

MONDAY

John 14:15 - 17 ¹⁵⁻¹⁷"If you love me, show it by doing what I've told you.¹⁶ I will talk to the Father, and he'll provide you another Friend so that you will always have someone with you. ¹⁷This Friend is the Spirit of Truth. The godless world can't take him in because it doesn't have eyes to see him, doesn't know what to look for. But you know him already because he has been staying with you, and will even be in you!

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A van carrying a dozen movie stuntmen on the way to a film location in the mountains of Alberta spun out of control on the icy road, crashed through a guard-rail, rolled down a 1200-foot embankment, landed on its roof, and burst into flames.

There were no injuries. *Humor Letter*

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Joe bought an old clock at a flea market. A couple of days later he went back to the merchant and complained that the clock was losing 15 minutes every hour.

"Didn't you see the sign?" the merchant asked. "It said 25% off." *Humor Digest*

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One song can spark a moment, One flower can wake the dream.
One tree can start a forest, One bird can herald spring.
One smile begins a friendship, One handclasp lifts a soul.

One star can guide a ship at sea, One word can frame the goal.
One vote can change a nation, One sunbeam can light a room.
One candle can wipe out darkness, One laugh will conquer gloom.

One step must start each journey, One word must start each prayer.
One hope will raise our spirits, One touch can show you care.
One voice can speak with wisdom, One heart can know what's true.
One life can make the difference, You see, it's up to you and me.

To get God's work done on Earth, "if it's going to be, it will be up to YOU and ME!"

As Edward Everett Hale so eloquently said, "I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do."

Let's never forget how very important you and I are to God in our world. "When many people each do a little, together we can accomplish great feats for God."

Again, most of God's work on Earth has been started by one person. Will you be one that God is looking for? *Daily Encounter*

TUESDAY

John 14:18-20 ¹⁸"I will not leave you orphaned. I'm coming back.¹⁹ In just a little while the world will no longer see me, but you're going to see me because I am alive and you're about to come alive.²⁰ At that moment you will know absolutely that I'm in my Father, and you're in me, and I'm in you.

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In the middle of the night, I turned over to check the clock, accidentally awakening my husband. He muttered, "Huh? What were we talking about?"

Taking advantage of the situation, I told him he was just beginning to list all of my positive characteristics in alphabetical order.

"Zealous," he said, rolling over and going back to sleep. *Laugh and Lift*

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On a business trip to India, I arrived at the airport in Delhi and took a taxi to my hotel, where I was greeted by my hospitable Indian host. The cab driver requested the equivalent of eight dollars U.S. for the fare. It seemed reasonable, so I started to hand him the money. But my host grabbed the bills and initiated a verbal assault upon the cabby, calling him a worthless parasite and a disgrace to their country for trying to overcharge visitors.

My host threw half the amount at the driver and told him never to return. As the taxi sped off, my host gave me the remaining bills and asked, "How was your trip?"

"Fine ... until you chased the cab away with my luggage in the trunk."

Thomas Ellsworth

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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 training instructor was in my face, demanding to know if I was some kind of smart aleck.

Satisfied that I wasn't, the red-faced TI told me never to stand next to that guy again.

Charles W. Nightingale

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One day, Adam sat outside the Garden of Eden shortly after eating the apple and wondered about men and women. So, looking up to the heavens, he said, "Excuse me, God, can I ask you a few questions?"

God replied, "Go on, Adam, but be quick. I have a world to create."

So Adam said, "When you created Eve, why did you make her body so curved and tender unlike mine?"

"I did that, Adam, so that you could love her."

"Oh, well then, why did you give her long, shiny, beautiful hair, and not me?"

"I did that, Adam, so that you could love her."

"Oh, well then, why did you make her so stupid? Certainly not so that I could love her?"

"Well, Adam, no. I did that so that she could love you."

Good Clean Funnies

WEDNESDAY

John 14:21 ²¹"The person who knows my commandments and keeps them, that's who loves me. And the person who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and make myself plain to him."

