



The Bible Banner



May 2016



TREASURE HUNT

Rushing into a private room of John Sutter, James Marshall stretched out his hands, and excitedly whispered, "Look!"

"Gold! Where did you find it?" Sutter asked in a hushed voice.

"At the sawmill," came the excited reply.

The news of gold in California, soon spread. People came from around the world to seek their fortunes. The California Gold Rush was on.

This Gold Rush ended long ago, but there is a more valuable treasure you can search for. The Word of God, the Bible, is full of gems of truth more precious than gold or silver. Why not search the Scriptures for these gems of truth today?

Camp Bread on a Stick

2 cups flour (oat and spelt or whole wheat)
2-3 Tbsp unrefined sugar
1 tsp salt
¼ cup olive oil
2/3 cup water



Mix dry ingredients, then add wet. Portion into 12 balls. Roll each ball into a rope and wrap around stick. Roast over a campfire until golden brown. You may premix dry ingredients in a bag for trips and add wet ingredients just prior to cooking. (This is also good used around Better Franks,* like a corn dog or baked in the oven rolled around skewer sticks.) * See the June 2014 newsletter on our website for the recipe

QUOTABLE QUOTES



"If men had closely, earnestly, continuously studied God's word, making the Bible its own commentator, the key with which to unlock Scripture, they would have been as much astonished at the golden treasures revealed as was the man who found the treasure in the field. But men have departed from God's great lesson book, and their senses have become confused." {Review and Herald, July 3, 1900}

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Hidden Treasure

Everybody likes to look for treasure. Some may like finding a treasured letter from a loved one, others may shop until they find the perfect gift for a friend, while others look for pretty shells on the beach or gems in a gold mine. But God's true people find some of their greatest joy when digging for truth in the Word of God. There is truth to be found that is not always apparent to the mere surface reader especially in the parables and prophecies. Let's consider a treasure seeking parable of Jesus found in Luke 15:8-10. *"...what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it? And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost. Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."*

While we heartily admit to the surface truth of this parable that "there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth," it is also evident from other scriptures that there were also deeper meanings for God's people in the parables that Jesus spoke. Consider Luke 8:10, *"And he [Jesus] said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand."*

In order to dig for treasure in the Word of God, we must pray for the Holy Spirit to lead us, and then allow the Bible to interpret itself (1 Cor. 2:13). One way to dig for hidden treasure is to further study the objects in the story. In this case we have a woman, 10 pieces of silver, a candle, and a house.



A woman is a figure used in the Bible to represent a church. A pure woman represents a pure church (Is. 54:5,6; Jer. 6:2) and an impure woman, as seen in Revelation 17, represents an adulterous church (Rev. 2:20) who is unfaithful to God and instead unites with the world. So in Luke 15 we have represented a church looking for lost silver.

Now, before we move on, perhaps it is well to note, that any deeper meaning in the Bible will not conflict with the obvious surface truth. But treasure hunting in the word of God can sometimes simply lead you to reinforce the surface truth. This is here demonstrated since silver in the Bible can be used to represent people, especially God's people. (Zech. 13:9, Psalm 66:10) The mission of God's true church (woman) is to follow their Master's example by seeking those who are lost, (Luke 19:10, Matt. 28:19,20)

Psalm 12:6 says, *"The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times."* So silver can also be used to represent God's word. In this case, we have the word of God in 10 parts, which might cause one to think specifically of the ten commandments. This certainly matches the Bible definition for Psalm 119:72 says, *"The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver."* But in this case one part is missing.

Then the woman lights a candle. Psalm 18:28 says, *"For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness."* And John 3:21 expounds, *"But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God."* Also Psalm 43:3 further states, *"O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me..."* (See also, Ps. 119:105)

This woman (church) is following all the light/truth that she has, and looking for those commands of God that have been lost. Now the fact that she has to sweep suggests a broom, and the need for a broom suggests dirt or dust. So this command of God has become buried in the dust. Dust represents man. (Gen. 2:7, Gen. 3:19, Gen. 13:16, Ps. 103:14) Thus, we find that God's word has become buried under the dust of man's traditions. (Matt. 15:6,9; Mark 7:7)



All this takes place in a house. A house also represents a church. (Heb. 3:6, 1 Tim. 3:15) A woman would represent the people, while a house is a structure. So part of God's word was lost in the church, and the people of the church who were following truth cleaned away the dust of man's traditions and found the lost commandment. And when they found it they called all their friends and neighbors and rejoiced.

