

**YOUNG**  
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**CHOICE**

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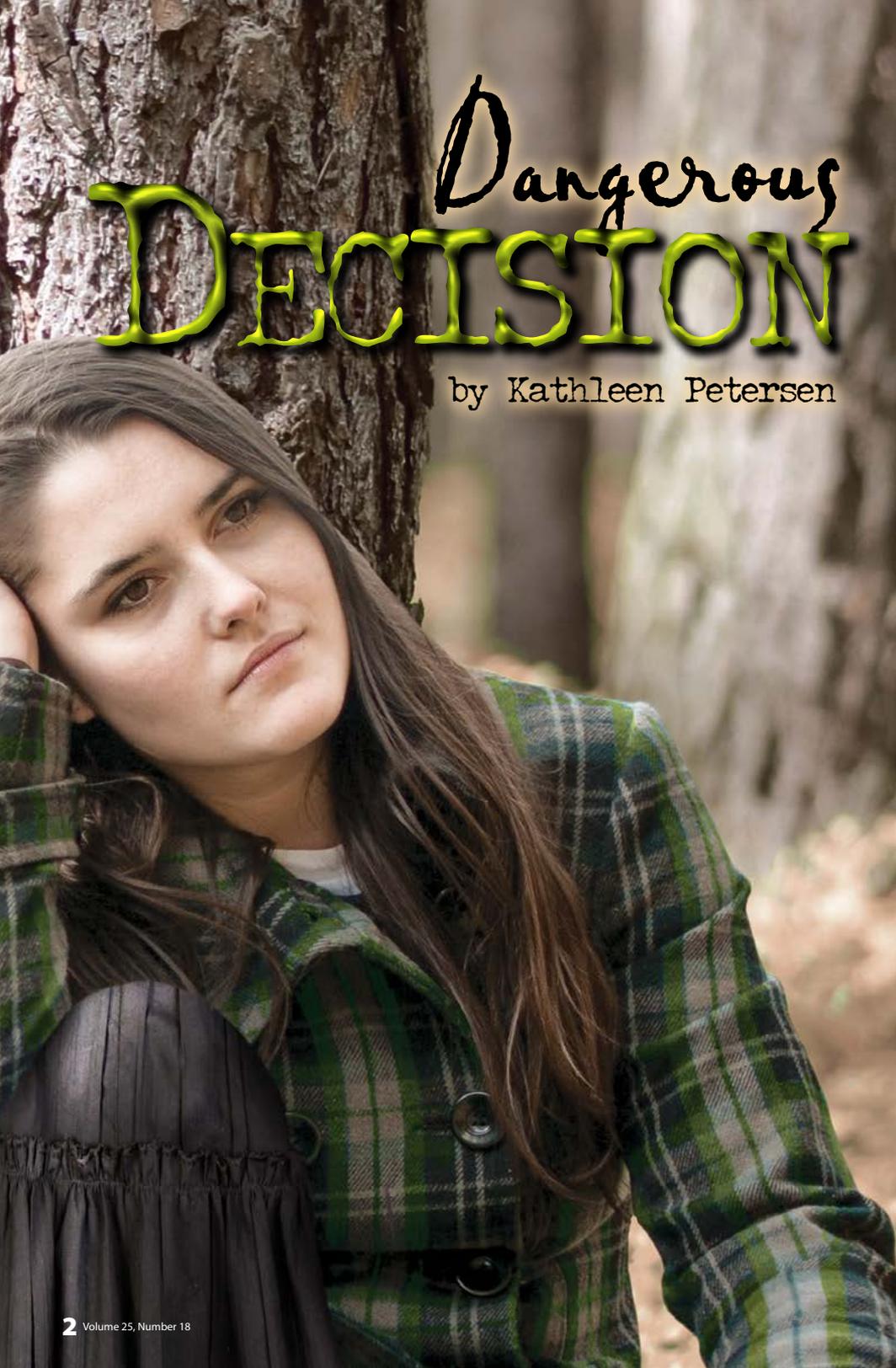
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*Dangerous*  
**DECISION**

by Kathleen Petersen

**K**aren stood by the window and stared at the rainy world outside. The campus was beautiful, even on such a gray, dreary day. Pine trees made a dark backdrop for the shiny green and red of the madrone trees. Every leaf and pine needle was decorated by a tiny drop of liquid silver. The mist swirling among the treetops and the patter of raindrops on the roof added to the beauty of the setting.

But Karen was not thinking of the beauty outside her window. She had a problem to solve—and right away. It wasn't anything world-shaking. But somehow Karen sensed that the decision she made could very well impact her future. She didn't want to make a mistake.

The dilemma involved a young man: Bob Masters by name. He had invited Karen to go for a ride with him in his new car that afternoon. However, there was a rule in the student manual which forbade young people of opposite genders from meeting in a “secret or clandestine manner.” And Karen knew that the school administration would never give her permission to go for a ride alone with Bob. If she went at all it would have to be secret—though it seemed terrible to think of it that way.

*Such a silly rule!* she told herself. *After all, I traveled 500 miles all by myself to get to this school. Besides, if I were home, I'm sure my parents would let me go.*

Of course, she *had* known the rules when she came; and she had signed a pledge to abide by them. She would disappoint her parents if she broke her word—and that would be terrible. They had sacrificed so much to send her here. They expected great things from her—not dishonorable things like deliberately

disobeying a school prohibition. It was Sabbath, too, which made it even worse.