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I didn't learn about life in Sunday school, church, Bible College, undergraduate college or in graduate school. As the old saying goes, I learned about life in the "College of Hard Knocks." My failures and recovery process also taught me to encourage others when they experience failure, not to waste their pain, but to invest it wisely in their own growth and recovery, and then in ministering to others. **Failure can be an invaluable teacher when invested wisely**

God knows what He's doing for each of us. He is the potter, and we are His clay. He will mold us and make us, and expose us to just enough pressures of just the right kinds that we may be made into a flawless piece of work to fulfill His good, pleasing and perfect will.

So when life seems hard, and you are being pounded and patted and pushed beyond control; when you feel like you are in a fiery furnace of trials; when life seems to "stink", try this....Brew a cup of your favorite tea in your prettiest teacup, sit down and think all the stress that goes into the making of your teacup and then, have a little talk with the Potter. .

Daily Encounter

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A Christian leader told me about boarding a small commuter plane for a short flight out of Nashville. Moments after he settled in, a flight attendant's voice came on the loudspeaker and said, "When the pilot steps onto the plane, I want you to clap for him. He just found out his fiancé is expecting twins."

When the captain appeared, the passengers erupted into a raucous ovation. My friend sat there thinking, I can't believe it. We're applauding immorality.

Cup O' Cheer

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I saw a billboard yesterday that said, "Need help? Call Jesus. 1-800-555-HELP

Out of curiosity I did.

A Mexican showed up with a tow truck

Pastor Tim

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Our local paper runs a popular column called "10 Questions" that spotlights people who live in our community.

In addition to the usual inquiries about occupation and age, people are asked questions that give a snapshot of their personalities.

Recently one woman was asked, "What's the strangest thing you ever bought?"

She answered, "Dog toothpaste."

Next question: "What is the most common thing people say to you?"

Her answer: "Where did you get such white teeth?" *Irene A. Mystery* (This doesn't mean she uses dog toothpaste – that was the answer to a completely other question.)

Unknown

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"If your parents never had children, chances are you won't either."

Pastor Tim

THURSDAY

John 14:22-24 ²²*Judas (not Iscariot) said, "Master, why is it that you are about to make yourself plain to us but not to the world?"* ²³*"Because a loveless world," said Jesus, "is a sightless world. If anyone loves me, he will carefully keep my word and my Father will love him—we'll move right into the neighborhood!* ²⁴*Not loving me means not keeping my words. The message you are hearing isn't mine. It's the message of the Father who sent me.*

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A boy was sitting in a park bench with one hand resting on an open Bible. He was loudly exclaiming his praise to God. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! God is great! he yelled without worrying whether anyone heard him or not.

Shortly after, along came a man who had recently completed some studies at a local University. Feeling himself very enlightened in the ways of truth and very eager to show this enlightenment, he asked the boy about the source of his Joy.

Hey, asked the boy in return with a bright laugh, don't you have any idea what God is able to do? I just read that God opened up the waves of the Red Sea and led the whole nation of Israel right through the middle.

The enlightened man laughed lightly, sat down next to the boy and began to try to open his eyes to the realities of the miracles of the Bible. That can all be very easily explained. Modern scholarship has shown that the Red Sea in that area was only 10 inches deep at that time. It was no problem for the Israelites to wade across.

The boy was stumped. His eyes wandered from the man back to the Bible lying open in his lap. The man, content that he had enlightened a poor naive young person to the finer points of scientific insight turned to leave. Scarcely had he taken two steps when the boy began to rejoice and praise louder than before. The man turned to ask the reason for this jubilation.

Wow! Exclaimed the boy happily, God is greater than I thought! Not only did He lead the whole nation of

Israel through the Red Sea, He topped it off by drowning the whole Egyptian army in 10 inches of water! -
Author Unknown

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The telephone solicitor selling basement waterproofing must have thought she'd died and gone to heaven when she reached my very polite and patient son on the phone. At the end of her long sales pitch, she asked, "Do you mind if we send out someone to give you an estimate?"

"Not at all," my son said.

"When would be a good time?" she asked.

My son answered, "Just as soon as I dig a basement."

