

# TRUTH & RIGHT

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**WELLSBURG**  
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## **WASPS**

Last week, I raised my garage door and noticed something in the corner of the doorway I had not seen before. The wasps had started building a nest for their babies in a place they had deemed safe and out of the way. It is not uncommon to see wasp nests in the corners of doors, in the eaves of houses, in barns, and in many similar places.

Sometimes, large nests will be built, and we do not notice their construction until the wasps start “defending” their little ones! We might not have any idea that they are building or what is going on until someone gets hurt. In my case, I noticed before getting stung, and a nearby shovel blade removed that nest in a second! Those wasps will have to start another nest somewhere else because they are not welcome here! I am sorry I didn’t notice the nest sooner, but my family and I are thankful I acted. **Lessons From Wasps.** As is common for me, my “teacher’s mind” goes to physical

lessons and then spiritual lessons to be learned from this event. I wondered, “Why did I not see this nest sooner?” We drive and walk in and out of this garage daily for various reasons. Why did I not see it until now? Perhaps I am so preoccupied with my own work that I don’t notice the wasps’ work going on. That is a mistake! At the same time, acting when I did might prevent someone (including me) from getting hurt later. While I know these wasps didn’t choose this spot out of maliciousness, it is also true that there are places where wasps belong and places they don’t belong! Yes, I get to make that decision that they don’t belong at my house (Gen. 1:26-28)! **Spiritual Lessons From Wasps.** Just as Solomon learned lessons from the ants, spiders, bears, dogs, lions, bees, oxen, birds, deer, swine, horses, lambs, goats, snakes, locusts, badgers, and cows (Prov.), there are some lessons we can learn from wasps! What spiritual

lessons might I learn from wasps building their nest at my garage? Let's start by saying that just like a wasp nest, error creeps in quietly and does not try to draw attention to itself while it is developing. Jesus described false prophets as "wolves in sheep's clothing" (Matt. 7:15). This means they start as quiet as little sheep and try not to draw attention to themselves until it is too late! The apostle Paul warned of the same thing when speaking to the Ephesian elders (Acts 20:29-31). One spiritual lesson I learn is do not mistake quiet for pure motives. Another lesson I learn is that, like a wasp nest, error will continue to grow if ignored. On the spiritual side, many seem to have the philosophy that if we leave sin and error alone, it will go away. We are often told, "don't rock the boat." However, if we leave sin alone, it will not go away. It will grow! Just like the wasp nest would have continued to get bigger if ignored, so also error will grow and overwhelm a person, a home, a church, and a nation (Prov. 14:34)! Paul warned, "*a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump*" (1 Cor. 5:6). This means the leaven permeates the dough and allows it to expand. Error will do this if left alone and not confronted. Again, Paul said when error filled Jerusalem, he and the other apostles did not allow it to go unanswered (Gal. 2:1-10). He then went to Antioch and confronted Peter over his hypocrisy (Gal. 2:11-17)! He did

not wait to see what might happen to Peter and the others. Waiting for error to slow or stop is a foolish decision because it won't do that! Things get worse, not better, when we allow sin to remain, just like the wasp nest will only get bigger if we ignore its construction! Finally, I mentioned earlier that I found the closest thing (a shovel) and scraped the nest off the garage. When I did that, the wasps weren't happy. They didn't want to leave where they were, but they had to leave. They weren't welcome here to build their nest, raise their young, and be a pest to those who live here. My motivation for this was not because I hate wasps. Instead, the action was motivated by love for the family and their welfare. It is the same today when confronting those who teach falsely or practice error. My motivation is not a hatred of a person but "*speaking the truth in love*" (Eph. 4:15; Matt. 22:39). When I do this, though, those in error will not be happy because the truth contradicts them! When Jesus or the apostles confronted error, those who were wrong weren't happy, either (Lk. 4:28, 6:11; Acts 5:33)! Since "*the servant is not greater than his Lord*," then I know when I act like Jesus, the world will treat me the way they treated Him (Jn. 15:18-21). Those in error will not like what they are told, but in the end, they will understand it was said in a spirit of love and protection for those

who are God's people (my brethren)! **Conclusion.** The next time you observe wasps (or ants, spiders, bears, dogs, bees, oxen, lions, snakes, etc.), realize that not only do these things speak to God's diverse creation (Gen. 1-2), but they also teach us invaluable spiritual lessons when we take the time to observe. – Jarrod Jacobs. **Pointed**

