



29 Bedell Ave.

Saint John, NB, E2K 2C1

September 2018

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. I trust you have had a good summer with some time to relaxation and renewal. The fall season is now upon us with the splendour of fall colours. Take a drive to see and appreciate the many different colours of fall and think about how God created the changing seasons. He also created our life to be like that - with each season of life bringing its own beauty. Do we really appreciate life in all its fullness – have we taken time to ponder the seasons of our life and to give thanks to the Creator – for we are fearfully and wonderfully made. Each aspect of our being is perfect in His sight. We are created by God for a purpose and we are equipped by our Creator to fulfil that purpose. Each season in our life brings its own beauty and we need to ask God to show us what He would have us do in this season. We also must not forget to praise Him for His creation [including us] and thank Him for how He cares for us daily in all seasons of our lives. Let us dedicate anew this season of life to Him and His purpose for us.

Betty Hitchcock

God, all nature sings thy glory, And thy works proclaim thy might;
Ordered vastness in the heavens, Ordered course of day and night;
Beauty in the changing seasons, Beauty in the storming sea
All the changing moods of nature, Praise the changeless Trinity.,

STUDY:

Matthew 18: 1 – 7, 10

1: At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven ?

2: He called a child, whom he put among them,

3: and said "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven

4: Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven .

5: Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

6: If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believes in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hanged about your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea.

7: Woe to the world because of stumbling blocks occasions are bound to come, but woe to one by whom the stumbling block comes

10: Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I tell you, in heaven, their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven.

Matthew 18: 1 – 7, 10

- 1: What did the disciples ask Jesus ? Why would they ask this? What did they really want to know?
- 2: How did Jesus respond?
3. What did He say to them? What did He mean? What does it mean to become like a child ?
4. What else does Jesus say? Who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven ? What does it mean to be humble? Can you think of some examples where someone has illustrated humility?.
5. What does it mean to welcome a child in Jesus name?
6. What does Jesus tell them in this verse? How important is each little one to Jesus?
7. What does He tell them in Verse 7 What are some examples of stumbling blocks? Have you ever encountered a stumbling block?
- 10: What is the message in this verse? What do we learn of His little ones? What is our responsibility?

A wealthy man and his son collected rare works of art. They had everything in their collection, from Picasso to Raphael. They would often sit together and admire the great works of art.

When the Vietnam conflict broke out, the son went to war. He was courageous and died in battle while rescuing another soldier. The father was notified and grieved deeply for his only son.

A month later, there was a knock at the door. A young man stood at the door with a large package in his hands. He said, "Sir, you don't know me, but I am the soldier for whom your son gave his life. He saved many lives that day, and he was carrying me to safety when a bullet struck him. He died instantly. He often talked about you, and your love for art." The young man held out the package. "I know this isn't much. I'm not really a great artist, but I think your son would have wanted you to have this."

The father opened the package. It was a portrait of his son, painted by the young man. He stared in awe at the way the soldier had captured the personality of his son in the painting. The father's eyes filled with tears. He thanked the young man and offered to pay him for the picture. "Oh, no sir, I could never repay what your son did for me. It's a gift."

The father hung the portrait over his mantle. Whenever visitors came to his home he showed them the portrait of his son before he showed them any of the other great works he had collected.

When the man died a few months later, there was an auction of his paintings. Many influential people came to see the great paintings and have an opportunity to buy one for their collection. On the platform sat the painting of the son. The auctioneer pounded his gavel. "We will start the bidding with this picture of the son. Who will make a bid?"

There was noticeable silence!

Then a voice in the back shouted, "We want to see the famous paintings. Skip this one." But the auctioneer persisted. "Will somebody bid for this painting. Who will start the bidding? \$100, \$200?" Another voice called out angrily, "We didn't come to see this painting. We came to see the Van Goghs, the Rembrandts. Get on with the real bids!"

But still the auctioneer continued. "The son! The son! Who'll take the son?" Finally, a voice came from the back of the room. It was the longtime gardener of the man and his son. "I'll give \$10 for the painting." Being a poor man, it was all he could afford.

