

Spiritual Considerations...



Selected articles designed to assist in our Bible study and Christian walk.

Dave Phillips, editor

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Billy Sunday and The Banker

Lon Woodrum

There never was a more colorful Christian evangelist than Billy Sunday, the onetime baseball player who rose up out of the middle America in the teens and twenties to stir great throngs wherever he went. The stories about his exuberant, unorthodox ways of bring people to the Lord abound to this day, and one of them was told to me years ago by the vice-president of a bank in Pennsylvania, Wallace Byrd.

Byrd was head teller in the bank at the time Billy Sunday came to town to conduct his crusade. Huge crowds gathered to hear him, but Byrd did not attend. He wanted no part of religion – especially that of itinerant evangelists.

But by some quirk of fate, Billy Sunday arranged for an account to be set up in Byrd's bank.

Day after day, Byrd watched Billy Sunday's account grow. And as it grew, so grew his animosity toward the evangelist.

On the Monday after his crusade ended, Billy Sunday came into the bank to settle his affairs. Among the checks from the previous night's collection was one for five dollars. That gave Byrd a chance to loose some of his resentment.

"Sir," Byrd said, "We can't honor this."

"Why not?" Sunday asked.

"The woman who wrote this check has less than five dollars in her account," he replied. "She is a widow, and very poor."

Sunday frowned at the check, and Byrd saw the opportunity for an extra harpoon. "Actually, sire, we are holding a mortgage on her home for fifteen hundred dollars. We'll have to foreclose very soon."

That, Byrd thought, should hit this money-grubber where it hurts!

Sunday responded by tearing up the widow's check. A moment later he laid a slip of paper in front of Byrd and said, "Will you honor this one?"

Byrd looked down to see a check for \$1,500. "For the widow's mortgage," Sunday said.

"Why are you doing this?" Byrd asked.

"Friend," Sunday answered, "have you never read in the Great Book what a person of means is supposed to do about orphans and widows?"

After the evangelist left, Byrd was shaken. Again and again he thought about what had happened. He began to wonder how many other times Sunday might have done something similar, and he began to revise his thinking about evangelists. He thought, too, about the widow. Had she, by giving in faith out of her tiny possessions, been rewarded by this gift?

That was the turning point in Wallace Byrd's life, the event that led to his becoming a Christian. As Wallace Byrd told me, he never head Billy Sunday preach from the pulpit. Sunday's only sermon to him was a signature on a personal check.

Moses and Faith

Paul Woodhouse , Johns Church of Christ, Johnson, AR

Moses and the people were in the desert, but what was he going to do with them? They had to be fed, and feeding 2 or 3 million people requires a lot of food.

According to the Quartermaster General in the Army, it is reported that Moses would have to have had 1500 tons of food each day. Do you know that to bring that much food each day, two freight trains, each at least a mile long, would be required!

Besides you must remember, they were out in the desert, so they would have to have firewood to use in cooking the food. This would take 4000 tons of wood and a few more freight trains, each a mile long, just for one day.

And just think, they were forty years in transit.

And oh yes! They would have to have water. If they only had enough to drink and wash a few dishes, it would take 11,000,000 gallons each day and a freight train with tank cars, 1800 miles long, just to bring water!

And then another thing!

They had to get across the Red Sea at night. Now, if they went on a narrow path, double file, the line would be 800 miles long and would require 35 days and nights to get through. So there had to be a space in the Red Sea, 3 miles wide so that they could walk 5000 abreast to get over in one night.

But then, there is another problem....each time they camped at the end of the day, a campground two-thirds the size of the state of Rhode Island was required, or a total of 750 square miles long....think of it!

This much space for camping.

Do you think Moses figured all this out before he left Egypt? I think not! You see, Moses believed in God. God took care of these things for him.

Now do you think God has any problem taking care of all your needs? God's love is always with you, his promises are true, and when we give him all our cares, you know he will see us through.

Our God is an awesome God!

So when the road you're traveling on seems difficult at best, just remember keep praying and God will do the rest.

New Evening Classes for Men!

(An imaginative approach to a hypothetical 2-day seminar)

Day One

How to Fill Ice Cube Trays

Step by step guide with slide presentation

Toilet Rolls-

Do They Grow on the Holders?

Roundtable discussion

Differences Between Laundry Basket & Floor

Practicing with hamper (Pictures and graphics)

Dishes & Silverware

Do They Levitate/Fly to Kitchen Sink or

Dishwasher by Themselves?

Debate among a panel of experts

Loss of Manliness-

Losing Possession of the Remote Control to your

Significant Other

Help line and support groups

Learning How to Find Things

Starting with Looking in the right place instead of turning the house upside down while screaming

Open forum

Day Two

Empty Milk Cartons

Do They Belong in the Fridge or the Bin?

Group Discussion and role play

Health Watch

Bringing Her Flowers is not Harmful to Your

Health

Power Point presentation

Real Men Ask for Directions When Lost

Real-life testimonial from the one man who did

Is it Genetically Possible to Sit Quietly As She

Parallel Parks?

Driving Simulation

Getting Over It – Learning How to Live With

Being Wrong All the Time

Individual Counselors available

How To Be the Ideal Shopping Companion

Relaxation exercises, meditation and breathing techniques

Editor's note: Isn't married life wonderful? Though the above mentioned topics are intentionally light-hearted, isn't it true that issues less important than these can cause significant conflict in the home? Think about it.