Matthew - Commentaries by Grandma Smith

God's Wonderful Stories: Volume 3, What's Inside?

Article from https://bibletruthpublishers.com/bible-truth-study-bible/btsb

What’s inside the box? I wondered and wondered when the box was set on the table with instructions that read, “Don’t open it now!” It was a nice-looking box, and it was not wrapped or tied. It was a shoebox, but that didn’t give me a clue to the mystery. Yes, it was something for me, but I had no idea what was inside.

There are lots of puzzles and mysteries in life and many things we cannot guess. But when our Lord Jesus was here on earth, He never found anything beyond His knowledge and understanding, because He was the Son of God. There were nice people who asked Him questions, and Jesus always knew the thoughts and reasons behind their questions. Sometimes their questions were not as nice as they sounded.

And Jesus knows the thoughts and reasons behind our questions too. Does that make you glad, or does it trouble you?

There were men who asked Jesus questions because they wanted to make Him say something that would get Him into trouble. But Matthew 9:4 tells us, “Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?” Jesus knew what they were thinking and what their motives were. Even while He was here on earth, Jesus was God who knows everything and the God who forgives sins. The Pharisees knew that only God could forgive sins, so they questioned, How could Jesus forgive sins? The answer is Jesus is God! That’s how.

Yes, Jesus’ answer did get Him into trouble. He came to die for sinners, like you and me, but those men were guilty of blaming Him for telling the truth. Jesus knew what was in their hearts and that they were trying to corner Him. Nothing was a secret to Him. “[God knows] the secrets of the heart” (Psalm 44:21).

I am very glad that He knows what is in my heart, because I don’t want to have secrets from Him. Do you? He could not forgive my sins if He did not know them.

Perhaps you are still wondering what was in my box. I did not have to wonder very long. In fact, I never opened that box, because there was something alive inside that opened it for me! The lid tipped up, and there were two bright eyes of a cute, little gray kitten with a pink nose and whiskers. That’s what was in my shoebox, and I never guessed it!

That’s a real story. My kitten was a special gift, and he lived for fifteen years and then died. But do you know something? Jesus is a very special gift for you, right now. Let me tell you how.

The men who had secret thoughts against Jesus finally led Him to Calvary’s cross, and they were glad to see Him crucified. He could easily have avoided the cross, but He died there for a special reason-it was His love for you and me. Because He shed His blood on the cross, the way has been opened for us to have our sins forgiven so that we will go to heaven someday. “[Jesus] in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace” (Ephesians 1:7).

Jesus was buried too, but here’s the wonderful part - He rose again! The Lord Jesus is not dead - He is alive in heaven today! I have not seen Him, but I surely will see Him, and so will you. God’s Word tells us that every eye will see Him, and that means you too. Is He your very own Savior? You may gladly receive Him today or you may do like those other men - try to keep your secrets from Him and leave Him out of your life. Either way, you are sure to see Him after you leave this world, either as your Savior or as your Judge.

The Lord Jesus saves people one at a time, and it doesn’t matter how old you are or where you live. Will you be that one right now? “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” (1 Timothy 1:15).

Think About God’s Word!

1. Why did the men in this story ask Jesus questions?

2. Did you ever have a secret in your heart that you did not want the Lord Jesus to know? What verse in Matthew 9 that you’ve just read shows that this is impossible?

Project: Daniel 2 tells us something very interesting about what God does with secret things. What does He do?

God's Wonderful Stories: Volume 3, Emergency!

The centurion was an important man in the Roman army. He had one hundred men under him, and every one of them must take orders from him. They had to do exactly as they were told, no matter if it was hard or easy. What the centurion said must be done at once! He understood military obedience, for he was under authority too.

The centurion had a problem. He had a servant at home who was very dear to him, but something had happened and now he was paralyzed. The servant was really miserable, and there was no hope of a cure. Emergency help was the only answer, but they didn’t have the kind of medical help that you and I have available today. What could the centurion do for his servant?

There is one Power that does not change with research or centuries. That one Power is the same One who created the world and who will finally burn up the whole world. Isn't it wonderful that that very same Power is for us and not against us! "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31). That same God who holds our breath in His hand is the same God who sent His only beloved Son into the world that we might live through Him.

The centurion knew that Jesus the Son of God was in Capernaum not far away, and he came to Jesus and told Him his problem.

I will come and heal your servant, said Jesus.

