



SABBATH KEEPING YOUTH

A Newsletter by The Church of God International

January/February 2007

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.”

Matt. 13:45-46

To Infinity and Beyond

What is infinity? Does it exist in space as well as time? These questions are fun to think about, but they can be hard to understand. When something is “to infinity,” that means it goes on forever and ever. Guess who created infinity? That’s right, God did. Now chew on this. God is infinity to the future and infinity to the past. He has always existed and always will exist. That will put some strain on your brain. Of course that means God existed before infinity. Wow, that gives a whole new meaning to the phrase “to infinity and beyond!”

What is God’s plan for the rest of infinity? The answer to that question is awesome. God is going to come to Earth and set up His kingdom right here where we live.

God’s Kingdom is “to infinity and beyond” in a lot of ways. It’s a place that can only be imagined in our dreams right now. The Bible says the sea looks like crystal, the streets

shine with gold, and the entry gate is made of pearl. Incredible!

No one really knows when or how this is all going to happen. But, the Bible tells us it is definitely going to happen someday. You can be certain the greatest day in history will be the day Jesus comes back to get all the Christians and set up His kingdom where they will live for infinity and beyond.

Make sure you will be a part of the biggest event of all time. Pray and ask God to forgive you of the things you’ve done wrong. Keep God’s commandments. Keep Jesus close to your heart and share His love with others. When the time is right, be baptised. By doing this you are guaranteed a ticket to the ride of a lifetime. So, as the new year gets rolling, keep your heart and mind focused on God and you will be ready for “INFINITY AND BEYOND!”



The Parents’ Corner

When kids have questions about things they hear on TV, at school or at church, they usually come to their parents for answers. These little heart to heart conversations initiated by children are very important for several reasons. They provide an opportunity to share your values and beliefs with your child. These moments also set the foundation for future communication as your child matures. Children are more likely to talk with their parents if they feel they are being heard and understood. So don’t blow your kids off for the TV or the computer. When they’re asking questions, fully engage them.

Ask the Lord to open the doors of communication with your children. Stay close to God so He can guide you when your children start asking questions. Read your Bible and pray with your children. Most importantly, listen to your kids when they have questions or concerns about life.

“Sugar Coated” Words By Shari Weigerstorfer

Matthew 12:36 “And I say to you, that every careless word that men shall speak, they shall render account for it in the day of judgment.”

It was time for bedtime prayers:

“Dear Jesus, please make Frau Snyder not be mad at me.”

“Frau Snyder was mad at you? What for?” (Frau Snyder’s my daughter’s first grade teacher.)

“She was mad because I didn’t have the right money for the pictures. She showed me the money I’m suppose to have. It’s a

green one and some coins.” (We live in Switzerland where the francs are color coded.)

I said, “Sabrina, the money I sent you with today was for the Christmas cookies you made on Monday. The money for the pictures, you will take tomorrow. You just got mixed up. I will tell Frau Snyder it was my fault, okay?”

That went well with her.

The next morning I wrote to the teacher and explained the money issue and about Sabrina’s prayer. I got back a lovely letter from her beginning with “You are right! I get very nervous during this time of year. I will apologize to Sabrina.” She attached a note writing exactly the words she had said in apology to my daughter. I read the note to Sabrina and she said that was what her teacher had said to her. It was a good ending to our little drama.

That night when she said her prayer it went: “Dear Jesus, please make Frau Snyder not be nervous.”

I laughed.

How we use words is interesting. We believe that if we change the word we can change how individuals see our behavior. We “sweeten” them to make them more palatable.

We aren’t late. We are “fashionably late.” It wasn’t a lie, it was a “white lie.” And we aren’t “angry” - we’re just “nervous.”

We can “sugar coat” our words all we want but the meaning remains clear to some individuals. Individuals like children and God.

Being late is being late. Lies are lies. And anger is anger.

God takes our choice of words seriously and we should too. We only fool ourselves when we “sugar coat” our words.

Dear Lord, help us realise our choice of words matter to You, to others and to ourselves. Please develop in us a desire to “speak the truth in love.”

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Kingdom Parables

Matthew 13:44-52

What is the Kingdom going to be like? Right now it is difficult for our minds to even comprehend how wonderful it will be. Christ did illustrate what the Kingdom of Heaven is like in these three parables.

