

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
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'Sell out' was the bottom line.

✓ I ~~do~~ know why you did it. Too well I know.
To protect Mother and me.
I love the ranch, but this ranch is nothin'
Compared to you, don't you see.

You were my rock. You always have been.
In my mind you hung the moon
And now when I need you the most, you're gone,
Oh, Daddy, you died too soon.

p. 38

Got my membership card 17 Years Ago on my 55th Birth.
American Association
of Retired Persons.

Cowboy Poetry 506-06

AARP!
Animal Accident Recovery Patrol

Of late there's been a modest debate
involving the wearing of fur.

There's some even swears anybody who wears
is flawed in their character.

Yet others will fight to maintain their right
to wear what they dang well please
But the answer lies in a compromise
that sets both minds at ease.

Imagine two friends at opposite ends
who meet and do lunch once a week.
Their friendship is tried when they gather outside
a Beverly Hills boutique,

*"Sylvia, oh my soul, is that a mink stole?
Please tell me it's fake from Goodwill!"*

*"Yes, Babs, it is mink, but it's not what you think,
Because . . . it's designer roadkill!"*

Oh, sure, you scoff, but don't blow it off
It's the wisdom of Solomon's voice.

The perfect solution, it grants absolution
Yet leaves the owner Pro Choice!

But wisdom so pure should forever endure
And percolate into your soul
So I'm the head jack of the Animal Ac-
cident Recovery Patrol!

The AARP!, which is Larry and me,
Is on the road every night
To gently remind you that mess left behind you

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
		Is more than a buzzard's delight! Carry a trowel for mammal or fowl To collect your vehicular blooper. In time you will find yucky's all in your mind No worse than a pooper scooper!
		Plus, you'll be amazed how activists praise you For doin' what you think is right And no trapper'd object if you stopped to collect Things that go bump in the night. But treat it with care, waste not a hare, Be sorry, but don't sit and pine, 'Cause accidents happen when yer both overlappin' The double yellow line.
		So salvage your plunder and render your blunder Into a warm winter coat And remember our motto like you know you otto It follows, and herein' I quote, "MAKE IT A HABIT TO PICK UP YOUR RABBIT DON'T LEAVE HIM TO DRY IN THE SUN FOR THE SAKE OF A GARMENT, RECYCLE YOUR VARMINT IT'S TACKY TO JUST HIT AND RUN!"

p. 42

Cowboy Poetry 506-07

THE PRACTITIONER'S LOT

Today in the world of modern vets
I've lost my place in line
My colleagues have prospered as specialists
In therio or swine.

I see their achievements in magazines,
Their articles in print.
They're developed a brand new cure for warts
With after dinner mints

Or they're recognized as the final word
In matters so complex
That I can't pronounce what they're working on
Much less, what it affects!

I spend my days at the back of a cow
Usually up to my chin
In the process of pullin' somethin' out

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
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ON → Now you think about it. 'Twas you egged him on
You've reaped what you've planted so just leave him alone."
Well that sure shut him down and 'fore long he grinned.
C'mERE → He recoiled his son's rope and said, "Come here friend.
This rope that I gave you is a tool not a toy but I guess you're no
worse than me as a boy.
Now that heel loop you tossed ~~is~~ ^{was} just a tad late.
So when you throw a rope, throw! You'll miss if you wait.
A steer's in the meadow that's runny of nose, a shot he'll be
needin' today I suppose.
So let's go catch ole' Chub and I'll saddle Elwood and I'll teach
you to rope the creatures you should."
They strode 'cross the barnyard the grown-up cowboy
And right there to heel him, the small skint-nosed boy.

Erma Bombeck:

044-16 " . . . Did you really mean that crack about our marriage?"
"No." He yawned. "You've given me fourteen wonderful
years."
"We've been married twenty-one years," I corrected.
"So," he sighed. "Fourteen out of twenty-one isn't bad."
p. 82

Sick man dying → between Two Thieves
Called his Doctor & Lawyer — Jesus!
"I feel just like Jesus: I AM DYING!"
Country Music Backwards!
1. Girl Comes Back!
2. Gets His Pickup Back!
3. Stops Drinking!

5-8
WP

(Humorous Cowboy Poetry: A Knee-Slappin' Gathering edited by
Gibbs Smith staff members)

**Skinny Rowland
From Bad to Worse**

Now my wife just left and the well went dry,
and my horse is sick and about to die.

Then my still blew up and the barn burned down,
and the road washed out on the way to town.

Then my dog got rabies and bit the cat,
and they both died soon after that.

Now I lost my specs and my pipe stem broke,
so I can't even sit and read and smoke.

Then a tree fell on the chicken shed,
and most of the hens got smashed plumb dead.

Then a chimney fire took half of a wall,
and this old shack is about to fall.

Then I caught my heel on an old dead vine,
and sat smack dab on a porcupine.

Then a beaver dam broke an' my bridge washed out,
and my watch stopped working and I've got the gout.

And the bank foreclosed so I've lost my place,
and my cow disappeared without a trace.

They cut off my credit at the grocery store,
and I lost my job and a whole lot more.

I must have been hexed by a triple curse,
as things keep going from bad to worse.

And now fate has hit me a last dirty crack:
to top off the worst--my wife's coming back.

pp. 140-1

*Aging: "I bet ya if you peeled his bark
you'd count near 50 rings."
"Word spread like cheap wine on a
white tuxedo."*

*Guy Die'n
① Doctor &
Lawyer
② Jesus died
between Two
Thieves!*

030-010

My friend Sheila Hamman teaches at an elementary school. One day, she gave her third-grade students an assignment to compose a letter to someone in history.

One young boy decided to write to Joan of Arc. He wrote, "Joan, I'm sorry you had to go through so many bad things, but I'm glad your husband was able to get all the animals to safety."

Even though this young student had his stories crossed, I'd still give him an A+ for searching out a redeeming factor in the midst of tragedy.

p. 83

Sport'n A Tude by Patsy Clairmont

✓ Identity Crisis

Early one morning a woman made a mad dash out of the house when she heard the garbage truck pulling away. She was still in her bathrobe. Her hair was wrapped in big curlers. Her face was covered with sticky cream. She was wearing a chin-strap and a beat-up old pair of slippers. In short, she was a frightful picture. When she reached the sidewalk, she called out, "Am I too late for the garbage?" And the reply came back: "Nope, hop right in."

p. 27

058-01

Surrender Advisor

There was a pious old gentleman of an earlier generation who used to get up regularly at prayer meeting in his church to pray: "Use me, O Lord, use me—in some advisory capacity!"

p. 15

058-02

Free Advice

Receiving advice is like getting kissed on the forehead.

It doesn't hurt, but it doesn't help much either.

p. 16

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
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aging

058-10

Finally Alone

It was midnight after registration day at the college when the policeman noticed a couple in a lingering embrace in the campus parking lot. Mildly surprised at the scene before the school year had even begun, he approached the car.

