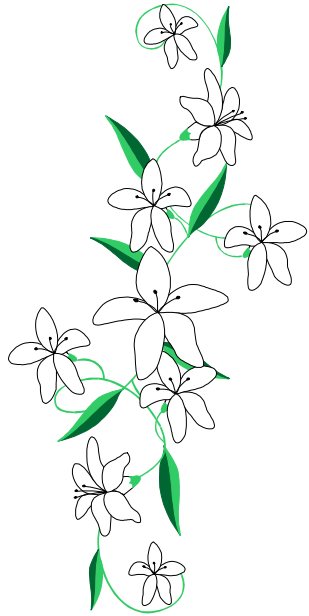


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God Provides

Behold the birds
Of the heaven,
That they sow not,
Neither do they reap,
Nor gather
Into barns;
And your heavenly Father
Feedeth them.
Are not ye
Of much more
Value than they?
And which of you
By being anxious
Can add one cubit
Unto the measure
Of his life?
And why
Are ye anxious
Concerning raiment?
Consider the lilies
Of the field,
How they grow;
They toil not,
Neither do they spin:
Yet I say unto you,
That even Solomon
In all his glory
Was not arrayed
Like one of these.



New Testament ---A. S. V.

Unmovable

But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God. Acts 20:24

We are moved every day by different things. Sometimes, people around us move us. Sometimes, circumstances move us. Many of our decisions in life are made based on something external to ourselves.

Paul was going in the way the Lord had showed him. He knew that he would face danger and even harm to himself, but he was not moved from his decision to follow Jesus. We can follow Paul's example and not be moved from our commitment to follow Jesus.

If our 'friends' try to move us from being good witnesses, we can leave them behind, and go on with the Lord. Our 'friends' are not going to be the ones that give us eternal rewards. If the circumstances move us from our stand with the Lord, we can trust the Lord to bring us above the circumstances.

It is not easy to be a witness for Jesus. It is not even possible in ourselves to stand for Jesus. However, if we will ask Jesus and trust Him, He will give the strength to stand. Whatever you may have to leave behind for Jesus, will be more than compensated for by the great reward that Jesus has prepared for us.

If we are going to please someone, shouldn't it be the Lord. Let us stand firm in the faith and be unmovable.

Gordon Crook

JONAH

Jonah's Complaint Of God Showing Mercy Is Rebuked

As a result of Jonah's message the entire city of Nineveh turned to God. You would think that would be a fit ending to this book, but God has more to teach Jonah and us also. Chapter 4:1 - Do we find Jonah rejoicing that the whole city turned to God? No! "...it displeased Jonah **exceedingly**, and he was very angry." Even the king of this pagan city set a better example than the selfish, narrow-minded prophet. Jonah goes out of the city. He is angry with God for not destroying it.

We will see how God deals with Jonah. He is going to get an **attitude adjustment**. He will learn to see things from God's view point. Can we sometimes be guilty of such attitudes? Thinking God should judge according to our thinking and our judgment. Yes, I am afraid so, whether we want to admit it or not. But God is faithful to deal with us concerning our attitudes.

V. 2,3 - "And he prayed unto the LORD...was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled...unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a **gracious** God, and **merciful**, slow to anger, and of **great kindness**, and repentest thee of the evil. Therefore...take, I beseech thee, my life from me...it is better for me to die than to live." At least Jonah talks to the Lord about this matter even if it is in anger. Jonah tells God, "I knew you would save them if they repented. That is why I fled from you." Sounds like a poor excuse for his running away. It tells us about the prejudice state of his heart. Jonah did not seek their repentance, but to announce their doom.

Instead of thanking the Lord for blessing his ministry and saving this people, Jonah wants to die. Well, Jonah had been through a lot, three days and nights in a fish, preaching throughout that large city, faithfully giving God's message. But since his message of judgment is not going to come about, Jonah doesn't want to go on. I'm sure we have all been there or will be there sometime, wanting to just quit. God was not only gracious to Nineveh, but we will see how graciously He deals with Jonah.

