

11-1-5-2010

MONDAY

John 16:25-28 ²⁵"I've used figures of speech in telling you these things. Soon I'll drop the figures and tell you about the Father in plain language. ²⁶Then you can make your requests directly to him in relation to this life I've revealed to you. I won't continue making requests of the Father on your behalf. I won't need to. Because you've gone out on a limb, committed yourselves to love and trust in me, believing I came directly from the Father, ²⁷the Father loves you directly. First, ²⁸ I left the Father and arrived in the world; now I leave the world and travel to the Father."

* * * * *

Kids Bible Quotes:

The seventh commandment is, "Thou shalt not admit adultery."

Moses died before he ever reached Canada. Then Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Geritol.

The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.

Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines. *Preaching Now*

* * * * *

Major General Robert Dees (U.S. Army, Retired) was one of a rugged group of alumni from the 101st Airborne Division—the "Screaming Eagles"—who commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of World War II's Operation Market Garden by parachuting into the same drop zone in Eindhoven, Holland, as their heroic predecessors.

By almost any historian's accounts, the original aerial assault initiated on this date in 1944 was a tactical failure. Yet it was part of an overall march to victory . . . and for some, the gift of life. Though on one hand it miscalculated the offensive's ability to secure "a bridge too far" (as portrayed in the well-known book and movie of that title), for some it became a bridge to hope and a future. That's what General Dees discovered this September day in 1994.

After his parachute landed, he was greeted by an elderly Dutch woman who fell to her knees and grasped him around the legs. Through her tears, through the words of an interpreter, she told this gripping story: In September 1944, the Germans were executing five fathers a day in Eindhoven—to keep the population in submission and deter the brave Dutch underground. On the day this woman's father was to be shot, the American troopers fell from the sky, saving his life. She had not yet been born, she said, so she was alive because of Operation Market Garden. *Cup O'Cheer*

* * * * *

What a pity Kulula Airlines Doesn't fly internationally - Kulula is an Airline with head office situated in Johannesburg ..Kulula airline attendants make an effort to make the in-flight "safety lecture" and announcements a bit more entertaining. Here are some real examples that have been heard or reported:

On a Kulula flight, (there is no assigned seating, you just sit where you want) passengers were apparently having a hard time choosing, when a flight attendant announced, "People, people we're not picking out furniture here, find a seat and get in it!"

---oOo---

On another flight with a very "senior" flight attendant crew, the pilot said, "Ladies and gentlemen, we've reached cruising altitude and will be turning down the cabin lights. This is for your comfort and to enhance the appearance of your flight attendants."

----oOo---

On landing, the stewardess said, "Please be sure to take all of your belongings.. If you're going to leave anything, please make sure it's something we'd like to have."

---o0o---

"There may be 50 ways to leave your lover, but there are only 4 ways out of this airplane."

---o0o---

"Thank you for flying Kulula. We hope you enjoyed giving us the business as much as we enjoyed taking you for a ride."

---o0o---

TUESDAY

John 16:29-30 ²⁹His disciples said, "Finally! You're giving it to us straight, in plain talk—no more figures of speech. ³⁰Now we know that you know everything—it all comes together in you. You won't have to put up with our questions anymore. We're convinced you came from God."

* * * * *

"Your Honor, I want to bring to your attention how unfair it is for my client to be accused of theft. He arrived in New York City a week ago and barely knows his way around. What's more, he only speaks a few words of English."

The Judge looked at the defendant and asked, "How much English can you speak?"

The defendant looked up and said, "Give me your wallet!" *Laugh & Lift*

* * * * *

The Apostle Luke is special. Not only was he the only Gentile (non-Jew) to write books of the Bible, he was a close companion of Paul. Luke is special, too, because he is the first Christian physician on record. Untold thousands have followed in his steps. Physicians can look to Luke as an example. But so can historians, because his writings are very much in the Greek tradition.

As a physician, Luke must have been curious about the medical conditions behind Christ's miracles. As a matter of fact, Luke uses more medical terms than any other New Testament writer. For example, he doesn't just say Publius' father was sick: he tells us he suffered from fever and dysentery. The apostle Paul told us that Luke was a doctor. In fact, he called him "dear doctor."

Luke pulled back the curtain on the young Jesus more than any other gospel writer. Without him we would know nothing about the boy Jesus's thinking. It is a pretty safe bet that Luke interviewed Mary and got most of the details from her. Perhaps he even heard the Magnificat, recorded in his gospel alone, from her very own lips. *Christianity.com*

* * * * *

The best way to boil a frog - not something I can imagine needing to know, but it offers a good lesson. The story goes that if you put a frog in a pot of boiling water, his survival instincts will cause him immediately to detect the danger and he'll quickly jump out. On the other hand, if you put a frog in a pot of cool water and gradually turn the heat up to a boil, he won't recognize the threat until it's too late.

The lesson here for marriage is to be aware of gradual temperature increases. I've heard people say that an affair "just happened." That may be true in the sense that sexual sin often does not start with a blatantly willful act. A more accurate portrayal of marital infidelity would be to say that the attraction and "temperature" gradually increases the more you are around that person. In other words, affairs develop little by little.

