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- [Page 1](#)
  - [Page 2](#)
  - [Page 3](#)
  - [Page 4](#)
  - [Page 5](#)
  - [Page 6](#)

## CONSIDER THE BIRDS OF THE AIR

(episode 007)

**theme:** We should live free from worry and anxiety **scripture:** Matthew 6:25-34 **quote:** “Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?” Matthew 6:26 **summary:** Nit Whitly travels to the top of a tree to reveal to us a very basic and simple truth from God’s word. The birds of the air do not worry about where their food is coming from. God provides for them. Since we are worth much more to Him than birds are, we can trust that He will provide us with the things we need as well. This is not a license to be lazy, but rather a reminder that God cares for us and will provide the means for us to have everything we need to live.

As children grow older they will be required to be more responsible for themselves. But this responsibility should be shouldered with the understanding that our first priority is to seek God’s Kingdom and His righteousness first, and if we do this, He will provide everything we need to live.

## THE GOOD SAMARITAN

(episode 010)

**theme:** We are commanded to love our neighbor as ourselves, and every man is our neighbor **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.

We are commanded 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.

## THE PERSISTENT NEIGHBOR

(episode 016)

**theme:** Don’t be discouraged, just keep on praying **scripture:** Luke 11:5-13 **quote:** “And I say to you, ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you.” Luke 11:9 **summary:** Nit Whitly joins a man on his way to a neighbor’s house to borrow some food to give to a friend who has come from a long way to visit him. The biggest problem with this is that it takes place in the middle of the night. When the man gets to his

neighbor's house it is dark. He knocks on the door, waking the neighbor up. When he asks for the bread the neighbor is not willing to give him the bread, but rather than leaving the man continues to knock and continues to ask. Eventually, the neighbor gives in and gives the man what he asks for.

Jesus gave us this parable as an example of how we should pray. God is represented by the neighbor and we by the man asking for bread. This isn't to mean that God isn't willing to give us what we ask for, the point is in showing us that we must persevere in prayer, not with a annoying or disrespectful attitude, but rather one of persistence, not giving up until we have our answer. This is not for God's benefit, but for ours. It teaches us perseverance, a quality that will benefit us in other areas of our lives as well.

## THE PRODIGAL SON (PART ONE)

(episode 021)

**theme:** The way of sin may look like fun, but it always leads to disaster **scripture:** Luke 15:11-32  
**quote:** "For the one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption."

Galatians 6:9a **summary:** Bill was a young man who tired of living under his father's roof. His father was a godly man who had been blessed with many good things, but Bill felt he was missing out on something and was certain that life apart from his father (and God) would be more fun. So he collected his inheritance and headed off to a life of reckless abandon. He indulged himself in riotous living and made many friends. After a short time, with his money all gone, his friends deserted him and he found himself with nothing. He ended up getting a job feeding pigs.

Doing things that God says are wrong may seem like fun - and they may actually be fun for a while - but they always have a high price tag attached to them. They can cost us everything we have. God knows what's best for us and He has let us know what things are good and what things are bad in order to help us live a wonderful life.

## THE PRODIGAL SON (PART TWO)

(episode 022)

**theme:** God is ready and willing to take us back if we stray. **scripture:** Luke 15:11-32 **quote:** "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to

cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I John 1:9 **summary:** Bill was a young man who, tired of living under his father's roof, set off for a life of reckless abandon. Before long he found himself destitute and feeding pigs. In the midst of his misery he came to his senses and realized that even the lowest servants in his father's house lived better than he was at that moment. So he humbled himself and headed back home. But before he could utter the speech he had prepared, his father saw him, ran and embraced him and kissed him.

This is a wonderful example of how eager God is to receive back all those who, having strayed from him, humble themselves, repent of their sins and ask for forgiveness. Jesus said, "I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (Luke 15:10)

God's grace is greater than all our sin.

## HID TREASURE

(episode 025)

**theme:** We should value the Kingdom of Heaven above all else **scripture:** Matthew 13:44 **quote:** "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man

found and hid; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has, and buys that field.” Matthew 13:44 **summary:** Nit Whitly interviews a man who has found a treasure hidden in a field. The treasure is so valuable to him that the man goes and sells everything he has to buy that field.

The Kingdom of Heaven is a very valuable thing, and when we realize its worth we will be willing to give up everything we have to possess it. This doesn't mean that the Kingdom of Heaven can be bought. The price for us possessing it has been paid already by Jesus. When we talk of giving up everything we have we mean we must give our time, our resources, and even our very lives to God for His service and purposes. There should be no area of our lives that we hold back from Him. This is a hard thing to do, but the trade-off is worth it.

## **HOUSES ON SAND & ROCK**

(episode 029)

**theme:** Lives built on God will stand. **scripture:** Luke 6:48,49 **quote:** “And when a flood rose, the torrent burst against that house and could not

shake it, because it had been well built.” Luke 6:48b **summary:** Nit Whitly gives us the opportunity to see how two houses, built on different foundations, withstand a bad storm. The one house, built on sand, falls under the pressure of the storm. The other, built on solid rock, remains firm and unmoved despite the storm's power.

This parable uses two houses to show us the difference between building our lives on sandy soil as opposed to building our lives on solid rock. Lives built on a foundation other than God are like that sandy soil, and will not be able to stand in that final day. Jesus is represented in the parable by the solid rock, and the life built on Jesus will remain strong and secure.

