

MOTHER MELANIA'S MONTHLY MISSIVE - January 2025

A not entirely random mix of reflections on life, coloring pages, thoughts about kids' books & updates on Mother Melania's books

Today's Reflection - Hmmp!

This month's *Just So Story* is 'How the Camel Got His Hump.' Originally, it was a 'Hmmp!' which tells you all you need to know about the camel's character! Well, not ALL you need to know. He was also 'scruciatingly idle, a howler, and very proud of his back (before his hmmp ended up on it!). And as he WAS 'scruciatingly idle, he refused to work for man, unlike the dutiful horse, dog, and ox. In the end, he was sentenced to wear his 'Hmmp!' on his back and to work for man - but he never DID learn to behave. Or, to put it another way, the camel was no longer wild, but not really tame.

Sometimes, I'm like the camel. Not completely wild (at least, I hope NOT!), but not truly obedient. That is, I go through the motions, but not with love and devotion, and therefore without joy. Life is like that when you have a big Hmmp on your back!

So, when we notice our Hmmps, let us repent of them and ask God for loving and devoted hearts. And who knows? Bit by bit, those nasty old Hmmps may melt completely away!

Mother Melania's Book Update

Quiz Yourself on the Book of Judith is now available as a Kindle book through the end of January for \$0.99 or as a printed booklet from the monastery for \$4.00.



Classic Kids' Tales:

How the Camel Got His Hump

This story takes place when 'the world was so new and all' and the horse, dog, and ox were learning to work for man. The 'scruciatingly idle camel, though, had no such intentions - and no manners either. His favorite - and pretty much ONLY - thing to say was 'Hmmp.' Eventually, the hmmp ends up on his back and he does end up working for man - though definitely not enjoying it! So, how did that happen? And what did the horse, dog, and ox think about the whole thing? Join us and find out!

For a free copy of *How the Camel Got His Hump*, click [here](#).

What's in the Back Pages?

- *How the Camel Got His Hump* worksheets
- Scripture verse coloring page



HOW THE CAMEL GOT HIS HUMP - Discussion Questions

- When does this story take place?
 - When the world was so-new-and-all & the animals had just started working for man
- What do we know about the camel at the beginning of the story?
 - He was 'scruciatingly idle
 - He was a howler
 - The only thing he ever said to anybody is humph!
 - He was very proud of his back (which doesn't yet have a hump)
- Why did the horse, the dog, and the ox become so angry at the camel?
 - He refused to work for man while they are all working hard
- Who did the horse, the dog, and the ox complain to about the camel?
 - First, each of them separately went and complained to the man
 - Then, they complained to each other
 - Then, they went to the Djin of All Deserts
- What did the Djin tell the camel? How did the camel respond?
 - The Djin told the camel he had to work for man like the horse, dog, and ox
 - The camel kept saying Humph and looking at his reflection in a pool of water
- What did the Djin do when the camel still wouldn't work?
 - He made a great magic to turn the camel's humph into a hump on his back
 - He told the camel that it was his own fault because he refused to work
- When the camel asked how he could work with the humph on his back, what did the Djin say?
 - The humph would allow him to work 3 days at a time without eating, because he missed the first three days of work
- What is the camel like at the end of the story?
 - He works for man along with the Three (horse, dog, and ox)
 - But he still has never learned to behave
- How is the poem related to the story?
 - Both are about the importance of working hard instead of being lazy
 - In both, getting a hump is the result of being lazy
 - the hump in the poem seems to be from getting a beating (which would have been much less frowned upon in Kipling's time than it is now)
- What lessons do we learn from this story?
 - God made us all to work
 - Not everybody has the same work
 - Being lazy causes us problems in the end
- What did you think was silly in this story? Funny? Real? Not real?
 - Answers will vary

