

ChapNotes for May 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010

## MONDAY

*Bible verses through the Gospel of John*

**JOHN 9:8-9** *Soon the town was buzzing. His relatives and those who year after year had seen him as a blind man begging were saying, "Why, isn't this the man we knew, who sat here and begged?" 9Others said, "It's him all right!" But others objected, "It's not the blind man at all. It just looks like him." He said, "It's me, the very one."*

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Message on Sermon Preparation for Pastors:

Thanks for the invitation to respond to the sermon writing process. 90% of the calendar year I am preaching expository messages through a book in the Bible. I began Acts, 6 year ago and when I would come to the place historically where Paul wrote a letter to a church, I would pause Acts and preach through that book. So, it's a kind of a New Testament chronological study... I'm now at 1 Cor 13. I think I will be doing this forever!!

Three things are vital for my prep.

1. On Monday, I drive up to the mountains, (only 30 minute drive here in Southern California) and spend a few hours alone with the Lord just getting a fresh hearing from Him on what He desires to be said on Sunday.
2. I am not a morning person, so I spend the mornings of Mon-Thurs in study.
3. The best tools for me for the last 11 years is the PC Study Bible. Amazing! Its costly but worth every penny. -I have found the commentaries, word studies, articles, books, and Treasury of Scripture Knowledge a must have tool.

Blessings to you!

*Pastor Jeff Evans, The Vine Church of Rancho Cucamonga, CA*

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One evening while I was preparing dinner, my daughter came into the kitchen asking for homework help on her vocabulary words. "Mom," she asked, "what's a quarter horse?"

As I thought of a simple explanation, my five-year-old son piped up, "I know! It's the one they have in front of the grocery store." *Humor Letter*

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On our way to a picnic, we stopped at a fast-food outlet for some take-out potato salad. I ordered a quart of potato salad, but was informed it was not sold by the quart.

"Then just sell me two pints, please."

I then had to keep my temper when the clerk asked, "Would you mind if I put them both in a single container?" *Margie*

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Waiting for our aerobics class to begin, several of us were standing around in our leotards chatting about fitness and diets. One woman said that her brother-in-law had quit smoking, gone on a diet and lost weight all at the same time.

Thinking to myself that no human being could possibly do this without acquiring at least one other undesirable habit for compensation, I jokingly asked her, "What did he start doing instead of these things?"

After a slight pause, she smiled and said, "Well, I don't really know. I'll have to ask him when he gets out of jail." *Humor*

## TUESDAY

**John 9:10-12** *They asked the healed blind man, "How did your eyes get opened?" 11"A man named Jesus made a paste and rubbed it on my eyes and told me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' I did what he said. When I washed, I saw." 12"So where is he?" "I don't know."*

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Tampa Airport Chaplains received a call from Travelers Aid. They had a passenger who had just arrived from Toronto and was requesting a Chaplain. Arriving at the counter, I was blessed to meet a retired hospital Chaplain who was experiencing a string of events this week that had overwhelmed her.

I listened as she shared those events which ended with the loss of her cell phone before she left Toronto and the loss of her prescription glasses during her flight. I made several phone calls and was able to line up a Point Of Contact for her to call tomorrow in Detroit regarding her lost glasses and assisted her with contacting her Ophthalmologist in Toronto. The Lord had eased her heart and put a smile on her face before I left! God is good!! *Cindy A. Carmichael*

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Billy died... His will provided \$30,000 for an elaborate funeral. He was laid out in his favorite recliner, having a TV set on tuned to his favorite, recorded, baseball games. As the last guests departed the affair, his wife, Joyce, turned to her oldest and dearest friend, Jonelle. "Well, I'm sure Billy would be pleased," she said.

"I'm sure you're right," replied Jonelle, who lowered her voice and leaned in close. "How much did this really cost?"

"All of it," said Joyce .. "Thirty thousand dollars."

"No!" Jonelle exclaimed. "I mean, it was very nice, but \$30,000?"

Joyce answered, "The funeral was \$6,500. I donated \$500 to the church. The whiskey, wine, food and snacks were another \$500. The rest went for the Memorial Stone."

Jonelle quickly computed the total of \$7,500 and said "\$22,500 for a Memorial Stone? My God, how big is it?"

Joyce answered, "Two and a half carats." Rosemary Westbrook

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First you forget names, then you forget faces. Then you forget to pull up your zipper...It's worse when you forget to pull it down. Carolyn Olkives

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Actual Answers From High School Music Exams

~ "The principal singer of nineteenth century opera was called pre-Madonna." (prim donna)

~ "Gregorian chant has no music, just singers singing the same lines."

~ "All female parts were sung by castrati. We don't know exactly what they sounded like because there are no known descendants."

~ "Sherbet composed the Unfinished Symphony."

