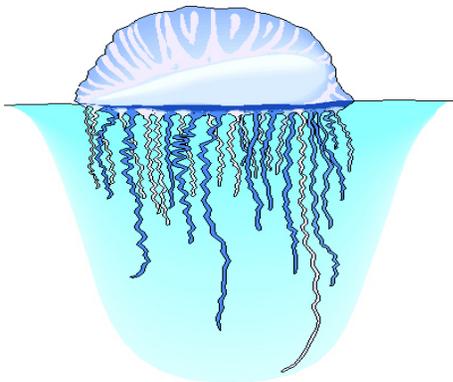


TEMKIT FOR CHILDREN

TEMKIT'S MISSION:

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

Year 3 - 4th Quarter - Issue #11



CREATION CORNER

STRANGE CREATURES

That Witness Against Evolution

This is a strange world, with many creatures in it that seem to come out of some unreal, imaginary land; in fact, some are so incredible that one would not accept them as real did he not know they exist. It reminds one of the man who, seeing an elephant for the first time, said, "Why, there ain't no such animal!"

The Portuguese "Man-of-war" (Physalia).

"The ruthless Physalia employs a lethal combination of ingenious tackle, murderous chemical warfare and a remarkable working partnership with a small fish, the Nomeus.

"The deadly sequence starts as this innocent-looking little Nomeus swims about, apparently aimlessly, in the vicinity of the man-of-war. A bigger fish, seeing this tempting and seemingly defenseless morsel, makes a grab for it. The Nomeus darts away with an unexpected burst of speed, straight toward a tangle of seaweed-like tentacles that hang down from the man-of-war.

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CREATION CORNER

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The larger fish plunges recklessly after it, into these harmless-looking streamers. In a fraction of a second he is paralyzed and the fiendish tentacles are drawing him in to be consumed by the hungry man-of-war.

"What happened to him as he plunged into the streamers is a process that astounds and mystifies scientists who consider it one of nature's deadliest mechanisms. The tentacles are studded with tiny pear-shaped capsules. Sheathed in each capsule is a compressed hair. The instant any creature touches one of the capsules, this hair shoots out like a harpoon, its sharp point penetrating the body of the victim. Through the hair flows a powerful acid which has the power to paralyze the creature into which it is thus injected. . . . So great is the force of the driven threads that they can easily puncture human skin. When they do, the victim may be doubled up in violent spasms and enter a state of shock.

"But why do these deadly hairs, which respond so instantly and savagely to the slightest touch by other creatures, let Nomeus go unscathed? Actually, the Nomeus can be harmed by the Physalia's sting. . . . But the Nomeus seems to be especially adapted for dogging the tentacles of the Physalia.

“When the man-of-war captures and eats a fish which the Nomeus has lured into his trap, the little decoy fish gets the scraps from the man-of-war’s meal.” (Coronet). *

*In the March, 1960 “Scientific American” is an article by Charles E. Lane on “The Portuguese Man-Of-War,” giving these and other facts about this “Colorful jellyfish . . . whose stinging cells on the tentacles with which it fishes, secrete a substance that is almost as toxic as Cobra venom.”

Man cannot duplicate such highly technical equipment, that is so involved, and such an ingenious stratagem of luring other fish to kill them for food could not be developed by mere chance. It is the work of a Master Mind who apparently delights to create numberless, insoluble mysteries in nature and distribute strange abilities to equally strange creatures—all the work of His Mind and Hand.

The Case of the Moving Left Eye.

We want now to tell of the miracle of the “moving eye.” Let us take the “plaice” as an example, though any flat fish will do. We refer to the class of fishes that swim on their sides.

“On emerging from the egg the young plaice, almost microscopic and quite transparent except for its black pinpoint of eyes, is an ordinary round fish with eyes in the position of those of other round fishes, swimming around like a round fish. But after a month a strange thing happens; the left eye begins to move. Meanwhile, the body slowly flattens sideways and the baby fish, a surface swimmer so far, begins to sink slowly towards the bottom. The left eye is still gradually moving, and by six weeks has reached the top of the head. A week later it has gone right around and has almost reached the right eye. By now the young plaice has sunk to the bottom and is lying on what was its left side, but which from now on will be its under part — the white side — and the two eyes are close together on what is now the top of the head” (The Living Sea, pp. 153, 154).