Karen threw herself on her bed and cradled her head in her hands. *I've been here more than two months, and in all that time I have not been more than two miles away from campus. I need a change of scenery.* The more she thought about it, the more she wanted to go. It would be so much fun to take a little spin with Bob. And what a ride: He had a brand new sports car with leather seats and plenty of power.

Karen thought back to when she had first met Bob. Right off, he had seemed to appreciate her more than anyone else she had ever known. Of course, she'd soon learned that he wasn't a Christian.

**Karen knew that the school administration would never give her permission to go for a ride alone with Bob.**

But Karen told herself that she could help him get serious about God. True, some might say that his irreverent attitude could be stronger than her influence for right. But how could that be? Right now, the only thing that seemed important was the thought of an adventure in Bob's classy new car.

Karen glanced at her watch. She would have to hurry! It was already 2:30, and Bob had said to meet at 3:00. She ran to her closet to choose an outfit. *I'll wear the green plaid shirt,* she decided. *Everyone compliments me on it.*

Her hands trembling, Karen changed her clothes and then dashed to the mirror to check her hair. *If anyone finds out, we're both in for a lot of trouble. Still—how could I disappoint him? He might even get discouraged about religion.*

### Miserable wait

Karen dashed down the dormitory stairs, only slowing when she came to the last landing. It would never do to rush out the door right past the dean's office—the dean might guess that something unusual was up! If Karen acted normal, the dean would think she was on her way to the afternoon service in the chapel. It was almost like lying, but what else could she do?

Karen sauntered across the lobby, out the front door, and up the walk toward the chapel. But instead of going in the side door as usual, she made her way to the front of the building. From then on she increased her speed until she was almost running. Suddenly she stopped short. *Slow down, girl, she told herself. You're going away from the chapel now. If anyone notices you, they need to think that you have permission to be walking in this direction.* She held her umbrella low, hoping no one would recognize her.

When she had left the campus, Karen once again picked up speed. After ten minutes of brisk walking, she could see the old mill at the fork of Mill Valley Road. It was almost 3:00 when she reached the mill, but Bob was not in sight. She settled herself under a low-branched pine tree to wait.

As the minutes ticked by, Karen grew apprehensive. It was getting colder and

colder, and Bob was late. What was wrong?

A light snow began to fall, and Karen decided to seek the shelter of the old mill. The building was dark and rank with the smell of rotting wood. Every ancient timber creaked and groaned until Karen was so nervous she could have cried. Finally, at 3:45, she heard a car crackling through the now-freezing

**It was getting  
colder and colder,  
and Bob was late.  
What was wrong?**

mud, and then stopping next to the mill. At last! Karen ran out and opened the car door.

### Unpleasant dialogue

"Get in," Bob growled.

"Why were you late?" Karen held her frozen hands in front of the heater vents.

"I was detained." Bob gave her a sidelong glance. "I didn't know you were that kind of girl!"

"What do you mean?"

"I thought you were a good Christian,



but I decided to test you to be sure. You promised the school you wouldn't do something like this—and a Christian doesn't break her word." His voice was flat. "I wondered if you were absolutely sincere about your religion. I see now that you aren't."

Karen felt so ashamed she wanted to disappear. "Oh, Bob, I know I shouldn't have come. In fact, I almost didn't, but I didn't want to disappoint you."

Bob grimaced. "I'm sorry Karen. I probably shouldn't have said anything. I had to change a flat in the rain, and I took out my frustrations on you." He sighed. "Well, we might as well make the best of it. Where shall we go?"

"Wherever." Karen's voice trembled with unshed tears.

### Unexpected complication

As the flashy sports car sped on its way, neither Karen nor Bob said a word. Karen stared straight ahead, biting her lip. *I should never have come, she chided herself. I've been a fool. What Bob said is all too true. A real Christian doesn't break her word. She stifled a sob. Really, what I did was even worse than breaking my word. I acted a lie, broke the Sabbath, dishonored my parents, and broke the rules. I've lost my own self-respect—and Bob's respect. Now what will he think of Christianity?*

"Why so silent, Karen?"

"Turn the car around, Bob!" Karen's courage rose as she spoke. "Please take me back! You're exactly right: I haven't acted like the Christian girl I profess to be. But I'm going to stand up for what's right from now on. Please forgive me, Bob."

"I'll take you back, Karen." Bob's voice held the soft tones Karen was used to. "It was really my fault, and I'm terribly sorry."

As Bob spoke, he glanced over at Karen. In the split second that his eyes were off the road, a huge truck hurtled around the corner. Bob slammed on the brakes. The car skidded on the slick pavement and careened over a steep embankment.

### The rest of the story

Bob and Karen were both seriously injured in the crash, but neither was killed. During the long weeks of recovery, both young people did some hard thinking. As a result, Bob surrendered his life to God.

A number of years later, after Karen finished college and was married, she and her husband accepted a call to serve as missionaries in Africa. And one day, when their little boy asked Karen about the scar over her eye, she told him, "That's God's reminder to me, Timmy, to always stand for the right!"



