

THE GOOD NEWS GAZETTE

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Think on these things...

Philippians 4:8-9

ONE SPRING DAY

While getting ready for work, I often listen to the news for a few minutes before I leave home. The information from around the world rarely impacts me personally, but my habit to keep up with what happens continues. As I exit the back door to my garage and open the squeaky garage door, I hear the most beautiful sound. Birds of many kinds are chirping and calling to each other in the early spring morning. Already up and about to find food and provide for their young, the birds remind me of the simplicity and complexity of nature. The constancy and regularity season after season, year after year that continue faithfully. Each spring, the earth awakens from its winter slumber to shine forth in the bright greens of the season. Trees, shrubs, and flowers burst forth, seemingly overnight, into an array of color and life. The majesty of God's earth and its diversity of creatures amazes me. Few things compare with it.

Matthew chapter six says that even Solomon, the richest man that ever lived,



was not as arrayed as the simple lilies of the field. It reveals that the birds of the air are fed by our heavenly Father without having to work or store up food. God generously provides day after day for both the flowers of the field and the feathered friends that fly about us. Matthew 6:26 goes on to let us know that

God's final creation, mankind, has a value that far exceeds all the birds and lilies of the fields.

Made in the image of God, man and woman, are particularly special to him. Before we even knew our need for him, God knew us and wanted us for his own. So worthwhile, so wanted, God exchanged his best and most perfect Son for us. Though sinless and undeserving of punishment-God deliberately and lovingly traded his Son, Jesus, for our selfish and sinful selves. How amazing! How beautifully wonderful was the sacrifice and triumph of Christ over sin and death we celebrate each Easter. How interesting that Easter is in the season of spring.

Isaiah 48:13 says of God, "My own hand laid the foundations of the earth, and my right hand spread out the heavens; when I summon them, they all stand together." Can we fully fathom that the God that designed the universe and everything we see can love us so? In Acts 17:24, when Paul spoke in the meeting of the Areopagus, he said, "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built with hands as if he needed anything, because **he himself gives all men life and breath, and everything else.** From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 'For in him we live and move and

have our being.' As some of your own poets have said,'We are his offspring.'" "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver, or stone— an image made by man's design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice,by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead." God raised Jesus from the dead for us.

Each spring reminds me of the new birth that comes to the animals and plants around me. It also reminds me of the new birth Christians have through Christ to walk in newness of life. Romans 6:4 says, "We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." This spring I plan to think more about the newness of life I received in Christ as I enjoy the beauty of the nature around me. I want to be more aware and cognizant of the wonderfully good news from our God. I want to remember more often how well and faithfully God provides for me day after day and season after season. What good news! I hope you will join me and think on these things.

Robin Robbins House



DID YOU KNOW?

What are ten of the types of people Jesus says are blessed and what will they receive?

Where should Jesus' disciples let their light shine?

What will others see that results in praise to the Father in heaven?

What did Jesus say his mission was in regard to the law?

What did Jesus say about righteousness and inheriting the kingdom of heaven?

What did Jesus command his disciples do when they knew a brother had something against them?

How are matters to be settled?

What does Jesus say about adultery and even the thought of it?

What does Jesus say about divorce?

What does Jesus say about swearing?

What does Jesus say to do for our enemies and those that persecute us?

Answers to these questions can be found in Matthew chapter five.

RECIPES

TACO CUPS

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound lean ground beef, turkey, or pork
- 1 package Lawry's Taco spices and seasonings
- 1 1/4 cup of water
- 1/4 cup salsa
- 2 cans of refrigerator biscuits
- 1/2 cup (2 ounces) shredded cheddar cheese



INSTRUCTIONS

In medium skillet, brown ground beef until crumbly; drain fat.

Stir in taco spices and water. Bring to a boil; reduce heat to low and cook uncovered for 10 minutes. Stir in salsa. Separate biscuits and press each biscuit into an ungreased muffin cup. Spoon equal amounts of meat mixture into each muffin cup; sprinkle each with cheese. Bake in an oven uncovered at 350 degrees for 12 minutes. Makes about 16 taco cups.

From 3 Books in 1 Silly Snacks, Classroom Treats, and Cookie Dough Fun 2006

Please feel free to submit recipes, positive quotes, comments, etc. to
The Good News Gazette at thegoodnewsgazette1@gmail.com

M E M O R Y V E R S E

*The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world,
and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the waters.*

Psalm 24:1