"We have \$10, who will bid \$20?" "Give it to him for \$10. Let's see the masters." "\$10 is the bid, won't someone bid \$20?" cried the auctioneer."

investments for their collections. The auctioneer pounded the gavel. "Going once, twice, SOLD for \$10!"

A man sitting in the second row shouted, "Let's get on with the collection!" But the auctioneer laid down his gavel. "I'm sorry, the auction is over." "But what about the paintings, the man cried?"

"I am sorry. When I was called to conduct this auction, I was told of a secret stipulation in the will. I was not allowed to reveal that stipulation until now. Only the painting of the son would be auctioned. Whoever bought that painting would inherit the entire estate, including the other paintings!!"

God gave His son 2,000 years ago to die on the cross. Much like the auctioneer, His message today is: "The son, the son, who'll take the son?"

Because, you see, whoever takes the Son gets everything.

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, WHO SO EVER BELIEVETH,
SHALL HAVE ETERNAL LIFE!

THE GREAT PROMISE

Lord, what didn't thou mean by that bidding,
 Abide in me and I in you?
By that word, *I am the vine and ye the branches?*
Root and stem, bough, twig, and leaf, the growing tree
 And the flower of fruit, are one –
 One life indivisible, interdependent.
Without thee we can do nothing;
 By thee only bear fruit – much fruit,
 And abide in thy love.

And what mean when thou didn't pray
 That thy disciples might be *one with thee,*
 And with thy Father, as thou art one with him?
And that *thou mightiest be glorified in us,*
 And give us thy glory?
And *that we may be perfected into one?*
 And be with thee where thou art?
 And behold the glory of thy Father?

Words of wonder passing wonder –
 But thine own, O Truth, O Word of God!
Pledge of communion and union with thyself
 Passing the bond of friend and friend,
 Of parent and child,
 Of husband and wife,
 Though these are love;
 Passing the union of body and soul,
 Though these are one;
Closer, closest is the union of Spirit and spirit
 By thy presence, O Christ, and by thy prayer,
 To the perfecting of peace, of love, of joy,
 World without end.

Poem by Eric Milner-White

In Moments of Silence

In moments of silence
we learn of Your presence
we learn of peace,
we learn of refuge
we learn who we are
and what we can be
we learn who You are
and what You mean to us
we quiet ourselves in Your presence
and listen for that still small voice
that gives us affirmation
that gives us direction
that guides us on our journey
and equips us for our day
Thank you God – for silence with you.

How much time do you regularly spend in silence before God? If you have not heard from God lately, could it be that you have not sat in silence before Him?

Betty

Advance notice –mark it on your calendar now. The Atlantic NCFC is planning a workshop to be held in Saint John in the fall of 2019. Watch for more information in future issues of the Link

Prayer

This is the time of year that a new school year is beginning. Please pray for those that are entering or returning to nursing studies. Pray that they might adjust easily, find new Christian friends and discover meaning and purpose in their chosen career.

Pray for nurses employed in hospitals, nursing homes, the community and other areas. Pray that they might bring God's love to those they serve and find joy in serving and caring for others. Pray for nurses working overseas and away from home and loved ones.

Pray for retired nurses and those just beginning retirement – pray that they might find ways to reach out to others in their communities and feel fulfilled in what they are doing now.

Pray for those nurses that are experiencing illness, stress, problems with relationships and any other difficulties in their lives. Pray that God would meet all of their needs.

Pray for those working on the National and Provincial levels of NCFC. Pray for financial support for the work of NCFC throughout our country.

We know that God is always waiting for us to come to Him in prayer. Let us come before His throne eagerly and boldly. Let us bring praise, thanks, requests, and all of our concerns – He will be there waiting for us. And let us quiet our hearts and centre our minds in Him. He will do great things. Why not spend some time just feeling His presence and resting in those strong and secure arms? There is no better way to begin and end our day than in the presence of our loving God.

Submissions for The Link

You are invited to submit articles, letters, poems, etc. to be included in future issues of the Link. Please send submissions to Betty Hitchcock, 29 Bedell Ave. Saint John, NB, E2K 2C1 or email to betty.hitchcock@rogers.com