A friendly conversation with a workmate moves to flirtatious comments. Perhaps you find yourself wondering if he finds you attractive. You look forward to your next conversation. Your talks move from

chit-chat to more intimate emotional matters. The next step might be secret emails, texts, Facebook messages or phone calls. Then, like the boiling frog, you find yourself in the scalding waters of marital infidelity.

What are some safeguards you can establish to protect your marriage from gradual temperature increases? What can help you avoid being in situations that might cause you or your spouse to be tempted to be unfaithful? Here are a few suggestions:

- *Avoid one-on-one time with someone of the opposite sex.* If work or ministry put you in this situation, limit the amount of time spent with the other person. Keep in public places. Keep your office door open.
- *Avoid friendships with the opposite sex,* unless the friendship includes your spouse. Be aware that many affairs begin as emotionally as a connection of the heart.
- *Be careful how you talk* about your spouse and with whom you talk. Aim to always present your spouse in the best light. Be careful not to vent about him/her, especially to someone of the opposite sex.
- *Give your spouse free access to your "electronic messaging."* "No secrets" is a good rule of thumb when it comes to Facebook, texts, and emails. ***Encouragement for Today***

WEDNESDAY

John 16:31-33 . ³¹Jesus answered them, "Do you finally believe? ³²In fact, you're about to make a run for it—saving your own skins and abandoning me. But I'm not abandoned. ³³The Father is with me. I've told you all this so that trusting me, you will be unshakable and assured, deeply at peace. In this godless world you will continue to experience difficulties. But take heart! I've conquered the world."

* * * * *

One night, at 11:30 P.M., an older African American woman was standing on the side of an Alabama highway trying to endure a lashing rain storm. Her car had broken down and she desperately needed a ride. Soaking wet, she decided to flag down the next car. A young white man stopped to help her, generally unheard of in those conflict-filled 1960's. The man Took her to safety, helped her get assistance and put her into a taxicab.

She seemed to be in a big hurry, but wrote down his Address and thanked him. Seven days went by and a Knock came on the man's door. To his surprise, a giant console color TV was delivered to his home. A special note was attached. It read:

"Thank you so much for assisting me on the highway The other night. The rain drenched not only my clothes, but also my spirits. Then you came along. Because of you, I was able to make it to my dying husband's' bedside just before he passed away... God bless you for helping me and unselfishly serving Others."

Sincerely,

Mrs. Nat King Cole. *Rosemary Westbrook*

* * * * *

Just a line to say I'm living, that I'm not among the dead, though I'm getting more forgetful and all mixed up in my head. I got used to my Arthritis; to my dentures I'm resigned. I can manage my Bifocals, but dear God I miss my mind. Sometimes I can't remember when I stand at the foot of the stairs, if I must go up for something or have I just come down from there? And before the fridge so often my poor mind is filled with doubt. Have I just put some food away? Or have I come to take something out?

And there's a time when it is dark I stop and hold my head. I don't know if I'm retiring or am I getting out of bed? So, If it is my turn to write to you there's no need getting sore. I may think that I have written, and don't want to be a bore. So remember that I love you and wish that you were near.

But now it's nearly mail time, So I must say "good-bye dear." Here I stand before the mailbox with a face so very red. Instead of mailing you my letter I went and opened it instead. *Laugh & Lift*

* * * * *

The story is told of a famous football coach who was on vacation with his family in Maine. When they walked into a movie theater and sat down, the handful of people there applauded. He thought to himself, "I can't believe it. People recognize me all the way up here." Then a man came over to him and said, "Thanks for coming. They won't start the movie for less than ten people." *Laugh & Lift*

* * * * *

A middle-aged woman made her way into an apartment building to the twelfth floor. As she arrived at her intended destination, she rang the doorbell impatiently. The door opened mysteriously, and she was welcomed by the smell of incense and smoke. She entered and was greeted by a slightly dressed young girl who announced her presence with the sounding of a huge gong. Now the young girl said, "Do you wish to see the all-knowing, all-powerful, the wonderful one, Maharishi Naruru?"

"Yeah," the woman said. "Tell Sheldon his mother is here!" *Daily Encounter*

THURSDAY

John 17:1-3 ¹ *Jesus said these things. Then, raising his eyes in prayer, he said: Father, it's time. Display the bright splendor of your Son So the Son in turn may show your bright splendor.* ² *You put him in charge of everything human so he might give real and eternal life to all in his charge.* ³ *And this is the real and eternal life: That they know you, The one and only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you sent.*

* * * * *

A man was sick and tired of going to work every day while his wife stayed home. He wanted her to see what he went through so he prayed:

'Dear Lord:

I go to work every day and put in 8 hours while my wife merely stays at home. I want her to know what I go through, so, please allow her body to switch with mine for a day.'

God, in his infinite wisdom, granted the man's wish. The next morning, sure enough, the man awoke as a woman... He arose, cooked breakfast for his mate, awakened the kids, set out their school clothes, fed them breakfast, packed their lunches, drove them to school, came home and picked up the dry cleaning,

took it to the cleaners and stopped at the bank to make a deposit, went grocery shopping, then drove home to put away the groceries, paid the bills and balanced the check book.

