

TEMKIT FOR CHILDREN

TEMKIT'S MISSION:

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

Year 3 - 4th Quarter - Issue #12



CREATION CORNER

Tender Hearts in Nature

There are many wonderful and beautiful things in our world, things that show the wisdom and love of our Heavenly Father. But we also see many sad things that have come about because of sin. Sometimes it is in these sad things that we see most clearly a depth to life that we can miss when all is joyful.

Of course, it was never the plan of our dear Creator that sad, bad things should happen to the lovely living things that He made. When mankind chose to rebel against the Loving Heavenly Father and go their own way, a flood of pain and misery was turned loose on this once perfect world that gets worse as ages pass.

Animals and birds would never have known suffering and death had not man joined in with Satan, the first great rebel. Nature has been badly ruined by sin, but still there are glimpses of the character of our Creator found from time to time that touch our hearts and fill us with wonder. Many animals and even birds have a deep and tender love for their mates, as strong or even stronger

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than some humans.

Graylag Geese teach us about the love of God. A pair of dead gray geese is occasionally found in the Himalayas by hunters. When one is shot down, its mate will leave the flock and go to the ground with it. Patiently, waiting for its mate to recover enough strength to fly again, the goose will not leave it. In the bitter, blowing cold of those heights, both finally die.

When a Canada goose gets sick, is wounded or is shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down the earth to help and protect it. They stay with their disabled companion until it is able to fly again or dies. Then off they go to catch up with the flock.

One morning when I was living in mid-western Canada, I was looking from a window onto my garden area when I saw something fall from the sky into the garden. Seconds later a pigeon hawk appeared and dropped down to where the object had fallen. I could see that the object was a bird, a mourning dove.

These falcon-type hawks fly very high and watch for pigeons or doves below them. If they spot one they make a dive, gathering great speed, up to 240 mph, until with a sudden upswing they suddenly strike the bird with their clenched claws,

like a fist. The force of the dive in the blow often kills the smaller bird instantly. Then the falcon will go to where it fell, pluck it and eat it for breakfast. This hawk was plucking the bird, when it saw me watching it. Taking his catch in its claws it flew away to a safer place to have its breakfast. This is one of the sad things that sin has brought into our world.

A little later as I went into my yard I saw a most touching site that brought tears to my eyes. There in the very spot where the dove had fallen was another dove. It was the mate of the fallen dove. On the ground were a few feathers and this dove was touching them and looking at them. It was so intense in its grief that it did not even seem to see me watching it.

In the story of Elo the Eagle written years ago by Floyd Bralliar, he tells of how the mate of Elo was shot by a man who had just got a new rifle and wanted to try it out. She was safe in her nest sitting on eggs, when the man aimed at her from a great distance and hit her. She took off in fright and pain, but fell into the river and her body was swept away out of site.

Elo returned later and found her missing. He called and called, but there was no answering scream from his lady-love. Then he began to search, back and forth, high and low, he searched. Sadly there was no way anyone could tell him what had happened to his mate. Gradually his search widened and it went on for many years. He never took another mate, just kept up his lonely searching.

The animals and birds God made are capable of many of the feelings we think of as only felt by humans. If we truly love our Creator, we will show kindness and respect to the other lives He has made to share this earth with us. How we long for the day when the sad and cruel things will happen no more! = ^ .. ^ =

HISTORY

Pioneers of The Advent: 10 Home on the Hillside

It is said by many critics today that the Health Reform message came not from a vision from the Lord, but was copied from the methods used by Dr. Jackson at Dansville. The story has it too that James White was restored to health by the treatments at "Our Home on the Hillside." That neither of these claims is true is shown here.

IN THE winter of 1862-1863 two of the children of James and Ellen White, then living in Battle Creek, Michigan, were stricken with pneumonia. The medical practice of the time was to shut the patient away from all outside air, especially night air, to forbid the use of water inside or out, and to dose with heavy mineral drugs. But James White saw in a newspaper an article by Dr. James C. Jackson, giving different but sensible directions for treatment of the disease: no drugs, but hot baths, cooling packs, liquid foods, plenty of water drinking, fresh air, rest, and care. Instead of calling a doctor, they followed the directions of Dr. Jackson, and their children got well.

