

## MONDAY

Bible verses through the Gospel of John

**JOHN 5:30-33** *"I can't do a solitary thing on my own: I listen, then I decide. You can trust my decision because I'm not out to get my own way but only to carry out orders. If I were simply speaking on my own account, it would be an empty, self-serving witness. But an independent witness confirms me, the most reliable Witness of all. Furthermore, you all saw and heard John, and he gave expert and reliable testimony about me, didn't he?"*

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When the end of the world arrives how will the media headlines report its' approach?

The Wall Street Journal: "DOW JONES PLUMMETS AS WORLD ENDS"

Sports Illustrated: "GAME OVER"

USA Today: "WE'RE DEAD"

Readers Digest: "BYE!" *Humor Digest*

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A young Jewish man excitedly tells his mother, Mrs. Goldberg, he has fallen in love and is going to get married. He says to his mother, "Just for fun, Momma, tomorrow I'm going to bring three women to your house to meet you, and you can try and guess which one I'm going to marry."

Of course, Mrs. Goldberg agrees.

The next day he brings three beautiful women into his mother's house and she invites them to be seated on her couch. They chat for a while with Mrs. Goldberg, who serves them coffee and pastries.

That evening, after the three women have left Mrs. Goldberg's home, the son says, "Okay, Momma. Guess which one I'm going to marry."

She immediately replies, "The redhead."

"That's amazing, Ma. You're right. How did you know?"

"I don't like her." *Humor*

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Laughing at our mistakes can lengthen life. Laughing at someone else's can shorten mine.  
*Cullen Hightower*

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In a college music theory class one warm spring day, the other students and I were having a hard time concentrating. The heat was oppressive and a wasp buzzed threateningly above our heads.

The teacher—oblivious to the dive-bombing menace—continued lecturing while the rest of us dodged and swatted at the invader. Finally, it landed on one student's open book. With a quick slap, he snapped the text shut, killing the wasp.

The professor, startled, looked up. "What was that?" she asked, annoyed. Thinking quickly, the killer answered sheepishly, "A bee flat." *Paul M. Hampton*

## TUESDAY

**John 5:34-38** *"But my purpose is not to get your vote, and not to appeal to mere human testimony. I'm speaking to you this way so that you will be saved. John was a torch, blazing and bright, and you were glad enough to dance for an hour or so in his bright light. But the witness that really confirms me far exceeds John's witness. It's the work the Father gave me to complete. These very tasks, as I go about completing them, confirm that the Father, in fact, sent me. The Father who sent me, confirmed me. And you missed it. You never heard his voice, you never saw his appearance. There is nothing left in your memory of his Message because you do not take his Messenger seriously.*

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Does "expecting the unexpected" make the unexpected expected? *Rosemary Westbrook*

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There are thousands of Christians and preachers in the world who are eager to "win souls." This is not bad, but many of them are so desperate to brag on the numbers of people they have convinced to be born again that they use a short cut to convince the hearer.

They will usually take you to The Epistle to the Romans, and they will lead you through several verses there which they imagine give you enough understanding to be converted. The problem is, you do not come to really know Jesus Christ with this plan.

The book of Romans was written for people who had already become Christians and needed to understand the issues of life better.

So, you prayed a cute little prayer, and after possibly being baptized, and starting out on the way they told you would lead to heaven, you now have doubts. You may well come to wonder what is missing.

I will tell you what is missing: You have not come to know Jesus Christ in a personal way. The book of the Gospel of John, along with the Gospels Matthew, Mark, and Luke, are books God put in the Bible for YOU. They show you the person, life, and destiny of Jesus Christ. The Gospel books of the Bible show you the love, the gentleness, and heart of Jesus. They also show you that he was and is God in human flesh.

And, the Gospel books make it clear what you have to believe to be converted or born again. This study of John's Gospel may be the first time you have really seen Jesus Christ and his works in perspective.

Please forget the talk and blather of those who gave you a sort of "trailer" version of Jesus, and forget the Hollywood Jesus of *The Passion*.

Put another way, you cannot believe in someone whom you have never gotten to know personally. The Epistle of Romans, reading little picture tracts, and sitting through a fire breathing sermon are NOT enough to show you who Jesus is.

God gave you four books of Gospel so that you would not miss the message. Will you make sure you DO know Jesus Christ? You could have responded to someone, or some message, long ago and yet never come to know Jesus Christ as your God and friend. *Steve Van Nattan*

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You must see the "Mom Song" it's really a hoot. Bring the following web address up on a search engine - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?> When you bring up this 'You Tube' web page, locate the "Mom Song" via one of the 'search blanks' at the bottom of the page. Please give this a shot. My internet missionary friend from China - Dave Aufrance - sent this to me and it is worth viewing for the three minutes it takes the 'Mom' to sing it. It is an operatic take-off on a mother's daily advice to her child.

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A wife and husband both talked in their sleep. She loved auctions; his hobby was golf. One night, the golfer yelled, "Fore!". His wife yelled back, "Four and a quarter!" *Humor*

## WEDNESDAY

**John 5:39-40** *"You have your heads in your Bibles constantly because you think you'll find eternal life there. But you miss the forest for the trees. These Scriptures are all about me! And here I am, standing right before you, and you aren't willing to receive from me the life you say you want."*

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Disorder in the American Courts, things people actually said in court, sent by Michele Miller, Town Clerk

ATTORNEY: This myasthenia gravis, does it affect your memory at all? WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: And in what ways does it affect your memory? WITNESS: I forget.

ATTORNEY: You forget? Can you give us an example of something you forgot?

