

TEMKIT FOR CHILDREN

TEMKIT'S MISSION:

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

Year 3 - 1st Quarter - Issue #2



CREATION CORNER

'Smart' Pets

In this part of our TEMKIT paper I have at times told you stories about pets who did so many clever things and I am sure some of you might say, "Oh, I wish I could have a smart pet like that!"

Now it is true that some dogs and cats are 'smarter' than others, but there is a more important secret to it than just that. How clever and wonderful your pet turns out to be, has more to do with his owners than the pet. Why? What do I mean? I mean just that; it has to do with how you treat your pet and how you think of him whether you will get to enjoy a wonderful little friend or 'just a cat' or 'just a dog'.

When Jesus created the animals in the beginning, they, like us, were made to live forever. In each one was not only the unique and special traits of their kind, but also individual character so that each could learn and relate to others and man in a special and personal way. The Creator intended that as we all lived happily and enjoyed each other on His wonderful world, we would learn more of His character as we would see the things and creatures He had made.

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When Jesus told Adam he was to have 'dominion' over the other creatures this did not mean that he was to do whatever he liked with them and it didn't matter. Man was not given ownership of the creatures. Many through the years, even Christians, I am sad to say, have thought this to be so.

But if they would have looked more deeply into their Bibles, they would have soon learned that this is not so at all. God did not give the animals, birds and things to mankind to do whatever he felt like with them. Look at these verses and tell me what they mean:

"For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine." Psalm 50:10,11

"The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their meat from God. ...25 So is this great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts. 26 There go the ships: there is that leviathan, whom thou hast made to play therein. 27 These wait all upon thee; that thou mayest give them their meat in due season." Psalm 104:21. 25-27.

"Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?" Luke 12:6

God owns the animals. He cares about them, He wants them to be happy, and the 'dominion' only meant that we were to have responsibility to care for the created things as a servant of God, the Owner.

If I had a stable of beautiful horses and I hired you and told you to care for them for me; would that mean you could do what you liked with my horses? Suppose I came to visit and found you beating or torturing my horses? Would you not get fired on the spot? You surely would! Maybe even put in prison!

All life belongs to God; we are to have respect for all His creatures. Now this does not mean, as some of the heathen claim, that there is never a time when a harmful creature must be destroyed. Sin has perverted life on earth a lot, and there are times when harmful things like rats and flies have to be killed or they would destroy our very health and lives.

But it does mean that we are not free to practice cruelty or make the lives of creatures unbearable just to suit our desires. Any neglect or abuse of God's creatures by us is written in the books of heaven as sin against the Creator. Unless we truly repent and put away from us all such cruelty, we will never have a place in God's kingdom.

It was sin that separated us from the created works of God and brought fear and death to all nature. As we repent of sin and come to Jesus and give our hearts to Him and He puts us into the School of Christ and begins to change and recreate us to be like Him, there comes a change in how we see the animals and things of nature. We begin to look at them very differently and to marvel at the beauty and wisdom of each creature from the hand of God.

As we become more like Jesus our characters change and the creatures begin to relate differently to us as well. Notice this text: "For thou shalt be in league with the stones of the field: and the beasts of the field shall be at peace with thee." Job 5:23.

"And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven, and with the creeping things of the ground:" Hosea 2:18 .

One thing that makes a big change in us is when we no longer eat the animals and birds. As long as a person eats the flesh of other creatures he cannot fully appreciate them as they really are, also his nature tends to be more impatient and harsh. It takes time for the change to show up, but after a

few months of never eating dead flesh, you find your ideas and attitudes change and it seems very weird to take the life of something just so you can feast on its poor little body.

You see; you can't fully appreciate the wonderful thing a chicken is and still feel happy about feasting on pieces of its body. Your mind has to make that chicken worthless or meaningless to you, or you just can't be comfortable about it. It has to be 'just a stupid bird' to you, because once you start to know it as God made it, and realize that it has feelings and even personality and some of the same things that make you happy or sad or afraid effect it the same way; it just does not seem so nice anymore to see it dead on your plate.