"Sorry, officer," the driver explained. "We just left our youngest son, our baby, there in the dorm. It's the first time Mother and I have been alone for twenty-seven years."

p. 71

Pride

✓058-11

How Long Can It Take?

The young town smart alec walked into the blacksmith shop shortly after the blacksmith had thrown a horseshoe on the ground so it could cool. Seeing it there, the young fellow reached down, picked it up, but instantly cast it aside as it burned his fingers. The blacksmith said, "Kind of hot, isn't it, son?" The brash kid said, "No, not too hot. It just doesn't take me long to look at a horseshoe."

p. 109

Failure

058-12

Deadly Experience

If at first you don't succeed, so much for sky-diving.

Win or Lose

It doesn't make any difference whether you win or lose—until you lose. ("Peanuts")

p. 147

5-8
WJF

058-38

✓ **Buying Friends**

*"If you need a friend in Washington
get a dog"*

UCLA football coach Pepper Rodgers was in the middle of a terrible season. It even got so bad that it upset his home life. He recalls, "My dog was my only friend. I told my wife that a man needs at least two friends, and she bought me another dog."
pp. 291-2

We've all heard the old one about the light at the end of the tunnel really being a freight train coming straight at us! But for some folks, the latest tongue-in-cheek line is:

DUE TO THE CURRENT BUDGET CUTBACKS
THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL
WILL BE TURNED OFF UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

And beyond that, things can get so dark for others they just shrug their shoulders and say, "What light? I haven't even FOUND the tunnel!"

pp. 165-6
(38-53)

Remember this:

GOD HAS NOT PROMISED TO GIVE US ALL
THE ANSWERS,
BUT HE HAS PROMISED HIS GRACE.

Not long ago I heard a sermon on Jesus' familiar promise, "Abide in Me, and I in you." I realized that the Lord's words enable me to say in every circumstance, "For THIS I need Jesus." And then I always hear His answer: "Don't worry--for THIS you have ME."

You see, He is with us in the darkness just as surely as He is in the light. When we trust HIM, the dark clouds of trouble are but the shadow of HIS WINGS, and we can pray:

LORD,
I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND
WHAT IN THE WORLD
YOU'RE DOING IN MY LIFE,

and back will come His answer:

MY CHILD,
DON'T TRY TO UNDERSTAND.
JUST LIVE IT
FOR ME.

p. 172
(38-53)

*Mama, Set the hammer!
There's a fly on Papa's Head!*

Ruth Harms Calkin

Barbara Johnson

Pride

I think men have a harder time with this problem than women. Women are more receptive to following Christ. The women kept their faith during the crucifixion. Women were the first to see that Christ had risen. We men have a more difficult time letting go of our stubbornness and admitting our weaknesses. We would rather drive for miles in circles than ask for directions. We would rather jump right into putting our children's Christmas toys together instead of first reading the instructions. We stammer to admit we were wrong and squeak out, "Will you forgive me?" Our arrogance is why statistics say 90 percent of the men in America do not have close friends, because close friends hold us accountable and require an amount of vulnerability.

p. 157
(36-62)

① appreciation
② Austin Jet
③ Acts 20:32

Pride

Most quarrels come from inner conflicts, not external circumstances. Most interpersonal tensions are merely projections of intrapersonal stress. I remember being in northern Oregon following the Mount St. Helens eruption. Powder ash was everywhere. I did not cause the explosion, but I experienced its fallout. Most anger and relational frustrations are the ashes of exploded pride.

p. 158
(36-62)

Keep the Fire

Pride

It reminds me of the Dear Abby column which appeared in the June 5, 1990 issue of the St. Paul Pioneer Press Dispatch.

Dear Abby:

A young man from a wealthy family was about to graduate from high school. It was the custom in that affluent neighborhood for the parents to give the graduate an automobile.

Bill and his father had spent months looking at cars, and the week before graduation, they found the perfect car. Bill was certain that the car would be his on graduation night.

Imagine his disappointment when, on the evening of his graduation, Bill's father handed him a gift-wrapped Bible!

Bill was so angry that he threw the Bible down and stormed out of the house. He and his father never saw each other again.

It was the news of his father's death that brought Bill home again. As he sat one night going through his father's possessions that he was to inherit, he came across the Bible his father had given him.

He brushed away the dust and opened it to find a cashier's check, dated the day of his graduation--in the exact amount of the car they had chosen together.

Beckhah Fink, TX

p. 162
(36-62)

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Being a Servant
"Treated like one" - -

Luke 12:37 "he will put on
an apron, sit ^{them} down at a Table &
wait on them."

John 13: Peter: "you ain't washing
my feet." - - -

- ① Gracious
 - ② Grat. tude
 - ③ Giver
-

Old Age — Ran it OFF the Freeway!

the principles which season the success and the victories, we are apt to reap rewards gained too easily. it is not a negative to think we must suffer prior to having fun; rather, it is positive to have sufficient character strength to endure and enjoy the fruits of our labors. When we avoid the difficult, that which creates strengthened character, we harm ourselves.

p. 50
(36-57)

Brokenness

The beauty of God is that when junk happens to you, regardless of the junk, He can create something good out of it. He recycles our trash. He can salvage gold from the garbage--if we let Him--by His loving response to us when we call to Him out of our brokenness in the right place, the soul.

I want to reiterate that not everything that happens to you is an episode of brokenness. There are definite times when God tries to prune some of the dead wood that may be stopping the Spirit from producing fruit in your life. However, even small problems have the potential of breaking and making us. If we respond to even silly, minuscule events with an attitude of humility and dependence and submission to God, we can maintain (voluntarily) a spirit of brokenness.

p. 54
(36-58)

Trials

When we are externally oriented, we want our circumstances to change more than we are willing to change our hearts and our characters to match our circumstances. When we are broken, we pray for strength to match the situation. As one commentator noted, Paul was chained but not contained. The result of a broken attitude is an inability to be controlled by external circumstances, whether they be people, health, finances, or others. When we pray for strength to match the challenge instead of a different challenge, we become the miracle.

Life upheavals can occur in sudden, traumatic turn-arounds, such as a job loss, heart attack, financial disaster, and the like. Someone said, trouble always happens at the same time, when you need it least. Often the shock of the event itself adds to the impact. Other problems occur with a gradual decay of circumstances. Perhaps it is a stalled dream, a business that deteriorates, a relationship malaise, or a worsening health condition. Sometimes the gravity of the process is just the day-to-day awareness that life is not getting better, and you are not sure how to change it. Both types of processes remind us that we ultimately are not in control. They show us our limited power to run our lives.

pp. 55-56
(36-58)

Brokenness

XX The world breaks everyone and afterwards many are strong at the broken places.

