

TEMKIT FOR CHILDREN

TEMKIT'S MISSION:

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

Year 2 - 4th Quarter - Issue #6



CREATION CORNER

Paper Polly and her Upside-down Babies

If we want to watch insects, we must get over being disgusted with worms. Most insects are worm-like at first, and we must remember that they are just as clean as many other creatures, and in some cases, prettier. The insect mother sometimes nurtures her babies with as much care as a human mother, and no doubt takes pride in their undeveloped features.

One kind of paper wasp has to feed her babies while they hang upside down. Perhaps the mother wasp finds it easier to feed them in that position. At any rate, she builds her nest hanging down, and her grub children have to do the best they can to stay in. How uncomfortable a human baby would be in that position! But the wasp babies know just what to do to make themselves snug and happy.

The old wasp makes a paper stem, which she glues up on the wall. Then she chews more wood pulp, which she scrapes off trees and fences, and builds eight or ten open cells, attaching them to the stem, and lays a sticky egg in each gray paper tube.

When the white grubs hatch, their tails stick

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fast in what is left of the egg; and as they grow and grow, they make more glue themselves, to keep in place. There they hang, heads down; and the mother wasp has to work the livelong day putting a sweet brown juice into their hungry mouths. She makes this juice from the water in fruit, mixed with anything meaty she can find—from old bones lying about, or dead birds. Sometimes she dashes into kitchens and gets a bite of meat.

The first wasps that come out are all big sisters; and good sisters they are, helping their mother to build new cells and feed the new babies. The old wasp has little to do now but lay eggs.

When the baby grub gets so fat it can eat no more, it goes to sleep in a silk blanket, and wakes up one day a real wasp. Before it can wrap itself up, it must take the end of its body out of the glue that held it fast, head down; and then it would surely fall out of its gray paper pocket. But the little grub does not fall out.

Watch it now, making a piece of paper cloth to cover the opening and make a rest for its head. With its tail still fast, it runs its mouth around the circle of the opening, laying down the glue. Now it begins to move its head back and forth. At first we cannot see what it is doing, so fine are the threads it is spinning. Though human eyes cannot see the

first strands, the baby grub sees to it that they catch in the glue, which hardens while it spins.

Now its head goes up and down, weaving the next threads upon the strands which we could not see. We can see the beginning of its pillow now, just a film over the opening; and we can see its little head still moving, spinning back and forth and up and down. After a while, we cannot see the baby grub, still working behind the cloth that it must weave soft to rest its head upon, and firm to keep it from falling out as it goes to sleep upside down.

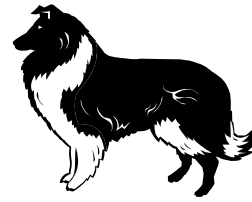
Now it is spinning something else, a silk basket. It pulls its body out of the gluey egg stuff, and turns around, winding itself up in a soft blanket of silk.

Isn't it a good baby to spin and weave its own pillow and blanket? Though it is a fat little maggoty thing, we have to admire it, and very soon we wonder why we ever thought it horrid looking.

The body of this wasp is mostly yellow. Its feelers and wings are reddish brown. Its family name is Polistes. We might call it Polly for short, not forgetting that it is the Paper Polly of the open cells and the upside down babies.

Now how would evolution tell this story? It took millions of years for Paper Polly to learn how to make paper nests, in the mean time, she laid her eggs on the ground and each one got eaten up. Then after she learned how to make paper nests she laid the eggs in the upside-down nest and for millions of years they all fell out and were eaten up, because she did not know how to make them sticky. Then when she could make them sticky, as soon as the baby hatched, it fell out because it didn't know how to fasten its tail in the glue, so it would not fall.

Silly idea isn't it? Everything had to work right, or Paper Polly would not survive. God made Paper Polly with everything she needed. Adapted from Our Little Friend June 9, 1916. = ^ .. ^ =



TRUE-STORY-TIME

Nep's Lesson

THERE, that's done, all but the sail," said Walter, eyeing with great satisfaction the ship he was making. "When I get that fastened on, she will be ready to launch."

