

MONDAY

Bible verses through the Gospel of John

JOHN 10:18 *18*"No one takes my life from me. I lay it down of my own free will. I have the right to lay it down; I also have the right to take it up again. I received this authority personally from my Father."

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Message on Sermon Preparation from Pastors:

Prayer, text, Gk. & Heb., commentaries, outline. Kyle Duncan, Willcox, AZ

This abbreviated commentary on sermon preparation is the last one received. Unless other ministers share their system of sermon development this week, this item will be eliminated in future issues. ChapNotes editor.

(Pastors are invited to email their format for sermon preparation to: t.airportchaplain@verizon.net for future publication.)

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Without using a calculator - You are driving a bus from London to Milford Haven in Wales .

In London , 17 people get on the bus.

In Reading , 6 people get off the bus and 9 people get on.

In Swindon , 2 people get off and 4 get on.

In Cardiff , 11 people get off and 16 people get on.

In Swansea , 3 people get off and 5 people get on.

In Carmathen, 6 people get off and 3 get on.

You finally arrive at Milford Haven. Now, how old is the bus driver? The answer should be on the tip of your tongue!

Answer: Oh, for crying out loud! Don't you remember your own age? It was YOU driving the bus!!

Humor Digest

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Some time ago, I received a handwritten message on a yellow self-stick note attached to a torn-out page from a magazine about a new book. The note said, "Mike, thought you might be interested." It was signed "L." It was sent in a non-business envelope with a stamp, but no return address. My assistant thought it was a personal message from a friend and put it on top of my correspondence.

It wasn't from anyone I knew. It was a marketing trick to sell the book.

I'm sure you've seen other deceptive ploys: mailings disguised as telegrams, urgent "personal" messages, announcements that you've won something, window envelopes whose interior looks like a check. An especially audacious variation is the salesperson who calls pretending he knows you. To get through the screening process, he or she will shamelessly try to con your secretary with "Oh, he knows what it's about" or "He asked me to call."

These are all lies and deceptions, but they're used because they work. The people who send them don't care about their credibility or who they offend. No one knows who they are.

While one can appreciate resourceful techniques, clever dishonesty doesn't make an action less despicable. I make it a rule to never do business with anyone who uses such techniques.

What's the harm? The harm is that someone has invaded my life with a lie, depriving me of the choice to decide what I will read and whom I will talk to. Worse, it erodes trust and builds cynicism. Dishonest merchants don't deserve your business. *Michael Josephson*

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"Life is unfair. I lost my car keys at a ball game and never found them. I lost my sunglasses at the beach and never found them. I lost my socks in the washing machine and never found them. I lost twenty pounds on a diet -- I found them and fifteen more." *Chris Long*

TUESDAY

John 10:19-21 *19This kind of talk caused another split in the Jewish ranks. 20A lot of them were saying, "He's crazy, a maniac—out of his head completely. Why bother listening to him?" 21But others weren't so sure: "These aren't the words of a crazy man. Can a 'maniac' open blind eyes?"*

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I couldn't decide whether to go to Salt Lake City or Denver for vacation, so I called an airline to compare the prices. "Airfare to Denver is \$300," the cheerful agent replied.

"And what about Salt Lake City?"

"We have a really great rate to Salt Lake - \$99," she said. "But there is a change of planes on this route."

"Where?" I asked.

"In Denver," she answered. *Reader's Digest*

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Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of that great fictional detective, Sherlock Holmes, reportedly tells the story of the time he went on vacation and had climbed into a taxi cab in Paris. Before Doyle could utter a word, the driver turns to him and asks, "Where can I take you, Mr. Doyle?"

The famous author was flabbergasted. He asked the cab driver if they had ever met before. They had not. It was, in fact, the first time they had laid eyes on each other. "Then how the blazes did you know it was me?" Doyle asked.

The cab driver said, "This morning's paper had a story about you being on vacation in Marseilles. This is the taxi stand where people who travel to Paris from Marseilles usually arrive at. Your skin color tells me you have been on vacation. The spot of ink on your index finger suggests that you are most likely a writer. Your clothing is very English, and not French or German. Adding all these clues together, I deduced that you are Arthur Conan Doyle."

"Good show! Well done!" exclaimed Doyle. "You are a real-life counterpart to my own Mr. Sherlock Holmes!"

"There is one other thing," the driver adds.

"What is that?"

"Your name is on the front of your suitcase." *Mark's Musings*

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On her golden wedding anniversary, a grandmother revealed the secret of her long and happy marriage. "On my wedding day, I decided to choose 10 of my husband's faults, which (for the sake of our marriage) I would overlook," she explained.

