



Except Ye Abide in Me

By E. Stewart-Richmond

"Do you think the minister would hire us to pick apples in the fall?" asked Ted.

"Might," grumbled George. "I could use some extra cash." "I could, too."

Ted lay on his back, a rough straw hat completely covering his face. His bare feet rested high on the trunk of the oak tree.

George was face down on the grass, his head resting on his arms. He crossed and uncrossed his gangly legs waving them in the air.

"We could go and ask him," he suggested.

"Could," agreed Ted, making no move to do so.

A sudden breeze wrinkled the noses of the boys.

"M-m-m, smell that! It reminds me that vacation time will soon be here," sighed Ted.

"I wish I had just one branch off that big tree over there. I'd have enough apples to last me for a year," said George.

"Take one. The Reverend wouldn't mind," replied Ted.

"Are you kidding? He's mighty proud of those apple trees."

Ted shifted his position, resting his back against the tree. George turned on his back, balancing a decorated beanie on one knee.

"Has he asked you why you haven't been to church lately?" "Sure!"

"Me, too. What did you say?"

Ted whittled at a piece of stick, scattering chips on the grass. "I politely told him there's just as good people who never go to church as there are who do."

"That's what I said. After all, we can be just as good Christians without going to church."

"I suppose he said you'd have a bad influence

on the younger boys." "Uh huh."

The wood was beginning to take the shape of a boat. "I whittled a boat once and took a prize for it," remarked George, inspecting Ted's handiwork.

The fragrance of the apple blossoms drifted around them again. "Yes, sir, just give me one branch and I'd have plenty of apples," George repeated.

"Take whichever branch you want," said a voice behind them.

The boys sprang to their feet in surprise. They had not seen the young minister approaching the fence.

"I mean it," said the man, a friendly smile on his young face. "You can each take whichever branch you want."

It was an embarrassing moment for the boys.

"We have nothing to cut it with," stammered George. "There's a catch in 'this somewhere,'" whispered Ted as he held the barbed-wire fence for George to climb through.

The young minister led the boys into an impliment shed at the back of the manse.

"Boy, look at all the tools here!" exclaimed Ted.

"Yes, I putter around a bit making things in my odd moments. Like to make something?"

"Sure would," agreed both boys.

"Here's the saw," said the minister. "We might as well get busy."

"Ouch!" exclaimed George, hopping about on one foot. The young minister noticed the bare feet for the first time. "A bit early for bare feet, isn't it?" The boys smiled sheepishly. "Our shoes are under the oak down there." The three were soon beside the apple tree. "Which branch do you

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EDITORIAL



Hello, Boys and Girls:

The snow is gone. The sun is out, and spring is here. Aren't we happy? The south wind seems to be whispering to the buds on the trees, trying to wake them from their long slumber. The earth is warm and the little green shoots are peeping above the ground. Now these tender little green stems hold something tightly twisted. But as the sun shines warmly day after day, they will unfold and tiny buds will begin to push up.

Even the frogs are wakened from their sleep in the mud at the bottom of the pond. We can hear their call, ker-chunk, ker-chog. Soon little pollywogs can be seen swimming along. In a little while they will lose their long tails and then they will be real frogs and can go hopping about.

Take a walk along a lane or a wooded place and you will see ever so many signs of spring. The small furry animals and the birds are as busy as can be with their spring house cleaning. Old sticks and string are being replaced with new, so a comfortable place will be ready for the young ones. Nests are home to these little creatures so be careful not to destroy them and leave a family homeless.

What signs of spring have you noticed? Write and tell us about them.

EXCEPT YE ABIDE IN ME

want, George?" the minister asked. George looked at Ted, hoping for some help. "I didn't really want any, that is, not now." "Why not now?" "Well, I just thought that it would be nice to have a branch loaded with apples."

"Take this one, then," said the man, pulling down a branch, its whole length crowded with pink and white blossoms. "It has lots of blossoms,

so there should be plenty of apples."

"But there won't be any apples at all if we cut the branch off the tree," protested George.

"Course not," agreed Ted. "The branch gets its life from the tree."

The minister looked at the boys with a kindly smile. "I don't want to preach a sermon, but I would like to quote you two verses from the Bible that are better than any reason I could give you for going to church. Do you mind?"

