

What Jesus Did

There once was a man named George Thomas, a pastor in a small New England town. One Easter Sunday morning he came to the Church carrying a rusty, bent, old bird cage, and set it by the pulpit.

Eyebrows were raised and, as if in response, Pastor Thomas began to speak... "I was walking through town yesterday when I saw a young boy coming toward me swinging this bird cage. On the bottom of the cage were three little wild birds, shivering with cold & fright. I stopped the lad & asked, "What you got there son?"

"Just some old birds," came the reply. "What are you gonna do with them?" I asked.

"Take 'em home and have fun with 'em," he answered.

"I'm gonna tease 'em & pull out their feathers to make 'em fight. I'm gonna have a real good time."

"But you'll get tired of those birds sooner or later. What will you do?"

"Oh, I got some cats," said the little boy. "They like birds. I'll take 'em to them."

The pastor was silent for a moment. "How much do you want for those birds, son?"

"Huh?? !!! Why, you don't want them birds, mister.

They're just plain old field birds. They don't sing - they ain't even pretty!"

"How much?" the pastor asked again.

The boy sized up the pastor as if he were crazy & said, "\$10?"

The pastor reached in his pocket & took out a ten dollar bill. He placed it in the boy's hand. In a flash, the boy was gone. The pastor picked up the cage & gently carried it to the end of the alley where there was a tree & a grassy spot. Setting the cage down, he opened the door, & by softly tapping the bars persuaded the birds out, setting them free.

Well, that explained the empty bird cage on the pulpit & then the pastor began to tell this story . . . One day Satan & Jesus were having a conversation.

Satan had just come from the Garden of Eden & he was gloating & boasting.

"Yes, sir, I just caught the world full of people down there. Set me a trap, used bait I knew they couldn't resist. Got 'em all!"

"What are you going to do with them?" Jesus asked.

Satan replied, "Oh, I'm gonna have fun! I'm gonna teach them how to marry & divorce each other, how to hate & abuse each other, how to drink & smoke & curse. I'm gonna teach them how to invent guns & bombs & kill each other. It'll be a blast, wanna watch?"

"And what will you do when you get done with them?" Jesus asked.

"Oh, I'll kill 'em, I suppose." Satan glared proudly.

"How much do you want for them?" Jesus asked.

"Oh, you don't want those people. They ain't no good. Why, you'll take them & they'll just hate you. They'll spit on you, curse you & kill you. You don't want those people!!!"

"How much? He asked again. Satan looked at Jesus and sneered, "All your tears & all your blood." Jesus said, "DONE!" Then He paid the price, he died in the place of every human, and rose again.

The pastor picked up the cage, opened the door & he walked from the pulpit.