

MONDAY

Bible verses through the Gospel of John

JOHN 11:23-24 ²³Jesus said unto her, "Your brother will rise again."²⁴Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

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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!

Phil. 1: 9-11 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment. 10 So that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the Day of Christ. ; 11 having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

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A committee of voices live in my head. Most days they are quiet. However, when a pivotal decision develops, they all want to chime in with their points of view. All the personalities clash and clang about, making a ruckus rather than a decision.

Here's an example of the conversations that might be heard on any given day.

Miss Scaredy-cat whispers, "Don't do it. You'll fail."

Mrs. I Can Do shouts, "Go ahead. Go for it! What's the worst thing that can happen?"

Ms. Proudful says, "What will other people think? I wonder what they will say?"

Miss Procrastination states, "Just wait to make the decision. Wait another day."

Now I know that Jesus said, "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:27, NIV). Yet, I admit sometimes His beloved voice gets lost in the clatter of "The Committee."

Although the decision making process will never be easy for me, I can make the process more palatable by listening for God's direction. I need to appoint the Holy Spirit as the chairperson. I must sit quietly and still The Committee in my head so that I am able to discern the whisper of God.

Susanne Scheppmann, Encouragement for Today

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"Witness Where Church Members Work"

Pastors are motivated and dedicated people. It is not unusual for a minister to call on a church member, either sick at home, or in a hospital. You may even do this several times a week and at a number of different locations. Neither is it unknown for clergy to call on members who wind up in jail or prison. Your faithfulness in this regard is legendary.

But, how about the number of times you have visited one of your flock where they work? Does even the idea of such an extension to your ministry give you pause to think? What a tremendous opportunity

awaits the pastor who sets out to visit the men and women of your church at their desk, assembly line, or computer work station.

I raise this challenge as a matter of necessity. Our church memberships are falling in number; baptisms are dwindling, and visitors are fewer in the pews. Now one of the least successful ways of generating a spirit of revival is to keep on doing the same thing, in the same way we have always done them – hoping for improved results. The spirit of satanic secularism will run riot with such foolish hopes.

So, how can you provide for this improvement in your daily schedule? You are simply going to make workplace visits an added part of your work week agenda. Make a survey of where your people work, their address, department, office number, days and hours on duty, and best time to visit. Your new emphasis in ministry will pleasantly surprise them, impress their fellow workers seeing a pastor who cares about their members, and inform yourself better about the challenges and needs their workplace involves.

I am so excited that you might pray about and plan a “Witness Where They Work” campaign. It might even generate an invitation to add a business chaplaincy to your work in the Lord. I would love to hear from you as God leads you here.

"To get something you never had, you have to do something you never did". *Jane Hoover*

TUESDAY

John 11:25-26 ²⁵ "You don't have to wait for the End. I am, right now, the Resurrection and the Life. The one who believes in me, even though he or she dies, will live. ²⁶ And everyone who lives believing in me does not ultimately die at all. Do you believe this?"

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Many years ago my wife was to knitting, what Peyton Manning is to football. She designed exotic patterns with ease.

There was an occasion when we had lunch in a real Chinese restaurant (only one person spoke partial English, all menus were in Chinese). When she saw the handwritten menu she was so impressed with the calligraphy she tucked it in her purse.

Some months later I saw the result - a stunning white sweater with the Chinese symbols hand-stitched down the front.

She received compliments galore until at one party when we met a distinguished Chinese physician who asked my wife where she got the symbols. He then wanted to know if she knew what they meant.

"I'm afraid to ask," she said, "but tell me anyway."

Even she had to laugh when he told her they read, "This is a cheap dish - but good."

Cybersalt Digest

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"If vegetarians love animals so much, why do they eat all their food?" *Pastor Tim*

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A preacher was making his rounds on a bicycle, when he came upon a little boy trying to sell a lawn mower.

"How much do you want for the mower asked the preacher"?

"I just want enough money to go out and buy me a bicycle," said the little boy.

After a moment of consideration, the preacher asked, "Will you take my bike in trade for it?"

The little boy asked if he could try it out first. After riding the bike around a little while, the little boy said: "you've got yourself a deal"

The preacher took the mower and began to crank it. He pulled on the rope a few times with no response from the mower.

The preacher called the little boy over and said, "I can't get this mower to start."

The little boy said, "That's because you have to cuss at it to get it started."

