

The CHRISTIAN SHEPHERD

J u l y • 2 0 0 9 • V o l u m e 1 3 • N u m b e r 7

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; and I give unto them eternal life”

Editorial

Editor Note: Regarding last month’s editorial, we are thankful to our Lord to be able to report that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s recent public warning of potential terrorist threats from conservative (‘right wing’) groups (which included many groups of fundamental evangelical Christians) has been officially, formally retracted and removed from all government agency files, documents and government web sites. **“The king’s heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will”** (Prov. 21:1).

Approachable or Reproachable?

“He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory” (Matt. 12:19, 20).

The story is told of a Christian who spent much time walking the streets of his city passing out gospel tracts. But the dear man’s shoulders sagged giving the impression that he was bearing some deep sorrow. His face wore a habitual frown, his mannerisms were rather impatient, his words short and gruff.

One day a disheveled looking young man accepted a tract from the brother. He glanced down at its title, then looked up and for a few moments stared keenly at the one who had given it to him. Then, shaking his head, the young man handed the tract back, saying: “No thanks. I’ve got enough problems already.”

Christians who desire to serve our blessed Saviour must be careful of the *spirit* and *countenance* we display when speaking of our Lord. Outward manners and appearances bear testimony to the inward reality of faith. As has often been observed, what we *do*, the *spirit* in which we do it, and how we *appear* while doing it, all have a far greater impact on others, than the words we speak.

Our Lord was the perfect example of compassion, tenderness, and gentleness in all His path of service. He came to *“seek and to save”*; His gentle, gracious spirit bore witness to His love and compassion.

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Please Address communications to:

Doug Nicolet, Editor
The Christian Shepherd
P. O. Box 57471

Gentleness And Firmness

The Lord Jesus not only spoke the truth, He *was* the truth. Every action and every word of this blessed, holy, perfect Man was exactly suited to the individual condition of each with whom He was dealing.

In John 1 we read that *grace and truth came by Jesus Christ*, yet our blessed Lord never set aside truth or overlooked sin in order to be gracious. He who had come to *save His people from their sins* was faulted by the religious Jews for being a *friend of publicans and sinners*. Yet this very thing was a wonderful proof of His loving, gracious spirit for we read that great crowds of publicans and sinners were drawn to Him (see Mark. 2:15; Luke 15:1). Those who felt their need were never repulsed or rejected by the Lord.

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Perfect Compassion - Perfect Power

In view of these things the account of our Lord's visit to Nain (recorded in Luke 7:11-17) is specially precious. The city (whose name means 'beautiful' or 'pleasant') lay perhaps a day's journey southwest of Capernaum where He had been. The Lord knew perfectly that He would meet death in this 'pleasant' city. He knew too that there He would meet with a heart crushed in grief and a soul who had lost all 'earthly' hope. Only divine compassion and power could bring help and comfort to such a one.

In tender, loving compassion the Lord came from glory down into a sin ruined world, there to meet death and bring joy and hope to the hopeless. The Lord Jesus also knew perfectly that He would meet the remnants and effects of Cain's city (of which Nain is a striking picture).

Man has done all he possibly can to make his 'city' (this world) 'pleasant'; filling it with things he thinks will bring delight, satisfaction, beauty and wealth. And in his measure, fallen man has created what *appears* to be a very 'pleasant' and 'beautiful' dwelling place. But he has purposely created a 'city' in which there is no room for his Creator God.

The result of all man's efforts in building and ornamenting *Cain's city* is solemnly pictured in what the Lord Jesus met as He entered Nain—a funeral procession *leaving* the *pleasant* city of Nain. Death is not *pleasant* and thus man cannot allow it to stay in his *pleasant city*. Its results must be carried outside, away from Nain's inhabitants' thoughts. In spite of this, man is keenly aware that he has but a very short moment of time to enjoy the *pleasant city* he created.

The *only son of his mother* who was being carried out of that pleasant place, lying dead on his *bier* (a kind of coffin), was but a young man. How little time he had to enjoy the *pleasures of sin for a season!* The great crowd of weepers that followed the procession could only add to the sorrow of his widowed mother.

One, who is eternal life and has conquered death and its awful power, was moving in the opposite direction of the funeral procession. Because of sin, man's procession has always been in the exact opposite direction of the *Lord of Life*. In His loving compassion He who alone has authority over life and death stops the procession and raises the young man to life. Oh dear reader! Has Jesus stopped the procession of death in you life through faith in Him?

