

MOVING SPIRIT

June, 2008

Eskaton Village Community Church

Pastor's Parcel

Some time ago, my son told a riddle that I couldn't guess: "*What is stronger than God, more evil than the devil, poor people have it, rich people need it, and if you eat it, you'll die?*" The reason I couldn't solve it might have been lack of time to spend on it. Maybe it was just too hard. The answer is *nothing*.

Riddles can be fun as games, but they aren't always enjoyable in real life. We like to know the *how's* and *why's* behind circumstances and events, especially if they affect us personally. We each want to understand our own personal stories, to have answers to what's going on, and to know where we stand.

God is fully aware of our desire for this knowledge. In fact, He's responsible for creating us with it. When riddles pop up in our lives, God may have already provided the answers to some of them through the things shared in His Word, the Bible. That is why Christians make a lifelong study of the Holy Scriptures and seem to learn new things whenever they read and re-read God's Word.

The Bible doesn't answer all riddles or questions we may have. As we spend time in God's presence through prayer and meditation, He may answer some of our



questions in surprising ways. But when solutions to riddles don't come right away, He may just say, "Trust Me."

I try to keep unanswered questions and riddles on the back burner of my mind, letting them simmer until God sees fit to answer them. I keep the ones He has already answered on the front burner of my life, where they belong.

--Pastor David

Parish Proclamations

New Worship Minister at EVCC

Last year in a committee meeting, the suggestion was made to get a worship leader for the church. I had no leads and little hope in finding someone who would match the unique personality of our congregation. But God provided.

We are pleased to welcome to our ministry team, Dawn Valerio, a licensed

minister. She now leads our morning worship service and will be preaching occasionally. Like pastors David and Terry, Pastor Dawn is also bivocational. She teaches music at a local school, and has been leading congregational worship for many years. Join us in enjoying Dawn's talents and spiritual enthusiasm.

(For those wondering... At the time Dawn joined our staff, Rev. Dennis Kelly also came as a visitation pastor, but shortly afterward, he had to resign because of serious health problems.)

Personal Pulpit

Passing Acquaintance

When we visit my parents' grave site, my boys always help water the flowers. One day they argued over who should get to water. Knowing my youngest was born one month after my father died, my elder son said, "You can't do it. You didn't even know Grandpa." To that my little one replied, "Oh yes I did. I was coming down when he was going up."

—Elsie Ratowski, Prudenville, MI., in *Today's Christian Woman*

Pithy Pieces

Work for the Lord - the pay isn't much but the retirement is out of this world!

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SALVATION

"God thought it. Jesus bought it.
The Word taught it. The soul sought it.
Faith brought it. The Spirit wrought it.
The devil fought it. But I've got it."

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"Hypocrites in the Church? Yes, and in

the lodge and at the home. Don't hunt through the Church for a hypocrite. Go home and look in the mirror. Hypocrites? Yes. See that you make the number one less. -- *Billy Sunday*

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WORRY looks around.

SORRY looks back. FAITH looks up.

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If you want to cast a big shadow, stand in God's light.

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Growing older is mandatory.

Growing up is optional.

Prayer's Priority

Monday - Wash Day

Lord, help me wash away all my selfishness and vanity, so I may serve you with perfect humility through the week ahead.

Tuesday - Ironing Day

Dear Lord, help me iron out all the wrinkles of prejudice I have collected though the years so that I may see the beauty in others.

Wednesday - Mending Day

O God, help me mend my ways so I will not set a bad example for others.

Thursday - Cleaning Day

Lord Jesus, help me to dust out all the many faults I have been hiding in the secret corners of my heart.

Friday - Shopping Day

O God, give me the grace to shop wisely so I may purchase eternal happiness for myself and all others in need of love.

Saturday - Cooking Day

Help me, my Savior, to brew a big kettle

of brotherly love and serve it with clean,
sweet bread of human kindness.

Sunday - The Lord's Day

O God, I have prepared my house for
You. Please come into my heart so I may
spend the day and the rest of my life in
Your presence.

