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FARMER BROWN'S PATIENCE

(episode 006)

theme: Be patience & diligent in doing what is right **scripture:** Galatians 6:9 **quote:** "And let us not lose heart in doing good for in due time we shall reap if we do

not grow weary." Galatians 6:9 **summary:** This "Radio Theater of the Air" features Farmer Brown and his desire to eat corn. His friends stop over to see him and are initially eager to help him grow some. But little by little, as the whole process takes longer than they had hoped, they begin to lose interest. But Farmer Brown continues to work. In the end his friends miss out on the satisfaction of enjoying the fruits of labor.

The same principle of diligence and patience that produces fruit in the physical realm applies to the spiritual as well. If we continue to labor for God's Kingdom and cultivate righteousness in our lives we will produce good fruit in due time.

LOVE-THE GOOD SAMARITAN

(episode 010)

theme: Love is one of the fruits of the Spirit, and that love should be extended to every man. **scripture:** Luke 10:25-37 **quote:** "[Jesus asked] 'Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the

man who fell into the robbers' hands?' And he said, 'the one who showed mercy toward him.' And Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'" Luke 10:36,37 **summary:** Nit Whitly lives out this parable of the Good Samaritan when he finds himself with amnesia on the road to Jericho. After being passed up twice a Samaritan finds him and offers him help and comfort.

Love is one of the fruit of the Spirit, and Jesus commanded us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. We have a tendency to be selective in who we consider our neighbor. We may consider people we like, or who are attractive, or who are similar to us or who might be able to do something for us in return to be our neighbor. In this parable Jesus instructs us that we are to show mercy and kindness to all men, because all men are our neighbors.

DAVID & WAITING ON GOD

(episode 011)

theme: God's promises to us will come in His time. **scripture:** I Samuel 26:1-12 **quote:** "Humble yourselves therefore, under the might hand of God, that He may exalt

you at the proper time.” I Peter 5:6 **summary:** David had been anointed by Samuel to replace Saul as King of Israel. But at the time of this story Saul was still alive and still King. But Saul was aware that David was in favor with God and became jealous. So much so that he wanted to kill David and set out after him for that purpose.

One night David snuck into Saul’s camp as he and his men were sleeping. And this is where Nit Whitley finds David. David’s friend Abishai interpreted this situation as an opportunity from God for David to eliminate Saul and ascend to the throne. But David wisely saw otherwise.

Saul had sinned against God and God had indeed chosen David to replace him as King. But even though David would one day have the throne he understood that he could not break God’s command against murder in order to bring it about. God had made Saul King, and God would remove Him when the time was right.

Sometimes we may be faced with an opportunity to bring about something that we know God has for us but in the process have to break one or more of His commandments to do it. If that’s the case we must resist the temptation and rely rather on God’s timing to bring about what He wants to do.

JOB

(episode 038)

theme: Job understood that his life and his possessions were at God’s disposal, to use as He sees fit. **scripture:** Job 1:21; 2:10; 42 **quote:** “The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord.”

Job 1:21b **summary:** Job is the mystery guest on the popular game show “What’s My Life?”
Host

E. Buzz Backs allows his celebrity panelists to ask Job questions to see if they can identify who he is.

Job was a righteous man who lived many years ago. He was also wealthy. God tested Job by allowing everything he had to be taken from him. Then He allowed him to be afflicted with boils and sores on his body. Through his answers to the celebrity panelist’s questions Job reveals that in spite of all the tragedies that befell him he did not curse God, but understood and acknowledged God’s goodness and justice and that he is God’s creation, and God is free to do with him as He pleases.

When tragedy or hardship comes to us we may be tempted to question God’s goodness and love, wondering why He has allowed these things to happen to us. We may never even be tempted to curse Him and turn our backs on Him. The truth is, hard times do come to God’s people. We may never understand the reasons why they do, but we can trust in God’s love, mercy, grace and wisdom. If we dedicate to live our lives for His glory, we can say as Job did, “The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord.”

FAITHFUL IN LITTLE [part one]

(episode 041)

theme: Being faithful in the little things trains us to be faithful in big things. **scripture:** Luke 16:10 **quote:** “He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much.” Luke 16:10a **summary:** In this episode of “Radio Theater of the Air” we find a king who is in search of a personal advisor. This is an important position, and one of great responsibility. There are several men in the kingdom who could be considered prime candidates.

The Treasurer is in charge of the Kingdom’s money, and he feels he is the obvious choice. Meanwhile the King’s Physician feels he’s uniquely qualified because of how much the King already depends on him. Then there’s the War Minister. He feels, because of his position, he has proven himself to be clear-headed under pressure. A quality he feels essential for a personal advisor.

While all these men are promoting themselves, Roderick, the groomsmen - he’s the man in charge of taking care of the King’s horses - is busy doing his job.