Under Attack: 'Family' Meditations

— Parenting Principles from Philippians —

Four Building Blocks for Parents: (cont.)

The Second Block—A Proper Pattern

We often hear this saying—and it has much truth in it—"what you *do* speaks so loud, I can't hear what you *say*". Our children *learn* by example and are *guided* by example—as well as by words (Eph. 5:1). Providing an example for others to follow is a Divine principle. "*Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.*" (Php. 3:17). Dad and Mom, be very tender hearted before the Lord about the example your life is providing for your lambs!

Our Lord Jesus in His life here is the perfect example of love, service, humility—all of the divine virtues that parents desire to see develop in their lambs, are seen in fullness and perfection in His life. *Those Divine virtues, however, must be seen daily lived in the lives of parents, first.* To children, words mean little if Dad or Mom's actions don't support what you say. We read of our Lord Jesus in Acts 1, that He "began both to *do* and to *teach*." His actions (as a Man) here are morally presented before His words—words that perfectly supported His actions.

We are not perfect as He was, but the example you seek to set for your children, can "be perfect" in the sense of having your hearts fully committed to walking with the Lord, and that in full submission to His Word, the Bible. (1 Kn. 8:61, 2 Tim. 3:17).

A proper Prize

In Philippians, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself is presented to believers as the *prize* to be gained (Phpp. 3:9–14). *He* is to be the motivation for living this *normal* Christian life. To Paul, everything in life was worthless when compared to *the prize of the calling on high of God in Christ Jesus* (Phpp. 3:14, JND).

While much blessing can result from appropriately rewarding children at times when they have been obedient—rewards should never be used as *inducements* to cause obedience. We read, "*If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them*" (Jn. 13:17). A believer is not to obey the Lord because he expects to be rewarded with *things*, but rather because his joy and happiness is the promised result of obedience to God. In the natural realm as in spiritual, an *obedient* child (person) is a *happy* one whether they are given anything or not.

Abraham, *the friend of God*, was one whose life

was marked by obedience to God and there were tangible results—“*the LORD hath blessed my master greatly. . . he hath given him flocks, and herds, and silver, and gold, and menservants, and maidservants, and camels, and asses.*” (Gen. 24:35). Under Mosaic law, Israel was rewarded for obedience. “*Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people. . .*” (Exo. 19:5—see also Deut. 11:8-17). Today we are not under law, but rather under grace. Even so, when children *are* obedient, wise parental giving of rewards from time to time provides encouragement and reinforces their obedience.

Suppose, for example, one summer day Dad says to his son, “I want you to mow the yard.” The boy obeys and starts to mow. The day is hot and the work is hard, so while the boy is toiling, the father comes and tells him, “You’re working very hard. When you’re finished, let’s go to the ice cream shop and get a treat.” This reward is neither an *incentive* or *inducement* to obey—it is teaching his son that willing obedience is always the path of happiness.

Remember as well Dad and Mom, your children notice if obedience marks your life. Are seeking you to *please* and obey the Lord as you want them to do. “*If ye love me, keep my commandments.*” (Jn. 14:15).

Proper Power

Christian children have access to an unlimited supply of power to help them be obedient. Help them realize that obedience is *expected* and they have the power to obey because Christians can *do all things through Christ* (Phpp. 4:13). Children will soon find (as do adults) that submission and obedience are essential in the Christian conflict. The world, the flesh, and Satan, actively oppose any desire to be obedient. Parents must realize that as they demand obedience and submission (***absolutely vital!***), children too face very real foes constantly encouraging disobedience. This is another place where parent’s example of having strength and moral courage to be obedient is readily and fully found in the Lord Jesus.

In its frantic pursuit after power, the world will teach your children to look for power *within themselves*—power to do *what they want*. This is nothing less than full blown humanism and is rampant in every area of Cain’s world (our Western lands) today.

Children must learn early—by your example and words—that the strength needed to live in peace and happiness in this dark world and the power to sub-

mit to God’s Word is found only in the Lord Jesus Christ. “*But unto them which are called ...Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.*” (1 Cor. 1:24). “*...my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.*” (Eph. 6:10).

So now we have four essential *building blocks*—principles for successful parenting—as found in the apostle’s letter to his Philippian children in the faith. In future series we will, Lord willing, consider in greater detail more precious principles found in Philippians. May our blessed God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, be pleased to bless these thoughts to each who read them—especially our dear parents.

