

MONDAY

Bible verses through the Gospel of John

JOHN 8:1-5 *Jesus went across to Mount Olives, but he was soon back in the Temple again. Swarms of people came to him. He sat down and taught them. 3-6The religion scholars and Pharisees led in a woman who had been caught in an act of adultery. They stood her in plain sight of everyone and said, "Teacher, this woman was caught red-handed in the act of adultery. Moses, in the Law, gives orders to stone such persons. What do you say?" They were trying to trap him into saying something incriminating so they could bring charges against him.*

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A lonely woman buys a parrot for companionship. But the bird didn't speak a word, the first week. Now she stops by the pet store and buys a mirror for the parrot. No improvement.

The next week she brings home a play ladder and puts it in the cage. Polly still will not squawk one word. Then she buys the bird a swing, but it doesn't seem to help him talk, either.

A week later, she finds the parrot on the floor of its cage, dying. Summoning up its last breath, the bird finally speaks, "Polly wanted a cracker. Didn't they have any food at that pet store?"

Reader's Digest, arr.

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When starting out on a job search, the key that makes all the difference today is presenting yourself as a problem solver.

Research your target industry as well as your prospective employer. Study the employees, customers, suppliers, and business partners. Then use all that background information you've gathered to prepare for your interview. If, with humility, you can show how to marry your own passions and talents to the employer's challenges, you have an opening and a real opportunity. This research involves so much time and effort that only one in ten people will do it. But I don't know anyone who has done the hard work who hasn't been hired. *Stephen Covey, The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, arr*

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Is it possible that Jesus Christ will return to earth as he promised some 2,000 years ago?

No enlightened person would deny the fact that Jesus Christ was here on earth two thousand years ago any more than they would deny the existence of Julius Caesar. Both were undeniable persons of history. However, Jesus made a claim that no Caesar ever did--or could. Jesus promised he would come back to earth again. Millions of Christians sincerely believe that he will. But is this fact or just wishful thinking?

According to Bible scholar, Mark Hitchcock, "Jesus' return is explicitly referred to 1,845 times in the Bible--1,527 times in the Old Testament and 318 times in the New Testament.²

"The second Coming of Jesus is mentioned in 23 of 27 New Testament books.

"Out of the New Testament's 260 chapters, there are 318 references to the Second Coming.

"Jesus' Second Coming is mentioned eight times for every reference to his first coming.

"The final prophecy of the Bible deals with the Second Coming of Jesus.

"People are exhorted [encouraged] over fifty times to be ready for the return of Jesus.

"Jesus Christ himself refers to his return twenty-one times."

Jesus IS Coming Again. As every prophecy written (several hundred years ahead of time) about Jesus' first coming was fulfilled in minutest detail, we can be just as certain regarding his second coming.

What if Jesus should come today? Would you be ready? *Daily Encounter*

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You might be a Floridian if... You smirk when a game show's "Grand Prize" is a trip to Florida.

Chad Moore

TUESDAY

John 8:6-8 *Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger in the dirt. They kept at him, badgering him. He straightened up and said, "The sinless one among you, go first: Throw the stone." Bending down again, he wrote some more in the dirt.*

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The temperature had taken an overnight plunge, and Minnesota reaffirmed its status as one of the coldest states in the nation. Despite a wind chill of minus 40 degrees, however, the steelworkers that had been erecting a new television tower showed up for work.

About an hour into the day, one tall Texan climbed down from the tower, walked into the trailer's makeshift office, took his lunch pail down from the shelf and headed toward the door.

"You goin' home sick?" asked the foreman, after watching this.

"Nope," replied the Texan, "just headed home to get a warmer jacket."

"Oh," replied the foreman, but persisted, "where's home?"

"Dallas." *Mark's Musings and Monday Fodder*

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Just before I was deployed to Iraq , I sat my eight-year-old son down and broke the news to him. 'I'm going to be away for a long time,' I told him. 'I'm going to Iraq.'

'Why?' he asked. 'Don't you know there's a war going on over there?' ~ *Monday Fodder*

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The really great man never thinks of his own importance. William Carey, who began life as a cobbler, was one of the greatest missionaries and certainly one of the greatest linguists the world has ever seen. He translated at least parts of the Bible into no fewer than thirty-four Indian languages.

When he came to India, he was regarded with dislike and contempt. At a dinner party a snob, with the idea of humiliating him, said in a tone that everyone could hear, "I suppose, Mr. Carey, you once worked as a shoe-maker."

"No, your lordship," answered Carey, "not a shoe-maker, only a cobbler." He did not even claim to make shoes – only to mend them. *Ant Sew / Sermons Illustrated May/June 1990*

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A new building was opening, and one of the owner's friends wanted to send flowers for the occasion. They arrived at the new business site and the owner read the card. It said, "Rest in Peace." The recipient was angry and called the florist to complain.