He cleaned the cat's litter box and bathed the dog.. Then, it was already 1 P.M. And he hurried to make the beds, do the laundry, vacuum, dust, And sweep and mop the kitchen floor. Ran to the school to pick up the kids and got into an argument with them on the way home. Set out milk and cookies and got the kids organized to do their homework. Then, set up the ironing board and watched TV while he did the ironing. At 4:30 he began peeling potatoes and washing vegetables for salad, breaded the pork chops and snapped fresh beans for supper.

After supper, he cleaned the kitchen, ran the dishwasher, folded laundry, bathed the kids, and put them to bed.

At 9 P.M. He was exhausted and, though his daily chores weren't finished, he went to bed where he was expected to make love, which he managed to get through without complaint.

The next morning, he awoke a tired and changed person, so immediately he knelt by the bed and said: - Lord, I didn't know what I was thinking. I was so wrong to envy my wife's' being able to stay home all day. Please, Oh! Please, let us trade back... Amen!"

The Lord, in his infinite wisdom, replied: 'My son, I feel you have learned your lesson and I will be happy to change things back to the way they were. You'll just have to wait nine months, though. You got pregnant last night.' *Cup 'O'Cheer*

* * * * *

If you took the same excuses that people use for not going to church and apply them to other important areas of life you'd realize how inconsistent we can be in our logic. For example: Reasons Not To Wash: I was forced to as a child. People who make soap are only after your money. I wash on special occasions like Christmas and Easter. People who wash are hypocrites-they think they are cleaner than everyone else. There are so many different kinds of soap, I can't decide which one is best. I used to wash, but it got boring so I stopped. None of my friends wash. I'll start washing when I get older and dirtier

The bathroom is never warm enough in the winter or cool enough in the summer. I can't spare the time.
Pastor Tim's Clean Laughs

* * * * *

Three birds are sitting on a telephone wire. Two of them decide to fly south. How many are left? One? No. It's three. This is because deciding to fly south isn't the same as doing it. In life it's not what I say, wish, or decide that counts. It's what I do. Action always needs to follow one's decision. Otherwise it is meaningless

Daily Encounter

FRIDAY

John 17:4-5 *I glorified you on earth by completing down to the last detail what you assigned me to do. and now, ⁵Father, glorify me with your very own splendor, the very splendor I had in your presence before there was a world.*

* * * * *

I am writing in response to your request for additional information. In block number three of the accident reporting form, I put "poor planning" as the cause of my accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more and I trust that the following details are sufficient:

I am a bricklayer by trade. On the day of the accident, I was working alone on the roof of a new six-story building. When I completed my work, I discovered that I had about 500 pounds of bricks left over. Rather than carry the bricks down by hand I decided to lower them in a barrel by using a pulley, which fortunately was attached to the side of the building at the sixth floor.

Securing the rope at the ground level, I went up to the roof, swung the barrel out and loaded the bricks into it. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to insure a slow descent of the 500 pounds of bricks. You will note in block number 11 of the accident reporting form that I weigh 135 pounds. Due to my surprise at being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate up the side of the building.

In the vicinity of the third floor, I met the barrel coming down. This explains the fractured skull and broken collarbone. Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley. Fortunately, by this time I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold tightly to the rope in spite of my pain.

At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of bricks hit the ground - and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the bricks, the barrel now weighed approximately 50 pounds. I refer you again to my weight in block number 11. As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the building.

In the vicinity of the third floor, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles and lacerations of my legs and lower body. The encounter with the barrel, slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of bricks and fortunately, only three vertebrae were cracked. I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the bricks in pain, unable to move, and watching the barrel six stories above - I again lost my presence of mind. I let go of the rope! *Pastor Tim's Clean Laughs*

* * * * *

More crew announcements from South Africa's Kulula Airlines-

As the plane landed and was coming to a stop at Durban Airport , a lone voice came over the loudspeaker: "Whoa, big fella. WHOA!"

---oOo---

After a particularly rough landing during thunderstorms in the Karoo , a flight attendant on a flight announced, "Please take care when opening the overhead compartments because, after a landing like that, sure as hell everything has shifted."

---oOo---

From a Kulula employee: " Welcome aboard Kulula 271 to Port Elizabeth ..To operate your seat belt, insert the metal tab into the buckle, and pull tight. It works just like every other seat belt; and, if you don't know how to operate one, you probably shouldn't be out in public unsupervised."

---oOo---

"In the event of a sudden loss of cabin pressure, masks will descend from the ceiling. Stop screaming, grab the mask, and pull it over your face. If you have a small child travelling with you, secure your mask before assisting with theirs. If you are travelling with more than one small child, pick your favourite."

---oOo---

Weather at our destination is 50 degrees with some broken clouds, but we'll try to have them fixed before we arrive. Thank you, and remember, nobody loves you, or your money, more than Kulula Airlines."

----oOo---

"Your seats cushions can be used for flotation; and in the event of an emergency water landing, please paddle to shore and take them with our compliments."