

One Minute Sermons

"If any will not work, neither should he eat" (2Thes. 3:10). "You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift. You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong. You cannot help little men by tearing down big men. You cannot help the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer. You cannot further brotherhood of man by encouraging class hatred. You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich. You cannot establish sound security on borrowed money. You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than you earn. You cannot build character and courage by taking away men's initiative and independence. You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves" (Abraham Lincoln).

In a time when capital punishment is considered barbaric, medicine alleviates much of our suffering, we are pampered and coddled on every hand, convinced we are not to be denied the slightest comfort, Jesus' instruction to take up our crosses and follow Him can seem like a meaningless metaphor. If we understood it, it would shock us to the marrow of our bones. (Oscar Miles)

"Our evangelical culture tends to take the awesome reality of a transcendent God who is worthy to be feared and down-size Him so He could fit into our 'buddy system.' The way we talk about Him, the way we pray, and, more strikingly, the way we live shows that we have somehow lost our sense of being appropriately awestruck in the presence of a holy and all-powerful God. It's been a long time since we've heard a good sermon on the 'fear of God.' If God were to show up visibly, many of us think we'd run up to Him and high-five Him for the good things He has done" (Joseph M. Stowell).

No one in his sense, if he has any power of ordering his own day, would reserve his chief prayers for bedtime; obviously the worst possible hour for any action which needs concentration. The trouble is that thousands of unfortunate people can hardly find any other. On a day of travel with, perhaps, some ghastly meeting at the end of it, I'd rather pray sitting in a crowded train than put it off till midnight when one reaches a hotel bedroom with aching head and a dry throat and one's mind partly in a stupor and partly in a whirl" (C. S. Lewis).

"For my mouth will speak truth; Wickedness is an abomination to my lips" (Prov. 8:7) In the July 15, 1993 "Boardroom Reports," Peter LeVine writes: "When the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey ran a help wanted ad for electricians with expertise at using "Sontag connectors," it got 170 responses even though there is no such thing as a "Sontag connector." The Port Authority ran the ad to find out how many applicants falsify resumes." (Leadership Magazine, Vol. 15:1, Winter, 1994, p.47.)

Never Alone By Barbara Foster

[Editors note: Pat Gates published this in "Our Hope" and said, "This article was written by a Christian in Ocala, Florida. It speaks of living with multiple sclerosis. The following is just a small sample of what living with MS is like (the symptoms can fill a couple of pages). And it is also a small sample of the joy of the inward man when the outward man is perishing." (May 5, 1998)]

In 1993, I was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Over the course of a year, I became increasingly disabled. Through it all, I was never alone.

When I was temporarily blind, Christ led me through the darkness.

When I was unable to walk, God took away the fear.

When my world was turned upside down, God's word provided an anchor.

When I lost my ability to speak, God heard my silent prayers.

When I was too weak to cook, He sent wonderful people bringing food, encouragement, and support.

When I felt useless, the Lord sent a tiny, premature granddaughter who needed special love and care.

When I felt disconnected and my faith was tested, He gave me the strength to get to church to be with other Christians and be renewed by the worship and the lessons.

When my heart was broken as friends turned away because they couldn't cope with my new reality, God sent new friends who are there for me no matter what. The list could go on and on, even as the blessings go on and on.

For those who would feel sorry for me, I ask rather that they join me in praising God for His constant love and protection. No matter what the need or difficulty, I have been provided for, and I have never been alone, because He promised: "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you. For I am the Lord your God" (Isaiah 43:2).

A Moments Wisdom

--Doing an injury puts you below your enemy; revenging one makes you even with him; forgiving him sets you above him.

--The man who toots his own horn soon has everyone dodging when he approaches.

--A good leader is someone who takes more than his share of the blame and a little less than his share of the credit.

--Having problems is not so bad. There is a special place reserved for people who are problem-free. It is called the cemetery.

--I thank Thee, O Lord, that Thou has so set eternity within my heart that no earthly thing can ever satisfy me wholly.

--He who neglects to drink of the spring of experience is apt to die of thirst in the desert of ignorance.

--Unless we are willing to help a person overcome his faults, there is little value in pointing them out.

--No one on his own deathbed ever repents of having been a Christian.

--The good Samaritan didn't wait for the media to arrive before he did his thing.

--There is a difference between charity and giving away what you no longer want.

--He whose goal is to please his audience usually fails God, and he who pleases God cannot please all his audience.

--Kind hearts are the garden. Kind thoughts are the roots. Kind words are the flowers. And, kind deeds are the fruits.

--The big jobs of tomorrow are for the man who is doing today's small jobs as best as he can.

--A small house can hold as much happiness as a big one.

--The child's first school is the family.

--Mothers write on the hearts of their children what the world's rough hand cannot erase.

--Don't place too much confidence in a man who boasts of being as honest as the day is long. Wait until you meet him at night.

--Honesty is the first chapter of the book of wisdom.

--People who are brutally honest often get more satisfaction out of the brutality than out of the honesty.

--Bumper Sticker: Live right so the preacher won't have to lie at your funeral.