

## MONDAY

Bible verses through the Gospel of John

**JOHN 8:58** "Believe me," said Jesus, "I am who I am long before Abraham was born."

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### Message on Sermon Preparation for Pastors:

Please note that the paragraphs below remain my property for future use at my discretion. However, feel free to use it for what you have requested: a future edition of ChapNotes on the website.

"Always milk your own cow!" When dealing with the subject of sermon preparation, those were the words of wisdom given Pastor Bill Anderson when he was a young preacher and was then given to a group of pastors that he met with when he was pastor of Calvary Baptist, Clearwater, FL. It was one of those bits of wisdom that I have never forgotten. It took me a little while to chew on that cud. But it has stuck with me. It has helped me understand a few things. 1. If you don't do sermon preparation on a regular basis, it could begin to dry up. 2. If you don't it can make you dependent on someone else's cow and even have to buy that which is given freely by God. 3. There is also something very satisfying about milk you have worked for, sweated over and delivered to the table for your family. 4. You get to know the cow really well! I am not calling God a cow, however, he is the giver of life and ultimately the one we should be serving, listening to and preaching about. There is more, but I think that is enough for now.

Here are some tools that I have found helpful in milking my cow. 1. I try to keep my quiet time thoughts, random ideas, God moments, etc. in a journal that I carry around. This way I can be a student of the written and revealed Word of God. Who ever heard of a student not taking notes? Not students that passed anyway. 2. When I am on the internet, I may come across bits of information, an article or picture that I find interesting. There are many programs and websites that help you keep track of them. One of those websites is called [www.evernote.com](http://www.evernote.com), [www.springpadit.com](http://www.springpadit.com), etc. I can capture that information without having to print it out or write it down. I give them multiple labels based on the content like leadership, marriage, etc. Then when I have an upcoming sermon on that subject, I just search in that category and put the relevant information in my sermon. An added bonus is that all my illustrations are on the internet which is accessible to me wherever and whenever I have an internet connection.

*For King and His kingdom!*  
*Pastor Steve Moore, Walton Road BC, Port St. Lucie, FL*

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"I was in the hospital," Thelma writes, "and my husband was visiting. He was trying to stop smoking and was chewing on an unlit cigar when he got on the elevator. A lady said to him, 'Sir, there's no smoking in here.'

"My husband said, 'I'm not smoking.'

" 'But you have a cigar in your mouth,' the lady said.

" Lady," my husband answered, 'I've got on Jockey shorts, too, but I'm not riding a horse.' "  
*Laugh & Lift*

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A suicidal man sought the help of a church of Sweden pastor by telephone at 2 AM. "I felt bad and wanted to kill myself, but I pulled myself together and made the call.

So, what happened? After having called the emergency services he talked with an on-call minister. After some conversation, the troubled soul began to get the feeling that he was talking to himself. "I thought maybe he was taking notes, so I asked: 'Are you taking notes?' I could hear his heavy breathing before he woke up."

Monica Eckerdal Kjellstrom, who coordinates the activities of duty pastors within the Church of Sweden, expressed regret over the incident but does not believe it was an isolated occurrence. "This sort of thing should really not occur, but it does sometime happen that people call and report that the pastors have fallen asleep. *St. Petersburg Times, 4 15 10*

## TUESDAY

**John 8: 59** *That did it—pushed them over the edge. They picked up rocks to throw at him. But Jesus slipped away, getting out of the Temple*

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The aspiring psychiatrists from various colleges were attending their first class on emotional extremes.

"Just to establish some parameters," said the professor, to the student from the University of Houston, "What is the opposite of joy?"

"Sadness," said the UH student.

"And the opposite of depression?" he asked of the young lady from the University of Texas.

"Elation," said she.

"And you sir," he said to the young man from Texas AM, "how about the opposite of woe?"