Just a note to remember-- 2 Peter 1:20 reminds us that, "... no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation." When we use the Bible to interpret itself, all will come to the same conclusion. After deciphering this parable myself, I was excited to find that at least 3 other men, including a pastor by the name of Robert Pierson had already figured out the same meaning years before and Pierson even published it in the book "501 Illustrations". (pg. 238)

But back to the story. Could it have application in our day? 1 Cor. 10:11 says, *"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."*

It so happens, that a few weeks ago, I found a little golden yellow covered book entitled “The Convert’s Catechism of Catholic Doctrine.” Since I am always interested to see what various ones of my friends believe and then to compare their beliefs to the Word of God, I flipped through it to see if I could learn anything. I found a list of the 10 commandments. However, it appears that one commandment is missing (as well as portions of others), lost beneath traditions of men. I have retyped them here for your examination next to the Bible Standard of God’s Word. (It has been color-coded by verse to make matching easier). Did you catch it? Commandment number two has been removed and commandment number 10 has been split into two parts in

The Convert’s Catechism of Catholic Doctrine Section entitled “The Ten Commandments” pg. 99,100	The Holy Bible (King James Version) The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20 simplified)
1. I am the Lord thy God, thou shalt not have strange gods before Me.	1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
2. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.	2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing... Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them...
3. Remember thou keep the Sabbath day.	3. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain...
4. Honor thy father and thy mother.	4. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God...
5. Thou shalt not kill.	5. Honour thy father and thy mother:...
6. Thou shalt not commit adultery.	6. Thou shalt not kill.
7. Thou shalt not steal.	7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
8. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.	8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s wife.	9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.
10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s goods.	10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour’s.

order to still have 10 commandments. The Catholic Catechism has removed God’s command “*Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.*” Ex. 20:4-6

Isaiah 42:8 reiterates God’s thought on this issue, “*I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.*” Yet today, we see that this commandment has indeed been lost in many churches. Perhaps the most obvious transgressions of God’s law against idolatry are the worship of relics and the images of saints being adored and kissed. And often it is easy to point the finger at someone else. But “*we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.*” (2 Cor.10:12) Those who understand the spirit of the law will realize that self-indulgence in eating, drinking, entertainment and dressing is also idolatry; idolatry of self. Do we worship at the shrine of fashion? And what about the images and “American Idols” we find on our TV, do they come before Bible study?



Martin Luther wrote, “*Every religion which worships God in ignorance or neglect of His Word and will is idolatry.*” (Luther on Galatians, pg. 101) Are we studying God’s word to learn his will or is our religion just a “form of godliness” (2 Tim. 3:5)? Is Christ first in our affections, or have we lost sight of his commands amidst the “dust” of human traditions easily found on Facebook and its friends? The woman (church) who is searching for the truth will light the candle of God’s word and “*inquire, Have I set up idols in my heart? Have I allowed anything to come between myself and God, that he should not be supreme in my affections? We need individually to make close investigation on this point. The love of money, pride in dress and display,--anything that diverts the attention from God,--becomes an idol.*” [RH, January 29, 1884 par. 18] Why not sweep away the dust and start searching for the hidden treasures of God’s word today?

GOD'S AMAZING CREATURES

The Atlantic Puffin is a curious looking black and white colored bird with a bright orange beak. It spends the fall and winter of each year in the oceans up north where it is cold. In the late spring it comes to the beach or coastal area to build a nest. Puffins seldom fly. Instead, they like to swim in the water by paddling along with their orange webbed feet. Puffins usually swim on the surface of the water, but when they are catching small fish to eat, they dive underwater using their wings as fins. Jesus takes care of the puffins and helps them to find food. I'm glad to know He takes care of boys and girls too.



MEMORY TEXT:

“And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:13



Patience could not find her favorite play dress to wear to the park. Her mother suggested she clean up her room. Patience cleaned all day and found her play dress at the bottom of a stack of clothes. She was happy she had searched and found her dress and could play at the park.

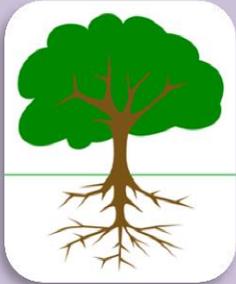


Passion lost her favorite doll. Her mother suggested she search and clean up her room. Passion did not want to clean, and when Passion's friends brought their dolls and came over to play, Passion did not have a doll to play with. She was very sad all day.

THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM

As gardening time comes around again, so does weed pulling. With weed pulling comes teaching children the importance of pulling out the root of the weed and not just the part of the weed that is showing. Inevitably, weeds where the root has not been removed will sprout again. The same is true when treating disease. Yet, many of today's medical interventions only treat the symptom (the weed) without getting to the root of the problem.

Prov. 26:2 declares, *"As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come."* This shows that disease doesn't come without a cause. One health educator wrote, *"Disease is an effort of nature to free the system from conditions that result from a violation of the laws of health. In case of sickness, the cause should be ascertained. Unhealthy conditions should be changed, wrong habits corrected. Then nature is to be assisted in her effort to expel impurities and to re-establish right conditions in the system."* {Ministry of Healing 127.1}



The above quotation contains a simple formula for overcoming disease.

1. The cause should be ascertained
2. Unhealthy conditions changed, wrong habits corrected.
3. Assist nature in her effort to expel impurities and to re-establish right conditions

Finding the cause

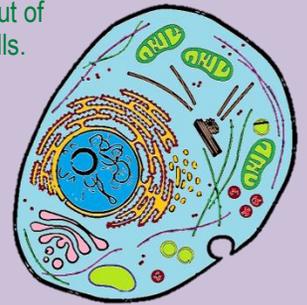
Learn to reason from cause to effect. There can be many different things that can cause disease. Even if you are not totally responsible for the cause, there is still a cause. It could be caused by a virus, bacteria, or parasites from a tick or mosquito bite. It could be caused by poisonous substances in drugs, tobacco, pharmaceuticals and vaccines or environmental toxins. It could be a fast-paced lifestyle disease from too much stress and junk food. Whatever the disease, the cause should be ascertained.