Walter Smith was sitting on the doorstep of the little log house in which he lived with his father, mother, and baby sister. His home was surrounded by dense woods.

Laying the boat down carefully by his side, Walter took a piece of cloth his mother had given him, and was beginning to cut it into the right shape for a sail, when he heard from the sitting room: "Walter, come here, please; I want you."

"Oh, dear," said Walter; "I s'pose you're going to send me off when I'm at the most interesting part of my work. What is it?" he asked, looking anything but pleasant.

"Why, Walter," exclaimed his mother, "what a face you are making! I want you to take that pail and ask Mrs. Brown if she could let me have a little more cream. Are you really unwilling to do this little errand for your mother? I thought you would be quite ready to help me when I have so much to do."

"Well, I am," said Walter; "but something always has to be done just when I am busiest. Give me the pail."

"Walter, my boy, you must not speak to me like that," said his mother gently, "nor shall you do my errand. There is not even an animal about the place that does not make itself useful in some way. The chickens give us eggs, Tabby keeps the rats away, and as for Nep, there is no end to the usefulness of that faithful dog. He guards the house night and day, goes upon errands, and is never tired of helping us. But you, my own son, an intelligent boy, feel cross when I ask you to make a little sacrifice of your own comfort."

"Why not send Nep now?" muttered Walter, looking down on the floor. "He could carry a note in the pail as well as not. He has often done so before."

"I am afraid to have myself, or the house left

without him when your father is away; but I will take baby in my arms, and go myself. Sit down and finish your boat. If you wish to be a useless boy in the house, you may.”

“Walter did not go back to the doorstep, for he felt ashamed of himself, although he was too foolish to say manfully, “I am sorry, and ashamed too.” He wanted to say this, and kept trying to do so, but somehow it wouldn’t come out. Perhaps you know exactly how he felt.

So Walter sat still and watched his mother. She wrapped a shawl around the baby, and was crossing the room to get her bonnet from the peg where it hung, when Nep, seeing her approach, looked directly in her face, and gave a low growl.

“Oh, what’s is the matter with Nep?” cried Mrs. Smith, springing back in alarm. “I fear he is going mad. See how savage he looks.”

“He must see who is master,” said Walter, who, like most boys of his age, thought himself very wise. “I’m not afraid of him. Here, sir, get out of the way.” But Master Walter was soon back in his seat, pale with terror. Such a terrible growl he never heard before. It meant very decidedly, “If you come one bit nearer, you will see how sharp these big white teeth of mine are.”

“What can be the matter?” said Mrs. Smith.

“I can’t think,” Walter replied. “I never saw Nep the least bit ugly before.”

“Perhaps he is sick,” suggested Mrs. Smith. “Oh, dear! If he should die, how could we get on?”

“He is looking very hard under that chair,” said Walter. “I wonder if there is -”

At that moment, they heard a loud rattle, a sound with which they were only too familiar in their part of the country. Mrs. Smith screamed, and seized the baby from the floor. Walter scrambled up on the table; and at the same instant Nep sprang forward with a frightful growl. Mrs. Smith covered her eyes, dreading to see the result.

All this takes a long time to tell you, but it happened almost in an instant; and when Mrs. Smith opened her eyes again, she saw an enormous rattlesnake lying dead at her feet, with the prints of Nep’s teeth deep in its flesh.

Then they both understood Nep’s behavior. He had seen the snake long ago, although they were unconscious of its presence.

He couldn’t say, “Mrs. Smith, don’t come by this chair, because there is a snake under it, watching for a chance to spring upon you;” but he could keep them out of danger by growling until the right time

came to leap forward and kill the creature.

Then you should have seen the good fellow, now that his friends were safe and his enemy was dead. He was nearly wild with joy. How his tail did wag, and how he did caper about! He jumped up on Walter, rubbed his shaggy side against Mrs. Smith, licked the baby’s face till the poor little thing puckered it all up into a knot. He looked into their faces so earnestly that Walter insisted he was trying to say, “Now you know I was only fooling so as to protect you, I am sure.”