~ "Young scholars have expressed their rapture for the Bronze Lullaby, the Taco Bell Cannon, Beethoven's Erotica, Tchaikovsky Cracknutter Suite, and Gershwin's Rap City in Blue."

~ "I know what a sextet is but I'd rather not say." Rosemary Westbrook

## WEDNESDAY

**John 9: 13-15** *They marched the healed blind man to the Pharisees. This day when Jesus made the paste and healed his blindness was the Sabbath. The Pharisees grilled him again on how he had come to see. He said, "He put a clay paste on my eyes, and I washed, and now I see."*

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Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough. -- Lynnette, age 8 (isn't she a treasure)

Rosemary Westbrook

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A corporate attorney sent the following out to the employees in his company:

1. Do not sign the back of your credit cards. Instead, put 'PHOTO ID REQUIRED.'

2. When you are writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, DO NOT put the complete account number on the 'For' line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number, and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through all the check processing channels won't have access to it.

3. Put your work phone # on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a PO Box, use your work address. Never have your SS# printed on your checks.
4. Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine. Do both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel.....Keep the photocopy in a safe place.
5. We have been told, after the loss of a wallet or purse, that we should cancel our credit cards immediately. But the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them.
6. File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your credit cards, etc., were stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and this is a first step toward an investigation
7. Call the 3 national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and also call the Social Security fraud line number. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen, and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit.

Now, here are the numbers you always need to report about your wallet, when it has been stolen or lost:

- 1.) Equifax: 1-800-525-6285 1-800-525-6285
  - 2.) Experian (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742 1-888-397-3742
  - 3.) Trans Union : 1-800-680 7289 1-800-680 7289
  - 4.) Social Security Administration (fraud line): 1-800-269-0271 1-800-269-0271
- Rosemary Westbrook*

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As the bus pulled away, I realized I had left my purse under the seat. Later I called the company and was relieved that the driver had found my bag. When I went to pick it up, several off-duty bus drivers surrounded me. One man handed me my pocketbook, two typewritten pages and a box containing the contents of my purse. "We're required to inventory lost wallets and purses," he explained. "I think you'll find everything there."

As I started to put my belongings back into the pocketbook, the man continued, "I hope you don't mind if we watch. Even though we all tried, none of us could fit everything into your purse. And we'd like to see just how you do it." *from Thomas Ellsworth, via GCFL*

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On my first day in basic training, we were lined up in a row, each of us in turn having to shout our last names. After the guy next to me had yelled, "Florence," it was my turn. I had no sooner called out my name when the drill instructor was in my face, demanding to know if I was some kind of smart aleck. Satisfied that I wasn't, the red-faced Drill Instructor told me never to stand next to that guy again.  
*By Charles W. Nightingale GCFL*

## THURSDAY

**John 9:16-17** Some of the Pharisees said, "Obviously, this man can't be from God. He doesn't keep the Sabbath." Others countered, "How can a bad man do miraculous, God-revealing things like this?" There was a split in their ranks. 17They came back at the blind man, "You're the expert. He opened your eyes. What do you say about him?" He said, "He is a prophet."

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As we were flying the approach, the captain, who said he attends church now and then, was telling me about an expensive home he and his girlfriend were looking to buy, and that they were also living together. They were planning on getting married but had not yet set a date. I was trying to persuade him from God's Word that he needs to consider God's ways for his life, especially if he really loves his girlfriend. Anytime we follow our own path we put our future in jeopardy, and what we thought to be good choices turns out to be years of sorrow and disappointment.

He continued to minimize and justify his choices, and while these words were on his lips, that is when God showed up! We were hit by lightning. The bolt didn't just hit the aircraft in some random place, it hit the windshield on his side, inches from his head! We heard it and saw the flash of lightning in the windshield. As we looked at each other stunned and speechless, another bolt hit the plane, going down the left side of the aircraft. The Lord's timing was exact. Talk about God getting your attention! Wow, hit by lightning, can you say more? By the Lord's grace there was no personal injury or damage to the aircraft. After we landed and for the next few days that we flew together, there was much talk about God getting his attention. It turned out to be quite a springboard with him and other crewmembers talking about the Bible and the will of God.

There are times the Lord arranges situations so an opportunity shows up in our lives. In those opportunities, He desires us to speak His truth in love and with gentleness. That day I realized that as an ambassador of Christ I just happened to be wearing an airline uniform and God placed me in this situation to make an appeal, through me, to the people around me.

*Martin Teixeira, Cabin Attendant crew member, by FCAP Cathy Goza*

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A short guy is sitting at a bar just staring at his drink for half an hour when this big, trouble-making biker steps next to him, grabs his drink, gulps it down in one swig and then turns to the guy with a menacing stare as if to say, 'What'cha gonna do about it?'

The poor little guy starts crying.

"Come on man, I was just giving you a hard time," the biker says. "I didn't think you'd CRY. I can't stand to see a man crying."

