



***TREASURES
IN
PLAIN SIGHT***

A Bible Study Allegory Novella

Jody Shee

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Purple
dreamer
Publishers

“O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!” Romans 11:33

With eternal gratitude to God the Father, the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, who reveal to us the mysteries of the riches through which we are redeemed and matured.

Also, all my love to my husband Richmond who is equally enthusiastic about learning and sharing wisdom.

Preface—Meet the Team

This story has a cast of six main characters with unusual names, each with important roles to play in the unfolding story.

Curious: By vocation, she is an experienced writer and editor. By avocation, she searches for more of God. She's not satisfied with her spiritual life and knows there is more in the Bible that would help her get to know God better.

Ethereal: He's a busy Christian book publisher with a prized writing project. He's determined that Curious is the perfect person to complete the project. He has hired other biblically trained writers to help her.

Linguist: He loves all things written, including word meanings and their usage history. He attended Christian Language Arts University to study the Bible from a language perspective.

Antiquity: She loves history and archeology. She found a Christian university with that focus, and thus she graduated from Christian History Academy.

Application (aka Ap): He is often led by feelings and experiences rather than by facts. He honed that focus at one of the six campuses of the hugely popular Christian Psychology Institute.

The teacher: He's the knowledgeable and fascinating instructor at Christian Comparative Institute where Curious is assigned to take classes.

Introduction

An email message popped up on Curious Blue's computer screen from an unfamiliar address on this particular breezy late summer afternoon. The message line read, "I'd like to talk to you about an opportunity." She felt her heart jump to her throat. She was a freelance writer and editor always looking for more work, and this showed up in her business email box.

Little did she know, this communique would begin the fulfilling and unexpected journey leading Curious to an unimaginable inner awakening that few others have found.

Curious was a seasoned believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, living a rather routine Christian existence. That bothered her. There had to be a path that led to more than she was already familiar with. No one she knew, pastors included, exuded more than an ounce of perceptible spiritual insight. Conceivably, no one ever would again. She concluded regularly that the days of knowing and experiencing the depths of the Lord were over until Jesus returns.

Perhaps you relate. If you do, the story that is about to unfold will surprise you. At a minimum, it will challenge you. If you are content with your Christian life the way it is, you probably won't follow. But I believe the story of Curious Blue demonstrates that no matter where you are in your walk with the Lord, there are treasures to be found. Anyone with a curious heart can know the awe of the depths of the Lord and His word in these last days. Let the experience of Curious show you.

1 – Chapter One

Curious opened her “I’d like to talk to you” email and glanced first at the signature line. It was a book publisher CEO named Ethereal Indigo. Wow. The top guy! It must be a small company, she thought. He likely found her name from a writer/editor freelance-seeking website. Long ago she’d signed up with a few of those, posting her resume and writing clips.

She barely breathed as she read about a book project he would like to run by her that would require a lot of time and legwork, but he was willing to pay well. He continued that he could tell that it was a topic she would find compelling. But before he gave any more details, he wanted to discuss her interest and availability.

The message was brief, professional and a bit cryptic. She Googled the company name and was thrilled to find that it was a Christian publisher. Though she’d never heard of any of its titles, they sounded scholarly. The website didn’t include the address. *That doesn’t surprise me*, she muttered to herself. One of her website pet peeves was no given location. She was surprised to see that his phone number area code was the same as hers.

That was it. She dialed. In the next 45 minutes, she was excited, scared, amazed and above all, hooked. This proposed project had a scope like none she could ever imagine. She’d only ever written and edited for magazines, never a book. But Ethereal said that he could tell she was the perfect person for the job, given her experience, but more importantly, her passion for deeper spiritual things. Her writing samples showed him that she was a deep thinker and that she was completely invested in every topic she covered.

This book was a prized project for Ethereal himself. He would send her more information along with some forms to sign. The topic was biblical treasure hunting. Namely, how to find the hidden gems.