Mrs. Smith hugged the baby and Walter close to her heart, so thankful was she that God had used faithful Nep to protect their lives:

Suddenly Walter started from his seat, saying: “Mamma, please let me go for the cream. I wouldn’t like to be of less use in the world than a dog. Nep has got ahead of me today, but I’ll do what I can. Now watch the clock and see if I am not back in a twinkling. I must give Nep a squeeze first. There, you good old fellow, take care of mamma and baby while I am gone.” Our Little Friend February 27, 1925 = ^ .. ^ =

STORY LESSON

COUNTERFEITS 3

The Truth About Harry Potter

‘Magic’; the very word seems to mean fun and games and excitement to children of today. This week we want to take a closer look at what it means, and how Satan is using it to trick so many adults and children into chasing after something that is not at all real.

I don’t think there is anybody who has not at sometime said or thought that they wish they could just snap their fingers or wave their hands and something would instantly happen. One of the reasons we wish this, is because people are naturally lazy, and would rather not work if they can get out of it. This is one of the things that Jesus changes in our hearts when we give them over to Him; He starts teaching us that work is really a blessing.

Notice in Genesis 3 that God said man would have to live by the sweat of his face. That is he would have to work, and work hard to live. Was this just a punishment to man for having sinned? No, it was to be a blessing to him.

When we look at another verse in the Bible we see more about this. “Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her...” Ezekiel 16:49.

Sodom had what so many of us think we would like to have, lots of free time, and plenty to eat, and lots of luxuries.

But what happened to Sodom as a result of this life of laziness and pleasure? The people became so wicked and so bad, that God finally rained fire down and burned up the whole city! He had to do this, or the wickedness there would spread to the whole world and destroy it all.

So you see that work is a blessing, not a punishment. But like I said, everyone has times when they wish they could do magic and get whatever they wanted to happen instantly.

So what if you could really do this? Would it make you happy? We think it would; but just imagine this scene. Your Daddy comes home one day with a wonderful present for you. It is a building set that you can use to build the most wonderful toy houses and cars and things. You can't wait to sit down with it and build something.

But your Daddy asks you what you want from the instruction book. You take a look and decide you would like to try a car first. So your Daddy says, "Sit down over there and watch while I build the car." So he builds and you watch. When he is done he hands you the car.

Well, that is sort of nice, but now you hope you can get a turn to build. But no, again he tells you to sit and watch, and he builds another thing and hands it to you. After a while you would start to feel very bad that you could not find out what it felt like to make a toy yourself.

This is what God knew about us, He knew that most of the fun in something is in the doing of it. He knew that there is great happiness in working hard to do something, and finally getting it all done, and seeing the result of our work. In fact the Bible in Proverbs, the very last verse, says the way to reward a hard working wife and mother, is to let her enjoy the work of her hands.

It also says that the people who get to go to heaven, will enjoy the work of their hands. (Isaiah 65:22) What? Work in heaven? For sure! Because God knows that honest work brings the greatest happiness to us.

So you see, Satan likes to give us the idea that what God gave to us as a blessing, is a curse, and he tells us if we could have magic and be able to make things appear or get done instantly, then we would be happier.

He gets people into trying magic spells, which really are ways of worshipping him, and then

sometimes he has his angels make something happen for the person. For example, they may try a spell to make a table float to the ceiling. They do all the things the spell says, and sure enough, the table floats to the ceiling.

The person thinks HE has found some wonderful secret and that HE has some power that other people don't have. This is the bait on the trap and now Satan lures him into more and more 'magic'. By the way, silly, useless things like this are mostly what magic does for you; remember; a table isn't much use on the ceiling!

But what I want you to know is this; and please, never forget it! Those 'spells' and secret words and secret potions and mysterious motions; or crystals and wands, magic symbols or things supposed to have some power in them; are just worthless! It is all a bunch of meaningless garbage.

There is only one way that any one these things work, Satan or his angels do the work and make the person think it was his power or special knowledge that made it happen. You can see what a trap this is if you think about it for a while. Satan can finally lead people to do the most horrible, cruel things, because the person is so sure that if he only does it, he will then have a special power and he wants that power so badly that he will even kill for to get it.

