

## MONDAY

### Bible verses through the Gospel of John

**JOHN 8:19** *The religious opponents asked Jesus, "Where is this so-called Father of yours?" Jesus said, "You're looking right at me and you don't see me. How do you expect to see the Father? If you knew me, you would at the same time know the Father."*

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Someone reports that after Noah had fully loaded the Ark and locked the door, he was quoted as saying, "Now I herd everything." *Chaplain Moore*

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I don't usually pass on news like this. I know how busy you all are but sometimes we have to pause and truly remember what life is about...so pass on this sad, sad news. . . There was a great loss today in the entertainment world. The man who wrote the song "Hokey Pokey" died. What was really horrible is that they had trouble keeping the body in the casket.

They'd put his left leg in and.. .well, you know the rest. *Groaners Jokes*

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At the beginning of the 20th century, the richest woman in America---and perhaps the world--- was an eccentric heiress named Hetty Green. After inheriting \$10 million from her father and aunt, Green began investing, amassing a large fortune.

Her business skill was surpassed only by her legendary cheapness. She wore the same plain black dress until it was practically in tatters---an outfit that earned her the nickname the Witch of Wall Street. She lived in cheap boarding houses, sought medical care at free clinics, and once spent an entire night searching for a lost 2-cent stamp. When she died, she left more than \$100 million to her two children, who promptly began spending it and making generous contributions to charities.

Among other legendary misers, it's hard to ignore the great comedian Jack Benny. Once, on Benny's radio show, a robber held him up at gunpoint, demanding, "Your money or your life." When Benny hesitated, the thief repeated his demand. As the studio audience's snickers grew to a roar, Benny said, "I'm thinking, I'm thinking."

*Ben Franklin's Almanac of Wit and Wisdom*

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A young man wearing overalls and rubber boots walked into a car dealership in the city of Boda, Norway, and said he wanted to buy 16 cars. Annoyed, the salesman told him to buzz off, as he didn't have time for jokes.

The young fellow then went across the street to another dealership and made the same announcement. The dealer there took him at his word. It turned out that the man was part of a 16-man fishing crew that had just been given large bonuses for bringing in a record catch. The crew had authorized him to go car shopping for them, figuring they'd get a better price if they bought all the cars at the same place. The second dealer sold him 16 cars at the equivalent of \$160,000, a deal the first salesman could have had if he hadn't been so quick to judge.

One person who made a habit of not judging too quickly was President Herbert Hoover. Once, Hoover was riding on a train that passed a flock of sheep, and a fellow traveler mentioned that they had just been sheared.

"Well," the cautious Hoover replied, "on this side anyway."

*Ben Franklin's Almanac of Wit and Wisdom*

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I Believe...That we don't have to change friends if we understand that friends change.

I Believe....That no matter how good a friend is, they're going to hurt you every once in a while And you must forgive them for that.

I Believe...That true friendship continues to grow, even over the longest distance. Same goes for true love.

*Buffalo*

## TUESDAY

**John 8:20-21** *Christ gave this speech in the Treasury while teaching in the Temple. No one arrested him because his time wasn't yet up.*

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When you are 50 or being over 60 and heading towards 70 or beyond!

In a hostage situation, you are likely to be released first.

No one expects you to run -- anywhere.

People no longer view you as a hypochondriac. You may not be just imagining you are ill!

There is nothing left to learn the hard way.

Things you buy now won't wear out.

You can eat supper at 4 PM.

You get into heated arguments about pension plans.

You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.

You quit trying to hold your stomach in no matter who walks into the room.

You sing along with elevator music.

Your eyes won't get much worse.

Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.

Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the national weather service.

Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.

Your supply of brain cells is finally down to a manageable size.

You can't remember who sent you this list..

*Mike Luskey*

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The visiting minister was celebrating his last service at the church he had been ministering at for some months, and his hat was passed around for a good will, farewell offering.

When it eventually made its way back to the minister, it was empty. He didn't flinch, he just raised the hat to heaven and prayed, "I thank you, Lord, and that I got my hat back from this congregation." *Humor Digest*

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The drill sergeant making his morning announcements to a group of newcomers in a training camp, stated:

"Today, gentlemen, I have some good news and some bad news. First, the good. Private Brandy will be setting the pace on our morning run."