Curious collapsed back in her chair after she hung up. Had he read her mind? Ethereal stated, as a fact, that there are riches and treasures in the Bible that are beyond imagination and that have barely or never been discovered. Perhaps she hadn't thought of it in treasure-seeking terms, but she had long been convinced that God offers more incredible wonders in the Bible than most people expect or look for. Ethereal wanted her to explore the search process that leads to the findings. To investigate every angle, he wanted her to incorporate interviews and observations from specific Christian universities, each dedicated to a different discovery process. He was certainly invested in this plan, because he was hiring other writers to simultaneously visit these universities and examine the philosophies and methods for finding the treasures. However, she would be the main writer/editor, so her colleagues would report their findings to her to compile. He even had a university in mind for her to visit that she'd never heard of.

She was shaking as she digested what just happened. But at the same time, Curious felt confident he had picked the right person. If she was nothing else, she was organized. She felt like she was made for something like this but never imagined there could be an assignment that so matched who she was, both professionally and personally. Even down to the university angle. She had attended one of the ones he mentioned. And then, she'd done a three-year stint as a magazine managing editor, so she was used to working with writers to get the results she envisioned. For now, she wasn't entirely sure what to envision, but she was sure Ethereal would guide her.

She wished she could meet him, but he traveled all the time. He proposed regular calls to discuss how the project was going and to offer his input.

2 – Chapter Two

Curious prepared for the Zoom conference call she scheduled with the three other writers. She didn't know how Ethereal had managed, but the writers had attended the Christian university related to their assignment. One of them, Linguist Green, had attended the same one she did, Christian Language Arts University, though she had never met or heard of him.

She hoped that the writers wouldn't mind that she prepared a list of questions to take with them on their two-week assignment. From her magazine editor experience, she knew some writers preferred to ask sources their own questions. Of course, they could do that, but she had some bottom-line intel she was after. But above all, for this call, she hoped for a good discussion and to collectively crystalize their intention. They had each received their assignments and should be prepared to discuss their research expectations.

"Welcome everyone," Curious began. "I'm excited to work with each of you on this project. I'd like to give you each the chance to introduce yourselves, but first, I want to define our mission based on my conversations with Ethereal. We are starting with the fact that there are hidden treasures in the Bible. Our objective is to discover through the various schools of thought, or disciplines, how to find them. We've been given two verses as the theme of our book and to use as our compass," she said.

*O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!
Romans 11:33*

“There are deep riches to be found in the wisdom and knowledge of God,” Curious said. The depth of the riches isn’t just the wisdom and knowledge God has, but the depth of riches we have in our acquired wisdom and knowledge of God. “Obviously we will never learn it all, but we can find more if we look.” This she said as more of a hope than an assurance. After all, she hadn’t seen what she’d call “riches” in a long time, if ever. But she wouldn’t confess that to them. “Here’s the second one.”

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Corinthians 2:14

“The natural mind is never going to grasp the things of the Spirit of God. Those riches are unknowable on a human level. You have to discern them by the Spirit in you,” she said. She doubted she conveyed this with the same conviction in her voice that Ethereal had when he communicated this to her.

From there, Curious told the group a little about herself, then turned to Linguist. “Tell us your background, including your university experience and what you hope to find from this assignment.”

“Yes, well I’ve been a Christian most of my life, and since my favorite subject in school growing up was English, I decided to attend Christian Language Arts University,” he said. “And I’ve thought about the idea of finding the treasures of God from the language-arts angle. I think that might be the very key. Riches in the Bible are obviously discovered by the words that are used. We go back to the original Greek and Hebrew and find out what the original words mean.”

“Can I interrupt?” Curious asked. “You know, I attended the same university, and that’s the angle I studied the Bible from. Like you, I went through four years of it, and I can’t say that anything I learned seemed like a rich treasure. Sorry, but I’m just being honest. I don’t know, maybe I just looked at it all academically.” She also had

thought through the idea of hidden treasures from her educational experience, and somehow, she didn't think it had steered her toward what they were looking for. But, maybe with fresh eyes, she'd see it differently.

"Well, I'd like to say something about that," chimed in Antiquity Violet. She introduced herself and confessed that language arts was so boring to her, she could never have survived four years of that. With a passion for history, she had attended the Christian History Academy. "You would be surprised at what you can learn when you see the customs and ways of thinking in biblical times. As part of our studies, we were required to visit the Holy Land to see where the events happened. When you can actually see the hills, mountains, valleys and bodies of water the Bible talks about, it all comes alive. I think that is most certainly helpful in finding the secrets of God."