The preacher said, "I can't cuss. It's been so long since I became a Christian that I don't even remember how to cuss."

The little boy looked at him happily and said, "You just keep pulling on that rope. It'll come back to ya.
BMHP

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You know you live in a small town when...

- The "road hog" in front of you on Main Street is a farmer's combine.
- The local phone book has only one yellow page.
- Third Street is on the edge of town.
- You leave your jacket on the back of the chair in the cafe, and when you go back the next day, it's still there, on the same chair.
- You don't signal turns because everyone knows where you're going, anyway.
- No social events can be scheduled when the school gym floor is being varnished.
- You call a wrong number and they supply you with the correct one.
- Everyone knows all the news before it's published; they just read the hometown paper to see whether the publisher got it right. *Laugh & Lift*

WEDNESDAY

John 11:27-28 ²⁷"Yes, Master. All along I have believed that you are the Messiah, the Son of God who comes into the world." ²⁸ After saying this, she went to her sister Mary and whispered in her ear, "The Teacher is here and is asking for you."

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It was a busy morning, about 8:30, when an elderly gentleman in his 80's arrived to have stitches removed from his thumb. He said he was in a hurry as he had an appointment at 9:00 am. I took his vital signs and had him take a seat, knowing it would be over an hour before someone would be able to see him.

I saw him looking at his watch and decided, since I was not busy with another patient, I would evaluate his wound.

On exam, it was well healed, so I talked to one of the doctors, got the needed supplies to remove his sutures and redress his wound. While taking care of his wound, I asked him if he had another doctor's appointment this morning, as he was in such a hurry.

The gentleman told me no, that he needed to go to the nursing home to eat breakfast with his wife.

I inquired as to her health.

He told me that she had been there for a while and that she was a victim of Alzheimer's Disease.

As we talked, I asked if she would be upset if he was a bit late.

He replied that she no longer knew who he was, that she had not recognized him in five years now.

I was surprised, and asked him, 'And you still go every morning, even though she doesn't know who you are?'

He smiled as he patted my hand and said, 'She doesn't know me, but I still know who she is.'

Harold Moore

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After a long day of cleaning, my son and I were returning our rented carpet cleaner to the hardware store.

Back at the car, I glanced at the receipt and realized they had charged me for the cleaning liquid but not for the rental.

Let the rationalizations begin. "I'm so tired from cleaning. The line is so long. I don't want to drag my son back in there. They've already made money off of me."

A still, small voice answered, "Are you a man of integrity, or not? If you aren't faithful in this little thing, how can you be trusted with big things?"

A momentary struggle ensued -- would I sell my integrity for \$16?

"Come on, Jeremy," I said to my son. "We're going back inside." I didn't want to sacrifice my integrity for \$16 million, let alone 16 dollars.

What about you? Have you had a critical moment lately that challenged your integrity?

www.integrityresource.org

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Remember, integrity is doing what's right, even when no one but God knows the outcome. Abraham Lincoln had a favorite riddle he used to put to people. "If a man were to call the tail of a dog a leg, how many legs would the dog have?"

The usual reply was "five."

"Wrong," Lincoln would say with his wry smile. "The dog still has four legs. Calling the tail a leg doesn't make it one." *Sam Spence*

THURSDAY

John 11:29-32 ²⁹The moment she heard that, she jumped up and ran out to him. ³⁰Jesus had not yet entered the town but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹When her sympathizing Jewish friends saw Mary run off, they followed her, thinking she was on her way to the tomb to weep there. ³²Mary came to where Jesus was waiting and fell at his feet, saying, "Master, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died."

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In the Southern Illinois University student newspaper: "Sweet, little old lady wishes to correspond with S.I.U. undergraduate. Prefers six-foot male with brown eyes answering to initials J.D.B. Signed, "His Mother." *Humor Digest*

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Each generation has been an education for us in different ways. The first child-with-bloody-nose was rushed to the emergency room. The fifth child-with-bloody-nose was told to go to the yard immediately and stop bleeding on the carpet. *Art Linkletter, 1912 - 2010*

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At the height of a political corruption trial, the prosecuting attorney attacked a witness. "Isn't it true," he bellowed, "that you accepted five thousand dollars to compromise this case?"

The witness stared out the window as though he hadn't heard the question.

"Isn't it true that you accepted five thousand dollars to compromise this case?" the lawyer repeated.

The witness still did not respond.