Poetry's Place

TAPS

(by Major General Daniel Butterfield)

Day is done... Gone the sun...
From the lake... From the hills...
From the sky.
All is well... Safely rest...
God is nigh.

Fading light... Dims the sight...
And a star... Gems the sky...
Gleaming bright.
From afar... Drawing nigh...
Falls the night.

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GOD'S BOXES

I have in my hands two boxes,
Which God gave me to hold.
He said, "Put sorrows in the black one,
And your joys into the gold."

I heeded and in the two boxes,
Both my joys and sorrows I stored,
The gold one got heavier each day,
The black one was light as before.

I curiously opened the black box,
I wanted to find out why,
And discovered a hole at its bottom,
Which my sorrows had fallen out by.

I showed God the hole as I questioned,
"My sorrows! Oh where could they be?"
He smiled and gently assured me,
"My child, they're all here with me."

"Why did You give me these boxes?"
I asked, and the Lord let me know,
"The gold is for counting your blessings.
The black is for what to let go."

(adapted from an unknown author)

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Pearls of Prudence

Speak when you are angry, and you'll
make the best speech you'll ever regret.

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Conversion is a step of faith. Maturity is a
journey of faith.

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Friendship is like a bank account. You
can't continue to draw on it without
making deposits.

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Most folks are about as happy as they
make up their minds to be.

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Great souls have wills. Feeble souls have
only wishes.

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The test of good manners is to be able to
put up pleasantly with bad ones.

Pleasurable Pastime

Hillbilly's Ten Commandments

(actually posted on the wall at Cross
Trails Church in Harlan, Kentucky.)

- 1) Just one God
- 2) Honor yer Ma & Pa
- 3) No tellin' tales or gossipin'

- 4) Git yourself to Sunday meetin'
- 5) Put nothin' before God
- 6) No foolin' around with another fellow's gal
- 7) No killin'
- 8) Watch yer mouth
- 9) Don't take what ain't yers
- 10) Don't be hankerin' for yer buddy's stuff

Praise's Portion

MY KING by Rev. S. M. Lockridge

The Bible says my King is a seven-way king... He's the King of the Jews; that's a racial king... He's the King of Israel; that's a national King... He's the King of Righteousness... He's the King of the Ages... He's the King of Heaven... He's the King of Glory... He's the King of kings, and He's the Lord of lords. That's my King. Well... I wonder, do you know Him?... David said, "The Heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows His handiwork. My King is a sovereign King. No means of measure can define His limitless love. No far seeing telescope can bring into visibility the coastline of His shoreless supply. No barrier can hinder Him from pouring out His blessings. He's enduringly strong... He's entirely sincere... He's eternally steadfast... He's immortally graceful... He's imperially powerful... He's impartially merciful... Do you know Him?

He's the greatest phenomenon that ever crossed the horizon of this world. He's God's Son... He's a sinner's Saviour... He's the centerpiece of civilization... He stands in the solitude of Himself... He's august...

He's unique... He's unparalleled... unprecedented... He's the loftiest idea in literature... He's the highest personality in philosophy... He's the supreme problem in higher criticism... He's the fundamental doctrine of true theology... He's the cardinal necessity for spiritual religion... He's the miracle of the age... He's the superlative of everything good that you choose to call Him... He's the only one qualified to be an all sufficient Saviour... I wonder if you know Him today?

He supplies strength for the weak... He's available for the tempted and the tried... He sympathizes and He saves... He strengthens and sustains... He guards and He guides... He heals the sick... He cleanses lepers... He forgives sinners... He discharges debtors... He delivers captives... He defends the feeble... He blesses the young... He serves the unfortunate... He regards the aged... He rewards the diligent... and He beautifies the meek... I wonder if you know Him?

Well, my King... is the King... He's the key to knowledge... He's the wellspring to wisdom... He's the doorway of deliverance... He's the pathway of peace... He's the roadway of righteousness... He's the highway of holiness... He's the gateway of glory... Do you know Him?

