

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

CASE STORY

We're in... Unit 7: The Law-Giving God

Unit 7 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"What Are God's Laws Like?

God's Laws Are Perfect!" PFI ESV Songs 7, Tracks 3,4

Unit 7 Bible Verse and Song: Psalm 19:7,9,11, ESV

"The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; (sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned;) in keeping them there is great reward."

PFI ESV Songs 7, Tracks 5,6

Our story is called:

The Case of the Hole Under the Stairs.

As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

1. Who lived in the hole? Who went to talk to her? Why?
2. What did she pray? What happened?

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 2:

God Created Us Perfect Law-Keepers, But We Are All Lawbreakers

God created Adam and Eve without sin. They kept God's laws perfectly. They loved Him as they should; and, they loved each other as they should. They pleased God with their "works." That is, they pleased God with how they lived because they loved Him perfectly in their hearts, and they obeyed Him and His good laws perfectly in their lives.

But when Adam and Eve rebelled against God, their hearts and lives became sinful. No longer could they please God with their works, because no longer could they live perfectly. They were spoiled with sin.

Sin didn't stop there. It spread down to all of Adam and Eve's children, too. It even spreads down to us, too. Yes, just like Adam and Eve, we have sinful hearts. We break God's good laws with our thoughts, words, and actions.

God is good and He hates sin. God would not be good if He did not hate it. But, oh, how terrible is God fair punishment for breaking His laws! It is death: separation from Him and His good ways forever! This is what we all deserve.

Yet, God is so merciful to sinners like us! He sent His Son, Jesus, to live a perfect live here on earth and offer it up as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior. Because of Jesus, our sins can be forgiven and we can have eternal life with God!

Our story takes place in the late 1700's in a little village near the cold, stony shore of Udale Bay, up in the Scottish Highlands.

Resolis or "The Cape of Light" in Gaelic (the original language of Scotland), was the name of this quiet village of poor fishermen, farmers, quarrymen, shepherds and weavers. This story about Hector M'Phail: a man the Lord used to make Resolis worthy of its name.

Hector was the pastor of the little church in Resolis and he was a man on the move for God! He spent his time studying the Bible and caring for the people of Resolis. He prayed for them and preached to them. And he visited them at their homes.

There were no cars or buses or even trains in the Scottish Highlands back then. You walked or you rode your pony. And that's just what Hector did. He mounted his little white pony and rode miles up and down the twisty-turny mountains, in every kind of weather, to visit the shepherds, fishermen, quarrymen and weavers and talk to them about God.

Why didn't Hector just stay put in his little house and his little church in Resolis and wait for the people to come to him? Because Hector M'Phail had a message that wouldn't wait. He traveled those lonely moors to bring the message of God's mercy shown to sinners. "God created us to know and love Him. He created us to live in perfect happiness according to His good laws. But we have all turned away from Him and become lawbreakers," he would tell them. "We deserve eternal punishment. But God sent His Son Jesus to take the punishment for the sins of all who turn and trust in Him. Accept this gift of God's mercy!" he urged them. And many a person did just that. And Resolis really became a Cape of Light—with the "light" of God's forgiveness through Jesus shining in the hearts of many.

News of this man on the move for God spread. Before long, others looked to his for godly wisdom. So, three times a year, Hector rode his little, white pony over

BIBLE VERSE

How do I know this is true? The Bible tells me so!

Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse: Psalm 14:2-3

The LORD looks down from heaven on the human race to see if there is one who is wise, one who seeks God. All have turned away; all alike have become corrupt. There is no one who does good, not even one.

hundred of miles of difficult, lonely and even dangerous roads to discuss important matters with other church leaders in the big city of Edinburgh.

On one of these trips, Hector happened to stop at a tiny inn in the wild Badenoch Mountains. Hungry and tired, he looked forward to a warm meal and a soft bed, but he made it his first job to care for those around him. He wanted to make sure they knew about Jesus. So, before he ate bite of his meal, he called the innkeeper and family to gather for a time of Bible reading and prayer.

The family gathered around the Bible, ready to learn from Hector. But Hector looked around him and asked, "Is everyone from your household here?"

"Yes, this is everyone," the innkeeper answered.

"All?" Hector asked again.

"Yes," answered the man, "we are all here; there is a little girl in the kitchen, but she is so dirty that she is not fit to be seen."

"Call in the girl," said Hector said, "we will wait till she comes."

"No," the innkeeper replied. "She is too dirty!"

But Hector insisted again. "That little girl who does the dishes needs to know about God, too," refusing to begin until the girl joined them.