A guest asked her to name some of the faults.

"To tell the truth," she replied, "I never did get around to listing them; but whenever my husband did something that made me hopping mad, I would say to myself, 'Lucky for him that's one of the 10.'"

Preaching Now

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Hymns for Everyone

The Dentist's Hymn: Crown Him With Many Crowns

The Tailor's Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy

The Weatherman's Hymn: There Shall Be Showers of Blessing

The Contractor's Hymn: The Church's One Foundation

The Golfer's Hymn: There is A Green Hill Far Away

The Politician's Hymn: Standing on the Promises

The Optometrist's Hymn: Open My Eyes That I Might See

The IRS Agent's Hymn: I Surrender All

Laugh & Lift

WEDNESDAY

John 10:22-24 22They were celebrating Hanukkah just then in Jerusalem. It was winter. 23Jesus was strolling in the Temple across Solomon's Porch. 24The Jews, circling him, said, "How long are you going to keep us guessing? If you're the Messiah, tell us straight out."

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During a visit with a fellow chaplain, who happened to be assigned to the Pentagon, I had a chance to hear a first-hand account of an incident that happened right after Flight 77 hit the Pentagon. The chaplain told me what happened at a daycare center near where the impact occurred. This daycare had many children, including infants who were in heavy cribs. The daycare supervisor, looking at all the children they needed to evacuate, was in a panic over what they could do. There were many children, mostly toddlers, as well as the infants that would need to be taken out with the cribs. There was no time to try to bundle them into carriers and strollers. Just then a young Marine came running into the center and asked what they needed. After hearing what the center director was trying to do, he ran back out into the hallway and disappeared. The director thought, 'well, there we are—on our own.'

About 2 minutes later, that Marine returned with 40 other Marines in tow. Each of them grabbed a crib with a child, and the rest started gathering up toddlers. The director and her staff then helped them take all the children out of the center and down toward the park near the Potomac and the Pentagon. Once they got about 3/4 of a mile outside the building, the Marines stopped in the park, and then did a fabulous thing - they formed a circle with the cribs, which were quite sturdy and heavy, like the covered wagons in the Old West. Inside this circle of cribs, they put the toddlers, to keep them from wandering off. Outside this circle were the 40 Marines, forming a perimeter around the children and waiting for instructions. There they remained until the parents could be notified and come get their children.

The chaplain then said, "I don't think any of us saw nor heard of this on any of the news stories of the day. It was an incredible story of our men there. There wasn't a dry eye in the room. The thought of those Marines and what they did and how fast they reacted; could we expect any less from them? It was one of the most touching stories from the Pentagon.

Remember Ronald Reagan's great compliment: "Most of us wonder if our lives made any difference. soldiers don't have that problem." *Jane Hoover*

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FROM THE PAST: in 1882 there was a small general store and post office just north of the present site of Ione, AR. called Belva, in Scott County. Some of the items customers charged, were: 12 1/2 pounds coffee \$2.00, 1 pair ladies shoes 1.20, 10 yards calico 0.80, 1 wash board 0.43, 4 dozen eggs 0.25, 1 pair pantaloons 1.00, 1 pound horseshoe nails 0.20, 2 pair suspenders 0.55, 1 Barlow knife 0.25, 4 pounds butter 0.64, 1/2 yard cotton cks 0.18, 46 pounds beef 2.30, 2 tucking combs 0.20, 1 pair plowlines 0.25, 4 coffin screws 0.15, 1 bottle worm sirip 0.25, 1 set knitting needles 0.05, 1 box wagon dope 0.10.
HISTORY OF IONE, AR, via *Shelvie Stephens*.

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While my son was on the Navy carrier USS George Washington, the air wing was busy with training missions. After talking to a pilot, one air-traffic controller accidentally left his microphone on and remarked to a nearby buddy, "That guy sounded just like Elmer Fudd."

The airwaves got strangely quiet as everyone listened, realizing that the pilot had also heard the comment. After about ten seconds, the pilot broke the silence by announcing: "Be vewy, vewy quiet. We aw hunting submawines." *GCFL and Thomas Ellsworth.*

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Did you know...?

That Joan of Arc was only seventeen when she was riding at the head of the army that liberated France from the English?

That church reformer John Calvin was twenty-six when he published his "Institutes"?

That poet John Keats died when he was twenty-six?