Dr. Jackson was a pioneer in America in the use of natural methods instead of drugs. Dr. Jackson never, from the beginning of his medical practice, gave a single drug, "not so much as ... the homeopathic pellet of the seven-millionth dilution, and dissolving it in Lake Superior." The son of a doctor, he began at 36 the study of medicine because of his own failing health. He read the experience of Priessnitz, of Austria, the founder of modern hydrotherapy, and he followed these methods of cure, learning from his own and others' experiences.

In 1858, he purchased a small water-cure establishment in the outskirts of Dansville, New York, and developed there the Dansville or Jackson Sanitarium, called, "Our Home on the Hillside." He published a health journal called 'The Laws of Life' and while his teachings were attacked by many allopathic and even homeopathic doctors, he was widely respected, and successful.

In June, 1863, Mrs. White received in vision the program of health, hygiene, and curative agencies which was the basis of the health movement among Seventh day Adventists. Not using drugs, but instead natural means of health therapy, a simple vegetarian diet, healthful dress, balancing useful labor with proper rest, and a cheerful trust in the Lord, were main points.

This she and her husband, with others, put it into their own practice, and they succeeded except in the matter of temperance in work and proper rest. The needs of the Advent cause were heavy and James White felt he could not let up for even a moment. As a result, in the summer of 1865, James White was stricken down at his home in Battle Creek, with a type of stroke, and the doctors gave no hope of his recovery.

Elder J. N. Loughborough, was asked to come

immediately to Battle Creek. He came, but he too had been under a severe strain. Within twenty-four hours he was also sick. Uriah Smith, editor of the Review and Herald, was likewise worn down by stress and overwork.

The Adventist physician, Dr. Horatio S. Lay, had a year before taken his sick wife to the Dansville institution. She got well and he had remained working there. He was now sent for, and advised that all three men go to the 'Home on the Hillside' for rest and treatment. So Dr. Lay accompanied his patients and Mrs. White to the sanitarium. Dr. Jackson thought there was hope for James White, but he prescribed for him six or eight months' rest and treatment.

Here is an interesting description of the old institution, by a former patient: "It was a rambling old building, with low ceilings and narrow halls. The rooms were heated by box stoves, the beds were hard mattresses of sea grass and cotton on slats, and pillows of cotton. Small kerosene lamps furnished the little light required, and no window curtains obscured the sunshine and fresh air. In the dining room long rows of narrow tables were set, the patients drawing numbers from week to week for their seats, thus insuring a democratic mixing up of all classes, individually and collectively. A plate, cup, saucer, spoon, knife, fork, and tumbler were at each place. There were no courses served in those days. The staples were unleavened graham crackers, graham mush and porridge, applesauce, vegetables, and fresh fruits, with milk and eggs-no raised bread, no white flour concoctions, no meat, no butter, no tea nor coffee. Does this sound like bitter fare? Yet the writer can testify from experience and observation that never were meals taken with heartier relish than during that graham and vegetarian epoch.

"Eight o'clock P.m. was the retiring hour, and lights were out at half past eight. Six o'clock A.M. was the rising hour, and three or four times weekly the young man appointed to arouse the slumberers by vigorous raps on a Chinese gong, announced in loud tones through the hall that Dr. Jackson would lecture in the parlor at half past six, and everybody was expected to come promptly. The treatment was limited chiefly to half baths, packs, sitz baths, plunges, and dripping sheets."

In the case of James White there was a difference of opinion between Dr. Jackson and Mrs. White as to treatment. In the matter of diet they were nearly agreed, as the Whites had for a

year been on a meatless diet, and this was the teaching of Jackson; but he also taught the extreme idea of a saltless diet. Mrs. White, experimenting with this, found it was not good and she was also shown later by the Lord that a little salt should be used for healthy blood.

In spite of this, the saltless diet took quite a hold upon some of our early doctors and workers. While Mrs. White did not long accept the saltless diet, J. N. Andrews, whose son received much benefit at the Dansville Sanitarium, did. One time at a meeting Mrs. White sprinkled salt on her saltless mush. Elder Andrews, sitting across the table from her, said in solemn tones, "Sister White, don't you know that salt is a mineral substance, which should never be taken into the human body?" Sister White, in equally solemn tones, meekly replied, "My Bible says that salt is good."