"The Aggie replied, "Sir, I believe that would be giddy-up." *Laugh & Lift*

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"A thousand times over, the death knell of the Bible has been sounded, the funeral procession formed, the inscription cut on the tombstone, and committal read. But somehow, the corpse never stays put. No other book has been so chopped, knifed, sifted, scrutinized, and vilified. What book on philosophy or religion has been subject to such a mass attack as the Bible, with such venom and skepticism, with such thoroughness and erudition upon every chapter, line and tenet? The Bible is still loved by millions, read by millions, and studied by millions." - *Bernard Ramm via Laugh & Lift*

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## You Know You attend a Redneck Church when...

The finance committee refuses to provide funds for the purchase of a chandelier because none of the members knows how to play one.

People ask, when they learn that Jesus fed the 5,000, whether the two fish were bass or catfish, and what bait was used to catch 'em.

When the pastor says, "I'd like to ask Bubba to help take up the offering," five guys and two women stand up.

Opening day of deer season is recognized as an official church holiday.

A member of the church requests to be buried in his 4-wheel-drive truck because, "It ain't never been in a hole it couldn't get out of."

The choir is known as the "OK Chorale."

In a congregation of 500 members, there are only seven last names in the church directory.

The baptismal pool is a No. 2 galvanized "Wheeling" washtub.

The choir robes were donated by (and embroidered with the logo from) Billy Bob's Barbecue.

The collection plates are really hubcaps from a '56 Chevy.

Instead of a bell, you are called to service by a duck call.

The minister and his wife drive matching pickup trucks.

*Preaching Now*

## WEDNESDAY

**John 9:1-2** . *Walking down the street, Jesus saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked, "Rabbi, who sinned: this man or his parents, causing him to be born blind?"*

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My husband decided life would be easier if he wired a new light switch in the master bedroom to save us from fumbling in the dark for the lamp. He cut through the drywall and found a stash of bottles and small boxes inside the wall.

"Honey!" he called excitedly. "You've got to come here and see what I found."

I ran in and quickly realized that his next task would be to fix the hole that now led into the back of our bathroom medicine cabinet. *Thomas Ellsworth via GCFL*

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Treat everyone with politeness, even those who are rude to you, not because they are nice, but because you are. *Fr. Ed Skiba*

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A man told the ringmaster that he was interested in joining the circus as a lion tamer. The ringmaster asked if he had any experience and the man said, "Why, yes. My father was one of the most famous lion tamers in the world, and he taught me everything he knew."

"Really?" said the ringmaster. "Did he teach you how to make a lion jump through a flaming hoop?"

"Yes he did," the man replied.

"And did he teach you how to have six lions form a pyramid?"

"Yes he did," the man replied.

"And have you ever stuck your head in a lion's mouth?"

"Just once," the man replied.

The ringmaster asked, "Why only once?"

And the man said, "I was looking for my father." *Laugh & Lift*

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I never pray on a golf course. Actually, the Lord answers my prayers everywhere except on the course.  
~ *Billy Graham*

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During his sermon, our pastor quoted Matthew 19:19, "Love your neighbor as yourself." To emphasize the point, he asked three times, with increasing intensity: "Who is my neighbor? Who is my neighbor? Who is my neighbor?!"

Each time he asked, a young boy behind us answered (mimicking the pastor's intensity, but not quite as loud): "Mister Rogers! Mister Rogers! Mister Rogers!" *Laugh & Lift*

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When St. Paul cavorted to Christianity, he preached holy acrimony which is another name for marriage.

Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotony. *Michael Luskey*

## THURSDAY

**John 9:3-5** *Jesus said, "You're asking the wrong question. You're looking for someone to blame. There is no such cause-effect here. Look instead for what God can do. We need to be energetically at work for the One who sent me here, working while the sun shines. When night falls, the workday is over. For as long as I am in the world, there is plenty of light. I am the world's Light."*

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If you've ever worked for a boss who reacts before getting the facts and thinking things through, you will love this!

Arcelor-Mittal Steel Company, feeling it was time for a shakeup, hired a new CEO. As a priority, this new boss was determined to rid the company of all slackers. On a tour of the facilities, the CEO noticed a guy

leaning against a wall. The room was full of workers and he wanted to let them know that he meant business. He asked the guy, "How much money do you make a week?"

A little surprised, the young man looked at him and said, "I make \$400 a week. Why?"

