

MONDAY

Bible verses through the Gospel of John

JOHN 9:20-23 *His parents said, "We know he is our son, and we know he was born blind. But we don't know how he came to see—haven't a clue about who opened his eyes. Why don't you ask him? He's a grown man and can speak for himself."*

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Message on Sermon Preparation for Pastors:

I don't have any one way of preparing sermons. I preach from a full manuscript and most often preach through entire books or larger portions of Scripture. I find this helps with my study and preparation time and allows the church to read ahead in anticipation of where I am going. For raceway ministry I sometimes, though not always, use messages prepared for my church rearranging and organizing the material around the theme of auto racing.

In preparing my sermons I usually read through a verse or passage for my own understanding and looking to "discover" points or divisions that stand out to me and develop my manuscript around that. Sometimes that changes as I'm reading from a verse to a larger portion and sometimes the reverse is true. This doesn't happen in most cases after a cursory reading of the passage although in certain verses or passages things do stand out right away.

I don't have a set time or day for sermon preparation. Through the week I move back and forth between study material and the computer composing my message. I write it as if I were preaching it and sometimes compose my entire manuscript with the most basic organized outline. I use PowerPoint presentations at church and as I go back through the manuscript preparing the PowerPoint I "discover" things I want to emphasize and they usually become my divisions or points. I admit I also take advantage of preaching annuals and sermon books as well as material available on the internet. These are great tools, but you have to be careful to avoid plagiarism and even more careful not to allow them to become substitutes for your own study and preparation. Though I mention it last, prayer is essential from beginning to end, from preparation to delivery. I know they didn't teach it this way at seminary, I beg forgiveness, but it works for me.

R.D. Fowler, Lincoln, NE

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*"Will someone call my wife and tell her I'm alright,
and that I found our luggage the airline lost last
month."*

Should the cartoon not be visible on your email ChapNotes, simply bring up the internet website: <http://www.chapnotes.org> and view it there.

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Things Only a Mom Can Teach

My Mother taught me about ANTICIPATION: "Just wait until your father gets home."

My Mother taught me about RECEIVING: "You are going to get it when we get home!"

My Mother taught me to MEET A CHALLENGE: "Answer me when I talk to you...Don't talk back to me!"

My Mother taught me LOGIC: "Because I said so, that's why."

My Mother taught me MEDICAL SCIENCE: "If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to freeze that way."

My Mother taught me HUMOR: "When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me."

My Mother taught me about GENETICS: "You're just like your father."
(Mikey's Funnies) and Preaching Now

TUESDAY

John 9:20-23 commentary- *(His parents were talking like this because they were intimidated by the Jewish leaders, who had already decided that anyone who took a stand that this was the Messiah would be kicked out of the meeting place. That's why his parents said, "Ask him. He's a grown man.")*

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While I was employed by a private corporation and assigned to the space-shuttle program, my job included ordering supplies. One of the engineers asked me to get a new dictionary for him. The request form said, "State reason this item is needed," so I asked him why he wanted one.

I expected his answer would be "My old copy is lost" or "The cover is falling off." Instead he replied, "My edition defines spaceship as an 'imaginary aircraft.'"

He got his new dictionary. *Cybersalt Digest*

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Soon after her brother was born, little Sachi began to ask her parents to leave her alone with the new baby. They worried that, like most four-year-olds, she might feel jealous, so they said no. But she showed no signs of jealousy. She treated the baby with kindness and her pleas to be left alone with him became more urgent.

They decided to allow it. Elated she went into the baby's room and shut the door, but it opened a crack, enough for her curious parents to peek in and listen. They saw little Sachi walk quietly up to her baby brother, put her face close to his and say quietly, "Baby, tell me what God feels like. I'm starting to forget." *@Doc's Daily Chuckle and Monday Fodder*

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Messages on Outdoor Church Signs

"Never give the devil a ride. He will always want to drive."

"Yes, we're open on Sundays." "Thou shalt not walk on the grass."

"Lead me not into temptation; I can find the way myself."

"When you can't sleep, don't count sheep, talk to the shepherd."

"Sign broken. Message inside this Sunday."

Paul Benoit via Humor Digest

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A single guy decided life would be more fun if he had a pet. So he went to the pet store and told the owner that he wanted to buy an unusual pet. After some discussion, he finally bought a talking centipede, (100-legged bug), which came in a little white box to use for his house. He took the box back home, found a good spot for the box, and decided he would start off by taking his new pet to church with him. So he asked the centipede in the box, "Would you like to go to church with me today? We will have a good time."

But there was no answer from his new pet.

This bothered him a bit, but he waited a few minutes and then asked again, "How about going to church with me and receive blessings?" But again, there was no answer from his new friend and pet. So he waited a few minutes more, thinking about the situation.

The guy decided to invite the centipede one last time. This time he put his face up against the centipede's house and shouted, "Hey, in there! Would you like to go to church with me and learn about God?"

This time, a little voice came out of the box, "I heard you the first time. I'm putting on my shoes."