Well... His office is manifold... His promise is sure... His light is matchless... His goodness is limitless... His mercy is everlasting... His love never changes... His word is enough... His grace is sufficient... His reign is righteous... and His yoke is easy, and his burden is light. I wish I could describe Him to you, but

He's indescribable... He's incomprehensible... He's invincible... He's irresistible.

Well, you can't get Him out of your mind... You can't get Him off of your hand... You can't out live Him, and you can't live without Him... The Pharisees couldn't stand Him, but they found out they couldn't stop Him... Pilate couldn't find any fault in Him... The witnesses couldn't get their testimonies to agree... Herod couldn't kill Him... Death couldn't handle Him, and the grave couldn't hold Him. Yea!!!, that's my King, that's my King.

Father... "Thine is the Kingdom...and the Power...and the Glory... Forever"... and ever, and ever, and ever, and ever. How long is that? And ever... and ever... and when you get through with all the forevers, then... AMEN!... AMEN!

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Present Perplexities

NOT TO PRAY?

After being interviewed by the school administrator, the prospective teacher said: "Let me see if I've got this right. You want me to go into that room with all those kids, and fill their every waking moment with a love for learning. I'm supposed to instill a sense of pride in their ethnicity, modify their disruptive behavior, observe them for signs of abuse, and even censor their T-shirt messages and dress habits. You want me to wage a war on drugs and sexually transmitted diseases, check their backpacks for weapons of mass destruction, and raise

their self esteem. You want me to teach them patriotism, good citizenship, sportsmanship, fair play, how to register to vote, how to balance a checkbook, and how to apply for a job. I'm to check their heads for lice, maintain a safe environment, watch for antisocial behavior, get them all to pass the mandatory state exams, even those who don't attend regularly or do any of their assignments. I'm to make sure all students get an equal education regardless of their learning disabilities. I'm to communicate regularly with their parents by letter, telephone, newsletter and report card. All of this I am to do with just a piece of chalk, a computer, a few books, a bulletin board, a big smile, while on a starting salary that qualifies my family for food stamps! You want me to do ALL OF THIS, and yet you are telling me... NOT TO PRAY???

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Precious Principles

Life is a theater - invite your audience carefully. Not everyone is spiritually healthy and mature enough to have a front row seat in our lives. There are some people in your life that need to be loved from a distance. It's amazing what you can accomplish when you let go, or at least minimize your time with draining negative, incompatible, not-going-anywhere relationships... friendships... fellowships! Observe the relationships around you. Pay attention to: Which ones lift and which ones lean? Which ones encourage and which ones

discourage? Which ones are on a path of growth uphill and which ones are going downhill? When you leave certain people, do you feel better or feel worse? Which ones always have drama or don't really understand, know and appreciate you and the gift that lies within you? When you seek growth, peace of mind, love and truth, the easier it will become for you to decide who gets to sit in the FRONT ROW and who should be moved to the balcony of your life. You cannot change the people around you...but you can change the people you are around! Pray for godly wisdom and discernment and choose wisely the people who sit in the front row of your life.

Past Pathways

Cherokee Indian Legend

Do you know the legend of the Cherokee Indian youth's rite of passage? His father takes him into the forest, blindfolds him and leaves him alone. He is required to sit on a stump the whole night and not remove the blindfold until the rays of the morning sun shine through it. He cannot cry out for help to anyone. Once he survives the night, he is a MAN.

He cannot tell the other boys of this experience, because each lad must come into manhood on his own. The boy is naturally terrified. He can hear all kinds of noises. Wild beasts must surely be all around him. Maybe even some human might do him harm. The wind blows the grass and earth, and shakes his stump, but he sits stoically, never removing the blindfold. It is the only way he can

become a man!

Finally, after a horrific night the sun's rays warm him and he removes his blindfold. It is then that he discovers his father sitting on the stump next to him. He has been at watch the entire night, protecting his son from harm.

We, too, are never alone. Even when we don't know it, our Heavenly Father is watching over us, sitting on the stump beside us. When trouble comes, all we have to do is reach out to Him.

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A final principle that works in all kinds of circumstances: "*Let go and let God.*"