When Jesus was here on earth, anyone could have asked for healing and received it. Jesus healed everyone who came to Him. But this centurion was a man of faith, not just in the healing itself, but faith in Jesus, the Son of God - the One who had all power.

Faith does not trust in people or in things; faith trusts in the one Person -Jesus, the Savior of sinners. If you have real faith in Him, you can tell Him your problem, and He can hear you just as well as if He were standing beside you.

The centurion said to Jesus, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof. Just speak a word and my servant will be healed. A word from Jesus was enough for him. We don't have Jesus on earth with us today, but we have His Word - the Word of God - the Bible. Is it enough for you? His Word tells us that He is truly the only One who can save you. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). Will you trust Him?

I am a man under authority, said the centurion. I command and my soldiers obey. You see, he knew that Jesus was under God's authority, and so His commands must be obeyed. And like the centurion, you can come to Jesus right now and receive from Him His great gift of forgiveness of sins. He can give this to you because He paid the price Himself. Will you come?

Jesus turned to those who were following Him and told them how He was amazed at the centurion's faith. The crowds who saw what Jesus could do did not have faith like that. Even if they shared the excitement of being healed, they might still be in their sins and on their way to hell. The centurion was a Roman and from a different religion, but it was in Jesus Himself and His word that he trusted now. Be sure above all things that it is the Lord Jesus and His Word that you are trusting and not in your religion or your country.

Jesus said to the centurion, Go your way. As you have believed, so let it be done for you. And the centurion's servant was healed at that very moment.

That was no surprise, was it? Jesus always answers those who trust Him and His Word. It may surprise other people, but it will not surprise you . . . it will fill you with joy.

Think About God's Word!

1. What does faith trust in and what doesn't it trust in?

2. Is it possible to put faith in something that's untrustworthy? Have you ever trusted someone's promise and found they didn't keep it? What does Hebrews 10:23 tell us about the God who has made promises to us?

Project: How many different examples from Hebrews 11 can you give of how faith acts?

God's Wonderful Stories: Volume 1, Invited … Are You Coming?

A certain king planned a marriage for his son. The invitation list included only very special people, and they would be very honored and looking forward to wearing their finest clothes and to being there on time!

Or were they? It depended, I suppose, on what they really thought of that king. If he was unpopular, it would not take much to keep them away.

But why would a king be unpopular? He was certainly rich enough to provide a grand wedding feast. He killed the finest of his cattle for roast beef and veal, and the fanciest desserts were ready, and it was all free. I suppose it was a question of what was more important to those people.

I know of another King who is unpopular. I have heard His name used scornfully every day, even by children. And I have heard Him blamed when things go wrong among ourselves, and His book is seldom read. Do you know that great King? His name is God. He is not wanted, because His holiness interferes with our sin.

When it was time to begin the marriage, the king in our story sent his servants to tell the people who had been invited to "come; for all things are now ready." An amazing thing happened! Even with a second invitation, none of those honored people took the king's invitation seriously enough to come. They all had other things to do instead. One went to his farm, and another went to his business. And worse than that, they treated his servants very, very badly.

What would you do, or rather, what are you doing now? God is sending you His invitation while you are reading this story. What other plans are keeping you from coming?

The servants told the king that nobody invited would come; they all had other plans, and he was very angry. But everything was still ready, so he sent his servants out to bring in the poor and the homeless and the beggars, until all the seats for the wedding were filled. It did not matter at all that they were a ragged bunch, for the king made sure that each one was fitted and dressed for the occasion. It is not hard to imagine how pleased and grateful those people would be. The king was pleased too.

Our God is pleased when sinners respond to His invitation to come to Him. He is pleased to pour on us all the love of His heart and the riches of His grace. But God does not forget about those who refuse and despise Him. In our story, the king destroyed those who refused his invitation and treated his servants badly, and he burned up their city. Do you think God cares any differently about those who refuse His invitation and rebel against Him now? There is punishment awaiting them too.

There is one more warning at the end of the story. One of the guests who came did not wear the clothes the king had provided. The king asked him why, and the guest was speechless. The king ordered him to be bound hand and foot and cast into outer darkness. We are often reminded that God is holy, and He is not to be ignored. He can make you ready for His holy presence, but you cannot do this for yourself. God is willing to do it for you, at the expense of the life-blood of His Son. Are you willing?

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me” (Revelation 3:20).

