

TEMKIT FOR CHILDREN

TEMKIT'S MISSION:

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

Year 3 - 4th Quarter - Issue #4



CREATION CORNER

'Tige' become a Monarch

One day last summer, Charles and Marjorie rushed into the house with one of their nature treasures. "Oh, mother, see this pretty caterpillar! What is its name?" they asked.

As soon as mother saw the greenish yellow body with shining black bands around it, she knew what it was, but she knew also that the children would enjoy finding out for themselves, so she merely asked, "Where did you find it?"

"Right out here on a milkweed plant," they answered.

"Suppose we take good care of it, and see what we can learn about it," mother suggested. "Get a small branch of the milkweed and put it in a glass of water to keep it fresh. Put the caterpillar on the leaves so it will feel at home, and place it on the window sill where it will keep warm."

The children gladly brought some milkweed and put the caterpillar on it. It seemed perfectly contented, and at once began feeding on the leaves. And how it did eat! Every day, the children placed fresh milkweed in the glass, and every day the caterpillar ate, and ate, and ate.

CONTENTS:

CREATION CORNER

HISTORY LESSON

STORY

WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON

"These stripes make me think of a tiger," said Charles. "Let's name him Tige." So after this, Tige he was.

A few days later, Tige refused to eat. He lay quite still on the leaves. The children were worried. They watched him closely and hoped he was not ill, though they agreed he had eaten enough to make himself sick. Pretty soon, what do you suppose they saw? Tige had filled himself so full that his skin split from end to end. But what did he care if his old dress was gone? He had a brand-new one underneath. As he slowly crawled out of the old one, they saw that he was larger than before. Then again he began to eat.

"Well, Tige, that's a great way to do!" exclaimed Charles. "Eat till you burst your skin, and then keep right on eating."

"The caterpillar has been molting," mother explained. "That is the way he grows. He has probably molted three times before this. He is so large now that I think this is his last molt."

For little more than a week, Tige continued to eat and grow. Then one day, they found him hanging head downward from a little silk button that he had spun and fastened to the edge of the window curtain. He was curled up like a fishhook.

"You'd better watch him pretty closely, to-day,"

suggested mother. "I shouldn't be at all surprised if he would do something even more wonderful than molting."

For a time the children watched, but Tige only hung there seemingly as at first. Every little while during the day, they looked to see if any change had taken place. After a while they noticed a thin film gradually covering his body.

"He has eaten so much that he cannot stay awake any longer," said mother, "so he is making a cradle for himself."

About four o'clock in the afternoon, what do you suppose he did? He split his skin in a line along the middle of his back, just as a girl unbuttons her dress down the back when she is getting ready to go to bed. Then he pulled it off, or pushed it off, upward just about as a boy would pull his shirt off at night. Only upward with Tige meant toward his feet, for he was hanging head downward.

When his day clothes were nearly off, he left them hanging to the silk button that he had fastened to the edge of the curtain. But before he pushed them entirely off, he managed to fasten his little cradle to the silk button, too. The dainty little cradle now completely covered him, but through it the children could see him twisting and wriggling about, just as you twist around when you first go to bed so as to get into a comfortable position to sleep. In a few moments, all was quiet. The fat little caterpillar had curled up and was sound asleep.

His cradle was the prettiest little thing you ever saw. Some one has called it "the glass house with the gold nails." The color was a most dainty green like an emerald, while part way around it near the top was a row of shining gold-colored dots. No monarch could ever have had a more delicate and beautiful cradle, though the whole thing was hardly an inch long.

For two weeks the little glass cradle with the gold nails hung in the sunny window, rocked to and fro by the gentle breezes. It looked just the same from day to day, but all this time something wonderful was going on inside. Mother said Tige was making his royal robe.

One day mother announced, "Tige is waking up. Now we must watch closely to see what his new dress is like that he has been making all this time in his royal cradle, and how he puts it on."

"Oh, I can almost see the robe!" exclaimed Marjorie. "It looks a rich brownish red with white and black on it."