**Paragraphs** Some time ago, a Christian man asked a gospel preacher: "Why do we not have great gospel sermons like those we used to hear?" The reply was: "There is no demand for them." Do that question and answer reveal conditions as they are? Have we reached the point where preaching is trimmed down to fit the demands of the times? Is preaching thus reduced to a matter of trade? Some factories make only those articles that are in demand. But occasionally an article is offered for sale for which there has been no demand, but the makers of such articles proceed to create a demand. They do extensive advertising; they extol the uses and virtues of their article till people want it. And cannot we in the same way create a demand for the pure gospel in communities where there is no demand? We cannot do it by dealing in religious soup. There is a demand for the unadulterated gospel, for great gospel sermons, but the demand is not as extensive nor as intensive as it should be. Even in some churches of Christ, there is

not as strong a demand for gospel sermons as there should be. When an elder can say, as some of them have said, "So far as I am concerned, I do not care whether our preacher can preach or not," it is time we were waking up. – R. L. Whiteside.

### **How Can I Help This Church?**

Regardless of our age, people want to feel useful. This is true whether we're talking about a 2 or 3-year-old who wants to "help" Daddy or an 80 or 90-year-old who knows he or she can "do something." While we see much apathy in the church, there are also many who would love to help in the Lord's work but don't know where to start. For these people, I offer these suggestions. 1. **Pray** that God's word will be preached boldly and heard by honest hearers (Jas. 5:16). 2. **Invite** someone who needs to hear the gospel and be saved (Jn. 1:40-42, 45-46). 3. **Attend** each and every service of the Lord's people (Heb. 10:25; Matt. 6:33). 4. **Encourage others** by words of concern, singing, praying, and studying the Bible (I Thess. 5:11, 14-15; II Tim. 4:2). 5. **Greet visitors** warmly, and let them know you're happy they are here today (Matt. 7:12; I Cor. 13:4). 6. **Glorify God** by obeying His will (Heb. 5:9; Jn. 14:15). – Jarrod Jacobs

# BIBLE TRIVIA

## C H A L L E N G E

**DIRECTIONS:** After searching through your Bible, circle which answer is correct.

**1. Jesus said He spoke in parables "because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they \_\_\_\_."**

- a) Speak
- b) Understand
- c) Whistle
- d) Breakdance

**2. Seed sown beside the road is snatched away by the \_\_\_\_ one.**

- a) Crazy
- b) Fidgety
- c) Shy
- d) Evil

**3. Wheat and tares will be allowed to grow together until the \_\_\_\_.**

- a) Harvest
- b) Birthday
- c) Evening
- d) Sunset

**4. When the mustard seed is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a \_\_\_\_.**

- a) Tortleneck
- b) Harmonica
- c) Swatch
- d) Tree

**5. The \_\_\_\_ of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three pecks of flour until it was all leavened.**

- a) Kingdom
- b) Jello
- c) Noodles
- d) Pudding

**6. Jesus did not speak to the crowds without a \_\_\_\_.**

- a) Powerpoint
- b) Lazerpointer
- c) Pulpit
- d) Parable

**7. "I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things \_\_\_\_ since the foundation of the world."**

- a) Silly
- b) Fantastic
- c) Hidden
- d) Frightening

**8. The man who found the treasure hidden in the field sold all he had and bought the field from \_\_\_\_ over it.**

- a) Fear
- b) Joy
- c) Suspicion
- d) Confusion

**9. The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine \_\_\_\_.**

- a) Turtles
- b) Fannypacks
- c) Pearls
- d) Frogs

**10. At the end of the age, \_\_\_\_ will take out the wicked from among the righteous.**

- a) God
- b) Jesus
- c) Holy Spirit
- d) Angels

- 1) B, Reference: Mt. 13:13  
 2) D, Reference: Mt. 13:19  
 3) A, Reference: Mt. 13:30  
 4) D, Reference: Mt. 13:31-32  
 5) A, Reference: Mt. 13:33  
 6) D, Reference: Mt. 13:34  
 7) C, Ps. 78:2; Mt. 13:35  
 8) B, Mt. 13:44  
 9) C, Mt. 13:45  
 10) D, Mt. 13:49