

Desperate Prayers

Tobit 2:11 – 3:17

by Don Falkos

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Tobit's wife Anna brought income into the home by weaving cloth out of wool. One day she received a bonus from her employers – a young goat. Tobit heard the kid bleating and asked, "Where did this goat come from? It isn't stolen, is it? Take it back. We can't eat anything that's stolen!"

Anna explained, but her husband didn't believe her and became very angry. She retorted, "You have a reputation for generosity. Yet you are angry at someone else's generosity to me, a poor woman trying to support her blind husband. You should be ashamed of yourself." And he was.

Tobit prayed, "Lord, don't make me endure the misery of life in blindness. Even my wife casts aspersions on me. Let me die and leave this earth behind. Set my spirit free to enter the eternal place."

Meanwhile in Media, a young woman named Sarah was also in distress. Seven times she had been given in marriage. But each time, before the marriage could be consummated, an evil spirit killed her husband. She remained a virgin and was innocent of their blood. Yet she was constantly being accused of murder. "Seven husbands? An evil spirit? Ha... You killed them yourself!"

Sarah prayed, "Lord, I can't endure these insults any longer. Please, let me die."

The Lord heard the prayers of Sarah and Tobit. The angel Raphael was sent to comfort both of them. Tobit was to have his sight restored. Sarah was to be freed from the evil spirit and was to be given in marriage to Tobit's son Tobias.