

# MONDAY

**JOHN 11:34-35** "Master, come and see, Lazarus has died" they said. <sup>35</sup>Now Jesus wept.

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**Life changing Prayers of the New Testament.** Read them through slowly from time to time but start one at a time to memorize!

**Col 1: 9-12...** we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, **10** so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects , bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; **11** strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously **12** giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

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In the book, *Chicken Soup for the Soul*, Chuck Webster tells a story about Monty Roberts, the son of an itinerant horse trainer. Growing up Monty went with his father from stable to stable, farm to farm, and ranch to ranch training horses. Consequently he missed much of his high school education. As a senior he was asked to write a paper on what career he wanted to pursue. That night he wrote a seven-page paper describing in great detail his goal to build and own a dream horse ranch.

The next day he turned his paper in. Two days later he received it back. On the front page was a large red "F" with a note that read, "See me after class." When he saw the teacher, he asked why he was given an "F".

"The teacher said, 'This is an unrealistic dream for a young boy like you. You have no money. You come from an itinerant family. You have no resources. Owning a horse ranch requires a lot of money. You have to buy the land. You have to pay for the original breeding stock and later you'll have to pay large stud fees. There's no way you could ever do it.' Then the teacher added, 'If you will rewrite this paper with a more realistic goal, I will reconsider your grade.'"

After thinking about it for a week, he turned the paper back in exactly as he had first written it saying to the teacher, "You can keep the 'F' and I'll keep my dream."

Today, "Monty Roberts owns a 4,000-square-foot house in the middle of a 200-acre horse ranch in San Ysidro [California]. Oh, and he still has that school paper framed over the fireplace. He didn't allow his teacher to crush his dream. I believe that he also owns a ranch in Santa Ynez Valley in Southern California. *Daily Encounter*

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"You've got to be a little bit crazy because if you always keep both feet on the ground, you can never get your pants on!"  
*Daily Encounter*

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"...It takes a lot more faith to believe that some matter somehow compressed itself into a dense ball, then suddenly exploded for an unknown reason, gathered into gaseous balls called stars, and one star happened to have planets around it, and one planet happened to be able to support life, which evolved from cooling lava to amoebas to fish to apes to people.

All that versus "In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth." - *Jesse Myers Laugh & Lift*

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The junior high school teacher was giving her students a test on American history. One question was, "Who said, 'I regret that I have but one life to give to my country'?"

A youngster answered, "Nathan Haley said it. The saying is now known as Haley's Comment." *Stan Kegel via GCFL*

# TUESDAY

**John 11:36** *The Jews said, "Look how deeply Jesus loved Lazarus." (MSG)*

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At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs.

Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he was ill, and she said, 'Johnny, what is the matter?'

Little Johnny responded, 'I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife.' *Susan Moore*

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He was just a little boy, on a week's first day, wandering home from Bible School, and dawdling on the way.

He scuffed his shoes into the grass; He even found a caterpillar. He found a fluffy milkweed pod, and blew out all the 'filler.'

A bird's nest in a tree overhead, so wisely placed up so high, was just another wonder, That caught his eager eye.

A neighbor watched his zig zag course, and hailed him from the lawn; asked him where he'd been that day, and what was going on.

'I've been to Bible School ,' he said and turned a piece of sod. He picked up a wiggly worm replying, 'I've learned a lot about God.'

'M'm very fine way,' the neighbor said, 'for a boy to spend his time.' 'If you'll tell me where God is, I'll give you a brand new dime.'

Quick as a flash the answer came! Nor were his accents faint. 'I'll give you a dollar, Mister, if you can tell me where God ain't.' *James Hamilton*

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At a BBQ a couple was chatting with some guests when the marriage counseling topic came up. The wife very pompously commented; "Oh we'll never need that. My husband and I have an excellent relationship." "My husband was a communications major in college and I majored in theater arts. He communicates real well and I just act like I am listening." *Humor Digest*

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Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle. *James Hamilton*

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### Top Ten of Silliest Questions asked on a Cruise Ship

- Do these steps go up or down?
- What do you do with the beautiful ice carvings after they melt?
- Which elevator do I take to get to the front of the ship?
- Does the crew sleep on the ship?
- Is this island completely surrounded by water?
- Does the ship make its own electricity?
- Is it salt water in the toilets?
- What elevation are we at?

