



# CHURCH OF GOD BANNER



[www.onalaskachurchofgod.com](http://www.onalaskachurchofgod.com)

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## A DIFFERENT ENDING TO THE GRASSHOPPER AND THE ANT

*Sherrie Newton*

A mother of a 8 year old boy, Mark, received a phone call in the middle of the afternoon. It was the teacher from her son's school.

"Mrs. Smith, something unusual happened today in your son's third grade class. Your son did something that surprised me so much that I thought you should know about it immediately."

Mother's seldom want to hear from their child's teacher in the middle of the day. The mother was uneasy and nervous by such a beginning to a phone call. "What now?" the mother wondered. Jimmy was eight years old and was not afraid to state his thoughts and opinion and had been in the past, disciplined for speaking out in class.

The teacher continued, "I have been teaching for many years and nothing like this has happened until now. This morning I was teaching a lesson on creative writing. And as I always do, I tell the story of the ant and the grasshopper. The ant works hard all summer and stores up plenty of food. But the grasshopper plays all summer and does no work. Then winter comes. The grasshopper begins



to starve because he has no food. So he hops to the ants house and begins to beg. 'Please Mr. Ant, you have much food please let me eat, too.' Now boys and girls your job is to write the ending to the story.

Your son, Mark, raised his hand. "Teacher, may I draw a picture?"

"Well, yes, Mark, if you like, you may draw a picture. But first you must write the ending to the story."

The papers came in. As in all the years past, most of the students said that the ant shared his food through the winter and both the ant and the grasshopper lived.

As always, a few children said, 'The ant said, "No, Mr. Grasshopper. You should have worked in the summer and not played. Now, I have just enough food for myself." So the ant lived and the grasshopper died.

But your son ended the story in a way different from any other child, ever. He wrote, "So the ant gave all of his food to the grasshopper; the grasshopper lived through the winter. But the ant died."

And the picture?

At the bottom of the page, Mark had drawn three crosses. "Jesus gave up his life so that we might live eternally."



## RANK HAS ITS PRIVILEGES

As the crowded airliner is about to take off, the peace is shattered by a five-year-old boy who picks that moment to throw a wild temper tantrum. No matter what his frustrated, embarrassed mother does to try to calm him down, the boy continues to scream furiously and kick the seats around him.

Suddenly, from the rear of the plane, an older man in the uniform of an Air Force General is seen slowly walking forward up the aisle. Stopping the flustered mother with an upraised hand, the white-haired, courtly, soft-spoken General leans down and, motioning toward his chest, whispers something into the boy's ear.

Instantly, the boy calms down, gently takes his mother's hand, and quietly fastens his seat belt.

All the other passengers burst into spontaneous applause. As the General slowly makes his way back to his seat, one of the cabin attendants touches his sleeve.

"Excuse me, General," she asks quietly, "but could I ask you what magic words you used on that little boy?"

The old man smiles serenely and gently confides, "I showed him my pilot's wings, service stars, and battle ribbons, and explained that they entitle me to throw one passenger out the plane door, on any flight I choose." *Received from Jim Sparks*



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## THE PARABLE OF THE DONUTS

There was a certain Professor of Religion named Dr. Christianson who taught at a small college in the Western United States.

Dr. Christianson taught the required survey course in Christianity at this particular institution. Every student was required to take this course his or her freshman year regardless of his or her major.

Although Dr. Christianson tried hard to communicate the essence of the gospel in his class, he found that most of his students looked upon the course as nothing but required drudgery. Despite his best efforts, most students refused to take Christianity seriously.

This year, Dr. Christianson had a special student named Steve. Steve was only a freshman but was studying with the intent of going onto seminary for the ministry. Steve was popular, he was well liked, and he was an imposing physical specimen. He was now the starting center on the school football team and was the best student in the professor's class.

One day, Dr. Christianson asked Steve to stay after class so he could talk with him. "How many pushups can you do?"

Steve said, "I do about 200 every night."

"200? That's pretty good, Steve," Dr. Christianson said. "Do you think you could do 300?"

Steve replied, "I don't know...I've never done 300 at a time."

"Do you think you could?" again asked Dr. Christianson.

"Well, I can try," said Steve.