"This is the worst day of my life," says the little guy between sobs. "I can't do anything right. I overslept and was late to an important meeting, so my boss fired me. When I went to the parking lot, I found my car was stolen and I don't have any insurance. I left my wallet in the cab I took Home."

He continues, crying even harder. "Then I found my wife in bed with the gardener and my dog bit me. So, I came to this bar trying to work up the courage to put an end to my life, and... (sobbing) and... (more sobbing) and then YOU show up and drink my poison." *Humor Digest*

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After a forest fire in Yellowstone National Park , forest rangers began their trek up a mountain to assess the inferno's damage. One ranger found a bird literally petrified in ashes, perched statuesquely on the ground at the base of a tree. Somewhat sickened by the eerie sight, he knocked over the bird with a stick. When he gently struck it, three tiny chicks scurried from under their dead mother's wings. The loving mother, keenly aware of impending disaster, had carried her offspring to the base of the tree and had gathered them under her wings, instinctively knowing that the toxic smoke would rise. She could have flown to safety but had refused to abandon her babies. Then the blaze had arrived and the heat had scorched her small body, the mother had remained steadfast....because she had been willing to die, so those under the cover of her wings would live.

'He will cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you will find refuge..' (Psalm 91:4)  
*Featherlady Studio*

## FRIDAY

**John 9:18-19** *The Jews didn't believe it, didn't believe the man was blind to begin with. So they called the parents of the man now bright-eyed with sight. They asked them, "Is this your son, the one you say was born blind? So how is it that he now sees?"*

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In his article "Ten Commandments for Preaching," J. Tyler Scarlett offers this admonition: "Thou shalt prepare and preach every message as though it were thy last. Even if it is only to a small Sunday night crowd, the preacher never should take his or her responsibility lightly. Why? Because it very well may be the last sermon you ever preach or the last sermon someone listening ever hears."

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I put my carry-on in the luggage compartment and sat down in my assigned seat. It was going to be a long flight. 'I'm glad I have a good book to read. Perhaps I will get a short nap,' I thought. Just before take-off, a line of soldiers came down the aisle and filled all the vacant seats, totally surrounding me. I decided to start a conversation.

'Where are you headed?' I asked the soldier seated nearest to me. 'Petawawa. We'll be there for two weeks for special training, and then we're being deployed to Afghanistan'

After flying for about an hour, an announcement was made that sack lunches were available for five dollars. It would be several hours before we reached the east, and I quickly decided a lunch would help pass the time...

As I reached for my wallet, I overheard a soldier ask his buddy if he planned to buy lunch. 'No, that seems like a lot of money for just a sack lunch. Probably wouldn't be worth five bucks. I'll wait till we get to base.'

His friend agreed.

I looked around at the other soldiers. None were buying lunch. I walked to the back of the plane and handed the flight attendant a fifty dollar bill. 'Take a lunch to all those soldiers.' She grabbed my arms and squeezed tightly. Her eyes wet with tears, she thanked me. 'My son was a soldier in Iraq ; it's almost like you are doing it for him.'

Picking up ten sacks, she headed up the aisle to where the soldiers were seated. She stopped at my seat and asked, 'Which do you like best - beef or chicken?' 'Chicken,' I replied, wondering why she asked. She turned and went to the front of plane, returning a minute later with a dinner plate from first class. 'This is your thanks..'

After we finished eating, I went again to the back of the plane, heading for the rest room. A man stopped me. 'I saw what you did. I want to be part of it. Here, take this.' He handed me twenty-five dollars.

Soon after I returned to my seat, I saw the Flight Captain coming down the aisle, looking at the aisle numbers as he walked, I hoped he was not looking for me, but noticed he was looking at the numbers only on my side of the plane. When he got to my row he stopped, smiled, held out his hand and said, 'I want to shake your hand.' Quickly unfastening my seatbelt I stood and took the Captain's hand. With a booming voice he said, 'I was a soldier and I was a military pilot. Once, someone bought me a lunch. It was an act of kindness I never forgot.' I was embarrassed when applause was heard from all of the passengers.

Later I walked to the front of the plane so I could stretch my legs. A man who was seated about six rows in front of me reached out his hand, wanting to shake mine. He left another twenty-five dollars in my palm.

When we landed I gathered my belongings and started to deplane. Waiting just inside the airplane door was a man who stopped me, put something in my shirt pocket, turned, and walked away without saying a word. Another twenty-five dollars!

Upon entering the terminal, I saw the soldiers gathering for their trip to the base. I walked over to them and handed them seventy-five dollars. 'It will take you some time to reach the base.. It will be about time for a sandwich. God Bless You.' Ten young men left that flight feeling the love and respect of their fellow travelers.

As I walked briskly to my car, I whispered a prayer for their safe return.

*Michael Luskey*