Finally, the judge leaned over and said, "Sir, please answer the question."

"Oh," the startled witness said, "I thought the attorney was talking to you." *GCFL*

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Honoring Parents: There are numerous—perhaps mega thousands--of adult children who have an impaired relationship with a parent or their parents. Until these conflicts are resolved, these people are bound to have ongoing conflicts in all close relationships.

However, if you were abused either physically, sexually, emotionally and/or spiritually by a parent or both parents, how do you even respect, let alone honor them? It's a tough question.

First, I believe we honor our parents most by not allowing their mistreatment of us to stop or hinder our becoming all that God envisioned for us to be.

Second, it is critical that we don't remain bitter towards our parents, and that we forgive them, because failing to forgive any and all who have ever hurt us is self-destructive. It's "like drinking poison and waiting for the other person to die."

Third, before we can truly forgive anyone, it is essential that we resolve our hurt and anger towards them. Unresolved hurt and anger is what leaves us feeling bitter and resentful--and blocks forgiveness. For help to resolve these feelings read "Taming Your Anger" at: <http://tinyurl.com/tame-anger>.

Fourth, we also need to develop healthy boundaries so that we don't allow our parents (or anyone else) to continue to hurt us. Forgiving people doesn't mean that we have to like them or allow them to continue to mistreat us. Reconciliation should always be the aim but that is dependent on both parties.

Forgiveness is only dependent on the one who has been hurt and thus is a choice.

The Bible also instructs fathers [and mothers] not to provoke their children to anger or embitter them. So while parents are responsible for what they have done and do, we are responsible for how we respond to what others have done to us.

True, we need to forgive abusive people, but we also need to let them know in a loving way that if they continue this kind of treatment of us, we will have to distance ourselves from them.

Daily Encounter

FRIDAY

John 11:33-34 ³³ When Jesus saw Mary sobbing and the Jews with her sobbing, a deep anger welled up within him. ³⁴He said, "Where is Lazarus buried?"

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What goes peck, peck, peck, BOOM? A chicken in a minefield.

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A language instructor was explaining to her class that French nouns, unlike their English counterparts, are grammatically designated as masculine or feminine. Things like 'chalk' or 'pencil,' she described, would have a gender association although in English these words were neutral.

Puzzled, one student raised his hand and asked, "What gender is a computer?" The teacher wasn't certain which it was, and so divided the class into two groups and asked them to decide if a computer

should be masculine or feminine. One group was composed of the women in the class, and the other, of men. Both groups were asked to give four reasons for their recommendation.

The group of women concluded that computers should be referred to in the masculine gender because:

1. In order to get their attention, you have to turn them on.
2. They have a lot of data but are still clueless.
3. They are supposed to help you solve your problems, but half the time they ARE the problem.
4. As soon as you commit to one, you realize that, if you had waited a little longer, you might have had a better model.

The men, on the other hand, decided that computers should definitely be referred to in the feminine gender because:

1. No one but their creator understands their internal logic.
2. The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else.
3. Even your smallest mistakes are stored in long-term memory for later retrieval.
4. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your paycheck on accessories for it. *Jokes and Funny Stories*

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A man was walking down the street and he met a small boy. The man asked what was his name.

The boy replied, 'six and seven-eighths.'

The man asked him why his parents had given him such a strange name, and he replied, 'they just picked it out of a hat.' *Jokes and Funny Stories*

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Once upon a time there was a cruise ship sailing. On board, a magician was giving a show to some passengers. The magician ALWAYS had a parrot on his shoulder. Whenever the magician told a joke, the parrot would give it away.

One time the magician had a knife, he spun it around it disappeared! The parrot said "It's in his pocket, it's in his pocket". The crowd booed him because the parrot gave it away.

The next trick he did, he waved a wand around and it vanished. Again, the parrot said, "It's up his sleeve! It's up his sleeve!" The magician got mad because he couldn't keep any of his tricks secret. The parrot kept giving them away.

One day the cruise ship sank. The magician and the parrot managed to make it to an island where they stayed for about 3 months when the parrot, all of a sudden, burst out and asked:

"Ok, I give up! Where'd you hide the ship?" *Jokes and Funny Stories*

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"What can be more foolish than to think that all this rare fabric of heaven and earth could come by chance, when all the skill of science is not able to make an oyster?" -

Jeremy Taylor via Laugh & Lift