(To be continued) ◻

Walking in Truth

We find many who like to hear new truth, but who have no idea of walking in the truth in a practical way. We must have a large heart, but a heart which acknowledges nothing but Christ for its end, and follows Him. In these last days we also need firmness, with a large heart which knows how to take the *precious from the vile*. Obedience is firm and humble; grace, meekness, love ought to be there. But the truth needs not man; man needs the truth. Love feels the need of seeking souls; but souls should submit to Christ and acknowledge His grace. J.N.D. ◻

Help

“*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me*” (Phpp. 4:13).

The story is told of a small boy trying very hard to lift a heavy object. He struggled and struggled, growing more frustrated at his inability to lift the object, with each passing moment.

His father coming into the room, watched his son’s struggle for a time and then asked him, “Are you using **all** your strength?”

“Yes Daddy, of course I am”, came the boy’s impatient reply.

“No you’re not” his father smiled in return. “You haven’t asked me to help you”.

If the burden is too heavy to bear, it is time to ask God our Father for help. Our own puny supply of power is insufficient for the disappointments and difficulties we face in life. Let’s form the habit of asking for God’s help. He allows no trial above what we are able to bear while promising that our “*strength is made perfect in weakness*”.

Anon ◻

“And He Loved Her:” Musings on Marriage

“Let not mercy [‘loving kindness’, JND Trans] and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart” (Prov. 3:3).

Mercy (‘loving kindness’) and truth are foundation ‘pillars’ that support and strengthen joyful, lasting marriages. Our verse presents us with what we might call ‘an urgent warning’, pressing the importance of these two pillars not being allowed to forsake our ways.

It may seem strange that our verse does not read; “Do not forsake mercy and truth”. Rather the responsibility is placed on the reader husband and wife. They are to make sure that mercy and truth are not allowed to be missing from every facet of their marriage.

How, we may ask, could this happen? The answer is found in asking more questions and answering them in all honesty before the Lord.

Husbands, do you **first of all**, display *loving kindness* toward your wife? Is *loving kindness* your reaction when she doesn’t have your favorite shirt and pants ironed and ready for you to wear to work? Is *loving kindness* your reaction when more than once on an already personally full, busy Saturday your wife reminds you that the yard needs to be mowed, the leaky bathroom sink faucet needs to be fixed, and you promised to watch the kids while she spent some time shopping?

Wives do you show *loving kindness* to you husband when he forgets to buy flowers for you on your anniversary, or when he invites friends over for an evening *before* talking it over with you?

It doesn’t take very much to test our willingness to show *loving kindness* towards our spouse. *Mercy*—*loving kindness*—forms the support for strength. When bound around the *neck* (often used in the Bible as a symbol of strength), *loving kindness* becomes the ‘pillar’ which strengthens and supports marriage.

Truth is absolutely necessary in every aspect of marital relationships. Without total truth expressed and lived between spouses, marriages quickly disintegrate, producing emotional and eventually, physical separation and destruction of the marriage.

Every movement of *truth*, however, is to be *written on the table of the heart*. Love motivates and ameliorates marital difficulties that, if not characterized by love, will cause harsh words and hurt feelings. May our marriages be characterized by a love that has *mercy and truth* as its pillars.

□

Indispensable Wisdom for Fathers

“Chasten thy son, seeing there is hope; but set not thy soul upon killing him. A man of great wrath shall suffer punishment” (Proverbs 19:18,19).

The young twig is pliant and may be bent aright or pruned in order to bear fruit. Love is not indifferent but takes great pains with its object. When necessary, chastening is (or most certainly ‘*ought to be*’) a greater sorrow to a father than to a son whose ways require such correction. Fathers who allow evil, rebellion, or self-willed ways to go unpunished in their children (whatever excuse may be given) is to accept and encourage action which will end in sorrow and death for the child (spiritual or natural). We, Christians on earth, endure chastening from our loving Father—chastening which, though painful for the moment, *afterward yields peaceful fruits of righteousness to those exercised thereby*. Dear Fathers, be very faithful in all needed chastening of your beloved children—and chasten in love and gentleness.

W.K., adapted □

Channels (Only) of Blessing

“Serving the Lord with all lowliness” (Acts 20:19).