At last the kitchen girl was fetched and Hector began reading from the Bible and praying for them all.

Afterwards, Hector spoke to the little girl.. He wanted to know if she knew God's message of mercy and believed in it.

"Who made you?" he asked her, but she didn't know.

"Do you know that you have a soul?" he asked her.

"No, sir. What is one?" she answered.

"Do you ever pray?" he asked her.

"No, sir, I don't even know what that means," she said.

Hector was very upset by the little girl's answers. It seemed she knew nothing at all about God! She needed to know God's laws! She needed to know she was a sinner who needed forgiveness! Most of all, she needed to know how to receive that forgiveness through Jesus. But who was there who could help her learn? Oh, how Hector wanted this little girl to know and accept this gift of God's mercy!

What was Hector to do? This poor girl couldn't even read, so he couldn't give her a Bible to help her learn about God. The innkeeper's family cared so little for her, so he couldn't

count on them to teach her about God. There was only one thing to do: he, himself, would teach her, but he was due in Edinburgh in only a few days. What could be done? Before long an idea came to mind.

"Listen, I am going to Edinburgh, and I am going to bring you back a little scarf. I have something I want you to promise me to do each day and night while I am gone," Hector told the little girl.

"What it is, sir?" the girl asked eagerly.

"I want you to begin to pray to God. Each day and night I want you to pray: 'Lord, show me myself.' Seeing yourself as God sees you is the first step in coming to know Him. Will you promise to do this for me?"

The little kitchen girl eagerly agreed. A new piece of clothing of any kind was something she rarely enjoyed. What he gave her to do sounded interesting and certainly easy. She would begin that very night. So, after all the dishes were washed and the pots scrubbed, the little girl crawled into the hole beneath the stairs that was her "room", lay down on her straw bed and for the first time in her life, prayed to God. "Lord, show me myself," she asked, just as Mr. M'Phail had told her.

The next morning, Hector arose and continued the long trip to Edinburgh. For two weeks, Hector and other leaders discussed important church matters, then at last it was time to head home. Before leaving the city, he stopped in the market to buy a pretty scarf for the little girl as he promised.

Up and up into the Badenoch Mountains went Hector and his pony, until he reached the inn. He was eager to see what had happened to the little girl.

Just as before, Hector gathered the innkeeper's family together for evening devotions. And just as before, the kitchen girl did not join them for devotions. "Where is your kitchen girl? Why doesn't she join us for devotions?" Hector asked.

"Well, sir, she has been of little use to us since the last time you were here," the innkeeper's wife told him. "She has done nothing but sit and cry night and day, and now she is so weak and exhausted she cannot get out of bed. That is where she is now."

"Take me to her," exclaimed Hector, certain of the girl's problem. She led him to the hole under the stairs where he found the poor girl lying on her bed of straw.

"Well, my child, here is the scarf from Edinburgh I

promised you," Hector said to her. "I hope you have kept your promise and said the prayer I taught you."

"I could never take your present. You have already given such a dear gift," the little girl replied. "You taught me a prayer and God has answered it. He has shown me myself and it is a sad sight! How rebellious and selfish I am! I do not live as I should! What should I do?"

Hector rejoiced at the girl's confession! She had had no Bible to read nor a family to help her know God, but God by His Holy Spirit, had been answering her prayer and at work in her heart.

"God has shown her she was a sinner, surely now He will show her He was her Savior!" thought Hector. Then to her he said, "My child, I have good news for you. It is true. You, like all people, have turned away from God and become a lawbreaker. But God sent His Son Jesus to take the punishment for the sins of all who turn and trust in Him," he told her. He forgives all their sins and makes them His people forever."

"I have a new prayer for you to pray now.. Pray: 'Lord, show me Yourself'. He will be as faithful to answer this prayer as He was the first one," he told her. The girl gratefully agreed to begin to pray this new prayer.

Many years passed after Hector's stay in that little inn in the Badedoch Mountains. Hector, the young man on the move, had become Hector the feeble old man at home. No longer could he travel many miles each day to visit others. Now they would have to come to visit him; and so they did. One such visitor traveled by foot many miles to see him: a stately woman bearing a large package. Sir, there's a woman at the door who wishes to see you," announced his servant to him one day.

"Bring her in, by all means," Hector said.

"Good day, sir," greeted the woman. "I am the little girl from the inn in the Badedoch Mountains you cared for long ago," she told him. "You taught me two wonderful prayers and through them, I came to know Jesus as my Savior."

