

Prayer

Bible - 2 Peter 3:18

Quiz

1. What are the names of John Quincy Adams' famous father and mother? John and Abigail Adams
2. Before becoming president, John Quincy Adams travelled and served in several countries on what continent? Europe
3. Was John Quincy Adams elected president in 1800, 1824, or 1840? 1824
4. What did John Quincy Adams tell his father that he had read in several languages? the New Testament
5. Did John Quincy Adams write to his father that he was becoming orthodox in the Christian faith, or unorthodox? orthodox
6. BONUS: What part of the New Testament did John Quincy Adams repeatedly refer to in his letter, because he knew his father particularly liked it? The Sermon on the Mount

Recitation

President - Andrew Jackson (1767-1845)
seventh president (1829-1837)

1767 born in the Carolinas; unclear whether North or South Carolina

father died logging, clearing land just before he was born

took education from a local pastor

served as a courier in the war for independence

-captured by the British; released in a prisoner exchange

-both brothers and his mother died during the war

-orphan age 14

after the war, studied law

1787 became a lawyer in North Carolina, then Nashville, Tennessee

1794 married a divorcee named Rachel Robards (scandal involved)

-had not children together; adopted her orphaned nephew

-took in several orphaned relatives

elected representative, then Senator from Tennessee

1802 became major general, commander of the Tennessee militia

over time, acquired 1,000 acres farmland and 150 slaves

home called The Hermitage

1813-14 led force of militia that defeated Red Sticks native American confederation

1814 made a general in the US Army

-defeated combined British and Spanish forces in Florida

-moved force to New Orleans

1815 defeated British in Battle of New Orleans

-became national hero

1818 defeated Seminoles and Spanish in Florida

1824 almost won presidential election, which went narrowly to Adams

1828 elected president by a wide margin

-wife Rachel died suddenly between election and inauguration

-blamed opponents among Adams' supporters for her death, and stated that he would never forgive them

-two female relatives served as hostesses in The White House: Emily Donelson and Sarah Jackson

Signed and executed the Indian Removal Act, removing many thousands to west of the Mississippi

1835 paid off the national debt, first time in US history

1837 recognized the Republic of Texas

in retirement, campaigned in favor of receiving Texas as a state

1845 died after long illness

Text

excerpts from *The True Andrew Jackson* by Cyrus Townsend Brady, 1906

chapter 17 "Religion - Last Days"

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Chapter 17 "Religion - Last Days"

This material quoted from *Life of Andrew Jackson* by James Parton 1822

Parton writes that he received this information from the Reverend Dr. Edgar, Presbyterian pastor from Nashville, who was an eye-witness to it.

"It was about the year 1839 that Dr. Edgar was first invited to the Hermitage for the purpose of administering religious advice to its inmates. Mrs. Jackson, the amiable and estimable wife of the general's son, was sick in body and troubled in mind. General Jackson invited his reverend friend to call and see her. . . In the course of her conversation with the doctor she chanced to say, in the general's hearing, that she felt herself to be a great sinner.' " You a sinner ?' interposed the general ; ' why, you are all purity and goodness ! Join Dr. Edgar's church, by all means.' " This remark was considered by the clergyman as proof that, at that time, General Jackson was blind' as to the nature of true religion.

"Ere long a ' protracted meeting' was held in the little church on the Hermitage farm. Dr. Edgar conducted the exercises, and the family at the Hermitage were constant in their attendance. The last day of the meeting arrived, ...General Jackson sat in his accustomed seat and Dr. Edgar preached. The subject of the sermon was the interposition of Providence in the affairs of men . . . The preacher spoke in detail of the perils which beset the life of man, and how often he is preserved from sickness and sudden death. Seeing General Jackson listening with rapt attention to his discourse, the eloquent preacher sketched the career of a man...who had escaped the tomahawk of the savage, the attack of his country's enemies, the privations and fatigues of border warfare, and the aim of the assassin. How is it,' exclaimed the preacher, ' that a man endowed with reason and gifted with intelligence can pass through such scenes as these unharmed, and not see the hand of God in his deliverance?' While enlarging on this theme Dr. Edgar saw that his words were sinking deep into the general's heart, and he spoke with unusual animation and impressiveness.

"The service ended, General Jackson got into his carriage and was riding homeward. He was overtaken by Dr. Edgar on horseback. He hailed the doctor, and said he wished to speak with him. . . " Doctor,' said the general, ' I want you to come home with me to-night.' " . . . Dr. Edgar said that he had promised to visit that evening a sick lady, and he felt bound to keep his promise. . . The anxious man was obliged to be contented with this arrangement, and went home alone. . . He passed the evening and the greater part of the night in meditation, in reading, in conversation with his beloved daughter, in prayers. He was sorely distressed. Late at night, when his daughter left him , he was still agitated and sorrowful...

"As the day was breaking, light seemed to dawn upon his troubled soul, and a great peace fell upon him. "To Dr. Edgar, who came to see him soon after sunrise, General Jackson told the joyful history of the night, and expressed a desire to be admitted into the church with his daughter that very morning. The usual questions respecting doctrine and experience were satisfactorily answered by the candidate.

