

Godly Youth

Young in Age, Strong in Heart

Remember the Duck

There was a little boy visiting his grandparents on their farm. He was given a slingshot to play with out in the woods. He practiced in the woods, but he could never hit the target. Getting a little discouraged, he headed back for dinner. As he was walking back he saw Grandma's pet duck. Just out of impulse, he let the slingshot fly, hit the duck square in the head, and killed it.

He was shocked and grieved. In a panic, he hid the dead

duck in the woodpile, only to see his sister watching! Sally had seen it all, but she said nothing. After lunch the next day Grandma said, "Sally, let's wash the dishes."

But Sally said, "Grandma, Johnny told me he wanted to help in the kitchen." Then she whispered to him, "Remember the duck?" So Johnny did the dishes.

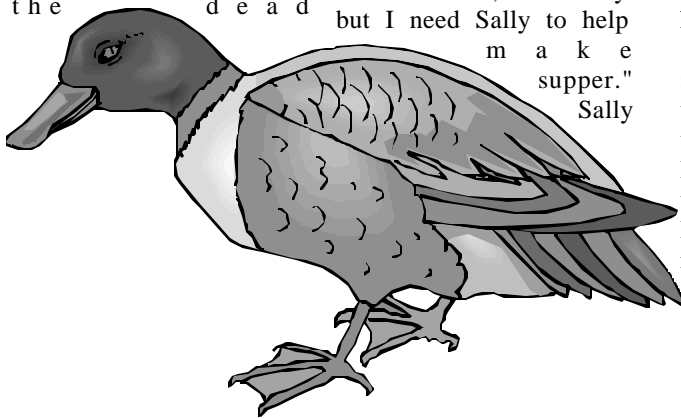
Later that day, Grandpa asked if the children wanted to go fishing and Grandma said, "I'm sorry but I need Sally to help make supper." Sally

just smiled and said, "Well that's all right because Johnny told me he wanted to help." She whispered again, "Remember the duck?" So Sally went fishing and Johnny stayed to help.

After several days of Johnny doing both his chores and Sally's he finally couldn't stand it any longer. He came to Grandma and confessed the he had killed the duck.

Grandma knelt down, gave him a hug, and said, "Sweetheart, I know. You see, I was standing at the window and I saw the whole thing. But because I love you, I forgave you. I was just wondering how long you would let Sally make a slave of you."

Author Unknown



Pray for: Elders

When God established the church he also gave the elders the responsibility to oversee, or rule, over the church. The elders are like shepherds who take care of sheep; the elders help feed us spiritually by making sure the teachers and preachers are teaching the truth. They make sure that your Bible classes are planned well and that the teachers are presenting lessons that will help you grow in your Bible knowledge.

They also help people in the church who are

having problems by talking with them and giving them advice from the Bible. They must be wise about how to handle problems and using the Bible to help people know what they are supposed to do.

Does your church have elders? Do you know who they are? If not, ask your parents to tell you who they are. Pray for them and their important work in the church. Thank them for their important work as well.

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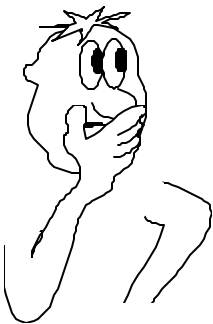
"[They] searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so."

Acts 17:11



Lessons from Zechariah

- God can punish His people when they are wicked and forgive them when they repent
- God's plan for salvation through Jesus was revealed by many prophets hundreds of years before Jesus came to the earth
- We must live holy lives before God and obey His commands



“Know what you will do in a situation before that situation arises.”

Meeting the Prophets: Zechariah

The book of Zechariah is a book of visions and prophecies that God sent to Zechariah when God's people were captive in the land of the Persians. The Persian empire defeated the Babylonian empire which destroyed Jerusalem and took the Jewish people captive.

Though God's people were able to return to Judea, God warned them, through His prophets, not to return to the wickedness that caused God to punish them with the Babylonian army. God told His people that He loved them very much but they had to love Him and only serve Him; not to serve idols.

Zechariah is a wonderful book for Christians for God told Zechariah about Jesus who would come to the earth more than 500 years after Zechariah's prophecy.

Zechariah saw that Jesus, whom he called Branch, would take away sin in one day. Jesus did this when He died on the cross. He also saw that Jesus would be a priest who would sit on the throne.

This second lesson about Jesus might have confused the Jews. Under the Old Law, the priests could only come from the tribe of Levi, and the kings from the family of David who was of the tribe of Judah. Jesus would be from the tribe of Judah but could not be a priest under the Old Law.