Then, opening the package, she gave Hector a beautiful, hand-woven linen cloth. "Long ago you came to me with a scarf," she reminded him. "Now I have one for you. I wove this long ago, hoping that one day I would get to give it to you. I made this long journey Risolis to give it to you and to tell you myself the wonderful things the Lord used you to do in my life," she told him.

How these words made Hector! Once more, the Lord had used this man of Resolis to bring the light of His forgiveness through Jesus to someone who desperately needed it!

Our Bible Truth is: God Created Us as Perfect Lawkeepers, but We Are All Lawbreakers

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 14:2-3

"The LORD looks down from heaven on the human race to see if there is one who is wise, one who seeks God. All have turned away; all alike have become corrupt. There is no one who does good, not even one."

Nothing long; nothing fancy; just two short, simple prayers were all that little girl prayed. Yet what a great work the Lord did in her heart! It was a work that changed her life forever.

What about you and me? What work is there to do in our hearts? Do we need the Lord to show us ourselves? Do we need the Lord to show us Himself? Let's praise God for being so willing and able to save rebellious lawbreakers like us! Let's pray that He would show us ourselves and show us Himself that we might repent of our sins and trust in Him as Savior.

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:
 After Adam and Eve rebelled against God, they had to work even harder to please God. Only if they had enough good works could they ever be His people again.
 Answer: False! They could never have enough good works of their own. Only through the promised Savior (Jesus) could anyone become God's people.

2. Crack the Case Questions

a. Who lived in the hole? Who went to talk to her? Why?
 Answer: The little kitchen girl. Hector M'Phail. He wanted to make sure she knew the good news of Jesus.

b. What did she pray? What happened?
 Answer: Hector asked her to pray, "Show me myself, then, "Show me Thyself" to God. The Lord used these prayers to help this girl see that she was a sinner, to repent of her sins and trust in Jesus as her Savior.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse:
Psalm 14:2-3
 The LORD looks down from ___ on the human race to see if there is one who is wise, one who seeks God. All have turned away; all alike have become ____. There is ___ ___ who does good, not even one.
 Answers: heaven; corrupt; no one.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

At the Cross
PFI ESV Songs 7, Tracks 11,12

Verse 2
 Was it for crimes that I had done
 He groaned upon the tree?
 Amazing pity, grace unknown,
 And love beyond degree!

Refrain
 At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light,
 And the burden of my heart rolled away,
 It was there by faith I received my sight,
 And now I am happy all the day.

Verse 3
 Well might the sun in darkness hide,
 And shut his glories in,
 When Christ the mighty Maker died
 For man, the creature's sin. *Refrain*

Words: Isaac Watts Music: Ralph E. Hudson

Because we are all lawbreakers, we deserve God's eternal punishment. There will never be anything we can do to earn back eternal life with God. But at the cross where Jesus, the perfect law keeper gave up His life as the payment for all who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him, that we can find forgiveness and eternal life. By His perfect sacrifice, all of "crimes" and "burdens" can be "rolled away" forever. What amazing love! What grace--what kindness that we never deserved! That Jesus, the very Son of God, through whom all things were made, would choose to come suffer and die on the cross to save sinful creatures like you and me. All who have Jesus as their Savior do have reason to be happy all the day, every day! There's is eternal life with God!

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

A=Adoration, C=Confession, T=Thanksgiving, S=Supplication

A God, we praise You for being the God Who Is the Revealer and Forgiver of Sins.

C God, we confess that when You show us ourselves, we see that we are sinners who have rebelled against God. We deserve Your punishment. We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You that You don't just doesn't show us our sins, but offer us forgiveness through Jesus, too.

S God, work in our hearts. Show us the sin of our hearts. Show us Yourself. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

The LORD Looks Down
PFI ESV Songs 7, Track 13

The LORD looks down from heaven,
 On the human race,
 To see if there is one who's wise,
 One who seeks God
 But all have turned away;
 All alike have become corrupt.
 There is no one who does good,
 No, not even one.
 Psalm Fourteen, two and three.

Words adapted from Psalm 14:2-3, HCSB Constance Dever © 2011

Adam and Eve were created with hearts that sought after God. They were perfect law keepers who were not corrupt and did not turn aside from God. But after they rebelled, they and all their children after them turned aside. Yes, the LORD sees everything and knows everything. He knows what is in each of our hearts. We all have sinful hearts and do sinful things. We have all become corrupt with sin. None of us seek after God on our own. But praise God for sending Jesus to be the Savior of sinners like us! Praise God for sending His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts! God gives us hope! He can do in us what we could never do for ourselves!