# THE LION'S CHOICE

AS TOLD BY ROBERT H. PIERSON



**J**airus Ndebele herded the last cow into his tidy *kraal*<sup>1</sup> and carefully shut the gate. For several minutes, he stood on tiptoe, peering over the kraal fence to survey his sleek, healthy-looking cattle. *God has certainly blessed me*, he thought.

While his wife fixed the evening meal, Jairus picked up his Bible and sat down just outside his front door. “Where was I?” he muttered, paging through the well-used book. “Ah, yes: here in Malachi.” His eyes followed the majestic words down the page. “Who may abide the day of His coming? . . . He shall purify. . . . I am the LORD, I change not. . . . Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me.”<sup>2</sup>

Suddenly Jairus’s eyes grew round with conviction. “I’ve been robbing God!” he cried. “I’ve paid tithes on my

money, but I never paid tithes on all my cattle!”

Jairus poked his head in the door and spoke to his wife. “I’m going to be late for supper. I’ve got to see Pastor Zingani right away.” He hurried off into the gathering twilight.

A quarter of an hour later, Jairus returned with the pastor and a deacon. “Come this way.” He motioned to the gate of his kraal. “I’m going to open the gate,” he told the pastor. “As my cattle come out, I want you to count them. The Bible says that one-tenth of everything belongs to God. When the tenth animal comes out, you must take it for the Lord. If it is a small calf, take it. If it is a big bull, take it just the same.”

A small crowd gathered as the animals filed through the gate. Tongues clucked as Jairus directed every tenth

animal toward the growing herd guarded by the pastor and deacon. Strangely enough, the tenth animal always seemed to be bigger and better than the nine animals before it. By the time the last animal filed through the gate, the pastor had a lovely little herd for the Lord's tithe. "You're crazy!" Jairus's cousin shouted. "If you think you have too many animals, give them to me!"

Jairus smiled and shook his head. "They are not mine to give away. They belong to the Lord."

A few nights later, Jairus awoke in the early morning to the sounds of excited shouting. He hurried outside and found a group of agitated villagers rushing about. "A lion has gone through the village!" a neighbor shouted. "It killed four cows in Mushore's kraal, three in mine, and several more in Wagumbo's. No doubt it paid you a visit, as well."

His heart in his throat, Jairus followed his neighbors toward his own kraal. "Look!" Someone pointed to lion tracks near the kraal fence. "The lion's been here, all right."

"But it didn't jump in," another neighbor shouted. "The top of the fence hasn't been touched."

Every few yards, all the way around the kraal, the group found more lion tracks. The lion had apparently stayed a long time outside Jairus's kraal. Yet,

strangely enough, the top of the fence had not been disturbed at all.

Jairus's cousin rushed ahead to the kraal gate. "The lion went in here!" He pointed at the gate rocking on one hinge. "Jairus, how many cows did it kill?"

Jairus opened the gate and stepped inside. The cattle did seem nervous, but none of them appeared to be harmed. He counted heads twice, then stepped out and faced the villagers. "Not one is missing." He smiled. "Every animal is accounted for!"

The villagers crowded around, incredulous. "This is strong medicine," Mushore confessed.

"It certainly is." Wagumbo held out his hand. "Give us your medicine so our cattle will be safe, too."

Jairus shook his head. "I don't have any medicine, but I do have a living God. I paid my tithe, and He protected my cattle." He turned to his cousin. "People thought I was crazy, but I knew I could trust my God."

The cousin opened his mouth, but didn't utter a word. Instead, he nodded his head. "I can see you are right."

Jairus smiled. "No matter how it looks, it's never crazy to obey the laws of the God of Heaven!"

**vd**

- 
1. An African corral.
  2. Malachi 3:2-8.

# CHOICES



"Never should the Bible be studied without prayer. Before opening its pages we should ask for the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, and it will be given" (*Steps to Christ*, page 91).

## MEMORY TEXT

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:21).

## PROJECT: MEMORY – MATTHEW 6:1–21

"But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly" (Matthew 6:6).

- If you follow the learning and review suggestions each week, you will memorize the entire passage by the end of the quarter!

## Bible study hint: Bible study journal

When kids first start doing YD Bible lessons, they sometimes study only the Core Concepts—and maybe do the easier puzzles. That's a great place to start. But most juniors and teens soon want to dig deeper into God's Word to find out what God is saying to them personally, and to apply it to their lives.

This is where a Bible study journal comes in. Writing down your findings and insights helps you remember what you studied. It also makes it easier to keep track of your studies so you can refer to them—or build upon them—later. Who knows? Some of your studies may provide the basis for a future devotional talk or sermon! Some note their studies on sheets of paper and file them. Others keep track of everything on a computer. Both are

fine ways to organize your study notes, but perhaps the most versatile method is a Bible study journal. Here's all you need to get started:

- ✎ 3-ring binder. Look for one that will last.
- ✎ Binder paper. Start with at least 100 sheets.
- ✎ Pens and/or mechanical pencils.

As you continue, you may want to add tabbed notebook dividers to separate different types of studies, and a zippered pocket to keep track of your pens and pencils.

Use your Bible study journal when you study the Bible, and take it with you to family worship and to your Sabbath School class. You'll soon find many opportunities to share the blessings you receive from God's Word!

