



QUIZ

bLESSY ROSHAN

1. What was Joshua's name before Moses named him?
2. What was the name of the mountain on which Aaron died?
3. Who was the prophet who went around stripped and barefoot?
4. Who stole silver from his mother?
5. Name the crown that will be given to people who perseveres under trial
6. What was the name of Haman's wife?
7. Who has both the father and the son?
8. Who was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard?
9. What will not come a second time?
10. Who does not respond to rebukes?

February Quiz Winner :

GRACE ROY (SABARMATI)



Answers for February Quiz : Mount Moriah, Er, Darius, Joab, The greedy/he that is proud/ arrogant man, Angels of God, John, 12, Jehovah Shalom, Serpent



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ABLAZE

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EDITORIAL

Greetings to all our readers in the sweet name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

We are used to hearing the encouraging word that the Lord is our Father and is constantly watching over us. We know that our God never sleeps or slumbers and his ear is open to every cry of ours. Why is it, then, that in times of trials or very difficult situations in our life, we go completely ballistic? We take matters into our own hands and complicate difficult situations even more. The truth is that it is easy to trust in the Lord when everything is good and comfortable. The moment we see uncertainty or pain or failure on the horizon, we lose faith and start trusting in our own wisdom. But those who have leaned on the Lord in the trying times know that it is in such times that we can see the complete love and beauty of Jesus fully. It is in such times that He rises up in all His glory and power for us to fight our battle and give us the victory. If only we lean fully on him. If only we give all our situations in His hands fully and leave it there for Him to do as He deems fit. We will see one such instance of complete trust and victory through the testimony on Page 3 in this issue. We also have a great article on being a good Christian role model, a poem on the hope of the Lord's coming and a new 'Food for Thought' column. Please do write to us with your feedback and great testimonies.

He reached down from on high and took hold of me; he drew me out of deep waters.

Psalm 18:16

Editorial Team

Blessy Roshan, Annie Royson, Nisi Mary Samuel



SECOND COMING

RINI GEORGE

**The day for which, I can no longer wait
To stay away from my Lord, I hate
Wish to enter that pearly gate,
Just hope to be able to reach there, before it gets too late**

**It would be such a thrill,
When trumpets get blown on the Olive Hill,
Anticipating this wonderful event, my heart with abundant joy brims,
For then we will till eternity stay – with one who died for our sins.**

**The day is very close, so do not give a look of surprise,
First the dead in Christ will rise
Then all of us, for our own righteousness will get a prize,
Know for sure & be prepared, because on that glorious day – judgment will be without any bias or prejudice.**

**In his Kingdom, there is no pain,
No worry, disease, bondage or chain
And we the bride - 'The Church' will be holy before him, without sin or any of its traces,
Our Almighty will then forever be with us and sit enthroned on our praises.**



THE 3B'S OF BEING A GOOD CHRISTIAN ROLE MODEL

BEJINI SAJAN

Do we know how much the world watches us and focuses on us as "Christians"? Are we always setting a good example for people around us? Isn't it time to ask ourselves?

A Pastor once narrated an incident in a gathering which he happened to witness long ago. He read a poster behind a car which said, "Don't follow ME; Follow CHRIST". This definitely sounded true and right for a layman. He then asked the crowd to analyse and understand the truth as Children of God. It actually did not seem right. 1 Corinthians 11:1 says something which is very different from the above. Paul says, "Be followers of me, even as I also am of Christ". Did this make you think for a second? How many of us can boldly say this – Follow ME as I Follow Christ.

Do we possess all the qualities mentioned in the Word of God to actually say – Hey! Look at me, I'm a good example, I totally follow Christ. I'm his child.

If you can actually say this then you are a good Christian role model.

Today, the world lacks true Christian role models. We are so busy leading lives to please others that we forget we are actually carrying the name of Christ on our shoulders and that people around us are always watching us. Our actions are the only thing which makes all the difference. We need to guard our thoughts, words, actions, habits.

A good Christian role model is one who is always ---- **"CHRIST CENTERED; BIBLE CENTERED"**

Below are 3B's that could help us in being a good Christian role model.

Philippians Chapter 2: 14, 15 says - "Do everything without grumbling or arguing. Then you will be the pure and innocent children of God. You will live among people who are crooked and evil, but you must not do anything that they can say is wrong. Try to shine as lights among the people of this world".

3B'S – BEING BLAMELESS; BEING PURE; BEING INNOCENT.



BEING BLAMELESS: Dictionary meaning -- being guiltless, faultless, and upright. But according to the scriptures it means to not give the world a chance to blame us. It clearly means to turn away from things that are vile and vulgar and not to compromise with the sinful ways of the world. Do not give the world a chance to point at us. Job from the Bible can be taken as a wonderful example for being blameless. He did not let the world blame him and never walked in the path of the unrighteousness.

BEING PURE: Dictionary meaning -- something that is not mixed or adulterated with any other substance or material. Purity means to be genuine and honest and to be free from things that could manipulate or adulterate us and would make us impure. This world is not an easy place to live in with a pure heart and a pure soul. However, we know that our Lord was crucified for us and with His blood has made us pure and holy. The Scripture says, Be pure, because He is pure. Matthew 5:8 says, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God".

