

TEMKIT FOR CHILDREN

TEMKIT'S MISSION:

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

Year 3 - 4th Quarter - Issue #6



CREATION CORNER A Spring-time Ritual

As winter slips away into springtime and the daytime temperature begins to rise above freezing, many families in Ontario return to their sugar bush to make maple syrup. The boiling of sap to make maple syrup and maple sugar is one of the oldest traditions in North America and is part of Canada's heritage. Canada is famous around the world for its pure Maple Syrup.

In Canadian forests, the maple is considered a valuable tree. It is harvested for its hard, resilient wood and, mainly in Ontario and Quebec, for its sap from which delicious syrup is obtained. The collection of the sap, followed by its transformation into syrup by boiling, is a very old custom inherited from native Indians. They were the first to recognize it as a source of energy and nutrition.

Long before European explorers came to Canada, the Indians had learned how to draw off maple sap and boil it to make sugar. In early spring, they would pierce the tree trunk with a tomahawk, placing a wood chip under the hole to channel the maple water into a bark receptacle. They then boiled the sap in clay containers to obtain

maple sugar.

Legend tells us that the discovery was made by accident. It was not uncommon for the Indians to boil venison (deer meat) in Maple sap. The story is that a boy was asked by his mother to watch the pot containing the sap and venison, but he fell asleep and when he again woke, the pot was almost boiled dry. Jumping up quickly to try and rescue the food, he found a thick syrup in the bottom of the pot. When he tasted it, it was delicious Maple Syrup.

In the early days of colonization, it was the Indians who showed French settlers how to tap the trunk of a tree at the outset of spring, harvest the sap and boil it to evaporate some of the water. This custom quickly became an integral part of colony life, so much so that, during the 17th and 18th centuries, syrup was a major source of high quality pure sugar.

Before the advent of Europeans, the Indians used clay pots to boil maple sap over simple fires protected only by a roof of tree branches. This was the first version of the sugar shack. Over the years, this evolved to the point where the sugar shack is not only a place where maple syrup is produced but also a gathering place where a traditional meal can be enjoyed. For the majority of Quebecers,

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spring just would not be spring without a visit to a sugar shack.

Even if production methods have been streamlined since colonial days, they are basically the same. The sap must first be collected and distilled carefully so that you get the same totally natural, totally pure syrup without any chemical agents or preservatives.

During the growing season, maples accumulate starch. With the spring thaw, enzymes change this starch into sugar, which mixes with the water absorbed through the roots, imparting a slightly sweet taste. While maple water also contains minerals, organic acids and maple taste, it is mostly water (about 97.5%).

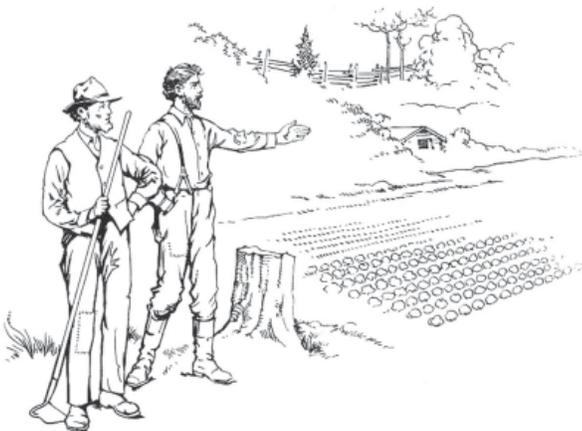
In early spring, maple producers tap their trees on snowshoe. They bore holes 5 cm deep with a drill 1 cm in diameter and drive a spout called a 'spile' into the hole. This metal or plastic spout allows the maple sap to drip into a bucket.

Depending on the tree's diameter and strength, it may be fitted with as many as three taps. Small trees with trunks less than 25 cm in diameter should not be tapped at all. From mid-march to the beginning of April, alternate freezing and thawing changes the pressure inside the tree and starts the sap flowing.

Traditionally, after the sap was collected in troughs, it was emptied into a large barrel carried on a horse-driven sleigh.

Maple water is transformed into maple syrup in a sugarhouse, or "sugar shack." In this building, the sap is boiled in a large pan, the evaporator. Most of the water in it evaporates during this process, leaving concentrated maple syrup. Almost forty litres of maple water must be evaporated to produce one litre of syrup. = ^ .. ^ =

HISTORY



Pioneers of The Advent 4 The Potato Patch Preaches Leonard Hastings

NEAR the southern border of New Hampshire is the village of New Ipswich. Did you ever hear of New Ipswich? It was once an important town, business center of towns and cities that have now outstripped it, in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. And it was a center of Seventh-day Adventist influence, there being within a radius of ten miles as many towns holding believers of this faith. Leonard Hastings, farmer and preacher, was the leader.

