

# Not Just A Carpenter



by Dawn Reed  
E. Ky. Columnist

Before our office closed due to the Coronavirus, we were

talking about a movie with a virus theme. When one actress' name was mentioned, a coworker mentioned that she wasn't a fan because of a comment she made a few years ago. The actress couldn't understand how people could put their trust in a "skinny carpenter" (Jesus). I sat up straighter when I heard it. Now I wasn't a fan! How could someone call Jesus that?! I asked who or what the actress believed in. She had chosen a more plump god who died centuries ago.

It still hurts my heart to think of someone saying Jesus was "just a carpenter"-skinny or not!

The Pharisees felt the same way back in the day. In the showdown in Matthew 22, they felt like they had Je-

sus' back up against the wall when they asked which was the greatest commandment. Henry Blackaby wrote in The Experience (Day-by-Day with God), "No doubt the Pharisee expected Jesus would have to choose one of the Ten Commandments over the other nine, opening the door for debate. Then he'd have this unschooled carpenter's son right where he wanted him." "Unschooled?" That hurt my heart, too!

While I am so disappointed in the unbelieving actress and the ignorant Pharisee, I find that sometimes I also treat Jesus like He is not as big as He is. Sometimes when I pray, I make my requests to the Red Sea-parting God. I know without a doubt that He is capable

of dividing waters and leading me through on dry ground! Other times, I act like He is the size of Zacchaeus and may or may not be up to a challenge.

And that is exactly where the devil has a victory in my heart or head. What am I thinking? Is God the God of the Book or not? Is He able to conquer a virus that has the whole world running scared? Is He still up to healing the sick or meeting the needs of those who are not able to work due to a quarantine? Or is He asleep somewhere up in the sky and so far away He cannot hear?

The Bible tells me He is STILL the God of David who faced Goliath! He is STILL the God Who parted the Red Sea! He is STILL the God Who was with Shadrach, Meshach and

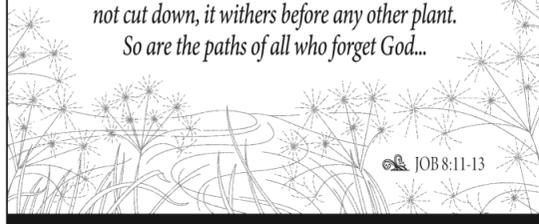
Abednego in the fire! He is STILL the God Who sent His Only Son to save us once and for all!

Someone reminded me of Hebrews 10:39 last week: "We are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved." Somebody say "Hallelujah!" I had it in my phone's NOTES but didn't have it in my head. I am carrying it in my pocket now for my own peace of mind and also to share because I know someone else will need to remember it, too.

I decided to pray for the actress-that God would speak to her through these bizarre times. After much investigation on the internet, I could not substantiate the comment. I'm glad to hear it!

## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Can the papyrus grow up without a marsh? Can the reeds flourish without water? While it is yet green and not cut down, it withers before any other plant. So are the paths of all who forget God...



JOB 8:11-13

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## Who are the 'Truly Saved'?

by BOB CASEY, preacher  
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The last survey I read in regards to religion, it was reported that 86% of all America claimed some form of a religious practice. I thought, "Wouldn't this be wonderful if it was really true?" Then, when I read the warnings given by the Lord Jesus himself, a very different picture is revealed unto us. In **Matthew 7:13-14**, it is written, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: <sup>14</sup>Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

So, the point is well taken, that not many will be saved when we face the Judgment. Then, when we continue to **verses 21-22**, our Lord says, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, (or those that claim to be in an acceptable relationship with the Lord) shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."

Then, on that day, many religious claimants will tell him why they should be admitted entrance. "We preached or prophesied in your name. We even cast out demons in thy name and have done many wonderful works."

And then! "... will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." (Verse 23) Meaning, you did not work according to my Law! Why did they do it? Didn't they know better? I believe this passage gives the reason. They worked, but not within the Father's Word. I believe that 2 Corinthians 10:12-15 holds the answer. They did not follow or practice the divine rules of the measuring of God. Thereby, they compared their religious practices by their own man made rules. How sad!

