

BARRY BEAR AND THE BEES

Message: Our trials don't compare to the reward to come

Scripture: Romans 8:18

There was a bear named Barry who lived way out in the woods. Barry's favorite thing to do in the whole world was eat. He loved to eat. In fact, he spent most of the day looking for something to eat.

Of course, way out in the woods there aren't any McDonalds or Burger Kings, so Barry had to eat what he could find right there in the woods. He would look for blueberries, blackberries and different kinds of nuts. And if he was lucky he might be able to catch a fish in the stream nearby.

One day Barry was looking around for something to eat when he noticed a big hole in one of the trees. So he climbed up to take a look, and there inside the hole was a big beehive. And you know what bees make, don't you? Honey! And, boy did Barry love honey!

But you know what the problem is. If Barry tried to take that honey, what would the bees do? They'd sting him! But Barry sure wanted some of that honey. So he closed his eyes, reached into the hole and took out a big hunk of honeycomb, all dripping with honey.

The bees went crazy, and when they were through Barry had bee stings all the way from his nose to his toes. It sure did hurt, but that honey sure tasted good.

Those bee stings were a real trial for Barry, but he endured that trial, and he was rewarded with delicious honey. Christians suffer trials in this life, too, and afterwards we'll be rewarded with something even better than honey. We'll be rewarded with eternal life in God's kingdom. We'll be able to see Jesus face to face.

Let's see what Paul says about that in Romans, chapter 8, verse 18. He says, "...our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed." (NIV)

To Barry, getting that honey was worth all those bee stings. And getting to see Jesus face to face is worth any trial we might have to go through.

Let's pray: Father God, we look forward to the day when the trumpet sounds and we'll see Your Son, Jesus face to face. Until then please help us to endure whatever trials we may have. We ask this in His holy name. Amen.

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