

THE DANDELION



To most people, the dandelion is nothing more than a weed to be removed from their lawn. It is really too bad that such a wonderful plant is despised and rejected by the world.

The dandelion is usually the first flower to appear each year. Its bright yellow flower brings joy and hope after a long and cold winter. The dandelion is also usually the last flower you will see at the end

of the summer and autumn. Sometimes the dandelion will even be seen in winter with snow all around it.

Another miracle of the dandelion is that when the flower wilts and dies off, a puffball appears. The puffball is really a cluster of over 200 seeds that will blow off in a breeze. One little flower can make 200 new flowers.

To those who know how to use it, the dandelion has many healthy benefits. It can be eaten and it can be used as medicine.

What can we learn from God's creation of the dandelion?

The dandelion is a flower that is considered to be of no good use and is despised by many even though God gave this little flower many wonderful features. The dandelion gives us a picture of how Christians are thought of by many worldly people. The dandelion gives us a good picture of the Bible's teaching in 1st Corinthians 1:26-29 which tells us, "Brothers, think of what you were when you were

called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things and the things that are not to nullify the things that are so that no one may boast before him." What this lesson teaches us is that God did not choose the smart and the strong and the rich to come to faith and spread the gospel. The miracle is that God chose the foolish and the weak and the poor for this important job. The world may make fun of Christians because of their faith in Jesus but God the Father is happy when we don't follow the sinful world's ways.

The pretty dandelion gives us joy all through the year when we see its beautiful yellow flower. It is there in the good weather and the bad weather. It is there in the good times and the bad times. It is there in the soft soil of our gardens and in the cracks of concrete sidewalks. The dandelion reminds us of Jesus' promise that He gave us in Matthew 28:20

when He said, "And surely I am with you always; to the very end of the age." Just as we always seem to see the dandelion growing someplace in our neighborhood, so we also know that Jesus is always with us.

The dandelion also teaches us that our faith should shine out like the beautiful yellow flower of the dandelion. In the early spring there are dandelions everywhere filling our world with beauty and hope. We see the dandelion and know that the nice weather is coming along with many beautiful flowers and trees with all their leaves. We see all this and are thankful to God for all of the beauty He gives us. We are reminded that not all beauty is in the form of flowers. Our faith in Jesus is beautiful and when others see our faith it can give them hope and the desire to know more about God. As Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:16, "Let your light shine before men that they may see your good deeds and praise you Father in heaven."

The dandelion gives us a lesson in one of the most important things Jesus told us to do. We are to

tell others of the love and gift of salvation that Jesus earned for us so that they might believe and be saved from their sins. Jesus told us in Matthew 28:19, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." When we see the puffball of the dandelion, we see one small flower getting ready to spread many seeds far and wide. It is as if the dandelion is spreading joy and hope all over the neighborhood. We should be like the dandelion and spread the good news of our salvation that Jesus earned for us on the cross. We may think we are just one small person but when we tell others about Jesus, they may also tell more people until many people hear about Jesus.

The dandelion can be used for food and medicine. It is a despised little flower that has great benefit. This is like Jesus. Many people hated Him when He lived on earth as the Bible tells us in Isaiah 53:3, "He was despised and rejected by men." Even though many rejected Jesus and hated Him, He loves

us all and is the salvation of all mankind. Even today, many people reject Jesus even though He is the only hope of having our sins forgiven and having eternal life in heaven. Jesus is the best and only medicine for our sinful lives. When we see people pulling up dandelions and throwing them away it is a lesson in how people treated Jesus when He was here on earth living as a man. They threw away beauty and joy and medicine for their souls. We should learn from the dandelion and not do the same thing to Jesus in our lives. The dandelion gives us quite a lesson from God if we think about it.