From experience in working with animals I have learned that animals seem to know a vegetarian plant eater from a meat eater and feel more at ease with them. There are many who will say these things are not true but if you take a good look at who they are I doubt you will find that they are true vegetarians. True vegetarians know differently.

Remember, as long as you eat meat 'now and then', or 'just for a treat', you will never know that change of heart I am talking about. To be continued = ^ .. ^ =



What is the Iron Rule?
The rule of savage men:
If evil is done unto you,
Evil do thou again;
That is the Iron Rule.

What is the Silver Rule?
The rule of worldly men
If good your neighbor does you,
Do good to him again;
That is the Silver Rule.

What is the Golden Rule?
The rule of righteous men
If evil is done unto you,
Return thou good again
That is the Golden Rule.

TRUE-STORY-TIME

Digging Dirt, Digging Deep: Something to think about: By Mike Tidwell

The village where I was assigned in the grassland region of central Zaire was a simple collection of mud huts and barefoot people. The twentieth century has paid little attention to this part of central Africa.

The men carry spears, and many villagers still use flint and steel to light fires. My job was to improve the local diet, which was woefully lacking in protein. I was a fish culture extension agent for the Zairean Department of Agriculture.

A few weeks after I arrived I got my first customer, Ilunga Mbumba. He was a thin, serious-faced village man with three young sons counting on him to keep them healthy.

"I want to raise fish," he told me.

"Great," I said, "but first you have to dig a pond." I handed him a shovel. No bulldozers here. This was the developing world.

There is no easy way to dig a fishpond with a shovel. You just have to do it. You have to place the tip to the ground, push the shovel in with your foot, pull up a load of dirt and then throw the load twenty or thirty feet to the pond's edge. Then you have to do it again: Tip to the ground, push it in, pull it up, throw the dirt. After you do this about fifty thousand times, you have an average-sized pond. Indeed, long and hard is the road out of African poverty.

For me, it was painful visiting Ilunga each week. I'd come to check on the pond's progress and find him grunting and shoveling, chipping away at the fifty-thousand-stroke total. I winced each time his bare foot drove the thin shovel blade into the ground. I groaned inwardly at the sight of his clothes, ragged, full of yawning holes that revealed a glistening, overworked body. Guilt gnawed at me. Ilunga wanted to improve his life, but the digging was too much. I was killing him with work.

One week I couldn't stand it any longer. "Give me the shovel," I told him.

"Oh no, Michael," replied Ilunga. "This work is too much for you."

"Give it to me," I insisted. "Take a rest."

He shrugged and handed me the shovel. I began digging. Okay, I thought, tip to the ground, push it in, pull it up, throw the dirt. I did it again. It wasn't nearly as hard as I had thought. I kept going. But

after about twenty minutes, it got hot. The African sky fixed me with an unblinking blue stare and the sun pelted me with rays. I paused to take off my shirt. Ilunga, thinking I was quitting, jumped from a nearby dike and reached for the shovel.

"No, no," I said. "I'm still digging. Sit down."

He shrugged again and left to go check on his nearby cornfield.

Shirtless and alone, I continued. Tip to the ground, push it in, pull it up, throw the dirt. An hour passed. Tip to the ground, push it in, pull it up . . . throw . . . throw . . . Okay throw the dirt. My arms were signaling that they didn't like tossing dirt over such a long distance. But I couldn't stop. How could I ask villagers to do work I was incapable of doing myself?

I kept going. Twenty minutes passed and things got ugly. My back and shoulders joined my arms in screaming for an end to hostilities. I was no longer able to throw the dirt. Instead, I carried each load twenty feet and ignobly spooned it onto the dike. And was it hot the hottest day I could ever remember. Even occasional breezes murmuring through the surrounding savannah grass didn't help. And then I looked at my hands. Both palms were blistered.

