

## Chapter IV

### Denouncement Requested

Squeaky was staring intently at a piece of cheese to see if it was possible to see mold grow, while Posey braided her whiskers before a broken piece of mirror. Neither heard Grandpa tiptoe into the room and ease into his chair. Posey sensed his presence first and exclaimed, "Grandpa!"

"Herbert has kittens," Grandpa announced.

Although the statement was matter-of-fact, it sent waves of horror throughout the room. Posey threw her front paws over her head and wailed, "Oh, no, our problem has multiplied. What will we do? How will we ever be able to go outside, or how will you ever be able to come and visit us?"

Squeaky stared speechlessly at Grandpa, his eyes clouded in confusion. He was trying to wrap his mind around the statement, "Herbert has kittens." Something just didn't add up.

Grandpa sensed his confusion and said, "I know. We will have to find a new name for Herbert."

"Be that as it may," he continued, "I have a church service to tell you about. The congregational singing at the beginning of service this morning was very subdued. A cloud was over the people."

"Was Sis. Nettie there?" asked Posey.

"No. Her seat was empty," Grandpa said. "And during prayer requests, Bro. Sloan asked for prayer for Susie. It seems she is very sick."

"After prayer, Bro. Loudermilk preached on 'Feeling God's love.' He started by reading in Gen. 3:15 about how God gave a prophecy to Adam and Eve of a Savior. He told the congregation about how much God's heart ached for His people, then read in Jeremiah 31:3 of how the prophet told the Israelites while they were in captivity in Babylon, that God loved them with an everlasting love. He said this love was more than a hobby or an infatuation, but an eternal desire for them."

"Bro. Loudermilk said that God's love was so great it couldn't be described in words, but the action of sending His son to die for us said it all. He said this was an action men and angels have wondered at and

praised God for throughout 2000 years.

"Next he talked about how personal God's love is to every one he saves from sin, and how it is something you feel in your very soul.

"In closing, Bro. Loudermilk quoted from Jude 21, where it says, 'Keep yourselves in the love of God.' He told the congregation that he wished all of them would love each other, keep the love alive in their marriages and protect and cherish God's love for them. They should do everything they could, he said, such as read the Bible and pray, so that they would always feel God's love with them.

"The sermon had a reassuring effect on the congregation. They seemed to take courage, and sang the closing song with shining faces.

"After the service, Bro. Levi Manalu walked up front to where the pastor and his wife were standing and said he would like to speak with them. He told them that during the week, Sis. Nettie had been calling quite a few of the members of the congregation and telling them she was not coming back to church until Bro. Loudermilk publicly denounced Buddy Hull for saying the Bible doesn't say you should wash your hands before eating."

"In the first place," interrupted Bro. Loudermilk, "the Bible doesn't say it is a doctrine to wash before eating, and secondly, Bro. Buddy didn't actually address the issue from a Bible standpoint."

"I know," continued Bro. Levi, "but Sis. Nettie says it is the principle of the thing. She says not washing your hands before eating will spread germs and bacteria and could cause the death of a lot of people. She says she doesn't want her children growing up dirty and spreading germs. And she doesn't think anyone else should come to this church until the members start living by the Bible."

"Well," replied Bro. Loudermilk, "I'm sure those who are honest-hearted will continue to come. And we'll pray for the Holy Spirit to help Sis. Nettie. Thanks for letting me know what's going on."