What qualities is the King looking for in a personal advisor? Someone who can be trusted with large sums of money? Or someone who has known him closely for many years? Or someone who can remain cool under strain? Or is he looking for something else?

Part two of this episode holds the answer.

FAITHFUL IN LITTLE [part two]

(episode 042)

theme: Faithfulness is a quality that God desires in us. **scripture:** Luke 16:10 **quote:** “He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much.” Luke 16:10a **summary:** In the second half of this “Radio Theater of the Air” episode we find a lot of intrigue underway as three Kingdom officials seek to influence the King on their own behalf as he is in search of a personal advisor.

The Treasurer, the Kingdom Physician and the War Minister are all scheming and plotting to get that new position. They go to great lengths to make it appear they are more successful and more diligent in their work than they really are. They all try to enlist the services of Roderick, the groomsman. But Roderick is not able to help them because he’s too busy doing his job.

When the time comes for the King’s decision, they are all in shock. The King wasn’t concerned with boasting and bragging, he was more concerned with someone who remained faithful to the work he had been given. So they were all shocked when the King chose Roderick the groomsman to be his new personal advisor.

Luke 16:10 tells us that “He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much.” It goes on to say that “He who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much.” Faithfulness is not something that we get better at as the prestige of the job we’re doing increases. If someone is faithful in the little things, that quality will be displayed when they do big things as well. In the same way, if someone who cannot be trusted in doing the little things will display that same quality in the big things as well.

Let us strive to be faithful in whatever work or task we’ve been given. Faithfulness does not depend on the job to be done, but on the attitude and the heart of the doer.

LOVE

(episode 060)

theme: Love, for it to be real, must come from the heart. **scripture:** I Corinthians 13 **quote:** “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.”

John 15:13 **summary:** Professor Dwight Beamer is busy in his laboratory inventing a robot that will love unconditionally. As Nit Whitly finds discovers, the robot’s love is unconditional and constant, but it isn’t real. It’s mechanical.

The love that the Apostle Paul lays out for us in I Corinthians 13, in order for it to be genuine, must come from the heart. That doesn’t mean that there won’t be times where we do the acts of love even though we may not feel like it. This is because love is not always something we feel emotionally, but rather an act of our will. And the motivation behind the actions of love is still love. It is love that causes us to do for others when we don’t really want to.

Jesus spoke of the highest act of love. It’s laying down one’s life for his friends. And, like so many things with Jesus, what He spoke He walked out. Jesus lay His life down for us when He went to the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. He did that before we ever knew Him, before we would consider ourselves His friends. In fact, if He hadn’t died for us, we never could be His friends.

The list of what love is, as recorded in I Corinthians 13, is a hard one. But it’s one we can do with the help of the Holy Spirit. Let’s keep working each day to get better and better at displaying real love.

JASPER & BUSTER & I CORINTHIANS 12:11-20

(episode 072)

theme: We should be who and what God created us to be. **scripture:** I Corinthians 12:11-20 **quote:** “Now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He

desired.” I Corinthians 12:18 **summary:** Jasper was happy being a mouse. He enjoyed all the pleasures a mouse might enjoy. Buster, on the other hand, longed to be a lion. They are the king of the jungle and that position gives them an authority and respect that he wished for himself.

So, one day, Buster decided he was no longer going to be a mouse, but a lion. He went about proclaiming to everyone of his change. Unfortunately for him, no matter what he said, he was not a lion but still a mouse. No one took him seriously. His insistence made no difference and, in the end, got him into trouble.

It’s easy for us to see qualities or abilities in others that we would like to have, and it’s not a bad thing to want to become more like them and emulate those things. We may admire someone who is physically strong, and start exercising to become more so ourselves. We may admire someone who is honest and work to become more honest ourselves.

But there are some giftings or abilities that God has simply not given us. We may admire someone who can sing very well, but if God has not given us a good singing voice, we will never be able to sing quite like they do.

God has given us abilities and gifts that are specific to us, and He has done that for a purpose. He has a calling and a plan for us that is unique to us. Rather than try to be someone we’re not and try to do things we’re not gifted for, let us discover what gifts and abilities God has given us and seek Him as to how we can most effectively use them.

Our lives are to be lived for God’s glory, and when we keep that end in mind we will be more satisfied in being what He created us to be.

A GENTLE ANSWER

(episode 082)

theme: Giving a gentle answer to someone who is angry can work great wonders. **scripture:** Proverb 15:1 **quote:** “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” Proverb

15:1 **summary:** Most of the time when we are confronted with an angry comment or remark our first reaction is to return the comment or remark in kind. In other words, we want to return anger for anger. The book of Proverbs contains a lot of very practical advice, and Proverbs 15:1 is one of them.

