



Worldview Transformation Series

*Season Two ~ Disk 21 ~ Episode 1
One More Night with the Frogs ~ Pursuit*



Video Summary

The lush jungles of Costa Rica are the backdrop in our search for the elusive Golden Toad. In our conservative, eco-wacko environment, any species that is endangered, or on the verge of going extinct, is a protected and highly-prized item.

This was the scenario as Chad and Chris ventured into the jungles in search of this toad. Last seen in the early '90s, the fate of this toad is unknown. The pursuit of this elusive amphibian and the futility found in Chad and Chris's efforts make for an eye-opening episode on what it means to pursue something, even to the point of self-sacrifice.

The world we live in always offers instant gratification with little or no effort on our part. It promises success, but in reality only brings failure and brokenness. As we continue to look for the right thing with the wrong motive, self-deception will grow in our heart and pride will always try to convince us that if we will just continue for one more night, we will surely have success. Or will we?



Icebreaker

Two Frogs in a Pit

A group of frogs were hopping contentedly through the woods, going about their froggy business, when two of them fell into a deep pit. All of the other frogs gathered around the pit to see what could be done to help their companions. When they saw how deep the pit was, they agreed that it was hopeless and told the two frogs in the pit that they should prepare themselves for their fate, since they were as good as dead.

Unwilling to accept this terrible fate, the two frogs began to jump with all of their might. Some of the frogs shouted into the pit that it was hopeless, and that the two frogs wouldn't be in that situation if they had been more careful, more obedient to the froggy rules, and more responsible. The other frogs continued sorrowfully shouting that they should save their energy and give up, since they were already as good as dead.

The two frogs continued jumping with all their might, and after several hours of this, were quite weary. Finally, one of the frogs took heed to the calls of his fellow frogs. Exhausted, he quietly resolved himself to his fate, lay down at the bottom of the pit, and died.

The other frog continued to jump as hard as he could, although his body was wracked with pain and he was quite exhausted. Once again, his companions began yelling for him to accept his fate, stop the pain and just die. The weary frog jumped harder and harder and, wonder of wonders, finally leaped so high that he sprang from the pit.

Amazed, the other frogs celebrated his freedom and then gathering around him asked, "Why did you continue jumping when we told you it was impossible?"

The astonished frog explained to them that he was deaf, and as he saw their gestures and shouting, he thought they were cheering him on. What he had perceived as encouragement inspired him to try harder and to succeed against all odds.

This simple story contains a powerful lesson. The book of Proverbs says, "There is death and life in the power of the tongue". Your encouraging words can lift someone up and help them make it through the day. Your destructive words can cause deep wounds, and may be the weapons that destroy someone's will to continue trying. Your destructive, careless words can diminish someone in the eyes of others, destroy their influence and have a lasting impact on the way others respond to them. Be careful what you say!

Speak life to (and about) those who cross your path. There is enormous power in words. If you have words of kindness, praise or encouragement, speak them now to, and about, others. Listen to your heart and respond. Someone, somewhere, is waiting for your words!



Primary Lesson

Procrastination is Deadly – Choose today!

This lesson looks into man's procrastination concerning every issue in life. The Bible continually warns us that we need to make right choices even though our flesh and the world around us state otherwise. God always wants to help and guide us through life's most challenging choices, but our nature and flesh choose to put them off until tomorrow. Our good intentions and plans for change are never good enough; we must make a choice today!

This truth is revealed in the book of Exodus where Moses and Pharaoh have one of their many legendary showdowns. The second plague to strike Egypt was the plague of frogs, a purposeful slap from God in the face of the Egyptian god of fertility, frog-headed Heget. Millions of frogs hopped from the Nile River and invaded every area of Egyptian life. A creature once revered, now became a hated foe, a curse on the land. Yet in spite of this plague, Pharaoh would not relent and listen to the voice of God. We are much like Pharaoh. We wait until tomorrow to deal with major problems in our lives. Even though God and everyone else around us is encouraging us to act "now" we believe that waiting or prolonging our choice will help matters. How wrong we are! Countless millions have ignored the fact that humans, given to their own devices, will always wait, even one more day, to make the wise choice. Unfortunately, even a 24-hour delay can be the difference between life and death!