Then again, in **Luke 13:24**, here is a sad epitaph upon many religions. Jesus says, "Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to

enter in, and shall not be able." So Matthew 7:21-23 tells us why they will not be able.

Now then! What can we do to keep from making the same mistakes these that we read about were and still are doing? I believe the answer is found in **2 Corinthians 13:5**. Here reads, "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" This word means rejects! This is what will happen to those liken to the ones in Matthew 2:21-23. They were rejected!

This needs not to happen to anyone! So, what is determining factor in regards to who will be eternally saved?

Paul wrote in **1 Timothy 2:3-4**, "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; <sup>4</sup>Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."

So, the truth is, our Lord has already prepared us the way to eternal salvation; by teaching, sacrificing himself for our sins, rising for our justification, and to redeem us by sending 12 Apostles into this world, beginning at Jerusalem, proclaiming the resurrected Lord, giving the plan he gave them and they gave it to men, by saying, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins." Read Acts 2:14-49. Because here and other chapters are also found things that are necessary between hearing and forgiveness; such as totally believing that Jesus is the Son of God (John 5:24). Then, by completely repenting of every past sin (Luke 13:1-5). Then we must publicly confess with our mouth that we are obeying the Lord. Matthew 10:31-32 and Luke 12:8-18 and the example of one doing this is in Acts 8:37. Then, after obeying these simple commands, we can solidify our faith by being baptized in the Name of the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit. Why should we do these simple things? Because Hebrews 5:8-9 says of Jesus, he was the obedient sufferer and being made perfect in those things, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him. Have you obeyed him?

Sincerely, Bob Casey, (1-859-369-4165), local

## Seeds of Hope



The word "righteous" in Scripture carries with it the idea of meeting God's standards of doing what is right in the sight of God - being obedient to Him and being just and fair to others. If the "righteous are to flourish like palm trees" what does that mean?

1. Palm trees grow straight up - always looking upward to heaven for light and nourishment. Likewise the Christian looks to God to find His will for their life.

2. Each and every part of a palm tree is useful. The leaves not only provide shelter from the elements but the tree itself has many nourishing and medicinal qualities. The Christian is expected to give life and hope and

nourishment to others.

3. Palm trees are not affected by drought. A palm tree is not affected by the weather and can survive nearly every surface injury. The Christian rooted in Christ draws his strength and well-being from God.

4. The palm tree is an evergreen tree because it draws its life flow within its being, keeping it fresh.

5. The palm tree cannot be grafted into any other tree because it has its own unique identity. Christians have one Master and cannot be grafted to any other identity.

6. Palm trees are an emblem of victory. This was seen when Jesus entered triumphantly into Jerusalem.

7. Palm trees always show a place where water can be found. Christians find their "living water" in Christ who can quench their thirst.

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233

## BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

1 TIMOTHY 4:12

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

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

Find the **bolded/underlined** words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

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## BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Iscariot in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. Where did Jesus share "The Last Supper" with his apostles before His crucifixion? Nineveh, Kartan, Bethlehem, Jerusalem

3. Jesus was arrested in what garden that sat at the base of the Mount of Olives? Shulamite, Eden, Gethse-

mane, Solomon

4. When Jesus died, for how long was there darkness over the land? 7 minutes, 3 hours, 2 days, 1 week

5. From John 20, which disciple doubted Jesus had risen unless he could see the wounds? Peter, Andrew, Thomas, Thaddeus

6. How long did Jesus remain after His resurrection before He ascended into heaven? Instantaneously, 1 hour, 7 days, 40 days

Answers on bottom of Page 12

"Test Your Bible Knowledge," with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in bookstores and online.

## Americanisms



"The trouble with being punctual is that nobody's there to appreciate it."  
— Franklin P. Jones

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"I sometimes wonder if my husband ever gets this tired \_\_\_\_\_ the money."

## SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Attest

WARES

Correct

UNSHIP

Keen

TRADEN

Deduce

ANGEL

TODAY'S WORD