With plaice, soles, dabs, flounders and halibuts it is always the left side that goes down and the left eye that moves; but with other species (like the turbot and brill), the reverse flattening process takes place, and in these fishes it is the right eye that travels toward the left eye and away from the right side on which they lie. No one knows why, but it is always the same eye in the same species that does the traveling.

Moreover, many of these fish possess the ability

to change their color to suit their surroundings, to an amazing degree. They become the same color as their surroundings; and if the color of their surroundings is changed, the fish soon takes on that new color!

Evolution has no adequate explanation of this phenomenon. The truth is, this is one of those many cases in nature in which the new-born of the species has an entirely different environment from the adult form, and so God performed a miracle when He made these fish so that they could live both as round fish in infancy, near the surface, and as flat fish, in adult life, at the bottom of the sea. Common sense tells us, the only answer to such an unusual arrangement in nature is that God made it so.

An Algerian Locust is able to use its own blood as a weapon. It can shoot, like an accomplished Texas gunman, literally “from the hip.” There is a pore between the first and second joints at the base of the leg. This pore can be opened when danger threatens, and a blistering stream of locust blood ejected to a distance of 20 inches! Why do other locusts not have this strange power if evolution did the job? Obviously, the creature was designed, made that way.

There is a species of Blind Termites that shoot to kill. They have a bi-lobed gland on the head that contains a fluid that hardens on being exposed to the air. Although this termite is blind, it possesses a mysterious sense of direction that enables it to fire its lethal syringe as accurately as if it could see. “This termite discharges his ‘jet’ right in the face of an invading ant — and the ants that receive the fatal spray run about as if demented, . . . and they usually die” (Sir J. Arthur Thompson).

Certainly such uncanny ability cannot be attributed to mere chance. Let us give credit to whom credit is due: God designed and created all life in nature! = ^ .. ^ =



HISTORY

Pioneers of The Advent: 9 The Most Honest Man in Town

ON JOSEPH BATES' third visit to Jackson, Michigan, in 1852, he had a dream that he was on a ship going west, and it was said to him that he should get off at a place called Battle Creek. The ship, of course, was a memory of his sailing days, but the port was not on the seacoast. He asked Dan Palmer in Jackson whether there was a place called Battle Creek.

"Yes," he said; "it is about forty miles down the railroad."

"Are there any Adventists there?"

"Not that I know of."

"Well," said Elder Bates, "I must go there; for in my dream I was told there was work there for me to do."

He had inquired whether there were any Adventists there, because so far he had gone only to what he called "the lost sheep of the house of Israel"; that is, first-day Adventists. As the apostles of Christ in the beginning of their ministry thought that the gospel was to go only to the Jews, until Peter was given his dream at Joppa, Bates and his fellow workers believed that the third angel's message was to go only to those who had accepted the first and the second angels' messages in 1844. They were soon to change their minds.

As he boarded the train and rode those forty miles on the Michigan Central, he turned over in his mind all the while what this mission might mean. Battle Creek in 1852 was a village of some two thousand inhabitants, and Bates did not know anyone there. So he prayed the Lord to give him light.

Then it was impressed upon his mind, as distinctly as though spoken with an audible voice: "Go at once and inquire of the postmaster for the most honest man in town. He will give you the name and address of the man with whom you are to work." This he did, obeying the Voice.

Now, it happened that there was in that village a peddler of small articles like pins and needles, a sort of early dime store on wheels, or maybe feet. The postmaster must have recently had some dealings with this peddler that impressed him with his honesty. So he did not name the president of the village council, nor the leading clergyman, nor the banker; but he said, with no hesitation, "The

most honest man in town is David Hewitt. Church? He's a Presbyterian."

"Where does he live?"

"Go up Main Street, cross the bridge over the Battle Creek to Van Buren Street, and go west just short of Cass Street. David Hewitt's is the only house on the right side. There is a little log cabin on the opposite side."

So, Joseph Bates trudged up West Main, crossed the timbered bridge over the Battle Creek just above its junction with the Kalamazoo, and up a block on Tompkins Street to Van Buren, where he turned west.

It was early in the morning, and as Bates knocked at Hewitt's door, he found him just ready for breakfast. "I have been directed to you," said he, "as the most honest man in town. If this is so, I have some important truth to present to you."

"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers," quoted Hewitt to himself, "for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." To Bates he said, "Come in. We are just sitting down to breakfast. Eat with us, and we will then listen to you."