The Webber family lived in town, Father Webber being a tailor; and their house was the common stopping place of workers and pilgrims, sometimes holding overnight as many as twenty or thirty persons. Up an ascending street were several houses, which the citizens called Advent Row, where Seventh-day Adventists lived. Union Hall, in the town, is reputedly the place where Elder S. N. Haskell organized the first conference-wide Tract Society.

If you will go to Ellen White's Life Sketches, you will find a story of early New Ipswich. 'We found Brother Leonard Hastings' family in deep affliction.' Mrs. Hastings had a baby boy, eight weeks old, who cried continually, wearing away the strength of the mother, who was already weak. They prayed and anointed the babe. His cries ceased, and James and Ellen White left the parents deeply grateful.

"Our interview with that dear family was very precious. Our hearts were knit together. Especially was the heart of Sister Hastings knit with mine, as were those of David and Jonathan. Our union was not marred while she lived" which was not long, for a year later word reached them in Oswego that Sister Hastings had died suddenly of what was then called bilious fever; appendicitis.

"This news fell upon me with crushing weight. It was difficult to be reconciled to it. She was capable of doing much good in the cause of God. She was a pillar in the cause of truth." That infant was Fred Hastings. 1. And it was his widow in whose home we were now visiting.

Miss Mildred went with us on a drive three miles, up and up, to the site of the old Hastings home, where Brother and Sister White found them. The view from that high rolling land is beautiful, away out over the valleys in three directions, with

the mountain behind. The house is gone, and only the crumbling cellar remains. But the potato patch is there, and when we visited, there were potatoes growing in it!

The potato patch figures in more than one case of Adventists in 1844. It appears that an infectious disease, causing rot, attacked the crop in the fall or the winter of 1844-1845; and so devastating was it that in the spring seed potatoes sold for as much as \$5 a bushel. But, of course, in the early autumn of 1844 no one knew it was going to be that way.

Leonard Hastings was a believer in the message that the Lord was coming on October 22, 1844. His main business was pasturing and caring for cattle, which were driven up from Massachusetts for the summer. But he grew enough produce to supply his family, and a potato crop for sale. Right next to his house he had a large field of potatoes. It came time to dig them, in September or October, but he did not dig them. His neighbors, they were not very close neighbors, but they got around, especially to the "Advent's" they came and said, "Aren't you going to dig your potatoes?"

"No," said Leonard Hastings, "I'll not want them. The Lord is coming."

"We'll dig them for you," they offered.

"No," he answered. "I'm going to let that field of potatoes preach my faith in the Lord's soon coming."

"Old fool!" they said behind his back, "He'll find out he needs his potatoes."

Well, of course the day passed, and the Lord did not come. But the potatoes were saved, and so they preached a sermon of the reward of faith, even if the larger faith was disappointed. Loughborough says, "As the fall 'Was mild, and Mr. Hastings' potatoes were left in the ground until November ... he had an abundant supply for himself and his unfortunate neighbors."

Mrs. Genevieve Hastings says this is true; so it seems that the rot attacked the early dug potatoes but not those dug later.

2. In another case, however, the potatoes stayed in the ground until spring. Elder James Shultz told us this story of Silas Guilford, William Miller's brother-in-law, who had moved from Dresden to near Oswego, New York. There he and his boys, on their farm, planted a twelve-acre field of potatoes in the spring of 1844.

It will be recalled that Adventists had their first disappointment over the Lord's not coming in April

of 1844. Then came, the "tarrying time." At first they set no other date; and so, seeing nothing certainly in the future, they planted their spring crops. But during the summer came the "midnight cry," with October 22 set as the day of the Advent. Thus it occurred that Adventists, without denying their faith, planted their crops, but some of them at least would not harvest them.

Guilford and his family put every dollar they could get into the cause of the Second Advent, and he mortgaged his farm, and put in that money too. He also left his potatoes in the ground that fall, that they might preach his faith in the Lord's coming. The snows came early in his section, and covered them up, so they stayed over the winter. When it came spring, and the snow was gone, Silas Guilford said to his wife, "I'm going up to the potato field and see if there are any potatoes that are good."

"Oh, don't, Silas," said his wife. "You've been ridiculed so much. And now if they see you up there trying to dig potatoes, it will be just too much."