Fifteen minutes later, my hands wouldn't grip the shovel. It fell to the ground. After just two hours of digging, I couldn't do any more. My contribution to the pond was wholly inconsequential. I collapsed on a dike next to Ilunga, who had just returned.

"I think I'll stop now," I managed.

Ilunga grabbed the shovel and began working steadily. Tip to the ground, push it in, pull it up, throw the dirt. Lying on my side, exhausted, I watched him. His determination was mystifying.

Day after day, for three months, he kept going. He worked like a bull and never complained. Not once. Not when he hit a patch of gravel-size rocks. Not when, at the pond's center, he had to throw each shovel-load twice to reach the dikes. And not when he became ill.

His hand was on fire one morning when I arrived and shook it. "You're sick," I said.

"I know," he said and resumed digging.

"Then quit working and get some rest."

"I can't," came the reply. "I've got a pond to dig."

A few weeks later, it was finished. Ilunga drove his shovel into the earth one last time and there it was: a forty-five-by-sixty-foot pond, gloriously finished. We filled it with water and stocked it with fish, and then I turned to Ilunga and shook his hand

over and over again.

We ran around the banks hooting and hollering, laughing like children, slapping each other on the back and marveling at the pond, its surface now sparkling with a wondrous poetry of reflected light. Six months later, the first harvest produced ninety-seven pounds of fish, enough to feed Ilunga's family and bring in cash for clothes and supplies.

Oh, sweet joy, Ilunga had done it. He had taken my instruction and accomplished a considerable thing. And on that day when we finally stocked his pond, I knew that no man would ever command more respect from me than one who, to better feed his children, lifts and throws fifty thousand shovel-loads of dirt. I had a hero.

We say we want to be like Jesus; do we want it as much as Ilunga wanted his fishpond? Think about it: "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." Matthew 24:13. = ^ .. ^ =

STORY LESSON

"Dare to be a Daniel!"

Would you like to live the life of Daniel? Yes, you would. And, really, you can!

Why was it that God could use Daniel in such an outstanding way? Would you like to have God use you as He used Daniel?

You can. All you need to do is to live the way Daniel lived. There is nothing complicated about this; through the enabling grace of Christ, it can be done. You can live a clean life and stand as one of His representatives on earth. Daniel 1:8

"But Daniel purposed in his heart, that he would not defile himself."

Daniel made a decision—Daniel chose to have high personal standards. He knew that prayer was essential, for only as he remained close to God could he withstand the temptations of life. Daniel was so determined to keep praying, that he was willing to be let down into a hole in the ground with hungry lions rather than stop talking to God. Daniel 6 tells the story.

Daniel knew that he must only eat good food, so his body could be kept strong and his mind clear. He was willing to die rather than eat and drink things that were not the best. Daniel 1 tells all about it.

Daniel studied the inspired Hebrew manuscripts. He knew he needed to read the Bible each day. And he earnestly prayed over what he read. Daniel 9 shows how it brought an angel to

his aid.

Daniel was not a proud man. God cannot use people like that. When the king started to praise him, he refused the applause and said all the credit was due to God. Daniel 2 describes this.

Daniel dared to tell the truth, even when a king might kill him for doing it. Daniel 4 and 5 tell of two different times this happened.

Daniel was concerned about others and prayed earnestly that God would help His people. Daniel 9 reveals the kind of prayers he prayed.

Daniel stood true to God amid the hatred of enemies, and the rise and fall of kingdoms. If Daniel could do that back then, you and I can do it today. The same enabling grace available to Daniel—is available to us right now.

Is it your heart's desire to be used of God as Daniel was? Go alone and give all your life to Him. Yes, you may have done it before. But this time it is different. Give Him everything you have and are. Lay it all down before Him. Surrender all your plans; confess all your sins. Determine in His strength to put them away.