V. 4 - "Then said the LORD, Doest thou well to be angry?" In other words, "Is my grace displeasing to you?" Sad to say it is to some, today. God sent His messenger with His Word to save these sinners. God is not willing that any should perish - II Pet. 3:9. In Luke 10:7,10 Jesus says, there is joy in heaven in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth. This was a large city of people. God asks Jonah, "Does it displease you that I have saved these Ninevites?"

V. 5 - "...Jonah went out of the city...sat on the east side of the city...there made him a booth, and sat under it in the shadow, till he might see what would become of the city." He gets a good spot over looking the city. Why? He thought if the Ninevites went back to sinning that God would destroy them. He wanted to see the fire of God fall on them. God is going to teach Jonah a lesson by an illustration.

V. 6-8 - "...the LORD God **prepared** a gourd...made it to come up over Jonah...a shadow over his head, to deliver him from his grief...Jonah was exceeding glad of the gourd. But God **prepared** a worm when the morning rose the next day...it smote the gourd that it withered...it came to pass, when the sun did arise...God **prepared** a vehement east wind; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and wished in himself to die..." We read before that God **prepared** a great fish - Chapter 1:17. Here we

read, He prepared a **gourd**, a **worm** and a **strong east wind**. This gourd, worm and wind is just as miraculous as the fish and yet we don't hear people saying, "I just can't believe the story of the gourd, the worm and wind." Jonah was made glad for the shade, but when the sun beat upon his head and made him feel faint he again wished to die.

V. 9-11 - "...God said to Jonah, Doest thou well to be angry for the gourd? And he said, I do well to be angry, even unto death. Then said the LORD, Thou hast had pity on the gourd, for...which thou hast not laboured, neither madest it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night: And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?" A gourd is nothing and you had pity on it. It doesn't have a soul. Men have a soul that is either going to heaven or hell. "I spared this great city of 120,000 thousand persons that don't know their right hand from their left. This refers to the children. If you can love a gourd, can't you love the Ninevite children."

You may know someone or ones you don't like. They may be very vile sinners. Do you think that God would have you show them love and grace and testify of God's love to them or do you think you can only talk about God to nice refined persons? **Mt. 9:10-13; Rom. 5:6-8; I Tim. 1:12-16**. God would have us give His Word to the lost because He loves them and gave His Son for them. God loves all His creatures, even the dumb cattle. Jonah thought He learned "**Salvation is of the Lord**" in the belly of the fish and in a sense he did, but **now he knows it**. God knows where to touch us that we might learn more of Him and His ways. I trust we are paying attention. —The End

by Earlene Davis

Shortages and Crises

“For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple” - Luke 14:28-33.

“Count the cost,” Jesus advises. **Check your resources**, whether it is building a tower or in reference to the course of your life. It is important that we consider our resources, and make sure that we are associated with a dependable supplier. Phil. 4:19 - “My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” God has a complete supply for us to finish whatever is in His will. **The provision of God’s grace is unlimited.** People make resolutions. Yet in all the resolutions they make, for the most part, they do not have the “wherewith” to get therewith.” But praise God, the Lord has provided the “wherewith” for us to get to that throne beside the Lamb of God.

Whatever we want to build into our lives, we should inspect the materials that we intend to use and consider their worth and durability. We want to find material that will not rust nor corrupt. We want incombustible material - that which will stand the fire

test. We have to check the quality as well as the quantity or we will come up short.

In Elijah, we have an illustration of how God supplies in times of shortages. “And the word of the Lord came unto him, saying. Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith...it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there. So he went and dwelt by the brook...And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and...in the evening; and he drank of the brook” - I Kings 17:2-6.