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ATTORNEY: Do you know if your daughter has ever been involved in voodoo? WITNESS: We both do.

ATTORNEY: Voodoo? WITNESS: We do.

ATTORNEY: You do? WITNESS: Yes, voodoo.

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ATTORNEY: Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?

WITNESS: Did you actually pass the bar exam?

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ATTORNEY: The youngest son, the twenty-year-old, how old is he? WITNESS: He's twenty, much like your IQ.

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ATTORNEY: She had three children, right? WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: How many were boys? WITNESS: None.

ATTORNEY: Were there any girls? WITNESS: Your Honor, I think I need a different attorney. Can I get a new attorney?

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ATTORNEY: How was your first marriage terminated? WITNESS: By death.

ATTORNEY: And by whose death was it terminated? WITNESS: Take a guess.

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You are driving in a car at a constant speed. On your left side is a valley and on your right side is a fire engine traveling at the same speed as you.

In front of you is a galloping pig which is the same size as your car and you cannot overtake it. Behind you is a helicopter flying at ground level. Both the giant pig and the helicopter are also traveling at the same speed as you.

What must you do to safely get out of this highly dangerous situation?

Answer: Get off the children's merry go round !!!!! *Laugh & Lift*

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"Love is when you kiss all the time. Then when you get tired of kissing, you still want to be together and you talk more. My Mommy and Daddy are like that. They look gross when they kiss" Emily - age 8

"Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen," Bobby - age 7 (Wow!)

"If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate," Nikka - age 6

"There are two kinds of love. Our love. God's love. But God makes both kinds of them." Jenny - age 8

## THURSDAY

**John 5:41-44** *Jesus said, "I'm not interested in crowd approval. And do you know why? Because I know you and your crowds. I know that love, especially God's love, is not on your working agenda. I came with the authority of my Father, and you either dismiss me or avoid me. If another came, acting self-important, you would welcome him with open arms. How do you expect to get anywhere with God when you spend all your time jockeying for position with each other, ranking your rivals and ignoring God?"*

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If we could shrink the earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look something like the following. There would be:

57 Asians

21 Europeans

14 from the Western Hemisphere, both north and south

8 would be Africans

52 would be female

48 would be male

70 would be non-white

30 would be white

70 would be non-Christian

30 would be Christian

89 would be heterosexual

11 would be homosexual

6 people would possess 59% of the entire world's wealth and all 6 would be from the United States.

80 would live in substandard housing

70 would be unable to read

50 would suffer from malnutrition

(ONE)1 would be near death;

(ONE)1 would be near birth;

(ONE)1 (yes, only 1) would have a college education;

(ONE)1 (yes, only 1) would own a computer.

When one considers our world from such a compressed perspective, the need for acceptance, understanding and education becomes glaringly apparent.

And, therefore . . .

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death, you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful, you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.

If you can read this message, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all.

As you read this and are reminded how life is in the rest of the world, remember just how blessed you really are!

*Roger Knapp.com*

## FRIDAY

**John 5:45-47** *"But don't think I'm going to accuse you before my Father. Moses, in whom you put so much stock, is your accuser. If you believed, really believed, what Moses said, you would believe me. He wrote of me. If you won't take seriously what he wrote, how can I expect you to take seriously what I speak?"*

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There once was a bunch of tiny frogs, who arranged a climbing competition. Their goal was to reach the top of a very high tower. As the event began, a large crowd was gathered to see the race and cheer on the contestants.

When the race got underway, few in the crowd believed that any of these tiny frogs would reach the top. Comments were heard such as: "Oh, way too difficult!" "They will never make it to the top!" or: "Not a chance that they will succeed. The tower is simply too high!"

The little frogs began collapsing one by one....except for those, who in a fresh tempo, were climbing higher and higher. The crowd continued to yell, "It is too difficult! No one will make it!"

Now, more frogs got tired and gave up...but one continued higher and higher and higher...This one wouldn't give up!

At the end everyone else had given up climbing the tower. Except for the one tiny frog who, after a big effort, was the only one to reach the top. Then all of the other frogs naturally wanted to know how this one frog managed to do it? So one of them asked the winning frog how he had found the strength to succeed and reach the goal?

But it was then that the losers learned the secret, for the questioner had to shout to get his answer. The winner was deaf and couldn't hear all the discouraging remarks.

Never listen to other people's tendencies to be negative or pessimistic...Because they will take your most cherished dreams and wishes away from you - the ones you have nearest your heart. Always consider the power words have. Because everything you hear and read will affect your actions.

Therefore: Always be POSITIVE! And above all, be deaf when people tell you that you can't fulfill your dreams.

Always think: God and I can do this! Don't tell God how big your problems are. Instead, tell your problems how big your God is! *Chaplain Linda Sahlin*

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The sixth grade teacher, posed the following problem to her arithmetic class. "Let us say a wealthy man passes away and leaves an estate worth ten million dollars. One-fifth is to go to his wife, one-fifth is to go to his son, one-sixth to his butler, and the rest goes to charity. Now, what does each one get?"

There was a lengthy silence in the classroom as the students pondered and diligently worked the math. Finally, Little Morris raises his hand.

Yes, Morris," recognized the teacher, "what does each one get?"

With deep sincerity, Morris, the son of a lawyer replies, "A lawyer!" *Mark's Musings*

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You know you're getting old when you stoop to tie your shoelaces and wonder what else you could do while you're down there. *George Burns, 1896 - 1996*

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'My advice to defensive players: Take the shortest route to the ball and arrive in a bad humor.'  
*Bowden Wyatt / Tennessee*