There's a photographer on board who takes photos and displays them the next day... the question asked...If the pictures aren't marked, how will I know which ones are mine?

What time is the Midnight Buffet being served? *Laugh & Lift*

**WEDNESDAY**

**John 11:37** *Others among them said, "Well, if he loved him so much, why didn't he do something to keep him from dying? After all, he opened the eyes of a blind man."*

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In our Anglican church, each service begins with a greeting. The officiating clergyman says, "The Lord be with you." The congregation used to respond by saying, "And with thy spirit."

But, with the modernizing of the liturgy, the minister now says, "The Lord be with you," and everyone responds with, "And also with you."

One Sunday a visiting bishop went to a church where the sound system was known to be old and unreliable. As he approached the microphone, he tapped it several times and finally said, "There's something wrong with this!"

Without hesitation, the whole congregation answered faithfully, "And also with you." *Doc's Daily Chuckle*

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One song can spark a moment	One smile begins a friendship	One vote can change a nation
One flower can wake the dream	One handclasp lifts a soul	One sunbeam lights a room
One tree can start a forest	One star can guide a ship at sea	One candle wipes out darkness
One bird can herald spring	One word can frame the goal	One laugh will conquer gloom

One step must start each journey	One voice can speak with wisdom
One word must start a prayer	One heart can know what's true
One hope will raise our spirits	One life can make a difference
One touch can show you care	How about Y-O-U? ~Author Unknown ~ from Bonnie in Texas

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A woman went into a hardware store to purchase a bale of peat moss. She gave a personal check in payment and said to the clerk, "I suppose you will want some identification."

He replied, without hesitation, "No ma'am, that won't be necessary."

"How come?" asked the woman.

"Crooks don't buy peat moss." answered the clerk. *Laugh & Lift*

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The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him. Every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming. Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect him from the elements, and to store his few possessions.

One day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, with smoke rolling up to the sky. He felt the worst had happened, and everything was lost. He was stunned with disbelief, grief, and anger. He cried out, "God! How could you do this to me?"

Early the next day, he was awakened by the sound of a ship approaching the island! It had come to rescue him! "How did you know I was here?" asked the weary man of his rescuers. They replied, "We saw your smoke signal." *Allen Olkives*

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Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?"

The mother replied, 'Because white is the color of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life.'

The child thought about this for a moment then said, 'So why is the groom wearing black?' *Jokes that can be told in Church*

**THURSDAY**

**John 11:38-40** Then Jesus, the anger again welling up within him, arrived at the tomb. It was a simple cave in the hillside with a slab of stone laid against it. Jesus said, "Remove the stone."

The sister of the dead man, Martha, said, "Master, by this time there's a stench. He's been dead four days!" <sup>40</sup> Jesus looked her in the eye. "Didn't I tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

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In Washington, DC, at a Metro Station, on a cold January morning in 2007, this man with a violin played six Bach pieces for about 45 minutes. During that time, approximately 2,000 people went through the station, most of them on their way to work. After about 3 minutes, a middle-aged man noticed that there was a musician playing. He slowed his pace and stopped for a few seconds, and then he hurried on to meet his schedule.

About 4 minutes later: The violinist received his first dollar. A woman threw money in the hat and, without stopping, continued to walk.

At 6 minutes: A young man leaned against the wall to listen to him, then looked at his watch and started to walk again.

At 10 minutes: A 3-year old boy stopped, but his mother tugged him along hurriedly. The kid stopped to look at the violinist again, but the mother pushed hard and the child continued to walk, turning his head the whole time. This action was repeated by several other children, but every parent - without exception - forced their children to move on quickly.

At 45 minutes: The musician played continuously. Only 6 people stopped and listened for a short while. About 20 gave money but continued to walk at their normal pace. The man collected a total of \$32.

After 1 hour: He finished playing and silence took over. No one noticed and no one applauded. There was no recognition at all.