Facts, Figures & Illustrations

- The biggest frog in the world is the Goliath frog (Conraua Goliath). They live in Cameroon in West Africa. Their bodies can reach nearly one foot long and their legs are also at least that long. The Conraua Goliath weighs as much as a large house cat, about 9-10 pounds.
- Chad's pet African bullfrog, seen in the opening scenes of this episode, can blow up like a balloon when scared. This frog species spends much of the year underground, but comes to the surface after a heavy rain to breed. The males of this species are known to give an extremely hearty bite now and then, and attain weights of 4 pounds! Oh, and by the way, they love to eat mice!
- In June of 2005 a Belgrade paper reported an unusual incident in Serbia. Thousands of tiny frogs rained on a town in North-Western Serbia, Belgrade daily Blic reported on Tuesday. Strong winds brought storm clouds over Odzaci, 120-km north-west of Belgrade, on Sunday afternoon, but instead of rain, down came the tiny amphibians, witnesses said. "I saw countless frogs fall from the sky," said Odzaci resident Aleksandar Ciric.
- Source: <http://allaboutfrogs.org/weird/general/raining.html>
- When a frog swallows a meal, his bulgy eyeballs will close and go down into his head! This is because the eyeballs apply pressure and actually push a frog's meal down his throat!
- A group of frogs is called an army.
- Frogs are one of the best leapers on the planet! Did you know that frogs can launch themselves over 20 times their own length using those big strong legs of theirs? That would be like if you could jump 100 feet! One of the longest frog jumps on record measured 33 feet 5.5 inches. It was made by a frog named Santjie at a frog jumping contest held in South Africa.



Key Scriptures

(From NKJV, unless otherwise noted)

Exodus 8:1-15 ~ *And the LORD spoke to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD: "Let My people go, that they may serve Me. 2 But if you refuse to let them go, behold, I will smite all your territory with frogs. 3 So the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly, which shall go up and come into your house, into your bedroom, on your bed, into the houses of your servants, on your people, into your ovens, and into your kneading bowls. 4 And the frogs shall come up on you, on your people, and on all your servants.'"*

5 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your hand with your rod over the streams, over the rivers, and over the ponds, and cause frogs to come up on the land of Egypt.'" 6 So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt. 7 And the magicians did so with their enchantments, and brought up frogs on the land of Egypt.

8 Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, "Entreat the LORD that He may take away the frogs from me and from my people; and I will let the people go, that they may sacrifice to the LORD."

9 And Moses said to Pharaoh, "Accept the honor of saying when I shall intercede for you, for your servants, and for your people, to destroy the frogs from you and your houses, that they may remain in the river only."

10 So he said, "Tomorrow." And he said, "Let it be according to your word, that you may know that there is no one like the LORD our God. 11 And the frogs shall depart from you, from your houses, from your servants, and from your people. They shall remain in the river only."

12 Then Moses and Aaron went out from Pharaoh. And Moses cried out to the LORD concerning the frogs which He had brought against Pharaoh. 13 So the LORD did according to the word of Moses. And the frogs died out of the houses, out of the courtyards, and out of the fields. 14 They gathered them together in heaps, and the land stank. 15 But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and did not heed them, as the LORD had said.

Exodus 7:16 ~ *And you shall say to him, 'The LORD God of the Hebrews has sent me to you, saying, "Let My people go, that they may serve Me in the wilderness"; but indeed, until now you would not hear!*

Hebrews 12:4 ~ *You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.*

1 Corinthians 3:11 ~ *For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*



Complimentary Stories

Stubbornness can be Deadly

The Two Frogs: Two frogs were neighbors. One inhabited a deep pond, far removed from public view; the other lived in a gully containing little water, and traversed by a country road. The Frog that lived in the pond warned his friend to change his residence and entreated him to come and live with him, saying that he would enjoy greater safety from danger and more abundant food. The other refused, saying that he felt it so very hard to leave a place to which he had become accustomed. A few days afterwards a heavy wagon passed through the gully and crushed him to death under its wheels.

Likewise, a willful man will have his way, even to his own hurt.

Source: www.aesopfables.com

The Mouse, the Frog, and the Hawk : A mouse, which always lived on land, by an unlucky chance, formed an intimate acquaintance with a frog, which lived for the most part in water. The Frog, one day intent on mischief, bound the foot of the mouse tightly to his own. Thus joined together, the Frog first of all led his friend the mouse to the meadow where they were accustomed to find their food. After this, he gradually led him towards the pool in which he lived, until reaching the very brink he suddenly jumped in, dragging the mouse with him. The frog enjoyed the water amazingly, and swam croaking about, as if he had done a good deed. Water soon suffocated the unhappy mouse, and his dead body floated about on the surface, tied to the foot of the Frog. A Hawk observed it, and, pouncing upon it with his talons, carried it aloft. The Frog, being still fastened to the leg of the Mouse, was also carried off a prisoner, and was eaten by the Hawk. Beware of Stubbornness whom you follow



Discussion Questions

1. Discuss the issue of futility: to continually do something you know does not produce the desired end result, yet hoping that by doing it over and over again it will have different results. Basically, why continue practicing a bad golf swing. What are the results of continued bad practices?
2. The Bible says when we search out truth in any other place than God's Word we will encounter deceptive spirits that will affect our heart and emotions (Proverbs 6:27-28). Discuss the issues that many young people deal with today because of their involvement in the occult or witchcraft.
3. God's plan of eternal life and salvation is veiled to the World. They cannot see the simplicity of Jesus because of their sin and hardness of heart. God's desire is for His children to know the truth and understand His principles and patterns found in the Word. Deuteronomy 29:29 states "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law." Discuss how sin, deception and the hardening of a man's heart keep him from freely receiving God's free gift of eternal life.