We are but pipes conveying water to the thirsty from its Source above. Pipes are dry till water flows in, and dry if it ceases to flow. It is good to remember and walk humbly in the truth of it. I found it useful (the remembrance of it) when praying before speaking. Oft not a word seemed with me to give others. Spreading out before the Lord His estimate of the worthiness of His Son to be spoken about, and His will that He should be announced, has then brought a full fresh flow of *water*. You can only plead with God as you know Christ. He alone is the channel by which God can bless. The power of intercession is a great thing to the servant of God—enabling a Christian to know and feel himself a channel through which the life of Christ is to flow out.

Happy the person who has an empty vessel knowing that God is ever ready to fill to the brim. How unhappy they who have no empty vessel...I doubt whether many know the sweetness of going into the presence of God as a channel or pipe to be filled in order to bring out what is wanted for others—and doing so in the conscious knowledge that ‘I have got the ear and heart of Christ.’

Which should occupy our thoughts—the littleness of our love or the fullness of His love which passes knowledge?

G.V.W., *Gems* □

He Will Carry Me

“And even to your old age I am He; even to hoar hairs will I carry you; I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry and will deliver” (Isa. 46:4).

“Even to hoar hairs will I carry”
Precious promise, Lord to me.
Need I then Lord, seek my welfare,
From another source than Thee?

Nay, Oh Lord, I’d trust Thy promise,
Body, soul, and spirit rest;
Sure that Thou dost know the future,
And, for me, Thy path is best.

“I have made, and I will bear thee;”
All to Thee my Lord I owe.
Keep Thy servant then Lord Jesus,
Lest away from thee I go.

Should the dark hairs turn to silver,
E’re this scene I’m called to leave,
Give me faith to trust thee Saviour,
And to thee in weakness cleave.

H.E.S. □

Christian Character

“Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Psa. 119:105).

There are four great passages in the New Testament which set forth Christian character in all its power and appeal:

- 1) **Matthew 5:3-12** with its nine beatitudes;
- 2) **1 Corinthians 13**, with its sixteen matchless qualities;
- 3) **Galatians 5:22,23**, with its ninefold cluster of heavenly fruit;
- 4) **2 Peter 1:5-8**, with its description of fully developed Christian manhood.

The words in **Matthew 5** present a character schooled in humility, matured by suffering, instinct with gentleness, and purity, and love. “*Blessed are the poor in spirit ... they that mourn ... the meek ... they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness ... the merciful ... the pure in heart ... the peacemakers ... they which are persecuted ... blessed are ye, when men shall revile you ... rejoice and be exceeding glad: for your reward is in heaven ...*”.

1 Corinthians 13 is perhaps the noblest assem-

blage of beautiful thoughts extant in this our world. “*And now abideth faith, hope, and charity [love]; but the greatest of these is love*”.

The paragraph in **Galatians 5** unfolds the secret whereby we may have days of heaven upon earth. “*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law*”.

2 Peter 1, assuming faith as the foundation rises majestically, step by step, until the structure is crowned with that love which is the fulfilling of the Law. “*... giving all diligence ... add to your faith virtue ... knowledge ... temperance ... patience ... godliness ... brotherly kindness ... love ... neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ*”.

H.D., *Gems from My Reading* □

The Shepherd’s Care

“*He maketh me to lie down in green pastures*” (Psa. 23:2).

No other class of livestock requires more careful handling, more detailed direction, than sheep. For them to lie down and rest...

1. They must be free from all fear.
2. Because of the social behavior within a flock, sheep will not lie down unless they are free from friction or animosity with other sheep.
3. If tormented by flies, parasites or other pests, sheep will not lie down. Many of such irritations— “being bugged, etc.”—are frustrations that only can be alleviated by the Shepherd.

4. In order for sheep to lie down and rest they must also be free from hunger.

In Mark 6:34-44 we read of our blessed Lord—the compassionate, perfect and good Shepherd—feeding a hungry, weary, multitude of *sheep*: “*...He commanded them to make all recline in companies upon the green grass...having looked up to the heaven, he blessed, and brake the loaves...that they [the disciples] may set before them...and they did all eat, and were filled*” (Mark 6:39,41,42; *Young’s Literal Translation*). □

Worship Before Work

“*...true worshippers...the Father seeketh such to worship Him*” (Jn. 4:23).

God wants worshippers before workers; indeed, the only acceptable workers are those who have learned the vital importance of worship.

A.W.T. □

The Secret of Knowing God's Will

“*Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it*” (Jn. 2:5).

