

BIKE, KAREN AND THE BIKE

By Dr. Hoyt W. Allen, Jr.

Little Karen came into the kitchen where her mother was making dinner. Her birthday was coming up and she thought this was a good time to tell her mother what she wanted. "Mom, I want a bike for my birthday." Be it known: Little Karen was a bit of a troublemaker. She had gotten into trouble at school and at home. Karen's mother asked her if she thought she deserved to get a bike for her birthday. Little Karen, of course, thought she did. Karen's mother, being a religious woman, wanted Karen to reflect on her behavior over the last year. She told Karen to write a letter to Jesus and tell Him why she deserved a bike for her birthday. Little Karen stomped up the steps to her room and sat down to write Jesus a letter.

LETTER 1: Dear Jesus: I have been a very good girl this year and I would like a bike for my birthday. I want a red one. Your friend, Karen. Karen knew this wasn't true. She had not been a very good girl this year, so she tore up the letter and started over.

LETTER 2: Dear Jesus: This is your friend Karen. I have been a pretty good girl this year and I would like a red bike for my birthday. Thank you, Karen. Karen knew this wasn't true either. She tore up the letter and started again.

LETTER 3: Dear Jesus: I know I haven't been a good girl this year. I am very sorry. I will be a good girl if you just send me a red bike for my birthday. Thank you, Karen.

Karen knew, even if it was true, this letter was not going to get her a bike. By now, she was very upset. She went downstairs and told her Mother she wanted to go to church. Karen's mother thought her plan had worked because Karen looked very sad. "Just be home in time for dinner," her mother said.

Karen walked down the street to the church and up to the altar. She looked around to see if anyone was there. She picked up a small statue of the Virgin Mary, slipped it under her jacket and ran out of the church, down the street, into her house and up to her room. She shut the door and sat down and wrote her letter to Jesus.

LETTER 4: Dear Jesus: I GOT YOUR MAMA. IF YOU WANT TO SEE HER AGAIN, SEND THE BIKE. Signed, Karen.

Plainly, don't get short changed. Let's be ready to meet our Maker. The Bible (in Acts) teaches that to avoid hell and gain heaven - one must:

- 1) Believe In Jesus As Savior (16:31)
- 2) Repent Of Sins (17:30)
- 3) Confess Christ Audibly (8:37)
- 4) Be Baptized In Water (2:38)
- 5) Live A Christian Life (14:22)
- 6) Be Active In the Church (2:47)

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