

MONDAY

Bible verses through the Gospel of John

JOHN 8:27-29 *They still didn't get it, didn't realize that he was referring to the Father. So Jesus tried again. "When you raise up the Son of Man, then you will know who I am—that I'm not making this up, but speaking only what the Father taught me. The One who sent me stays with me. He doesn't abandon me. He sees how much joy I take in pleasing him."*

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Once you have held the tiny hand of a new born child and the frail, weak hand of an elderly soul with his one last breath, you cannot possibly justify wasting another moment of your own life. Life is not just a beginning and an end it is how you live it in between.

Once you have stood on the edge, mentally spent, physically exhausted, and financially drained you have every right to say, "I quit!" But follow that by shouting "Now you take over God!" Then watch what He can do with the spent, exhausted and drained.

Once you have seen a sunrise and a sunset, you know that God has kept His promise and has every day of your life. Have you kept yours?

Once you have said "I will" then you must follow through. "I will" is your word, not a "maybe."

Once you have more, you must give more to those who have less.

Once you have anything, you must give thanks.

Once you have nothing, you must give thanks, too. It's not just in having that we should be grateful. Just being alive is a gift, too.

Once you have stood in awe looking at the stars you realize how incredibly special you must be. For in the entire universe there is only one "you." But realize that the universe is looking back in awe at you, too. All of God's creation is "Awe-some!"

Once you have heard the old man tell the story for what seems like the "hundredth" time, be happy if he lives to tell it to you a hundred more times. One day you will wish he were there to tell it again.

Once you have faith, you can never give into the power of doubt. Faith builds, doubt destroys.

Once you have love, you always will...Love always and all ways,
Bob and Marianne Perks <http://www.IWishYouEnough.com>

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In 1892, William Wrigley, Jr. opened the first chewing gum factory. When the first employee fell into a vat of gum, his boss chewed him out. *Humor Digest*

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Once there was a frugal man who owned quite a number of umbrellas, but they all seemed to have one thing or another wrong with them. So one day he gathered them all up - eight in all - and reluctantly took them in to a shop for repair.

The next morning as he was getting off his subway car, he absentmindedly picked up the umbrella laying on the seat next to him, as he was used to taking his umbrella everywhere he traveled.

The woman who owned the umbrella, however, startled him to no end when she shouted, "Hey! Stop, thief! That's *my* umbrella!!" The man, red-faced with embarrassment, quickly returned the umbrella and mumbled his apologies.

That same day the repair shop called, and reported that his umbrellas had all been repaired. The man picked them up that afternoon, but when he boarded the subway car that evening, to his horror he found himself staring into the face of the woman from his morning mishap.

She glared at him for a moment, then said loudly and sarcastically, "Had a good day, didn't you?"
Mark's Musings

TUESDAY

John 8:30 *When Jesus put it in these terms, that He was sent from God, many people decided to believe.*

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Rules to live a long life:

- Don't throw a brick straight up.
- Walk around toxic waste dumps, not through them.
- Don't microwave yourself too often.
- Don't stick body parts into electrical outlets.
- If you're on a ball field and someone shouts "Heads up!" don't actually raise your head up. Cover it with your arms and duck.
- No matter how tempting it is to be one with nature, stay on the outside of all fences at the zoo.
- Don't skinny dip with snapping turtles.
- When sticking thumb tacks into bulletin boards, press on the flat end.
- Don't take long naps while driving *Laugh & Lift*

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When in charge, ponder. When in doubt, mumble. When in trouble, delegate.
Jokes and Funny Stories

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Don't Miss This Opportunity. Are you interested in making \$\$\$\$ fast? Here's an incredibly simple way to do it and there is nothing to buy, no investment to make, no money to lose! TRY it now!

Follow this simple procedure:

1. Open a new text or word document
2. Hold down the shift key.
3. Hit the 4 key four times. *Jokes and Funny Stories*

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Reaching the end of a job interview, the Human Resources Person asked the young Engineer fresh out of MIT, "And what starting salary were you looking for?"

he Engineer said, "In the neighborhood of \$125,000 a year, depending on the benefits package."

The HR Person said, "Well, what would you say to a package of 5-weeks' vacation, 14 paid holidays, full medical and dental, company matching retirement fund to 50% of salary, and a company car leased every 2 years - say, a red Corvette?"

