viru. Here the people helped me get a passage back to Malaita.”

Pastor Wicks shook his head and looked sceptically toward Kata Rangoso, who had been standing nearby. After the crowd had left the ship that evening, Pastor Wicks asked Rangoso, “You heard what that fellow said about swimming with the sharks. What did he mean?”

“Some of the island people, using the power of evil spirits, can call a shark and when it comes to them catch hold of it and guide it to the place they want to go,” Rangoso explained. “In this way they can travel long distances in the sea. The Malaita people have this power, and some of my people could call the sharks to help them. But we do not do this now as it is devil-devil work.”

Then Pastor Wicks remembered the altars of coral rock which he had seen standing in stony silence on the shores of various islands. Many times people had pointed out these rocks to him and explained that before them the people had once performed mysterious rituals and offered sacrifices to the "spirit of the sharks." Now he understood why sacrifices had been offered to the sharks. Mossy with age, the coral altars remained as half-forgotten symbols of a time when the tribes lived in the Twilight Zone of devil worship.

Chief Tatangu came out from this twilight zone and saw a little of the brightness beyond. Before he died, he asked for a Christian burial. In 1920 Pastor Jones buried him in the coral sands. An era had ended.

NOTE- There are many people today who are turning back to what Rangoso called "devil-devil work". The stories about what the missionaries saw and learned in the early days tell us that devil worship is a horrible way of life. Remember that the funny witches and stories like Harry Potter all are leading to the kind of life these old cannibals were so glad to escape from. Dear readers, Rangoso would say to you-stay away from devil-devil work! To be continued: = ^ .. ^ =

ADVENT HISTORY

The Great Advent Movement: Part 7 CAMPMEETING IN ELLEN WHITE'S DAY

Have you ever gone to a real camp meeting? Boys and girls like to go to camp meeting. Maybe you live in a tent or a camper. It is fun to live in a tent! There are many meetings. There are meetings for father and mother. There are meetings for the children. They sing happy songs. They pray to Jesus. They listen to stories of missions.

Would you like to hear about the very first Adventist camp meeting? It was held more than 150 years ago. The people came in wagons pulled by horses and oxen. They came many miles. The people came many miles to attend the first Adventist camp meeting.

They brought their tents and put them up under the trees. They put straw in their tents. On this straw they made their beds. Some of the people

slept in their wagons. The people helped each other to set up and do the work. The children helped too. It was a happy time.

There were no separate meetings for the children. Everyone went to the one meeting. Elder Bates and other ministers preached. Elder and Mrs. White preached, too. They sang many songs. They prayed to Jesus.

After the evening meeting the people went to their tents. When the camp meeting was over, the people took down their tents. They put all their things in the wagons. Again they helped each other and again the children helped too. They said: "We have learned many things. We have learned more about Jesus. We will come to camp meeting again next year."

The boys and girls waved good-bye to their friends as the wagons drove away from the first camp meeting. I wish we could hear those sermons from that very first camp meeting don't you?
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BUILDING FOR JESUS

AFRAID OF JESUS!

Here is a story from when I was a little girl in Scotland. My name is Heather. My father was the pastor of a small church by the sea in Scotland. We had many stormy nights with big waves crashing on the sea wall. One night a siren went off and big fireworks went up and hung in the air all red and fiery. They were the flares from a ship in distress out at sea.

My dad came and got me out of bed and wrapped me up in his big woolly overcoat over my night-clothes and bundled me in the car to go and see what we could see. The siren was to call the lifeboat men to come from the village to the lifeboat station to put the boat to sea, to help the men in trouble on the big boat out in the stormy sea.

It was very exciting for me. Cars arrived from everywhere with men clambering out and running for the lifeboat house, getting into their yellow waterproofs as they ran. The doors of the house opened and the boat slipped down the ramp and into the water with big waves coming up over its bows. We watched it going into the distance for as long as we could see it going up and down into the big waves, but in the choppy sea we soon lost sight of it.

As I was already up, and now very awake, Dad said would I like to go for a short walk by the sea and watch the waves. This was fun! It felt a bit daring and different. There was a wall by the sea to walk on and hold Dad's hand to keep my balance.

Suddenly I looked up and there was a big bright patch in the sky. I went very quiet and my heart began to beat very hard. I climbed off the wall and walked very quite slowly, half hiding behind Dad. He did not seem to notice and was chatting about the waves and the lifeboat and how they worked to save the ships' crews. All at once he realised that I was crying and quite frightened. He asked me what was wrong and I pointed up into the sky. 'Jesus is coming!! I have been a naughty girl and I don't want Him to come. I am not ready for Jesus to come!'

At first Dad tried very hard not to laugh. He told me it was only the moon peeping round the storm clouds. I was usually asleep by this time and did not know the moon as well as he did. But then he realised that I was serious about what I said. Very gently he talked to me and asked me what I was so guilty about. I blurted out lots of things that had been hidden away in my mind and it was only when I saw what I thought was the beginning of the Second Coming of Jesus that I realised just how sinful I was and how much my conscience had been hurting me. I had all these things inside and did not know what to do with them.