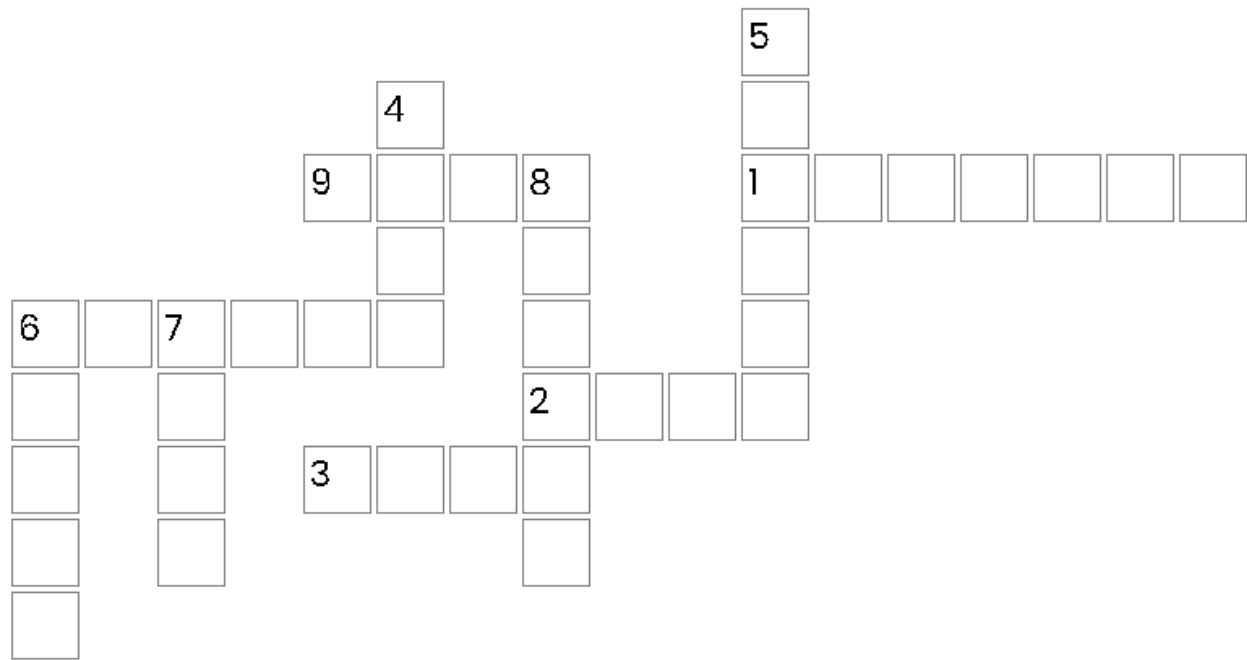
HOW THE CAMEL GOT HIS HUMP - Vocabulary

- 1. Bearing - How you carry yourself or act**
- 2. Bit - A metal bar put in a horse's mouth to control the horse**
- 3. Djin - A being like a genie**
- 4. Excruciating - Extremely painful; very annoying**
- 5. Fetch - To go get something and bring it back**
- 6. Howl - To make a loud, long cry, like a wolf makes**
- 7. Hump - A rounded bump, like on a camel's back**
- 8. Humph - A sound made when annoyed**
- 9. Idle - Doing nothing ; lazy**
- 10. Milkweed - A plant with white, milky sap**
- 11. Palaver - A long talk or discussion**
- 12. Plough - To turn over soil for planting; an instrument for ploughing**
- 13. Pow-wow - A Native American ceremony; a long talk to decide something**
- 14. Prickle - A small, sharp point that can poke**
- 15. Reflection - An image you see in a mirror or water**
- 16. Saddle - A seat for riding on a horse's back**
- 17. Tale - A story, often a make-believe one**
- 18. Thorn - A sharp, pointy part of a plant**
- 19. Trot - To move quickly in a special way that many 4-footed animals do**
- 20. Yoke - A wooden beam used to connect animals to a plough or cart**

HOW THE CAMEL GOT HIS HUMP - Matching

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. Bearing | a. A plant with white, milky sap |
| 2. Bit | b. To go get something and bring it back |
| 3. Djin | c. A metal bar put in a horse's mouth to control the horse |
| 4. Excruciating | d. An image you see in a mirror or water |
| 5. Fetch | e. A sharp, pointy part of a plant |
| 6. Howl | f. How you carry yourself or act |
| 7. Hump | g. A rounded bump, like on a camel's back |
| 8. Humph | h. A seat for riding on a horse's back |
| 9. Idle | i. A wooden beam used to connect animals to a plough or cart |
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HOW THE CAMEL GOT HIS HUMP - Crossword



Across

- [1] The camel lived in the middle of a _____ desert.
- [2] The camel was most 'scruciating _____.
- [3] The Three complained to the _____ of All Deserts about the camel.
- [6] The horse had a _____ on his back.
- [9] The ox had a _____ on his neck.