As they were watching it, Tige suddenly threw open his little cradle. To keep himself from falling out, he quickly grasped one edge of his cradle with his feet, and there he hung with four little wrinkly wings all crumpled up, and with a very big body.

"He can never fly," said Charles in a disappointed tone. "Those small wings could never lift such a body."

"Just wait a while," cautioned mother.

As they waited and watched, they saw Tige pump some fluid from his body out into his wings. They could actually see the wings expand and straighten out, as pulse after pulse the fluid was pumped into them. The wings stretched and stretched until they were full size-the most beautiful things, resembling the softest velvet. But they were so limp and heavy with the body fluid that Tige could not even lift them. Slowly he walked a step away from his empty cradle, and for an hour or two he rested. During this time his wings gradually dried and hard-ened. Tige was getting ready for flight.

"We can't call him Tige any longer," said Marjorie. "His tiger stripes are all gone. What shall we call him?"

"His real name is Monarch," said mother. "He is the Monarch Butterfly. You can always tell the Monarch by his size, the black veins on his rich reddish-brown wings, and the black border with two rows of white spots."

"That name just suits him," remarked Charles, "for he is a real king, born in a king's cradle."

"There is no miracle in the world of living creatures more wonderful than the change from a caterpillar to a butterfly," said mother. "At first, a mere worm, crawling along on the earth, but finally in royal robes winging his way through the heavens.

"It makes me think of the change that the Bible says will happen to the redeemed! We are now but worms of the earth, but when our life on this earth is finished, and our change comes, if we are faithful we shall be among those who shall 'mount up with wings as eagles,' and forever live with the angels who now fly swiftly to help us get ready for that future life." = ^ .. ^ =



HISTORY

Pioneers of The Advent 2.

Joseph Bates

New Bedford town, southern port of Massachusetts; is no obscure town, its history is long, as histories go in these United States. A whaling town back in the days when Yankee shipping saw the seven seas and in particular cruised the banks of the North to harpoon the great sea mammals that furnished most of the illuminating oil, the lubricating oil, and even some of the edible oil that the world knew. Not only whalers but merchantmen sailed from New Bedford to European ports, to South America, east coast, west coast, to China, to Australia, even to Japan after Perry had opened it to commerce in 1854.

But New Bedford, with its junior sister Fairhaven across the Acushnet River, carries a more intimate interest to us, because here was the home, of Joseph Bates, the oldest of the three founders of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination.

Here, in 1793, came to live, when less than a year old, the boy Joseph Bates. His father, also named Joseph, made his residence on the "Meadow Farm," the house still standing. The salt marsh meadow, a part of his holdings, is now contained in a city park, as is also the millpond which adjoined it.

The elder Joseph Bates was one of sixteen men who, in 1798, banded together to build the Fairhaven Academy, which opened in 1800 and continued into the 1840's. Here, with little doubt, the boy Joseph attended school from his eighth to his fifteenth years.

But "in my schoolboy days," he says, "my most ardent desire was to become a sailor." Accordingly, in 1807, Joseph Bates, in his fifteenth year, sailed on his maiden voyage to England. On the way he fell into the sea where, on the other side of the ship, swam serene and unknowing the shark that had followed them for days.

On his second voyage, two years later, he was captured by Danish pirates, tools of Napoleon in his fight against Britain. And though, escaping from them and reaching England, he was not to see home; for he was kept as a prisoner of war and before he returned he had spent five years of servitude in King George's fighting ships, when

America and England came to grips in the War of 1812.

After his return in full manhood, he sailed as second mate, first mate, master of ships, first to Europe, then in successful adventurous voyages to South America, coming at last to be captain, supercargo, and part owner of vessels, whereby he made his modest fortune, twelve thousand dollars, and retired.

During this time he was converted and gave his heart to the Lord. He also turned from the evil habits of drinking, smoking, swearing. He became a model of health reform and spiritual power.

It was 1828 when Joseph Bates, home from a voyage to South America, left the sea, twenty-one years from the time when he first sailed as cabin boy. Six weeks before his return his noble, devoted father had died, in his will bidding his son Joseph to help his mother settle the estate. Within a year his mother died also, leaving him the Meadow Farm, where he dwelt for three years.