How are you to know what our blessed God says to you? It is easy to know His *good and perfect will* if I am *really willing* to know, and *really willing* to obey when He shows me!

Our wonderful God and Father has spoken so plainly to us in His precious Word! It is there He tells us exactly what we are to do (as guided by the Holy Spirit). How wonderful that our Father has presented everything for us in His Word (the Bible)—told us everything we ought to do in any given circumstance of life. When you read the Bible, listen prayerfully and carefully; set your heart to diligently hear whatever He says to you in it.

There also is another way in which He tells us what to do. He speaks through the conscience. Now “*whatsoever He saith unto you, do it!*” Whether seemingly easy or difficult, do it because He tells you to do so; do it in love for Himself. When this is so with each of us, we will find ourselves much better off and much happier obeying the Lord rather than pleasing ourselves.

“Whatsoever He saith unto you do it!” “**DO IT!**” Do the very thing He desires you do. Don’t try to carry out the Father’s will by doing His bidding in just a little bit manner that you judge is nearly the same, but in reality is the conclusion of your own will.

Do it immediately for it is surely so that the very first moment we have a sense of the Lord’s mind is the easiest moment for obedience. Every minute that doing His blessed will is put off, makes the eventual obedience to His desires much more difficult. See to it that the blessed Lord not have to “speak twice” to you, as it were. “Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it”—do it cheerfully, exactly, instantly. Seek to learn the blessedness of Abraham’s obedience when Jehovah told him to offer up His *only Isaac*. We are told that Abraham’s reaction was that he “rose up early in the morning” to fulfill God’s directions to him (Gen. 22:3).

F.R.H., adapted, from Gems □

Stand Fast

“*Be not conformed to this world: but ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is the good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God*” (Rom. 12:2).

If ever there was a day when it was important for every professed follower of Christ to stand fast and

to be true to his profession, I believe it is the present day. There is no answer to unbelief, mockery, even persecution, like the life of Christ displayed by the Christian. Nothing puts the foolishness and malevolence of unbelief more to silence than a humble, quiet devoted walk of one who loves and lives Christ. Though often observed in unlearned, poor and despised Christians, like the scent of the lowly violet, it gives its perfume abroad, and both our God and man take notice.

“...choose you this day whom ye will serve...as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Josh. 24:15). Every believer faces a turning point; a time when he either goes onward in devotedness to the Lord, or sinks into a mere commonplace Christianity. No believer is too insignificant to be tested whether they will seek our Lord’s honor or present advantage and enjoyments connected with this world.

Our blessed God is very jealous of anything that dares presume to substitute man’s efforts to produce lasting satisfaction, rather than submitting to the power of the Holy Spirit.

In giving up the hopes, plans, entertainments and fleeting joys of this “*present world*”, Christians truly committed to following Christ may seem to others to be wasting their life. Our blessed Lord, however, lovingly exhorts us that “...whosoever will lose his life for My sake shall find it” (Matt. 16:25). Giving up for Christ what this world may offer, accused by it of ‘wasting your life’ is to obtain true life—true joy and satisfaction which is only to be found in Him.

Wholeheartedly following Christ in this world is not, as many may think, throwing away your influence and your usefulness’. What really is *usefulness* that our God values? Is it not formed by the desire expressed by the beloved Apostle Paul; “*What things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ...Yea...I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord...that I may know Him...I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus*” (Phpp. 3:7,8,10,14). May we desire to “*stand fast*” for Christ!

adapted, C.T. □

God's Wisdom

Not until we have become humble, teachable... standing in awe of God’s holiness and sovereignty ...acknowledging our own littleness, distrusting our own thoughts...can His wisdom be ours. □

Chapter Two

vv 3-5 "And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four. And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee."

Faith must break up hindrances that would keep the soul from enjoying God's blessings. These four had faith that Jesus could do for their friend what He had done for many others—the Lord could heal their palsied, helpless friend.

Though faith, however, gave the four confidence in the Lord Jesus' power, the crowd and the roof of the house hindered the blessing their faith could bring.

Faith does not 'give up' because of seeming obstacles. If the crowd at the door of the house blocked their access to the Lord Jesus, faith would find another way to Him. It is the same with believers today. **People**—friends, work mates, perhaps even family or brethren—may become a hinderance to acting in faith (which is always an individual exercise). 'The crowd'—or we may say, *popular opinion*—will not support, encourage or strengthen individual faith.