Don't be tempted to ignore God as you are building the foundation of your life. Make sure you are building on Jesus, the solid rock.

## **TRUE TREASURE**

(episode 039)

**theme:** Heavenly treasures never rust. **scripture:** Matthew 6:19-21 **quote:** “Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust

destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal.” Matthew 6:20 **summary:** While picking up his laundry at the dry cleaners, Nit Whitly gives us a report on Matthew 6:19-21 where Jesus instructs us to not put our affection on treasures of the earth, but rather the treasures of heaven.

This world has many wonderful things to use and enjoy, and God put them here for that purpose. But it's not a good idea for us to get too attached to them, or value and pursue them so much that we lose sight of what's really valuable.

The things of God - fellowship with God, victory over sin, serving others - are much more valuable than anything that the earth has to offer. Earthly things can give pleasure, but with heavenly things pleasure is deeper and longer lasting.

If we treasure the things of this world, then our hearts, our affection, will be there as well. If we treasure the things of heaven, then that is where our hearts will be.

## **THE LOST SHEEP**

(episode 040)

**theme:** If we turn from following God, He will faithfully seek to bring us back. **scripture:** Matthew 18:12-14 **quote:** “It is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones perish.” Matthew 18:14 **summary:** Nit Whitly travels to the hills to interview a shepherd who is watching his sheep. He has one hundred, but one of them is missing. When he discovers this, he

leaves the ninety-nine safely grazing and searches for that lost lamb. He doesn't stop his search until he finds it and brings it back to the fold.

Jesus used this parable as an illustration of how God will seek out and bring back one of His children who goes astray. It's comforting for us to know that God cares that much for us that, even when we turn away from Him, He is not willing that we should be destroyed. God remains faithful to us even when we are unfaithful to Him.

## THE PHARISEE & THE PUBLICAN

(episode 044)

**theme:** God shows grace to those who are humble. **scripture:** Luke 18:9-14 **quote:** "Everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, but he who humbles himself

shall be exalted." Luke 18:14 **summary:** Nit Whitley travels to the Temple in Jerusalem and witnesses two men praying. One, a Pharisee, is proud and boasts before God of how holy he is - as if he has merited God's mercy. The other man, a Publican, is humble, not even feeling worthy to lift his face to heaven. He pleads God to have mercy on him, knowing he stands guilty of sinning before God.

The truth is, none of us has anything that we can brag about before God. We have all sinned and have all fallen short of the glory of God. There is nothing we can do, no amount of money we can pay, or anything we can say that can take away our guilt. Only God can do that. He did it through the blood of His Son, Jesus. When Jesus hung on the cross He paid the price for our sin. He took our guilt.

If we have a true understanding of our sin and its consequences and of our inability to take it away, we will not try to impress God with all of our accomplishments and works, but rather, knowing our poor condition, cry out humbly to Him for mercy. Those who do that will find it, as it says in James 4:6b, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

## PARABLE OF THE LOST COIN

(episode 061)

**theme:** God seeks out those who are lost. **scripture:** Luke 15:8-10 **quote:** "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet

sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8 **summary:** God is in the business of saving sinners. He sent His Son to die for our sins, and He draws us to Himself for the purpose of our receiving that free gift of salvation.

The parable of the lost coin is a great example of the lengths God goes to in order to bring someone who is lost into His kingdom. In this story Jesus told of a woman who lost one of her silver coins. She lights a lamp and sweeps the house, searching carefully for that lost coin. When she finds it there is much rejoicing.

God works carefully and thoroughly in order to bring us to the saving knowledge of His Son. It is amazing that He could love us that much to die for us and then, with great determination, reveal Himself to us.

When you became a Christian there was "Joy in the presence of the angels of God." Let's never take God's love lightly.

## THE UNJUST JUDGE

(episode 066)

**theme:** We should pray and not lose heart, even if the answer is long in coming. **scripture:** Luke 18:1-8 **quote:** "Now He [Jesus] was telling them a parable to show that at all times they should

pray and not to lose heart.” Luke 18:1 **summary:** This episode of “Radio Theater of the Air” is about an unjust judge. He doesn’t fear God nor does he care about men. Living in the same city as the judge is a widow woman who was seeking justice. She came to the judge for him to do his duty and give her legal protection. For a while he was unwilling, but she was so constant in her calls for justice that he realized if he didn’t do as she asked, she would wear him out.

Jesus used this as an illustration of how we should pray. Just like that widow woman we should pray day and night to God when we desire something of Him. Of course the widow wasn’t asking for something that was wrong, she was asking for justice. So our requests of God must be in keeping with His word and His promises.

In this parable God is represented by the unjust judge. But unlike the judge, God doesn’t hold back on answering our prayers because He is not unjust or uncaring. He is the epitome of justice and His care for us goes beyond what we even have for ourselves. He holds back His answers for other reasons. Perhaps it’s a way for us to be strengthened in our faith or perseverance. Perhaps the timing is not right. Or perhaps there is something completely different that God needs for us to learn first.

The point of the parable is that we should ask and keep on asking, seeking and keep on seeking, knock and keep on knocking and not despair or give up too soon. We can trust in God’s goodness and mercy and that He desires to bring about what it just in our lives.