Joseph Bates had a faithful and devoted wife, who as a girl was Prudence Nye. He had known Prudence while still a youth; and when in 1818 they were married, it was to walk the road of life together for fifty-two years. For the first ten of these years she was the typical sea captain's wife, waiting through long voyages in hope, happily in her case never disappointed, of seeing him again.

It was she who planted a Bible in his sea chest, and other books of devotion that really brought him to his Savior. And while he doubted his acceptance, she hailed the evidence of his letters and his diaries as proof of his conversion, and she encouraged him to know that he was accepted of Christ.

So when he came to land before his last voyage, he was baptized and joined her church. His honored and aged father wistfully remarked that he had had him baptized into his own church, when he was a baby. "But," said Joseph, "the Bible says, 'Believe and be baptized,' and I was too young then to believe."

In 1831 he sold his first residence to his brother, he joined with three other members of his church to build a Christian meeting house on Washington Street.

In that same year he bought another piece of land, which he called his little farm," and began, in 1832, to build thereon a residence and farm buildings. He planted there a grove of mulberry trees, intending to start a silk worm industry. He constructed a schoolhouse, hoping to employ the

students in his business. A quick succession of events changed these plans, when the Second Advent message seized upon him in 1839.

After 1844 he sold most of his property and in 1846, when he sat down to write his little book about the Sabbath Truth, he had nothing left of his fortune except a single York Shilling. As he was writing his wife, coming in from the kitchen, said; "Joseph, I haven't enough flour to finish my baking."

"That so?" commented her husband. "How much flour do you lack?"

"Oh, about four pounds," said she.

"All right." And shortly he rose and went out. Using his last shilling and buying four pounds of flour, came in and left it on the kitchen table while she was temporarily out. But immediately she was at his door again.

"Joseph, where did this flour come from?"

"I bought it. Isn't that what you wanted?"

"Yes; but have you, Captain Joseph Bates, a man who has sailed with cargoes worth thousands of dollars, gone out and bought just four pounds of flour?"

"Wife, for those four pounds of flour I spent the last money I have on earth."

It was true, then! Prudence Bates was a devoted wife. She had approved of her husband's spending his money in the cause of the coming Christ, for she held with him in that. But she left finances in his hands; and as their fortunes dwindled, she pressed back the fear and the question of how much he had left. Now she knew.

Moreover, she was not with him in this new Sabbath truth, nor was she for yet four years. During that time he used to drive with her to her Christian church on Sunday, go home, and come back to get her after service, for he would not keep the pope's Sabbath; he kept the Lord's Sabbath. In 1850 she followed him into the third angel's message, with its Sabbath truth, and for twenty years, until her death, she was a devoted and beautiful Sabbath keeping Christian worker. But now!

Her apron flew to her eyes, as the tears flowed, and with sobbing voice she cried, "What are we going to do?"

Joseph Bates rose to his full height. "I am going to write a book on the Sabbath, and distribute it everywhere, to carry the truth to the people," he said.

"Yes, but what are we going to live on?"

"Oh, the Lord will provide."

"Yes! 'The Lord will provide'! That's what you

always say." She ran from the room with sobs and tears.

Well, Joseph Bates couldn't do anything about it, that he knew. So he turned from his husbandly duties to his apostleship duties, and began to write. Within half an hour he was impressed that he should go to the post office, for a letter with money in it. He went, and found the letter, which contained a ten-dollar bill, from a man who said he felt impressed that Elder Bates needed money. With this he purchased supplies, sending them ahead to a surprised wife. When he arrived at home, she excitedly demanded to know where they came from.

"Oh," said he, "the Lord sent them."

"What do you mean, 'The Lord sent them'?"

"Prudy," said he, "read this letter, and you will know how the Lord provides."

Prudence Bates read it; and then she went in and had another good cry, but for a different reason.

And the message of the Sabbath went over the land. Today all the world knows the message. From A W Spalding 1947 = ^..^ =

TRUE-STORY-TIME

Rebuke the Devourer

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse." Malachi 3:10:

"Look, Bill!" Arlene laid her hand on her husband's arm. "The sky is almost black! What will we do?"