"I think you're all missing the main thing," came the third voice. It was Application (Ap) Red who attended the Christian Psychology Institute. "You aren't going to experience the riches of God's treasures by what you know in your head but by what you experience of what you know. That's how you really learn," he said.

"Maybe so," Curious absently responded as she looked across the table at her kitchen counter. She thought she caught a whiff of rosemary or some other herb. She wondered where that came from.

At any rate, for the first time she had a sinking feeling that this would turn out to be a lifeless intellectual pursuit. And that disappointed her. She had to fight the urge to conclude there was no use and that spiritual treasures could never be found. She'd hate to have to revert to her professional view that her writer/editor job sometimes was "to make something out of nothing."

But maybe Ap had a point. After all, experience is certainly livelier than facts. But she knew the mission was to find sparkling treasures

actually from the book, not from experience. The depth of the riches is from the knowledge gained of God from studying His word.

Off the cuff, Curious asked, “How would we even know if we found a hidden treasure? How would it look any different than the things we already know? Maybe we can brainstorm.”

“I think you’ve found a treasure when you find something you can apply to your life in a tangible way,” Ap said. “A treasure is something that makes your life and the lives of those around you better.”

Curious sniffed while she thought on that. “Well, no doubt that’s a popular view. Maybe that’s why the school you attended is the biggest by far of all our schools. How many satellite schools have they started?” He wasn’t sure, but at least six.

Just then Curious’s phone rang. She checked the caller ID. It was Ethereal. She apologized and muted the computer meeting to take his call.

Ethereal was between meetings, but there was something he meant to tell them all. There is an enemy who doesn’t want Christians to grasp the riches found in the knowledge of God. That enemy is invisible. He’s a grand imitator of God, and he will twist the truth any way he can. You will notice a distinct smell when he is around covering up the truth with his alternatives. He advised her to pay attention to that.

“I’ll convey that to the others,” she promised.

Back on the call, Curious cautioned them about the enemy and got right back to her train of thought. “How will we know when we’ve found riches? If we can’t identify anything we’ve learned as a sparkling jewel, then what does one look like?”

“Well, now that I think about it, maybe a hidden treasure would be something old that you could see in the historical account that seems new to us if we look at it from a different angle,” Antiquity said.

“I guess that in my case, it would be a gem if there are words in the Bible we’ve only looked at one way. Maybe there are hidden word meanings,” Linguist offered.

“Good! We might be on to something,” Curious responded hopefully. “As we visit our schools, let’s look for those kinds of things.”

The other three would start their class visits the next week. Hers wouldn’t start until the following week. She advised them to take good notes and be prepared to share what they discovered on the call the following week. After their second week, she would have them interview their teachers to hopefully gain additional input for the book. Curious felt good that they had a plan. They prayed together that it would pay off.

3 – Chapter Three

The schools were studying the life of Moses. What treasures would her cohorts find in that? Curious couldn't wait for the Zoom call to find out.

“Good morning you guys,” Curious started the call. “I hope you enjoyed your classes. I'm kind of jealous that my school doesn't start until next week. So, Antiquity, why don't you go first. What are some highlights of what you got from your class this week at Christian History Academy?”

“I'd have to say that going back to the beginning of Moses's life, there was one verse that stood out.” She read Exodus 2:10: *And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water.*

“I wrote down in my notes that in Biblical times, they often named their children to mean something. For example, Adam and Eve had Cain and Abel. But then we read in Genesis 4:25 *And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew.* Seth means *compensation*. His birth compensated for the loss of Abel.”

Antiquity went on to highlight other Old Testament biblical names and their meanings. “The teacher pointed out that Eve herself was given a name that meant something: Genesis 3:20 says *And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.* The Hebrew of Eve's name means *life* or *living*.”

“I’m sure there’s something more that we could see in the meaning of names in the Bible,” she said, explaining that sometimes names were changed as the occasion called for, like Abram’s name that meant *exalted father* was changed to Abraham, which meant *father of many nations*.

“At any rate, Moses’s name means *drawn out of the water*, for obvious reasons,” she finished.

“We covered the same verse at Christian Psychology Institute,” Ap said. “It must be a sign there’s a treasure there!” He shared the teacher’s explanation.