--Ernest Hemingway

p. 9
(36-57)

Relationship

Our inclination is to achieve, produce, and do. The common result is that we are human thinkings and human doings, but God has called us to be human beings.

p. 17
(36-57)

Brokenness

XX Brokenness is a process issue. It is a part of God's character building process.

"Almost every one of us," says Gordon MacDonald, "will encounter some issue that introduces us to brokenness at a far greater intensity than we ever thought possible. . . . Broken worlds are a significant part of living; we must be vigilant enough to avoid the avoidable, but prepared and disciplined enough to persevere when facing the unexpected or the unavoidable."

p. 18
(36-57)

Salvation

When I invited Jesus into my life, I thought he was going to put up some wallpaper and hang a few pictures. But he started knocking out walls and adding on rooms. I said, "I was expecting a nice cottage." But He said, "I'm making a palace in which to live."

--C. S. Lewis

p. 19
(36-57)

Brokenness

Malcolm Muggeridge said, "We are henceforth to worship defeat, not victory; failure, not success; surrender, not defiance; deprivation, not satiety; weakness, not strength. We are to lose our lives in order to keep them, to die in order to live."

p. 24
(36-57)

Brokenness

Unshakable faith is faith that has been shaken.
Unquenchable joy is joy that has been quenched.
Unbreakable love is love that has been broken.

p. 36
(36-57)

Suffering

Mahatma Gandhi said that seven things will destroy us: wealth without work; pleasure without conscience; knowledge without character; commerce without morality; science without humanity; religion without sacrifice; and politics without principle. Life has a certain balance. If we avoid

Brokenness

ATTITUDE CHECKS FOR BROKENNESS

1. Am I willing to let go of my dreams and ambitions if such is God's will?
2. Am I defensive when accused, or criticized, or misunderstood?
3. Am I coveting what others have instead of waiting for heaven's rewards?
4. Am I forgiving when offended, with or without an apology?
5. Am I complaining or arguing out of unsundered rights?
6. Am I thinking of others first out of love?
7. Am I proudly appearing that I am always right or know all the answers?
8. Am I practicing the spiritual disciplines (prayer, fasting, solitude, simplicity, etc.)?
9. Am I being silent regarding self-promotion and letting God do my public relations?
10. Am I daily saying, "God whatever it takes, I'm willing to submit to your leadership?"
11. Am I expressing joy in the difficulties which serve to refine me?
12. Am I taking risks out of obedience to Christ instead of giving in to fear, pride, or denial?

p. 123
(36-61)

Maturity

A sixth trait of mature people is that they learn from the past, live in the present, but aim for the future. Immature people live in the past, complain about the present, and usually avoid the future. Of course, exceptions exist. Some very immature people only live in the fantasy of the future. They talk about their ships coming in while they are presently falling apart because they have not learned from the past.

p. 155
(36-61)

Maturity

Mature people are perpetual learners. They are always growing. They press forward. They are progress-oriented. They use the past to provide wisdom for the future. They get on with life. They do not rest on past laurels. They quit licking yesterday's wounds. The world is full of people bitter over ex-spouses, former pastors, unreasonable parents. Someone ought to tell the complainer to get off his or her cross because we need the wood. People who have been broken in the right place keep their gaze on the one the future. They exude hope, and hope is always out in front of us--Hanging On to Positive Expectations. There is a contemporariness about them. Yet, they have also learned daily contentment.

p. 156
(36-61)

David

Psalm 42:1, 2 "As a deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O God! I thirst for God, for the living God."

SNAP shots Digital Pictures

that confirm Hudson Taylor's reflections on John 7:37, written about the time his first wife, Maria, died:

"If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink."

Who does not thirst? Who has not mind-thirsts or heart-thirsts, soul-thirsts or body-thirsts? Well, no matter which, or whether I have them all—

"Come unto Me and" remain thirsty? Ah, no!
"Come unto Me and drink."

What can Jesus meet my need? Yes, and more than meet it. No matter how intricate my path, how difficult my service; no matter how sad my bereavement, how far away my loved ones; no matter how helpless I am, how deep are my soul yearnings—Jesus can meet all. All, and more than meet.²

Conclusion!

We had a funeral yesterday, and it left us all very disturbed. A neighbor died of thirst. Doesn't make any sense. He lived within yards of the oasis. Night after night he heard our songs drifting across the sand telling about the wonderful characteristics of our water. Yet he never once came here, and he died of thirst.

- #1 Wedding AT Cana
 - *A. They have no wine
 - *B. whatever He says to you, do it.
 - *C. You have saved the best until now.
- #2 You must be born Again!
- #3 Living water

Have You Noticed A Common Thread
He is meeting The Needs of others
Mark 10:45

Rev. 22:17

"And the Spirit & the Bride say come And let him that hears say come And let him that is athirst say come & whosoever will let him take the water of life freely"

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TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
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Cowboy Poetry

9999-09

NEW ROPES & SKINT NOSES

"Twas the day after Christmas and the cowboy's young son,
With his new nylon catch rope put the dogs on the run.
The tree was knocked over by his ~~band~~ ^{Brand} new string,
And his mom soon regretted him gettin' that thing.
"He's a ~~treat~~ ^{THREAT} to us all, our home's safe no more.
If he heels me again, they go out the door."
"Now ~~don~~ ^{HON} just be patient, he's learnin' a trade,
And but through practice are good ropers made.
Why just look at the way he makes that thing whip."
Our cat he just roped that, and mom bit her lip.
All day he kept at it, he caught all he could.
And for seven years old, he roped pretty good.
His father would watch him all swollen with pride,
But long since his mother had kicked him outside.
^{CHICKENS} → The black goat and the ~~chickens~~ soon steered from his path,
Not even big sister was safe from his wrath.
The boy learned to throw true like chunkin' a rock.
But soon the dogs bored him, he craved bigger stock.
He snuck in the milk pen to stretch his line tight,
But that wasn't enough, he sought a new height.
Opportunity knocked for just down the road,
He saw his dad coming, a green colt he rode.
Well he shook out a big loop and hid by the truck.
He'd double hock that horse if smiled on by luck.
When the horse came in view he let his loop sail,
But the rope gone ~~away~~ went up under his tail.
Like a vice, the tail clamped and down his head went,
He jerked little junior whose wee nose got skint.
Well the trio parted ways, they all went elsewhere.
The colt to the pasture while dad split the air.
The boy ran to mother, "That colt stole my twine.
Tell daddy to get it! I want it! It's mine."
When at last dad came in, his face was troubled.
He held junior's nylon, one coil was doubled.
"Come here you little scamp," he said spittin' dirt.
A skint face peeked at him around mother's skirt,
"I'll teach you a lesson 'bout heeling a horse."
But mom to the rescue diverted his course,
"Why this morning you laughed. You thought it was fine
When he tormented us with that awful twine.
I remember you said 'he's learnin' a trade an naught but through
practice are good ropers made.' The boy knew no better.
If you'd set him straight you'd notta been bucked off and come
home irate.

