

Children's Corner

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PRAYER



V.9. And Jacob said, O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, the Lord which saidst unto me, Return unto thy country and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee:

v.10. I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth which Thou hast showed unto Thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands.

V.11. Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, lest he will come and smite me, and the mother with the children.

V.12. And thou saidst, I will surely do thee good, and make thy seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude. (Gen 32:9-12)

Jacob was in trouble. He had been told, "Your brother Esau is coming to meet you, and he has four hundred men with him." It had now been over twenty years since Jacob had last seen his brother. Esau had sworn to kill him!

But he knew where he could turn for help- to the Lord. So as every Christian should he took the matter to the Lord in prayer. His prayer gives us a beautiful example of how we too should pray.

What is prayer?

Prayer is when we talk to God, when we go to thank Him, to praise Him, worship Him, confess our sins to Him, and when we ask Him for help. Prayer is a believer from the heart confidently speaking to God to ask or thank Him for anything, anytime, anywhere.

Now, I want you to think carefully about this question. Can anyone pray? Yes? No? Maybe? We have to go to the Bible to answer this question.

In **Matthew 21:22** we read:

V. 22. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Here Jesus tells us that if our prayer is to be heard by God, we must believe. We must believe that God is our Father through our Lord Jesus Christ.

"No man cometh unto the Father, but by Me," Jesus says in John 14:6.

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him;" Hebrews 11:6.

Only the prayers of true Christians are

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acceptable in God's sight.

Jacob confesses that He truly believes in the one true God when he prays, in verse 12: **"O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac."** He is directing his prayer to the God in Whom his father Isaac and his great-grandfather Abraham believed, the one true God. He prays to the God Who promised to send His Son Jesus into the world to take away our sins.

Then Jacob confesses his sins, his own unworthiness. **"I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth which Thou hast showed unto Thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands."**

When we pray, we must always confess our sin and our unworthiness. Why should God hear our prayers? Could we ever do anything to force Him to listen to us? It is alone because Jesus has suffered and died for our sins that we have the right to pray to our heavenly Father. But if we pray to Him in true faith, this is what He promises us:

Philippians 4:19: **But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**

We pray by Christ Jesus when we pray in true faith. This means that we believe and confess that we have sinned but also believe that Jesus Christ has paid for our sins. True faith trusts that God can and will answer our prayers.

And Jacob also displays his trust in God. He firmly believes that God will hear his prayer by reminding God that He had said to him, **"Return unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee."** God had told him to return, and so he knew that God would hear his prayer.

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He also knew that God had promised His protection and care to

all of His children who call on Him in true faith.

Jacob has placed his faith and trust in the almighty power of God. He has also confessed his own unworthiness. Only now does he bring his petition. Verse 11:

"Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau: for I fear him, lest he will come and smite me, and the mother with the children." This was his fear, that Esau would smite, destroy him and his family. But what, after all, was the power of Esau compared with that of the almighty God.

And finally, in faith, Jacob acknowledges that he places his trust in God and knows that He will hear His prayer. Verse 12:

"And thou saidst, I will surely do thee good, and make thy seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude." God had promised His help, and he knew that God would honour that promise. The timing of God's help, and the manner of God's help, was up to Him. But God had promised to be with Jacob. Always let us remember Roman 8:31: **"If God be for us, who can be against us?"**

May all of us learn to pray, as Jacob. The praying Church is a strong Church. All the men of women who have been great in God's Church, men such as King David, the Apostle Paul, and Martin Luther, were all strong men and women of prayer.

God Himself has commanded us to pray, and has promised to hear us. May we all trust God's promise, trust God's power, trust in God's love, trust in God's wisdom. God has promised us so much, if we but trust Him and ask Him in prayer. So let us close with the prayer:

Lord, teach us how to pray! Amen.



COLOUR ME!

BELSHAZZAR'S FEAST—THE WRITING ON THE WALL.

GOLDEN TEXT: GAL. 6:7

‘Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.’

BELSHAZZAR

Dear Children.— In referring back to the First Commandment, in the previous lesson, we had occasion to point out our duty as Christians to confess our faith in God, our Saviour, so as to glorify His name also before the unbelieving.

Now, the very opposite to confessing God, is to mock Him. Men do that when they say and do things that take away the reverence and sacred awe that should be felt when God’s name is mentioned. Instead of helping men to come to God, the mocker turns them away from Him, and thus sins in the most fearful way against God and his fellow-man. The Golden Text is a very solemn warning against this dreadful sin. Our new lesson contains an example of this sin, and also of its punishment.