Down

- [4] The camel would tell people "Humph" and no _____.
- [5] The camel never learned how to _____.
- [6] The dog was carrying a _____ in his mouth.
- [7] The Djin of All Deserts traveled in a cloud of _____.
- [8] The camel can now go three days without _____.

HOW THE CAMEL GOT HIS HUMP - Word Search

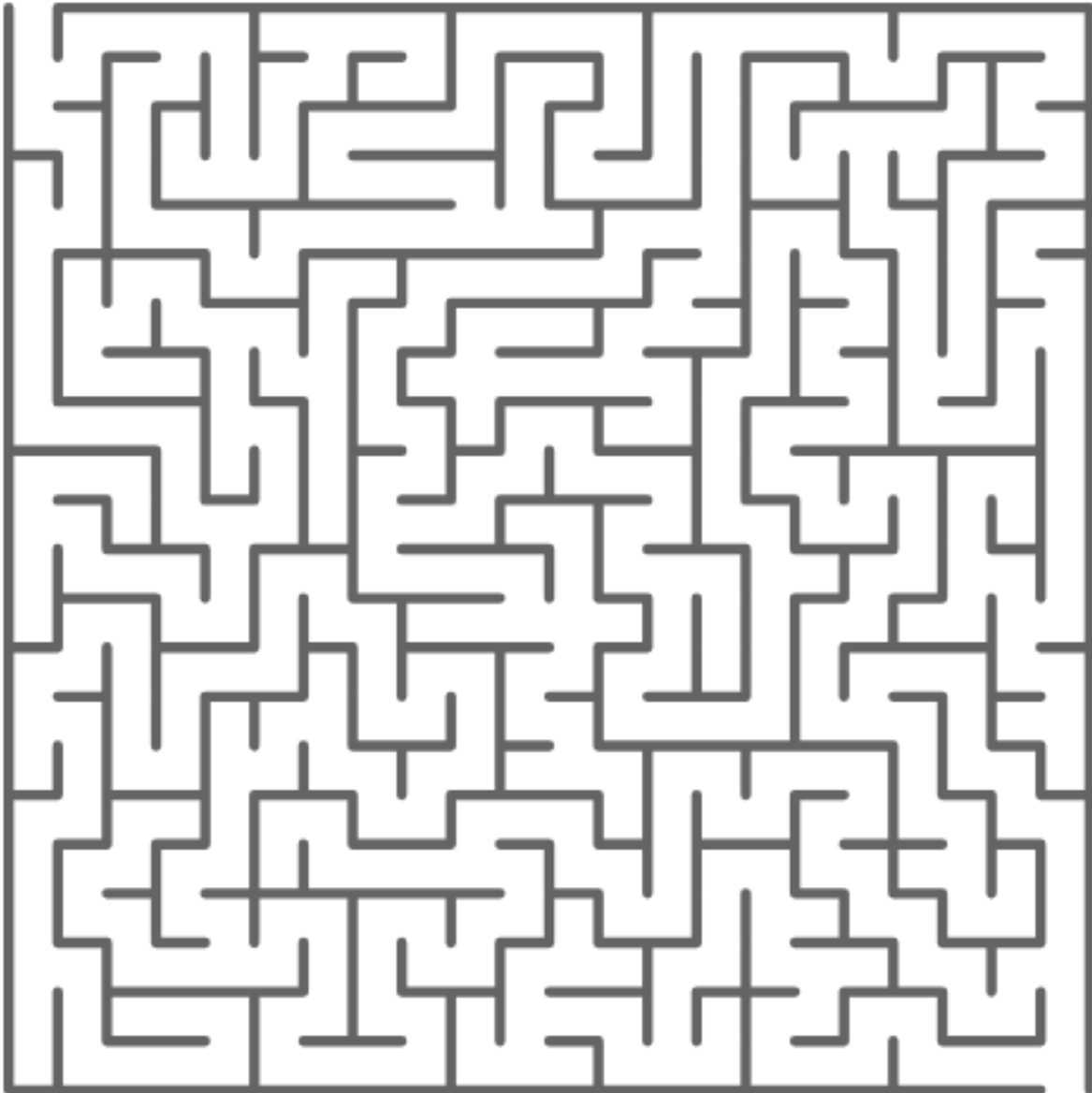


Behave
Bubbles
Camel
Carry
Desert
Djin
Dog
Fetch
Horse
Hump

Idle
New
Ox
Plough
Saddle
Three
Trot
Work
World
Yoke

HOW THE CAMEL GOT HIS HUMP - Maze

Help the Djin Find the Camel in the Howling Desert



HOW THE CAMEL GOT HIS HUMP - Scramble

BNRIEAG

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ITB

