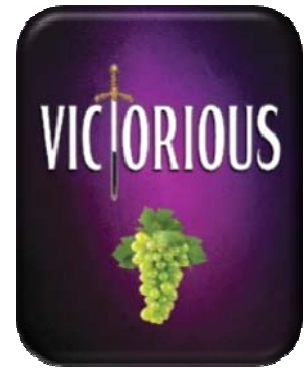


The Trash Man Cometh

CASE STUDY 6



Darren slammed the trash cans into the garage. “Can’t he ever get it right?” he yelled as his wife, Eva, came out of the house. “Can you believe this?” he ranted. “The trash guy left half the garbage in our can again. Does he think we want to keep this smelly stuff around?”

“Careful, Darren,” Eva said. “He is doing the best he can, I’m sure.”

“Well, it isn’t good enough,” Darren retorted as he stomped away. “I expect an empty can every week.”

The next trash day, Darren is home from work early and waiting in the garage when his wife pulls into the driveway.

“What are you doing, dear?” she asks. “Waiting for the trash man,” Darren says sharply. “I hear him on the block behind us, and I am going to give him a piece of my mind about leaving garbage in our can.”

Eva joins Darren in the shadows of the garage. “Well, dear, before you go and talk to the trash man, maybe we should spend a moment in prayer, asking God for wisdom on how to handle this situation.” The scowl on Darren’s face disappears as he realizes what a fool he has been. Darren hangs his head and prays to God, confessing his handling of the situation as sin. When he finishes, the trash man pulls up, and Darren strolls down the driveway to give him a hand instead of a piece of his mind.

1. What did Joshua do before going to battle against Jericho? (Joshua 5:13–14)
2. Name some battles you face in everyday life. Describe the degree to which you involve God in such battles.
3. What can you do to remind yourself to take all battles, big and small, to God?