The CEO said, "Wait right here." He walked back to his office, came back in two minutes, and handed the guy \$1,600 in cash and said, "Here's four weeks' pay. Now GET OUT and don't come back."

Feeling pretty good about himself, the CEO looked around the room and asked, "Does anyone want to tell me what that goof ball did here?"

From across the room a voice said, "Pizza delivery guy, from Domino's." *Humor Digest*

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To confirm her suspicions, my sister needed to purchase a pregnancy test. Since I was going to the pharmacy, she asked me to pick one up. She had already ordered the kit by phone, deciding to let me bring it home and save a trip.

I didn't stop to think how I appeared to the clerk when I waddled up, nine months pregnant to pay for the kit.

She took one look at me. "Honey" she said, "I can save you \$15 right now. You're definitely going to have a baby." *Monday Fodder*

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I heard once about a woman who spent some months serving as a missionary in South Africa. On her final visit to a remote township she attended a medical clinic. As the Zulu women there began to sing together, she found herself deeply moved by their hauntingly beautiful harmonies. She wanted to always remember this moment and try to share it with friends when she arrived home. With tears flowing down her cheeks, she turned to her friend and asked, "Can you please tell me the translation of the words to this song?"

Her friend looked at her and solemnly replied . . . "If you boil the water, you won't get dysentery." *Laugh & Lift*

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### **You Know It's Going To Be a Bad Day When...**

- You see a "60 Minutes" news team in your office.
- You call Suicide Prevention and they put you on hold.
- You turn on the news and they're showing emergency routes out of the city.
- Your twin sister forgot your birthday. *Laugh & Lift*

## FRIDAY

**John 9:6-7** *Jesus said this and then spit in the dust, made a clay paste with the saliva, rubbed the paste on the blind man's eyes, and said, "Go, wash at the Pool of Siloam" (Siloam means "Sent"). The man went and washed—and saw.*

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A successful business man goes into the doctor to ask about some abnormal symptoms. The doctor asks him, "What problems are you experiencing?"

The business man tells the doctor, "I'm terrified of driving in dark places or with other people in the car."

The doctor thinks for a minute then states, "That's easy to solve. You have car-pool-tunnel syndrome."  
*Laugh & Lift*

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The customer isn't always right. In fact, the customer may be dead wrong from time to time. He or she may even be rude and surly and have bad breath. But the customer always deserves to be treated with kindness, courtesy and respect. Without them, your boss doesn't have a business, and you don't have a job.

Always do what's expected of you. Then do a little more. Bus an extra table. Wipe down another counter. Straighten another rack of clothes. I don't know of one person who was fired for doing more work than they were paid to do. But I know a lot of people who had some wonderful opportunities come their way because an employer was impressed by extra effort.

Be meticulously honest. Especially about little things. Little dishonesties have a way of growing into big dishonesties. Once you establish a pattern of taking things that don't belong to you there really isn't much difference between a stick of gum and a \$300 suit. If you never swipe that first cookie, the odds are pretty good you'll never be tempted to pocket a \$20 bill.

Always tell the truth. Even if it means admitting to a costly mistake. Employers can live with broken dishes and spilled sugar, but they can't live with employees they can't trust. And if the job requires you to fib even just a little, it probably isn't a job worth having. Look at it this way: if your boss will lie to customers, what makes you think he won't lie to you?

And finally, learn from others. Listen to your boss; there's probably a good reason why he or she tells you to do things in a certain way. Watch your co-workers and learn from their successes -- and their failures. If you aren't sure, ask. If you don't know, say so. *Strauss Heartdrops*

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It was a long time ago, but I still remember my Father dispensing this important advice, "Maurizio, marry a girl who has the same belief as the whole family."

To which I replied, "Dad, why would I marry a girl who believes I'm a moron?" *Humor Digest*

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She was just a moonshiner's daughter but I love her still.

"If you love a man, set him free. If he comes back, it means he forgot his cigar."

*Jasmine Birtles*

A banker fell over board from a boat. His friends couldn't find a life preserver. One asked, "Can you float alone?"

*Jokes and Funny Stories*