"Do!" he exclaimed. "Only one thing we can do now!"

The lightning flashed ahead, and with it came a loud clap of thunder that told Bill things were going to start happening around there—and soon.

This was on a late October evening. Bill and Arlene Thomas had just started home. Their visit with friends in a nearby town had been pleasant, and conversation in the car, now headed for home, was animated as the children told of their encounters.

At first the travelers did not notice that the sky was becoming dark. In the San Joaquin Valley of Central California, rain is the last thing grape and raisin growers are wanting at this time of year. Thousands of dollars of damage can be done in a very few minutes if rain falls when grapes are drying between the rows of vines. (Growers spread the Thompson seedless grapes on papers between the rows to dry.)

As they entered their driveway, the thought of sixty acres of soggy raisins loomed before them. Bill and Arlene had been studying faithfully the ABC's of Bible Prayer in a series at Prayer Meeting at their little church. Already faith had grown in their hearts and they decided to put God to His own test. Does He not promise:

“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

“And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts” (Malachi 3:10, 11)?

“Bill, it looks as though that promise was put there just for us.” Arlene's tone radiated trust and assurance.

As the Thomas family knelt and claimed God's promise, which exactly fit their immediate need, they felt a peaceful calm. Knowing that their income for the year ahead was in God's hands, they retired and went to sleep.

At 2:00 a.m. Dad Thomas called on the telephone. It was raining heavily at his place, only five miles away. It thundered all night long, and lightning tore the darkness. But when daylight finally dawned, Bill and Arlene found that not one drop of rain had fallen on their crop!

The Prodigal Daughter

We have all heard of the prodigal son, but this is the account of a girl whom we shall call Lucy. She was a teen-ager who became disgruntled. She had run away from home, much to the sorrow of her loving mother.

Dissatisfied with the restrictions of the home, she decided to go out into the world to seek its tinsel. She would sip the sounds of worldly music. She would fellowship with its darkness.

In relating this story, my friend pictured the heartbroken mother on the continent of Africa, studying how she might reach her daughter with her message of love. She wanted to post, publicly, pictures of her daughter so she would know that the message was meant for her personally. But she had no picture of Lucy.

After earnest study, the mother decided that she would do the only thing left for her to do. She had

a picture of herself. She would have the local printer do some fliers with her picture on them. If Lucy saw her picture, she would read the message that went with it. It read, “I have never ceased to love thee.” This was the only way she knew to attract the attention of her rebellious daughter. It might woo her back to the home of love; of endearment; of fellowship.

The fliers were finished. The mother took the bus and went to the city where she suspected Lucy had gone. On poles, on sides of buildings, and on trees, posters were placed. Usually at these locations were posted announcements of sports events and other festivities.

When all the fliers had been posted, Mother boarded the bus and returned home. There she wept and prayed for the return of her Lucy.

One day, Lucy was walking down the street. She observed a crowd of people around a pole. Lucy drew near. She was astonished to see the face of her own mother on one of the fliers. In greater astonishment, she read the words, “I have never ceased to love thee.”

Strange emotions began to stir in her rebellious heart. They were tender, submissive emotions. Walking on, she saw another group of curious people looking at a sign on a building. She drew near in curiosity. Again she saw a picture of her loving mother. Underneath were the same words. “I have never ceased to love thee.”

Similar posters were seen on street after street. The same picture and love words met her gaze. Lucy could stand it no longer. With tears on her cheeks and with warmth in her heart, she rushed back to her temporary abode. There she gathered up her things, and hastily packed them. She was soon on a bus headed for home. It could not go fast enough to take her to the arms of the mother who had never ceased to love her.

Our Lord's message to backslidden humanity is. “I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee,” Jeremiah 31:3. “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.” 1 John 3:1. “I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely” Hosea 14:4, comes ringing down the corridors of time for every rebellious, wandering son and daughter of Adam to hear, ponder, and decide whether he will choose to return to his Father's house or continue to wander in sin. =^..^=



Year 3: 3rd Quarter:
“JESUS OUR SAVIOR”
WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON 4:
“HIS MINISTRY BEGINS”

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 there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” Mark 1:11.

