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Monkey Disgrace

Three monkeys were sitting in a tree
Discussing the things that were said to be.
Said one to the other, "Now listen you two
There's a certain rumor that can't be true:
That man descended from our noble race:
The very idea is a disgrace.
No monkey ever deserted his wife
Starved his babies, and ruined his life.
And you've never known a mother monk
To leave her babies with others to bunk;
Or pass them on one to another
Till they scarcely know who is their mother.
And another thing you'll never see,
A monk build a fence around a coconut tree;
And let the coconuts go to waste
Forbidding all others to taste.
Why if I put a fence around a tree
Starvation would force you to steal from me.
Here's another thing a monk won't do
Go out at night and get on a stew;
Or use a gun or club or knife
To take another monkey's life.
Yes, man descended the ornery cuss
But brother he didn't descended from us."



Hide And Seek

Probably most of us played the game of hide and seek at some time. One person has to count with their eyes closed while others hide. Then, the one counting has to go looking for those that are hidden. One must try to hide oneself really good to not be found.

There are and have been those that have tried to hide from God. There are a variety of reasons for hiding from God, but none of them will allow one to be hidden from God. Even in the Bible we find those that tried to hide from God.

What we also find in the Bible is that God is constantly seeking out man. It is the thought of many today that we seek out God, but we find that, in reality, God seeks us out. He wants to draw us unto Himself, and restore fellowship with us.

In the Garden of Eden, man severed his fellowship with God by his disobedience (sin). Ever since that moment, God has been seeking out man. He called for Adam in the garden when Adam hid himself. Genesis 3:9. God knew where Adam was, but wanted Adam to come forth willingly. God began to show there that blood was required to cover sin and restore fellowship. God also made it clear that man could not hide from Him.

David wrote Psalm 139 about hiding from God. His conclusion is simply that it is impossible to hide from God. There is no where to go where God cannot find us. He is everywhere, and He is searching for us wherever we try to hide from Him.

God sought out many others in the Old Testament. Moses was tending sheep in the wilderness when God sought him from the burning bush. Exodus 3:1. David was tending sheep when God sent Samuel to seek him. 1 Samuel 16:11. In the New Testament Jesus was seeking. Peter was fishing when Jesus sought and called him. Matthew 4:18. Saul was on the road to Damascus when God called him and later changed his name to Paul. Acts 9:5.

There are other examples, but they all show us one thing. God desires to seek out those that will hear Him. He has for thousands of years sought out those that would be reconciled to Him in fellowship. God sent His Son Jesus to shed His blood to restore fellowship to all those who would hear His call. This is simply the greatest act of seeking out that God has done. So, if your sin has you trying to hide from God, give it up and come to Him through Jesus to be restored to fellowship. 1 Corinthians 1:9.

Some have thought that they were first to seek God. Many claim to be seeking today. They say they have not found God yet. The truth is that they are not seeking, because they would have already found that God is seeking them.

Today, God is still seeking those that will come to Him. He is calling through His Word. He is calling through those that will speak to others. He is even calling through His creation. Some will heed, and some will close their ears. Those that heed His calling will benefit eternally. God is seeking you today. Do not hesitate to answer His call.

Gordon Crook



Shortages and Crises

A Fuel Shortage

In Matthew twenty-five, we have another illustration, that of a fuel shortage. Most of us are familiar with the present fuel shortage. It behooves us to be sure that we have enough of this kind of fuel needed for His soon return. His purposes are being fulfilled moment by moment, and it seems there is not much left to be fulfilled. We can be alert and ready for His coming.

“Then shall the Kingdom of Heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh” – Matthew 25:1-13.

In this parable, we read that the virgins had lamps. It was a custom in the East at that time, and in some parts it still is, to have a wedding in this way. The wedding would be celebrated at night. The bridegroom with his companions would lead the procession

to the house of the bride, and bring her back to the place of the wedding. Thus, there was the need for the lamps and the oil. Jesus is using this to illustrate the importance of the lamps. Every believer has a lamp. The lamp is the Word of God illuminated by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus also said, “Ye are the light of the world” – Matthew 5:14. Paul tells us that we are luminaries “holding forth the Word of life” – Philippians 2:16. This parable, in Matthew twenty-five, illustrates a condition that will be true of believers at the time of the marriage feast when the Tribulation begins. Rough times will also begin. Those who do not have membership with the one world church will be outsiders, and it will cause great persecution. We see that the groundwork of this has already been laid. We can see how all religion is finally going to merge under one head.