Power to obey—And then, by the empowering grace of Christ, stick close to His side. This is where your strength is. Keep talking to Him; keep reading the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy. You have settled it in your mind that, in every situation, you will never again be ashamed of Christ or His holy Writings. You will not lower your standards to please anyone; you will separate from friends who would entice you to lower them.

God will help you, as you lean on His strength, moment by moment; He will do it- all the way to the end. = ^ .. ^ =





Year 3: 1st Quarter:
“GO YE...AND PREACH THE GOSPEL”
WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON 2:
“TRIALS & TRIUMPHS”

This series of Bible Story Lessons is about the wonderful adventures of the apostles. 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: “Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.” Acts 5:29

Sunday

Text: “Acts 4:32, 33 “And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.”

As these believers in Jesus were baptized and joined with the apostles of Jesus, they did a most interesting thing. They not only gave their hearts to Jesus, but they gave their money and belongings as well. They were not selfish any more and if someone had food and things that someone else needed, they would freely share with one another.

Many who were rich freely sold houses and lands and gave the money to the apostles to use to help preach the gospel and providing for the poor. This way everyone had enough to live on. Now why was this necessary? Why were there so many people

who needed this help?

Well, it was because when many of the people decided to take a stand for Jesus, they were going against what most people thought was the ‘true church’. Most of the people thought that anyone who spoke out against the church leaders or went against what they said was certainly wrong and going against God. Had not God himself set up the priesthood?

So when their family members joined the followers of Jesus, they threw them out of their homes, fired them from their jobs and would not even give them food to eat or a place to sleep! That is why this special help was needed.

There was one man in particular who had a lot of land and he gladly sold it and brought in the money. Indeed, he was so happy about doing it that the apostles gave him a new name. They called him Barnabas, which meant he made them feel encouraged with his kind deeds and cheerfulness.

Now when God works in a wonderful way, there is always someone else who gets busy to spoil it all. You know who--old Satan starts working on peoples hearts to get them to pretend to do right but really do something mean and sneaky.

There was a man and his wife, Ananias and Sapphira, and when they saw how Barnabas was respected and honored for his kindly deed, they decided to sell some land that they had and bring the money too. Now it was the Spirit of God that suggested to their hearts to help out like this and be generous.

So they sold the land as they had said they would, but when they had all that money in their hands, Satan tempted them to be selfish and keep it. They began to be sorry they had listened to the Holy Spirit and promised to give the money from that land. But if they turned around and told the truth, and said, “We decided we want to keep it”, then people would not admire them and instead would look down on them as selfish.

Thought: Remember to always obey what the Bible says, even if it causes problems for you. God will take care of those who obey Him.

Monday

Text: Acts 5:1,2 “But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles’ feet.”

How were they going to solve their problem? Satan was right there to help them think up a scheme and a lie. Ananias went over to where the apostles were and placed a big bag of money down before them. Now Peter may have been ready to say 'thank you', when the Holy Spirit guided him that all was not right.

Turning to the man, he said "Why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?" He went on to say that he could have kept the land or the money if he wanted to, but to lie like this was a sin against the Holy Spirit.

Now as soon as he had heard this, Ananias fell down and died! Can you imagine how the people felt? The Bible says, "Great fear came on all them that heard these things."

The young men of the believers wrapped him up in his clothes and took him out and buried him. It is interesting that nobody ran to Sapphira to tell her about it.

In about three hours, she came in and again nobody rushed over to her to tell her about what had happened. She was looking for her husband and wondering why he was taking so long.

Peter asked her if that was the amount of money they got for the land and she said it was. Then he asked her why she and her husband had decided to lie to the Holy Spirit like that, and told her that the men who had buried her husband were just coming back and would bury her too. And just as quick as that- she fell down and died. Then the young men took her out and buried her beside her husband.

Thought – God knew that unless there was a strong lesson given to the people at that time, many would join the church just to be cared for by the church and would cheat the people who truly needed help. Even though cheaters and liars don't always fall dead on the spot, they will still be lost if they don't repent and let Jesus remove this sin.

