

Daily Devotion For March 7, 2023

“Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.” Luke 23:34

Last Thursday for our evening Bible Study, I closed with a story on how Satan tries to condemn us for past failures and sins and how God forgives us. I was asked by a member of our study group for a copy of it, so I thought I would share it again with you here.

It’s a story of a brother and sister by the name of Jimmy and Sally who lived on a farm with their parents. One day Jimmy’s father made him a sling shot in which to play with. Jimmy was so happy that he began practicing hitting bottles and cans, and any other targets he could find. The problem was, he wasn’t a very good shot!

And then one day, Jimmy and Sally were walking home from school and he saw some tin cans on the ground. He reached into his pocket, pulled out his slingshot and aimed for cans, but unfortunately he hit the families pet duck and killed it. Jimmy was so scared and filled with guilt that he picked up the duck and hid it behind the barn hoping that no one would find out.

Then that evening they were sitting down for dinner, and the mother says to Sally, will you help me clean the dishes. And Sally says, Oh mother, Jimmy wants to help with the dishes, and she gets up and goes over to Jimmy and whispers in his ear, remember the duck. And so Jimmy gets up and goes to help his mother with the dishes.

A couple of afternoons later, the father says to Jimmy and Sally, it’s a beautiful day, let’s go fishing, but the mother says no, Sally needs to help me prepare dinner for tonight. And Sally just looks at Jimmy and smiles.

For about two weeks, Jimmy went around doing all kinds of things, because Sally would let him forget about the duck. Then one day, Jimmy couldn’t take it anymore and goes to his father and says, I killed the pet duck dad and I’m sorry.

The father looks at Jimmy and says, I know that. I saw you through the window and I saw you hit the duck. He said, I know you didn’t do it on purpose. He said, the moment you did that I forgave you. But he said, I was wondering how long you were going to allow Sally make you a slave to the thing that you did.

Thought For Today: When you and I came to Jesus, he forgave us. But sometimes we let Satan come up and whisper in our ear, remember the duck. We have allowed Satan to take away the joy of our salvation, we have allowed Satan to rob us of peace and happiness that God intends for us to experience. And the beautiful thing is that at the cross of Calvary, God's forgiveness is total and absolute.

Today's Prayer Focus: Praise God that 2000 years ago, Our Heavenly Father sent his only son Jesus to earth to pay the penalty for our sins that we might know his unconditional love, the forgiveness of sins, and the free gift of eternal life. We all sin and fall short of the glory of God, but Christ paid the penalty for our sins by suffering and dying on the cross to cleanse us of our sins. Deo Volente.