After he told the florist of the obvious mistake and how angry he was, the florist said, "Sir, I'm really sorry for the mistake, but rather than getting angry you should imagine this: somewhere there is a funeral taking place today, and they have flowers with the note saying, 'Congratulations on your new location.'" *Ant Sew / from Internet to Christians newsletter, July 21, 1998*

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An elderly parish priest was tending his garden near a convent when a passerby stopped to inquire after the priest's much-loved roses.

"Not bad," said the priest, "but they suffer from a disease peculiar to this area known as the black death." "What on earth is that?" asked the passerby, anxious to increase his garden knowledge. "Nuns with scissors." *Humor Digest*

WEDNESDAY

John 8:9-11 *Hearing that, they walked away, one after another, beginning with the oldest. The woman was left alone. Jesus stood up and spoke to her. "Woman, where are they? Does no one condemn you?" "No one, Master." "Neither do I," said Jesus. "Go on your way. From now on, don't sin."*

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"Sit up!" the voice in the night said, "and take a deep breath."

It was a stormy night, a personal friend shared, and we were awakened by an extremely loud clap of thunder. After the initial fright, checking the kids and the house, we went back to bed and to sleep.

Then came the voice. I was certain I heard someone speaking. "Sit up and take in a deep breath," it said.

I only half-awoke and thought I must have been dreaming, so rolled over and went back to sleep.

The voice spoke again with more insistence, "Sit up and take in a deep breath."

This is weird, I thought, so again rolled over and went back to sleep.

"SIT UP! Take in a deep breath!" the voice spoke again with great urgency.

So I sat up and took in a deep breath ... and smelled smoke! I was fully awake in an instant ... awakened my husband ... rushed to wake the children ... we had the one phone 911 (for emergency) ... my husband took over the phone ... the operator asked if the lights were working ... my husband said they were going out one room at a time.

"Get OUT of the house immediately," declared the operator. "Your house has been struck by lightning."

As quick as a flash the family rushed outside..Immediately the house exploded and burst into flames. It took firemen six hours to put the fire out. The house was totally destroyed ... but the entire family was saved. Talk about a God-wake-up call!

Surely this was a God thing. Fortunately the members of this family were committed followers of Jesus Christ and even though they lost their house, their lives were saved. Furthermore, God has used this true story to touch and encourage many thousands of others.

God doesn't usually speak to most of us in an audible voice. He doesn't have to because his "wake-up call" is spoken to us repeatedly in his Word, the Bible.

"Wake up!" God says to every one of us, "Flee from the wrath to come" (God's judgment of a world that has turned from Him to go its own sinful ways). "Wake up!" "It is appointed unto humans once to die and after this the judgment." *Daily Encounter*

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Sign at animal shelter: "Children left unattended will be given a puppy or a kitten." Laugh & Lift

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Why do I have to swear on the Bible in court when the Ten Commandments cannot be displayed outside in public?

Why is it that our children can't read a Bible in school, but they can in prison? A completely brilliant question!!!!!!

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Floridians are on a first name basis with the Hurricane list. They aren't Hurricane Charley, Hurricane Frances... but Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne. You know that anything under a Category 3 just isn't worth waking up for. *Chad Moore*

THURSDAY

John 8:12 *Jesus once again addressed them: "I am the world's Light. No one who follows me stumbles around in the darkness. I provide plenty of light to live in."*

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Three contractors were visiting a tourist attraction on the same day. One was from New York, another from Texas, and the third from Florida.

At the end of the tour, the guard asked them what they did for a living. When they all replied that they were contractors, the guard said, "Hey, we need one of the rear fences redone. Why don't you guys take a look at it and give me a bid?" So, to the back fence they all went to check it out.

First to step up was the Florida contractor. He took out his tape measure and pencil, did some measuring and said, "Well I figure the job will run about \$900. \$400 for materials, \$400 for my crew, and \$100 profit for me."

Next was the Texas contractor. He also took out his tape measure and pencil, did some quick figuring and said, "Looks like I can do this job for \$700. \$300 for materials, \$300 for my crew, and \$100 profit for me."

Without so much as moving, the New York contractor said, "\$2,700."

The guard, incredulous, looked at him and said, "You didn't even measure like the other guys! How did you come up with such a high figure?"

"Easy," he said. "\$1,000 for me, \$1,000 for you and we hire the guy from Texas."

Laugh & Lift

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As a child, Olympic bobsledder Nick Inzerello was afraid of roller coasters, a fear that he obviously overcame. Another man was so afraid of bridges that he would cross the Chesapeake Bay Bridge only if his wife was driving and he was safely locked in the trunk of his car. One woman was notorious for her fear of canned tomatoes. Other bizarre phobias include chorophobia (fear of dancing), homichlophobia (fear of fog), lachanophobia (fear of vegetables), and pteronophobia (fear of being tickled by feathers).