6/12

SNAPSHOT NUMBER FOUR
The Feeding of the Five Thousand
6:1-14

Key Verse 6:6 "Now this he was saying testing him for he himself knew what he was about to be doing."

TEXT:

- v. 1 After these things Jesus went off to the other side of the sea of Galilee of Tyberias.
- v. 2 And a great multitude was following him because they were seeing the signs (attesting miracles), which he was performing upon those who were sick.
- v. 3 And Jesus went up into the mountain and there he was sitting with his disciples.
- v. 4 Now the passover, the feast of the Jews, was near
- v. 5 Then Jesus lifting up his eyes and seeing that a great multitude is coming toward him says to Philip, "Where shall we purchase bread in order that these may eat."
- v. 6 Now this he was saying testing him for he himself knew what he was about to be doing
- v. 7 Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not enough for them in order that each one might take a little."
- v. 8 One of his disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter is saying to him
- v. 9 "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are these for so many people."
- v. 10 Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place so the men sat down the number about five thousand.
- v. 11 Then Jesus took the loaves and having given thanks he distributed them to those who were seated. Likewise also of the fish as much they wanted.
- v. 12 Now when they were satisfied, he is saying to his disciples, "Gather up what they left in the way of fragments in order that nothing may be lost.
- v. 13 Then they gathered them up and they filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves, which were left over by those who had eaten
- v. 14 Then the people having seen the attesting miracle, which he performed were saying, "This man is truly the prophet who is coming into the world."

Each to share in observation!

EXPOSITION:

1-4 Back
5-9 Conversation
10-13 Miracle
14 Response

When we begin looking at this fourth snapshot of the Saviour, we find that these 14 verses divide themselves in a similar fashion to the first snapshot in chapter 2. The first division of the passage before us I have called the background--verses 1 to 4. Secondly, the conversation with Philip and Andrew, which revealed the need, verses 5 to 9. And then thirdly, the miracle itself, verses 10 to 13, and finally the response, verse 14.

This one miracle is recorded by all four of the gospel writers. We find the record of it in the following passages: Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:32-44, and Luke 9:10-17, as well as here in John 6:1-14.

There is a good deal of background material that we get which surrounds the miracle that is recorded here in John 6 that is seen in these other passages.

- ① We learn from the Gospel of Matthew that John the Baptist has just experienced martyrdom and the report has been brought to Jesus and it is his desire to get away in some quiet place where he might suffer alone.
- ② The Mark record also gives us the picture of Jesus retreating with his men for some time of fellowship and recuperation.
- ③ The Luke record tells us that they went to Bethsaida for this time away. This is the hometown of Philipp and Andrew.

I Let us come now to a consideration of the background verses 1-4. *

Verse One: "After these things Jesus went off to the other side of the sea of Galilee of Tyberias."

"After these things" refers us back to the opposition that Jesus has experienced in chapter 5. Coupled with the Martyrdom of John the Baptist, Jesus wants to get away for a little while.

Verse Two: "And a great multitude was following him because they were seeing the signs (attesting miracles), which he was performing upon those who were sick."

In the other records the people saw Jesus and the disciples leaving by boat and as a result, many followed them on foot around the shoreline and were actually at the place where they disembarked before they got there.

The reason they were following him John records in the later part of verse two, "because they were seeing the signs or miracles which he was performing on those who were sick."

News had spread very rapidly about the healing of the nobleman's son recorded in John 4 and also the healing of the lame man at the pool who had been there for 38 years recorded in John 5, coupled probably with a lot of other healings that had taken place by Jesus had drawn this great multitude.

When Jesus saw this great multitude following him, he recognized again that the father's will was more important than his personal wishes, which he had expressed to the disciples previously in Chapter 4, when he said, "My meat is to do the will of him who sent me, and not to say there are yet four months and then come harvest, but to lift up your eyes and look unto the fields, they are white, all ready to harvest."

One of the other writers records the fact that Jesus had compassion upon the multitudes and began healing the sick as well as spending time teaching them.

His personal needs for some time of rest and reflection were placed secondary to the immediate needs of the multitudes.

Verse Three: "And Jesus went up into the mountain and there he was sitting with his disciples."

Background
1-4

Bethsaida
Bungle
Capernaum
Constitution
Jerusalem
Journal
Galilee
Globe

1) For A Tape Recorder!

Jesus loved the mountains as a place of retreat and relaxation and also a time when he could be alone with his father. *Getting A Haircut without Shorty*

The picture that John describes here is one of Jesus sitting with his disciples. I'm sure they had begun fellowship one with the other and sharing some of the experiences which they had had during the previous days as well as sharing their common sorrow over the loss of John the Baptist, especially since some of these men had followed with John the Baptist before becoming disciples of the Lord Jesus.

Verse Four: "Now the passover, the feast of the Jews, was near."

The only reason that John mentions these words is to explain the fact of the tremendous crowd of people. There were hundreds and thousands of pilgrims making their yearly trek to Jerusalem for the passover and alot of them had been attracted to Jesus by these miraculous happenings.

Now that the stage has been set, we are going to note together the need that arised out of a conversation primarily with Philip and Andrew in verses 5-9.

Whereas there was a need for wine in chapter 2, now there is a need for bread in chapter 6. ** * **

Verse Five: "Then Jesus lifting up his eyes and seeing that a great multitude is coming toward him says to Philip, "Where shall we purchase bread in order that these may eat."
Lord, would use these two symbols to help them remember them

Luke fills in some more of the detail in his account in chapter 9 when the disciples become concerned over the fact that it is getting quite late and the multitudes have not made preparations for their lodging or meals. The disciples asked Jesus to send the multitudes away so they are able to find a place to stay and get something to eat.

Matthew records Jesus saying, "They do not need to go away, you give them something to eat." And then Luke also records Jesus as having said, "You give them something to eat."

It is then that the Lord turns to Philip who is in charge of food service and menu planning for the Lord Jesus and the twelve disciples and asks the question, "Where shall we purchase bread in order that these may eat?"

In our last study he had been to the Samaritan Safeway - Brookshire's, Food Lion, Kroeger's, Albertson's Philip was a very cautious calculating careful individual when it came to moving ahead in a given situation. Philip was the kind of guy that everybody loved because he had such a great sense of humor and did such a great job providing for the needs of the other twelve guys in their party. *Lord, has A great sense of humor! He knew how to get someone going*

Verse Six: "Now this he was saying testing him for he himself knew what he was about to be doing."

John reveals the intent back of the question in verse 5. Jesus was doing this to test Philip's faith. *they have come All the way from Teaselville to watch this putt*

Ribbing him just a little.

Tom Pryor:

Drive You hit that ball further than I over the water!

5 Iron

Throw the chairs in the wagon Church is over.

Can point... Chasing... A Ford Fender...

Death of Someone Near & Dear!!

IF This happens to him what once in a life time!!