BEING INNOCENT: Dictionary meaning – Honest, blameless, guilt-free. To be innocent is to be pure in heart and blameless. Just by doing good things you do not get a license to be innocent. Romans 3:23 says, All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. God searches our hearts because the scripture says that the heart of a man is anything but pure.

We need a spirituality-based counter-culture to survive in this destructive and ungodly world. But remember it should be totally based on the Word of God. So go out in the world and be Blameless, Pure and Innocent in the sight of the Lord and say courageously – follow ME as I follow CHRIST.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

In Luke 15-11:32, we read about the parable of the Prodigal Son. It tells of the younger son in a family, who asks for his inheritance from his father. This son leaves for a distant land, where he squanders all in debauchery, has to take up the work of herding swine, and is even reduced to hungering for the food of swine. He finally comes to his senses and decides to return home, if only to work for his father as a hired laborer. As he nears home, his father takes the positive step of welcoming him, even holding a feast. The older brother, who had remained at home working, resents the mercy shown. But the father says that they should rejoice because the son who was dead now lives.

Here are some thoughts on this parable that emerged from a discussion among the youth of our Church during a youth meeting:

- 1) God is ever forgiving - he will welcome us back no matter how far we go. The prodigal son took his share and his scope of getting anything more was finished. But father had unlimited love and luxury still to offer.
- 2) Even if we have committed a mistake, we still have hope. In a way, repenting after committing a mistake is an opportunity to have a better future and to never repeat that mistake again. It also helps the love and faith to grow stronger i.e. to jump high; you need to bend down a little. People, who have been born into Christian faith already, take this privilege for granted but people from different faiths that have experienced God - their faith is stronger.

3) The prodigal son was taken back into the father's household only because he realized at some point that he was in the wrong place and decided to humble himself and go back. There cannot be forgiveness without confession and repentance.

4) The older son never asked for his share but still he got his share. Sometimes, God gives you blessings that you haven't asked for but he knows you deserve, maybe because of someone else's prayers.

5) We should use the resources (spiritual and material) that we have, wisely. Because they are our inheritance from our father so we are accountable to him.

Do you have any views on the message of this parable? What do you think? We would love to hear your thoughts. Send them to us at ablazeyof@gmail.com.



Ablazer of the Month

My Story My Voice



SIS. ALICE MATHEW

Sharon Fellowship Church, Sabarmati

I extend my greetings and heartfelt thanks to every person who's reading my testimony today. I pray that my story becomes an inspiration to you every time you read or narrate my story. My life is nothing without God's hand working miracles and that is exactly what I want you to experience with me in this small article.

I was born in a Marthoma family. I knew Bible, but faith wasn't so important for me at that time. One night, I saw the Cross in my dream. I saw the crucified Lord and I knew he had come just for me. I was 21 then and mature enough to decide for myself. I decided to leave my sins behind and follow the cross. Growing up, I got the privilege to testify my Lord, who is my redeemer, my Saviour who shed his blood for my sins, through water baptism. I believed every word of it. From that day to this day, He is my good Lord and Father and I am His daughter.

I knew this journey wasn't going to be easy. God never promised us an easy life. But he has definitely promised us salvation. He strengthened me in difficult situations and delivered me from problems. That is how my faith grew stronger, everyday! I learnt that Faith is necessary – to be saved and to live. Life was getting better and my faith was getting stronger. But life is also about tests and speed breakers ...

... I was diagnosed with breast cancer in the year 2010. Accepting the truth was the hardest part for me. But I would have been weaker if I did not have my loving family and church by my side. Many times, I had grieved my Lord through my words and deeds. But my Lord did not forsake me. At times, I asked myself – Why did this happen after coming to Faith? Wasn't I supposed to live a problem-free Christian life? What would I or God gain anything by putting me in this situation? But I decided to fight the situation by reminding myself, I have come so far in life holding His hand. I have to move on. Faith is about never turning back – not even in this serious illness!

My church prayed for me. My family stood by my side. And my God decided to do a miracle. When doctors give up the case – my God takes up the case. Healing was right there waiting for me. The only way to get there was Strong faith and waiting upon the Lord. I did pray with a clean heart and tears in my heart. But the whole situation was a test – a temporary grief. He bore my suffering and took up my pain. He comforted me like a mother. So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand (Isa 41:10). Because the Lord held my right hand, I could stand so far with courage and hope. Through my experience, I could understand that though God allows us to pass through suffering, He saves us so that we will come out as pure as gold. As Job said, Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him. (Job 13:15).

Today, I am a cancer survivor and am living a life with a beautiful testimony about my great God. I am grateful for everyday I spend with my family and church and most importantly – thanking Him for this deliverance. Life is much better now and Faith, stronger than ever. The lesson that I learnt is to never step back. When you hold on, you become stronger and you learn more. From little to abundance – that is how my Lord works. He still gives me small punishments so that I may walk in His ways.

I believe I am chosen by God. He chose me to speak out to you all. My heart goes out to every person who is struggling with pain right now. I just want to say, do not lose faith. Gather courage. God is never late and never remains angry for long. He has his own special ways to bless his favorite people. I was very glad when I got this opportunity to share my experience through Ablaze. I request the readers to pray for me so that I may run with perseverance the race marked out for me. God bless you all.