## Bible Lesson Key

**Core Concept & Bible Memory:**  
For everyone.

**Study for Yourself:** More challenging.

**Dig Deeper:** Most challenging.

**Puzzles/Activities:** Enjoy! For the answer key, use a mirror.

**For Further Study:** Learn more!

CORE CONCEPT

**M**oney: We all need it. Most of us wish we had more of it. It can be a great blessing. But God says some surprising things about having money:

“A \_\_\_\_\_ man shall hardly [with difficulty] enter into the kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_” (Matthew 19:23).

“They that will be \_\_\_\_\_ fall into temptation and a snare” (1 Timothy 6:9).

“The love of \_\_\_\_\_ is the root of all \_\_\_\_\_” (1 Timothy 6:10).

It seems that having a lot of money can be a curse! And, sooner or later, earthly treasures are sure to disappoint us. No wonder that in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, “Lay not up for yourselves

treasures upon earth, where \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ doth \_\_\_\_\_, and where thieves break through and \_\_\_\_\_” (Matthew 6:19).

How foolish to spend our lives trying to get things that will only be lost! How much better to lay up for ourselves treasures in \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 20).

This is God's savings plan! Even if we don't have much money, we can deny ourselves some little treat, small luxury, or entertainment. When we make these little sacrifices and use the money for God's work or to help those who are in need, we are laying up rich treasure in Heaven. And this treasure is ours forever, because it is in God's keeping.



STUDY FOR YOURSELF!

James 1:11 tells us that an ungodly rich man is like something in nature. What is it? \_\_\_\_\_

What happens to it? \_\_\_\_\_

OURS TO KEEP!

Most people spend a lot of time trying to earn and save money, although they know they can't take it with them when they die. However, there is something that is ours to keep forever. To discover what it is, use the clues to find letters; then place them on the jewels in the order given.

CLUES:

Prov. 15:27 – 1<sup>st</sup> two letters.

Hag. 1:6 – 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> letters.

Matt. 7:13 – 1<sup>st</sup> 2 letters.

Prov. 11:27 – Last 2 letters of word 3.

Job 27:19 – 1<sup>st</sup> 2 letters of word 2.

Prov. 28:6 – Last 2 letters.

Prov. 13:7 – Last 2 letters.



DIG DEEPER

In your Bible study journal, note what each of the following verses teaches about the danger of trusting in riches: Ps. 49:16–17; Zeph. 1:18; Mt. 16:26; 1 Tim. 6:7–8. Now investigate the marginal references for these verses, and note your findings.

Memory Text

Recite Matthew 6:21 at least five times.



ANSWER KEY: Heavenly riches (266 110041272 from the mount of blessing; 2826 88)

A man decided to do an experiment with a kindergarten class. Standing in front of the class, he held out a stack of crisp dollar bills. In the other hand he had a check. "Which would you choose?" he asked. "Would you take a dollar bill—right now? Or would you rather have a check for a million dollars that you cannot cash until you are 21 years old?" Every child in the class preferred the dollar bill.

Of course they were just children—but many of us are making choices that are just as foolish each day. We show by our words and actions that the things of this earth, which will last only a few years, are more important to us than heavenly trea-

sure which will last forever.

How can we make sure we have this heavenly treasure? Underline one important way: "Every effort that tends to the formation of a Christlike character, is laying up treasure in heaven" (*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, page 90).

We also lay up heavenly treasure when we share Christ with others. Every time we say a word for Christ or do a kind deed in His name, we are making deposits in our heavenly bank account. The people who are saved in God's Kingdom because of our witness will be our J\_\_\_\_\_ and our C\_\_\_\_\_ of rejoicing (1 Thessalonians 2:19–20).

### TREASURE COLLAGE!

Divide a paper in half. On the left half, make a collage of earthly treasures, using pictures from magazines and newspapers. Decorate the right half with bits of paper in bright colors. On these colorful "jewels," write the treasures you want to lay up in Heaven. Include traits you want in your character, as well as people you want to lead to God's Kingdom. Now use a black crayon or pencil to darken the earthly side, and add glitter to the heavenly side.



### STUDY FOR YOURSELF!

Did you know that God also has treasure? Find what it is in Ephesians 1:18. (Look for a word beginning with S.)

What does He call His treasure in Malachi 3:17? \_\_\_\_\_



### DIG DEEPER

Read Ps. 49. What happens to the money, possessions, and fame we build up here on Earth? In the end, what matters? Check the marginal references for more insights.

### Memory Text

Find at least five things that you particularly treasure. Touch or hold each one in turn as you recite Matthew 6:21.



"A Christlike character is one of the most important treasures we can obtain."

—Gabrielle Rich

CORE CONCEPT

Jesus said, "Where your \_\_\_\_\_ is, there will your \_\_\_\_\_ be also" (Matthew 6:21).

Let's think about what this means:

- ♥ If you spend your money on keeping up to date with the latest computer technology, and then spend hours each day on the Internet, with computer games and other computer activities, your mind and your conversation will center around computers. Your heart will be with your \_\_\_\_\_.
- ♥ If you go into competitive sports, spending hours in practice each day, purchasing all the best equipment and reading all the best sports magazines, your life will soon become consumed with these things. Your heart will belong to \_\_\_\_\_.

♥ In the same way, if you dedicate your time, talents, and money to share the gospel with others, you will soon have a personal interest in their souls. You will become more and more dedicated to this work, until your whole heart wants to share the \_\_\_\_\_.