God's Wonderful Stories: Volume 1, King Rides a Donkey, The

This is a wonderful story, for no king in the whole history of the world would be able to ride an untrained donkey. But this King, who was born in a stable, was the Creator of all things. The fish and the birds and the animals obeyed His commands. Perhaps in this they were wiser than you are. Do you obey His commands?

Jesus sent two of His disciples to go into the city where they would find a mother donkey and a colt tied up where two roads met. They were told to untie them and bring them to Jesus, and if the owner questioned them about it, they would say, “The Lord hath need of him.”

This happened exactly as Jesus had said, and now He was ready to ride to the temple in Jerusalem. And the wonder is that God had the prophet Zechariah record hundreds of years before that this would happen and on this very day.

Is this God your God? He certainly is mine! And I never want to say His name carelessly as many others do, because I know Him and reverence Him. I wish you knew Him too!

The disciples took off their coats and threw them onto the back of the colt, and Jesus sat on him. Other people spread their coats on the road and cut down branches of palm trees and spread them on the road. Poor donkey? No, he was not a poor donkey! If the branches were in his way, he just stepped a little higher and kept on going. He was carrying Jesus, the Son of God, on his back. That untrained little donkey was the willing servant of the One who created him. The air was filled with shouts, but that little donkey showed no fear.

“Hosanna!” cried the crowds. “Hosanna to the Son of David!” That word “Hosanna” means “bestow blessing.” Perhaps even the crowds did not know why they said this. It is very good to praise the Lord, but better still to kneel and praise Him when you are alone and there is no one but God to hear you.

After that wonderful donkey ride, Jesus went into the temple and found them selling things in there for religious offerings and making money. God had told them long ago how to build a temple for His praise, and now the temple was being used in a wrong way and for themselves. You have heard of the kindness and love of Jesus, but have you heard that He hates sin? Jesus did not destroy those men, but He upset the tables and poured out the money and drove them all out. We do not have a God who does not care if we sin.

That very same week the crowds were shouting again. This time the King who had ridden on an untamed donkey was wearing a crown of thorns and was clothed by the soldiers in a purple robe, just to make fun of Him. This time the rulers had decided that He spoiled their religion and their self-importance, and the people agreed.

“Away with Him! Crucify Him!” they shouted.

Were you there that day? No, but you have the same decision to make as if you were there. If He were dead, it might not matter, but Jesus is not dead. He is the Son of God, the Savior of sinners. If you say “No” to Him, then you are saying, “Away with Him!” just the same as the crowd did. Since He is living and is coming back, it is impossible for you to go on without a decision.

Jesus loves you and died for you. Won’t you receive Him as your Savior? “God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

God's Wonderful Stories: Volume 3, Fig Tree but No Figs, A

I’m sure some of you children like to eat fig bars - a cookie with a fig filling. And maybe some of you even like to eat fresh figs or dried figs. But maybe figs are no treat to you; however, they were a special treat in today’s story. Well, they would have been. . . but there weren’t any. Here is the story.

The disciples of Jesus were those men who listened to Him and followed Him. They had spent the night in the town of Beth-any, in a place where Jesus knew they would be welcome. In the morning they set out for Jerusalem, and He was hungry.

If you are hungry sometimes -like maybe right now-Jesus knows and understands, because He was hungry too. Now where could He and His disciples find some breakfast? In Bible times, there were no restaurants or places like McDonald’s where they could get some breakfast, and they didn’t have a packed lunch that they could have for breakfast. They would have to eat what they could find growing along the roadway.

As they walked along, they saw a fig tree with leaves. This was a good sign, because the fruit grows before the leaves come out, so this tree must have an early crop of figs. Jesus came closer to find and pick the figs.

Do you know what He found? Plenty of leaves, but not a single fig! So Jesus and His disciples were still hungry. It makes me sad to think of that, because you and I might have a good showing of religion but with no fruit for Jesus at all. Compare it to something like this: What good is a house all fixed up with a stove and washing machine but with no power?

The first response to the love of Jesus in your heart is to love Him back. That's where the growth begins, but there is no growth without a beginning. That fig tree was like many of Jesus' dear people in Jerusalem. They talked a lot about God and religion, but their love for Jesus, the Son of God, was not there at all. They were all leaves and no fruit.

Jesus did not add fertilizer to that tree so that it would grow figs the next year. He cursed the fig tree, and the curse of God makes bad things happen. He said to the tree, Let no fruit grow on you ever again. And the fig tree dried up from the roots. This was a surprise to the disciples, but Jesus knew a secret that they did not know.

