

# Believe It, or Not

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian church

**Ezekiel 33** tells about the watchman and of his responsibility to the people. His duty was to warn of danger so that the people would not be caught unprepared. If someone heard the warning and didn't prepare he would die in his sins but the watchman had done his duty. If the watchman didn't warn the people then the watchman was held responsible by God for those who died in their sins.

The Lord told Ezekiel that he was a watchman for Israel. He would be held to the same standard as the watchman on the wall. If he didn't warn the people by telling them of God's word then he would be held accountable. When he told them God's message then he was innocent of the blood of the sinner. Ezekiel was to deliver the message as God gave it, but the response was up to the individual. The same is true for the ministers of today - all they can do is to preach what God has said. To believe it, or not, is up to each person.

In **Exodus 9** Moses warned Pharaoh of a plague of hail that would come the next day. He told them to bring in from the field their cattle and servants to save them from death. Verses 20 - 21 say, "He that feared the word of the Lord among the servants of Pharaoh made his servants and his cattle flee into the houses: And he that regarded not the word of the Lord left his servants and his cattle in the field." It means that some of the Egyptians believed the word of the Lord and that some of them didn't. Those who believed brought their servants and cattle in to safety, while the unbelievers left them in the field. Those who stayed in the field died, while the ones brought inside lived.

Things haven't changed from that day till now. Some people believe God and some do not. Those who believe the bible, which is to say they believe what God says, live a different life than those who don't believe. True believers come in from the field of sin and self-will and seek to be led by the Lord. They don't love the world and place it before God in their lives. The Christian doesn't just go to church but, lives for the Lord everyday. The believer resists the desires of the flesh and asks God

for forgiveness when he fails. No true believer is comfortable with sin and will fight against it daily.

Then there are those who don't believe the word of the Lord. They stay in the old life and the ways of the world. No one, not even God, can tell them what to do. The unbeliever is self-willed and does what he wants. Some fool themselves and say, "I believe in God and I know that I should be in church." But they're not in church and you know why? They don't really believe - no matter how much they say that they do. A person's actions show what they believe, much more than his words do.

Sadly, there are those who come to church who likewise have a problem with believing what God has said. They claim to believe the bible and all that it says. If so, then what about the part where he said to put the Lord first in our lives? What about not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together to worship? Then there is the part about visiting the sick, reading the scriptures, loving each other, and many other commands of the Lord. If they are not obeyed it is because they are not believed, or is it rebellion against God?

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**Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI**

**MONEY IN A FISH'S MOUTH!**



ARAMAIC, THE LANGUAGE WHICH JESUS SPOKE, IS STILL USED IN PARTS OF SYRIA TODAY IN ITS ORIGINAL FORM WITH THE SAME IDIOMATIC PHRASES AND SLANG. ONE OLD EXPRESSION IS "YOU CAN FIND A SHEKEL IN THE MOUTH OF A FISH". MEANING: IF YOU CATCH A GOOD FISH YOU CAN ALWAYS SELL IT EASILY AT THE MARKET. IF A MAN SAID "THERE'S TWENTY SHEKELS IN THE HORN OF MY GOAT." NO ONE WOULD CUT OFF THE HORN LOOKING FOR THE TWENTY SHEKELS—EVERYONE KNEW HE MEANT THE GOAT'S WORTH WAS TWENTY SHEKELS. TODAY, IF A MAN SAYS, "I'VE GOT SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS TIED UP IN MY CAR," WE WOULDN'T SEARCH HIS CAR LOOKING FOR A TIED UP BUNDLE OF MONEY—WITHOUT ANY OTHER EXPLANATION, WE KNOW IT MEANS HE'S SPENT THAT MUCH MONEY ON HIS CAR FOR REPAIRS OR SOMETHING OF THE SORT....



**NEXT WEEK:**  
THE WICKED QUEEN WHOSE NAME LIVES ON IN POSTERITY TO THIS VERY DAY!

WHEN JESUS WAS IN CAPERNAUM AND THE ROMAN TAX-COLLECTOR ASKED FOR THE HEAD TAX EVERYONE PAID TO ROME (TWO SILVER COINS, WORTH A SHEKEL), JESUS TOLD PETER, WHO WAS A FISHERMAN, TO GO CATCH A FISH WHICH WOULD HAVE A PIECE OF MONEY IN ITS MOUTH (MATT. 17:27). MANY AUTHORITIES ARE AGREED HE WAS USING THE SLANG OF THE DAY—IN OTHER WORDS, TO CATCH A FISH GOOD ENOUGH TO SELL ON THE MARKET FOR A SHEKEL AND THUS PAY THEIR TAX. DURING THE 1ST CENTURY A.D., WHEN THE GREEKS WERE TRANSLATING THE GOSPELS INTO THEIR OWN LANGUAGE, THEY HAD NO UNDERSTANDING OF THE TRUE MEANING OF THESE ARAMAIC EXPRESSIONS AND SO THE STORY CAME OUT AS THOUGH PETER ACTUALLY CAUGHT A FISH SWIMMING AROUND WITH A PIECE OF MONEY IN ITS MOUTH—WHICH DOESN'T MEAN JESUS COULDN'T WORK A MIRACLE IN THIS CASE, FOR HE RAISED THE DEAD AND HEALED MANY WHO WERE "BLIND, LAME, AND HALT"—BUT IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE HE NEVER PERFORMED MIRACLES FOR HIS OWN COMFORT AND BENEFIT!

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