

Taking His Place

Joe, the Governor's most trusted assistant, died in his sleep one night. The Governor had depended on Joe for advice on every subject, from pending bills to wardrobe decisions. In addition, Joe had been his closest friend. So, it was understandable that the Governor didn't take kindly to the droves of ambitious office seekers who wanted Joe's job. "They don't even have the decency to wait until the man is buried," the Governor muttered.

At the funeral, one eager beaver made his way to the Governor's side. "Governor," the man said, "is there a chance that I could take Joe's place?"

"Certainly," the governor replied. "But you'd better hurry. I think the undertaker is almost finished."

I'm sure we can all look around us and find a number of people of whom we have said, "I would like to take his/her place." But I dare say that you have never made that statement of someone who had died, or was about to die. Why would anyone want to trade places with someone like that? It is for that reason that God's love for us is so difficult to comprehend, for that is exactly what Jesus did for us.

"He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon him, and by his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:5-6). May our lives be forever lived in gratitude for the one who "took our place."

Crumpled

A speaker began his lesson by holding up a \$20 bill. In the room of 200, he asked, "Who would like this \$20 bill? Hands started going up. He said, "I am going to give this \$20 to one of you but first, let me do this." He proceeded to crumple the dollar bill up. He then asked, "Who still wants it?" Hands still went up in the air. "Well," he replied, "What if I do this?" And he dropped it on the ground and started to grind it into the floor with his shoe. He picked it up, now all crumpled and dirty. "Now who still wants it?" Still the hands went into the air.

"My friends, you have all learned a very valuable lesson. No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it because it did not decrease in value. It was still worth \$20. Many times in our lives, we are dropped, crumpled, and ground into the dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way. We feel as though we are worthless. But no matter what has happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value. Dirty or clean, crumpled or finely creased, you are still priceless." "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace..." (Eph. 1:7).

Which are You?

A lot of Christian are like wheelbarrows -- of no use unless pushed.

Some are like canoes -- need to be paddled to get them moving.

Some are like kites -- without the string holding them down, they would fly away.

Some are like kittens -- only content when they are being petted.

Some are like footballs -- never can tell where they will bounce next.

Some are like balloons -- full of hot air and ready to explode.

Some are like trailers -- they have to be pulled along in order to go anywhere.

Some are like neon lights -- they keep going on and off.

Others are like a good watch -- open face, pure gold, quietly busy, and full of good works.

“I Drank”

“Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise” (Prov. 20:1).

I drank for happiness and became unhappy.

I drank for joy and became miserable.

I drank for sociability and became argumentative.

I drank for sophistication and became obnoxious.

I drank for sleep and woke up tired.

I drank for strength and felt weak.

I drank for relaxation and got the shakes.

I drank to make conversation easier and slurred my speech.

I drank for confidence and became doubtful.

I drank for courage and became afraid.

(From a former Alcoholic)

“Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it swirls around smoothly; at the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like a viper” (Prov. 23:31-32)

A Moments Wisdom

--The truth does not change according to our ability to stomach it.

--Adversity brings out talents, which in prosperous circumstances would have lain dormant.

--Don't wish for more than you are willing to work for.

--To handle yourself, use your head; to handle others, use your heart.

--One of the hardest things in life is to be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

--One cannot antagonize and influence at the same time.

--Everyone wants to succeed; some want to succeed so much that they are willing to work for it.

--Cooperation with others in the congregation is critical for survival. Think about the banana; every time it leaves the bunch, it gets skinned.

--Gold is tried by fire; brave men by affliction.

--Work to become, not to acquire.

--Prosperity tests the fortunate; adversity the great.

--Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there.

--There are two kinds of people who don't say much: those who are quiet and those who talk a lot.

--All sunshine soon makes a desert.

--What we weave on earth is what we will wear in heaven.

--Storms make oaks grow deeper roots.

--Some people are so busy learning the tricks of the trade that they never learn the trade.

--Waste no time on arguing about what a good man should be. Be one.

--Habits begin as cobwebs, but soon become cables.

--It was not weakness which made Christ hang on the cross; it was obedience to the law of sacrifice, of love. For how could He save us if He ever saved Himself?

--The highest lesson God wants to teach us is to “trust Him regardless.” If everything made sense to our understanding we would need no faith.

--Sometimes the majority only means that all the fools are on the same side.

--I don't have to attend every argument I'm invited to.

--Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% of how you respond to it.

--Morality is truth in full bloom.

--There's too much said for the sake of argument and too little said for the sake of agreement.

--The truth, which is indestructible, has a way of accumulating against pride and arrogance, and then sweeping them from its path.