

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 4: The God Like None Other

Unit 4 Big Question and Answer:

Can Anybody Tell Me What the LORD Is Like?

He's Not Like Anyone Else!

PFI NIV Songs 4, Tracks 3,4

Unit 4 Bible Verse: 1 Kings 8:23, NIV 1984

"O LORD, there is no God like you." 1 King 8:23

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 6

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 5:

The LORD Knows Everything There Is to Know

God gave people minds to think and to learn with. From birth, people begin to learn things and they keep on learning their whole lives. But still, they die still not knowing many things.

God is very different from people. God knows everything in the whole universe and more. He knows everything about us, even what we are thinking in our hearts or do when no one else can see. He knows all of the past, the present, and even the future. No one has ever taught God anything. He just knows it. God is "omniscient"—all-knowing. He works out everything with perfect timing, according to His perfect will.

BIBLE VERSE

How do I know this is true? The Bible tells me so!

Bible Truth 5 Bible Verse: Daniel 2:20-22

"Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are His...He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. He reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him."

CASE STORY

John 2; 4:43-54

Our story is:

The Case of the Rich Basilikos.

As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

1. What is a Basilikos? What made him rich? How was he really poor?
2. Who gave him true riches? What were they? What amazing powers did this person show?

This story takes place during New Testament times when Jesus lived on earth.

A Jewish man made his way from Tiberias to his home in Capernaum, just two miles away. Tiberias was the brand new city build by the Roman leader Herod Antipas, as headquarters for his rule over territory of Galilee. And the man walking home, worked as a basilikos (an official) in Herod's palace! A job like this paid well—a lot better than many of the other Jews in the area would have made— and this made this man not just a basilikos, but a RICH basilikos.

What a comfortable life this man enjoyed! He lived the Roman way and could afford a beautiful house with mosaic tile floors, richly painted walls and fine furniture. He enjoyed good food. He loved his children. It seemed that he had everything you could want.

But there was definitely something that this man did not have. Something very important! A relationship with God. Yes, this Rich Basilikos was a Jew, but he had broken a very important Old Testament law when he went to work in Tiberias: Jews could not walk on top of dead bodies and stay acceptable to worship God (or clean, as they called it) if they did. And this was something this Rich Basilikos walked on top of every day. For Herod Antipas had built the great city of Tiberias on top of a cemetery full of dead bodies!

No Jew who wanted to worship God in the synagogue or be in fellowship with other Jews would dream of working in Tiberias. But the Rich Basilikos apparently had chosen a comfortable lifestyle over life with God and with His people. So he happily walked over those dead bodies with his pockets full of money every work day.

But, even though this man didn't know God or care about His good laws, God knew and cared about him. He was about to the Rich Basilikos dear little boy to turn his heart back to him.

"Your son has a high fever," the Rich Basilikos was told at

home. Now this might not sound so terrible to us, but back then there was very little they could do, even for a fever. Doctors might give you a mixture of herbs that might help, but besides that there was only watching, waiting, hoping and praying.

Watch, wait and hope the Rich Basilikos most certainly did. But pray? Well, maybe he did, but more likely he didn't. Remember, he had chosen a comfortable lifestyle over life with God and His people. Praying to God was probably about the last thing he thought he should do or even could do. Why would God want anything to do with him after the way he had rebelled against Him?

But as the Rich Basilikos saw his son get sicker and even begin to die, he became desperate enough to even think about asking for God's help.

"Jesus is in Cana, only twenty miles from here," the Basilikos heard. "Since the Passover, everyone's been talking about this rabbi named Jesus who they saw do some amazing healings. Many think He is some special prophet from God... or maybe even the Messiah."

"I don't know about Jesus being some special prophet from God or the Messiah," the Rich Basilikos may have thought, "but if He can heal my son, that's what matters. I must hurry if there's a chance to save my son's life!"

As quickly as possible the Rich Basilikos made the seven-hour, uphill hike to Cana. When he found Jesus, a crowd already surrounded Him. Many had seen His amazing healings in Jerusalem at the Passover. He was big news now!

The Rich Basilikos made his way to Jesus and blurted out his request, "Please, Sir," he begged, "come with me and heal my son. He is about to die!"

Jesus looked at the Rich Basilikos. It was the first time they had met, yet Jesus already knew all about him and why he had come, because of course He was God, who knows everything there is to know. He knew that the Rich Basilikos had come to Him for what He might do for his son, not because he believed in Him. Yet, still He loved him.