No one knew this, but the violinist was Joshua Bell, one of the greatest musicians in the world. He played one of the most intricate pieces ever written, with a violin worth \$3.5 million dollars. Two days before, Joshua Bell sold-out a theatre in Boston where the seats averaged \$100 each to sit and listen to him play the same music.

This is a true story. Joshua Bell, playing incognito in the D.C. Metro Station, was organized by the Washington Post as part of a social experiment about perception, taste and people's priorities.

This experiment raised several questions:

\*In a common-place environment, at an inappropriate hour, do we perceive beauty?

\*If so, do we stop to appreciate it?

\*Do we recognize talent in an unexpected context?

\*If we do not have a moment to stop and listen to one of the best musicians in the world, playing some of the finest music ever written, with one of the most beautiful instruments ever made . . . how many other things are we missing as we rush through life? *James Hamilton/ in "Perception"*

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"Eyes that look are common. Eyes that see are rare." *J. Oswald Sanders*

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## Only in America...

...can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance?

...are there handicapped parking places in front of a skating rink.

...do drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions.

...do people order double cheeseburgers, a large fry and a Diet Coke.

...do banks leave both doors open and then chain the pens to the counters.

...do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and leave useless junk in the garage.

...do we use answering machines to screen calls and then have call waiting so we won't miss a call from someone we didn't want to talk to in the first place.

...do they have drive-up ATM machines with Braille lettering! *Preaching Now*

**FRIDAY**

**John 11:41-42** Then, to the others, "Go ahead, take away the stone." They removed the stone. <sup>42</sup> Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and prayed, "Father, I'm grateful that you have listened to me. I know you always do listen, but on account of this crowd standing here I've spoken so that they might believe that you sent me."

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One evening an avid bird watcher stood in his backyard and heard an owl hoot. So he thought he'd give a hoot back.

To his surprise and delight the bird hooted again. The next night the same scenario occurred.

All summer, the man and his feathered friend hooted back and forth. He even kept a log of the "conversations." Just as he thought he was on the verge of a breakthrough in inter species communication, his wife, had a chat with her next door neighbor.

"My husband spends his nights calling to owls," the wife commented.

"That's odd," the neighbor replied. "So does my husband."

Then it dawned on them...*Humor Digest*

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A United States Marine was attending some college courses between assignments. He had completed missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. One of the courses had a professor who was an avowed atheist and a member of the ACLU. One day the professor shocked the class when he came in. He looked to the ceiling and flatly stated, "God, if you are real, then I want you to knock me off this platform. I'll give you exactly 15 min."

The lecture room fell silent. You could hear a pin drop. Ten minutes went by and the professor proclaimed, 'Here I am God. I'm still waiting. 'It got down to the last couple of minutes when the Marine got out of his chair, went up to the professor, and cold-cocked him; knocking him off the platform. The professor was out cold. The Marine went back to his seat and sat there, silently.

The other students were shocked and stunned and sat there looking on in silence.

The professor eventually came to, noticeably shaken, looked at the Marine and asked, 'What the heck is the matter with you? Why did you do that?'

The Marine calmly replied, 'God was too busy today protecting America's soldiers who are protecting your right to say stupid stuff and act like an idiot. So, He sent me.' *Mr. Mom's Mailing List*

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After all these years, it's still embarrassing for me to play on the American golf tour. Like the time I asked my caddie for a sand wedge and he came back ten minutes later with a ham on rye. *Chi Chi Rodriguez*

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Although we were being married in New Hampshire, I wanted to add a touch of my home state - Kansas - to the wedding. My fiancé, in explaining this to a friend, said that meant we were going to have guests throw wheat, instead of rice, as we left the church.

Our friend thought for a moment, and then solemnly said, "It's a good thing he's not from Idaho!" *unknown*

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A simple and effective formula for ethics, in the book Ethics for Today, which was a text book for a college course I took a number of years ago. The author, whom I believe was Harold Titus, said words to this effect:

"If anything is helpful to myself or another--physically, emotionally, socially or spiritually--it is ethical. On the other hand, if anything is harmful to myself or another--physically, emotionally, socially or spiritually--it is unethical." *Daily Encounter*