The Conversation with Philip & Andrew which revealed the Need 5-9

John 4: big Food

Philip & Martha made A Great Couple!

Philip Phlegmatic

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Philip is seen as skeptical and slow witted when it comes to the matter of really trusting God to meet his needs.

In Genesis chapter 22 we read that God did test Abraham. In Mark 4 we read that the Lord allowed storm to come up on the sea so that the disciples once more could be tested with regard to their trust in Jesus Christ. It is another example of failure when they say, who is this that even the winds and the seas obey his voice.

Professor: Test: Now I lay me down to rest I hope I pass tomorrow's test. . . .

Jesus often put his men into difficult situations and circumstances to see their reactions. The children of Israel likewise experienced this opposition at the Red Sea and Giants in the Land, which the Lord had promised to them. And so he puts obstacles in our way to try our faith. James 1:2-4, "Consider it all joy my brethren when you encounter various trials. Knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance and let endurance have its perfect result that you may be perfect and complete lacking in nothing."

That was Job's whole deal! This is a Test!!

John goes on to record in this sixth verse that the reason that this was a test was because he himself knew what he was about to be doing.

Isaiah 55 tells us that our thoughts are not his thoughts, our ways are not his ways. For his thoughts are higher than our thoughts and his ways higher than our ways. The Lord already knew what he was going to do in this situation but was going to use the experience to test Philip's ability to trust him in these circumstances.

God Knows what He's doing!

I have chosen this verse as the key verse to this particular study because it contains a vital lesson for us who would desire to grow more in our ability to trust God in circumstances that we do not understand or which seem beyond our capacity to handle. I believe the greatest delight of the Lord is to see his children patiently trusting when the sea is stormy and the way seems dark. Never questioning his purpose and design, nor doubting his goodness, or getting their eyes off of him.

No offering in sight

I am so glad that the Lord knows what he is doing in my life, and that I can trust him to sovereignly control each circumstance to accomplish the maximum benefit for his glory and my growth.

Verse Seven: "Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not enough for them in order that each one might take a little."

Prayer

Philip fails his test of faith because he had his eyes on the bread, the fish, and the multitude instead of upon the Lord. Whenever we have our eyes on the circumstances, we will render a wrong verdict. It is only as we get our eyes upon him that we begin to see the impossible being made possible.

2 Chron. 20: Foot tub Full of shrimp wouldn't even make a dent.

What Are You looking at?

Philip, I'm sure with his phlegmatic temperament, which enjoys humor probably thought in his mind as the Lord makes this request that it was a joke. You've got to be kidding. It would take a years salary for everyone just to have a little bit. Food service for 13 is one thing, but for 5,000 we are going to have to call a catering service. His slide rule and arithmetic computed impossible solution to the problem. Lord, this is ridiculous and impossible.

with crowd pocket calculator

Menu Experience

"I'll trust you for my eternal destiny but I'm Afraid you'll blow The Next 24 hours" * Get your eyes OFF the Process AND Get Focused ON the Promise of the Powerful Sovereign God.

Genesis 22

Mark 4:

Red sea
Giants

1 Peter 4: 12-13
Hot Test

Find out How big + how relevant your God is in the test

Trust + dependence

God's got it all in control

Lord, that's A Tough Assignment but I know you can handle it.

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I don't think we ought to become like Murphy. If you've ever read Murphy's law you know that he was the classic pessimist. He said three things:

1. Nothing is as easy as it looks.
2. Everything takes longer than you think.
3. If anything can go wrong, it will.

Brides and grooms tend to be idealistic. They marry with great, high, beautiful, idealistic hopes about the home, only to have them shattered in the honeymoon or shortly thereafter. Men who plan to take large families on camping trips tend to be idealistic as well! Creative students tend to be idealistic about life. They hate things like schedules and deadlines and appointments and time factors and tests and all those unnecessary things. There is a name, by the way, for those who hate those demands in life. It's unemployed--that's the name you give to people like that!

I don't know if you read the Newsbreak recently but I gave a story that I'd like to relate again today of a man who was a brick mason; and he meant well that morning, but everything went wrong. He filled out this report afterwards: When I got to the building, I found that the hurricane had knocked off some bricks around the top. So I rigged up a beam with a pulley at the top of the buildings and I hoisted up a couple of barrels full of bricks. When I had fixed the damaged area at the top, there were a lot of bricks left over. So I went down to the bottom and began releasing the line. Unfortunately, the barrel of bricks was much heavier than I was. And before I knew what was happening, the barrel started coming down, jerking me up. I decided to hang on, since I was now too far off the ground to jump. And half way up, I met the barrel of bricks coming down fast! I received a hard blow on my shoulder. I then continued to the top, banging my head against the beam and getting my fingers jammed in the pulley! When the barrel hit the ground hard, it burst its bottom, allowing all the bricks to spill out. I was now heavier than the barrel. (My favorite line of the whole report!) So I started down again at high speed. Halfway down I met the barrel coming up fast, and received severe injuries to my shins. When I hit the ground, I landed on the pile of spilled bricks, getting several deep and painful bruises. At this point I must have lost presence of mind because I let go of the grip of the line and the barrel came down fast--giving me another blow on my shoulder and my head, and putting me in the hospital. I respectfully request sick leave.

--Charles R. Swindoll

Love God, Hate Sin, And watch out for Trucks

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT	
Trials	027-329	His love in time past forbids me to think He'll leave me at last in trouble to sink; Each sweet Ebenezer I have in review Confirms His good pleasure to carry me through.	—John Newton p. 208
Trials	027-330	Would you like to be there [heaven] and see yourself pointed at as the one saint who never knew a sorrow? Oh, no! For you would be an alien in the midst of the sacred brotherhood.	—Charles H. Spurgeon pp. 208-09
Trials	027-331	The Lord gets His best soldiers out of the highlands of affliction.	—Charles H. Spurgeon p. 209
Trials	027-332	God could keep us from the furnace, From our paths each trial turn; But he'd have us know the rapture Of the flame that does not burn.	p. 209
Trials	027-333	God has not promised us a quiet journey—only a safe arrival.	p. 209
Trust	027-334	Relying on God has to begin all over again every day as if nothing yet had been done.	—C. S. Lewis p. 209

Suffering

Margaret Clarkson put it this way, "Perhaps the greatest good that suffering can work for a believer is to increase the capacity of his soul for God. The greater our need, the greater will be our capacity; the greater our capacity, the greater will be our experience of God. Can any price be too much for such eternal good?"

p. 62
(36-59)

Suffering

Someone once said, "People who make life fit into a nutshell belong in one." I would not be so naive as to say that people only need to surrender to God and they will be healed. That's a pious pronouncement with little practical benefit. I am trying to point out that if woundedness results in spiritual brokenness, there is not only a much greater sense of catharsis, resolution, and relief, but also a greater chance that inner healing will take place. Also, we better comprehend what God has in mind when we undergo various breaking circumstances.

p. 71
(36-59)

Brokenness

Look around you. The older you get, the more you see people who have lost the twinkle in their eyes. They have endured tough circumstances, but not successfully. There is a wide difference between being weather-beaten and being seasoned and matured. The masses internalize the pain instead of letting it actually be a part of their healing process. Psychosomatic diseases and stress-induced illnesses are often signs of being broken in the wrong places. Agnosticism and atheism can be the result of improper breaking. Other pathological problems such as melancholia, nervous breakdowns, and suicide can be more extensive results of improper brokenness. Being broken in the heart, in the soul, where God can do something with your will and character, is a matter of converting, sanctifying the actual pain, and making it a part of the healing salve. You cannot do it on your own. God must. But you must be willing.

p. 72
(36-59)

Brokenness

In his book, The Fifth Discipline, Peter Senge shares a tragic story which illustrates the fight many of us go through in the brokenness process.

