

The Robe

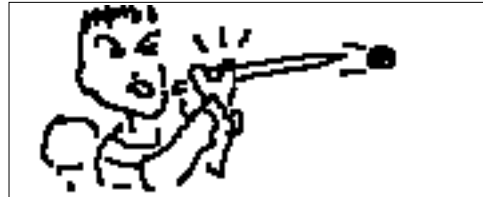
#8



Have you ever tried to be good?



To "do the right thing"?



It never seems to last. There's always something around to tempt us.

And then, if we think about it, anything "good" that we do, is nothing compared to God's glory and His righteousness. [1 Corinthians 1:23] "that no flesh should glory in His presence."

The Bible says that our righteousness is "as filthy rags" [Isaiah 64:6] compared to God's majesty.

So, what is the right thing to do? The Bible, (as always), tells us the answer...

In Matthew 6:33 Jesus says: "But seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you"

#1- First, numero uno....

"Seek first the kingdom of God"

CUT--HERE

The Pearl

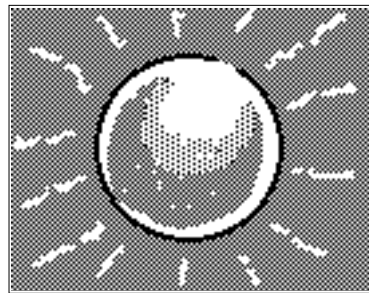


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Matthew 13:45-46

"...the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant, seeking beautiful pearls,"

...who, when he had found one pearl of great value...



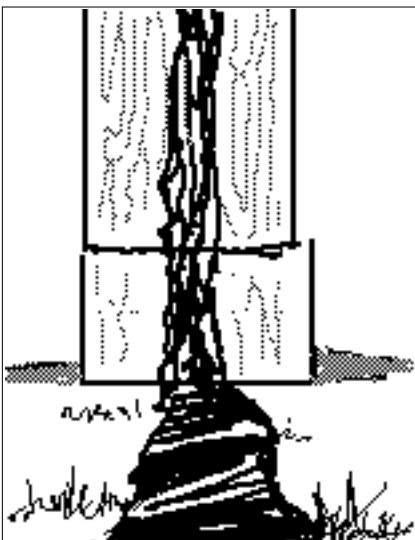
"....went and sold all that he had and bought it."

Why is this story in the Bible? How is this example like "the kingdom of God?" The secret is knowing the identity of the players in the story!

The merchant, is Jesus Christ! Jesus became a man, gave up everything He had, offered His body as payment! But what is it that has such great importance to Him? **What does the pearl represent..?**

CUT--HERE

"No Greater Love"



Imagine, for a moment, what it feels like to have your hand nailed to a piece of wood.

To have a "crown" of thorns pushed onto your head, until you bleed.



To be hung, suspended from a cross...

...to slowly bleed and suffocate to death.

And, to be completely innocent of any crime! In fact, to be the only man to ever walk the face of the earth who was completely without sin! To take onto yourself, the sin of the entire world. To offer yourself as a pure sacrifice for God, for the world!

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down His life for His friends." [John 15:13]

Jesus Christ has done this. He suffered, died and was buried, for the forgiveness of your sin! He offered Himself as the Lamb of God to take away the sin of the world!