Then there was a pause in the conversation. The clergyman said at length : " General, there is one more question which it is my duty to ask you. Can you forgive all your enemies ?" "The question was evidently unexpected, and the candidate was silent for awhile. " My political enemies,' said he, ' I can freely forgive ; but as for those who abused me when I was serving my country in the field, and those who attacked me for serving my country-Doctor, that is a different case. The doctor assured him that it was not. Christianity, he said, forbade the indulgence of enmity absolutely and in all cases. No man could be received into a Christian church who did not cast out of his heart every feeling of that nature. It was a condition that was fundamental and indispensable. After a considerable pause the candidate said that he thought he could forgive all who had injured him, even those who had assailed him for what he had done for his country in the field . The clergyman then consented to his sharing in the solemn ceremonial of the morning, and left the room to communicate the glad tidings to Mrs. Jackson. She hastened to the general's apartment. They rushed with tears into each other's arms, and remained long in a fond and silent embrace.

"The Hermitage church was crowded to the utmost of its small capacity ; the very windows were darkened with the eager faces of the servants. After the usual services, the general rose to make the required public declaration of his concurrence with the doctrines, and his resolve to obey the precepts, of the church. He leaned heavily upon his stick with both hands ; tears rolled down his cheeks. His daughter, the fair, young matron, stood beside him. Amid a silence the most profound, the general answered the questions proposed to him. When he was formally pronounced a member of the church, and the clergyman was about to continue the services, the long-restrained feelings of the congregation burst forth in sobs and exclamations, which compelled him to pause for several minutes. The clergyman himself was speechless with emotion and abandoned himself to the exaltation of the hour. A familiar hymn was raised, in which the entire assembly, both within and without the church, joined with an ecstatic fervor which at once expressed and relieved their feelings.

"From this time to the end of his life General Jackson spent most of his leisure hours in reading the Bible, Biblical commentaries, and the hymn-book, which last he always pronounced in the old-fashioned way, hime book. The work known as ' Scott's Bible' was his chief delight; he read it through twice before he died. Nightly he read prayers in the presence of his family and household servants. I say read prayers, for so I was informed by those who often heard him do it. But there has been published a description of the family worship at the Hermitage which represents the general as delivering an extempore prayer.

At one of the...meetings of the...church General Jackson was nominated a ' ruling elder.' No,' said he, ' the Bible says, Be not hasty in laying on of hands. " I am too young in the church for such an office. My countrymen have given me high honors, but I should esteem the office of ruling elder in the Church of Christ a far higher honor than any I have ever received.

On May 24, 1845, the last Sunday but two of his life, " General Jackson partook of the communion in the presence of his family. He spoke much of the consolation of religion, and declared that he was ready for the final summons. ' Death,' said he...has no terrors for me. When I have suffered sufficiently, the Lord will take me to Himself ; but what are my sufferings compared with those of the blessed Saviour who died on the accursed tree for me? Mine are nothing. '

The True Andrew Jackson by Cyrus Townsend Brady, 1906

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to religion. Parton thus tells the story of the way in which he finally took the step in the following exquisite language: "It was about the year 1839 that Dr. Edgar was first invited to the Hermitage for the purpose of administering religious advice to its inmates. Mrs. Jackson, the amiable and estimable wife of the general's son, was sick in body and troubled in mind. General Jackson invited his reverend friend to call and see her, and endeavor to clear her mind of the cloud of perplexity and apprehension which hung over it. In the course of her conversation with the doctor she chanced to say, in the general's hearing, that she felt herself to be a great sinner.' " You a sinner ?' interposed the general ; ' why, you are all purity and goodness ! Join Dr. Edgar's church, by all means.' " This remark was considered by the clergyman as proof that, at that time, General Jackson was blind' as to the nature of true religion. Soon after this interview Mrs. Jackson's anxiety was relieved, and she waited to join the church only for a suitable opportunity. "Ere long a ' protracted meeting' was held in the little church on the Hermitage farm. Dr. Edgar con-

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ducted the exercises, and the family at the Hermitage were constant in their attendance. The last day of the meeting arrived, which was also the last day of the week. General Jackson sat in his accustomed seat and Dr. Edgar preached. The subject of the sermon was the interposition of Providence in the affairs of men, a subject congenial with the habitual tone of General Jackson's mind. The preacher spoke in detail of the perils which beset the life of man, and how often he is preserved from sickness and sudden death. Seeing General Jackson listening with rapt attention to his discourse, the eloquent preacher sketched the career of a man who, in addition to the ordinary dangers of human life, had encountered those of the wilderness, of war, and of keen political conflict ; who had escaped the tomahawk of the savage, the attack of his country's enemies, the privations and fatigues of border warfare, and the aim of the assassin. How is it,' exclaimed the preacher, ' that a man endowed with reason and gifted with intelligence can pass through such scenes as these unharmed, and not see the hand of God in his deliverance?' While enlarging on this theme Dr. Edgar saw that his words were sinking deep into the general's heart, and he spoke with unusual animation and impressiveness. "The service ended, General Jackson got into his carriage and was riding homeward. He was overtaken by Dr. Edgar on horseback. He hailed the doctor, and said he wished to speak with him. Both having alighted, the general led the clergyman a little way into the grove. " Doctor,' said the general, ' I want you to come home with me to-night.' 6 " I cannot to-night,' was the reply; ' I am engaged elsewhere.' " Doctor,' repeated the general, ' I want you to come home with me to- night.' " Dr. Edgar said that he had promised to visit that evening a sick lady, and he felt bound to keep his promise. General Jackson, as though he had not heard