When we work to bring people to Christ, we lay up treasure in God's Kingdom. Then we gain "an \_\_\_\_\_ incorruptible, and undefiled, and that \_\_\_\_\_ not away" (1 Peter 1:4).

 **Think About It!** Imagine your joy, \_\_\_\_\_ in Heaven, to see people who \_\_\_\_\_ are there because of you. And then imagine seeing everyone that these people brought to Jesus. A great crowd could be there because of your efforts. What a wonderful treasure!



STUDY FOR YOURSELF!

What does Paul say we should set our affections upon? See Colossians 3:2.

\_\_\_\_\_

BLESSED BENEFITS!

When we set our affections on things of Heaven, we look for ways to bless, or benefit, others. Something amazing happens every single time we do this. To find what it is, lift each letter "up" either one or two places farther along in the alphabet. A few are done for you to get you started.

W								
U	C	A	D	L	D	E	H	R
		R	S					!
M	T	Q	Q	C	K	U	D	R



DIG DEEPER

What does Eccl. 11 reveal about using our time and resources to bless others and lead them to God? What promises can we claim when we do this?

Project: Memory

Matthew 6:6 was the Memory Text a few weeks ago. Use the initial letters to review this verse. BT, WTP, EITC, AWTHSTD, PTFWIIS; ATFW SISRTO.

"An important treasure to have is the ability to carry the atmosphere of Heaven with us."

—Déjà Usher



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CORE CONCEPT

Jesus warned, "If thine eye be \_\_\_\_\_, thy whole body shall be full of \_\_\_\_\_" (Matthew 6:23).

A person with an "evil" eye has "double vision." While he focuses on the treasures of Earth, he tries to keep an eye on Heaven. Sadly, he ends up in the darkness of a sinful life. If we have this serious condition, God sends the Holy Spirit to us with appeals and warnings and promises of mercy. It's up to us to listen—or to stay in darkness.

 **Danger!** "By resisting the Spirit of God today, [the sinner] prepares the way for a second resistance of light when it comes with mightier power. Thus he passes on from one stage of resistance to another, until at last the light will fail to

impress, and he will cease to respond in any measure to the Spirit of God" (*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, page 93).

This is sometimes called the "unpardonable sin." It can't be forgiven, because we don't want pardon!

Do you ever worry that you may have committed the unpardonable sin? If you are troubled about this, you can be sure the Holy Spirit is still speaking to your heart. It is not too late to find the light.

 **Warning!** As long as you keep double vision, you are hardening your heart against the Holy Spirit. Ask Jesus today to give you grace to give up anything in your life that is keeping you in darkness.



STUDY FOR YOURSELF!

How can we avoid walking in darkness? See John 8:12. \_\_\_\_\_

CERTAIN DARKNESS!

We are in certain darkness if we neglect to do something very important. To find what it is, look up the texts given in the dark letters. The numbers indicate which words in the text you need. Write them on the blanks, in the order given.



DIG DEEPER

Search 1 Jn. 1 and 2 to find more about what it means to walk in light or darkness. What steps lead us to one or the other? How can we avoid being blinded by darkness?

We are in certain

**DARKNESS**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Project: Memory

Close your eyes and repeat Matthew 6:4–6. Then open your eyes and check the words.

Blessings page 255

THOUGHTS FROM THE MOUNT OF BLESSING: If we do not choose to give ourselves fully to God, (266)

Jesus said, "No man can serve two \_\_\_\_\_" (Matthew 6:24). What two masters was He speaking of?

▶ G \_\_\_\_\_.

▶ M \_\_\_\_\_ (wealth).

It is impossible to serve both because the Kingdom of God and our own selfish desires for the things of this world have nothing in common. If we try to have both, we are trying to give half-and-half service to both masters! Underline why this is so dangerous:

"He who does not give himself wholly to God is under the control of another power" (*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, page 94).

The truly evil and wicked people in the world are not Satan's best servants. People

who seem like they are good Christians, and yet willfully break part of God's Law, do Satan's cause the most good. Here's why:

- ✓ People notice that these so-called Christians are enjoying certain sins.
- ✓ A person struggling with a temptation may see this and think that he can sin and still be saved. He decides that obeying God must not be all that important.

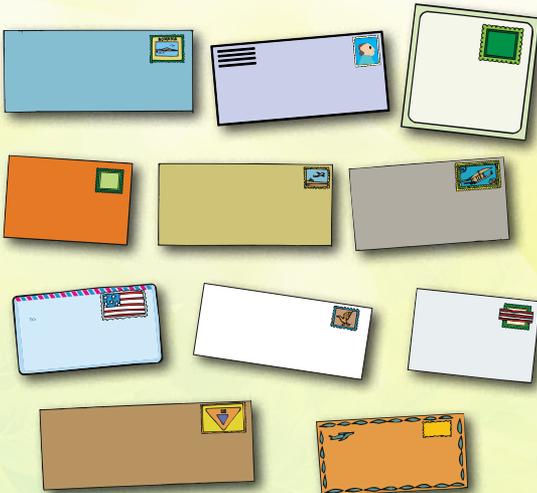
A half-and-half Christian can help Satan lure many souls away from being saved. Our only safe course is to "\_\_\_\_\_ not the \_\_\_\_\_, neither the things that are in the world" (1 John 2:15).

Whom do you choose for your master?