The roof of the house presents a different kind of hinderance to faith—**circumstances**. **Walking** by faith when facing difficult circumstances is *imperative*, not *impossible*. The roof didn't stop them from getting their friend into the Lord's presence. "...The just shall live by faith" (Gal. 3:11). □

The Cedar Tree

The first letters of the following responses tell us the name of a land, which is famous for the trees that grow there. We read that these trees were planted by the Lord and are mentioned in nearly half of the Old Testament books, but never in the New. [1] Numbers in brackets indicate the number of words in the answer.

1. Two birds, cedar wood, scarlet and hyssop. Though not often thought of as cleaning agents, these items were to be used in the cleansing of what? [1]

2. Who had Amaziah king of Judah just defeated in battle when, impressed with his own power, he challenged Jehoash, the king of Israel? Jehoash disdainfully replied, "The thistle that was in Lebanon sent to the cedar that was in Lebanon, saying, Give thy daughter to my son to wife: and there passed by a wild beast that was in Lebanon, and trode down the thistle". [1]

3. In Jotham's parable, an olive tree, a fig tree, and a vine, all declined to be set up as a king over the other trees. Finally, who entertained the idea stating, "If in truth ye anoint me king over you, then come and put your trust in my shadow: and if not, let fire come out ... and devour the cedars of Lebanon"? [1]

4. What phrase completes the description of "My beloved" in the following passage: "His countenance is as Lebanon, excellent as the cedars. His mouth is most sweet: yea he is...."? [2]

5. Which prophet was king David speaking to when he mused, "See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains"? [1]

6. Balaam prophesied, "How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob, and thy tabernacles, O Israel! As the valleys are they spread forth, as gardens by the river's side, as the trees of lign aloes which the Lord hath planted, and as cedar trees beside the waters." Though he spoke in a trance, his eyes were reportedly what? [1]

7. The prophet Ezekiel states, "The Assyrian was a cedar in Lebanon with fair branches, and with a shadowing shroud, and of an high stature; and his top was among the thick boughs." What did all the fowls of heaven make in his boughs? [1]

— Answers To June 2009 Bible Challenger —

- Shaken Nahum 3:12
Withered away Matt. 21:19
Eyes Genesis 3:7
Eaten Jer. 24:2
Three Luke 13:7
Nathanael John 1:48
Eschol Num.13:23, 24
Solomon 1 Kings 4:25
Stars of heaven Rev. 6:13

"But the fig tree said unto them, Should I forsake my SWEETNESS, and my good fruit, and go to be promoted over the trees?" (Judges 9:11). J. S. □

Feed The Flock _____

A Glass of Milk

Years ago a poor young man was trying to work his way through medical school. His part-time job barely covered college costs and room rent. Not infrequently he went without food for a day.

One day, school and his job had been particularly busy and tiring and he was quite hungry. Walking to his room he became so hungry he decided to buy some food, but he only found one lone nickel in his pocket. Deeply discouraged he began to consider quitting medical school. Passing by wealthy homes, he decided to stop at one and ask for some food.

Going up to a beautiful home he knocked on a side door expecting a servant to answer. Instead a very lovely young girl opened the door.

The young college student, overcome with shyness, was unable to ask the beautiful little girl for food. Instead he asked if he might have a glass of water. Seeing his shabby, though neat, clothing and his weary expression the girl immediately went to the kitchen and poured him a glass of milk.

Drinking it he asked; "How much do I owe you?"

"Why, nothing", she replied. "We are Christians. Mother

says we are never to accept money for a kindness".

Thanking her, he left. Robert Smith, though about to quit college, now refreshed and feeling much better, determined to finish his medical school studies.

Some years later the little girl, now grown into a beautiful young woman, became critically ill with a rare disease. Her family doctor was unable to help her so she was sent to a special hospital in a nearby city.

There, Dr. Robert Smith, a specialist in rare diseases was called for consultation. Hearing the name of the town the young woman came from, he went to her room. Though she did not recognize him, he immediately remembered who she was. Dr. Smith took charge of her care and after much effort and a very long time, she was fully restored to perfect health.

The day she was to leave the hospital, a bill was delivered to her room. She feared that the amount of her bill would require many years to repay. Trembling, she opened and looked at the bill. Written in red ink on the side of the paper was: "*Paid in full with one glass of milk, (signed), Dr. Robert Smith*".

"...let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Gal. 6:9).

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Christian Shepherd
P. O. Box 57471
Des Moines, IA 50327-2189 USA