

TEMKIT FOR CHILDREN

TEMKIT'S MISSION:

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

Year 3 - 4th Quarter - Issue #9



CREATION CORNER EYES

Let us look at “miracles” about “eyes” in nature, and the problems they present to the evolutionist.

(1) Who can explain why the eyes of the Star-gazer are placed horizontally on the upper part of its head, “in a position with but few parallels in nature,” so that it is always looking up at the sky? Because of this, it is given its scientific name Uranoscopus.

The Star-gazer completely buries itself in the sand on the ocean floor, so that only its eyes are visible.

Starting with the average fish with its eyes on the sides of its head, evolution has to explain why and how the peculiar eyes of the Star-gazer were evolved. With eyes normally placed, the Star-gazer would not be able to bury itself in the sand and see; in fact it would have no inclination to act as the Star-gazer now acts. And, one must conclude, the only reason the Star-gazer acts as it does, and buries itself, is because it has eyes on the top of its head! In other words, “evolution” didn’t make the Star-gazer as it is; the Star-gazer acts as it does because it was made that way in the beginning!

(2) The Starfish is an oddity if ever there was

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one. Why would any sea creature “evolve” into such an apparently absurd shape — as far as “sea-life” shapes go — as a Starfish?

The common species of Starfish have five arms or “rays,” on the under side of which are hundreds of tube feet; and on the end of each arm is an eye!

The Starfish is unable to swim but it walks along the bottom very slowly, over sand and shells, through a most ingenious system. It can go in any of the five directions its arms point to.

What did this strange creature evolve from? And Why? The evolutionist has no logical answer. What was the starting point from which finally came the Starfish? Who could possibly trace the sequence of “chance mutations” that finally brought to pass the Starfish with an eye at the end of each of its arms? It is far more reasonable to believe the Starfish was made as it is, and has always been as it is!

(3) Many snails have eyes at the ends of tentacles, which they can extend or compress, much as a telescope is lengthened or shortened. With these eyes at the ends of tentacles a snail can “look around a corner” without exposing its body. (Nature Magazine).

This unusual ability to see with eyes at the end of stalks is no doubt a great advantage to the snail.

But how could such a clever device be brought into existence in such a lowly animal by “chance mutations?” It is as easy to believe that the 100-inch telescope on Mt. Wilson “just happened” as to believe that such miracles, and such well-planned devices in nature, are the result of blind chance. Any one who has focused a telescope knows how careful the adjustment must be before the image is clear. Who gave the lowly snail the uncanny ability to see with its adjustable eyes, that can be lengthened or shortened at will? The successful use of such eyes involves optical and engineering principles that can be solved only by the Master Workman!

(4) The eye of a Pigmy shrew is little larger than the head of a pin; but it has the same camera-like eye arrangement as the grapefruit-sized eye of a great blue whale! Such an eye (as the Pigmy shrew has) must have been made by a mechanical Genius!

(5) The sole, or turbot, like the Stargazer, has its eyes directed upward. The fish lies in the sand at the ocean bottom in the daytime.

“They have extraordinary eyes that move in all directions, as though mounted on a universal swivel. Their eyes, with a rotary movement, will follow the movements (of an enemy above them); and those movements very often betray their presence.” (The Underwater Naturalist; p. 219).

“Only at night do these fish search the surface of the mud, looking for worms. As this takes place at night and as their eyes are directed upwards, vision plays no role in their search, which is conducted purely by a sense of smell and by a sense of touch, from. . . special filaments on the under surface of the head.” (The Underwater Naturalist; p. 219).

Question: if evolution is responsible for this state of affairs, didn't it make a serious mistake in placing this fish's eyes where it could not see the food it needs? Until it developed those special “smell” and “touch” filaments, the poor fish would starve to death! Who designed the “swivel” eyes of the sole? And Who gave it the sensitive “smell” and “touch” filaments?

(6) A Chameleon's eye “is one of the most remarkable organs exhibited by any terrestrial animal.” And yet it is strangely limited.

“The Chameleon has large protuberant eyes, covered with thick granular lids, perforated only by minute apertures for the pupils. The two eyes can be moved Independantly of each other. One

can look straight ahead, while the other looks backward or up. . . . Why this doubling of the field of vision should accompany such excessively minute openings to the lids is a mystery.”