When someone greets us with angry words we should not respond with angry words in return. But we find that if we answer gently [and more than one gentle response may be necessary depending on how angry they are], many times that wrath will be turned away. On the other hand, responding with angry words tends to make the anger level rise.

There is a principle of reciprocity. This is where, for example, if someone were to slap you on the cheek, the natural response would be to slap them back a bit harder. This would cause them to want to slap you a second time, but a bit harder than you slapped them. Which would cause you to slap them again, harder. And so goes the pattern. But if, after that initial slap in the face, you don’t respond with a slap, there is a good chance that the whole encounter could take a different turn.

Jesus spoke of this in Matthew 5:38,39. If someone slaps you on the right cheek, you are to offer him your left as well. This way the spiral downward of reciprocal slaps would not have a chance to get going.

This doesn’t mean that we become a punching bag for people who are angry, nor is it a guarantee that all anger can be dissipated in this way. But it is a way to take the “high road” in settling disputes and dissipating anger. Take it from Buster, in our story, harsh words can have harsh consequences.

A LESSON IN SELF-CONTROL

(episode 096)

theme: Without self-control we become prey to all sorts of sins that can enslave us. **scripture:** Galatians 5:22,23 **quote:** “Like a city that is broken into and without walls is a man who has no control over his spirit.” Proverbs 25:28 **summary:** Derrek was a good kid. He worked hard in school, he was kind to other children and respectful to adults. He had a lot of good qualities going for him. He also really liked chocolate.

One day one of Derrek’s classmates, seeing that Derrek was so good at math, asked him for help with the subject. Derrek agreed. As a sign of his thankfulness, the classmate gave Derrek the chocolate bar from his lunch. The next day he asked Derrek for help again, and again Derrek agreed, and again Derrek got a chocolate bar. Soon other kids, when they say how much Derrek’s tutoring had helped their classmate, wanted Derrek’s help as well, and gave him their chocolate bars as their way of saying thanks.

Before long Derrek found that all this gratefulness from his classmates had made him pretty large. Too large to get out of his bedroom and go to school. It took the fire department to get him out of the house and a special program to get him back to his normal size.

All of us will have areas of our lives where we will have to be diligent to exercise self-control. Things that are not in and of themselves sinful can become so if we overindulge or become so consuming as to cause us to forget about and lose interest in other things. Let us be careful to do all things in moderation and to keep ourselves under control.

A JOYFUL HEART

(episode 102)

theme: A joyful heart is like a medicine. **scripture:** Proverbs 17:22 **quote:** “A joyful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones.”

Proverbs 17:22 **summary:** Dim Whitly has a favorite radio personality. It’s Glumkin the Clown. But listening to Glumkin on the radio makes his cousin Nit realize how important a joyful heart can be.

Each phase of life has both good and bad aspects to it. Some advantages and disadvantages exist in every situation we find ourselves. What makes the difference is the condition of our heart.

Proverbs 15:15 says, “All the days of the afflicted are bad, but a cheerful heart has a continual feast.” A despondent and anxious attitude can make even the best of situations seem bad - for fear of what can go wrong or how it could be better. But to the one who has a joyful heart, even the most meager conditions hold something to enjoy.

By looking for problems and shortcomings we can ruin any chance at enjoying ourselves, yet by looking for blessings and good we can ensure peace and happiness. Proverbs 17:22 even tells us that a joyful heart is like good medicine. It adds good strong health to our lives. Dim Whitly may enjoy Glumkin’s show, but no one would enjoy his life.

KINDNESS & MERCY

(episode 148)

theme: Extending kindness and mercy to others brings honor to yourself. **scripture:** Proverbs 21:21 **quote:** “He who pursues righteousness and mercy finds life, righteousness and honor.”

Proverbs 21:21 **summary:** Nit Whitly is baby-sitting for his nephew Half Whitly. The young man wants a bed-time story to help him sleep. So Nit tells him of a fierce lion who catches a small mouse in the jungle. The mouse pleads for his life, asking for mercy and promising to return that mercy to the lion if one day he can.

The lion is not impressed by the mouse’s cries, but he is amused by his promise. How could a mouse ever show kindness and mercy to a lion? The lion has a good laugh and decides to let the mouse go.

Sometime later, as the lion is walking through the jungle, he gets himself caught in a hunter’s snare. The ropes have him trapped, and the more he tries to struggle free the more entangled he gets. All looks hopeless. Suddenly the mouse who’s life he had spared finds the lion and promises to

help him. Then he gets to work chewing at the ropes. The mouse works hard and diligently at cutting those ropes and freeing the lion. Then, just as the hunters are returning to check their snare, the last rope is cut and the lion is free.

Kindness and mercy, whether extended to those who may someday repay us or to those who can probably never repay us, are things that are always good to give. One small act of kindness and one small act of mercy could start a chain-reaction that could affect people or countries or even the whole world in ways no one ever would have imagined. It's worth the risk.