“We should affirm our children with names that project the qualities we would like to see in their lives. Girls’ names are easier to do that with. If you treasure grace, name your daughter *Grace*. Or how about *Hope*? Let’s get back to naming children with meaningful names,” he said, also pointing out the myriad of books available to help name babies that include the meaning of names. “But nowadays, you can look them up online.”

Then Ap shared the story his teacher told. He and his wife are friends with a couple who years ago took the meanings of names seriously and after much deliberation, named their first-born daughter Katherine, calling her Kate for short. It means *pure*. They prayed that she would be pure before the Lord and pure in her friendships and dealings with boys and relationships throughout her life.

One day when Kate was older, they were talking about meanings of names, and her parents told her why they named her Kate. Her head dropped, and she couldn’t look at her parents’ faces. When they asked what was wrong, she started sobbing and told them that she had recently messed around with a boy from school. Fortunately, she wasn’t pregnant, but her parents used that occasion to explain some facts of life and to discuss the need for

protection against pregnancy. Ap concluded, "It illustrates the point that when you name your children with a meaningful name, you'd do well to explain that to them and help them work it into their character."

"Really?" Curious said flatly. She smelled a skunk. "Interesting, for sure, but what was the hidden gem in that?"

"Well, I think it's pretty obvious," Ap stated.

Oh boy, Curious thought. "Linguist, how about you. Tell us what you got this week from Christian Language Arts University."

"Part of the time we were in Exodus 3:7-10, and I'm still mulling over what God said to Moses when he broke the news to Moses that he would be the one to help deliver the Israelites from their oppressors."

Linguist reviewed that God saw the Israelites' affliction. "That word means *misery*. What is misery? It's a state or feeling of great distress or discomfort of mind or body. We can see their misery, but here, the Bible defines exactly what the cause of that was. It was their taskmasters," Linguist said. "If I were to ask you what a taskmaster is, you might say *boss* or *employer*. But really the Hebrew word means *oppressor*. These were actually their bosses, but people can be oppressed by all kinds of people, and even by Satan," he concluded.

Curious agreed it was food for thought. But she wondered what of their findings she would report to Ethereal. He expected weekly calls to stay up with the direction of the project. That was probably wise of him, but so far, no direction into sparkling gems stood out to her. She determined not to despair yet. She still had her school to attend.

4 – Chapter Four

Christian Comparative Institute was a new one for Curious. She was glad Ethereal had picked this one for her to attend. Neither she nor the other three had ever heard of it before. She wondered what was with the word *Comparative* in the name.

She hadn't been inside a college for years and felt a little conspicuous. But her inquisitiveness soon took over. She noticed the other students seemed enthusiastic. Some even gathered together in the hallway talking about an apparently interesting lesson.

As class started, she looked around. Everyone seemed eagerly poised with notebook and pens, laptops or tablets. No slumping in chairs or daydreaming out the window. *The teacher must be good*, she thought.

"As we study the life of Moses, we will often refer to our guidepost verse, so I have it right here," the teacher began, pointing to the whiteboard. He read it aloud. "*Speaking to Moses, God said, I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.* Deuteronomy 18:18." Then he said something that caught Curious off guard.

"We see what it says. Now I'm going to give you 3 minutes to read it a few times to yourself and formulate your observations and conclusions regarding what it means. And you must offer additional verses to support your conclusions. Go ahead and start."

OK, I'm game for this, Curious thought. Looking at the board, she saw something right off and opened her Bible to the passage to see if what she read on the board was correct.

The "P" in the word *Prophet* was capitalized. She knew that any title like this in the Bible that was capitalized indicated deity. Puzzled at why she'd never noticed that before, she read the verse again. *I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.*

She concluded that it was a prophetic reference to Christ. She felt she got that one right and guessed that probably everyone else in the class did too.

The teacher asked who would like to share, and one gal quickly raised her hand.

"The P in *prophet* is capitalized, so it refers to Jesus. In a backwards way, God told Moses, essentially, that he was a type of Jesus. Then, if that's the case, I checked my TSK where it says that God would put His words in this Prophet's mouth, which is Jesus. In the Gospel of John, Jesus said He only spoke the words that God told him to, just like it says in our Deuteronomy verse. That's John 12:49-50."