Sunday

Text: Matthew 3:1-3 “In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”

When the time for Christ's public ministry had come, His first act was to go to the river Jordan, and be baptized by John the Baptist. John had been sent to prepare the way for the Saviour. He had preached in the wilderness, saying:

“The kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.” Mark 1:15. Multitudes flocked to hear him. Many were convicted of their sins, and were baptized by him in the Jordan.

God had made known to John that someday the Messiah would come to him and ask to be

baptized. He had also promised that a sign should be given him, so that he might know who it was.

When Jesus came, John saw in His face such signs of His holy life, that he forbade Him, saying: “I have need to be baptized of Thee, and comest Thou to me?”

“And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness.” Matthew 3:14, 15.

And as He said this, there was seen upon His face the same heavenly light that Simeon had beheld. So John led the Saviour down into the waters of the beautiful Jordan, and there he baptized Him in the sight of all the people.

Jesus was not baptized to show repentance for His own sins; for He had never sinned. He did it to set an example for us.

When He came up out of the water, He kneeled on the riverbank, and prayed. Then the heavens were opened, beams of glory streamed forth, “and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him.” Matthew 3:16.

His face and form were all aglow with the light of the glory of God. And from Heaven the voice of God was heard saying: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” Matthew 3:16, 17.

The glory that rested upon Christ was a pledge of the love of God for us. The Saviour came as our example; and just as surely as God heard His prayer, He will hear ours.

Thought - The most needy, the most sinful, the most despised, may find access to the Father. When we come to Him in Jesus' name, the voice which spoke to Jesus speaks to us, saying: “This is My beloved child, in whom I am well pleased.” (SJ= From ‘Story of Jesus’ by Ellen White)

Monday

Text: Mark 1:12,13 “And immediately the Spirit driveth him into the wilderness. And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him.”

After His baptism, Christ was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, to be tempted of the devil.

In going into the wilderness, Christ was led by the Spirit of God. He did not invite temptation. He wanted to be alone, that he might contemplate His mission and work.

By prayer and fasting He was to brace Himself

for the bloodstained path He must travel. But Satan knew where the Saviour had gone; so he went there to tempt Him.

As Christ left the Jordan, His face was lighted with the glory of God. But after He entered the wilderness, this glory disappeared. The sins of the world were upon Him, and His face showed such sorrow and anguish as man had never felt. He was suffering for sinners.

Adam and Eve in Eden had disobeyed God by eating of the forbidden fruit. Their disobedience had brought sin and sorrow and death into the world. Christ came to give an example of obedience. In the wilderness, after fasting forty days, He would not, even to obtain food, depart from the will of His Father.

One of the temptations that overcame our first parents was the temptation to indulge appetite. By this long fast Christ was to show that appetite can be brought under control.

Satan tempts men to indulgence, because this weakens the body and beclouds the mind. Then he knows that he can the more easily deceive and destroy them. But Christ's example teaches that every wrong desire must be overcome. Our appetites are not to rule us; we must rule them.

When Satan first appeared to Christ, he looked like an angel of light. He claimed to be a messenger from Heaven. He told Jesus that it was not the will of His Father that He should endure this suffering; He was to show only a willingness to suffer.

When Jesus was struggling against the keenest pangs of hunger, Satan said to Him: "If Thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread."

But since the Saviour had come to live as our example, He must endure suffering as we have to endure it; He must not work a miracle for His own good. His miracles were all to be for the good of others. To the demand of Satan He answered: "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

Thought – Thus He showed that it is far less important to provide ourselves with food than that we should obey the word of God. Those who obey God's word have the promise of all things needed for the present life, and they have also the promise of future life. SJ

Tuesday

Text: Matthew 4:8-10 "Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."

Satan had failed to overcome Christ in the first great temptation; he next carried Him to a pinnacle of the temple at Jerusalem, and said: "If thou be the Son of God, cast Thyself down: for it is written, He shall give His angels charge concerning Thee: and in their hands they shall bear Thee up, lest at any time Thou dash Thy foot against a stone."