He listened to me very kindly and told me how much Jesus loved me and that he wanted me to have a clean heart with no fear in it. He and I said a prayer together by the sea and I told Jesus all that was wrong. I confessed my sins just as Jesus has asked us to and He took all the guilty feelings away. My dad wiped my tears with his big warm handkerchief and gave me a big hug. It was so good and comforting.

By this time the moon was out properly and I could look at it with pleasure. It was a very happy little girl that walked back to the car with a heart at peace, ready to appreciate the things of God's creation.

God loves us as much as my dad loved me. He does not push us away when we have done wrong and have lots of unhappy guilty thoughts in our minds. He asks us to tell him everything and then he will comfort us and make us clean again.

He can take everything away and we can have a new happy start once again. He loves us all so much. It does not matter what we have done or how awful it is. He does not want us to keep it a secret. He just asks us to tell Him in full detail and then He can put it all right. We might have to say sorry to someone else too. That is hard but it makes you feel so much better, whether they listen to you or not.

One day Jesus will come and many people will not want to see Him. They will ask for the rocks and the mountains to fall on them to hide them from His glory. I hope you will be among the ones who will be at peace and happy to see Him. Now is the time to learn what to do about the naughty things you do each day. = ^ .. ^ =



Year 1: 2nd Quarter:
"MESSIAH OUR PRINCE"
WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON 7: "JESUS'
KINGDOM STORIES"

For our Bible lessons we are going to use the King James Version of the Bible. Just like the boys and girls used to use to learn to read from in the pioneer days.

There will be some texts to look up for each day and you should practice your memory verse until you can say it without looking. Don't forget to learn the text too.

MEMORY VERSE: "But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:14

*It is a good idea to read each story from the Bible.
The whole stories follow the texts for each day.*

Sunday

Text: Matthew 13:24 “Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:”

Jesus told this story and many others, to try and help people here on earth to be able to understand God’s kingdom. We are going to look at some of these stories and try and see what He is telling us in each one.

Here we see God as a man who planted only good seeds in his field. Then when his servants were sleeping, an enemy sneaked in and planted weed seeds. As plants began to grow in the garden, the servants saw some that didn’t look right and asked the Master, “Where did these bad plants come from?”

He told them, “An enemy has done this”. You see God made everything perfect in this world, but now we look and see bad, cruel things happening. Many people think that God causes these sad things, but He tells us the truth, it wasn’t Him that did it. He never wanted death and pain to come to His creatures. “The enemy has done it”. When man chose to believe the devil, the doors were opened for every kind of suffering to come.

This story also tells us that the weeds are people, who really belong to Satan’s kingdom mixed with people who have given their hearts to God. When the servants saw this, they asked the Master if they should pull out these weeds. He said ‘No, lest ye pull up the wheat at the same time’. You see, we don’t know for sure if someone we know is wheat or a weed because only God can see his heart.

When plants are small, weeds often look like plants and plants like weeds but when they are bigger then you can tell. At harvest time he said that the reapers would gather the weeds into bundles to be burned and the wheat into His barn. Later Jesus told the disciples that the harvest is the end of the world, and the reapers were the angels.

We are very close to this time and in the world we see people joining up in groups all over. In this way they are gathering up into bundles. The angels are busy in the world trying to guide people

to obey God, and thus be gathered to Him. At the last it will be easy for anyone to see who are the wheat and who are weeds.

Thought - Wheat or weeds, the choice is ours to make to follow Jesus or bundle up with the world.

Monday

Text: Matthew 13:31 “Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:”

Here is another seed story. It tells us that the mustard seed was a very small seed but it later grew into a very large plant, like a small tree. In this story Jesus was telling us that, when we first learn about Jesus and start to follow Him, it seems only a small part of our lives, but later, as we grow to know Him, it becomes the biggest thing in our whole lives.

Also the tiny seed doesn’t seem very important and the little sprout is small, but as it takes hold of the rain and sunshine that God sends to it, it begins to grow and sends down its roots and spreads forth its branches. This is how we grow strong in Jesus. Day by day we read His Word and we learn lessons from Him. The Holy Spirit is like the rain to help us grow to be like Jesus. Slowly and surely through God’s power we grow to know God and His ways.

The mustard seed story also meant that each of us, as we grow, is to seek to help others also, just like the plant spread its branches so the birds could rest there and find food and shelter. As Christians we are to be a blessing to all around us.

Another meaning in this story is that the little seed which Jesus was sowing in the hearts of His disciples, sure looked smaller than any other at that time. The powerful Pharisees and the mighty Roman government looked much more important. But Jesus knew that the little seed would eventually out grow them all. It is in our day that the beautiful plant is going to be seen full-grown. The truth of Jesus will tower over all powers in this earth even though they will all try to destroy it, they won’t be able and many ‘birds’ will find shelter there.