"Well," he said, "the boys and I are going up anyway. Irving, the oldest boy, told this to Shultz when the latter was a lad.

"I went up with father," he said. "The ground was thawed out nicely. Father put his fork in. The very first hill he dug up wonderfully nice potatoes! He felt of them; they were solid, not frozen at all, and not a bit of rot. The next hill too! And then he sent me racing back for the other boys, and we dug those whole twelve acres, a fine yield. We got \$4.50 a bushel for them, enough to pay off the mortgage and leave a tidy sum. Truly the Lord honored the faith of the Advent believers!

3. J. O. Corliss relates a similar story concerning Joseph Bates and his potatoes. I suppose there were other potato patches that preached in 1844, but these are all I have heard of.

1. Ellen G. White, *Life Sketches*, pp. 121-123; James and Ellen White, *Life Sketches*, pp. 256-258.

2. J. N. Loughborough, *The Great Second Advent Movement*, pp. 166, 167.

3. J. O. Corliss in *Review and Herald*, Aug. 16, 1923, p. 7. From A W Spalding 1947 = ^ .. ^ =

TRUE-STORY-TIME

Two Died for Him

THE SEA sparkled and the birds sang sweetly one beautiful morning after a fearful storm. On shore a lady and a sailor stood beholding a ship, the wreckage of which showed the strength of the storm. After lamenting any loss of life that may have occurred, the sailor asked, "Do you know the Savior?" The lady then asked him how long he had known the Savior, for all was well with her soul.

He replied, "It's nigh on to five years. ... Never will I forget it, for two died for me."

"Two?" she questioned.

"Yes, ma'am, two. My Savior died for me eighteen hundred years ago on Calvary's cross, and my mate died for me just five years ago, and that brought me to my Savior."

Then he told of the shipwreck when his mate died in his stead. In a terrible storm the vessel was driven on a rock. Signals of distress brought out a lifeboat from the shore. It hardly seemed possible for it to reach them, but it did. The women and children were first taken ashore.

Then the sailors knew that some of them must die, for the ship would surely sink before the lifeboat could reach them the fourth time. So they drew lots to know who should go and who should stay.

"My lot was to stay in the sinking ship. What a horror of darkness came over me! 'Doomed to die and be damned,' I muttered to myself, and all the sins of my life came before me. Still I made no outward sign, but, oh, ma'am, between my soul and God it was awful! I had a mate who loved the Lord. Often he had spoken to me of my soul's welfare, and I had laughed and told him I meant to enjoy life. Though he stood by my side, I could not even ask him to pray for me.

I wondered why he did not speak to me of the Savior. I understood it afterward. His face, when I once caught a glimpse of it, was calm and peaceful and lighted up with a strange light. I thought bitterly, 'It is well for him to smile; his lot is to go into the lifeboat, to be saved.' Dear old Jim, how could I ever have so mistaken you?

"Well, ma'am, the lifeboat neared us again. One by one the men whose lot it was to go, got in. It was Jim's turn, but instead of going into the lifeboat, he pushed me forward, 'Go you in the lifeboat in my place, Tom,' he said, 'and meet me in heaven, man! You mustn't die and be damned!

It is all right for me.'

I would not have let him do it, but I was carried forward. The next one, eager to come, pressed me on. Jim knew it would be like that, so he had never told me what he was going to do. A few seconds, and I was in the lifeboat. We had barely cleared the ship when she went down, and Jim, dear old Jim, with her. But, madam, he died for me!"

As the ship went down, Tom said in his heart, "If I get safely to land, Jim shall not have died in vain. Please, God, I will meet him in heaven! Jim's God must be worth knowing, when Jim died for me that I might get another chance of knowing Him."

It did not take long for him to find the Savior, but at first he did not know how to begin. He was continually seeing Jim go down with the sinking ship with the quiet smile of peace on his face, day and night awake and asleep. At the beginning he seemed to think more of Jim than of the Lord.

Then he bought a Bible, for Jim had loved it so. But before he began to read it, he offered up a little prayer, telling the Lord how ignorant he was about the way to heaven, and asking Him to show him how to get there. Then he began reading the New Testament, but after reading several chapters he became discouraged, for every line seemed to condemn him.