It is wonderful the way God takes care of those who wholeheartedly walk by faith. **Walking by faith is acting upon God’s Word.** This is what Elijah did. As we walk by faith, the Lord may take us through steps of humiliation. This was so with Elijah, because God had given Israel certain dietary laws; and one was that they were not to eat of the raven which was classed as an unclean bird. Elijah had to go through this humiliating experience of being fed by a “dirty bird.”

“And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land” - I Kings 17:7. God gave Elijah this brook for his refreshing, a place for him to be nourished. Now we read of another shortage. We find this happens to us, the thing that God gives us for our refreshment will dry up. He does not want us to get our eyes upon the gift. He wants our eyes **upon Him.** The brook drying up brings a crisis in Elijah’s experience. When we walk by faith, there will never be a shortage of crises.

The Lord takes care of the shortages. At the wedding feast in Cana, He turned the water into wine. At another time, He fed the hungry multitude with five loaves and two fishes. He made the blind to see, and the lame to walk, and the deaf to hear. He of

whom it is said - **“He hath done all things well”** - will see us through every crises. Glory to God!

I thank God again for His faithfulness, even though the brook dries up. We then think of how mighty God is. He holds the sea in His hand. He, that measures water in His palm, can keep the brook from drying up. It would have been no problem to God to have kept that brook flowing; but God had a step further for Elijah to go. Elijah must have a **deeper experience**, another step in humiliation.

In next month’s issue of “Higher Ground:”

Elijah has to be sustained by a poor widow.

by Jack Davis

**I t’ s not your outlook but
your “uplook” that counts.**

2

*Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hand
of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand
of her mistress; so our eyes wait upon the LORD our God...*

Psalm 123:2

TRIVIA

Life-of-Jesus

1. Who was told his wife would bear a son and his name would be John?
2. What is the name of Mary's cousin who was told by an angel that she would bear a son?
3. What happened to Zacharias when he didn't believe Elizabeth would bear a son?
4. Where was Zacharias when the angel told him he would father a son in his old age?
5. In what city was Mary, the mother of Jesus, when the angel told her she would bear a son?
6. Which angel appeared to Zacharias and to Mary, the mother of Jesus?
7. According to Jewish customs, when were babies named?
8. Why did Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem while she was still with child?
9. What is the name of the Roman emperor who was in charge of the census that required Joseph and Mary to return to Bethlehem?
10. How did Zacharias tell his friends that his son's name was to be John if he could not speak?
11. Where did Joseph and Mary stay once they reached Bethlehem?
12. How many nights did Joseph and Mary spend in Bethlehem before Jesus was born?
13. What is the name for the clothes Mary wrapped Jesus in?
14. To whom was this statement directed: 'Fear not, for I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people'?
15. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth _____ , _____ toward men."

16. What does “Jesus” mean?
17. What type of offering did Joseph and Mary make to the Lord for the birth of Jesus?
18. Who was told that he would not die until he had seen the Savior?
19. What is another name for the wise men?
20. From what direction did the wise men come to see Jesus?
21. What did the wise men specialize in?
22. How many wise men came to see Jesus?
23. How did Herod attempt to deceive the wise men?
24. What did the wise men give as gifts to Jesus?
25. Why did Joseph and Mary flee with baby Jesus to Egypt?

1. Zacharias.
2. Elizabeth.
3. He was unable to speak until the child was born.
4. In the temple.
5. Nazareth in Galilee,
6. Gabriel.
7. When they were eight days old.
8. The Roman emperor commanded a census be taken of everyone in the city from which their family came.
9. Caesar Augustus.
10. He wrote on a tablet.
11. In a stable at an inn.
12. None; Jesus was born the same night they reached Bethlehem.
13. Swaddling clothes.
14. The shepherds watching their flocks by night.
15. Peace; Good will.
16. Salvation.
17. Two young pigeons.
18. Simeon.
19. The magi.
20. The east.
21. Astrology.
22. The number is unknown.
23. He told them to let him know where the Savior was and he would come worship him.
24. Gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
25. Herod was looking to destroy the child.