Some years ago, while on an early spring canoe trip in Maine, we had come to a small dam, and put in to shore to portage around the obstacle. A second group arrived, and a young man who had been drinking decided to take his rubber raft over the dam. When the raft overturned after going over the dam, he was dumped into the freezing water. Unable to reach him, we watched in horror as he struggled desperately to swim downstream against the backwash at the base of the dam. His

struggle lasted only a few minutes; then he died of hypothermia. Immediately, his limp body was sucked down into the swirling water. Seconds later, it popped up, ten yards downstream, free of the maelstrom at the base of the dam. Ironically, it was his very struggle against the forces at the base of the dam that killed him. He didn't know that the only way out was counterintuitive. If he hadn't tried to keep his head above water, but instead dived down to where the current flowed downstream, he would have survived. What he had tried in vain to achieve in the last moments of his life, the currents accomplished for him within seconds after his death.

*We scream
Struggle
Squirm
everything before
we submit!*

p. 86

(36-59)

Manhood

*We are standing on the brink of blessing
brokenness is the key to opening the windows of heaven!!*

The grace of God makes a man godly, and then proceeds to make him manly.

--Henrietta Mears

p. 104

(36-60)

Self

Most of us never consider giving up the right to be ourselves. In fact, we often promote that "right" as a necessary requirement to finding fulfillment and self-actualization. But Jesus never sang the song "I've Gotta Be Me." Psychologists counsel us to find ourselves. The Bible says you will not really find yourself until you lose yourself--in God. There is a Ziggy cartoon in which Ziggy is talking to himself in the mirror. "Who are you?" he finally asks himself. Discouraged that he made little progress toward self-discovery, Ziggy walks away. The reflection in the mirror is watching him leave and says, "Get over yourself, Ziggy." That's pretty good theology.

p. 108

(36-60)

Self

Larry Crabb writes, "All our relationship problems spring from one place--the foul well of selfishness. More than anything, what gets in the way of getting along is self-centeredness that seems reasonable [my right]. Poor communication, temper problems, unhealthy responses to dysfunctional family backgrounds, co-dependent relationships, and personal incompatibility--everything (unless medically caused) flows out of the cesspool of self-centeredness." We become particularly self-interested when we are in pain, whether because of a bad mood or problems. "We use our suffering to excuse our self-interest. When our Lord hurt, other-centeredness came naturally: 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.'"

p. 109

(36-60)

Self

Our culture says, "If you've got it, flaunt it; if you don't have it, fake it 'til you make it."

p. 112

(36-60)

Verse Eight: "One of his disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter is saying to him,"

Food service
Public Relations
Andrew comes into the picture because Philip and Andrew were real good friends. You could sort of call them the Nutty Buddies among the 12. ** They enjoyed so much laughing and carrying on with each other because of their temperaments. *this is their home town.*

Verse Nine: "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are these for so many people."

Philip looked at it strictly from a monetary point of view, and came with the solution of impossible even if a year's salary was involved and Andrew looks at it strictly from the available food resources and likewise renders the same solution. But what are these for so many people."

Andrew, because of his friendly disposition, was in charge of public relations and had already found a little guy who had five barley loaves and a couple of fish. It was really unselfish of the little guy to be willing to share what he had to help meet the present need. With a diet Pepsi, a couple bags of Fritos, and a Twinkie, he could have had a great lunch all by himself.

I'm sure this suggestion from Andrew even increased his disbelief. Such little food and such a big crowd. Everyone knows that that is not enough to hardly care for one let alone caring for the needs of over 5,000.

When All else Fails try Jesus!
Now that Jesus has set the stage for the miracle, we will witness the response of Jesus to the situation before us in verses 10-13 by the performance of this miracle.

Verse Ten: "Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place so the men sat down the number about five thousand."

Mark records the fact that the people were asked to sit down in groups of fifties and one hundreds so that the Lord could take care of their physical needs in an orderly fashion.

Although Philip and Andrew representing the rest of the disciples flunked the test of faith, they certainly are successful in the matter of obedience. * Because they got the full cooperation of the great crowd and got them sitting in orderly groups.

Verse Eleven: "Then Jesus took the loaves and having given thanks he distributed them to those who were seated. Likewise also of the fish as much as they wanted."

There are four things that are contained in this 11th verse for our instruction. First, he took the loaves. Secondly, he gave thanks for the loaves. Third, he broke them, and fourth, distributed them to those who were seated.

The other records tell us that as he broke the bread, he gave it to his disciples who in turn gave it to the people in the seated companies.

He Took - He Blessed - He broke - He Used

Their Greatest Resource is Standing Them!
The Bread of Life!
The Need Exceeds Our Resources!
it Always will if you are looking at it where Jesus is.
50's - 100's
Boss gets serious!!

What a graphic lesson this is of what the Lord Jesus would like to do with us. Paul says in Romans 12:1,2 "I beg you to present your bodies a living sacrifice holy acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Once we give ourselves to him and he gives thanks, he breaks us and then he uses us to maximum benefit in his service.

Philip and Andrew, I would like to do this with you. I am famous for the impossible. Little is much when I am in it.

How often times we fail because we figure without God. We fail to take the Lord Jesus into account. We keep a separation between the sacred and the secular and as a result, never experience the tremendous blessing that could be ours when the Lord is the Lord of our business, our marriage, our future, and our families.

It was William Carry who said, "Expect great things from God and attempt great things for God."

The main lesson that we need to get from this miracle is that Jesus supplies all of our needs, as we come to him. He is the one who provides, we are the ones who distribute. He takes what we have and he multiplies it. The more you give away, the more you get.

There was not lack, in fact, everybody was satisfied in that they had as much as they wanted.

Verse Twelve: "Now when they were satisfied, he is saying to his disciples, "Gather up what they left in the way of fragments in order that nothing may be lost."