"Excellent. You got it!" the teacher said. "I'm glad you picked up on the fact that Jesus only said what the Father told him to, like Moses. Go ahead and read those verses in John you referred to."

She read, *For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.*

Wow. What just happened? Curious wondered. The correlation between the Deuteronomy verse and those verses in John amazed

her. And what did that girl say she checked to find that? A *TSK*? What was that?

The teacher announced, "With the understanding that Moses as prophet pictures Jesus, we will go through the life of Moses in this class and perk up when we find ways he pictured Christ. And I will tell you that there are many. So, let's get started, first with the meaning of his name."

Ah, now Curious felt like she was on familiar ground. She'd just discussed this with her book colleagues.

The teacher directed them to Exodus 2:10 *And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water.*

"The name Moses means *drawn out of the water*," the teacher said. "As we pursue the similarities between Moses and Jesus, we have to ask, is there anywhere in the Bible that talks about Christ being drawn out of the water? I'll give you all 2 minutes to look that up. Go ahead and start."

Curious had no idea where to even begin, other than to look up her Bible cross references, which were few and yielded nothing. She was still puzzling over it when time was up.

A young man sitting on the other side of the room raised his hand and quoted Psalm 18:16-17 *He sent from above, he took me, he drew me out of many waters. He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them which hated me: for they were too strong for me.*

The teacher asked how he knew that referred to Jesus.

"Well, I have a note in my Bible that Psalm 18 is a Messianic Psalm," he responded.

“That’s correct,” the teacher said. “And just in case we have any doubters in the room, we know Psalm 18 speaks of Christ prophetically because Paul referred to a verse in that Psalm and applied it to Christ in Romans 15:9.”

These seem like treasures, Curious thought. They were hidden under the surface. You had to think, and dig, and obviously compare verses. She had an epiphany. *This is why it’s called Christian Comparative Institute.* She would have something to tell the others and to report to Ethereal!

“In this context, there’s something else we shouldn’t miss about Moses that Exodus 2:10 hits on,” the teacher said. “Let’s read the first part of it again.” *And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh’s daughter, and he became her son.*

“Moses had two identities, as did Christ. Jesus was the Son of God, while also being the Son of man. Moses equally represented God’s chosen people, the Israelites, being born a Hebrew. But he also represented the common man of the world being adopted, if you will, by the world as he was raised in Egyptian king Pharaoh’s house. Egypt is a type of the world. Moses was fully both identities.”

Curious had never thought of that, and she had the feeling there would be a lot of things she’d never heard or thought of. This line of thinking regarding the Bible was different from anything she’d ever heard. It seemed a little less academic and a little bit more like exploration and putting puzzle pieces together. Now, she must find out about this TSK thing, for she was clearly at a disadvantage in treasure hunting without it, whatever it was.

5 – Chapter Five

Curious took the call. Ethereal rang right on schedule wasting no time asking how the first week of school went for everyone.

“For the most part, I think it went like you might expect, unfortunately,” she said. “As you told me, each school has a class in the life of Moses right now, so we each pretty much covered Moses’s beginnings from the language, historic and psychological angles. I have to confess that until I went to my school, I didn’t think I’d really have treasure-finding news to report.”

She told him about her class. “The teacher’s approach was unlike anything I’ve ever seen. I can’t wait for the next class and to interview him.” She gushed about what she learned and how the teacher handled the class by asking them to do the work. Rather than spoon feeding, the teacher had commented that the Bible is truly one of those things that you get the most out of it based on the research and thought you put into it.

That reminded her. “One student mentioned that she found something in the TSK, or something like that. I didn’t get a chance to ask her what that was. Have you ever heard of it?”

Indeed, Ethereal had heard of it. “It stands for The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge.” In fact, he explained that if one could only have one Bible study aid, that should be it. He described it as an unabridged directory of cross references that used to be a rather large book. But now it’s included as a feature on several smartphone Bible apps and computer Bible programs.

“Oh!” Curious exclaimed. “I have to get that!” He recommended The Blue Letter Bible app for the phone and e-Sword or Bible Analyzer, which are both free software downloads for the computer. He reiterated that those who are going to do serious Bible study and have a shot at finding treasures would need The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge on their phone or computer.