That Shelley was thirty when he was drowned, but not before he left English literature his classic "Odes"?
Sermon Fodder and Steve Goodier

THURSDAY

John 10:25-28 . 25Jesus answered, "I told you, but you don't believe. Everything I have done has been authorized by my Father, actions that speak louder than words. 26You don't believe because you're not my sheep. 27My sheep recognize my voice. I know them, and they follow me. 28I give them real and eternal life. They are protected from the Destroyer for good. No one can steal them from out of my hand.

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As the Israelites toiled under the slavery of the Egyptians, God called down to Moses one day. "Moses," said the Lord, "I've got good news and bad news."

"Most Merciful God," Moses replied, "if I have brought you any favor, please give me the good news first."

"Moses, the good news is that I have chosen you to deliver my people from their bondage," God answered. "I will force Pharaoh to release my children by causing years of pestilence in Egypt. There will be plagues of locusts and frogs and incredible devastation will be upon the land. Pharaoh's armies will chase you as you try to leave, but do not fear for I will part the waters of the Red Sea to aid in your escape."

"Oh, great and mighty God, may it be as you say." Moses paused. "And the bad news?"

"You'll have to prepare the Environmental Impact Statement." *Mark's Musings*

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Travel Agent Stories

A nice lady just called. She needed to know how it was possible that her flight from Detroit left at 8:20 am and got into Chicago at 8:33am. I tried to explain that Michigan was an hour ahead of Illinois, but she

could not understand the concept of time zones. Finally I told her the plane went very fast, and she bought that!

A woman called and asked "Do airlines put your physical description on your bag so they know who's luggage belongs to who?" I said "No, why do you ask?" She replied "Well, when I checked in with the airline they put a tag on my luggage that said FAT, and I'm overweight, is there any connection?" After putting her on hold for a minute while I looked into it (I was actually laughing) I came back and explained the city code for Fresno is FAT and that the airline was just putting a destination tag on her luggage.

I just got off the phone with a man who asked "How do I know which plane to get on?" I asked him what exactly he meant, to which he replied, "I was told my flight number is 823, but none of these planes have numbers on them."

A woman called and said "I need to fly to Pepsi-cola on one of those computer planes." I asked if she meant to fly to Pensacola on a commuter plane. She said "Yeah, whatever" *Laugh & Lift*

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Cell Phone vs. The Bible

I wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone? What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets? What if we flipped through it several time a day? What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?

I wonder what would happen if we used it to receive messages from the text? ... if we treated it like we couldn't live without it? ...What if we gave it to Kids as gifts?

I also wonder what would happen if we used the Bible when we traveled? ...if we used it in case of emergency?

This is something to make you go....hmm...where is my Bible?

Oh, and one more thing. Unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected (because Jesus already paid the bill.) *Laugh & Lift*

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Pastors in Germany are sometimes known as 'German Shepherds.' *Tommy Wilkerson*

FRIDAY

John 10:29-30 *29 The Father who put them under my care is so much greater than the Destroyer and Thief. No one could ever get them away from Him. 30I and the Father are one heart and mind."*

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Imagine a nun struggling to maintain her composure while grading these papers at her desk in front of the class!

The following statements about the Bible were written by children. They have not been retouched or corrected. Incorrect spelling has been left in. It is fervently hoped that not all of these answers came from the same student.

"In the first book of the Bible, Guinnessis. God got tired of creating the world, so He took the Sabbath off.

"Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of Ark. Noah built and Ark and the animals came on in pears.

Moses led the Jews to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients.

Solomon, one of Davids sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.

Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the apostles.

Jesus enunciated the Golden Rule, which days to do unto others before they do one to you. He also explained a man doth not live by sweat alone.

It was a miracle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.

The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 decibels.

The epistles were the wives of the apostles. *Source unknown*

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You Know You attend a Redneck Church when...

The communion wine is Boone's Farm "Tickled Pink."

"Thou shall not covet" applies to huntin' dogs, too.

The final words of the benediction are, "Y'all come back now, Ya hear." *Preaching Now*

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Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson went on a camping trip. After a good meal and a bottle of wine they lay down for the night, and went to sleep. Some hours later, Holmes awoke and nudged his faithful friend awake. "Watson, look up at the sky and tell me what you see."

Watson replied, "I see millions and millions of stars."

"What does that tell you?" Holmes questioned.

Watson pondered for a minute. "Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three. Theologically, I can see that God is all powerful and that we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you?"

Holmes was silent for a minute, then spoke. "Watson, you idiot, someone has stolen our tent."

Jokes and Funny Stories