Satan here followed Christ's example in quoting Scripture. But this promise is not for those who willfully venture into danger. God had not told Jesus to throw Himself down from the temple. Jesus would not do it to please Satan. He said: "It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."

We should trust in the care of our heavenly Father; but we must not go where He does not send us. We must not do what He has forbidden.

Because God is merciful, and ready to forgive, there are those who say that it is safe to disobey Him. But this is presumption. God will forgive all who seek pardon and turn away from sin. But those who choose to disobey Him He cannot bless.

Satan now appeared what he really was—the prince of the powers of darkness. He took Jesus to the top of a high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world. The sunlight lay on splendid cities, marble palaces, fruitful fields, and vineyards. Satan said: "All these things will I give Thee, if Thou wilt fall down and worship me."

For a moment Christ looked upon the scene. Then He turned away. Satan had presented the world to Him in the most attractive light; but the Saviour looked beneath the outward beauty. He saw the world in its wretchedness and sin, apart from God. All this misery was the result of man's turning away from God to worship Satan.

Christ was filled with longing to redeem that which was lost. He longed to restore the world to more than its Eden beauty. He wanted to place men on vantage ground with God.

For sinful man He was withstanding temptation. He was to be an overcomer, that they might overcome, that they might be equal with the angels, and be worthy to be acknowledged as sons of God.

To Satan's demand for worship, Christ answered: "Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve." Matthew 4:3-10.

The love of the world, the lust for power, and the pride of life—everything that draws man away from the worship of God—was embraced in this great temptation of Christ. Satan offered Christ the world and its riches if He would pay homage to the principles of evil. So Satan presents to us the advantages to be gained by wrongdoing.

He whispers to us, "In order to succeed in this world, you must serve me. Do not be too particular about truth and honesty. Obey my counsel, and I will give you riches, honor, and happiness."

In obeying this counsel we are worshiping Satan instead of God. It will bring us only misery and ruin.

Thought – Christ has shown us what we should do when tempted. When He said to Satan, "Get thee hence," the tempter could not resist the command. He was compelled to go. Writhing with baffled hate and rage, the rebel chief left the presence of the world's Redeemer.

The contest was ended for the time. Christ's victory was as complete as had been the failure of Adam. So we may resist temptation, and overcome Satan. The Lord says to us, "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you." James 4:7, 8. SJ

Wednesday

Text: John 1:32-34 "And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God."

From the wilderness, Christ returned to the Jordan, where John the Baptist was preaching. At that time men sent by the rulers at Jerusalem were questioning John as to his authority for teaching and baptizing the people.

They asked if he was the Messiah, or Elijah, or "that prophet," meaning Moses. To all this he answered, "I am not." Then they asked: "Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us.

"He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias." John 1:22, 23.

In old times when a king had to travel from one part of his country to another, men were sent ahead of his chariot to prepare the roads. They had to cut down trees, gather out the stones, and fill up the hollows, so that the way would be clear for the king.

So when Jesus, the heavenly King, was coming, John the Baptist was sent to prepare the way by teaching the people, and calling on them to repent of their sins.

As John answered the messengers from Jerusalem, he saw Jesus standing on the riverbank. His face lighted up, and stretching out his hands, he said: "There standeth One among you, whom ye know not; He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose." John 1:26, 27.

The people were greatly moved. The Messiah was among them! They looked about eagerly to find the One of whom John had spoken. But Jesus had mingled with the multitude, and was lost to sight.

The next day John again saw Jesus, and, pointing to Him, cried: "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world!"

Then John told of the sign that had been seen at Christ's baptism. "I saw, and bare record," he added, "that this is the Son of God." John 1:29, 34.

With awe and wonder the hearers looked upon Jesus. They questioned with themselves, Is this the Christ? SJ

Thought – The messengers from Jerusalem were not drawn to the Saviour. They saw that Jesus was not rich. His clothing was plain and simple, such as poor people wore. But in His pale, worn face was something that moved their hearts. In that face they read dignity and power; and every glance of the eye, spoke of divine compassion and unutterable love. But John had not said what they wanted to hear. They expected the Messiah to come as a great conqueror, in disappointment they turned from Him.