Thomas Ellsworth

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My son Zachary, 4, came screaming out of the bathroom to tell me he'd dropped his toothbrush in the toilet. So I fished it out and threw it in the garbage. Zachary stood there thinking for a moment, then ran to my bathroom and came out with my toothbrush. He held it up and said with a charming little smile, "We better throw this one out too then, 'cause it fell in the toilet a few days ago.

Humor Digest

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I was driving with my three young children one warm summer evening when a woman in the convertible ahead of us stood up and waved. She was stark naked! As I was reeling from the shock, I heard my 5-year old shout from the back seat,

"Mom! That lady isn't wearing a seat belt!

Humor Digest

FRIDAY

John 14:25-27 ²⁵"I'm telling you these things while I'm still living with you.²⁶ The Friend, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send at my request, will make everything plain to you. He will remind you of all the things I have told you. I'm leaving you well and whole. That's my parting gift to you. ²⁷Peace. I don't leave you the way you're used to being left—feeling abandoned, bereft. So don't be upset. Don't be distraught.

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While working for an organization that delivers lunches to elderly shut-ins, I used to take my 4-year-old daughter on my afternoon rounds. The various appliances of old age, particularly the canes, walkers and wheelchairs, unfailingly intrigued her.

One day I found her staring at a pair of false teeth soaking in a glass. As I braced myself for the inevitable barrage of questions, she merely turned and whispered, "The tooth fairy will never believe this!"

Humor Digest

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Bryant Wright is the recently-elected President of the Southern Baptist Convention. In an interview, he talks about how Christians can relate to Muslims: "I think you want to start from the standpoint that in Islam, Jesus is a respected prophet. He's not considered as great a prophet as Mohammed, but He is a respected prophet. Even in Islam it is taught that He was supernaturally conceived by the Virgin Mary.

"The big difference is that only Allah is God, there is no other. The idea of God having a Son, of Christ being the God-Man, is very contrary to Islam. The key is to start at the point of respect that Muslims have to what they see as the prophet Jesus. Start at the point of how we all have the same father of our faith, Abraham -- Jews, Christians and Muslims."

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The flower girl for our daughter's wedding had been instructed to sprinkle the petals evenly all the way down the aisle. But when she reached the front of the church, her basket was still full. Thinking quickly, she upended the basket, leaving a pile of petals for the bride to circumnavigate.

Sylvia L. Metcalf

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I don't remember if I have mentioned my dialysis condition, but am presently undergoing nightly treatments for this. Having recently undergone kidney failure, it has become a life-threatening condition.

Between Medicare, the VA, and my own medical insurance, I am currently having peritoneal (abdominal) dialysis performed nightly in my own home. This ability to take care of the urea in one's body, without normal kidney functions, is only a 30 year medical discovery. Before these advances in medicine, it would only be treatable by transplant with a donor kidney.

The first realization of dialysis possibility came about with the development of regular, 3 times weekly blood exchanges under hospital conditions. With this ability for removing urea from the human body, patients had to visit a hospital three times weekly for a four to six hour visit, having their blood circulated through a machine for this purpose. Normally treatments are given during daylight hours, taking precious time from a patients' weekly activity. This is known as hemodialysis, and is both expensive as well as time-consuming.

My peritoneal form is less expensive, done in the convenience of my own home, seven nights a week. A surgical step is first performed to attach a small plastic tube (catheter) permanently into my abdomen, with it protruding near my navel. Here it is passed through the skin to the outside of the body, taped to the outer skin and given a removable plastic cap.

When I go to bed at night, my wife simply sterilizes her hands and hooks me up to a small, bedside machine via the catheter. Another catheter runs from the dialyzer and is attached for drainage to the nearby toilet. She pushes the "on" button then the system empties and fills my abdomen with dialysis fluid, three or four times – while I sleep. A bag of dialysis fluid rests atop the machine, also hooked up by a catheter, providing the liquid to fill and rinse my abdominal cavity for the several times needed during the night. Most nights, Sue and I sleep through the treatment. All of this medical cost is handled by Medicare and my medical insurance. I am eligible for kidney transplants, but at age 81 am not going to even try this route. My bedroom? It looks like hospital central!

Chaplain Moore