

Does Jesus Care?

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Are you familiar with the song 'Does Jesus Care?' I hope you realize how true the words to it are. In scripture we see evidence in many places that Jesus does indeed care. In **Luke 23:32-43** we see a wonderful example of this. It shows that Jesus cared about those in need and not just when it was convenient for him.

In this passage he had been beaten and abused by the soldiers before being nailed to the cross. Two criminals were also crucified at the same time. They had probably been beaten too, but I doubt that it was as much as Jesus received. Why? He was called King of the Jews and the Romans would be glad to show the Jews what they thought of them and their king.

As he hung on the cross the priests, Pharisees, and a lot of other people mocked and made fun of his suffering. Even one of the two who were crucified with him laughed and joined in the mockery of Jesus. He was an example of a hard hearted sinner who was about to die and yet, had no repentance or fear of God. The other man rebuked him for his words.

We don't know much about the man, but we know he had heard enough about Jesus to believe in him. When and what did he hear? We don't know, but it was enough that he thought about his life. He admitted that he was a sinner and deserved what he was suffering, but at the same time he said that Jesus was innocent and didn't deserve to die. Then he said, "Lord remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." He confessed that Jesus was Lord.

Remember the situation at the time. They are hanging in agony on the cross and death is not far away. Here was a condemned criminal who was dying for his crimes and sins. Would we have been surprised if Jesus had said, "You've waited too late, or, I'm not feeling like helping anybody now." How many would think a bad man like this was not worth anything? He had lived his life in sin and now was about to die. Sometimes people say, "He got himself into this, let him get himself out."

The Lord was suffering more than the two criminals because he carried our sins with him. Still, he had kind words for this poor suffering man. The promise of life was given to a man who even in this late hour professed faith in Christ. This was not the first person that Jesus had for-

given and had not mentioned baptism. Why? Because the New Testament was not in force until he had died on the cross. (**Hebrews 9:16-17**)

What love Jesus showed, not only to him but to us all. In the midst of his own suffering he took time to bless a man who professed faith in him. It should make us realize that if he had time for a sinner in such circumstances, he has time for us. Faith is still the key that unlocks blessings from God.

Another example is in **Mark 10:13-16**. Children had been brought to Jesus for a blessing but his disciples rebuked them. We don't know why they did this. Maybe they thought that he was tired or that children were a bother. He rebuked his disciples and commanded that the children be brought to him. It says, "he was much displeased." He had not told them to not allow children to come to him. It is sad to say, but some folks today still think that children are a bother and hinder them. They need to read this passage and see what the Lord said. "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." (**Mk 10:14.**)

The church of tomorrow will be the children of today.

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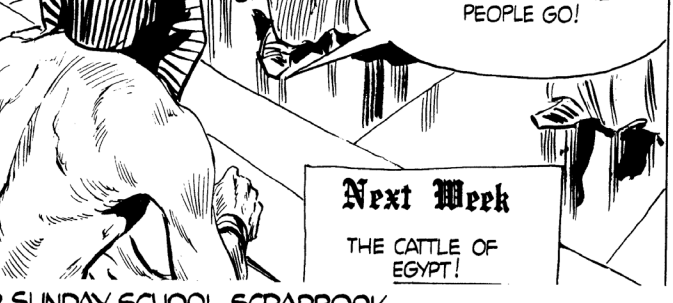
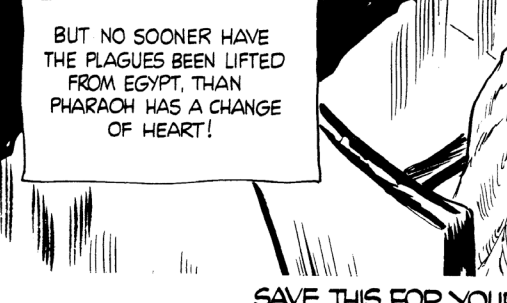
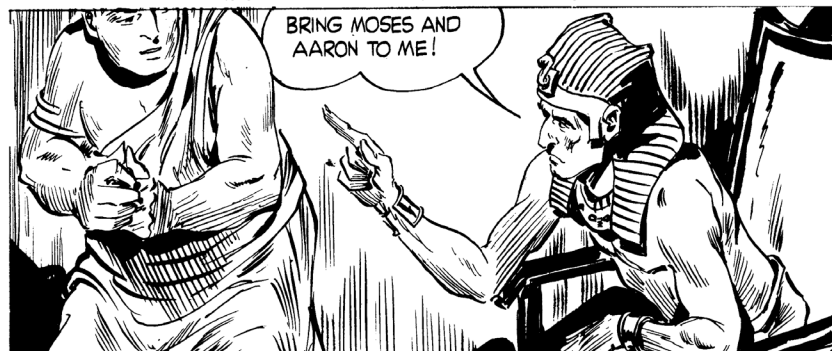
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