Tuesday

Text: Acts 2: 5:13,14 "And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them. And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women."

This terrible judgment on the two liars had an effect on the people; the ones who might join just to get what they could out of it and the ones who

would join just because it was a popular thing to do, were afraid to do it. The ones who truly believed in Jesus and repented of their evil ways gladly joined the believers.

God continued to give special blessings to the believers and the apostles worked many miracles of healing just as Jesus had done. This was to show the people who were confused because of what the 'leaders of the church' were telling them, that it was just a bunch of lies and tricks and Jesus had not really been raised from the dead.

Remember it was the Jewish church leaders who paid money to the soldiers to lie and say the disciples had stolen the body of Jesus to make people think He had risen. But what could they say to all these miracles? The people laid the sick in the streets and even when the shadow of the apostles fell on them, they were healed! It was a wonderful time indeed.

But someone was not happy, you know who; Satan and his friends the 'church leaders'. They were losing their power over the people. Already they were afraid to do what they really wanted to do for fear the people would stone them. But they were desperate, somehow these miracles had to be stopped!

The high priest 'rose up' in anger and ordered that Peter and John be thrown into the common jail. He would tend to them the next day, he thought. But the angel of God let them out and told them to go back and preach in the temple again.

Thought – Now you would think the priests would be afraid to do this to someone when the power of God was so clearly with them, but when we reject the truth, we get so blind that nothing impresses us anymore.

Wednesday

Text: Acts 5:22-24 "But when the officers came, and found them not in the prison, they returned, and told, Saying, The prison truly found we shut with all safety, and the keepers standing without before the doors: but when we had opened, we found no man within. Now when the high priest and the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these things, they doubted of them whereunto this would grow."

Now all these 'important' priests got together in their court room in the morning and demanded the soldiers to go and get the men from the prison

and bring them in so they could condemn them. The soldiers hurried over to the jail and unbolted the doors and there were all the guards standing at the doors so no one could go out or in, but guess what? Peter and John were gone! The cell was empty. The soldiers stood staring at each other in amazement.

Do you see that in all this Jesus was giving the people and the priests and rulers a chance to see they were wrong and repent and believe on Him? Yes indeed, even though they had killed Him, Jesus still was trying to save them. But for most of them, that love did not good; they just hardened their hearts and fought against the believers like angry wolves.

The soldiers came back to the counsel and told them that the prison was still locked and the guards were there, but the men were over in the temple preaching to the people. Can you imagine how angry these rulers were? They demanded the soldier to go and get the preachers and bring them. They did; but they had to do it gently as the people were all happy to hear the preaching and if they were cruel to the men where the people could see it-they might turn against the soldiers and the rulers and stone them!

Trying to choke down his anger, the high priest demanded: "Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us." Acts 5:28

Thought – Isn't it interesting that these men were complaining that the preaching of the disciples was going to make it look as if they were guilty of the blood of Jesus, when just a few weeks before they had roared out before Pilate, "Let His blood be on us and on our children! We have no king but Caesar!" What terrible words to have to live with!

Thursday

Text: Acts 5:29-32 "Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him."

Boldly Peter spoke up for the apostles and did not try to make the high priest feel any better, Oh no! He just told him to his face that they were doing God's will and the priests had murdered the Son of God. Now we can see that God was still giving a chance to the priests and rulers to repent and admit they were wrong- but what happened?

The Bible tells us they were 'cut to the heart' in other words the Holy Spirit impressed their hearts strongly that they were wrong and fighting against God. How kind Jesus is to keep pleading with them to repent, even after what they had done to Him, He still wanted to save them. But no way! These men refused the heavenly offer and were determined to kill the apostles on the spot!

Then a man who had a bit of wisdom asked for the apostles to be taken out of the room. He then explained to the counsel that if these men were not of God they would soon be forgotten about. but if they were from God, they could not be stopped. Now maybe his heart was still open a bit, maybe he believed that the high priest and his buddies still cared about God. Anyway, the council voted to just punish the disciples and warn them and let them go.