\_\_\_\_\_

### OPEN LETTER!

In 2 Corinthians 3:2–3 Paul says that we each are an "epistle," or letter. On each envelope below, write the name of someone you know and see regularly. Now ask God to help you serve Him 100% so that you can give each of them the right message.



### STUDY FOR YOURSELF!

Can we live in this world without being an influence either for God or for Satan? See Romans 14:7. \_\_\_\_\_



### DIG DEEPER

Why is it impossible to serve two masters? Look for answers in Gal. 5. Use your marginal references to find out more. Texts in Rom. 6 and 8 will be especially helpful. Be sure to note your findings in your Bible study journal.

### Project: Memory

If you are having trouble with any part of Matthew 6:1–6, review it today.





## BLESSED PROTECTION

**W**hen God created Adam and Eve, He gave them coverings of light. They lost these coverings when they sinned. In the coldness and darkness, they realized that they were naked, and they immediately felt a need to cover themselves.<sup>1</sup> In fact, nakedness in the Bible became a symbol of emptiness, of sin, of apostasy, and of attempting to save oneself.<sup>2</sup> Scripture does not talk about nakedness in a positive way.

The fig leaves Adam and Eve used as clothing were flimsy and disposable. God made the first durable garments, and clothing became a symbol of God's willingness to cover our emptiness and destitution with Himself.<sup>3</sup>

In several places, the Bible gives careful instructions about covering the body so that nakedness does not appear.<sup>4</sup> Yet today's fashions often expose the body. Designers seem determined to show off the body in an infinite variety of ways. And even seemingly conservative styles can be so tight or sheer that they end by being immodest.

Often women don't realize that the way they dress can really tempt men to think immoral thoughts. Short skirts attract attention to the legs; slits in the skirt or blouse tempt the eyes to complete the picture, imagining what

is beyond the slit. Low necklines leave little to the imagination. True, a few Christian men may be able to resist lustful thoughts, but men of the world do not even try. Do women have a responsibility to them?

A man writing in the *Washington Post*, a secular magazine, wrote, "I believe that women have the right to wear anything they want, wherever they want, but help me understand why I am not supposed to look at what they are flaunting."<sup>5</sup>

This is a serious matter for us as Christians! Jesus said, "Whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."<sup>6</sup> A woman's clothing can actually encourage a brother to sin!

True modesty certainly includes covering our bodies adequately, in a neat, pleasant, and decent way. But modesty must include even our behavior. We can be modest in our clothing and immodest in our actions, by flirting or encouraging playful banter.

As Christians, we should be kind, friendly, and helpful, but we also need to keep a careful reserve. This type of modesty is not only Christ's will for us—it is a blessed protection.

*(To be continued.)*



Principle of Christian dress  
2

**A CHRISTIAN SHOULD DRESS AND ACT IN A MODEST WAY, SUFFICIENTLY**

**COVERING THE BODY TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT OR TEMPTATION.** “IN

LIKE MANNER ALSO, THAT WOMEN ADORN THEMSELVES IN MODEST APPAREL, WITH SHAMEFACEDNESS AND SOBRIETY; NOT WITH BROIDED HAIR, OR GOLD, OR PEARLS, OR COSTLY ARRAY” (1 TIMOTHY 2:9).



1. Genesis 3:7.
2. Exodus 32:25; Deuteronomy 28:48; 2 Chronicles 28:19; Job 1:21; Hosea 2:3; Matthew 25:36; Revelation 3:17–18.
3. Isaiah 61:10; Ezekiel 16:8; Revelation 3:18. In *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 312, Ellen White shows fig leaves to be a symbol of human works and God's clothing as a symbol of the righteousness of Christ. “When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united to His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with

His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness. Then as the Lord looks upon us He sees, not the fig-leaf garment, not the nakedness and deformity of sin, but His own robe of righteousness, which is perfect obedience to the law of Jehovah.”

4. See Exodus 20:26; 28:42.
5. Courtland Milloy, “A Lecher's Prayer,” *Washington Post*, September 29, 1987.
6. Matthew 5:28.

# Celestial Fire

RICHES, REVOLT, AND REFORMATION  
IN THE NETHERLANDS

18

by JA. Wylie with Janet Evert

## THE BEGGARS' PETITION

*What's happening:* Soon after Martin Luther posts his 95 Theses in 1517, the Reformation arrives in the Low Countries—Holland, Belgium, and Luxembourg. Emperor Charles V responds with cruel edicts and the fires of the Inquisition. When his son, Philip II, becomes king of the Netherlands in 1555, he brings an army of Spanish soldiers to help enforce his father's edicts. Philip returns to Spain, but appoints his half-sister, Duchess Margaret, as governor in his absence. The citizens suffer greatly, yet the Reformation continues to spread. In 1564, the king gives the Church total power to judge and punish heretics. In response, many of the nobles make a league opposed to the Inquisition. Soon the confederacy is 15,000 strong.

**O**n April 3, 1566, a cavalcade<sup>1</sup> of 200 nobles and knights rode into Brussels. The tall and dashing Count Brederode led them. As they passed through the streets, the citizens flocked out to greet them. “There go the deliverers of our country,” they shouted.

The next day, about 100 more cavaliers<sup>2</sup> arrived. On April 5, all 300 of them, dressed in their richest robes, walked in procession to the old palace of Brabant. First they passed through the stately hall in which Charles V had abdicated his kingdom.<sup>3</sup> Then, with solemn faces, they marched two by two into the audience chamber of the regent.