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MEALC

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TFHEC

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WHLO

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PHHUM

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ELID

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MKWEEILD

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PIKRLCE

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RICFTEEOLN

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SLADDE

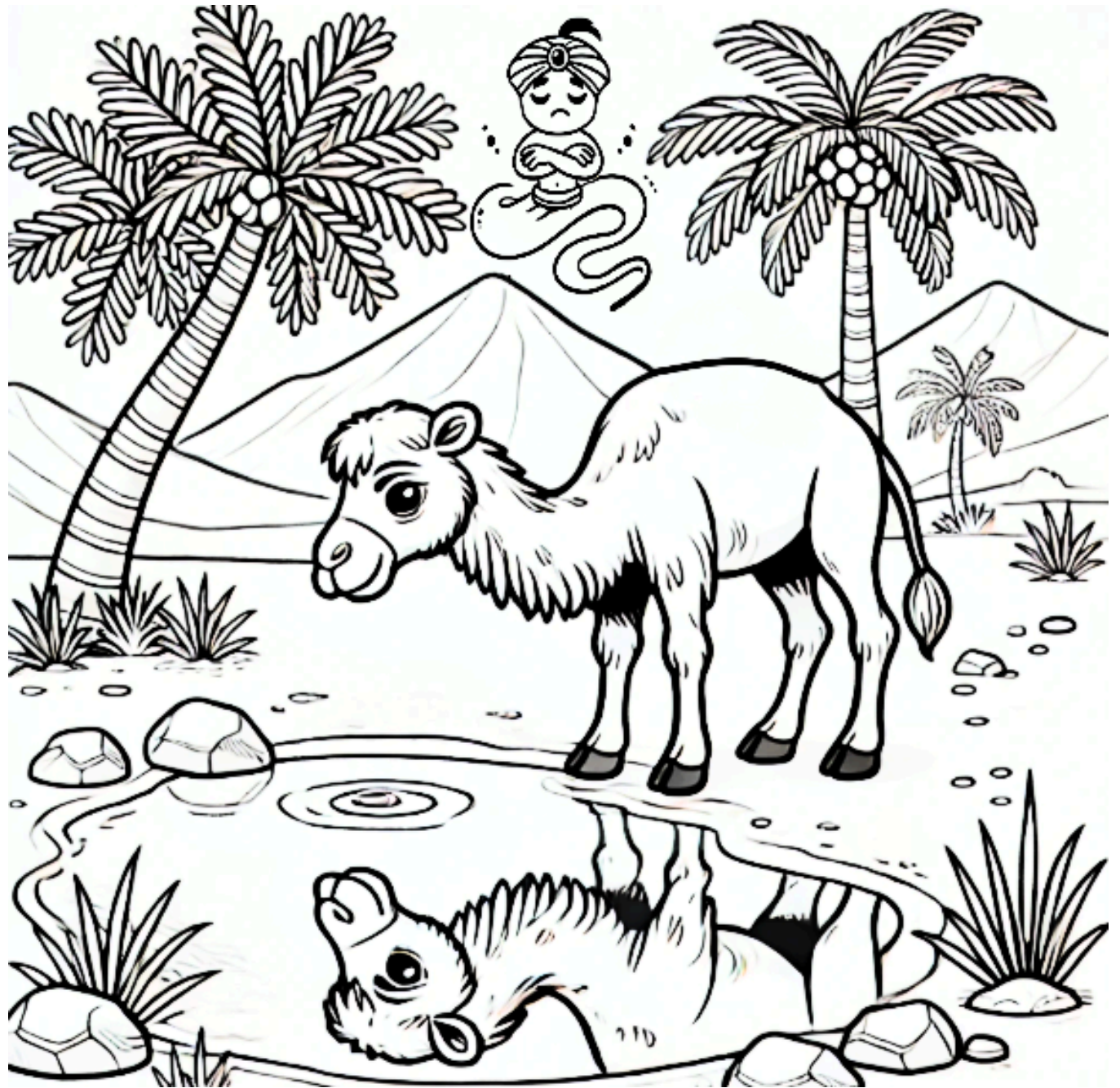
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HOW THE CAMEL GOT HIS HUMP