The Engineer sat up straight and said, "Wow!!! Are you kidding?"

And the HR Person replied, "Yeah, but you started it." *Jokes and Funny Stories*

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MAN ON PHONE: "How long does it take to fly to Hong Kong?"

TRAVEL AGENT: "Just a minute, sir. . ."

MAN ON PHONE: "Thanks very much". *Jokes and Funny Stories*

WEDNESDAY

John 8:31-32 *Then Jesus turned to the Jews who had claimed to believe in him. "If you stick with this, living out what I tell you, you are my disciples for sure. Then you will experience for yourselves the truth, and the truth will free you."*

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A woman decides to buy a do-it-yourself clothes closet. Back home she reads the instructions carefully and assembles the closet in the bedroom. It looks really neat. Then, a train passes and the whole closet collapses. Not daunted by this she re-reads the instructions and reassembles the closet. Then, another train passes and the closet collapses again. Thinking that she must have done *something* wrong she re-re-reads the instructions and re-re-assembles the closet a third time. Then, a train passes and the structure collapses yet again.

Now, she's finally fed up with this and calls the customer service department. She is told that this is quite impossible and that they'll send along a technician to have a look. The technician arrives and assembles the closet. Then, a train passes and it repeats its collapse. Completely baffled by this unexpected event, the technician decides to reassemble the closet and stands inside to see whether he can find out what causes it to collapse. At this point, the woman's husband comes home, sees the new cabinet and says: "What a nice looking closet", and opens it.

Says the technician: "You won't believe me, but I'm standing here waiting for a train".

Jokes and Funny Stories

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Once upon a time there was a famous sea captain. This captain was very successful at what he did for years he guided merchant ships all over the world. Never did stormy seas or pirates get the best of him. He was admired by his crew and fellow captains.

However, there was one thing different about this captain. Every morning he went through a strange ritual. He would lock himself in his captain's quarters and open a small safe. In the safe was an envelope with a piece of paper inside. He would stare at the paper for a minute, then lock it back up. After, he would go about his daily duties. For years this went on, and his crew became very curious. Was it a treasure map? Was it a letter from a long lost love? Everyone speculated the contents of the strange envelope.

One day the captain died at sea. After laying the captain's body to rest, the first mate led the entire crew into the captain's quarters. He opened the safe, got the envelope, and opened it and...

The first mate turned pale and showed the paper to the others. Four words were on the paper, two on two lines: "Port Left Starboard Right" *Jokes and Funny Stories*

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Three tourists were driving through Wales. As they were approaching lanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliog, they started arguing about the pronunciation of the town's name. They argued back and forth until they stopped for lunch.

As they stood at the counter one asked the employee, "Before we order, could you please settle an argument for us? Would you please pronounce where we are... very slowly?"

The girl leaned over the counter and said, "Burrrrrr, gerrrrrr, Kiiiiing."
Jokes and Funny Stories

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Strangers are simply friends we have not yet met. *Dr. William Santoro*

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I Believe....That it's taking me a long time to become the person I want to be.

I Believe...That you should always leave loved ones with loving words. It may be the last time you see them.

I Believe....That you can keep going long after you think you can't. Buffalo

THURSDAY

John 8:33 *Surprised, they said, "But we're descendants of Abraham. We've never been slaves to anyone. How can you say, 'The truth will free you'?"*

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A guy has spent five years traveling all around the world making a documentary on Native dances. At the end of this time, he has every single native dance of every indigenous culture in the world on film. He

winds up in Australia, in Alice Springs, so he pops into a pub for a well earned beer. He gets talking to one of the local Aborigines and tells him about his project.

The Aborigine asks the guy what he thought of the "Butcher Dance."

The guy's a bit confused and says, "Butcher Dance? What's that?"

"What? You no see Butcher Dance?"

"No, I've never heard of it."

"Oh mate. You crazy. How you say you film every native dance if you no see Butcher Dance?"

The film maker is wild with anticipation of filming his last native event and gets directions to the tribal village. He sets out bright and early the following morning. His spirits are high and he's excited about the prospect of capturing on film this mysterious dance which he had never heard mention of before.