If evolution alone were responsible, it would not have put a handicap on the otherwise marvelous eyes of the chameleon! Why were such Wonderful eyes, “able to move independently of each other” thus securing for the owner two entirely different fields of observation, so drastically limited by placing them behind heavy granular lids which have only “Tiny Openings?” God, who does all things well, designed both their wonderful eyes and their limiting lids. “Handicaps” like this are so designed by the Creator who works for the welfare of all nature, not just one animal.

“Evolution” we are told works for “the survival of the fittest.” Deliberate and well-placed Handicaps are perfect evidence that nature is God's handiwork.

(7) The large eyes of the honeybee make use of the ultraviolet portion of the sun's spectrum to see with. Man's eyes are not so made. As this gives a greater vision, why did “evolution” drop this phenomenal ability from the eyes of man? As it is a distinct advantage “natural selection” would have clung to it! Evolution has no adequate explanation of such phenomena.

(8) The eye of the horseshoe crab seems to have a unique feature not found in other animals.

“The eye of the horseshoe crab is amazingly simple. It is a compound eye composed of individual units (ommatidia), similar in type to the eyes of insects. But unlike any other known animal, the horseshoe crab has a separate nerve fiber proceeding from each of these units toward the brain.” (L. J. Milne, in “Scientific American”).

The eye of the horseshoe crab is Different from all animals below and above it on the “evolutionary ladder.” This presents a real problem for the evolutionist. From whence did the horseshoe crab get this unique system of vision? The fact is, the Sovereign, Almighty Creator made it so!

(9) The kingfisher and some other birds have a special area in the retina called the “fovea,” in which the cells that line that area each have a private nerve fiber to the brain. This gives maximum visual acuteness to that limited area (the fovea). If a bird desires special visual acuity it turns its head or eyes until the image is focused in the fovea.

Some creatures actually have two of these fovea

in each eye. With this magnificent system, not only can they obtain more acute sight, in a limited area, but also they can actually (by using both fovea areas) get a “bifocal” effect, and gain an accurate impression of both distance and depth. Owls use their eyes binocularly at all times.

“The kingfisher is one of the strangest users of the two-fovea system. Its eyes can notice both an object in the air and the exact position of a fish below the water surface, and also it can follow the fish accurately after its sudden dive into the pond.

“Vision in the air and vision in water are entirely different. When water comes into contact with the clear cornea it takes away all visual functions of the cornea. . . . (Therefore) in water the lens must act alone. Hence an eye that has normal vision in water is pathetically near-sighted in air. . . . The kingfisher (can see well in air and under water) through possession of an egg-shaped lens. When the bird uses its eyes monocularly with one of the two fovea in each eye, any prospective prey is kept in sharp focus through one end of the peculiar lens.

“But when the kingfisher enters the water, and its ‘cornea’ disappears, the image of the fish is formed through another axis of the lens on the second fovea of each eye. The fish is seen binocularly straight ahead of the beak, in good focus, and the bird is able to complete the catch!

“The kingfisher thus has two eye systems in one, an underwater visual arrangement. . . .and an aerial survey system with high visual acuity. . . .” (See June, 1950, “Science Digest,” p.16, 17).

Who can believe that this amazingly intricate and highly ingenious system of sight, granted to the kingfisher to enable it to catch fish for food, is the result of “random mutations?” Here is a highly complex system of sight, involving elements entirely lacking in human sight, that equips this bird for its particular station in life and enables it to keep its prey (moving swiftly in water) in sight and in focus as it dives toward it from the air above!

Drop a penny in a bathtub full of water. Look at it from an angle, then reach for it, and you will miss it! Man’s eyes give a false impression of the exact location of objects under water!

It is clear, the Creator gave each creature eyes suited to its environment and manner of life; and in most instances, the eyes He gave are so complex and vision is obtained through such an involved, complicated mechanism, one must admit this is the work of God! = ^..^ =

HISTORY

Pioneers of The Advent: 7 The Apostle and the Blacksmith

Only five years had passed after the day of glory, the Great Disappointment, when another field was opened for the threefold message of the everlasting gospel, which was to become the headquarters of our work for half a century.