She updated him on their next plan of action. They would each attend their second week of classes, interview their teacher and then have a call to compile their treasure-finding insights and conclusions.

As soon as they hung up, Curious went to the app store on her phone, installed the Blue Letter Bible and spent a few hours familiarizing herself with it, especially how to use the TSK. She determined that for the next class, she would be ready to handle the teacher’s questions.

6 – Chapter Six

This time in class, Curious was just like the others—poised and ready for insight, prepared to handle any “you have 2 minutes to find this” assignments.

The teacher started the class as before, referring to their guidepost verse as a lens from which to look at the life of Moses as a picture or type of Christ: *I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.* (Deuteronomy 18:18)

“Before we move forward, remember last week we discussed how the name *Moses* means ‘drawn out of the water,’ and that Christ was also said to have been drawn out of the water in Psalm 18. For a moment, let’s take that a little further.” He brought up baptism and how that baptism by immersion pictures the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. The obedient believer pictures that when dunked and raised up out of the water.

Wow, Curious would have never thought to put those two things together.

“With that in mind, let’s look at the first part of our guidepost verse again,” he said. *I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren...* “Can you picture Jesus being raised up out of the water? As you recall, John the Baptist baptized Jesus. Do I have a volunteer to read Matthew 3:16?

Curious raised her hand and read *And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were*

opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him.

“It was a big deal when Jesus was raised up out of the water of baptism because it pictured Him rising from the dead,” the teacher said. You see, Jesus was the prophet from among the Israelite’s brethren that was like Moses. And here we see that both were raised up out of the water, and we are only at the beginning of Moses’s life.”

Curious typed as fast as she could on her laptop. She didn’t want any of this to slip away. She wanted to look at it further when she got home.

Now the teacher drew them to Exodus 4 following the conversation of chapter 3 when God spoke to Moses from the burning bush, calling him to deliver the children of Israel out of Egypt, outlining the whole plan for him.

“What I’d like for us to see today, first of all, is how Moses responded to all this. Let’s read the first five verses of Exodus 4.”

And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee. And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod. And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it. And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand: That they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee.

“I’m going to give everyone 2 minutes to look at verse 1 again, and then I’m going to call on someone to explain that verse in their own words without looking at it,” he said.

Curious read it to herself, *And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee.* It seemed pretty straightforward to her. She was always impressed that God, somewhere in the Bible, said Moses was the meekest man in the world. Here he demonstrated that when he shied away from being God's national spokesman. Then she had a light-bulb moment. Wasn't Jesus said to have been meek also? She quickly typed in *Moses meekest* in her Bible app to find the verse that said Moses was the meekest man on the face of the earth. It was Numbers 12:3. Then she looked at the TSK cross references and found two verses that talked about Jesus being meek: Matthew 11:29 and 21:5. She felt so proud of herself for finding what surely must be a treasure using her new Bible tool.

Time was up. The teacher called on a gal in the front row to discuss Exodus 4:1. "From the context, it's apparent that Moses was sure no one would believe that God sent him, so God gave him a sign to perform so that they would believe him," she said.

Another gal raised her hand. "I wrote down my paraphrase." She read what she wrote. "What if they don't believe me or even listen to me? What if they doubt that you sent me?"

Curious wondered how they both could have missed Moses's demonstration of *meekness*. She almost raised her hand.

The teacher smiled. "This little exercise was kind of cruel of me," he admitted. But it underscores an important point of Bible study. That is, every word is inspired and preserved in our Bible. When we paraphrase a verse, we tend to read into it our ideas of what it means. If you don't remember anything else we talk about in this class, remember this, and write it down. Always look at exactly what a verse or passage *says* before you ask yourself what it *means*."

Curious typed that. Obviously, he was leading up to something stunning, and somehow, she knew it wasn't going to be what she expected. She was so glad she hadn't raised her hand.

"Remember the lens though which we are studying Moses's life. He pictures Christ. Now I'll give you 30 seconds to read verse 1 again."