THE PARABLE OF THE HIDDEN TREASURE

Matthew 13:44

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.”

Here we see a man who accidentally finds something very valuable. The man was so joyful for finding the valuable item, he decides to sell everything he has to buy the piece of land that he found the valuable item on.

THE PARABLE OF THE PEARL MERCHANT

Matthew 13:45-46

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.”

Here a pearl merchant who looks for fine pearls finds a pearl more valuable than any pearl he has ever found. He wants the pearl so badly he sells everything he owns in order to buy it.

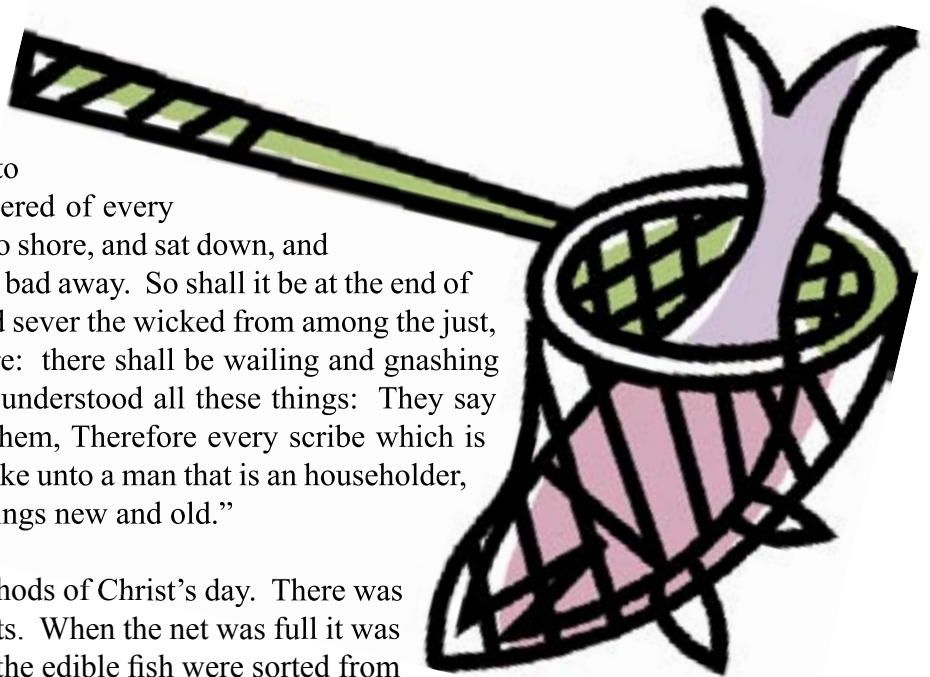
THE PARABLE OF THE FISHING NET

Matthew 13:47-52

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away. So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Jesus saith unto them, Have ye understood all these things: They say unto him, Yea Lord. Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.”

This parable is based upon the fishing methods of Christ's day. There was a net that was attached to two or more boats. When the net was full it was dragged to shore with its contents. There the edible fish were sorted from the non-edible fish. It is our job to tell others about the grace and goodness of God but we are not to dictate who is or who is not a part of the Kingdom of Heaven. This sorting will be done by God at the last judgement. He will separate the good from the evil.

The Kingdom of Heaven is more valuable than anything else we can have. We must be willing to give up everything and do whatever it takes to obtain it. It will be well worth it!





Jesus told 3 parables about the kingdom of heaven in the verses today. Let's find out about 1 of them.

Matthew 13:44

A man was in a field which he did not own. He found something very valuable hidden there. He was happy! He sold all he had so he could buy that land.

The kingdom of heaven is like a _____ hidden in a field.

Color in all of the spaces below that equal 2 or 5.
Use a dark crayon or pencil.
Write the word you find on the line above.

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$1+1=$	$2+3=$	$3-1=$	$4-2=$	$1+7=$	$2+4=$	$10-5=$	$2+0=$
$1+2=$	$1+3=$	$1+5=$	$10-5=$	$4+1=$	$1+8=$	$3+1=$	$3+3=$
$6-1=$	$1+7=$	$1+8=$	$8+1=$	$7-2=$	$0+5=$	$6-4=$	$2 \times 1 =$
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$8-3=$	$3+5=$	$3+7=$	$10-5=$	$5-3=$	$2 \times 1 =$	$9-4=$	$4+3=$
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