Yes, boys and girls, we have even had people write to us in emails, without giving their names and tell us they have committed murder. They are not even sorry about it, they are proud of it. These people can become so tricked by Satan's lies that they think that even Satan himself, has to obey them. That is what the head of the 'Church of Satan'; Anton LeVey believed. Satan sure must laugh about that one!

There is an old folk tale from Russia that also shows the foolishness of seeking for Magic thinking it will make us happy. There was a little girl in a village in Russia, and her job was to cook porridge in a great big pot for the people to eat.

The story goes that she kept wishing she knew of some magic that would make the pot do the cooking all by itself. One day she found a spell and used it. Sure enough, the pot began to make porridge. The people were thrilled; they had all they wanted to eat. People came from other places and ate porridge too, but the pot kept cooking more and more, until finally so much porridge poured from the pot that the whole village was buried and perished.

A silly story indeed, but it shows how silly the idea of magic is. If you only had to snap your fingers to get what you want, or to do your work, it would get very boring and nothing would really mean anything to you anymore.

No, boys and girls, God's ways are always happiest for us. The only real 'Magic' worth learning in this world, is the magic of skill and hard work, so that when the task is finished, you can have that happy joy that comes from a job well done.

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OLD TIME STORIES

"Down, Temper, Down!"

A BOY that I know owns a big dog named Hero. He is very fond of his dog, and they romp a good deal. This encourages the dog to take liberties with him, such as putting his great paws upon the boy's shoulders, pushing him down, and rolling over him. Sometimes Hero wants to play when his young master wishes to study or work. Then the boy speaks in a tone of command, and says:

"Down, Hero, down, sir!"

Poor Hero obeys, and goes away with drooping tail.

I know another boy who does not own a big dog like Hero, but he has a little, ugly, furious cur, which frowns and snarls and bites, and its owner has no control over it at all. What do you think is the name of the cur?

Temper!

Now if this latter boy were wise, he would bring his cur under control. He would say, "Down, Temper, down!" whenever it began to growl. He would bring it under orders until it would obey him as Hero does the other boy. True, Temper has been master so long it would not be subdued without some trouble at first; but if the boy would pray hard, and then be resolute in saying "Down!" he would soon master it. God and a praying boy can conquer any temper that rages in a lad's heart. From Mrs. E. White's Old Scrapbook.

"I Will" & "What's the Use"

"I Will" is such a pleasant lad!

He's happy as can be;

And while he works so long and hard,

He whistles merrily.

But "What's the Use"- all that he does
Is whine and fret and pout.

He'd never do a single thing

To help a fellow out.

Be wise and make "I Will" your friend,

And shun, oh, surely shun

The chap that they call "What's the Use,"

Who spoils our work and fun.

"Look Pleasant, Please"

NOT much need of saying that to Jamie when his picture was taken, for you can see the fun in his eyes, and the pleasant thoughts of his mind are written all over his face. He looks ready for a frolic, ready to help mother or auntie; and, best of all, he looks as though he could smile while doing something he doesn't like to do.

How much harder it is to smile when everything seems to go wrong than it is when our hair is nicely combed, and, dressed in fine clothes, we keep very quiet while our pictures are taken!

Now there was Winnie, a dear child, who could smile so sweetly, and who was loved heartily, because she was such a sweet-tempered child. But if mother asked her to wash dishes, or to iron her own clothes, the corners of the mouth dropped, the dimples in her cheeks ran away, a small pucker came into her forehead, and Winnie was not fair to see.

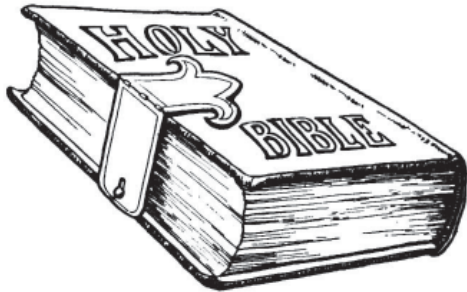
What do you say, boys and girls, to looking pleasant all the time? Suppose we try to look while at work as we do when we are having our pictures taken. How happy it would make our homes and everybody in them if we looked that way! Let us draw the corners of our mouths up instead of down. Smile, smile all the time, till there are miles and miles of smiles. If we have something hard to do, let us begin right away, without pouting, and laugh and sing as we work, till our faces look like Jamie's in his picture.