There are going to be some virgins around after the Lord has claimed His Bride. Those virgins are going to be offered the opportunity of going to the marriage supper. Some will be wise and some unwise. This virgin characteristic that will be evident means that there will be some who are not joined to the one world church, but belong only to the Lord. But we read of a sad condition – **all** these virgins “slumbered and slept” while the bridegroom tarried. He had claimed his bride, but she was waiting to be taken unto the marriage supper. Here is a shortage of preparation – they took no oil in their lamps.

There is also a shortage of appreciation – “they all slumbered and slept.” In I Thessalonians five we read, “Let us not sleep, as do other” – we who are of the day and not of the night. They knew when the cry went out that the bridegroom was ready, and trimmed their lamps. Some had a testimony, but some had not taken the God-provided fuel oil that they needed. Each individual may have

the power of God manifested in his daily life, and his lamp will be shining only as he partakes of that oil. That oil, of course, is the Holy Spirit and He has been poured out on the Church to drink; but it is up to each individual to partake. It is our birth-right, as children of God, to drink of the Spirit that the Lord has provided. We are dependent upon the Holy Spirit to get us ready for the Bridegroom.

We also read of virgins in the book of the Song of Solomon. There are also their companions and virgins without number. Just so, there are believers without number. There is going to be an innumerable company that will be taken to Heaven out of the tribulation. The unwise virgins were not shut out of spiritual benefits altogether, but they are shut out of the greatest occasion of the ages. God's culminating purpose, in His dealings with man, is the marriage of His Son and His Bride.

They who have not taken of the God-given oil will not enter in with Him to that marriage feast. Praise God, for this happy rejoicing time and the joy we are going to have with the Lord there. What a festive occasion! There will be no fuel shortage there. There will be no shortages at all. Glory to God!

“The King's daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold. She shall be brought unto the King in raiment of needlework: the virgins her companions that follow her shall be brought unto Thee. With gladness and rejoicing shall they be brought: they shall enter into the King's palace” – Psalm 45:13-15. Thank God, for the wise virgins. Thank God, for those who are going to be ready when Jesus comes to claim His Bride. This is our privilege as Children of God. The Lord has made full provision.

By Jack Davis

Living For God In An Evil Day

In Daniel chapter one, we read of a very discouraging time. Jerusalem was in ruins and the people of Judah had been carried away captive to a strange land. They could have felt like there is no use in trying to live for God and no doubt many did feel that way.

Many who feel discourage and faint today must think this way. But this is the way of man's reasoning. Such is not the language of faith. It is true we live in an evil day, for it is the last days. But in such a time as this, true devotedness can develop.

We have a race to run and we may feel like we are running in solitude. But it is our privilege to trust in God and feed on Christ. All who truly desire to live for God can always find a devoted path to walk in.

Some are letting down and are other wise occupied. How sad, but praise God some are feasting and growing - we wish all would. Is our faith based on circumstances or on the ROCK, Christ Jesus?

If ever there was a time that one might be excused for taking the low ground, it was the time we read of in Daniel. Nothing remained for the exiled children of Judah, except to hang their harps upon the willow and sit down by the rivers of Babylon and weep over their departed glory. Psa. 137:1-4.

That's exactly what unbelief would do, but praise God, it is when everything appears sunk to the lowest possible point,

that faith rises in triumph. Faith needs no props from men and things – it springs from God. Faith shines the brightest when all around is dark. Acts 16:23-25.

Daniel and his companions overcame the difficulties of their time. They remained separated to God, not letting their circumstances hinder their faith.

Let us go forward in faith (Heb. 12:1). Jonathan said in I Sam. 14, “There is no restraint with the Lord to save by many or by few.” Consider II Cor. 5:7 & Gal. 2:20. The apostle Paul wrote to his son in the faith Timothy, “hold fast the form of **sound words**, which thou hast heard of me, **in faith and love** which is in Jesus.”

Peter encourages believers in II Pet. 3:14; also John in III Jn. 2 and Jude 20,21. These words were inspired by the Holy Spirit. Daniel could have said to himself, “there is no use in one poor feeble captive trying to keep a place of separation to God in this hopeless ruin. I may as well adjust to the condition of things around me.

But NO, Daniel was on higher ground than this. He counted it a privilege to live close to God in this evil time. There is a path open to us individually of yieldedness, of purity and devotedness no matter what the outward condition may be. May the stand of Daniel and his companions encourage us and stir us to choose to live a life separated to God. Remember, “Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever.”

We can get so low and discouraged by looking at the failure and faithlessness of others, but let us look instead to the faithfulness of God. II Tim. 2:19.

By Earlene Davis

Seek and Find



Find the underlined words
in the puzzle on page 10.

Rev. 21:1-5

1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

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*With
 JESUS,
 your future is
 bright.*