Correcting unhealthy conditions and wrong habits

When considering unhealthy conditions and habits, sometimes it is helpful to consider the littlest members of your body. 1 Cor. 12:22-26 says, ... *"those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour...And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it."* Your body is built out of systems, systems are made out of organs, organs are made out of tissues, and tissues are made out of cells.

So ultimately you need to take care of your body's cells. If the cells are happy, every--body is happy.

Consider the five needs of the human cell. 1. **Oxygen**—Without this, cells die in a few minutes 2. **Water**—Good old H₂O, Without this cells die in a few days 3. **Nutrition**—Without this cells die in a few weeks 4. **Removal of cell waste**—If cell waste (like carbon dioxide) is not promptly removed cells will die of these poisons. This may take either minutes or hours. 5. **Freedom from outside toxic substances**



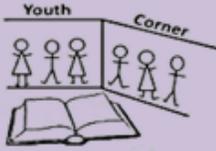
You can see how knowledge of the needs of the cell can help you correct unhealthy conditions. If your cells are thirsty give them water to drink. If they need nutrition, eat nutritious foods. If they need oxygen, breathe deeply of pure clean air. Since cells need waste removal – Providing good hygiene and sufficient clothing for warmth while eliminating tight clothing or other things that inhibit good blood circulation is essential. And lastly, since cells need freedom from outside poisons, be temperate in what you eat, be careful of substances you place on your skin, avoid breathing toxic car fumes, cigarette smoke, paint fumes, perfumes, insecticides, pesticides, etc.

Assisting nature in her effort to expel impurities and to re-establish right conditions -- Many poisons may be absorbed by using activated charcoal or clay. Herbs like milk thistle/dandelion and red clover assist the process of cleansing the liver and purifying the blood. Garlic and ginger and foods high in Vitamin C can help the body to get rid of problems caused by viruses and bacteria. While hydrotherapy treatments help to boost the immune system and promote good circulation, Nutrition, Sunshine, Fresh Air, Rest, Exercise, Water, Temperance and Trust in God must not be forgotten as simple ways to help re-establish right conditions while pulling out the root of disease.



LITTLE RUNNER'S HEALTH TIP

Uh, oh, this little girl is thinking about eating lots of pie. But smart boys and girls don't eat too much dessert because they know it can make them sick, and being sick is not much fun.



DIG DEEPER

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15

A 13 year-old boy lived in a part of Africa where there were diamond fields. His mother was a widow and when he finished grade school, he needed to make money to go to high school, so he and a friend went to the diamond fields. They chose an unclaimed piece of ground and began digging. Each week they found enough diamonds to pay expenses, but they never uncovered the fortune they had dreamed of.

Generally, diamonds are found in a layer of gravel near the surface, and so this is where they dug. Through this layer, and all the way down to the dirt below. They noticed that their neighbors were digging deeper but they thought that the gravel would not be deeper. They never even thought to dig down in the dirt and see if they could find more gravel below. Once they had thoroughly dug through the surface gravel they moved on.



Later on, someone else came through and dug down further past the dirt to another layer of gravel. Here they found thousands of dollars' worth of diamonds. The boy and his friend had failed to find them because they thought they only had to dig in the surface gravel. If they had dug deeper, they could have found that fortune.

If you feel like reading the Bible is boring, perhaps it is because you are only skimming the surface. You have to dig in the Word of God to find the fortune. Try to find a study method that you enjoy. Some like to do topical studies, other like to study prophecies and still others like to study the whole Bible in light of one particular topic, such as health or missions or Jesus Christ the theme of the entire Bible. Find a method, and a part of the Bible you really like to study, and dig deep into the rich mine of truth. Once you have done it for a while, you will be amazed at how "fun" it can be to search for hidden treasure in the scripture. When looking for truth, **DON'T JUST TOUCH THE SURFACE, DIG DEEPER!**

PROFITABLE TRADITIONS

Cultivate Bible Knowledge -- One of our favorite Sabbath afternoon activities is a Bible Scavenger Hunt. This game is a good option even if you have people of many different ages. Everyone, or at least every team, gets a bag to fill with objects they find. Previously, someone has made up a list of several categories of things for them to find. For example, "Find an object that Jesus told a parable about" or "Find an object used in a Biblical miracle story," or "Find an object used in the Wilderness Sanctuary." After being given the list, the teams separate to find their objects. When everyone has found an object for each of the categories, the teams come back together and show their treasures. Sometimes you can have the other team guess what your object is for—such as, bread could be for the widow that fed Elijah or the parable of the leaven hid in three measures of meal, or the table of showbread. If you prefer, you can also just tell what Bible story each of your objects represents. Don't forget to put your objects away afterwards, especially if they came out of the refrigerator!