- Coloring Page



HOW THE CAMEL GOT HIS HUMP

- Coloring Page

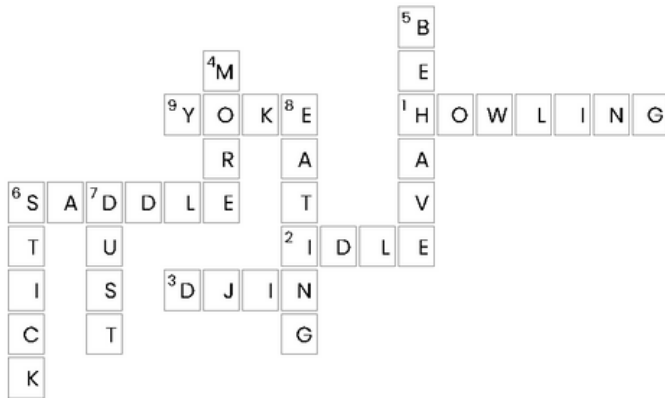


SOLUTIONS - HOW THE CAMEL GOT HIS HUMP

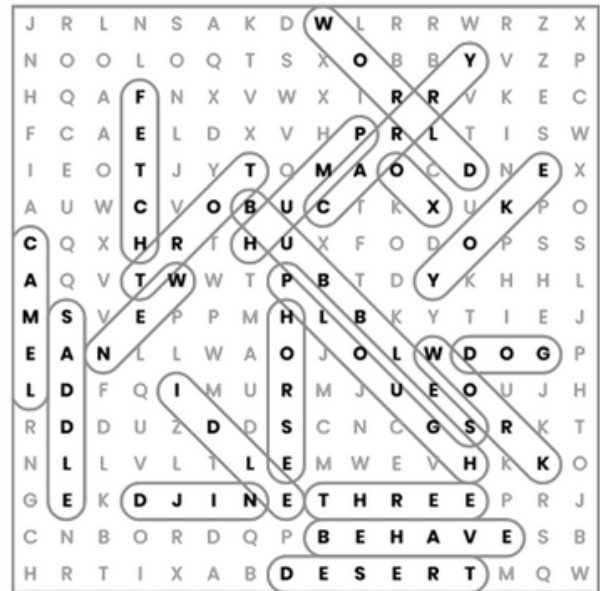
Matching

1-f, 2-c, 3-j, 4-n, 5-b, 6-r, 7-g, 8-o, 9-k, 10-a
 11-s, 12-p, 13-l, 14-t, 15-d, 16-h, 17-m, 18-e, 19-q, 20-i

Crossword



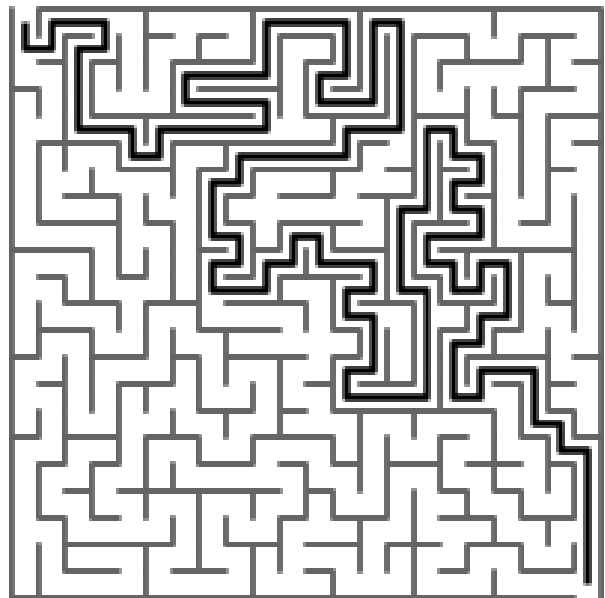
Word Search



Scramble

- BNRIEAG B E A R I N G
- ITB B I T
- MEALC C A M E L
- TFHEC F E T C H
- WHLO H O W L
- PHHUM H U M P H
- ELID I D L E
- MKWEEILD M I L K W E E D
- PIKRLCE P R I C K L E
- RICFTEEOLN R E F L E C T I O N
- SLADDE S A D D L E
- KWOR W O R K

Maze



And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”

Galatians 6:9



The horse, dog, and ox - who worked hard - got angry at the lazy camel. Do we ever get angry to other people when we are working hard but they aren't? If so, how can we use this verse to help us keep working with a good heart?