Did you know that the angels are taking our pictures every day? They are. They don't take pictures of faces, but of actions. What would you like yours to be? Very soon Jesus will look them over, to see if we are fit to live with Him. I don't think He will want to take any scowling, unpleasant faces to heaven. Let us be careful to do right, and then the pictures made will be right.

BEING HAPPY

Just being happy is a fine thing to do:
 Looking on the bright side
 rather than the blue.
 Sad or sunny musing -
 Is largely in the choosing;
 And just being happy is brave work and true.

Just being happy helps other souls along.
 Their burdens may be weary,
 and they not strong;
 And your own sky will lighten -
 If other skies you brighten
 By just being happy with a heart full of song.
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**Year 2: 4th Quarter:****“FROM THE WILDERNESS TO CANAAN”****WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON 6:****“THE WALLS FELL DOWN!”**

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: “Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.” Zechariah 4:6

Sunday

Text: Joshua 5:13-15 “And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD

am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant? And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.”

Joshua knew it was time to capture the city of Jericho. It seemed impossible, but he knew God would show them how. He went into a quiet place where he could pray and ask the Lord for orders.

All at once a big, strong soldier appeared with a sword in his hand. Joshua was startled, and asked this soldier if he was on their side or the side of the enemy. As soon as the ‘man’ answered, Joshua knew it was the Lord and bowed down and worshipped him.

It was Jesus that appeared to Joshua, just like He had appeared to Moses at the burning bush. Now he would tell Joshua how he was to capture the city. What strange directions He gave him!

For six days they were to go out and march around the city once. First the mightiest warriors, followed by the Priests carrying the ark ahead of them, and then quietly march back to camp. They were not to talk or make noise.

On the seventh day they were to march around it seven times, and the Lord said the city would be given to them. He did not say how, again this was a test of faith for Joshua and the Children of Israel. Would they believe and obey?

The Lord also told him that when they got the city, they were to destroy every person and even the animals, and burn up the city, and the gold and silver and metal pots and dishes were all to be given to the priests and they could be used in the sanctuary.

God was telling them that this was to be all His, it was the first city and they were not to take for themselves anything out of it. Later they could take things from other cities for themselves.

The Lord also told them that Jericho was never to be rebuilt, and there was a curse for anyone who did rebuild it; their oldest son would die when they started and their youngest would die when they finished. Many years later someone did rebuild and this happened exactly as the Lord had warned.

It seems strange that God, who we know is so very kind and loving, would have all these people killed. But these people knew about God, but still lived only to do evil and cruel things. It was time

they had to be removed.

Thought - It is very important for us to learn and remember that God means exactly what He says, even if it doesn't make sense to us.

Monday

Text: Joshua 6:1 "Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in." "By faith the walls of Jericho fell down." Hebrews 11:30

Just imagine the people of Jericho, they knew the Israelites had come through the river by a miracle, but still they felt sure in their hearts that nobody could capture their city. "Look at these big, thick walls, so high that nobody could climb over them. Look at our big strong gates with mighty men guarding them. We don't have to worry about those silly God worshippers getting in here!" they said.

Everything was ready, all the soldiers in the city had their weapons all shined up and their armor on. They checked and rechecked the gates, it was all solid. Only one family in Jericho knew that those walls meant nothing to the God of Heaven.

Rahab believed in God, and knew the city was doomed. She had gathered all her family into her little house on the wall and carefully tied the red rope in the window. Inside they waited quietly to see what would happen.

All at once the word was shouted that the Israelites were marching towards them. Quickly they double-check their weapons and gates. Then they peek out from the high walls and watch.