So he said to himself, "It's no use, Tom. There is no chance for you. You have been too bad." But as he closed his Bible, suddenly Jim's last words came to him with power: "Meet me in heaven, man!" So he opened the Bible again and kept on reading it in all his spare moments. Then he told how he found the Savior:

"At last I came to that part about the two thieves, and the Lord saving the one; and I thought, 'Here is a man almost as bad as I am.' So I dropped my Bible and fell down on my knees and said, 'Lord, I am as bad as that thief. Will You save me just like You did him?'

My Bible had dropped down open, and as I opened my eyes after praying this, they fell on these words: 'Verily I say unto thee shall thou be with Me in Paradise.' I took them as my answer. So I went down on my knees again and thanked Him. Of course I was very ignorant, but bit by bit I saw the way of salvation, how Jesus had died instead of me and taken away all my sins by His precious blood."

There are many who feel much like the sailor: that they are too wicked to be forgiven. They behold

their sins, but not the Savior. Let them behold Jesus as He breathes out His spirit into the hands of His Father. "Father," He cries, "into Thy hands I commend My spirit." Luke 23:46.

The mighty God, who rules the universe, was still His Father, even at the very moment of death. Does not that fact ensure Christ's power to save and reward to the uttermost the worst of sinners who turns to Him for salvation like the thief on the cross?

There are those who long to meet their faithful loved ones in heaven at last, but know not the way. But as they persevere in their search to know the way, the dear Savior, with infinite tenderness of compassion, opens up the way before them and encourages them to put their trembling hand in His and let Him lead them all the way to the Paradise above.

They may have been deeply sunk in sin, but as they turn to Him like the dying thief and grasp His wonderful promise that they will be with Him in His matchless kingdom, the peace of Heaven enters their hearts, a new and holy life is begun in them, and they go forward with rejoicing in the faithful service of their Lord and Savior. = ^ .. ^ =



Year 3: 3rd Quarter:
"JESUS OUR SAVIOR"
WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON 6:
"THE LORD'S PRAYER"

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: "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."

Matthew 6:6

Sunday

Text: Matthew 6:9 "After this manner therefore pray ye, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name."

Jesus first gave the 'Lord's Prayer' in His sermon on the mount. Later He gave it again to His disciples. By that time they had come to realize that there was a connection between the wonderful power and endurance of Jesus and the long hours He spent in talking with His Heavenly Father.

Over and over they would see Him so utterly worn out from His ministry work that it seemed He would die, but when He would return from His hours of prayer, His face would shine with peace and refreshment.

One day they came back from an errand to find Jesus talking to God. His face was radiant and he seemed to be in the very presence of the Unseen. They listened and their hearts were touched.

When He finished, they asked Him, "Lord, teach us to pray." At that time Jesus gave again the prayer He had taught on the mount. He was telling them that there was a great depth of meaning in that simple prayer that they had not yet learned to understand.

"When ye pray, say Our Father." Luke 11:2. What a wonderful thing is this! Jesus teaches us to call His Father, the Great God of the Universe, OUR Father! He is not ashamed to call us His brothers and sisters. He is so eager to have us become part of the Family of God that we are told the very first words to say when we come to God: 'Our Father'!

"Hallowed be Thy name." Matthew 6:9. This means we are to reverence and show great respect to God, both in our prayers, our worship and in our lives. We need to think carefully about the greatness of God, and be always reverent.

The angels, who have never sinned and actually stand close to God in heaven cover their faces and bow humbly before God. How much more should we, who are fallen sinners, be humble and respectful when we pray?

Thought - Would we be silly and rude if we were talking to a human king or president? No, we

would be most respectful. Yet many are careless and foolish in prayer and worship when they are talking to the Ruler of the whole Universe! Have you ever thought about being polite to God?

Monday

Text: Matthew 6:10 “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.”

When God is ‘our Father’, we are His little children. No matter how grown up and big you may think you are on this earth, you are still God’s little child, and only if you know and believe that, can God really re-create you as a member of the Family of God.

The truth is that we are helpless as a little child, and those who decide they do not want to be God’s little children, end up as their own little child, with no Father to help them. They may think they are smart and ‘free’ but really are lost and hopeless except as they return to the Father!

Because we are members of God’s Family, we are interested in His kingdom and eager to see it come. Here too, Jesus was showing them that His kingdom was not going to be set up then on the earth as the Jews were expecting.

But this was also a hope and a promise for them, because they were told to pray for it, it will surely come and all God’s ‘little children’ will have a part in it. It is at the second coming of Jesus that He will reign and the ‘meek’ will inherit the kingdom. Interesting though, that it will be after Jesus’ 3rd coming that the meek will actually live on this earth.