As the disciples began moving about, and gathering up what was left over from the feast that the multitude had enjoyed, impressed upon their mind is how the Lord took something so small and insignificant as a little lads lunch and performed such an impossible task of feeding this huge crowd. It has always been that way that the Lord used small insignificant things to accomplish his purposes. He used a shepherds rod in the hand of Moses to deliver the children of Israel. He used a sling and a stone to give David the victory over Goliath. He used a little child to teach the great lessons of the kingdom, and may I say he can use you.

Verse Thirteen: "Then they gathered them up and they filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves, which were left over by those who had eaten"

Each of the disciples had a basket and they filled their basket with fragments from the loaves.

This reminds us of chapter 2 when he makes 18-27 gallons of wine miraculously to exceed all of the needs for the remainder of the wedding feast. This reminds us also of Ephesians 3 verse 20. "Now to him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works within us."

Takes what we have

Shepherd's Rod

Scarlet Cord

Sling

Little child

Each basket

An object lesson

of how the

Lord + uses

care of things

Jacob
its enough

Emmaeus

How beautifully the Lord provides when we are just willing to trust him. Each of them were catching a fresh revelation of who Jesus really was as they were gathering their baskets filled with fragments. Their experience was similar to the disciples on the road to Emaus in Luke 24 beginning with verse 28, "And they approached the village where they were going, and he acted as though he would go farther, and they urged him saying stay with us for it is getting toward evening and the day is now nearly over. And he went in to stay with them, and it came about that when he had reclined a table with them, he took the bread and blessed it and breaking it he began giving it to them, and their eyes were opened and they recognized him and he vanished from their sight. And they said to one another, Were not our hearts burning within us while he was speaking to us on the road, while he was explaining the Scriptures to us."

IV

In verse 14 we get the response to the miracle that has just taken place.

Verse Fourteen: "Then the people having seen the attesting miracle, which he performed were saying, "This man is truly the prophet who is coming into the world."

The people's response to the miracle is "this man is truly the prophet, who is coming into the world."

Dueteronomy 18: 15-18 "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you from your countrymen, you shall listen to him. This is according to all that you ask of the Lord your God in Horeb on the day of the assembly saying let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God, let me not see this great fire anymore, lest I die. And the Lord said to me, "They have spoken well. I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you and I will put my words in his mouth and he shall speak to them all that I command him."

CONCLUSION:

Back off from the passage!

From this snapshot of the Saviour, there are several lessons that we can learn. First, often times the Lord tests our faith and trust in him by the circumstances that come into our lives. And these circumstances seem impossible from the human point of view.

Repeat the course

- 1 Philip and Andrew both failed the test of faith that was placed upon them.
- 2 The failure of these two men is seen in the fact that they did not take Jesus into account when they were discerning their resources.
- 3 Little is a lot when the Lord is in it.
- 4 It is the Lord's desire to take us, to give thanks, to break us, and to use us in his service. Bless us
- 5 The Lord is famous for using little and insignificant things to accomplish his purposes.
- 6 The Lord always provided for our need as we are willing to come to him, and he does this in super abundance. We see this in both of the snapshots in chapter 2 and now in chapter 6.

⑧ When our eyes are on the circumstances, we can't do a thing, but when we get our eyes upon the Lord, he takes what we have and multiplies to meet the need.

⑨ He is the one who provides, we distribute.

⑩ The more you give away, the more you get. II Cor. 9:7

It is our prayer that the Lord will use this fourth snapshot to impress upon you some very valid and rich lessons that will make your life and relationship to the Lord more meaningful.

Have you given Him the little lunch of your life?

He wants it.

Rev. 3:20

He is No Fool who gives what he cannot keep to Gain what He cannot lose... Jim Elliott.

⑪ The Test is designed to teach us trust + dependence

Are You Broken?

Psalm 51:17 "The Sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken & contrite heart, O God, You will not despise."

Psalm 34:18 "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

Have Their own way Lord! Have Their own way!

- Next Page
- ① To accept Christ will cost You Nothing.
 - ② To Follow Christ will cost You Something.
 - ③ To Serve Christ will cost You Everything.

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
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Trials

✓ 060-03

God doesn't want to discourage you or to spoil you. Embrace the difficult circumstances you find yourself in—even when you feel they will overwhelm you. Allow God to mold you through the events He allows to enter your life. This will make you flexible toward the will of God. The events of life are like a furnace for the heart. All your impurities are melted and your old ways are lost.

As for the humiliation you feel when you see your faults—simply see how sensitive your self-love is. The pain you feel at your own imperfection is worse than the faults themselves. Your problem really is that you become so irritated by seeing your faults. Learn to live with yourself as you really are without being so upset. If you do this, you will soon have peace.

Patiently endure the ups and downs of everyday life. Behind every annoying circumstance, learn to see God governing all things. See that He trains you through troubling situations as well as through pleasant ones. The intrusions that God sends you will no doubt upset your plans and oppose all that you want. But they will also chase you toward God. Sit still before Him and yield your will to Him. Your unbending will shall begin to learn flexibility.

Everything that comes from God's hand produces good fruit. Sometimes the annoyances that make you long for solitude are better for producing humility than the most complete solitude could be. Use the circumstances of each moment to the fullest. Sometimes an exciting book, or an inspiring devotional time, or a deep conversation about spiritual matters will make you feel extremely satisfied with yourself. You will believe that you are farther along than you really are. Talking about the cross is not at all the same as experiencing it. So remember this: Do not seek annoying circumstances, but when they come bear them in peace. It is easy to delude yourself! Do not seek God as if He were far off in an ivory castle. He is found in the middle of the events of your everyday life. Look past the obstacles and find Him.
pp. 14-15

Criticism

✓ 060-04

Don't be angry about what people say. Just follow God and let them talk. As far as people are concerned, you will never be able to satisfy them. Silence, peace, and union with God should comfort you from all that people speak against you.
p. 16

6. Humility produces a teachable spirit. Good leaders are learners. That is why leaders need to learn humility. Humble people know that they do not know everything, and recognize the multiple nuances that operate when more than one perception is involved in a situation. Humble people practice one of the most important behaviors of learning-- they listen a lot. Beware the proud leader claiming to have all the answers. Humble people ask questions more than they give answers. Although Jesus was called Teacher, one of his favorite teaching styles was to answer questions by asking other questions.

7. Humility is gracious and thankful. Perhaps this is a lost quality in our culture. We are all too aware of our rights and demand them even beyond what normal law affords. If you receive a coin with humility on one side, thankfulness would be on the other. It is very hard to be truly gracious and proud. Unthankfulness may just be the worst sin in the Bible. The Children of Israel were constantly being condemned for their unthankful attitudes throughout the years. Jesus told the parable of the ten lepers, where only one returned to say, "Thanks." The New Testament reminds us to give thanks, always.