In the year 1849 that Second Advent and Sabbath apostle, Joseph Bates, came to Michigan. In his middle fifties, and therefore double the age of his co-workers, James and Ellen White, Joseph Bates was yet strong, enduring, enterprising, beyond all his associates. He still had the spirit of zeal and adventure, which he had in his youth and young manhood that had taken him over the seas on voyages to Europe and South America. Now a landsman and a preacher, he could not be content to settle down in one place, but like Paul of old, he ranged the land, from Massachusetts to Maine, from Canada to Maryland, and at last into the West.

It was the year of the Forty-niners, the California gold rush. Thousands upon thousands crossed the plains hoping to make their fortunes. Joseph Bates had the gold fever too; but the gold he sought was the souls of men, and for this gold he headed westward first of our pioneers. He had heard there was a remnant company of Adventists of the 1844 believers, in Jackson, Michigan, and so to Jackson he went to find them.

There was no official SDA denomination in those days. Every man was pioneer, self-directing, self-supporting, guided and led by the Holy Spirit. If he had a message, he selected his own field, entered homes, hung up his charts, taught “the truth.” The world was wide, and opportunity everywhere. (The Advent movement began that way and very likely will end that way also.)

Michigan was a frontier then, a formidable frontier. Michigan State in 1849 was but twelve years old. Its settlers battled with forests, swamps, snows, mosquitoes, fevers, yet found a reward in fertile soils and lakeside homes.

The southern part of the State was not so densely wooded as farther north. It was dotted with small prairies and “oak openings,” as the settlers called the park like areas where grew scattered post oaks. The extensive swamps were difficult barriers, for roads could not go around all of them but must go through. So they had to make

'corduroy roads', logs laid side-by-side and covered with brush and muck.

Often because these logs could tip or rot out, a team and wagon could be tipped off into the mire and get really stuck there. You could not call a tow-truck but the ox team was the standby, and sometimes it took six or eight yoke to pull out the stuck wagon.

A 'yoke' of oxen is two animals, so you could often see 12 –16 huge oxen working to pull a wagon out of the mud. What a sight to see that would be!

But even so, Michigan soon grew to a population of four hundred thousand, fruitful farms were emerging, orchards were bearing, mills were running at many a waterpower site and future manufacturing center. Merchants were thriving and mechanics were busy. Jackson had become a town of some three thousand.

Joseph Bates came to Jackson that year of 1849, and sought out the leader of the little company of Adventists, Dan R. Palmer, at his blacksmith shop on the north side of East Main Street. He found him at his forge, introduced himself, and immediately began his message while the clanging of hammer on anvil continued, for Dan Palmer was not much minded to listen. But very soon the message was beating in upon him with every hammer stroke. More and more frequent were his pauses while he considered this point and that; and at last, laying down his hammer, and stretching out his grimy hand, he said, "Brother what did you say your name was? Bates, you have the truth".

He invited Elder Bates to speak to the company of some twenty Adventists the next Sunday, and directed him to the homes of most of them, whom Bates visited with much the same results as with Palmer. The next Sunday all who were present at the meeting accepted the message, and formed the first congregation of Sabbath keeping Adventists in the West. It was a "band" or a "little flock," with a "leader" or "shepherd."

However, there was one important member of the band who did not meet with them that Sunday. This was Cyrenius Smith, a farmer. So Sunday afternoon Dan Palmer hitched his horse to his buggy, and took Joseph Bates for a ride out to Smith's farm. The result was Cyrenius Smith became one of the pillars of the infant Sabbath-keeping church in Michigan, and the first deacon, back then the only church officer.

Soon he sold his farm, to have money to put

into the cause, and moved to Battle Creek, renting a farm to till. With Dan Palmer, John P. Kellogg, and Henry Lyon, he was one of the four who gave the first \$1,200 which bought the lot and built the first little wooden building for the Review and Herald in Battle Creek. This resulted in James White moving the insecure headquarters from Rochester, New York, to Michigan.

Dan Palmer, alone of the four, stayed where he was found. He continued his blacksmithing yet for twenty-eight years, until 1877. Dan Palmer was always quick to help with his money as well as with his message. He was a lay evangelist, as were his three friends, always preaching the Word by voice and life.