This, however, was minor. But when it came to recreation, there was bigger problem. Dr. Jackson was a believer in Christian principles; but in the case of James White he felt that his illness was due to his intense devotion to a religious idea. He therefore advised that he completely forget all such matters, and "rest," both physically and mentally.

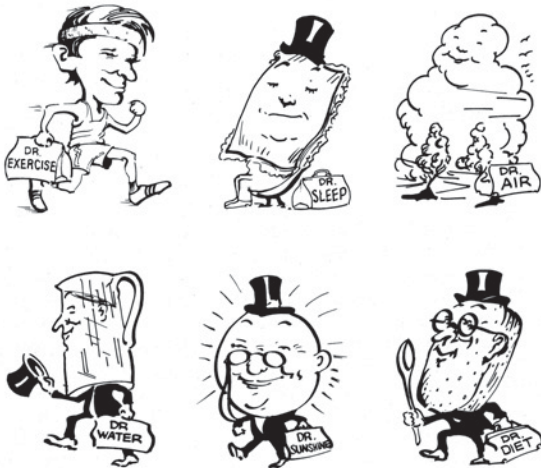
The doctor recommended to his patients games, card playing, theater-going, and dancing. And though he did not insist that Elder White must dance, he did think he would find help in theatrical plays and card playing, to divert the mind of his patient from his overindulgence in religion. And he insisted, also, that he have no physical exercise just rest.

But Mrs. White believed in the soothing influences of nature, and in proper exercise. She believed in prayer as a curative agency. As James White had always been active both physically and mentally, he sank in discouragement under the therapy at Dansville. They had been there three months, and he seemed no better so his wife determined to take him home.

Dr. Jackson did not think this was a good idea but finally agreed that he might be taken as far as Rochester, fifty miles away, to the home of friends. If he did not grow better he might be brought back.

So, with Elder Loughborough accompanying them, they went to a quiet retreat near Rochester, the home of Bradley Lamson. Elder J. N. Andrews joined them there, and earnest prayer was offered for Elder White's recovery. He made some improvement, and a month later they returned to Battle Creek.

But the way back to complete health was long and difficult. After nearly a year Mrs. White determined to take her husband's case wholly into her hands, with the blessing of God. They bought a farm, and there, with his wife for nurse, mental therapist, and careful arranger of work, he began to get well in a year, and in two or three years was back to health. One of the main things that seemed to do the trick was the healthful outdoor exercise on the farm. = ^ .. ^ =



TRUE-STORY-TIME

Saved Just in Time-2

A MINISTER was earnestly giving his message one night. He was impressing upon his congregation the fact that the best time to accept Jesus is when the Spirit of God moves upon the soul. He pressed this fact home to the hearts of his hearers as he said, "When you hear God's call and you know you ought to respond, the time to do so is right then."

Was the preacher right? Indeed he was. How appealing is the God-inspired invitation: "Today, after so long a time; ... today if you will hear His voice, harden not your hearts." Hebrews 4:7. Then to those who hear God's call, the appealing question of the Apostle Paul comes as an urgent warning, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" Hebrews 2:3.

The convincing words of the minister deeply touched a young man in the congregation. God had spoken to him, and he realized that his golden moment to accept Christ had come. He arose from his seat, stepped out into the aisle, walked down to the front, and said, "It shall be right now that I take Christ as my Savior!" That was all, but he meant every word of it. He had accepted Christ as his Savior, and the great problem of his life was settled.

The next morning the young man went to work as usual in the sawmill where he was employed. Christ was dwelling richly in his heart, and he began singing as an expression of his happiness. Song after song sprang from his lips, and he sang at his work all morning. But just before noon he became caught in the machinery and was fearfully injured. When the men got him out, he said faintly, "Send for the preacher that preached in the church house at the foot of the mountains last night."

He was soon found, and he hastened up to the mill. Bending sympathetically over his dying young convert, he took him by the hand and said, "Charley, I have come. What would you like to say?" There was a smile on Charley's face that only Heaven could bestow, and he faintly pressed the minister's hand and said, "Wasn't it a glorious thing that I settled it in time?"

How often the tender invitation of Jesus is whispered into the heart in time to save, and how glorious it is when it is accepted in time! Just as soon as the heavenly invitation is accepted and the soul surrenders to Jesus, a son is born into Christ's heavenly kingdom. This always brings joy to the soul. No wonder Charley sang so freely and so fully!