During breakfast the most honest man was sizing up the most direct man, and his measurement was favorable. After breakfast he invited Elder Bates to conduct family worship; and when prayers were concluded, he said, "Now let us hear what you have to tell us."

Joseph Bates hung up his chart, which he carried as faithfully as the London statesman carries his umbrella, and "beginning at Moses and all the prophets," he told them about the whole Second Advent Movement; for these, unlike Bates' previous audiences, did not know all that history. Then in the afternoon, until five o'clock, he talked to them about the Sabbath and the third angel's message.

"The most honest man in town" and his wife were convinced. They kept the next Sabbath; and until the first little wooden church was built, three years later, his home was the meeting place of the company in Battle Creek. That first church, only 18 by 24, was built "near the west end of the block in which Brother Hewitt lived" "about a dozen feet south of the flat ... on the west side of Cass street."

The next spring, May of 1853, James White, visiting there, said to the little group, "Brethren, if you are faithful to the work, God will yet raise up quite a company to observe the truth in Battle Creek."

Quite a company, indeed, there came to be; and

Battle Creek was the headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist work for over half a century. There began the health work of the denomination, and their educational work, and there the publishing work first got its independent start. = ^ .. ^ =

TRUE-STORY-TIME

STORY-TIME

Saved Just in Time

Like the thief on the cross, there are many who have been saved just in time, some of them only at the last breath of life. Here is the story of one such case. A Christian worker had been handing out tracts and was nearing home when he met two young miners. Selecting two of his remaining booklets, he handed one to each young man.

They thanked him, and one of them stopped to read the title of his: "Just in Time." He was a fine, strong, handsome young man of about twenty-five. Looking into his frank, open countenance, the worker said with deep earnestness, "Yes, my friend, and God grant that you may be just in time for heaven!" And going home, he prayed, "Lord, save him!"

Two days later he had retired for the night when a loud knocking made him rush to open up the window and ask, "Who is there?"

"Sir, are you the gentleman who gave a young man a booklet on a recent afternoon called 'Just in Time?'"

"Yes, I am," he said.

"Please come at once," the messenger called out.

Hastily dressing, he went out and was guided by the messenger, who told him that his mate had gone down the shaft that afternoon as usual, but had jumped out of the bucket before it reached the bottom and was caught and crushed, and that he was in terrible agony, unable to speak, just gasping for breath, and that life seemed to be fast ebbing away.

By the time the young man's story was finished, they were at his home. There lay the victim, completely helpless. He tried to speak, but it was useless.

"Shall I read with you and pray for you?" the Christian worker asked him. He made a low hissing sound, the nearest approach to Yes he could make. The worker then said: 'I read to him, 'God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not

perish, but have everlasting life.' I spoke to him of the love of God in desiring his salvation, of the efficacy of the blood of Christ to save him. I told him he was lost and ruined by nature, but that Jesus came to seek and to save the lost; that Jesus had been seeking him, wanting him, and having done the work by which sin could be put away out of God's sight, He could now give the knowledge of the forgiveness of all his sins through His precious blood. 'I read to him the story of the father and the prodigal (Luke 15), and also the brief prayers of the Pharisee and the publican in chapter eighteen, and repeated to him the verse 'He that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out.' John 6:37.

"A change took place in the dying man. The expression on his face was different. He no longer looked despairing. A glorious hope lighted it up. He made a sign for a drink, and his wife held a glass of water to his lips. He drank just a little; and then, to the amazement of all present, he who had not been able to utter a sound beyond the low hissing, said in a clear voice, with his eyes uplifted, as though he beheld the One to whom he was speaking, 'Just in time! God be merciful to me a sinner, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.'

"Scarcely had he uttered the last word when his head fell back on the pillow, a shivering little sigh escaped him, and he passed to his rest in Christ."

So even in life's last moments one can truly and fully give himself to Christ. What wonderful redemption! Have you taken the stand that young man took? Have you found refuge in Christ from all your sins? If not, let the same glorious hope lighten up your face and make glad your heart as you also declare that you now accept the mercy of God and His salvation, as you also say with all your soul, as did that young man, "God be merciful to me a sinner, for Jesus Christ's sake." = ^ .. ^ =

Professor Bushnell's Conversion

MILLIONS today, know not how to give their hearts to Jesus. Millions more know not whether it is even possible to be saved, or even whether there is a God or Savior. Yet there is a simple way by which they can know and be saved. How? They can start right where they are, with the knowledge they have, and begin seeking salvation, walking in all the light that comes to them. They will then have the assurance that they will find it; for Jesus has said, "For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." Luke 11:10.

