

## **CHURCH, MEMBERSHIP CANDIDATE**

*By Dr. Hoyt W. Allen, Jr.*

Did you hear the story about a man who was a candidate for membership in a church and appeared before the church council for examination.

One of the council members asked him what's your favorite book in the Bible. The young man said, the book of parables. They scratched their heads a little bit and said, Can you tell us about it? So the young man boldly proclaimed. Listen carefully.

- 1) Once upon a time a man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell upon thieves and thorns grew and choked the man.
- 2) And he went on, and didn't have any money.
- 3) And then he met the Queen of Sheba and she gave the man a 1,000 talents of gold and silver and a 100 changes of raiment.
- 4) And when he was driving along under a fig tree his hair got caught in a limb and it left him hanging there. And he hung there for many days and many nights.
- 5) And ravens came and brought him food and water.
- 6) And one night while he was hanging there his wife Delilah came along and cut his hair. And he dropped and fell on stony ground.
- 7) And it rained for 40 days and 40 nights.
- 8) And he saw Queen Jezebel sitting high upon a window.
- 9) And when she saw him, she laughed. So he said throw her down from there.
- 10) So they threw her down. And then he said throw her down again. And they threw her down again -- 70 times 7.
- 11) And Jesus said, "Pay your taxes, from a fish's mouth."
- 12) And the Lord saw there ninety-nine sheep and they were safe.
- 13) Jesus calmed the raging sea and said, "Where is your faith?"
- 14) And Judas went out and hanged himself.
- 15) And the fragments they picked up were 12 baskets full.

And then he turned to the council and said to them, "Now, whose wife will she be in the day of Judgment?" Well, none of the council members were qualified to question him, so the candidate became a member.

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