"No, go ahead, but they will have to be good to change our minds. We can be good Christians without any help," said Ted.

"As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in Me. I am the vine, ye are the branches. without Me ye can do nothing."

The minister hesitated for a moment so the boys might get the real meaning of the verses.

"Think over those two verses and I'm sure you'll both be in church tomorrow. Meantime, let's see if we can find some fresh doughnuts and milk. I'm hungry. How about you?"—Selected

—M—

SOFT AND WHITE

By Churchill Fisher



Bobby, standing beside daddy at the rail as the big steamer slipped along, looked up at the great mountains frowning along the coast.

"Alaska is so big and different that it almost scares me," remarked Bobby.

"Tomorrow we'll be in our new home, and you'll soon be a good Alaskan, I hope," said daddy.

"I want to learn some more new things about the North," answered Bobby. "Could you tell me another story about something up here?"

"After you are in bed," promised daddy.

When Bobby was tucked in the queer upper bunk, daddy dropped into a chair near by.

"Eider down, and wool, and snow," he began, "are the most beautifully soft of any substance I know. But it is of the eider ducks that I am going to tell you. The story does not belong to Alaska alone, but to some other northern shores as well. The American eider drake is about the size of a goose, velvet black below, and white above. Later in the season he changes his costume to resemble that of the mother bird, a dark reddish brown barred with black. His distinguishing characteristic is a crest. There are really only two or three varieties of these birds along our western coasts.

"At nesting time, the ducks find places along the rocky shores of the Alaskan peninsula, or in holes along lagoons of the Arctic ocean where foxes cannot get them. The nests are built well above high water mark, and near fairly smooth water. When the nest is finished, the mother bird lines it with soft gray down from her breast. She lays from five to seven big, olive colored eggs, and covers them with the soft blanket. The father duck also contributes down from his breast.

"Here in Alaska there are very few people who go out and gather this lovely product from the nests, but along the coasts of Iceland and Norway, people gather the eggs and down every few days. Thus, the ducks are kept working throughout the season. But the gatherers always permit the mother to hatch out at least one brood of little ones each season. These are like little puff balls which play and dive and learn to catch water worms and sea eggs, and sea lettuce, favorite foods of the eider family. The babies grow slowly, as do some other northern birds. Thirty months for them are required to get their complete plumage. Though he looks awkward, the eider is a swift flier and a good diver."

"It doesn't seem fair to take their down and the eggs," said Bobby.

"They do not seem to mind," said father. "There is always a market for the down which is so soft and light that you could press to or three pounds together in one hand—or at least I could. Perhaps your hands are yet too small for that. This down from living birds is called live down, and is much better than that gathered from dead ducks."

"What is it used for?" asked Bobby.

"It makes light, warm bedding. And mothers are always glad to get it to make down pillows and comforters for their babies."

"I suppose the ducks will be going south pretty soon," ventured Bobby.

"No, they never go farther south than the ice compels them to go. In the spring they go north as the ice melts. Some day we may go exploring along the Aleutians and I may be able to show you these interesting birds," finished daddy.

"I'll be glad when we can go places," observed Bobby snuggling down. "Thank you for the good story, Daddy."

—Sel.

—M—

COURAGE TO SAY, NO

It was so hard for Amy to say, "No." She wanted to do right, but when Carrie and Lou and May, her three cousins, wanted her to do something she ought not to do, it was very hard for Amy.

"Amy," Daddy said one day, "you have been wanting a wheel. I'll tell you how to get one."

"How?" asked Amy.

"The Bible says, 'If sinners entice thee, consent thou not.' If you will learn that verse so

that you can say it every time your cousins want you to do something naughty, and for two weeks never let them beg you into anything wrong, I'll get you a wheel."

"Oh, goody, goody," cried Amy. "Teach it to me now."

When Amy ran out into the yard a few minutes later, she called to Lou, "I'm going to have a wheel." And she told Lou all about what she was to do.

"We'll help you," said Lou. "We won't ask you to do anything you shouldn't, then you can get the bicycle."

Two weeks later when Amy had her shiny new wheel, her mother said, "You can go out riding, Amy, but don't ride near the lake."

"Let's go down to the lake, Amy," said Lou, "and watch the swans."

"Mamma said I mustn't," said Amy. But the three little girls coaxed and coaxed.

"You have your wheel now," said May. "Why are you afraid?"