‘Thy will be done.’ Think carefully about these words. Do you really want God’s will to be done? His will is His holy Law of the Ten Commandments, His wonderful character. When we truly pray that His will be done in us and not our own will, then we are truly born again. Our selfish and wayward will is given over to Him to be under control of His will.

This is how sin is gotten rid of in our lives. We choose to do His will and we allow Him to make this possible in us.

Let’s use an example: Suppose I feel like eating or drinking something that I know is not good for me. I really want to have this, I like it very much, but I know it is not good for me. I know that God’s wants me to have a healthy body and a clear mind.

So what do I do? If I truly pray ‘Thy will be done in me as it is in heaven’, then I will, in the strength given me from the Father in the name of Jesus, turn away from that thing that my selfish

heart wants and do God’s will instead. This is the secret of overcoming sin and developing a character that can be taken to heaven.

God’s will is done in heaven, and if we ever want to go there, His will must be done in us on earth first. He never forces His will on us, we have to choose and really want it and ask for it: then we will truly have it, for this is God’s promise!

Thought – This world even now would be a wonderful place, if God’s will were done here as it is in heaven! Your life can be a wonderful life if His will is done in you!

Tuesday

Text: Matthew 6:11 “Give us this day our daily bread.” Psalm 145:16 “Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.”

When you sit down to eat your food, do you remember that it is only because of God’s love in giving Jesus to die for you that you have that food? Day after day, year in and year out, it is the power of God that keeps this old earth growing food to feed the people and animals that live on it.

He is so patient and kind that He sends His blessings to all, whether they are good or bad. Most people that enjoy the blessings of God never even think about Him as they are eating them up. Many even curse God’s name and despise Him and yet if He did not keep their hearts beating and provide their food, they would fall down and die right away and be as nothing.

Why does God put up with the rude and ignorant, boastful and wicked people and provide for them day after day? Why does He let them go on living? Well even writers in the Bible asked those kinds of questions.

It is because He is so loving and He hopes that if He gives them life, that they will one day wake up to all His loving kindness and decide to give their hearts to Him and love Him back of their own free will. Then He will welcome the repentant sinners into His royal family.

You see, if God were to start and kill all the wicked people right away, then soon those who served God would only do it out of fear, true love cannot live where that kind of fear rules.

I hope you never forget to bow your head and thank God in the name of Jesus for each meal and also to ask His blessing on it. We need His blessings today more than ever before in the history of the world. Even when we do the best we can to have clean, healthy food on our plates, there are so many

dangers we know nothing about. When we ask Him to bless our food, we can eat it with confidence and joy.

Thought – Remember, God cannot bless food that we know is not what He wants us to be eating! We must do the best we can to choose healthy, pure food, and then He can and will bless it.

Wednesday

Text: Matthew 6:12 “And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.” “Forgive us our sins; for we also forgive everyone that is indebted to us.” **Luke 11:4.**

We all need to have our sins forgiven by God! We all need God to be merciful to us. None of us deserves even the tiniest of the many blessings that God every day gives us because of Jesus' great sacrifice for us. We must never, never forget how very much we owe to our loving Heavenly Father!

But what about the people around us, our friends, our family, our neighbors? Have you ever felt that you could never forgive some mean thing that someone did to you? Have you ever felt you would just go on hating them forever? What if God were to say that about us? We would be in a terrible spot then wouldn't we?

There are many things about this that people get confused about. Some feel that if you forgive someone who has done you wrong, that you are saying that what they did was just fine and didn't matter. That is not what forgiveness is. When God forgives us, He does not say that the wrong we did was alright and didn't matter. Indeed it did matter so much that Jesus paid for that sin which broke the Law of God with His own blood!

We are to forgive others, not because the wrong they did does not matter, but because we ourselves are sinners and have needed to be forgiven, both by other people and above all, by God.

There are two kinds of forgiving. One is when the person actually comes to us and says they are sorry. Then we should forgive freely as God has forgiven us.

But what about those who refuse to ever say they are sorry? Maybe they are not even a bit sorry and would do the mean thing again if they get the chance. What can we do?

We should refuse to keep any angry, hateful feelings in our hearts to these people. We should ask Jesus to take away these feelings from us and let us have the patience and kindness that Jesus

has. We should ask God to take charge of the whole thing and then just leave it with Him. Let Him deal with it and then these unforgiving attitudes will not take you away from Jesus.

Should you just go on being friends with such a person? No, that is not a good idea, it would be silly to go on being friends with someone who only wants to harm you and then laugh at it. God does not expect you to do this. However, we should never speak harsh words or do mean things back to them. But our friends should be those who are loving and serving Jesus as we are.