Doris Conway

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I've been told that a way to feel better is to finish things I have started. Today I finished 2 bags of potato chips and a chocolate cake. I feel better already. *Laugh & Lift*

WEDNESDAY

John 9:24-25 *They called the man back a second time—the man who had been blind—and told him, "Give credit to God. We know this man is an impostor." 25He replied, "I know nothing about that one way or the other. But I know one thing for sure: I was blind . . . I now see."*

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The ChapNotes editor will be forming a link on our website showing the companies who post this weekly material on employee bulletin boards. If you are a regular reader by way of bulletin board posts, drop me an email at t.airportchaplain@verizon.net, telling me about it. I will need the name of your company, and the city in which you work. This will be so helpful to me in future promotions outreach to other businesses when I can provide evidence of businesses already posting ChapNotes to their employee workforce. *Chaplain Shields Moore*

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United, Continental Airlines agree to merge in a deal that will create the world's biggest airline. However, traffic industry watchers are not convinced that a possible new name, "Uncontinent", will inspire confidence in the company. *Humor Digest*

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I had a neighbor who bought a new pickup. I got up very early one Sunday morning and saw that someone had spray painted red all around the sides of this beige truck (for some unknown reason). I went over, woke him up, and told him the bad news. He was very upset and was trying to figure out what to do.... probably nothing until Monday morning, since nothing was open. Another neighbor came out and told him to get his WD-40 and clean it off. It removed the unwanted paint beautifully and did not harm his paint job that was on the truck. I'm impressed!

WD-40 who knew? 'Water Displacement #40'. The product began from a search for a rust preventative solvent and degreaser to protect missile parts. WD-40 was created in 1953 by three technicians at the San Diego Rocket Chemical Company. Its name comes from the project that was to find a 'water displacement' compound. They were successful with the fortieth formulation, thus WD-40. The Convair Company bought it in bulk to protect their atlas missile parts. Ken East (one of the original founders) says there is nothing in WD-40 that would hurt you. When you read the 'shower door' part, try it. It's the first thing that has ever cleaned that spotty shower door. If yours is plastic, it works just as well as glass. It's a miracle! Then try it on your stove top...Viola! It's now shinier than it's ever been. You'll be amazed.

Protects silver from tarnishing. Removes road tar and grime from cars. Cleans and lubricates guitar strings.

Gives floors that 'just-waxed' sheen without making them slippery. Loosens stubborn zippers. Untangles jewelry chains.

Restores and cleans chalkboards. Removes lipstick stains. . Removes stains from stainless steel sinks

Removes dirt and grime from the barbecue grill. Removes tomato stains from clothing. Keeps glass shower doors free of water spots. Camouflages scratches in ceramic and marble floors. Keeps scissors working smoothly.

Lubricates noisy door hinges on vehicles and doors in homes. It removes black scuff marks from the kitchen floor!

Bug guts will eat away the finish on your car if not removed quickly! Use WD-40!

Gives a children's playground gym slide a shine for a super fast slide Restores and cleans roof racks

Lubricates gear shift and mower deck lever for ease of handling on riding mowers...

Rids kids rocking chairs and swings of squeaky noises. Keeps bathroom mirror from fogging.

Lubricates tracks in sticking home windows and makes them easier to open.

Spraying an umbrella stem makes it easier to open and close. Removes splattered grease on stove.

Restores and cleans padded leather dashboards in vehicles, as well as vinyl bumpers.

Lubricates and stops squeaks in electric fans. Keeps pigeons off the balcony.

Lubricates wheel sprockets on tricycles, wagons, and bicycles for easy handling.

Lubricates fan belts on washers and dryers and keeps them running smoothly.

Keeps rust from forming on saws and saw blades, and other tools.

Removes all traces of duct tape. Folks even spray it on their arms, hands, and knees to relieve arthritis pain.
Florida's favorite use is: 'cleans and removes love bugs from grills and bumpers.'

WD-40 attracts fish. Spray a little on live bait or lures and you will be catching the big one in no time

Use it for fire ant bites. It takes the sting away immediately and stops the itch.

WD-40 is great for removing crayon from walls. Spray on the mark and wipe with a clean rag.

lipstick with a load of laundry, saturate the lipstick spots with WD-40 and wash. Presto! The lipstick is gone!

If you sprayed WD-40 on the distributor cap, it would displace the moisture and allow the car to start.

P.S. The basic ingredient in WD40 is FISH OIL. *Rosemary Westbrook*

(I hope to try this on felt tip pen marks left on "whiteboard")

THURSDAY

John 9:26-27 *The Pharisees said, "What did he do to you? How did Jesus open your eyes?" 27 "I've told you over and over and you haven't listened. Why do you want to hear it again? Are you so eager to become his disciples?"*

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A man has been in business for many years, but the business is now going down the drain. He is seriously contemplating suicide and he doesn't know what to do. He goes to the rabbi to seek his advice.

The man tells the rabbi about all of his problems in the business and asks what he should do. The rabbi says, "Take a beach chair and a Bible and put them in your car and drive down to the edge of the ocean. Go to the water's edge. Take the beach chair out of the car, sit on it, and take the Bible out and open it up. The wind will rifle the pages for a while and eventually the Bible will stay open at a particular page. Read the Bible and it will tell you what to do."