Curious read it silently again. *And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee.*

She saw it, as plain as day. Moses was not asking a question. He was stating a fact. It was as if Jesus was speaking and predicting in advance what actually happened. His own people would not believe Him or listen to Him or acknowledge that God appeared to him! She saw Jesus in this verse.

Others in the class saw it too. The teacher reminded them of Jesus from John 1:11, *He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*

He urged them not to stop there. The rest of the passage was more than a sign God gave Moses to authenticate him as the one to save them from bondage. This first miracle involved the rod in Moses's hand. God told him to throw it to the ground, and it became a serpent. Moses was afraid. But God told him to take it by the tail, and it became a rod in his hand.

"Are there pictures of Jesus in this miracle of a rod becoming a serpent and then becoming a rod again? I'll give you 2 minutes to think that through and share any verses you think are pertinent."

When he put it like that, another story in the Bible popped into her mind. Curious looked it up. It was the story of the serpent on the pole.

And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent

had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.
(Numbers 21:8-9)

She knew there was at least one New Testament cross reference to that story associating it with Christ. She quickly found it in her TSK.

She saw that Jesus said, *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up.* (John 3:14)

Before the 2 minutes were up, Curious felt like she had a whole lesson in Christ becoming sin and then rising again to offer life.

She raised her hand and shared her verses. The teacher affirmed her discovery.

“Very good. Excellent thinking,” the teacher said. “And indeed, the rod in our story in Exodus 4 does point to Jesus. We read in Isaiah 11:1 *And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.* We know this refers to Jesus.

“This picture in Exodus 4 has a triple fulfillment. In Moses’ day, when that miracle was performed, the Israelites believed as God said they would. You see it at the end of the chapter. Secondly, when Jesus died and rose again, He conquered sin, death and Satan, and many believed. But thirdly, the ultimate victory over the serpent is yet to happen when Jesus comes again and defeats that old serpent once and for all.”

The hour went by so fast, and before she knew it, class was over. She didn’t want to leave. Actually, she couldn’t leave. She had a piece of business to attend to. She waited in line to talk to the teacher.

“Hi, my name is Curious,” she said as she reached out to shake his hand.

“I know. You’re here to check out the class for a book assignment. And you’d like to interview me?”

She gasped. “How did you know?”

“Oh, your boss Ethereal called me and told me. We’re great friends. I think the book sounds fascinating. Something needs to be written about finding treasures in the Bible,” he said. “Everyone should read and study Proverbs 2, don’t you think?” he asked.

“Uh. I think so,” she said more as a question than an affirmative. She didn’t know what Proverbs 2 said, making a mental note to read it later. She praised him for his insight, the likes of which she had never heard before.

“I *would* like to interview you. Can we do it after class next week?” She didn’t let him know that she had only intended to sit in on two weeks of class and then interview him. But she’d already decided that she had to hear him one more time before doing her interview and then start writing.

He agreed to her request. “By the way,” he said. “Ethereal tells me that you have three colleagues who are examining the life of Moses from visiting other Christian colleges. In discussing our passage from today, you might get a question you can’t answer from the one attending the Christian History Academy. Don’t get tripped up. We will discuss it in class next week.”

Curious left with so many mixed emotions. This whole experience was mentally and spiritually overwhelming. It was certainly out of this world. On her way to her car, she thanked God with all her heart that He allowed her to see the truths she’d already seen in such a short time. Book or no book, she realized that there actually were unimaginable treasures in the Bible to which she was completely blind. She felt like the hand of God was on her and guiding her in a way she’d never experienced. In fact, He was answering her life-long prayer to know Him better. He was showing Himself to her through the Bible.

She remembered the story of the resurrected Jesus joining up with two men on the road to Emmaus who were discussing his death and resurrection. They didn't recognize it was Jesus, and they told him everything that had happened with Christ. When their eyes were opened that it was Jesus they were talking to, Jesus began at Moses sharing the things in the Scriptures that pointed to Himself. She realized, she just learned a few of those things Jesus must have surely pointed out to them. How purely academic she had always been in reading and studying her Bible. What if the whole Bible ran deeper than just the historical narrative? Just pondering that, she almost walked right past her car.

[Sorry, this is the end of the snippet. I hope you're enjoying this. You can order a copy on Amazon for \$4.95 or the Kindle version for \$2.99.]