But someday if that same person is in trouble and you have a chance to help them, you certainly can do that. Maybe this will help him to understand the real goodness of the God you serve.

Thought – Jesus died for us when we were His enemies and prayed ‘Father forgive them, for they know not what they do!’ We can and should pray for our enemies too.

Thursday

Text: Matthew 6:13 “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.”

Is it God who tempts us? No, the Bible says, “Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:” James 1:13

So what does Jesus mean here? Where do temptations come from? They come from Satan and the evil that is in our own hearts. Jesus once said that Satan ‘had nothing in Him’. This meant that in Jesus' heart there was no evil desires that Satan could take advantage of. But in our hearts Satan has better success in finding things to tempt us about.

God in His great love allows us to be tempted and tried. This is not as a curse, but as the greatest blessing of our lives. Every time we resist temptation, every trial we bravely bear, helps us to develop a character more like Jesus.

We are not to be dismayed by trial, bitter though it be, but we should pray that God will not permit us to be brought where we shall be drawn away by the desires of our own evil hearts.

When we pray this prayer, we are saying that we surrender ourselves to the guidance of God, asking Him to lead us in safe paths. We cannot truly offer this prayer and still decide to walk in our own selfish ways. We shall wait for His hand

to lead us; we shall listen to His voice, saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it." Isaiah 30:21.

We must be very careful to stay away from places and things that could be a temptation to us. We must never be so bold as to say, "I can go to see this or do that and I won't fall into temptation." Never, never be boastful! That is when we will certainly be carried away by Satan's snares.

"Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen." Matthew 6:13. This last part, like the first sentence of the Lord's Prayer, points to our Father as above all power and authority and every name that is named.

Jesus knew His children would have to face hardship and persecution, but they were never to forget that even though things seem hard and confusing at times, God is ruling still and He will do all things good for those who trust and obey Him.

Thought – God has promised that He will not allow us to be tempted so badly that we cannot stand it. He has promised to send all the help we need to resist evil and overcome it. Never forget that God is the Ruler of the Universe, Satan cannot overcome Him nor those who trust in Him.

Friday

Text: Matthew 6:5-8 "And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him."

Jesus gave us much instruction about how to pray and how not to pray. Here are some things He said we were not to do.

We were not to pray in ways that are meant to draw attention to ourselves. The Pharisees liked to stand on the corners of the streets and pray loudly before all the people so that everyone would look at them and say, "My, just look at that Holy Man!" Jesus said that was the only reward they would get, only the admiration of people, God did

not hear such prayers.

Our most important prayers should be in secret with only God to listen to us. We are to tell Him all about our needs and talk over with Him whatever concerns us. There is nothing so small, if it concerns us, that He will not listen to and help us with. There is nothing so big that He does not have the answer and power to deal with it!

Then Jesus said that when we pray we should not use 'vain repetitions'. There are many religions among us that tell us we are to say certain prayers over and over again. Some even have beads to use, and as you say the prayer once you hold a bead, then you hold the next bead and say the same prayer again, then later on you come to a bead of a different shape so you say a different prayer.

No, No! Jesus said this was heathen. It is not Christian. God wants us to come to Him and talk to Him honestly and openly. Suppose you lived near me and I was your friend. What would you think if every time I saw you I said exactly the same memorized words to you? That would be silly wouldn't it? We could not be friends very well if we were doing that.

And, do you know, that is just why Satan gets people doing these strange things. Satan knows if people really get to know that they can go to their Heavenly Father freely and openly in the Name of Jesus and talk with Him and get all the help and answers they need, well he would be in Big trouble, wouldn't he?

So he tells people they have to do strange things and say only certain words, or go to certain special people and have them talk to God for us, and on and on. But none of that is true. We even have people among Advent believers, who are trying to tell others that they have to only call Jesus and God by some special name. Jesus told us what to call God, He said 'When ye pray, say 'Our Father'.

Thought - When we have a Mommy or Daddy, whom we know really loves us, we are happy to go to them and tell them all our cares and joys. As we grow to know our Heavenly Father more we will learn that He is always there for us. He never gets tired of us and He will welcome us when we come to talk with Him. All too often people like you and me tend to want to talk to other people when we have problems. But those other people have their own problems too! They really can't help you with the deeper things of life. Start today to learn to ask God in the name of Jesus for all the guidance and help you need and you will find a Friend and a Father who will never fail you! = ^ .. ^ =