The man does as he is told. He places a beach chair and a Bible in his car and drives down to the beach. He sits on the chair at the water's edge and opens the Bible. The wind rifles the pages of the Bible and then stops at a particular page. He looks down at the Bible and sees what he has to do.

Three months later, the man and his family come back to see the rabbi. The man is wearing a \$1,000 Italian suit. His wife is all decked out with a full-length mink coat and their child is dressed in beautiful silk. The man hands the rabbi a thick envelope full of money and tells him that he wants to donate this money to the synagogue to thank the rabbi for his wonderful advice.

The rabbi is delighted. He recognizes the man and asks him what advice in the Bible brought this good fortune to him. The man replies, "Chapter 11." (Bankruptcy.), *via GCFL*

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A twelve-year-old boy accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and Lord during a weekend revival meeting. The next week his school friends questioned him about the experience.

"Did you hear God talk?" one asked.

"No," the boy said.

"Did you have a vision?" another asked.

"No, the boy replied.

"Well, how did you know it was God?" a third friend asked.

The boy thought for a moment and then said, "It's like when you catch a fish. You can't see the fish or hear the fish; you just feel him tugging your line. I felt God tugging on my heart."

So often we try to figure out life by what we can see, hear, or experience with our other senses. We make calculated estimates and judgments based on empirical evidence. There's a level of truth, however, that cannot be perceived by the senses or measured objectively. It's at that level where faith abounds. It is our faith that compels us to believe, even when we cannot explain to others why or how or to what specific earthly end.

By our faith we only know in Whom we trust, and that is sufficient. Remember, it's really not the outlook but the uplook that counts *Sam Spence, Horse Race Track Chaplain*

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Actual Answers From High School Music Exams

~ "Music sung by two people at the same time is called a duet; if they sing without music it is called Acapulco."

~ "A virtuoso is a musician with real high morals."

~ "Contralto is a low sort of music that only ladies sing."

~ "Probably the most marvelous fugue was the one between the Hatfields and the McCoys."

~ "Johann Sebastian Bach wrote a great many musical compositions and had a large number of children. In between he practiced on an old spinster which he kept up in his attic. "

Rosemary Westbrook

FRIDAY

John 9:28-29 *With that smarting remark, the questioners jumped all over the healed blind man. "You might be a disciple of that man, but we're disciples of Moses. We know for sure that God spoke to Moses, but we have no idea where this man even comes from."*

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One day a teacher asked her students to list the names of the other students in the room on two sheets of paper, leaving a space between each name. Then she told them to think of the nicest thing they could say about each of their classmates and write it down...

It took the remainder of the class period to finish their assignment, and as the students left the room, each one handed in the papers. That Saturday, the teacher wrote down the name of each student on a separate sheet of paper, and listed what everyone else had said about that individual.

On the following Monday she gave each student his or her list. Before long, the entire class was smiling. 'Really?' she heard whispered.. 'I never knew that I meant anything to anyone!' and, 'I didn't know others liked me so much,' were most of the comments.

No one ever mentioned those papers in class again. She never knew if they discussed them after class or with their parents, but it didn't matter. The exercise had accomplished its purpose. The students were happy with themselves and one another. That group of students moved on.

Several years later, one of the students was killed in Viet Nam and his teacher attended the funeral of that special student. She had never seen a serviceman in a military coffin before. He looked so handsome, so mature. The church was packed with his friends. One by one those who loved him took a last walk by the coffin. The teacher was the last one to bless her former student in the coffin.

As she stood there, one of the soldiers who acted as pallbearer came up to her. 'Were you Mark's math teacher?' he asked.... She nodded: 'yes.' Then he said: 'Mark talked about you a lot.'

After the funeral, most of Mark's former classmates went together to a luncheon. Mark's mother and father were there, obviously waiting to speak with his teacher. 'We want to show you something,' his father said, taking a wallet out of his pocket 'They found this on Mark when he was killed. We thought you might recognize it.'

Opening the billfold, he carefully removed two worn pieces of notebook paper that had obviously been taped, folded and refolded many times. The teacher knew without looking that the papers were the ones on which she had listed all the good things each of Mark's classmates had said about him.

'Thank you so much for doing that,' Mark's mother said... 'As you can see, Mark treasured it.'

All of Mark's former classmates started to gather around. Charlie smiled rather sheepishly and said, 'I still have my list. It's in the top drawer of my desk at home.'

Chuck's wife said, 'Chuck asked me to put his in our wedding album.'

'I have mine too,' Marilyn said. 'It's in my diary'

Then Vicki, another classmate, reached into her pocketbook, took out her wallet and showed her worn and frazzled list to the group. 'I carry this with me at all times,' Vicki said and without batting an eyelash, she continued: 'I think we all saved our lists'

That's when the teacher finally sat down and cried. She cried for Mark and for all his friends who would never see him again.

The density of people in society is so thick that we forget that life will end one day. And we don't know when that one day will be. So please, tell the people you love and care for, that they are special and important. Tell them, before it is too late. *Rosemary Westbrook*

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Buffet is a French term, It means "get up and get it yourself". *Humor Digest*