That tree might have been big and beautiful or scrawny and poor, but the fruit it produced for Jesus was the same -nothing! I wonder which tree is the most like you? Big, pretty leaves, giving nice shade for travelers, or crooked branches and diseased leaves. The result for fruit was just the same - nothing! The curse of God was because the tree bore no fruit.

God tells you this story because He wants you to know that He loves you. He is hungry for your loving response. He came right down to this world where we live and found lots of religious people. But from those same people He didn't receive love -He received a cruel cross. He knew this before He came, but He loved us, even while He was bearing the punishment of God for the sins of those who would believe who He was and repent of their sins. "Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood" (Revelation 1:5).

If Jesus cursed the fig tree without any fruit, is there any hope for us? No, no hope without Him! But we have a risen Savior who has forgiveness and cleansing for all who will accept Him. "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1 Timothy 1:15).

You are a sinner. Will you let Him save you now? He has not promised you another opportunity after today.

Think About God's Word!

1. How were Jesus' people like a tree with leaves but no fruit?

2. Were you ever rejected when you tried to be friendly to someone? How does Romans 5:10 show us that God didn't pick friendly people to show His kindness to?

Project: How many things can you find in John 19 that show a lack of "fruit for God" in the hearts of the people described there?

God's Wonderful Stories: Volume 1, He Walked on the Water

If you live where some of us do, you have probably walked on water many times. In the cold north, teams of horses and even trucks drive right across the rivers in January. Of course, it is frozen water, rock-hard, but it is still real water, and only God could make it like that. It was God who designed and made that wonderful material called "ice." One reason was so that Northerners could have an extra advantage in getting around in the hard months of winter. God is very wise, isn't He? But this story isn't about walking on ice; it's about walking on water.

That very same God who designed water and ice came down to earth as a man in the person of His Son, Jesus, and He lived here with ordinary people. Those who believed and followed Him were called "disciples."

One day, Jesus had His disciples get into a boat on the shore of the sea of Tiberias while He sent the people who were at the seaside home after supper. Jesus must have been tired, but He went up into a mountain to pray and was there alone as it grew dark.

By this time the boat was out in the middle of the sea, and a bad storm had suddenly come up. The disciples were rowing into the strong wind, and the little boat was tossed about in the crashing waves. They struggled hard with their oars, but the wind was too strong to row against. They felt all alone and afraid in that dark, stormy night with the high waves and strong winds against them.

Perhaps you understand those scary feelings too. Maybe you have struggled hard and gotten nowhere and have felt discouraged and alone and in the dark. Most of us can remember a time like that.

Of course, Jesus could see the disciples out there in the storm, because distance and darkness don't block His vision. He saw them struggling, and He waited.

Now don't be discouraged if God leaves you waiting. If you trust Him when you can't see any hope, you will find that He is worth trusting. He will never let you down, for if you belong to Him, He is still with you while you wait. He promises, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5). And the disciples were about to learn this.

It was about 3:00 in the morning when Jesus went out to them, walking on the water. Since He created the water, it was no problem for Him to walk on it. The howling wind and crashing waves were all under His control too.

The disciples in the boat saw Him, but they thought it was a ghost or a spirit, and they were afraid. These men did not know who was walking out to them. But when you and I know Jesus as our very own Savior and Lord, all fear is gone. The Savior who walked on the water that day is not a ghost or a spirit, but a real, living Savior who had come to them because He loved them. Peter was almost sure of this, so he called out, "Lord, if it be Thou, bid me come unto Thee on the water." Then above the howl of the wind and crash of the waves, he heard and recognized the voice he knew so well, and the answer he heard was just one word, "Come"!

Of course, it is impossible for you and me to walk on water, but with God all things are possible, and Jesus is God. Peter believed Jesus and answered by stepping right over the side of the boat and walking on the water to go to Jesus. I cannot tell you how far it was; however, I know that the wind was still howling and the waves were still crashing. And as Peter walked on the water, he took one look around at the raging

storm, and then he began to sink!

Although Peter looked away from Jesus to the storm, the eyes of Jesus never looked away from Peter. And Jesus' eyes full of love are watching you right now. Do you belong to Jesus? Have you come to Him when He has called you to "Come"? Then He will never, never let you sink!

Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught Peter. It did not matter about distance. The Lord's hand is never too far away to save you, even though He is in heaven now. I'm sure Peter never forgot that loving clasp that would never, never let him go, and Jesus and Peter walked together through the storm back to the boat. And then the storm stopped at once.