Silently and in perfect order the Israelite army marched toward the city. In front following a band of mighty warriors, was the covered Ark carried by the Priests. A glow of light was all around it. Then all the rest of the army followed silently.

They march all around the city and then go back to their camp. The people in Jericho do not understand it, it seems silly; but down in their hearts they feel afraid. The next day the same thing happened, and so on for six days.

Then on the seventh day after the army had gone around the city once and the people of Jericho expected to see them turn back to the camp, instead they marched around again! Terror came into the hearts of the people watching. Again they check their walls, weapons and gates. All safe; but still that terror eats at their hearts. Again they march around, and again; five, six and finally seven times.

All at once after the seventh time the Israelites

stop and lift up their trumpets and blow a blast that pierces through the silence and at the same time the whole army shouts for victory! It took faith to shout the victory when so far, nothing had happened.

But just as they did this, those mighty walls, suddenly break and fall apart falling outward away from the city. Mighty angels that could not be seen, pulled those walls down. There stood the people of Jericho with no walls anymore to protect them. Quickly the army rushed in and soon everyone was destroyed and the city burned. All except Rahab and her family who were taken safely out and brought to the camp of Israel.

Thought - I think the Lord gave the people of Jericho time to think, but they did not repent or stop their wicked rebellion against God. It is interesting that when archeologists dug up the city of Jericho, they could see the walls had fallen outwards away from the center of the city, but if the walls had been knocked down by an attacking army, they would have fallen inward.

Tuesday

Text: Joshua 7:4,5 "So there went up thither of the people about three thousand men: and they fled before the men of Ai. And the men of Ai smote of them about thirty and six men: for they chased them from before the gate even unto Shebarim, and smote them in the going down: wherefore the hearts of the people melted, and became as water."

The taking of Jericho was such a wonderful miracle from God. He showed Israel that if they would obey Him and trust His word, He would do mighty things for them. But sad to say, something happened in the hearts of the people.

It is so easy for us, if the Lord works for us and answers our prayers in a wonderful way, that we start and feel that we are pretty good people, and much more important than other people are. When this happens, we are not so close to God anymore, and sometimes we forget we need God to guide us.

This happened in Israel. Joshua sent some men out to see the next city, called Ai and they came back all confident and said, "Oh, we don't even need to send the whole army out to get that city, it is just small, we will send only part of the army."

Now notice that Joshua did not ask the Lord about this, he did not pray for special guidance; he

thought he didn't need any help from God for such a small city. So without any blessing from God, off they went.

But soon they were back again, wailing, wounded and terrified and 36 men of them were dead. The men of Ai had fought with them and beaten them and chased them away!

Thought – It does not ever pay to forget that we need God's blessing and His guidance for the 'little' jobs as well as for the big ones.

Wednesday

Text: Joshua 7:1 “But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against the children of Israel.”

Now there was a problem in Israel, and if Joshua and the others had not got so sure of themselves, that they thought they didn't need to ask God's blessing, He would have told them about it and those 36 men would never have been killed. But when people get too cocky, then God can't talk to them very well, because they aren't listening. What had happened was interesting and there are some great lessons for our day in the story.

A man named Achan had been one of the soldiers in the army as Jericho was destroyed. As the people were obeying God's orders, and destroying and burning all the city and gathering up the gold and metal things for the sanctuary, he came into a place and saw what he later called 'a wedge of gold, 200 shekels of silver, and a goodly Babylonish garment.'

Awe, he thought, I would like to have that gold and silver, just in case I might need it, and wouldn't I look good in that fancy robe, just like a king!" So he took them and hid them in his clothes and when he got back to the camp, when everybody else was praising God for the wonderful victory, he was digging a hole and hiding these things in the ground floor of his tent.

Now the gold and silver was supposed to go to the sanctuary, so in taking that, he was stealing from God, just like we do today when we don't return God's tithe that is to be used to support ministers, and Bible Teachers, who do the Lord's work, and preach his truth in the world, and offerings to support His work. He was robbing God.