"Can you do 300 in sets of 10? I have a class project in mind, and I need you to do about 300 pushups in sets of ten for this to work. Can you do it? I need you to tell me you can do it," said the professor.

Steve said, "Well...I think I can...yeah, I can do it."

Dr. Christianson said, "Good! I need you to do this on Friday. Let me explain what I have in mind."

Friday came, and Steve got to class early and sat in the front of the room. When class started, the professor pulled out a big box of donuts. These weren't the



normal kinds of donuts, they were the extra fancy BIG kind, with cream centers and frosting swirls.

Everyone was pretty excited it was Friday, the last class of the day, and they were going to get an early start on the weekend with a party in Dr. Christianson's class.

Dr. Christianson went to the first girl in the first row and asked, "Cynthia, do you want to have one of these donuts?"

Cynthia said, "Yes."

Dr. Christianson then turned to Steve and asked, "Steve, would you do ten pushups so that Cynthia can have a donut?"

"Sure." Steve jumped down from his desk to do a quick ten. Then Steve again sat in his desk. Dr. Christianson put a donut on Cynthia's desk. Dr. Christianson then went to Joe, the next person, and asked, "Joe, do you want a donut?" Joe said, "Yes."

Dr. Christianson asked, "Steve would you do ten pushups so Joe can have a donut?" Steve did ten pushups, and Joe got a donut.

And so it went, down the first aisle, Steve did ten pushups for every person before they got their donut, and down the sec-

ond aisle, till Dr. Christianson came to Scott. Scott was on the basketball team and in as good condition as Steve. He was very popular and never lacking for female companionship. When the professor asked, "Scott do you want a donut?"

Scott's reply was, "Well, can I do my own pushups?"

Dr. Christianson said, "No, Steve has to do them."

Then Scott said, "Well, I don't want one then."

Dr. Christianson shrugged and then turned to Steve and asked, "Steve, would you do ten pushups so Scott can have a donut he doesn't want?" With perfect obedience, Steve started to do ten pushups.

Scott said, "HEY! I said I didn't want one!"

Dr. Christianson said, "Look, this is my classroom, my class, my desks, and these are my donuts. Just leave it on the desk if you don't want it." And he put a donut on Scott's desk.

Now by this time, Steve had begun to slow down a little. He just stayed on the floor between sets because it took too much effort to be getting up and down. You could start to see a little perspiration coming out around his brow. Dr. Christianson started down the third row. Now the students were beginning to get a little angry.

Dr. Christianson asked Jenny, "Jenny, do you want a donut?"

Sternly, Jenny said, "No." Then Dr. Christianson asked Steve, "Steve, would you do ten more pushups so Jenny can have a donut that she doesn't want?" Steve did ten, and Jenny got a donut. By now, a growing sense of uneasiness filled the room. The students were beginning to say "No" and there were all these uneaten donuts

*See donuts pg. 4*



# ALASKA'S HAPPENINGS

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP AND SERVICE

### SUNDAYS

MORNING WORSHIP 8:15 am  
& 11:00 am  
SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:45 am

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### MONDAY'S

BIBLE STUDY: DANIEL: 1:00 pm

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### SATURDAY MARCH 10th

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING:  
9:00 am

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LADIES LUNCHEON: 11:00 am

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### MONDAY, MARCH 12th

TEA & PRAISE: 10:00 am

@

CHEHALIS SEVENTH DAY  
ADVENTIST CHURCH

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### SUNDAY, MARCH 18th

FOOD BANK SUNDAY

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## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### THURSDAY, MARCH 15th

AMERICAN LEGION: 6:00 pm

@

COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

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### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21st

SENIORS ON THE GO: 12:00 NOON

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### SUNDAY, MARCH 24th

COMMUNITY SINGSPARATION:

6:00 pm

@ COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

## GOD BOXES

I have in my hands two boxes,  
Which God gave me to hold.  
He said, "Put all your sorrows in  
the black box,  
And all your joys into the gold."

I heeded His words, and in the  
two boxes  
Both my joys and sorrows I  
stored,  
But though the gold became  
heavier each day,  
The black was as light as before.



With curiosity, I opened the black.  
I wanted to find out why,  
And I saw, in the base of the box, a  
hole  
Which my sorrows had fallen out by.