With this the platoon was overjoyed, as Private Brandy was overweight and terribly slow. But then the drill sergeant finished his statement:

"Now for the bad news. Private Brandy will be driving the ambulance that we might need for those who don't manage to stay ahead of me." *Humor*

## WEDNESDAY

**John 8:21-22** *Then Jesus went over the same ground again. "I'm leaving and you are going to look for me, but you're missing God in this and are headed for a dead end. There is no way you can come with me." 22The Jews said, "So, is he going to kill himself? Is that what he means by 'You can't come with me'?"*

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### COACH QUOTES:

'I make my practices real hard because if a player is a quitter, I want him to quit in practice, not in a game.'  
Bear Bryant / Alabama

'I never graduated from Iowa, but I was only there for two terms - Truman's and Eisenhower's.'  
Alex Karras / Iowa

'I could have been a Rhodes Scholar, except for my grades.'  
Duffy Daugherty / Michigan State

'I asked Darrell Royal, the coach of the Texas Longhorns, why he didn't recruit me and he said: Well, Walt, we took a look at you and you weren't any good.'  
Walt Garrison / Oklahoma State  
*John Dahl*

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Let's face it. Painful personal trauma and tragedy – like illness or injury, death of a loved one, loss of a job, or an unexpected breakup of a relationship – are unavoidable. The question is: Will these private calamities erode our capacity to be happy or cause us to become stronger and better able to live a meaningful and fulfilling life?

Consider how differently carrots, eggs, and ground coffee beans are affected by the extreme adversity of being boiled. Like a carrot, adversity can soften us. We can emerge more flexible, understanding, compassionate, and grateful, or we can let our life spirit turn into a soft mush.

Like an egg, boiling water can make us harder, stronger, tougher, and wiser, or we can become more cynical, pessimistic, callous, and inaccessible.

And like a coffee bean, we can willingly transform our lives into something better or lose ourselves completely.

We can't control what happens to us, but we have a lot to say about how we react and, therefore, what happens in us. The first step to turning adversity into advantage is to get out of the hot water as quickly as possible.

Don't dwell on catastrophe. Grieve, but move on. Don't define your life by misfortune.

Second, force yourself to move forward. Draw on your inner strengths, the people who love you, and your faith to transform your life into something better. Formulate a vision of a more purposeful life filled with people and experiences that will help you become more fulfilled.

*Michael Josephson*

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## Wisdom - From the Military Manual

'Though I Fly Through the Valley of Death, I Shall Fear No Evil. For I am at 80,000 Feet and Climbing.'

'You've never been lost until you've been lost at Mach 3.' - Paul F. Crickmore (test pilot)

'The only time you have too much fuel is when you're on fire.'

'If the wings are travelling faster than the fuselage, it's probably a helicopter -- and therefore, unsafe.'

'When one engine fails on a twin-engine airplane you always have enough power left to get you to the scene of the crash.'

'If something hasn't broken on your helicopter, it's about to.'

Attributed to Max Stanley (Northrop test pilot)

## THURSDAY

**John 8:23-24** *Jesus said, "You're tied down to the mundane; I'm in touch with what is beyond your horizons. You live in terms of what you see and touch. I'm living on other terms. I told you that you were missing God in all this. You're at a dead end. If you won't believe I am who I say I am, you're at the dead end of sins. You're missing God in your lives."*

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I used to covet others' faith. I'd watch the spiritual "giants" in my church and community and wonder why they were given a greater faith than me. It didn't seem fair. Even worse were people with great faith who never seemed to have any type of adversity. Do you know the kind of people I'm describing?

One day, I decided to get to know a person with obvious great faith. I think it was one of the best things I've done to increase my own faith. The first thing I learned was people with great faith got it from their abundance of trials, not from their lack of trials. Trusting God in one trouble gave them courage to trust Him in another. Before they knew it, they had developed great faith in God. Great faith didn't happen overnight; it was a process.

Through the course of trusting God, we discover several things about great faith. First, it leads to great undertakings. Take the Gentile woman with a demon-possessed daughter found in Matthew 15. She cried out for Jesus to heal her daughter, but she received no response.

This action on Christ's part seems confusing. Therefore, it is important to know that this woman was not only a Gentile, but was of Canaanite descent. The Canaanites were an immoral people God had commanded Israel to completely destroy during their invasion of Canaan under the command of Joshua. Israel did not fully obey God's order and some Canaanites survived the invasion. This woman was their descendant. Nonetheless, this didn't stop her from appealing to Jesus for mercy and help.

Annoyed by her attempts, the disciples urged Jesus to send her away. She was a nuisance to them, but to Jesus the woman was an example of great faith. She was determined to do whatever was necessary to get what she needed.

Great faith also brings about great expectations. If you're like me, you often don't expect great results from your labors and prayers. This is because we lack faith. This was not true of the Gentile woman. She expected the Savior to heal her daughter.