The 'Babylonish garment' is very interesting. In the Bible Jesus' righteousness is called 'white raiment' and it is what we must be wearing on our hearts if we ever hope to be saved. Remember the story Jesus told about the man who went to the wedding but he did not wear the wedding garment? He was thrown out. (Matthew 22:11)

Now we learned that the Bible calls the fallen churches Babylon, and so this garment Achan wanted, represents the false righteousness of the churches of the world. It is a false worship system, and it looks very fancy, but it can't save anyone. The Bible tells us that Babylon is to be burned with fire.

So this garment that God said was to be burned, Achan called 'goodly'. Was it goodly? No, it was not! Is the false worship that the churches of Babylon teach, goodly? No, it is not at all goodly; all who follow it will be lost.

The only garment for our hearts that is 'goodly', is the obedient character of Jesus and He will give it to those who surrender all to Him and choose to obey Him in all things.

Thought – There are many people now with us, which think that the way the worldly churches do things, and what they teach about salvation, is 'goodly'. But God says it is all to be burned up in the last days, and those who trust in it will be burned up too!

Thursday

Text: Joshua 7:10,11 “And the LORD said unto Joshua, Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face? Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff.”

Now, Joshua tore his clothes and fell on his face and cried to God to find out what was wrong. He should have remembered to do that first. But God said to him, Get up, why are you on your face? It is time now for you to do something. There is sin in the camp and you must get it out, or I can't bless you any more!"

God even told them what the sin was, stealing, and he said for the whole camp to get ready and on the next day, He would show them who did it. First He would show the tribe, then the family, then

the household and finally the man would be shown.

Now why did God do it this way? Why did He not simply tell Joshua who it was? It shows His great mercy that He did this, He was giving Achan a chance to repent and confess his sin, and then he would not have to die but could be forgiven.

The next day the solemn ceremony began, first the Tribe was shown, the tribe of Judah. Achan knew that was his tribe all right, but still he did not confess. You see, when we choose to disobey God, our idea of His power and greatness gets much less, and he thought nobody would find out. The fact that 36 people had died as a result of his sin, did not seem to worry him, perhaps he felt it was nothing to do with him but was just an accident.

Now his family was pointed out by God; maybe he felt a bit worried, but still he didn't repent or confess. Next his very household! But still he refused to speak up. When finally God point out the very man himself; even then he did not open up and repent.

When Joshua ordered him to tell what he had done, he said he had taken a wedge of gold, some silver coins, and a 'goodly' garment. It was hid in his tent, he told Joshua. It was still 'goodly' to him even though he was going to die for it! The way he told about it was as if he were saying, "It is no big deal! Why make such a fuss over a little thing like that?"

But as we have learned in our other lessons, no sin is 'little' with God. Messengers were sent to look in the floor of the tent and sure enough in a little while they were back and the wedge of gold, the silver coins, and the garment were with them.

Thought – If you think when someone points out to you that you have done wrong, that it is just little and unimportant, and why make such a big deal out of it, remember Achan, and pray that God will open your eyes so you can see there is no such thing as a 'little sin'.

Friday

Text: Joshua 7:5 "And Joshua said, Why hast thou troubled us? the LORD shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones."

It seems like a terrible punishment to us maybe, but that is because we have gotten used to sin and sometimes we no longer see how wicked it really is. Out of all the millions of Israel that day, only

one man was so selfish as to steal what belonged to the Lord.

The fact he did that, when God had done so great a miracle for them, made it even worse. Right at the time that God had showed His mighty power, one man thought he could rob God and God would not find out!

Achan's deadly sin was covetousness, he broke the tenth commandment, and then he broke others as he stole and lied and was responsible for people getting killed. Then he made it worse by not repenting or confessing until he had no choice at all.

Coveting means to want something that is not yours and something you have no right to have. It seems to be the sin that hardly anybody ever admits.

People will confess and say, "Oh, I was a thief", or "I have a problem with swearing or lying", but very few people will tell you that they have a problem with coveting. And yet it is probably the most common sin of all.

Thought – Always remember too, that something that God says is cursed, is not 'Goodly'! Also remember that our sins do affect other people.
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