True to the directions he has been given, he reaches the creek after three days and follows it for another two until they reach the Rocky Mountains. The merciless sun is starting to take its toll by this time and his spirits are starting to flag, but wearily he trudges on until he finds the pass through the hills - nothing will prevent him from completing his life's dream.

The mountains prove to be every bit as treacherous as their guide said and at times they almost despair of getting their bulky equipment through. But after three and a half days of back breaking effort they finally force their way clear and continue their long trek.

Eventually, having lost all sense of how long they have been traveling, they stagger into the village at about 12:00 noon. "The Butcher Dance!" gasps the guy. "Please don't tell me I'm too late!"

The chief says "No, white fella. Butcher Dance performed tonight. You come just in time."

Relieved beyond measure, the crew spends the rest of the afternoon setting up their equipment - preparing to capture the night's ritual on film as dusk falls, the natives start to cover their bodies in white paint and adorn themselves in all manner of bird's feathers and animal skins.

Finally, the ceremony is about to begin. The chief warns the film maker to be absolutely quiet as this is a most holy tribal custom of the year. The guy is becoming caught up in the fervor of the moment himself. This is it. He now realizes beyond all doubt that his wait has not been in vain. He is about to witness the ultimate performance of rhythm and movement ever conceived by mankind.

The chief strides to his position in the circle and, in a big booming voice, starts to sing, He says, "You butch yer right arm in. You butch yer right arm out. You butch yer right arm in and you shake it all about..." *Jokes and Funny Stories*

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Flying through the Midwest in the summer means one thing: turbulence. I was working as a flight attendant on one particular flight when we hit a patch of very rough air just after a young teen on his first flight, had entered the bathroom. After the bumps had subsided, he exited the bathroom, a look of sheer terror etched on his face.

"Are you all right?" I asked. "Don't worry, that turbulence was as bad as it gets."

"So that's what it was," he said. "I thought I'd pushed the wrong button." *Humor Digest*

FRIDAY

John 8:34-38 *Jesus said, "I tell you most solemnly that anyone who chooses a life of sin is trapped in a dead-end life and is, in fact, a slave. A slave is a transient, who can't come and go at will. The Son, though, has an established position, the run of the house. So if the Son sets you free, you are free through and through. I know you are Abraham's descendants. But I also know that you are trying to kill me because my message hasn't yet penetrated your thick skulls. I'm talking about things I have seen while keeping company with the Father, and you just go on doing what you have heard from your father."*

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Think about how important your spouse's love is to you and consider what your respect means to them.

If your marriage seems strained right now, think about your conversations with your partner lately. Have your comments been encouraging and uplifting, or discouraging and destructive?

Instead of chocolates on special days, give your mate what they really desires- respect, admiration and love.

Through a husband's/wife's gifts of unconditional love, respect, and admiration, we can help our lovers become the great companion that God created them to be, and in turn, create the marriages we always dreamed of. *Tracie Miles, Encouragement for Today*

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It was October and the Indians on a remote reservation asked their new Chief if the coming winter was going to be cold or mild.

Since he was a Chief in a modern society he had never been taught the old secrets. When he looked at the sky he couldn't tell what the winter was going to be like. Nevertheless, to be on the safe side he told his tribe that the winter was indeed going to be cold and that the members of the village should collect firewood to be prepared.

But, being a practical leader, after several days he got an idea. He went to the phone booth, called the National Weather Service and asked, "Is the coming winter going to be cold?"

"It looks like this winter is going to be quite cold," the meteorologist at the weather service responded.

So, the Chief went back to his people and told them to collect even more firewood in order to be prepared. A week later he called the National Weather Service again, "Does it still look like it is going to be a very cold winter?"

"Yes," the man at National Weather Service again replied, "it's going to be a very cold winter."

The Chief again went back to his people and ordered them to collect every scrap of firewood they could find. Two weeks later the Chief called the National Weather Service again. "Are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be very cold?"

"Absolutely," the man replied. "It's looking more and more like it is going to be one of the coldest winters ever."

"How can you be so sure?" the Chief asked.

The weatherman replied, "The Indians are collecting firewood like crazy." *Humor Digest*

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Once you have smiled at someone you can't take it back.

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Little old lady at US immigration.

OFFICIAL: Do you advocate the overthrow of the government by violence or subversion?

(Pause for thought)

LITTLE OLD LADY: Violence, I think. *Jokes and Funny Stories*