Was Peter safer in the boat on a quiet sea than he was on the waves on a stormy night? No, of course not. In Jesus' hand we are sure of safety anywhere, until we are home with Him in heaven. God does not tell us we will never have any troubles, but He tells us we will never have to bear them alone. And He tells us that the end of the road is heaven where He is and where storms are over forever.

Do you know this same Jesus as your Lord and Savior? There is no other Savior but Jesus, and there is no other way but His way. Listen to Him and come to Him now.

"Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear" (Isaiah 59:1).

God's Wonderful Stories: Volume 3, Good Fish and Bad Fish

Did you know that fish lay thousands of eggs? And those eggs hatch into tiny fish and grow into big fish that will also lay thousands of eggs. You would think a lake would soon be so crowded with fish that you could hardly move a boat around in the water. However, God knows that many kinds of fish are good for food.

Here is a parable that Jesus told about fishing for food in the Sea of Galilee long ago. This was not rod-and-line fishing, but the fishermen were using a great fishing net, big enough to hold all kinds of fish. The fishermen spread it out in the sea, and I suppose they had weights to keep the lower edge down while they pulled the net full of fish to shore. It was a good catch that day, heavy with flopping fish that did not like being pulled onto shore.

Every fisherman knows that some fish are worthless for food, and a net will bring in all kinds -good and bad. The good ones must be gathered into containers for the fisherman to sell or use for himself, and the bad ones are either thrown away or perhaps used for fertilizer.

So the fishermen sat down on the shore to do the sorting -good ones put here and bad ones go over there. Maybe they made some mistakes, as we all do, but this is one of God's parables, and He never makes even the smallest mistake! Jesus told us the meaning of this parable, and here it is.

A time is coming when God will be in charge of sorting those people who have loved and trusted in His Son Jesus from those who have refused His offer of love and salvation. His angels will do the sorting. They are God's obedient servants, and they do not make mistakes. They will separate the wicked from the just. The wicked will be cast into the furnace of fire, where there is wailing and gnashing of teeth.

You may ask, "Did Jesus really say that?" Yes, He certainly did. You may find it in Matthew 13:50. The wicked and the just are mixed together in this wide world right now, but the day is coming soon when God's wisdom will do the sorting. He knows all about each one of us and He looks right into our hearts.

God says, "There is none that doeth good, no, not one" (Romans 3:12). So is there hope for any of us? I know I'm a sinner, so what can I do? I can listen and obey God's Word that says, "By Him all that believe are justified from all things" (Acts 13:39). A bad fish can't be changed into a good one, but God can give a sinner a new life that never sinned. He can give you this wonderful everlasting life, because He gave His Son to die for you. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36).

Jesus said that hell is a very real place, but Jesus Himself is the way to the Father's home in heaven. Will you come to Him for that wonderful everlasting life that He is waiting to give you?

Think About God's Word!

1. Why do fishermen sort their fish?

2. Did you ever "mess up" when sorting something? How does 2 Timothy 2:19 show that the Lord won't make a mistake when "sorting" people?

Project: What does Revelation 20 teach us about how people are "sorted" by God?

God's Wonderful Stories: Volume 3, Surprise From Under the Sea, A

Deep down under the sea something wonderful happened. A tiny speck of sand was stuck inside the oyster's shell. Oysters don't do much thinking, but this one used its God-given instinct and covered that speck of sand with a layer of its own nacre so it would not hurt its tender flesh. Now that speck of sand became a tiny pearl, very, very beautiful and unseen by anyone but God.

The oyster grew and the pearl also became larger as the oyster covered it with more layers of nacre. It became a pure, glistening, white gem, a secret treasure, which no one but God had ever seen. In fact, you would never know it was there if I had not told you.

Jesus told us about that secret pearl, because He has a secret too. Wait till you hear the rest of the story.

There was a pearl diver up on top of the waves in a boat. He took a deep breath and went down under and came up again with the oyster in his hand, using the last bit of breath in his lungs. Is there a pearl inside? A really good one? he wondered. Open it and see the gem!

Not long after, a merchantman came along in search of perfect pearls. Ah, there's one! But it was very, very costly! The buyer knew at once that he could not afford such a gem. The only way he could pay for it was to sell everything he had. Would he do that? Sell everything? This would make him very poor and leave him with nothing, not even a bed to sleep on. Did he want the pearl that badly? If he were an ordinary shopper, he would just walk away, but this merchant was a reminder to us of Jesus. He wanted us so much that He was willing to come down from the throne of God, down to having nothing-not even a place to lay His head. Nobody could go any lower than death on a cross. Did He really want us that much? Were we that valuable to Him?