Brederode acted as their spokesman.<sup>4</sup> He was brief and to the point. First, he assured Margaret that he and his allies were loyal to both the crown and the Church. Then he read a petition that the confederates wanted Margaret to present to the king. This petition set

forth that the country could no longer bear the burden of the edicts. Rebellion was rearing its head, and was even at the palace gates. The monarch was entreated to do two things, if he wanted to save his empire: First, he must abolish the Inquisition. Second, he must give the States-General a voice in the governing of the country. Until the king could give his answer, Margaret was asked to suspend<sup>5</sup> the edicts, and to stop all executions of heretics.

When Brederode had finished, Margaret sat silent for a few minutes, the tears rolling down her cheeks. When she found her voice, she dismissed the confederates. “I will consult with my counselors,” she told them. “I will give my answer tomorrow.”

After Brederode and his followers left, a stormy discussion began. The Prince of Orange argued for liberty of conscience, and Count Berlaymont<sup>6</sup> spoke just as strongly against it. As Berlaymont saw the emotion on Margaret's

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face, he scolded her. “Why, madam,” he asked, “should you be afraid of these beggars?”

The confederates soon heard what Berlaymont had said. “You call us beggars,” they said. “That is what we shall be!” From then on, all those in the Netherlands who were for liberty of conscience proudly called themselves “Beggars.”<sup>7</sup>

The next day, Margaret gave her answer. She agreed to send an envoy<sup>8</sup> to Spain to lay the confederates’ petition before the king. In the meantime, she had no power to suspend the Inquisition. Nevertheless, she promised she would order the inquisitors to “proceed with moderation.”<sup>9</sup>

The Beggars wondered at what she might mean by her promise of

“moderation.” They soon found out: The heretics, instead of being burned, would be beheaded or hanged. However, they could be granted this great mercy only if they did not stir up opposition.

No one seemed very thankful for this “moderation.” Indeed, they soon nicknamed it “murderation”<sup>10</sup>

*(To be continued.)*

1. A procession, especially of people on horses.
2. Knights or soldiers on horseback.
3. This had happened nearly eleven years before, when Charles turned over the Netherlands to his son, Philip II. See *Young Disciple* magazine, Volume 25, Number 5.
4. William of Orange would have been the natural choice, as he was tactful and eloquent. However, he had not yet joined the confederates. William never went back on his choices, and therefore he carefully pondered his path before going forward.
5. To stop for a short time.
6. A strong supporter of Rome and Spain.
7. From then on, they never met without saluting each other as “Beggars.” Their cry was “Long live the Beggars!” They even made medals that were stamped on one side with a rough portrait of the king, and on the other with a beggar’s bag. Above the bag was the motto, “Faithful to the king, even to beggary.” Many of the confederates began wearing suits of plain gray cloth with a common felt hat. They also hung little wooden bowls on their hats or around their necks, with the motto, *Vive le Gueux* (long live the Beggar).
8. A representative or diplomat.
9. Within reasonable limits and never to excess.
10. In their language, as in English, the two words are very similar.

ESCAPE FROM  
SIBERIAN EXILE

## ALATAYEVO SUMMER

*What's happening:* Old Russia, under Tsar Nicholas II, allows very little religious freedom. Although Seventh-day Adventist believers face persecution, the church continues to grow. In December 1914, just after the start of World War I, evangelist John Jacques and fellow pastor Elias Gorelic are exiled to the Siberian village of Alatayevo. There, they share their faith with the villagers. A few accept the gospel, but most oppose their ministry. When the young pastors help save the town from burning to the ground, the prejudice softens.

For months, the Ob River had been locked in ice, blocking any shipments that could come by steamers or other boats. But in late spring our section of the river finally began to thaw. Soon we would hear from the far-off world!

All the large rivers in Siberia flow north to the Arctic Ocean, so the ice near the headwaters melts first. Weeks before the ice at the river's mouth begins to melt, the upstream ice breaks up and starts floating north. When it hits solid ice, it is forced underneath. The solid ice soon bursts from the pressure, booming like thunder as it splits open. The resulting ice dams flood thousands of square miles across the tundra.

When the river north of us began to flood, we realized why our village and all others in the area were built on hills. As the water gradually spread out, Alatayevo became an island—with the country flooded for as far as we could see! Now we understood why the villag-

ers kept their canoes right next to their houses—who knew when they might be needed?

The water was deep enough for the fish to swim out of the river onto the floodplain to feast on the bounties of the fields. Soon many grew almost too fat to move. Men waded into the water and caught the fish with their bare hands—an easy meal! The warm weather also brought wild ducks in vast flocks, making easy targets.

Finally, in June, the northern ice dams melted and the water returned to the river. To our joy, the riverboats could now make their way north. After months of silence, we received precious letters from home!

The receding water left behind thick mud, and soon a coarse, tall grass sprang up. When it was several feet high, the villagers cut and harvested as much as possible. This would be fodder for their livestock during the coming winter!

The settlers also scattered into the forests in search of pine nuts—the main commodity they used for trade with the ships coming from the south. With the cash earned from a good harvest of pine nuts, a family could buy flour and other supplies for several years. Of course, one never knew if there would be a harvest or not. Some years the pines didn't produce!