Brother Videto said that Dan Palmer never spoke of giving; to him all his donations were investments. Whenever he heard of a need or a call of the cause, he would say eagerly, "I must have an investment in that," and forthright gave.

How did those early pioneers find so much money to give? There were two facts: they were handy and thrifty, and they were intensely devoted. They carved out their farms, they built their homes, they developed their businesses with their own hands, and often helped each other when help was necessary, rather than pay out cash. They saved their cash, and their living came out of their toil on the land. Then, when they accepted the third angel's message, they did it with whole souls, and they made it their one interest. I am speaking of such men as Dan Palmer, Cyrenius Smith, J. P. Kellogg, and Henry Lyon.

There were others, it is true, who were halfhearted, more self-indulgent, less eager and devoted, as there are today. But these men who built the work of God never used their money for nonessentials or self-indulgence. Their recreations and pleasures were simple and more fully connected with their work and religion than with an expensive world.

And their children helped. Instead of being financial burdens, they were assets almost from the cradle, especially on the farm, and most Michigan people then had farms. John Preston Kellogg had sixteen children, five of his first wife and eleven of his second wife, Ann, the mother of Dr. J. H. Kellogg and W. K. Kellogg and of vigorous brothers and sisters. Yet J. P. Kellogg had \$500 to put down first to help build the original Health Institute, the Battle Creek Sanitarium. He certainly did not fling his money around, but there was

many and many a gift, from him in those early days of the work.

Cyrenius Smith had a family mostly of girls and two sons, one of whom died in early manhood. Cyrenius Smith, like many another pioneer, had girl help on his farm; his five or six "hands" were his children. Beautiful voices they had, too, and I fancy the home and the barn, and the field and the woods echoed to many a tuneful hymn.

The church building in Jackson is on the land that Dan Palmer gave. One early day, when the growing number of the company of believers crowded his house on Sabbath, he remarked to Brother Butcher: "I have a lot over there on Summit Street. I might as well invest it in the cause. Let's build a meeting house on it." And the meeting-house was built without delay.

They sleep, these pioneers. They closed their eyes in perfect confidence that Jesus was soon coming, and that they would rise in the resurrection of the just. They sleep, but while they waked they labored not in vain. The seed they dropped has come to great fruition. They sleep, but they shall awake; and as they chanted in the old Advent hymn: "We shall rise, hallelujah! We shall rise, hallelujah! In the resurrection morning we shall rise!" = ^ .. ^ =

TRUE-STORY-TIME

Great Battle in the Sky!

In the month of September, in the year 1870 - I do not remember the exact day of the month, but it was in the dark of the moon - I was visiting with my uncle in northwestern Illinois, in the locality then known as Green Vale, now Stockton Post-office.

One evening my uncle and I were up until nearly midnight, and before retiring went out-of-doors, and noticed a great red light, lighting up all things lighter than a bright moonlight. The sky was perfectly clear, and as we looked into the heavens to see what caused this great light, we saw a large bright circle of golden red, with streaks of red from the edge of it all around.

These outer circles seemed to be moving upward, and finally the object we were viewing assumed the form of a beautiful crown, apparently as large as a good sized wash-tub. From the body of the crown there went up sharp prongs about eighteen inches in length. All was vivid red. There were no jewels on this crown, but all was of one color.

This view lasted about ten minutes after we first saw it. I do not know how long it may have been in the heavens before we noticed it. It opened up as it appeared and disappeared from view, leaving all in dense darkness for a moment. Then it was immediately replaced by a streak of red light about four feet wide, extending over the entire heavens from east to west, with prongs out on the lower or south side of the band. These prongs were about two feet long, all pointing to the southwest. The prongs were also of deep red. The band then looked much like a timber saw, as all of these sharp points were pointed one way.

While we were looking wonderingly upon this, there arose from the north, as far up as the sun would be when two hours high, a perfect army composed of thousands of men, fully equipped, arms shouldered; and then, from the south, another army just like the first arose. Both of these armies were clad in deep red, and marched toward one another. When they reached the red band - and that extended, as I said, from east to west - they leveled their guns, and both sides fired at once.