But for truly bizarre phobias, it's hard to beat the fear of alien abduction. In 1966, a London insurance company offered an insurance policy to cover just such a fear. For a premium of \$155 a year, the company promised to pay \$160,000 if you were abducted by aliens and \$360,000 if you were impregnated by them. (The latter applied to men as well as women. Who knows what those aliens can do?) The company sold 300 policies in the first week.

Ben Franklin's Almanac of Wit and Wisdom

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In his Rags-to-Riches autobiography, Edward Bok tells how he got his first job. As a boy, he was standing in front of a bakery window admiring the pastries on display when the baker came out and said, "Look pretty good don't they?"

"They would if your windows were clean." the young Bok replied, displaying a passion for cleanliness and order typical of his Dutch heritage.

The baker decided the boy was right and hired him on the spot to wash the windows. Bok put so much energy into his work that the baker gave him a regular job of washing windows twice a week. The pay was 50 cents. From this meager beginning, Bok went on to become the editor of the Ladies' Home Journal, founder of Cosmopolitan, and winner of a Pulitzer Prize for the Americanization of Edward Bok. His was a long and successful career that began with a dirty window.

Ben Franklin's Almanac of Wit and Wisdom

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As a Floridian; you could swim before you could read, you were 12 when you first met someone who couldn't swim, you know what the "stingray shuffle" is and why it's important! (This is the act of shuffling your feet along the sandy bottom to keep from putting your foot on top of a stingray that's hidden underwater – a distinct no-no!) *Chad Moore*

FRIDAY

John 8:13-18 *The Pharisees objected, "All we have is your word on this. We need more than this to go on." 14-18 Jesus replied, "You're right that you only have my word. But you can depend on it being true. I know where I've come from and where I go next. You don't know where I'm from or where I'm headed. You decide according to what you can see and touch. I don't make judgments like that. But even if I did, my judgment would be true because I wouldn't make it out of the narrowness of my experience but in the largeness of the One who sent me, the Father. That fulfills the conditions set down in God's Law: that you can count on the testimony of two witnesses. And that is what you have: You have my word and you have the word of the Father who sent me."*

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One day, Ben Franklin found ants inside a small pot of molasses. He shook out all but one of the ants and hung the pot by a string from the ceiling. He sat back and watched the lone ant feed on the molasses, then climb the string, make its way across the ceiling, descend a wall, and disappear. Within 30 minutes, a small army of ants appeared, retraced the lone ant's path to the pot, and ate their fill. Ben was convinced that they used some form of communication.

In the book *Journey to the Ants*, Bert Holldobler and E.O. Wilson conclude that pheromone scents are the favored mode of communication. Chemical trails begin with a single winding, scented path that is eventually becomes the straightest and overlaying quickest route to the food with an additional scent trail. *Ben Franklin's Almanac of Wit and Wisdom*

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"Fortune is as fickle as she's fair." This saying, which comes from a collection of Ben Franklin's precepts about how to get rich, could certainly describe the case of Larry Hatch, who bought a couple of drinks at Burger King during a sweepstakes giveaway. Peeling the stickers off the drinks, he found that one of them contained the winning ticket, worth \$1 million. Since the photocopier at the restaurant was broken, he took the ticket to a nearby grocery store to have a copy made. Returning home, he realized that he had the copy, but not the original ticket.

In a panic, he retraced his steps to the grocery store and found the ticket still lying on the floor near the checkout counter, where it had fallen out of his pocket. It had lain on the floor for 3 hours, and one wonders how many people had walked over it without realizing they were stepping over a million dollars. *Ben Franklin's Almanac of Wit and Wisdom*

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Good humor may be the best way to deal with growing older. On Sir Winston Churchill's 80th birthday, while he was being photographed, the photographer commented that he hoped to be able to photograph

the great statesman at age 100. "I don't see why not, young man," Churchill replied. "You look reasonably fit to me."

At the age of 85, comedian George Burns said that he had been raised to respect his elders. Then he added, "I've now reached the age where I do have anybody to respect."

Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. was 87 when he passed a pretty girl on the street and remarked to a friend, "O to be seventy again."

Agatha Christie, queen of the mystery novel, was married to a noted archaeologist. When asked what it was like being married to an archaeologist, she replied that this was the best kind of husband a woman could have. "The older I get, the more interested he is in me," she quipped.

Ben Franklin's Almanac of Wit and Wisdom

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It was Palm Sunday and, because of strep throat, Susan's three-year-old son had to stay home from church with a babysitter.

When the family returned home carrying palm branches, he asked what they were for.

"People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by," his mother explained.

"Wouldn't you know it," the boy fumed. "The one Sunday I didn't go, Jesus showed up!"

DMX