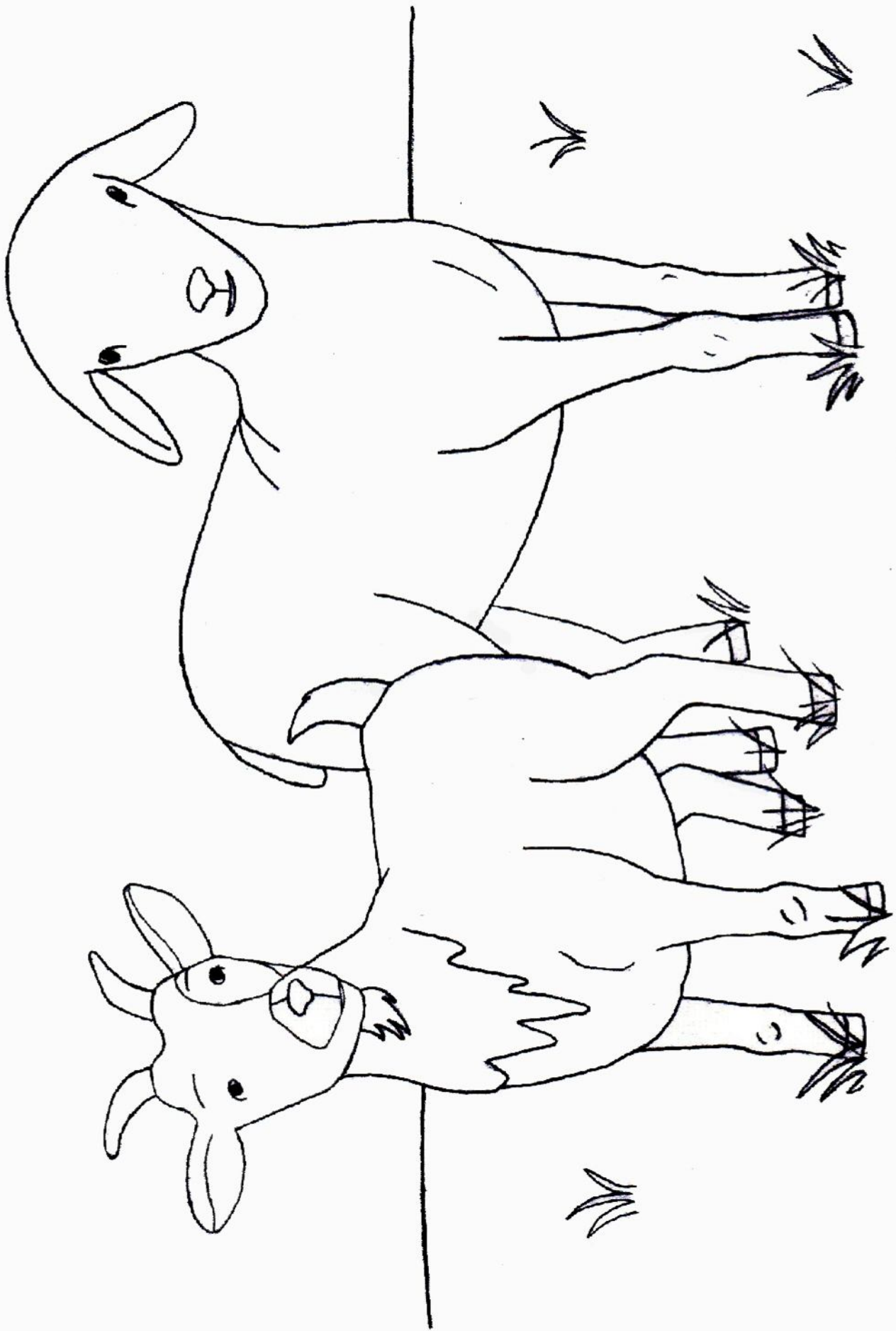


Jesus in Disguise



Jesus in Disguise

There was a man in Banyo named Marciel. He was a very godly man. He loved Jesus very much and liked to pray for at least an hour every morning. One morning when he got up he prayed, "Lord Jesus, I have served you faithfully for many years and believed in your Name. I know that you love me and love to give good gifts to your children. Now I have one request to make of you. I ask that Jesus would visit me today, so that I can see him with my own eyes." As he finished praying, he heard a voice from heaven answering Him, "Your request has been answered. Jesus Himself will come to visit you today."

At this, Marciel was overjoyed. He put on his finest clothes, and told his wife to prepare a great feast. He wanted to be ready to welcome Jesus warmly when he arrived. Then he went out by the road to wait for Him. After about an hour, a young boy came along the road. He was very slim and dirty, and was wearing ragged clothes. When he got to where Marciel was he asked, "Please sir, do you have a little bread to give me? I am very hungry." Marciel felt compassion for the young boy so he quickly invited him to his house and fed him some of the food that his wife had prepared to give to Jesus. When the boy had eaten his fill, Marciel hurried back out to the roadside, because he wanted to make sure that he did not miss Jesus' coming.

Around noontime an old man came along the road. He was barefoot and his feet were bruised and cut from walking so far in bare feet. Marciel couldn't help but feel pity for the man. He thought of the three pairs of shoes that he had in his house. He told the man to stop and wait for him for a little bit. Then he ran to his house and got one of his pairs of shoes, and brought it out to the man. To his surprise, the shoes fit the old man perfectly! The old man thanked him again and again, and then went on his way.

Marciel continued waiting by the road for Jesus to come. The voice that he had heard in the morning didn't say what time Jesus would come, it just said that he would come. After some time of waiting, he saw a young woman coming along the road. She was looking down as she walked along and he could see that she had been crying. When she came near him, Marciel asked her to stop for a minute and then asked what was wrong. With a burst of tears she explained to him that she had come to Banyo from a remote village to go to school, but the money that she came with was just not enough to cover her expenses. She has just been chased out of the classroom by the professor, and was not sure what to do now since she didn't have enough money to go back to her village and didn't have anywhere to stay there in Banyo either.

Marciel lost no time. He quickly went into his house and took out forty thousand that he had been saving up, and went with the young woman back to her high school. There he paid the remainder of her school expenses, then he gave her what was left to help her pay for a place to stay. Then he hurried back to his spot by the road.

He hoped that in all his running around he had not somehow missed Jesus' passing by. He waited and waited, but no one came. He waited by the road until after dark, and then went inside, very disappointed. He fell on his knees and prayed, "Oh Lord God, why did Jesus not come to me today as you had promised? Or did he pass by at a time when I was not there? Did I miss his coming?" He heard a voice answer him from heaven, "My dear son, Jesus came to you three different times today, and each time you welcomed him rightly. He came in the little boy who you fed, he came in the old man that you gave shoes to, and he came in the young woman that paid the school fees for. You will be truly blessed because you did not fail to welcome him warmly each time that He came to you."

So Marciel was very happy and in the days to come he rejoiced greatly. And from that day onward everything he did prospered, for the blessing of the Almighty God was with him.

Matthew 25:31-46 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. ?All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ? He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ? For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ?I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ? For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

"They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

"He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

"Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

Application Questions

- 1) Are there any people that you do not treat very well?
- 2) What can you do that will show them the love of Jesus?
- 3) What did Jesus mean when he said whatever you do for the "least of these" you do it to Him?
- 4) On judgment day, do you expect to be among the sheep or among the goats? Why?