I showed the hole to God and  
mused,  
"I wonder where my sorrows could  
be?"  
He smiled a gentle smile and said,  
My child, they're here with me."

I asked God why He gave me the  
boxes,  
Why the gold and the black with  
the hole?  
"My child, the gold is for you to  
count your blessings.  
The black is for you to let go."



## FENCE MAN

There was a large group of people gathered. On one side of the group stood a man: Jesus. On the other side stood another: Satan. Separating them was a fence running through the group. The scene set, both Jesus and Satan began calling to people in the group. One by one, each having made up his or her own mind went to either Jesus or Satan. This kept going for a time. Soon enough, Jesus had gathered around him a group of people from the larger crowd, as did Satan.

One man joined neither group. He climbed the fence that was there and sat on it. Jesus and his people left and disappeared, and so too did Satan and his people. The man on the fence sat alone. As this man sat, Satan came back, looking for something which he appeared to have lost. The man said, "Have you lost something?" Satan looked straight at him and replied, "No, there you are. Come with me." The man said, "But I sat on the fence. I chose neither you nor him." Satan said, "That's okay; I own the fence."



*"Whoever is not with me is against me." - Matthew 12:30*

THE PARABLE OF THE  
DONUTS

on the desks. Steve also had to really put forth a lot of extra effort to get these pushups done for each donut. There began to be a small pool of sweat on the floor beneath his face. His arms and brow were beginning to get red because of the physical effort involved.

Dr. Christianson started down the fourth row. During his class, however, some students from other classes had wandered in and



sat down on the steps along the radiators that ran down the sides of the room. When

the professor realized this, he did a quick count and saw that now there were 34 students in the room.

He started to worry if Steve would be able to make it.

Dr. Christianson went on to the next person and the next and the next. Near the end of that row, Steve was really having a rough time. He was taking a lot more time to complete each set.

A few moments later, Jason, a recent transfer student, came to the room and was about to come in when all the students yelled in one voice, "NO! Don't come in! Stay out!" Jason didn't know what was going on.

Steve picked up his head and said, "No, let him come."

Professor Christianson said, "You realize that if Jason comes in you will have to do ten pushups for him?"

Steve said, "Yes, let him come in. Give him a donut."

Dr. Christianson said, "Okay, Steve, I'll let you get Jason's out of the way right now.

Jason, do you want a donut?" Jason, new to the room hardly knew what was going on.

"Yes," he said, "give me a donut."

"Steve, will you do ten pushups so that Jason can have a donut?" Steve did ten pushups very slowly and with great effort. Jason, bewildered, was handed a donut and sat down.

Dr. Christianson finished the fourth row then started on those visitors seated by the heaters. Steve's arms were now shaking with each pushup in a struggle to lift himself against the force of gravity. Sweat was profusely dropping off of his face and, by this time, there was no sound except his heavy breathing. There was not a dry eye in the room.

The very last two students in the room were two young women, both cheerleaders, and very popular. Dr. Christianson went to Linda, the second to last, and asked, "Linda, do you want a doughnut?"

Linda said, very sadly, "No, thank you."

Professor Christianson quietly asked, "Steve, would you do ten pushups so that Linda can have a donut she doesn't want?" Grunting from the effort, Steve did ten very slow pushups for Linda.

Then Dr. Christianson turned to the last girl, Susan. "Susan, do you want a donut?" Susan, with tears flowing down her face, began to cry. "Dr. Christianson, why can't I help him?"

Dr. Christianson, with tears of his own, said, "No, Steve has to do it alone. I have given him this task and he is in charge of seeing that everyone has an opportunity for a donut whether they want it or not.

When I decided to have a party this last day of class, I looked at my grade book. Steve is the only student with a perfect grade. Everyone else has failed a test, skipped class, or offered me inferior work.

Steve told me that when a

player messes up in football practice, he must do pushups. I told Steve that none of you could come to my party unless he paid the price by doing your pushups. He and I made a deal for your sakes.

Steve, would you do ten pushups so Susan can have a donut?" As Steve very



slowly finished his last pushup, with the understanding that he had accomplished all that was required of him, having done 350 pushups, his arms buckled beneath him and he fell to the floor.