Jesus knew all about us when nobody else did, and we were beautiful in His sight. He saw us grow in size, but our sins tarnished any beauty. Some gems have to be polished, but not pearls. They are beautiful just as they are. Jesus loves all of His children, wherever they are, and He doesn't miss one. There are more of us every day, as each one is saved and cleansed by His precious blood. We are all like one very valuable pearl in His sight, and He wanted us so much He was willing to give up everything-even His life - to purchase us. What amazing love!

Do you remember that He rose from the dead the third day, and He is now living in heaven? If your sins have been cleansed in His precious blood, you are part of that very costly pearl that He paid so much for. He promises that heaven will be your home someday too.

"Ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9).

Think About God's Word!

1. What did the merchantman do to buy the pearl?

2. Did you ever need to sacrifice a lot to get something you really wanted? Did it satisfy you for very long? Will the Lord Jesus be satisfied with His purchase? What's His answer in Isaiah 53:11?

Project: The Lord Jesus sacrificed a lot to save us. How big a price did He pay? You can start your list by reading Philippians 2:5-8.

God's Wonderful Stories: Volume 3, What About the Weeds?

It was good seed. The owner made sure of that. It was very important for him to have a good crop of wheat, so he was very careful to plant only good seed in his field.

Most of us like good bread to eat, but there would be no bread without fields of wheat. The owner with the good seed had an important job to do, not only for himself, but also for all the people. That good seed was carefully planted before sunset that day.

The owner had workers too, and when nighttime came, they all slept. As the days passed, something wonderful went on under the ground, and before long they saw the little green wheat shoots breaking through the planted field. It was so good to see the tiny plants. . . but something was wrong! Some of the little green shoots did not look quite right.

Weeds! said the workers. Who planted weeds?

The workers went at once to the owner who had planted good seed in his field and asked him, Didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where did the weeds come from?

The owner knew. An enemy has done this, he said.

And if the owner is Jesus, the Son of God, He saw what happened in the dark night when the workers were all asleep. You see, this story is a "parable," a story that Jesus told to help us understand why so many wrong things happen around us and in our own hearts. We have an enemy, Satan, who tries to spoil everything that God has done. Satan does his work secretly, in the dark, so that you won't know. "Aha, this is fun!" he says, but he does not tell you the end of the road.

Shall I tell you what God says about the end of the road for those weeds that were spoiling the crop of wheat?

The workers saw the weeds beginning to grow and asked, Should we go and pull them up? No, said the owner. If you do, you will pull up the good wheat along with the weeds. Wait until harvesttime, and then I will tell the reapers, "First gather together the weeds and bind them in bundles to burn. Then gather the wheat into my barn."

Those workers were very wise men, because they said in their hearts, The owner knows. Their plan was to pull up the weeds, but the owner knew that would destroy some good plants too. The workers couldn't tell for sure which were good plants and which were weeds.

Since this is a parable, those plants are like real people-maybe like you or me. Maybe everybody knows you and I are sinful, or maybe people think you and I are quite good. It isn't what everybody thinks that is important but what God decides.

At harvesttime, the weeds were bound up in bundles and burned. There are many people who will be sent into everlasting fire. God is the One who decides. He has seen us in the daylight and in the dark all during our lives, and He knows.

You may read this parable in Matthew 13, but it does not tell everything. It does not tell you that Jesus loves sinners like you and me. The same Savior who gathered the good seed into His barn is the same Savior who died for sinners. "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation [deliverer] for our sins" (1 John 4:10). He wants you in His home in heaven forever,

and He wants you to be His very own right now.

Jesus Himself told this story as a big red STOP sign to warn you that hell is very real. There is wonderful love in the heart of Jesus, who went all the way to Calvary and died there for sinners like you and me. Will you come to His loving, open arms right now?

Think About God’s Word!

1. Who planted the weeds to spoil the field?

2. Do you remember a time when something bad happened because you weren’t paying attention? Luke 22:39-47 tells an interesting story. Did the disciples do what the Lord asked them to?

Project: Sleep can be a wonderful rest for the body. When are we told to sleep and when are we told to wake up? You can get started on your answer by searching in Romans 13 and Proverbs 3.

clickbible.org