We heard no report, but saw the blast of the fire from the guns, and the smoke rolling upward. Then all at once they seized their guns by the barrels, and with the breech of the guns began beating one another, using their guns as clubs.

I was in the Civil War, 1861 to 1865, and saw skirmishes where this very mode of warfare was resorted to, but this scene in the heavens was the most awful battle one could ever want to witness. It was immensely greater than anything I ever witnessed in the war. In this sky battle the clubbing went on until there was not a person left standing. All were killed and prostrate on the ground. We heard no noise, as before stated, but saw the thick smoke and confusion of the battle.

The battle being thus over, the whole scene again disappeared, but only for a short time, when there arose from the east a bright flaming red light, extending from east to west across the whole heavens. This band of light was about one rod wide, and went from the east to the western horizon over the zenith of the heavens. This wave of light lasted about five minutes, revealing a terrible scene of dead bodies and broken guns, covering the whole earth as far as the eye could extend. This whole scene, with its varied changes, lasted from thirty to forty-five minutes.

When I was in Missouri some years later, hunting land, I met a man to whom, in the course

of our conversation, I quoted from Scripture the text about there being “signs in the heavens,” when he at once described to me the very scene which I have here related, he having also seen it in Missouri at the same time I saw it in Illinois. Oakland, Cal., June 13, 1901.

Since receiving this description, as related by Pastor Schultz, I have met parties who witnessed the same scene at the same time in Ohio, in Wisconsin, in Iowa, and those who saw the same in the same year in Sweden.

The above phenomenon in the heavens seems at least to be strikingly significant of the last great battle, described by the prophet Jeremiah, where he says: “Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. And the slain of the Lord shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground.” Jeremiah 25:32,33. J. N. LOUGHBOROUGH. = ^..^ =



Year 3: 3rd Quarter:
“JESUS OUR SAVIOR”
WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON 9:
“FOOD FOR BODY AND SOUL”

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 Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.”
John 6:35

Sunday

Text: Mark 6:31-33 “And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat. And they departed into a desert place by ship privately. And the people saw them departing, and many knew him, and ran afoot thither out of all cities, and outwent them, and came together unto him.”

Word had come to them that John the Baptist had been beheaded and sadness lay over the disciples. Jesus knew they needed some time to think things over and to be instructed so He said to them: “Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while”. Mark 6:31

So they went into a wilderness area where they could see the things of nature and pray and meditate on scripture. They were not there very long however, then the people found out where they were and followed them out into the wilderness. There they came, by themselves, in couples or in small groups and gathered around where Jesus was, hoping to hear Him teach them.

Here was Jesus, tired, wanting rest and His disciples needing a break and needing instruction, when here comes all these people to intrude on their privacy. How would you have felt? What might you have said? But was Jesus cross or grumpy? Listen to what the Bible tells us:

“And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.” Mark 6:34.

Ever unselfish, ever loving, Jesus' heart went out to the people and forgetting His own needs, He spoke the Word of truth to them. Happily the people sat and listened to the words of the Master Teacher. The hours passed by unnoticed as they heard His words.

Thought - Do you tend to be grouchy when you are sick, sad, or tired? Here is a quote that I

often think about: “The season of distress and anguish before us will require a faith that can endure weariness, delay, and hunger, —a faith that will not faint, though severely tried.” Great Controversy 88-621. It is now we are to learn to hold on to the promises and strength of Jesus and learn to be kind, true and loving no matter how we feel!

Monday

Text: Luke 9:12, 13 “And when the day began to wear away, then came the twelve, and said unto him, Send the multitude away, that they may go into the towns and country round about, and lodge, and get victuals: for we are here in a desert place. But he said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they said, We have no more but five loaves and two fishes; except we should go and buy meat for all this people.”

It was getting late in the evening. All day the people had listened so intently that they did not even notice they had not had anything to eat all day. Now the disciples began to think it was about time to send them home. So they suggested to Jesus they should be sent away so they could get somewhere to buy food before night.

But Jesus turned to them and said that they did not need to go away, but the disciples were to give them something to eat. Then He turned to Philip and asked, “Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?”