Professor Horace Bushnell, a famous teacher at Yale University, was a skeptic, but he was very popular. When a minister went there to hold a series of meetings at the school, the young men, instead of giving their hearts to God, were inclined to hide behind Bushnell, because he was not a believer in Christ.

The minister at last went to Professor Bushnell and said, "Professor, if these things that I am preaching are true, wouldn't you like to know it? If Christ be real, wouldn't you like to know it? If Christ does change men who trust Him, and forgives them, and puts a superhuman power in their lives, wouldn't you like to know it?"

After thoughtful consideration Bushnell replied, "Certainly I would like to know it, if these things be reliable and praiseworthy."

The minister then said, "You can know it if you will just be honest."

"How?" Bushnell asked.

"Take Christ's own challenge, said the minister. 'If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God.'" John 7:17.

"But," said Bushnell, "I do not know how to start. I do not know that there is any God at all. How could I start?"

The minister replied: "Start like this: 'O God, if there be such a Being, give me light on this matter of religion. If Thou has any interest in my getting light, and if Thou wilt give me light, no matter how it comes, I will follow such light wherever it leads.' Take that clue and you will find God."

Then with firmness and decision Professor Bushnell said, "I will take it!"

Three days later he came back, and from the rostrum of the chapel he said to his students: "My men, I have a wonderful thing to tell you. I laughed to scorn all that this man preached, and all the rest of them, and the churches. I have found out that I was in the darkness and they were in the light. Oh, I have put God to the test!" Then concerning Christ he said, "I am henceforth His disciple and friend for ever!"

Although many do not care whether they will be saved or lost, God cares and appeals to all everywhere on earth: "Look unto Me, and be you saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else." Isaiah 45:22. What a wonderful



experience He gives to all who will look to Him for it, for He says: "Come now, and let us reason together, said the Lord. Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Isaiah 1:18. And Jesus Himself said, "This is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou has sent." John 17: 3.

Do you have a true knowledge of God and of Christ? If not, will you pray as Bushnell prayed, "O

God, if there be such a Being, give me light on this matter of religion. If Thou wilt give me light, no matter how it comes, I will follow such light wherever it leads"? Will you keep this prayer before God till you get the light?

It was only a few days till Bushnell was wonderfully converted. It may not take you nearly that long. It is the earnestness that quickens the answer. To be forgiven, to be cleansed in heart, and to be made holy in life by faith in Christ, who died on the cross for all, how wonderful an experience! = ^ .. ^ =



An Evening Prayer

Jesus, tender Shepherd, hear me;
Bless Thy little lamb tonight;
Through the darkness be Thou near me;
Watch my sleep till morning light.

All this day thy hand has led me,
And I thank Thee for Thy care;
Thou hast clothed me, warmed and fed me,
Listen to my evening prayer.

Let my sins be all forgiven;
Bless the friends I love so well;
Take us all at last to heaven,
Happy there with Thee to dwell. Amen



Year 3: 3rd Quarter:
“JESUS OUR SAVIOR”
WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON 11:
“SABBATH CONFLICTS”

This series of Bible Story Lessons is about Jesus. 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: “For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.” Matthew 12:8

Sunday

Text: Luke 13:10-13 “And he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.”

When we read the story of Jesus in the Bible, we find that there were many times that He healed people on the Sabbath. We also see that each time this happened, the church leaders were quick to claim that He was breaking the Sabbath. But was He breaking the Sabbath?

There are people today who try and tell us that indeed, Jesus was doing away with the Sabbath,

but this is certainly not true. Jesus, as our Creator, was the very One who made the Sabbath in the beginning. He had blessed it and so why would it ever need to be changed?

There is also another fact to look at: it is true that the leaders had often called Jesus a Sabbath-breaker, but when the time came that they were trying to find a reason to put Him to death, they did not try and charge Him with that, because they knew it was not true.

So what was the problem with these leaders anyway? It was that the Rabbis and Pharisees had added their own ‘rules’ to the Sabbath until it had become a terrible burden to the people. It was these ‘rules’ that Jesus freely ignored and that made the rulers angry with Him.

Jesus was teaching in a synagogue one Sabbath when in came a poor woman who had not been able to stand up straight for 18 years. Jesus healed her on the spot and she started praising God. But the ruler was angry and tried to make trouble.