This prophecy pointed to the new law, the gospel, in which Jesus could be a priest and king at the same time and the Old Law would be put away. We do not obey the Ten Commandments or any part of the Old Testament today. However, We can learn much from studying the Old Testament.

Zechariah also prophesied about Jesus coming into Jerusalem on a small donkey which Jesus fulfilled, Matthew 21:1-7. He prophesied that Jesus would be sold for thirty pieces of silver. He also saw how Jesus would be the ruler in His new kingdom, which we know as the church.

Throughout the book, God warns the people to put away their idols, to do good instead of wickedness, to take care of the weak among them, and to have love for others. These lessons we should learn and practice today for the gospel teaches us to do this as well.

Zechariah can sometimes be hard to understand but it is not impossible to know what his message is. As you learn more and more about the Bible, this book, and all books of the Bible are easier to understand.

What Do You Think They Should Do?

Billy is used to getting the things that he wants. On his birthday parties and at Christmas his parents would buy him lots of presents. The only problem was that he never seemed happy with all the things that he got. No matter how many presents they bought, he would always ask “Is that all?” or would whine because he did not get another present that he wanted. He did not seem thankful for what he had.

Why do you think he acts like this? How would you suggest helping him appreciate the things that he has and not always wanting more and more?

Where is this?

1. This city was known as the city of David.
2. This was the capital of Judea since King David's reign.
3. This city was destroyed by the Babylonians but rebuilt by the Jews under Ezra, Nehemiah, and Zerubbabel.
4. Jesus was crucified outside the walls of this city.
5. The temple was located in this city.

Do you know what city this is? (Answer below)

It is the city of Jerusalem!

A Woman with Great Faith

Break the secret code to figure out what the woman touched.

a	△	f	⊖	k	◁	p	×	u	⊐
b	+	g	▬	l	▽	q	∩	v	∪
c	⊞	h	◇	m	✱	r	⊗	w	≡
d	○	i	∪	n	+	s	△	x	□
e	▣	j	✱	o	▽	t	⊞	y	⊖
								z	⊐

Jesus was walking down the street, surrounded by people. Suddenly he stopped and said, "Who touched me?" He knew someone had touched him because he felt power leave him. A woman who had been sick for years and years had touched his robe because she believed that would make her well.

Memory Verse: Verse: Proverbs 1:7

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction."

The source of all true knowledge is God. He is the creator of all things. He knows everything about His creation and has taught us the things that we need to know to live in His word, the Bible.

If you want to know how to use a piece of equipment or get information about a new car, the manual, written by the manufacturer is the best source to read. The Bible was given to us by our Creator, the one who knows

us the best and who knows what is best for us.

Some doubt that there is a God and others do not obey His word. In turning their back on God, they are turning their back on the true knowledge that could help them learn what the world is really all about and the eternal future of all people. They are fools because, no matter how smart they may be, they will never be satisfied with the knowledge that comes from

God, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31. Yet it is the only knowledge that really matters.

If we read the last several chapters of the book of Job, we understand that God knows about so many things that mankind has only learned in the last 200 years. We also see that God knows about things that we cannot even understand. It is foolish to think that we know more than God and that we do not need to listen to Him.



Our Accuser

So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world.. the power of His Christ [has] come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused [God's people] before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. -Revelation 12:9-11

In Revelation 12, Satan is described as the accuser of the brethren. This is an appropriate title for Satan accuses us of all of our sins before God. Notice he is constantly accusing the brethren before God. Thankfully, we have Jesus on our side advocating on our behalf, 1 John 2:1. We are accused rightly, but we have access to the blood of Jesus for forgiveness of sins.

The Devil acts like a friend on this earth. He wants us to enjoy his passing pleasures and fulfill every passion. He acts like he has our best interest at heart by tempting us to do things that will bring pleasure. However, when we succumb to sin he is there to accuse us before God and we must deal with the penalty for our sin and the guilt of knowing we were unrighteous. The devil promises pleasure but neglects to point out the price of pain that sin demands. No one can enjoy sin without suffering some type of consequence even though it may not be manifest until later.

Though Satan wants us to "remember the duck," God reminds us to remember His Son. He will not hold our sin over our heads but will forgive completely if we repent.

I hope you enjoyed this issue of *Godly Youth*. If you have ideas for articles or questions you want to ask, you can email me at rhodes.davis@comcast.net or write to the address below.

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A SPECIAL NEWSLETTER
JUST FOR YOU!