(Daniel 5)

Belshazzar’s Feast.— Nebuchadnezzar died, and his son Belshazzar became king in his stead. He was a heathen and cared nothing for the holy, living God. He made a great feast to which he invited a thousand of his lords. While they were drinking wine, he commanded the golden and silver vessels to be

brought to him which had been taken out of the temple at Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, his father. To show his contempt for the living God, he and his lords drank wine out of these vessels, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of wood, and of stone.

The Handwriting on the Wall.— In that same hour there came forth fingers of a man’s hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaster of the wall of the king’s palace. And the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. Then there was an end to the king’s mocking words and laughter. His face changed and his knees smote together in fear. And he cried aloud to bring in the astrologers and soothsayers (wise men). But all the king’s wise men could not read the writing, nor make known the interpretation (meaning) thereof. Then Daniel was called and brought in before the king.

The Interpretation.— Daniel read the writing and made know unto the king the interpretation, saying, “O king, thou hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven, and they have brought the vessels of His house before thee, and thou hast

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praised the gods which see not, not hear, nor know; and the God in Whose hand thy breath (life) is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified: then was the part of the hand sent from Him and this writing. And this is the writing that was written: Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin. This is the interpretation of the thing: Mene, God hath numbered thy kingdom and finished it. Tekel, thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. Peres, thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.”

In that night was Belshazzar, the king of the Chaldeans, slain. And Darius, the Median, took the kingdom.

Dear Children. — Belshazzar mocked the living God. By using the vessels from the temple of God in his sinful revelry he tried to bring the Name of God into contempt. That was sin especially against the **Second Commandment**. Thou shalt not use the Name of the Lord, thy God, in vain. Note Belshazzar’s dreadful end. Be not deceived, God is not mocked.

You are to take a lesson from this very solemn story. Many people of our days think it is “smart and funny” to use the name of God, and the name of Christ, in connection with lewd, filthy talk. They imagine their jokes become all the funnier because they blaspheme so strongly with God’s Name. Christian boys and girls, however, are to know that such things are the very opposite of funny. They are a very sad proof that the mockers who say such things are in the power of Satan, who is the greatest mocker of all. And the God, who punished Belshazzar, the most powerful king on earth at that time, can also punish the mocker of today. Therefore, children, beware how you use God’s holy Name. Call upon God’s Name in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

Gracious King of Glory,
Ruler of all living,
O accept our glad thanksgiving!
Streams of grace and mercy

Thou art ever sending,
Though we daily are offending.
Grant us still
Power and will
That our heat may bless Thee,
And our mouth confess Thee. (436:1)

(Taken from “Our Sunday School Paper” Nov 3, 1932. Used by permission.)

QUESTIONS

1. Who became king after Nebuchadnezzar?
2. To whom did he give a great feast?
3. What was drunk at the feast?
4. For what did Belshazzar call?
5. Who drank out of the vessels?
6. What did they praise while so doing?
7. For whom did Belshazzar thus show his contempt?
8. What then appeared?
9. What did the hand do?
10. Where did it write?
11. Who saw it?
12. How did it affect the king?
13. For whom did he call?
14. What could they not do?
15. Who was then called?
16. What did he read?
17. What did he make known?
18. Who had sent the hand?
19. Whose message was the writing?

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20. To whom was it sent?

21. What were the words?

22. What was the meaning?

23. Explain Mene.

24. Explain Tekel.

25. Explain Peres.

26. What happened to Belshazzar that same night?

27. Who took the kingdom?

28. Against which sin are you warned in this story?

29. Whose child is the mocker?

30. How only should you use God's name?

31. What are the words of the Golden Text?

PUZZLES

Easter

K	E	Q	C	S	S	O	R	C	F
V	S	B	M	R	J	M	A	R	Y
M	O	W	P	N	E	V	A	E	H
H	L	P	R	A	Y	E	R	B	G
T	D	K	D	K	L	U	T	C	O
A	I	M	E	A	S	T	E	R	D
E	E	G	N	I	T	A	E	B	J
D	R	U	O	I	V	A	S	D	F
V	S	Q	C	A	L	V	A	R	Y
D	M	R	R	O	M	A	N	S	Q

BEATING	SOLDIERS
DEATH	SAVIOUR
EASTER	
CROSS	
CALVARY	
GOD	
HEAVEN	
MARY	
PRAYER	
ROMANS	

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CRAFT ACTIVITY—THE HAND WRITING ON THE WALL

1. Glue this page onto card.
2. Colour the wall then cut it out.
3. Cut slits in the wall and slide the strips of writing through them. Bend the ends.
4. Stick the hand onto the second strip at the *
5. Slide the hand to make the finger write.