Have you settled this most important matter of accepting Christ as your own individual Savior? If not, as you have seen the glorious results of so doing, would you like to do so? Jesus Himself longs inexpressibly for you to give yourself to Him. With Him by your side by His Spirit to help you, you would be victorious in living for Him. So will you not do so? if you will, then say as did Charley, "Right now I take Christ as my Savior!" = ^ .. ^ =

The Final Pardon

SOME who are wandering in the depths of sin tremble on the brink of accepting pardon through the blood of Christ. Yet the Bible declares: "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." Isaiah 55:7.

Alexander H. Stephens, governor of Georgia, lay dying. When it became known that he was near death, leading men of the state gathered about him, urging him to sign important documents. But he waved them all aside and asked his secretary to bring to him an old faded paper out of his desk.

When this was done, it was found to be an appeal from a humble woman back in the hills for the pardon of her son, who was then in the state

penitentiary. The great men around him urged him to delay signing the plea for pardon until he had attended to their important matters, but he replied, "No, I am going to sign this! The great matters will take care of themselves." So when he had been propped up on his pillow, he took the fervent, faded appeal and, dipping his pen in the ink, wrote across it "PARDONED." Underneath it he scrawled his name, "Alexander H. Stephens, Governor" and dropped back on his pillow dead!

Likewise, the last words of Jesus on the cross made sure or signed, as it were, with His own blood, the pardon of all who would trust in Him for pardon and peace when He cried out, "Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit." Luke 23: 46. And at this very moment Jesus is the same pardoning Savior who has promised, "If you shall ask anything in My name, I will do it." John 14: 14.

Have you been pardoned through Christ? Have you been set free from all your sins? Have you been given a new life from above? If not, remember that when He comes, very soon now, it will be too late to be pardoned; for He will come, as we read, "in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ." 2 Thessalonians 1:8. And how near Jesus' coming is today!

Just think: Jesus died for your sins in order to be able to offer you pardon, whether you accept it or not. Shall He have died in vain for you? How great is the peace that comes with His pardon, and how quickly the burden of sin rolls away! = ^ .. ^ =

TRUE-STORY-TIME

Healed from Double Blindness!

AT TIMES a double miracle of saving grace is performed by the healing of both body and soul. The healing of the physical malady is first received, and this leads to the healing of the soul. This is how many were won for Christ in the early days of the gospel. The following incident illustrates as instance of double healing. It occurred in the lifetime of S. M. Rugg, a former wealthy mine owner, who had lost his fortune and gone to Alaska to seek another.

On the way to the goldfields his eyesight began to fail him. Coming to a deserted cabin, he stopped to rest for a few days and to give his eyes a chance to recover. But to his surprise they gradually got worse, and he soon found himself blind. He vividly

tells of his utterly hopeless condition:

"A panorama of my past life went before me. I was compelled to think, and I also discovered that I was cornered. There seemed to me to be no way out. I did not believe I would ever see again. I felt that if I could only die and never be found, it would be a relief. Twice in my life before I had been given up to die, but this was worse. I wanted to die and could not."

In his loneliness and lost condition he began to feel his need of God and of a Savior. He remembered his mother's prayers, how she used to pray back in the barn where no one could see her. How he wished that he could believe as she did! He then began to think about praying for himself. That seemed to be all that was left for him to do, except to starve and die. So he begged him to pray, asking God to send someone to deliver him. He prayed all that day and all night until he went to sleep. He felt better, too, while he was praying. He continued to pray for three days and nights constantly, except when he would sleep a little. But there was no answer.

Then his eyes were turned upon himself. He knew he was a sinner, and he tried to think of something else but could not. Involuntarily he would begin again to pray. His past life passed before him, his years of unbelief and doubt and sin. He wondered whether that was why God did not answer him. And at last he felt that all hope was gone.

"Finally," he said, "I began to repent of my past life. I saw that I had made an awful mistake. My feelings overcame me for a time.... I said to myself, 'I will not give up! I will pray again!' I determined to ask God to answer, so that I might know that He heard me. If He would do so, I would believe on Him the rest of my life."

Then came the wonderful turning point in his experience, as told by himself, a miraculous answer to his prayer:

"My sight came to me in the twinkling of an eye! I could see as well as ever. It was sudden--so sudden that it surprised me. I was entirely overcome, and for a time I forgot everything! 'Oh,' I exclaimed, 'God has heard and answered my prayer! This is the most wonderful thing I have ever heard of! God must be here!'