## PESTIFEROUS CLOUDS

For all its benefits, summer posed one extreme drawback: clouds of mosquitoes. They were constantly in our eyes, ears, and nostrils. And, of course, it was worst at night. Elias and I saw no reason to put up with such torture. We got permission from our guard to go up the river to get some birch saplings to make frames for mosquito nets to place over our beds.

On the day of the expedition, we dressed for protection: long sleeves and pants, tightly-bound cuffs on our wrists and ankles, and nets over our faces. As we ventured into the forest, an army of gnats bombarded us—so thick they actually dimmed the sunlight. For all our precautions, the little pests still penetrated to our skin, and bit us so many times we were ill for days!

The mosquitoes and gnats took so much joy out of the summer that we almost looked forward to the coming of winter. But before the summer ended, relief came from another source—which of itself was actually a calamity. Careless hunters and fishermen often left campfires burning, and the flames spread to the surrounding brush and

timber, setting acres of forest alight. Even though such fires destroyed miles of timber and pine nuts, nobody tried putting them out unless they crept too close to town. But there was one advantage to the thick, suffocating smoke that often filled the air: it warded off the mosquitoes and gnats!

## CONFIDENTIAL CHATS

On warm, sunny Sabbaths, Elias and I held church services outdoors, in a



secluded spot on the riverbank a little distance from the village. Each Sabbath, a small group joined us for worship—including the Polish prisoner of war we had been studying with. One Sabbath, he told us that someday when the war was over, he hoped to return to his own country and share the gospel there.

Our friend Alexander also remained strong in his faith, even though his family and neighbors continued their opposition. The government authorities even summoned him to the district headquarters, where the priest interrogated him on his new religion. When he was unable to overthrow Alexander's defense, the priest suggested that

Alexander must be insane. But the civil officers shook their heads and let Alexander go. Still, when Alexander returned to Alatayevo, the villagers treated him as though he were a criminal; and his parents forced him to leave their home. However, he was not left without family: To his joy, his wife and her family began to tolerate his new beliefs.

In spite of the prejudice, villagers often came to us to ask questions about the Bible. Of course, they always came secretly—and we kept our visits strictly



confidential. For example, once as we were walking outside town, a young man jumped out of the grass and asked to speak with us. We gladly explained to him the truths of the gospel!

At a little shop where we often made purchases, the owner's daughter sometimes waited on us. When no one else was around, she would eagerly ask us Bible questions. Most of all, she wanted to know how to pray to Jesus. Sadly, the girl's mother overheard a conversation, and poured out a flood of wrath on her daughter.

We knew we were now in ill favor with the shop owners, but we decided to continue to buy from them. They

didn't refuse our money; and since they already knew we had been sharing the Scriptures, we spoke boldly to all of them. In time, some of the family softened; but others only deepened their opposition.

## TRANSFER ORDERS

One evening, we were called to appear before the chief of our guard. "I have a communication from the lieutenant governor," he barked. "In order to stop your propaganda, he is transferring you to Kolguyak. You are to be at the riverbank and ready to leave tomorrow morning. Understood?"

My heart plummeted to my stomach. Kolguyak was the northernmost exile station in western Siberia—even more desolate than Alatayevo. It would be colder, harsher, more remote, and less civilized. Why hadn't I kept quiet? Wasn't I suffering enough already? Why had I made things worse?

Then I remembered my Savior's words: "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you" (Matthew 5:10–12). As God's precious Word filled my heart, it soothed the ache. How could I grumble about sharing in the sufferings of the Master?

That evening, Elias and I gathered up our few possessions and prepared to go yet farther north.

*(To be continued.)*

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in  
touch



Dear Young Disciples,

A number of years ago, our family spent a couple of years on a remote mission station in Zaire, now known as Democratic Republic of Congo. When it came time to return home, we decided to leave most of our goods in Africa. They were hardly worth taking home! However, we had acquired some valuable African curios, including an ancient copper trading piece, some malachite sculptures, and several other rare and exotic items. Carefully wrapping our treasures, we packed them in a 55-gallon drum. Then, to make sure that they wouldn't be stolen, we welded the barrel shut and added a big lock.

After we returned home, we waited eagerly for the arrival of our valuables. But months passed, and still the drum did not come. We finally realized that we were never going to see it.

Although we were disappointed, we've managed just fine without our African treasures. I can't even remember what they looked like. However, that experience was a very good reminder of how easily we can lose our earthly possessions. No matter how hard we try to secure our valuables, they can still be taken from us. In fact, we can't be sure of keeping anything on this earth.

Thankfully, I can lay up treasure in Heaven—using God's fail-safe plan. You can, too. I hope you'll take the time to learn all about it in this week's Bible lesson.

Your friend,

Janet Evert

We welded the  
barrel shut.





One day Pastor John Newton visited a family that had lost their home and possessions in a fire. When he saw the lady of the household, he called out, “I give you joy, madam.”

The lady glared at him. “What! Joy that all our property has been consumed in the fire?”

“Oh, no,” he answered. “Joy that you have so much property that fire cannot touch.”

As she remembered she still had health, her family, and a living faith, her grief evaporated.

“IN THE HOUSE OF THE RIGHTEOUS IS MUCH TREASURE: BUT IN THE REVENUES OF THE WICKED IS TROUBLE” (PROVERBS 15:6).

—SELECTED