Thought - Let’s grow everyday by learning about Jesus and trusting in Him.

Tuesday

Text: Matthew 13:44 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.”

This is an exciting story! A man was ploughing in a rented field. All of a sudden his plough hit up against something. Thinking it was a rock, he stopped his animal, and went to try and get it out of the way. He found it was a treasure chest full of valuable things. It had been buried for years.

What could he do? He had to own the field to claim the treasure. Carefully he buried it and raced home to gather together every thing he owned to sell and get the money to buy the field. It cost him everything he had but he then had the treasure and was a rich man for the rest of his life.

The gospel is like that to us. The only way we can own the heavenly treasures God wants us to have, is if we give up every earthly thing and reach out for the mysterious heavenly treasure. Our very life, our heart, our mind must be surrendered and laid at Jesus feet. Only when we give everything to God can the precious treasure be ours.

Once we have begun to enjoy the heavenly treasure we will be always glad we made that surrender. No one who gives up all to Jesus is ever sorry. As we receive from God he heavenly blessings, the things we gave up are like dirt to us, we would never trade our heavenly blessings for our old, worldly life.

I'll tell you a secret though; sometimes it seems so hard for us to surrender all to Jesus, and we never know the greatest of His blessings until we do. People can go for years thinking they belong to Jesus, but in their heart they still hang onto something worldly they think they want. Those people find religion boring and they like to do worldly things as much as possible and still think they are Christians, They will never be truly happy until they give up all and 'buy the field'.

Thought - Don't be fooled into being 'half a Christian'; we are either all God's or we are really not His at all!

Wednesday

Text: Matthew 18:23 “Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.”

Here is a story both wonderful, and a little scary. The King starts looking over the books and finds out that one of His servants owes Him a huge amount of money! It was like millions of dollars. The man is called in, and the King says, “Where is my money?”

The poor servant could never get that much money, not even if he worked all his life! The King says, “Sell this man and everything he has and pay me!”

The man cries, “Oh, please, give me time and I will pay it all!” Now there was no way he could pay that debt, but he said he would. But the King was sorry for him and he forgave all that huge debt.

The man then rushes out, and who should he see but a servant who owed HIM a little bit of money. “Give me that money right now” he shouts, grabbing the man by the throat. The poor man didn't have the money, and the selfish servant put him into prison!

When the kind King found out about it, He was angry that the man did not show the kindness that had been shown to him, and he had him sent to a worse place than prison.

We owe everything to God. We can never pay our debt, but sometimes we think we can make up for sin by 'good works'. We never can. Jesus forgives us freely when we confess to Him. We must forgive one another!

Thought - We will be treated in the judgement like we treat other people!

Thursday

Text: Matthew 22:2, 3 “The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.”

This is showing us what God has done, He has made ready a wonderful kingdom and He invites us to come and share it. But so many, in fact most people are too busy with their own ideas and business and have no time for God. Look at what they did! They made jokes about the invitation and laughed at God's faithful

prophets and messengers. They even beat and killed the ones He sent to invite them to the wedding!

It says that finally after many invitations the King sent and destroyed the wicked city and burnt up the murderers. God wants us all to be saved and happy in His kingdom, and He has done and is doing every thing He can so this can happen. But there comes a time when, if people won't listen no matter what, they will be destroyed. It happened to Old Jerusalem, the city that killed their Savior! It will happen to people today also, if they refuse to let God save them.

Thought - Day by day are you saying 'Yes' to God's Spirit when He invites you to get ready for heaven? Or are you saying; "Go away! I want to have fun."

Friday

Text: Matthew 18:1-4 "At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

The disciples were all fighting again; each one wanted to be the most important one. Each one wanted to be the boss. They decided to come right out and ask Jesus who was going to be the top man in His kingdom.

Imagine their surprise when He called one of the little children, who liked to hang around Jesus, and picking him up, told the selfish disciples that they needed to learn to be like that sweet child.

Satan's kingdom is all about PRIDE. Everybody wants to be first; everybody wants to be the boss; everybody wants to have everything for himself.

If you watch yourself closely, you may find yourself acting like that. Saying, "Me first"; "Give me the big piece"; "You do what I say"; "Don't touch my things!" That is the spirit of the kingdom of darkness.

Jesus' kingdom has a sweet, unselfish spirit. The Spirit of God teaches us to be gentle and patient. It shows us to be unselfish, to treat others like we would like to be treated.

Little children, before they are spoiled, are happy, friendly and content with simple things. They are not worried about making everybody think they are the most important. Don't be stuck-up and proud and bossy; be gentle and sweet, like Jesus is with us.

Also the big thing Jesus was showing was how we need to TRUST Him, like a little child trusts his parent, who loves him. A little child doesn't lie awake worrying if his mom will feed him. He just trusts that whatever he needs, his parents will be there to give it to him. God is always there for us too, if we only learn to trust Him.

Thought - Let us all learn to trust Jesus all the way, like a little child trusts his loving parent.
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