This He said to test the faith of the disciple. Philip looked over the sea of heads, and thought how impossible it would be to provide food to feed such a crowd. He answered that two hundred pennyworth of bread would not be nearly enough to divide among them so that each might have a little.

But Jesus asked, “How much food do we have?”

Now in that crowd was a little lad who had dearly wanted to go and listen to the teaching of Jesus. After asking his father and mother he had set out that day to follow the crowd to hear the wonderful teacher and his thoughtful Mom had given him a small lunch to take with him.

He had been so interested in hearing Jesus that he had not bothered to eat his lunch and so still had it. “There is a lad here,” said Andrew, “which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes; but what are they among so many?”

The young lad was brought to Jesus and gladly donated his meager lunch to Him. Then Jesus did a strange thing. He told the disciples to get the people ready for supper. He said divide them into groups of about 50 and have them sit down on the grassy hillside.

Then He took the 2 fishes and 5 little barley loaves and looking up to heaven, He blessed it, broke it and began to hand the pieces to His disciples who then passed it to the people.

One group was supplied then another and another, all in an orderly way and still the food kept multiplying while the disciples, the people and the little lad all looked on in wonder.

Thought – Jesus taught in such a simple way that even children loved to listen to Him and often understood His words better than some of the more prejudiced adults.

Tuesday

Text: Mark 6:42-44 “And they did all eat, and were filled. And they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments, and of the fishes. And they that did eat of the loaves were about five thousand men.”

This was a huge crowd that Jesus fed that day from the little lad’s lunch! And He gave us many lessons too. He sent the disciples to gather up in baskets the left-over pieces. Then the people were allowed to take some of this miracle food home with them to give to their families and friends, as they would tell the wonderful story. Nothing was wasted.

Jesus truly cares about people. He cares about their needs. It did not matter to Him that He was tired and hungry, but He wanted them to have food so they would not faint along their way home.

It is interesting that the meal Jesus gave to these people was not a fancy one. It was just the plain everyday food they were used to having. He could have fed them with cakes and dainties just as easily, but He showed that day that we can be truly happy with the plain and simple needs of life.

If people today were simple in their habits and lived according to the laws of nature, there would be plenty of food for all. People would not be suffering from starvation on one hand while other people are suffering from disease caused by eating too much and too richly. If all harmful habits were laid aside, so much pain and suffering would never happen in this old world!

Thought – It is God who every day is feeding

millions from earth's harvest fields. Men are called upon to co-operate with God in the care of the grain and the preparation of the loaf, and because of this they lose sight of the divine agency. They do not give God the glory due unto His holy name. Desire of Ages 368.

Wednesday

Text: Mark 6:45, 46. "And straightway he constrained his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people. And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray."

In the story in Mark we are not told just why Jesus all of a sudden sent the people home and even sent His disciples off to cross the sea back to Bethsaida, but in John we find the secret: "When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone." John 6:15

The people were so thrilled by this miracle of free food, that they got all excited and decided they would make Jesus their king! He could feed them with free food and heal the soldiers injured in battle and soon they would rule the world!

The disciples were happy indeed and encouraged this idea. Finally, they thought, our Master is getting the attention and honor that He deserves. Finally we will see Him placed on the throne of David as King of Israel!

But Jesus would not allow this to happen. He knew that such a thing was not at all what was needed to redeem the world but instead, was the trick of Satan to bring His ministry to a terrible end. He knew that such doings would have led to war and bloodshed and these people, so eager to have Him as an earthly king, would be slaughtered by Herod's armies.

It was not easy to get these people to give up their idea once they were all excited about it. Even for a while Jesus' disciples were not listening to His directions until finally He had to turn to them and order them to get into their boat and leave.

They headed down to the shore but for quite a while they lingered around the boat hoping He was going to come with them. Finally they decided they had better obey and struck out towards the other shore.

Jesus went up into a mountain to pray and

continued a long time. He knew that this was a trying time for the disciples and He prayed for them. He knew that soon the people would turn from praising Him and wanting to make Him king, to hating Him and wanting to kill Him. This was not going to be easy for His disciples because they really thought their Master was soon going to be on the throne as King of the nation.

Thought – Ever so many 'Christians' today make the same mistake and think that Jesus is going to establish an earthly kingdom and all His followers will rule this world. But Jesus told us plainly, "My kingdom is not of this world."