"Unless you people see miraculous signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe."

The Rich Basilikos wasn't so interested in believing right then. He just wanted his son healed. "Sir," he said to Jesus, "come down with me before my child dies."

Jesus replied, "You may go. Your son will live."

This was not what the Rich Basilikos had asked for at all!

He wanted Jesus to come with him, not to be sent back empty-handed. What should he do? Should he stay and keep pleading or even offer him money to persuade Jesus to come with him? Yet, there was something about Jesus that sparked a flicker of faith right there in the Rich Basilikos' heart. So he didn't keep begging or offer Jesus money. He simply believed Jesus and headed back down the road towards home.

Jesus had given him much to think about as he made the long journey home. Perhaps Jesus' challenging words stirred in his heart: "Unless you people see miraculous signs and wonders you will never believe." He had been so busy thinking about getting Jesus to heal his son that he hadn't been thinking about what it meant that Jesus could do these amazing miracles.

Perhaps the Rich Basilikos realized that Jesus never asked him his name or where he was from. Perhaps he realized that Jesus never asked who his son was or what sickness he had; yet seemed to know everything already. If Jesus healed his son, it would have to be only because Jesus was the Messiah, God's Son, for only God can know everything there is to know and knowing what will happen, without anyone telling Him. What would he find when he returned home?!

Whatever the Rich Basilikos was thinking, he was suddenly jarred from his thoughts by his servant hurrying towards him. "Your son is healed!" he exclaimed.

The Rich Basilikos was so happy! Before he met Jesus this would have been enough for him, but now there was something else he had to know: "Tell me, when exactly did my son get better?" the Rich Basilikos asked his servant.

"Yesterday at one o'clock," the servant replied.

The Rich Basilikos gasped. That was the exact time when Jesus had told him his son would live! His heart flooded with belief and love for God. Jesus really was the Messiah, the Son of God. He worshiped and thanked God for healing his son and for giving him faith in Jesus.

Now the Rich Basilikos hurried home. He couldn't wait to see his son and tell everyone in his household the news about Jesus. And when he did, they all put their trust in Him, too.

The Rich Basilikos was now indeed a very rich man, in the best of ways. For not only did he have his son restored to health. He and his whole family had come to know the

LORD in their hearts. And that is the greatest riches of all!

Our Bible Truth is:

The LORD Knows Everything There Is to Know

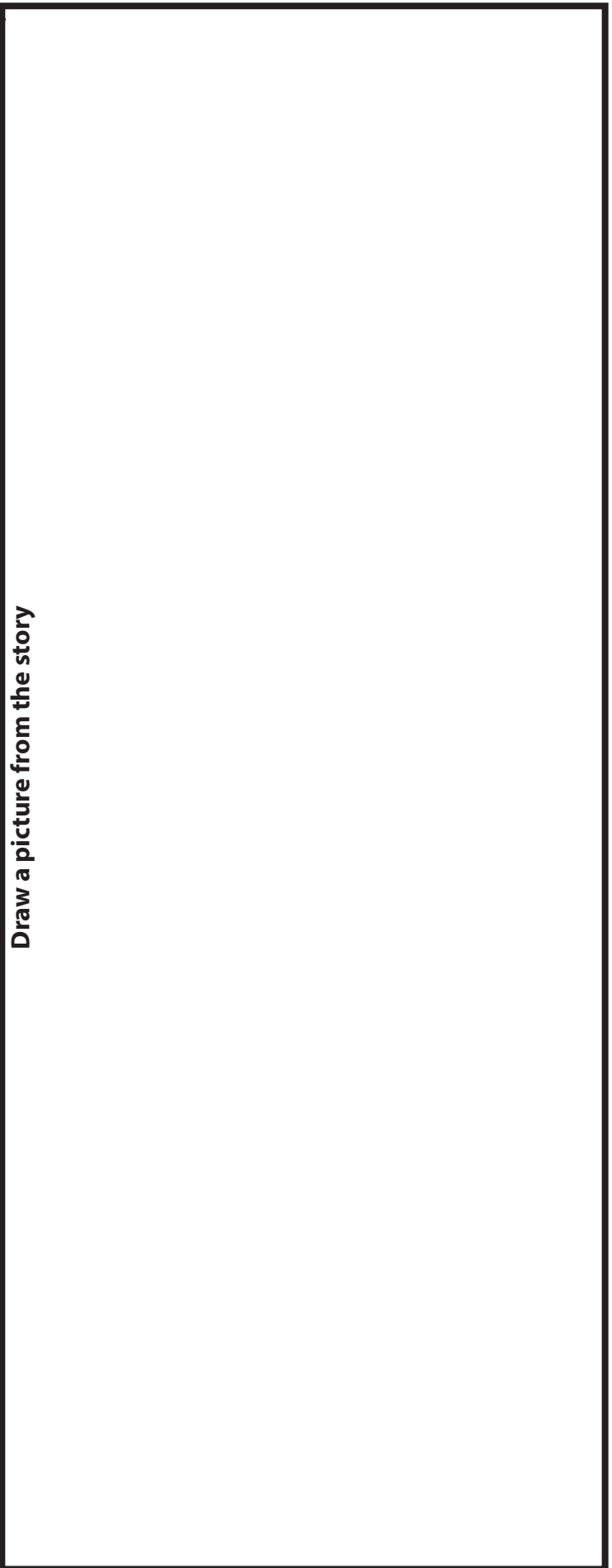
Our Bible Verse is: Daniel 2:20-22

“Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are His...He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. He reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him.”

Isn't the LORD wonderful? Wasn't He so merciful to sinners like the Rich Basilikos? The LORD, who knows everything there is to know, knew this man didn't want to know Him or please Him. Yet, He is so merciful that He planned for him to be one of His people. What about you and me? Do you realize that the LORD know everything there is to know about us, too? He knows all our thoughts and actions. He knows everything we think about Him—whether we love Him or do not really care about Him. Might He be as merciful to us as He was to the Rich Basilikos and his family? Yes, indeed! He promises to save all who repent of their sins and trust in Him as their Savior.

Let's praise this God who knows everything there is to know. Let's ask Him to be at work even in our sinful, rebellious hearts, that we would not just be trying to use Him to give things we want, but that He would give us faith in Him to trust Him as Savior and a desire to know, love and serve Him our whole lives.

Draw a picture from the story



SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:

God is "Omniscient." This means that He is all-powerful.
 Answer: False! It means that He knows all things--through of course He is all-powerful.

2. Crack the Case Questions

a. What is a Basilikos? What made him rich? How was he really poor?

Answer: He was a Jew who worked in King Herod Antipas' royal city. He was rich in money. He was poor because he didn't know God or even seem to care about Him.

b. Who gave him true riches? What were they? What amazing powers did this person show?

Answer: Jesus gave him true riches of salvation through faith in Him. He showed He knew and could do things that only God could do.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Daniel 2:20-22

" ___ be to the name of God forever and ever; wisdom and ___ are His...He gives wisdom to the wise and ___ to the discerning. He reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what lies in darkness and light dwells with him."

Answer: praise, power, knowledge.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Immortal, Invisible

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 16

Verse 1

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
 In light inaccessible,
 Hid from our eyes,
 Most blessed, most glorious,
 The Ancient of Days,
 Almighty, victorious,
 Thy great name we praise.

Words: Walter Chalmers Smith Music Welsh Hymn Tune

The LORD is the Ancient of Days—He has always lived. He has always known what has happened, everywhere in the whole universe and beyond.. He is Immortal—He will never die, but always live to know everything. He is only wise—He always knows what is best and always does what is best. Because He is almighty and victorious, everything in the past, present and future always will be the working out of His perfect will.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

A=Adoration, C=Confession, T=Thanksgiving, S=Supplication

A God, we praise You for being the God who knows everything there is to know.

C God, we confess that like the Rich Basilikos, sometimes we would rather live a rich life, full of good things rather than think about God and live for Him. We need Jesus to save us!

T God, we thank You for loving sinful people, like the Rich Basilikos and us, even before they loved or cared about You and Your good ways.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Work in our hearts that we might want to know You and live for You.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

Praise Be to the Name of God

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 17

Praise be to the name of God forever and ever,
 Wisdom and power are His forever and ever.
 He gives wisdom to the wise,
 and knowledge to the discerning.
 He reveals deep and hidden things;
 He knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with Him.
 Praise be to the name of God forever and ever,
 Wisdom and power are His forever and ever.
 Daniel Chapter Two, verses twenty through twenty-two.

Words: Daniel 2:20-22, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012

These verses tell us that the LORD is the God who knows everything there is to know. He is completely wise. There is nothing that can be hidden from Him. He is the one who gives wisdom to make wise people wise.