"It seemed that I could feel His very presence. Yes, yes, God was surely there, for He had given me my sight! There is no mistake about it. I was sure that I was blind, but now I can see. Oh, this is

wonderful! If I had only known about this wonderful God, I would have served Him all the days of my life!”

Then, as usual when God in a most outspoken way answers prayer, he could hardly contain himself for joy. So he says:

“I began to get happy. I shouted as loud as I could, ‘Glory to God!’ I danced around that old cabin and praised God. I got the door open, got out, and on top of the hard snow. The sun was shining. The whole woods seemed to be alive, and everything seemed to be praising God. My spiritual eyes had been opened. I was looking upon a new world. While nature seemed to dance, glisten, and sparkle, the blessings in my own soul were more wonderful. I was filled with the glory of God. Such peace, such ecstasy. And such a manifestation of God’s presence are simply beyond language to describe. The impression made upon my mind is indelible. My whole life was changed in a moment! Old things had passed away; all things had become new.”

Mr. Rugg was greatly used by God as he gave the story of his experience to thousands, his burning desire being to lead others to enter into the same blessed experience of being born again into the kingdom of Christ. He continues: “I want the whole world to know that God will meet a needy man, that God will convince him of sin, that God will fill his soul and change him in the twinkling of an eye, that God’s Word is true, that there is a supernatural birth. To get into this world, we must be born into it. To get into the other and better world, we must be ‘born again.’”

How determined God makes the hearts of those who are seeking God’s blessing and salvation, leading them to say when they are tempted to give up, “I will not give up! I will pray again!” It was this that turned the tide in Mr. Rugg’s experience and brought to him his wonderful blessing of healing and made him a new man in Christ. So to every soul longing for such blessings, Rugg appeals:

“Oh, that the world might taste and see the riches of His grace! The riches of earth, such as gold, silver, and precious stones, are but for a time—a little while—then they fade away. But the riches of heaven that God pours into the soul will last forever. The more of these heavenly riches you compass here, the richer you will be over yonder.

Friend, do not wait until you are old. Accept this free gift today. ‘Today if you will hear His voice, harden not your hearts.’ Hebrews 3:7, 8. I was sixty-

four years old when God met me in that lonely cabin. I had but one chance in ten thousand. How narrow was my escape! How fearful to contemplate! Hear the plea of one who knows. Do not delay!”



Year 3: 3rd Quarter:
“JESUS OUR SAVIOR”
WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON 12:
“THE PARTING GIFT”

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: “And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.”

1 Corinthians 11:24, 25

Sunday

Text: Luke 22:2-6 “And the chief priests and scribes sought how they might kill him; for they feared the people. Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve. And he went his way, and communed with the chief priests and captains, how he might

betray him unto them. And they were glad, and covenanted to give him money. And he promised, and sought opportunity to betray him unto them in the absence of the multitude.”

If Judas had died before that last trip to Jerusalem with Jesus, he would have been remembered as a true disciple. But deep in his heart lurked the very sin that caused the fall of Lucifer in the beginning, Pride, Greed and Jealousy.

Because he was well educated and the son of a Pharisee, the disciples looked up to Judas, and he was highly thought of by them. Judas saw the miracles of Jesus and heard His teachings just like the other disciples, but he never fully gave his heart to Jesus. He cherished attitudes of selfishness and dishonesty. He thought he was superior and he formed the habit of criticizing and accusing.

When Jesus had rebuked him for complaining about the cost of the perfume that Mary poured on Jesus' feet, he was bitter and angry inside, and went to the rulers and agreed to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver, the price of a slave. He did it at first for revenge, but he really thought that Jesus would escape from the rulers anyway and maybe after that Jesus would show Judas more respect.

He also thought that this attack might force Jesus to declare himself King and set up an earthly kingdom in which Judas would have a high position. By cherishing selfishness and pride, Judas placed himself where even the best lessons of Jesus finally hardened him to the point that Satan had full control over him.

Thought - Ask Jesus in your prayers to show you what wrong attitudes, pride of selfishness you may have in your heart. Ask Him to forgive you and take away these wrong attitudes and then every time Satan tempts you to be proud or selfish, cry to Jesus to drive away these thoughts.