Jesus looked at him and said, “Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his donkey from the stall, and lead him away to watering? And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?”

Sure they would care for their animals on the Sabbath because the animal was worth money to them, but they did not care about helping this sick woman. Then they felt ashamed.

Thought - The Sabbath is to be carefully kept. We are not to do our ordinary work or play on that day. However if we have an animal, we are to give it necessary care on the Sabbath; if someone is sick or gets hurt or an accident happens where someone needs our help, then we should take care of this quickly. God is merciful and kind and He does not want people or animals to be left to suffer if this can be prevented.

Monday

Text: Luke 6:1,2 “And it came to pass on the second sabbath after the first, that he went through the corn fields; and his disciples plucked the ears of corn, and did eat, rubbing them in their hands. And certain of the Pharisees said unto them, Why do ye that which is not lawful to do on the sabbath days?”

Now in Israel it was a law that if you were walking in someone's field, and you were hungry, it was alright to take some of the grain, or fruit or pick an apple, just for you to eat at the time. Of course it was not right for you to bring a basket and start gathering up what was not yours. Oh No! But to take something just to eat was allowed.

This day Jesus and His disciples were walking in a grain field and some of them who were hungry began to pick some grain and rub it to take off the husks and eat it. Jesus did not have a home, and depended on what the people gave freely to Him and his followers for food. Sometimes nobody bothered to give them anything. Maybe this was one of those days.

Anyway the Jewish leaders were right on the job and came to Jesus to complain that his disciples were 'harvesting and threshing grain' on the Sabbath. Notice they liked to accuse the disciples to Jesus and Jesus to the disciples; they were sneaky.

But Jesus told them that the priests in the temple had more work to do on the Sabbath than any other day. If this had been ordinary work, it would be wrong, but it was in the service of God. Jesus and the disciples were also in the service of God in teaching the people. Jesus also said to them, "But if ye had known what this meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day." Matthew 12:7,8.

If these rulers had the true Spirit of God in their hearts, they would have been kind and offered a meal to the hungry men, rather than try to condemn them for eating a few heads of grain on the Sabbath.

Thought – Satan is tricky, if he can't get people to ignore God's holy Sabbath, he tries to get them to add so many rules to it that it becomes a heavy burden. The interesting thing is that for most of these rules that they put on the people, the rulers claimed they did not have to keep them themselves, because they were so educated. Jesus told them, "Woe unto you also, ye lawyers! for ye lade men with burdens grievous to be borne, and ye yourselves touch not the burdens with one of your fingers."

Tuesday

Text: Mark 3:1-5 "And he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which

had a withered hand. And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might accuse him. And he saith unto the man which had the withered hand, Stand forth. And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace. And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other."

Again Jesus was in one of the synagogues and there was a man there who's hand was all withered up and useless, just like an old stick. Now the rulers were watching Jesus to see if He would heal this poor man.

Were they hoping that the man would be healed and well again? Were they excited because here was someone who could help the sick in such wonderful ways? Oh, No, they wanted to be able to blame Him for something so they could get rid of Him.

Jesus felt very bad because of their cruel, hard hearts. So he asked the man to stand up and then he asked these rulers if they thought it was better on the Sabbath day to do good and heal or to kill. You see He knew they were planning how they could kill Him. Then Jesus told the man to stretch out his hand and right away it was well and strong like the other hand.

After this the Pharisees stormed out and went and had a council with some of their own enemies as to how they could work together to kill Jesus. But of course that was OK for them to do on the Sabbath, but for Jesus to heal the poor man was not. How blind people get when they think they know more than God Himself. Jesus had to take His disciples and leave the area so they could not kill Him.

Thought – Now there is another trick that Satan is doing these days, even among people who know about God's true Sabbath. Some false teachers are saying because Jesus healed someone on the Sabbath, it is OK to go out and do all kinds of work if you are doing it to help people. This is just as wrong in one way as those rulers were in the other. Any work that can be done on another day, without leaving some person or animal suffering, should not be done on the Sabbath.

Wednesday

Text: John 5:6-9 “When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole? The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath.”

It was another Sabbath morning and Jesus was walking near the place called the Pool of Bethesda. At certain times of the year the water in this pool would be agitated. A superstition had grown up that there was supernatural power in this and if a sick person was the first to get into the pool when those waters were moved, then he would be healed.