Amy could not ride very well yet, so when they got down near the lake, Amy could not stop her wheel, but ran right into it. The life guard fished Amy out of the cold water; and the next day they got her wheel out, but how she did look, and how badly she felt when she had to tell Daddy how ungrateful and how disobedient she had been.

Amy decided that after this she was going to ask the Lord, every single morning, to help her say, "No" when friends wanted her to do wrong.

—M—

Your Letters

FROM OKLAHOMA

Dear Missionary Readers:

Our teacher is going to give us a prize if we get a letter in the paper yet this month.

I am seven years old and I go to church and Sabbath school where Phillip Walker goes. Sometimes there are only the two of us in our class. I live next door to the church house. I live with my Grandmother and Grandfather. We don't keep the Sabbath, but I love to go to Sabbath school and I like my teacher very much. Her name is Mrs. Minnie Hinds. She has an awful sore leg, and I would like to ask all you little readers to pray for her when you say your prayers at night.

Also pray for my Grandfather. He has heart trouble.

My letter is getting quite long so I will close for this time.

Roy Hardesten

(You wrote a nice letter, Roy. We are glad to hear that you go to Sabbath school with Phillip and that you like to go. We will pray for your teacher and for your Grandfather too.)

Our Lesson Study..

FOR APRIL 9, 1949

Lesson Material: Mark 10:13-16, 46-52.

Memory Verse: "Suffer the little children to come unto me." Mark 10:14.

Jesus Takes Time To Be Friendly

When Jesus was on earth, He was kept very busy, for many heard of the miracles which He performed and the healing He gave to those who were sick. People followed Him to see these miracles and to hear His words.

Many mothers brought their young children to Him to be blessed. Jesus loved the children and was always ready to speak a kind word to them. But the disciples rebuked the mothers. They thought Jesus was far too busy to be bothered with the children. But Jesus said, "Let the little children come unto me. Do not send them away. Of such is the kingdom of God."

He took the children in His arms and blessed them. This made the mothers very happy.

One day as Jesus and His disciples came from the city of Jericho a blind man sat by the road. He heard that Jesus was passing and he cried out, "Jesus thou son of David, have mercy on me."

Jesus called to him and asked, "What do you wish me to do?" The blind man said, "That I might receive my sight."

Then Jesus did a wonderful thing. He said, "Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole." The man received his sight and went to follow Jesus.

Jesus was busy, but He was never too busy to take time to help those who had such faith in Him. Jesus was always friendly to all.

Do You Remember?

1. Why Jesus was so busy?
2. Why people followed Him?
3. Why the mothers brought their children to Jesus?
4. Who rebuked the mothers?
5. What Jesus told the disciples?
6. Near what city Jesus found a blind man?
7. What the man wanted of Jesus?
8. What Jesus did for him?
9. How Jesus treats all people?
10. Our memory verse?

—M—

The shelves of the Library of Congress in Washington, the largest in the world, if placed end to end would reach from Washington to Cleveland, Ohio.

GOD'S CARPET

There is a carpet of velvety green,
The loveliest shade I ever have seen,
With flowers large, and flowers small
Of every color; short and tall.

Rose, blue, pink, and poppy gold,
Scarlet, crimson, purple-bold.

The hand of God has placed them there
To cheer our hearts: forget our care.

No carpet is so rich, so gay,
As the one God weaves, on a summer day.
M. J. B.

—M—

Nuthatches are acrobats. They can walk down a tree head first just as easy as they walk up. They spend most of their time in the trees where they are kept busy, finding insects and worms to eat. They are alert, curious and friendly. Sometimes they will eat from a man's hand. They are very fond of bread crumbs and suet.

To find out who had a boil, for which Isaiah recommended poultice of figs, read 2 Kings 20:7.

—::—



*Study
Your
Bible*

1. Ma -- Mother of Jesus.
2. Ma -- Writer of one of the gospels.
3. Ma --- A sister of Lazarus.
4. Ma ----- One of the disciples.
5. Ma ----- The one chosen to take Judas' place.
6. Ma ----- She anointed Jesus' head.

Ans. Mary; Mark; Martha; Matthew; Matthias; Magdalene.
M. J. B.

—M—

Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

Psalms 117

O praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise him, all ye people. For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever. Praise ye the Lord.