Monday

Text: Luke 22:13-16 “And they went, and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready the passover. And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”

Jesus told Peter and John to go into the street and they would find a man carrying a pitcher of water. They were to follow him and go to the house where he went in and ask “The Master says, Where is the guest chamber that I may eat the Passover with my disciples?”

This man would show them a large upper room and there they were to get ready. Now why do you suppose Jesus gave such strange directions to find the room? Well He knew that Judas was looking for a chance to betray Him when he was not with the crowds and if he knew where the place was, Jesus may have been betrayed right there and never have a chance to teach the lessons of the Last Supper.

When the time came and the disciples all went to the upper room to eat the Passover meal, they were arguing along the way who was to be the greatest in the kingdom that they all thought was going to be soon set up. It was only a few days ago when Jesus had ridden into Jerusalem on a young donkey and this was the way the Kings of Israel rode to their coronations.

When they were all settled around the table there was a problem. There were basins and water so that the feet of the guests could be washed, but there was no servant available. The disciples all pretended not to notice and each was saying in his own heart, “Well I sure am not going to be the one to do this slave's work!”

Jesus felt sad to see them all so selfish, especially as He was soon to leave them to go to His cruel death. Quietly Jesus got up and tied a towel around His waist and began to wash the disciples feet. The first one he washed was Judas and we are told that the tenderness and love of Jesus nearly won back the heart of this disciple.

But then the thought came to Judas that Jesus would never be king of Israel and there would be no high position for him in the kingdom of one who would do such a lowly task as this! He hardened his heart and Satan took over completely.

Thought – There were several times that Jesus made it clear to Judas that He knew all about what he was planning to do. But Judas just kept on anyway. Afterwards the disciples recalled that Judas had never fooled Jesus as he had fooled them.

Tuesday

Text: Luke 22:17-20 “And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, **This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.**”

Although Passover celebrations are still held to this day by the Jewish people, that ‘Last Supper’ that Jesus had with His disciples was the last Passover that would have any meaning before God. Jesus was about to be sacrificed as the Lamb that taketh away the sin of the world, and when He died on the cross, it marked the ending of the feasts God had used to try to teach the people about the work of the Messiah.

Jesus here gave His people a new service to remember His death and His promise to come again. As the Passover had looked towards the Great sacrifice, so this ‘Lord’s Supper’ was to look back to it.

Jesus used the plain bread with no yeast in it, which represented the sinless life of our Savior and how his body was to be broken for our sins. The pure grape juice was never fermented either, as it was against the law for a Jew to have anything fermented in his house at the Passover time. Jesus would never give His people something harmful to use to remember Him by.

This grape juice wine was often made by soaking raisins, if the fresh juice was not available. Never was fermented wine used at such a time. This was to represent the blood that was shed on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. The blood of lambs, used down through the ages, could not in itself forgive any sins. It pointed to the real Lamb of God, Jesus, whose life and death opened the way back to the Father’s throne for all who are willing to believe and allow Jesus to take away their sins.

Thought – There are those that are saying we should go back to keeping those old feast days again, but if we do that, we are back to saying that the sacrifice has not yet been made and are looking for a future Messiah and denying Jesus.

Wednesday

Text: Matthew 26:21-24 “And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I? And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me. The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born.”

Jesus here plainly told the disciples that it was one of them that would betray Him to His enemies. They were startled and each one began to ask Him, “Lord, is it I?” Only Judas said nothing, the eyes of the disciples turned to him wondering why he was silent. Then he quickly asked like the rest, “Lord, is it I?”

John asked Jesus, “Lord, who is it?” Jesus said, “He it is who I will give this piece of bread to when I have dipped it.” Then he handed it to Judas just as he asked, “Lord, is it I?”

Solemnly Jesus answered, “Thou has said.”

The Bible tells us that at this point Satan fully entered into Judas and as he got up to leave, Jesus sad sadly, “What thou doest, do quickly.” Judas hurried out into the night, “And it was night!” Yes the darkness of sin had swallowed up Judas and now he hurried off to the Pharisees planning to lead them to where Jesus would spend the night.

So highly did the disciples think of Judas that even with the plain words of Jesus, they still thought Judas was going to do some errand for Jesus when he left.