So they beat them and threatened them and released them. I want you to notice something that at times we don't understand too well. It is important to see this or sometimes we can find ourselves doubting and discouraged. Jesus showed them His power and His love by sending the angel to take them out of the prison, but He did not stop them from being beaten.

You see the great power of Jesus is found not so much in miracles as it is in the way He gives us strength and grace to bear the trials and to suffer for His name. When we get to see the whole story in heaven, we will find that more people have been convinced that God's truth is right by seeing the faithfulness and patience of believers who were willing to suffer and even die for Jesus than by all the miracles.

And although we don't understand it sometimes, we are told that being allowed to suffer for Jesus' sake is the highest honor. But I want you to know something else; we do not have to be afraid because we think we are not strong enough to bear suffering for Jesus. You see, Jesus will bear it for us. If He allows trials and suffering to come to us, He will give us all the strength and courage and grace we need to bear it. We must learn to trust Him.

Thought – We are told that when we reach heaven and look at our life record and how Jesus led us, we would not choose to be led any different way than what He leads us. We will see that even though things seemed hard, Jesus knew what was best for us!

Friday

Text: Acts 5:41-42 “And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.”

It is important that you notice certain things about our text; you need to remember that the Jewish ‘church’ had been set up by God; The priesthood had been ordained by God; the services and sacrifices in the temple had been originally set up by God. This was true, wasn’t it?

So this is why many people of the Jews thought Jesus had to be wrong and the disciples had to be wrong because they saw the leaders of ‘God’s true church’ said they were wrong. They were making a big mistake and that mistake was that they wanted to listen to and admire the great important men and the ones with the fancy education rather than go to the Bible and learn the truth from it for themselves.

The ones who did go to the scriptures and study for themselves soon learned that while God had set up the Jewish church, it was no longer obeying the truth God had given it and had refused to listen to God. They had now become the enemies of God’s truth. This was why Peter had to tell them- we can’t obey you when you are telling us to disobey God.

There is another part of yesterday’s text we need to specially notice; it is this part: “...and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.”

Now there is something important here; we hear a lot these days about the Holy Spirit and ‘getting the Spirit’ and ‘praying for the Spirit’ and so on. Too many people think that the way we get the Holy

Spirit is by making a lot of noise and getting all excited and Praising God by wild beat music and clapping and getting a wonderful happy, excited feeling. They think that it is only as we get together in big groups and all do these exciting things that we get the ‘Spirit’.

Now look at that verse; does it say the Holy Spirit is given to those who shout and sing and dance and clap and carry on and get all excited? Oh no! It does not say that. In fact these things do cause people to get a spirit all right, but it is an evil spirit.

Yes, it is true boys and girls, even though these people may think they are worshipping God and God is blessing them with these wonderful feelings and strange happening that occur in such groups, it is really the devil and his angels that are giving them these ‘nice feelings.’ And he is doing it to trick them into believing lies so they will all be lost.

What does the text say is the way to get the Holy Spirit? It says ‘God gives the Holy Spirit to those that Obey him!!’ Now if you go to one of these excited ‘get the spirit’ meetings, and I don’t think you should go, but If you did, and you started to tell them about obeying God and following His counsel in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy books, what do you think would happen?

They would not listen to you! They would tell you they didn’t need to do that because they ‘had the spirit’. You will hear them talk about how the disciples ‘were all in one place’ as they try and get everybody to come out and agree with them and join their groups, but they do not talk about this text! They would tell you that you were wrong and a ‘legalist’, which is what they like to call people who have decided like Daniel and the apostles to obey God rather than men.

Thought – Always remember that God will Not give the Gift of the Holy Spirit to anybody except those who by the power of Jesus determine to Obey God on all things. People, who think they have the spirit and so they do not have to worry about obedience, have the wrong spirit; they have the spirit of Satan! = ^ .. ^ =

