

## **Fish Guts**

Tobit 6 – 8

by Don Falkos

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Tobias and the angel Raphael departed for Media. The first night, Tobias went to wash his feet in the river. Suddenly, a large fish leaped from the water and tried to swallow his foot. Tobias hauled the fish onto dry ground. The angel told him to "cut open the fish and remove its gallbladder, heart, and liver which are useful medicines." Tobias followed his instructions then prepared the rest of the fish as food for their journey.

When they arrived in Media, Raphael said, "Tonight we will stay in the home of your relative, whose only child is a beloved daughter named Sarah. She is sensible, brave, and very beautiful. What's more, you are her closest relative. You have more of a right than anyone else to claim her as your wife."

Tobias knew the story of Sarah's seven husbands who had been killed by an evil spirit. He was afraid he too might be killed. Raphael reassured him, "Don't worry about the demon. When you go into the bridal chamber, place the fish's liver and heart on the incense burner. The odor will drive off the demon; it will never come back."

Tobias's relatives were pleased to meet him and overjoyed to arrange his marriage to their daughter Sarah. After a banquet, Tobias was taken to Sarah's bedroom. He burned the fish's liver and heart as Raphael had said; he and Sarah prayed that God would bless them with a long and happy life together. Then they consummated their marriage.

During the night, Sarah's father dug a grave, expecting Tobias to be killed. In the morning, he joyfully filled it back in.