This caused a lot of people to collect around this pool at those times of the year, hoping to get healed. Porches had been built so they had a bit of shelter there while they were waiting. If the waters did get agitated they would all rush and push and shove to try to get in first. Stronger people would trample over smaller and weaker people in their selfish wish to get in first.

Jesus looked sadly at the suffering ones all gathered around this pool and He felt sorry for them. He would have liked to heal them all, but He knew that if He did, the hard-hearted leaders would certainly kill Him.

He saw one man who had been sick and suffering for 38 long years. He was lying on the mat lifting his head every so often to look at the pool. Jesus bends over him and says to him kindly, “Wilt thou be made whole?”

The man tells Jesus, “Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me.” But Jesus says a strange thing. He tells the man to rise, take up his bed and walk.

Now the man could have said, “If you make me well, then I will”. But he didn’t. His faith took hold of Jesus’ words and he jumped up and found himself well. He picked up his bed and started to walk.

It wasn’t long before the Jewish leaders spotted him carrying his mat and asked him why he was breaking the Sabbath. He told them that the one who had healed him told him to. Now they were

determined to find some way to slay Jesus for this.

Jesus warned the man when He found him in the temple later bringing a thank offering to God, that he must not return to his former sinful life, or something worse would happen to him.

Thought – Many people today are looking for ‘some man’ to help them. They look for answers to their problems from weak humans, as sinful as themselves. But all the time the kindly face of Jesus is bending over them saying, “Wilt thou be made whole?”

Thursday

Text: John 9:1,2, 6,7. “And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.”

Did Jesus stop healing people on the Sabbath so He would appear to go along with the false rules of the Pharisees? No, He healed another person; this time it was a man who had been born blind and never able to see.

Notice the strange question that the disciples asked Jesus about the blind man. You see, the Pharisees taught that anybody who was sick or handicapped had to be a worse sinner than those who were not. So the disciples were trying to figure out whose sin caused this poor man to be born blind. Now how could it be because of his own sin if he was born that way? How could he sin before he was even born? But that was the confused way the Jews thought about these things.

Then Jesus spat on the ground and made some clay and put it on the blind man’s eyes. Then he told him to go wash in the pool of Siloam. So the man obeyed. He went groping along to the pool, but when he came back he was walking freely and praising God. He could see for the first time in his life!

Soon everyone was talking about the wonderful event. They took him to the Pharisees who asked him how it was that he could now see.

“A man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes, and I washed and do see,” the man said happily.

At this the Pharisees began to argue with one another; some said, “This man is not of God because he doesn’t keep the Sabbath!” But others said, “How could a man that is a sinner do such miracles?”

Then they decided that the man was not the same one who was born blind, so they sent for his parents. The parents said that he was their son, and he had been born blind, but they didn’t know how he could now see. The parents were afraid that if they said too much, they would be thrown out of the synagogue. They didn’t even dare show how glad they were that their son could now see.

Thought – Over and over again God was showing these proud and stubborn leaders the truth about Jesus being the Messiah, but they tried always to find some excuse not to believe in Him.

Friday

Text: John 9:24, 25 “Then again called they the man that was blind, and said unto him, Give God the praise: we know that this man is a sinner. He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.”

After they had talked to the man’s parents, they sent for the man again and spoke harshly to him, “Give God the praise, we know that this man is a sinner!”

But the blind man wasn’t going to be put down that easily and he answered, “Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not; one thing I know, that whereas I was blind, now I see.”

They started to question him again asking him how the miracle happened. He replied that he had already told them the whole story and why would they hear it again, did they want to be one of Jesus’ disciples?

Well that really made them mad and they told him off saying that they were Moses’ disciples but “as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is.”

The blind man then went on earnestly to reason with them, finishing by saying, “Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind. If this man were not of God, he could do nothing.”

In their rage at these words they snarled at him, “Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us?” How dare he try to tell them anything? And they threw him out of the synagogue.

Jesus heard about this and went and looked for him. When he found the man He asked him, “Do you believe on the Son of God?”

“Who is He Lord, that I might believe on Him?” the man asked.

Jesus answered, “You have seen Him and it is He that is talking to you.” Then the man worshipped Him.

Thought - How sad it was that these proud rulers did not feel glad for the wonderful healing of the blind man. How hard are the hearts that are full of jealousy and pride! = ^ .. ^ =



“Jesus anoints the blind man’s eyes with clay.”
John 9:6