Thursday

Text: John 2:2-5 “And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage. And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come. His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.”

The next day John again saw Jesus, and again he cried, “Behold the Lamb of God!” John 1:36. Two of John’s disciples were standing near, and they followed Jesus. They listened to His teaching, and became His disciples. One of the two was Andrew, the other John.

Andrew soon brought to Jesus his own brother, Simon, whom Christ named Peter. The next day, on the way to Galilee, Christ called another disciple, Philip. As soon as Philip found the Saviour, he brought his friend Nathaniel. In this way Christ’s great work on earth was begun. One by one He called His disciples, and one brought his brother, another his friend. This is what every follower of Christ is to do. As soon as he himself knows Jesus, he is to tell others what a precious Friend he has found. This is a work that all can do, whether they are young or old.

At Cana in Galilee, Christ, with his disciples, attended a marriage feast. For the happiness of this household gathering, His wonderful power was put forth.

It was the custom in that country to use wine on such occasions. Before the feast was ended, the supply of wine had failed. The lack of wine at a feast would be thought to show a want of hospitality, and this was regarded as a great disgrace.

Christ was told of what had happened, and He bade the servants fill six large stone jars with water. Then He said, “Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast.” John 2:8.

Instead of water, there came forth wine. This wine was much better than that which had been served before, and there was enough for all. After working the miracle, Jesus quietly went away. Not till He had gone, did the guests know of the work He had done.

Christ’s gift to the marriage feast was a symbol. The water represented baptism, and the wine His blood, that was to be shed for the world. The wine which Jesus made was not fermented liquor.

Such wine is a cause of drunkenness and many great evils, and God had forbidden its use. He says, “Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.” “It biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.” Proverbs 20:1; 23:32.

The wine used at the feast was the pure, sweet juice of the grape. It was like that which the prophet Isaiah calls “the new wine ... in the cluster;” and he says, “A blessing is in it.” Isaiah 65:8. SJ.

Thought – By going to the marriage feast, Christ showed that it is right to meet together in this pleasant way. He liked to see people happy. Often He visited them in their homes, and tried to have them forget their cares and their troubles, and think of God’s goodness and His love. Wherever He might be, Christ was always trying to do this. Wherever people would listen, He told about the way of salvation.

Friday

Text: John 4:9,10 “Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans. Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.”

One day, as He was passing through the country of Samaria, He sat down by a well to rest. When a woman came to draw water, He asked her for a drink. The woman wondered at this, for she knew how the Jews hated the Samaritans. But Christ told her that if she would ask of Him, He would give her living water. At this she wondered the more. Then Jesus said to her:

“Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: but whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.” John 4:13, 14. By the living water is meant the Holy Spirit. As a thirsty traveler needs water to drink, so do we need God’s Spirit in our hearts. He who drinks of this water shall never thirst.

The Holy Spirit brings God’s love into our hearts. It satisfies our longings, so that the riches and honors and pleasures of this world do not

attract us. And it fills us with such joy that we want others to have it too. It will be in us like a spring of water, that flows out in blessing to all around.

And every one in whom God's Spirit dwells, will live forever with Christ in His kingdom. Received into the heart by faith, it is the beginning of the life eternal. This precious blessing Christ told the woman He would give her if she asked for it. So He will give it to us.

This woman had broken God's commandments, and Christ showed her that He knew the sins of her life. But He showed, too, that He was her friend, that He loved and pitied her,

and that if she was willing to forsake her sins, God would receive her as His child.

How glad she was to know this! In her joy she hurried away to the town near by, and called the people to come and see Jesus. So they came to the well, and asked Him to stay with them. He remained two days, and taught them, and many listened to His words. They repented of their sins, and believed on Him as their Saviour. SJ

Thought - In John 3 and 4 we have two of the greatest sermons of Jesus and each time it was only one person He was speaking to! What we say to even one person, is just as important as if we were talking to a crowd! = ^ . ^ =