Jesus then began to give special lessons to them. He had so much He wanted to tell them, but because of their wrong attitudes and false ideas, they could not understand them. He began to tell them that they were to love one another. He told them He was going away and that they could not follow Him.

Quickly Peter spoke up, “Lord, why can’t I follow You? I would even die for You!” Then all the disciples said the same.

Jesus told them that they all would run away from Him that very night. But Peter said, “Though all should run away and leave you, yet I will not!”

Jesus answered, “Truly I will tell you Peter, that before the rooster crows tonight, you will deny me 3 times!”

Thought – Jesus was trying to warn them not to trust in their own selves because their hearts were weak and they would surely fall if they did not pray for help. But they were so sure they would never desert their Master.

Thursday

Text: Matthew 26:30 “And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.”

There was a special group of psalms that were sung at the Passover and these are likely what Jesus sang with His disciples that night. Then they got up and left to spend the night on the Mount of Olives where there was a peaceful Garden where Jesus often prayed and meditated.

The terrible night of agony for the Saviour began as they neared the garden. It seemed that the presence of God, which had been His support, was no longer with Him. He was beginning to feel what it was to be shut out from His Father.

Christ must bear the sins of the world. As they were now laid upon Him, they seemed more than He could endure. The guilt of sin was so terrible that He was tempted to fear that God could no longer love Him.

As He felt the awful displeasure of the Father against evil, the words were forced from Him, “My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death.”

He left most of the disciples to rest near the gate of the garden and took with Him Peter, James and John. These three He asked to watch and pray with Him and warned them to pray that they enter not into temptation. Then He went a bit further and fell to the ground in agony.

If ever there was a time when they needed to stay awake and pray. it was now! But Satan was on the job and he made them sleepy. They could have resisted him if they would have prayed earnestly for help from God, but they didn't. Instead they gave in to the temptation and soon dozed off to sleep.

Thought – Have you ever found that when you go to read the Bible or sometimes pray at night that you become very sleepy? I have seen people, who I was trying to give a Bible study to, suddenly start to yawn and say they were just too tired to listen, and yet they could sit and watch TV all night and that was just fine. Yes Satan has his tricks and we have to be wise to them. If this happens to you, just pray and ask Jesus to stop these devil tricks. If you refuse to give in, after a short while it will pass and you can read and pray easily.

Friday

Text: Matthew 26:40-43 “And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done. And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy.”

Satan was really on the job that night, it was his last chance, and he was determined to overcome Jesus. The weight of all the sins of the world was pressing on Jesus and He fell on His face there in the garden crying out to His Heavenly Father. “Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me!”

Satan tried to tell Him that it was no use to go through all this for sinful man, as they didn't even care enough to pray with Him. Jesus staggered to His feet and went back to where He left the three to pray and sure enough, they were sound asleep.

Sadly He asked Peter, “Could you not even watch with me one hour? Watch and pray lest ye enter into temptation!” Then He staggered back to fall again to the ground. The terrible weight of the sins of the world caused Him to sweat great drops of bloody sweat as He cried in prayer to His Father.

Jesus was strongly tempted by Satan to just forget about sinful man and go back to heaven where he belonged. But Jesus saw that unless He paid the price to redeem man, there was no other way any could be saved from this sinful world. The perfect Law demanded the death of the sinner and that Law was what held up the whole universe, it could not be changed or done away with!

Jesus in His agony thought of those who would be saved because of His sacrifice, He thought of you and me, and He decided that even if it meant he could never be one with His Father again, He would carry out the plan.

Three times He went to where his disciples were supposed to be praying and found them asleep. He had no human help at all that night. But in love He said to His Father, “O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.” So the decision was made, He would save man no matter what it cost Him.

Then an angel came to strengthen Him as He lay dying on the ground. As this angel came, even Satan had to flee. Then Jesus went the third time to His disciples and found them asleep. "Sleep on and take your rest", He said kindly, but then He heard the sound of the mob coming to get Him. "Arise, behold he is at hand who doth betray me!"

How the disciples ever afterwards regretted having slept that night!

Thought - Have you ever felt really bad because of some wrong thing you have done? We can't imagine how Jesus must have felt as the sins of all the people that ever lived pressed upon Him, just as if it was He who had done it all. The sins of cruel men and murderers, the sins of tyrants and torturers all lay on Him! And your sins and mine were there too! = ^ .. ^ =