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the reply, said a third time, and more pleadingly than before : " Doctor, I want you to come home with me tonight.' 66 General Jackson, ' said the clergyman, ' my word is pledged ; I cannot break it ; but I will be at the Hermitage to-morrow morning very early.' " The anxious man was obliged to be contented with this arrangement, and went home alone. He retired to his apartment. He passed the evening and the greater part of the night in meditation, in reading, in conversation with his beloved daughter, in prayers. He was sorely distressed. Late at night, when his daughter left him , he was still agitated and sorrowful. What thoughts passed through his mind as he paced his room in the silence of the night, of what sins he repented, and what actions of his life he wished he had not done, no one knows, or will ever know. . "As the day was breaking, light seemed to dawn upon his troubled soul, and a great peace fell upon him. "To Dr. Edgar, who came to see him soon after sunrise, General Jackson told the joyful history of the night, and expressed a desire to be admitted into the church with his daughter that very morning. The usual questions respecting doctrine and experience were satisfactorily answered by the candidate. Then there was a pause in the conversation. The clergyman said at length : " General, there is one more question which it is my duty to ask you. Can you forgive all your enemies ?" "The question was evidently unexpected, and the candidate was silent for awhile. " My political enemies,' said he, ' I can freely forgive ; but as for those who abused me when I was serving my country in the field, and those who attacked me for serving my country-Doctor, that is a different case. 66 The doctor assured him that it was not. Christianity, he said, forbade the indulgence of enmity abso

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Nightly he read prayers in the presence of his family and household servants. I say read prayers, for so I was informed by those who often heard him do it. But there has been published a description of the family worship at the Hermitage which represents the general as delivering an extempore prayer.

"The Hermitage church, after the death of Mrs. Jackson and the general's removal to Washington, had not been able to maintain itself ; but the event which we have just related caused it to be reorganized. At one of the first meetings of the resurrected church General Jackson was nominated a ' ruling elder.' ' 666 66 No,' said he, ' the Bible says, Be not hasty in laying on of hands. " I am too young in the church for such an office. My countrymen have given me high honors, but I should esteem the office of ruling elder in the Church of Christ a far higher honor than any I have ever received. I propose Brother Brother (two aged neighbors) . "

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On May 24, 1845, the last Sunday but two of his life, " General Jackson partook of the communion in the presence of his family. He spoke much of the consolation of religion, and declared that he was ready for the final summons. ' Death,' said he after the ceremony was over, has no terrors for me. When I have suffered sufficiently, the Lord will take me to Himself ; but what are my sufferings compared with those of the blessed Saviour who died on the accursed tree for me? Mine are nothing. "

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The end of his life was now at hand. Let us see how he met it, and what truly does appear concerning it. Parton has preserved certain pages of a diary kept by one William Tyack, whom he describes as being a friend and employé of the family, in which we are given an intimate personal account of the last days of the old hero.

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THURSDAY, May 29 . . . the general received many visitors-more than thirty...A reverend gentleman called to inquire in regard to the general's health, his faith, and future hope. The general said : ' Sir, I am in the hands of a merciful God. I have full confidence in His goodness and mercy. My lamp of life is nearly out, and the last glimmer has come. I am ready to depart when called. The Bible is true. The principles and statutes of that holy book have been the rule of my life, and I have tried to conform to its spirit as near as possible. Upon the sacred volume I rest my hope to eternal salvation, through the merits and blood of our blessed Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.'

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FRIDAY, May 30 . . . After his family retires it is touching to witness this heroic man, who has faced every danger with unyielding front, offer up his prayer for those whom Providence has committed to his care ; that Heaven would protect and prosper them when he is no more-praying still more fervently to God for the preservation of his country, of the Union, and the people of the United States from all foreign influence and invasion-tendering his forgiveness to his enemies, and his gratitude to God for His support and success through a long life, and for the hope of eternal salvation through the merits of our blessed Redeemer.

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SATURDAY, May 30.-The general passed a distressed night ; no sleep ; extreme debility this morning, attended with increased swelling of the abdomen and all his limbs and difficulty of breathing. He said, ' I hope God will grant me patience to submit to His holy will. He does all things well, and blessed be His holy and merciful name.' His Bible is always near him ; if he is in his chair it is on the table by his side ; when propped up in bed, that sacred volume is laid by him, and he often reads it.

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"June 1. This day,' the general said, ' is the holy Sabbath, ordained by God and set apart to be devoted to His worship and praise. I always attended service at church when I could ; but now I can go no more.' . . . The general looked out of the window and said : " This is apparently the last Sabbath I shall be with you. God's will be done ; He is kind and merciful.'