That's not all. Great faith awakens great earnestness. This woman didn't play by the rules so to speak. She didn't care what others thought about her actions. Crying, she fell at the feet of Jesus and worshiped Him. I've seen this kind of earnestness in others with great faith as well. They pray with persistence until God moves.

Great faith conquers great difficulties. The woman kept on pursuing Jesus even though He reminded her of her position as a Gentile, not a Jew. Christ responded to her begging, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs" (vs.26). In other words, why should He give her, a Gentile, what He had come to give the Jews?

Her answer to that was to agree Him, "Yes, Lord." And then throw herself on His mercy again by adding, "...even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table" (vs. 27). She understood that even one morsel of God's power was more than enough to heal her daughter. Pleased with her faith, Jesus commended her.

Finally, great faith achieves great victories. Jesus rewarded the woman's faith by healing her daughter. Our difficulties can be overcome by expressing great faith in Christ's mercy and love, which provides for our needs.

Great faith isn't given to some and not to others. It is a choice we make to trust and pursue God even when at first there appears to be no response. *Encouragement for Today*

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While vacationing in Alaska, I couldn't help but notice all the warnings about bears posted in campgrounds, visitors' centers, and rest areas advising people not to feed the bears, how to avoid bears, what to do if a bear sees you, what to do if a bear attacks, and so on.

My favorite, however, was a hand-lettered sign on the door of a small gas station in a remote area. It said: "Warning! If you are being chased by a bear, don't come in here!" Thomas Ellsworth and Monday Fodder

## FRIDAY

**John 8:25-26** *Jesus' critics said to him, "Just who are you anyway?" Jesus said, "What I've said from the start. I have so many things to say that concern you, judgments to make that affect you, but if you don't accept the trustworthiness of the One who commanded my words and acts, none of it matters. That is who you are questioning—not me but the One who sent me."*

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HELPING PARENTS IN GRIEF- As a parent who has suffered the loss of a child, although not through suicide, the hardest thing is when people think that quoting scripture is the best thing to help heal our grief. Grief is a natural God given process, nothing that you can say or do is going to take away your friends pain or loss.

The things that people did for me that helped the most were not things at all. They were being there for me (and my husband), allowing us to grieve, allowing us to cry and show our grief, to hurt, to talk or be silent, to truly miss our child. I am not saying do not pray for and with your friend. I am just saying that many many people did and do tell me that my faith should have and still should make me not miss and not grieve the loss of my child. They told me that crying a week or a month after she died showed a lack of faith in God's plan for me and for her. I will tell you that without my faith, without my God I would have followed her to that grave years ago.

There is a national organization called Bereaved Parents of the USA you can google it to find them. They have a "newly bereaved" link and a how to help link. There is also resourses for parents whose children have completed suicide. That is a tough road because parents whose children kill themselves get less compassion than other causes of death. I have seen this first hand in testimonies at our local chapter meetings.

There is another bereavement group called The Compassionate Friends for bereaved parents, I don't know firsthand about them because they are not local for me. I just know they are for parents whose children have died, so they will have resources that will help you. *Christianity Forums*

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The first law of health and healing is clean living--that is, physical hygiene, sanitation, and moral living.

The second law is being free from stress and worry. "Having a tranquil mind; as Jesus said, "Don't worry about things--food, drink, and clothes ... don't be anxious about tomorrow. God will take care of your tomorrow, too. Live one day at a time."

The third law for health and healing is confession and prayer. The modern or medical word for old-fashioned confession is "catharsis." It means an emptying out. And it is now known that one of the most powerful tools for healing is an emptying out of our supercharged repressed negative emotions of anger, hostility, guilt, fear, anxieties, and all the things that worry and bother us. As someone has wisely said, it is not so much what we eat that upsets us, but what eats us.

*Daily Encounter*

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Three Irishmen, Paddy, Sean and Shamus, having left the pub a wee late one night, found themselves on the road which led past the old graveyard. "Come have a look over here," says Paddy, "it's Michael O'Grady's grave, God bless his soul. He lived to the ripe old age of 87. Good blood, those O'Grady's!"

"That's nothing," says Sean. "Here's one named Patrick O'Toole, it says here that he was 95 when he died. Aye, those O'Tooles are a hardy bunch, they are!"

Just then, Shamus yells out, "Forget him, here's a fella that lived to be 145 years old!"

"What was his name?"

Shamus stumbles around a bit, awkwardly lights a match to see what else is written on the stone marker, and exclaims, "Miles from Dublin!" *from GROANERS and Humor Digest*

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You might be a Floridian if... "Down South" means Key West, "panhandling" means going to Pensacola, flip-flops are everyday wear, and shoes are for business meetings and church. No, wait, flip flops are good for church too.

*Chad Moore*