Thursday

Text: Mark 6:47- 49 "And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and he alone on the land. And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them. But when they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out:"

The disciples were very stormy inside when they finally left in their boat that night. They were angry at Jesus and angry at each other. They were saying they should not have listened to Jesus but should have made Him King anyway. Black were their thoughts as the rowed into the night.

All at once they found they had something real to be upset about, a wind and a storm came up suddenly and they had to work very hard to keep their boat from sinking. Soon they forgot their angry thoughts in the struggle to stay alive.

Suddenly one of them gasped and all were terrified as they looked out across the angry waters and saw a figure coming towards them Walking on the water! Now nobody can walk on water, unless it is frozen, right? It had to be a spirit! Sailors are always superstitious and they decided it was a sign they were about to die.

But Jesus had seen their trouble and was coming towards them. He calmed their fears saying, "Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid," But He kept walking as if He would pass them by.

Peter was so happy to see Jesus that he called out, "Lord, If it be Thou, bid me come to Thee on the water." Jesus simply answered "Come".

Peter climbed out of the boat and headed towards Jesus and the water was holding him up!

But all too quickly Peter's heart filled with that show-off "watch me" spirit and he glance towards the boat to see if all were admiring him.

Just that quick, he began to sink and in terror he looks up from the angry waves to his only hope, Jesus. "Lord, save me!" he cries and instantly Jesus reaches out His hand and lifts Peter from certain death. Quietly Jesus says, "O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?"

Not boastful now, Peter walks, wet and humble, back to the ship, hand in hand with Jesus.

Thought – Dear readers, this episode of water walking is there to teach us many precious lessons. No one ever before or since, that we have heard of, ever walked on water! It is not possible for a human being to walk on water. It is also not possible for a human being to keep the Law of God fully in his natural state. But when we walk hand in hand with Jesus, we can do it; just as Peter walked on the water that stormy night.

Friday

Text: John 6:22, 24-25 "The day following, when the people which stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was none other boat there, save that one whereinto his disciples were entered, and that Jesus went not with his disciples into the boat, but that his disciples were gone away alone;...When the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, neither his disciples, they also took shipping, and came to Capernaum, seeking for Jesus. And when they had found him on the other side of the sea, they said unto him, Rabbi, when camest thou hither?"

The chapters of John 6-8 are very amazing. We see here the conversation of Jesus with those who were eager to follow Him if He would give them lots of miracles and free food.

Thinking to get some more excitement they come up to Him to ask how he got to the other side without a boat. They wanted Him to tell about the miracle. But Jesus did not gratify their curiosity. He just told them bluntly that the only reason they wanted to follow Him was to get free food.

He went on to tell them that that they needed to be more concerned about the spiritual food for their souls He was teaching them about, than just the earthly food.

Now these questioners show their true spirit as they say, "What sign do you show us that we may believe you?" These people all knew Jesus

had just fed over 5,000 people with a small lunch, they knew He had come across the water in a miraculous way, but they still asked for a sign to 'prove' to them He was the Messiah!

Now, half mockingly, a rabbi questioned, "What sign showest Thou then, that we may see, and believe Thee? what dost Thou work? Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat."

Jesus answered, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven."

Now the people thought they would get what they wanted. "Evermore give us this bread," they said. Again their thoughts were all on earthly things and the heavenly kingdom was of no interest to them.

Jesus knew that once they really knew that He wasn't going to shower them with free food and do miracles to entertain them, that they would turn away. But He did not try to make them happy by giving them what they wanted. Instead He kept telling them plainly about His spiritual kingdom until they actually got angry and went away.

Jesus felt sad to see them go. He was offering them what would lead to eternal life, but all they wanted was a free meal. As they left, Jesus turned to His disciples and asked, "Will you also go away?"

Peter replied by asking, "Lord, to whom shall we go?" "Thou hast the words of eternal life," he added. "And we believe and are sure that Thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God."

Thought - To whom shall we go if we don't turn to Jesus? Nowhere else in this world is there any hope of being saved from Sin and Death. No one else can enable us to 'walk on the water' of life all the way to the Kingdom. = ^ .. ^ =