Dr. Christianson turned to the room and said. "And so it was, that our Savior, Jesus Christ, on the cross, pled to the Father, 'into thy hands I commend my spirit.' With the understanding that He had done everything that was required of Him, he yielded up His life. And like some of those in this room, many of us leave the gift on the desk, uneaten."

Two students helped Steve up off the floor and to a seat, physically exhausted, but wearing a thin smile. "Well done, good and faithful servant," said the professor, adding, "Not all sermons are preached in words."

Turning to his class the professor said, "My wish is that you might understand and fully comprehend all the riches of grace and mercy that have been given to you through the sacrifice of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for us all, now and forever.

Whether or not we choose to accept His gift to us, the price has been paid. Wouldn't you be foolish and ungrateful to leave it laying on the desk?"

Q  
U  
I  
Z



*For two months in a row no one has been able to come up with the answer to the quiz.*

*Last month's answer was Joseph the husband of Mary. His story is found in the first and second chapters of Matthew.*

*I'll give everyone a brake and not have a quiz this month.*

## GET A GRIP:

### BEFORE AND AFTER

KATHLEEN A. MULKINS

In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul calls the "Word of God" the "Sword" we are to take into spiritual battle. Learning to rightly use the "Sword" is very important. One of the most common errors (and one Satan loves to use) is taking scripture out of context. This is most often done with "key verses" that have been memorized. Out of context, it's easy to "read into" what we want to find. In context, one will "read out of" the Word the correct meanings.

This was brought home to me when I quoted Philippians 4:19 (a favorite of people raising funds for missions) **Philippians 4:19 (NASB)** "And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." I quoted that in reference to God meeting my needs and someone challenged me about the context. By reading the "before and after", the context, I realized that Paul was assuring the ones who had sacrificially given to meet his needs that God would meet their

needs. Earlier, Paul talks about "learning to be content in whatever situation he found himself".

I had to ask myself, had I been giving as God had directed me? (Sometimes people put guilt trips to motivate giving, not trusting God to direct the giving hearts to give). I also had to ask, was I content to remain in a "need" state if that was God's plan for me? The promise is that God will supply our needs, but not necessarily our wants. Sometimes it's hard for us to distinguish what our "needs" from our "wants". (But it very OK to ask God for anything, just trust him with what is to be given.)



Studying the "before and after" is a good habit to get into. That's the context. There are stories in the gospels that, standing alone might be understandable or might make you say "huh?" A look at the situation before and the situation after will help you understand what the author (and the Author) intends for you to understand. The better understanding you have of why it was put in the Bible, the easier it will be for you to understand how to apply that lesson to your own life.

Mark gives a series of stories in chapter 2. In the middle is the question of working on the Sabbath (his disciples were picking heads of grain and "threshing" them in their hands in order to eat the grains). Preceding that, Jesus is questioned about "eating and drinking" and following is about his healing on the

Sabbath. Three stories in a row of Jesus being criticized by the religious leaders, the Pharisees that resulted in their decision to get rid of him. But back up one more story and you find the real rub. Jesus calls Levi, the tax collector (a horrible incorrigible sinner from the Pharisee's point of view) to "follow me" and Jesus proceeds to dine with "sinners." This behavior is turning the "religious" thinking on their heads. They avoided associating with sinners (vs 16), they fasted (vs 18) and they followed "the law" to the extent that compassion of was often ignored (vs 3:4). All of these stories follow a series of his growing popularity because of the healing and teaching He had been doing. The key verse is 2:17. Jesus turned the criticism of what He was doing into criticism of the Pharisee's attitudes.

When we read the stories of the Pharisees criticism of Jesus it's easy to view them as the bad guys. But if you look at in context, you might, (especially if you "grew up in church") discover that them is us. Do you think of yourself as a "righteous" person? Do others see you as a "righteous" person? Or are you a sinner in need of repentance for envy, self-righteousness ("the I may be bad but I'm not as bad as that guy"), or lack of compassion?

Take a step further back before and after and you will notice a transition in Jesus' ministry. When you read the "before and after", verses or paragraphs or chapters, you will find more to think about and perhaps get some insights into what Jesus wants to **you** do as a result of your study. Do you need to change an attitude, behavior or action? Application is the strength of any study. Applying scripture correctly is a accurately handling the Word of God **(2 Timothy 2:15)**