Humility is the best soil test for showing us whether brokenness has occurred in the right place. It is good news that humus is present, because the decaying of the dead, sinful nature gives hope of a fertile soil for fruitbearing. When, and only when, the soil has been prepared, can we go ahead and concern ourselves with further cultivation and nurturing of the plant.

pp. 176-8"
(36-64) "One definition of Insanity is to believe that you can keep on doing what you've been doing & get different results!"

Brokenness

Unity is the high water mark of spirituality, and there is no unity without humility, and there's little true humility without brokenness. The John 17 paradigm declares unity to be goal of all believers. Pride, arrogance, ignorance and culture keep believers from following the pattern of the Trinity. Brokenness leads to repentance which issues into reconciliation. Reconciliation releases the power of God. God wrestles with all of us and cripples us even as he crippled Jacob. Pain plants the flag of truth in a rebel heart. Yes, God has used brokenness as a powerful tool in my life. It is in those dark hours that God becomes vital and real, and character is forged in the process.

the

p. 197
(36-64) Peterson Here!
"it would be dangerous for G. to empower An unbroken person."
--Joe Aldrich

Servanthood

Eugene Peterson wrote, "The moment I begin exercising my will, I've put a fox in charge of the hen house. My will is my glory."
p. 253

Don't give us things...

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Frank E. Graeff, author of this hymn text, knew what it was to wonder, as most of God's children do at times, if the Lord is really concerned during our times of hurt, when the burdens and cares weigh heavily, when the way seems dark, when temptation seems difficult to resist, or when we must part with our dearest loved one. Yet the answer comes back triumphantly: "I know my Savior cares!"

Known as the "sunshine minister" of the Methodist denomination in the churches of the Philadelphia conference, Frank Graeff was widely liked for his cheerful and winsome personality. C. Austin Miles, writer of the hymn "In the Garden," said to him:

He is a spiritual optimist, a great friend of children; his bright sun-shining disposition attracts not only children but all with whom he comes in contact. He has a holy magnetism and a child-like faith.

Unknown to others, however, were the many severe testing experiences in Mr. Graeff's life. It was during a time of severe physical agony, doubt, and despondency that he turned to the Scriptures for comfort and strength. First Peter 5:7, which says, "Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you," became especially meaningful to him in this time of need. He wrote the lines of "Does Jesus Care?" to express the feelings of assurance that came to him. Mr. Graeff wrote more than 200 hymns in his lifetime, but none has been more consoling to God's people than this text:

Does Jesus care when my heart is pained too deeply for mirth and song, as the burdens press, and the cares distress, and the way grows weary and long?

Does Jesus care when my way is dark with nameless dread and fear? As the daylight fades into deep night shades, does He care enough to be near?

Does Jesus care when I've tried and failed to resist some temptation strong, when for my deep grief I find not relief, tho my tears flow all the night long?

Does Jesus care when I've said good bye to the dearest on earth to me, and my sad heart aches till it nearly breaks--Is it aught to Him? Does He see?

Chorus: O yes, He cares--I know He cares! His heart is touched with my grief; when the days are weary, the long nights dreary, I know my Savior cares.

PUTTING OTHERS FIRST

PHILIPPIANS 2:4

Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Theodore Roosevelt's child once jabbed, "Father always had to be the center of attention. When he went to a wedding, he wanted to be the bride. When he went to a funeral, he was sorry that he couldn't be the corpse."

Although we may find humor in this illustration, it reflects a harmful "me-first" philosophy. This philosophy can best be defined by the motto, "Look out for number one." Self is enthroned as king; people, circumstances, and life are subjects that must bow down. After all, every individual deserves to be happy. Embracing this philosophy, self becomes the epicenter of the world. But according to God's Word, self is not to be the focal point of our lives. God's plan is for us to focus our thoughts, time, and energy on loving Him and others (Matthew 22:36-39).

If you were to write your life motto, what would it say? Look out for number one? Or look out for the needs of others? Ask God to help you live a selfless life.

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
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Servanthood

052-10

The Chaplain

He was just a small church parson when the war broke out, and
he

Looked and dressed and acted like all parsons that we see.

He wore the cleric's broadcloth and he hooked his vest behind,
But he had a man's religion and he had a strong man's mind,
And he heard the call to duty, and he quit his church and went,
And he bravely tramped right with 'em everywhere the boys were
sent.

He put aside his broadcloth and he put the khaki on;
Said he'd come to be a soldier and was going to live like one.
Then he refereed the prize fights that the boys pulled off at night,
And if no one else was handy he'd put on the gloves and fight.
He wasn't there a fortnight ere he saw the soldiers' needs,
And he said: "I'm done with preaching; this is now the time for
deeds."

He learned the sound of shrapnel, he could tell the size of shell
From the shriek it make above him, and he knew just where it
fell.

In the front line trench he labored, and he knew the feel of mud,
And he didn't run from danger and he wasn't scared of blood.

He wrote letters for the wounded, and he cheered them with his
~~jokes~~; *Tales*

And he never made a visit without passing round the ~~smokes~~; *mails*.

Then one day a bullet got him, as he knelt beside a lad
Who was going west; right speedy, and they both seemed mighty
glad,

'Cause he held the boy's hand tighter, and he smiled and
whispered low,

"Now you needn't fear the journey; over there with you I'll go."
And they both passed out together, arm in arm I think they went.
He had kept his vow to follow everywhere the boys were sent.

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"going west"

4-30
WP



Truck Driver Powerfully Communicated a Simple Faith

Keywords: Boldness; Confessing Christ; Conversion; Dying to Self; Evangelism; Glorifying God; Human Limitations; Humility; Ministers; Ministry; Preaching; Salvation; Simplicity; Soul-winners; Soul-winning; Speech; Testimony; Witness; Witnessing; Zeal

Filters: Famous People, Christian Culture, Popular Culture, Weekly Updates, Stories, Everyday Disciples

References: Proverbs 29: 23 ; Matthew 18:4 ; Mark 16:15 ; Acts 1:8 ; Acts 8 ; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 ; 1 Corinthians 2:1-13

Tone: Positive

In the year he was elected president, Jimmy Carter was one of three men invited to speak to the 17,000 delegates at the Southern Baptist Convention. Each had a five-minute time limit.

The first of the three presenters was the eloquent evangelist, Billy Graham. The speaker following Graham was a truck driver. The man was not well educated, and seated beside the next U.S. president, the truck driver shared that he had never given a speech in his life. Nervously he confessed, "I don't think I can live through it. I just can't do it."

After Billy Graham gave his powerful talk, the truck driver rose to speak and stood silently before the audience. Taking a glass of water handed to him, he mumbled into the microphone.

"I was always drunk, and didn't have any friends. The only people I knew were men like me who hung around the bars in the town where I lived."

The truck driver went on to describe how someone told him about Christ. Once becoming a Christian, he wanted to tell others about the Lord. Spending time in Bible study and with other Christian men prepared him for witnessing. Since he felt comfortable in barrooms, he decided to talk to people there. The bartender wasn't sympathetic, telling the new convert he was bad for business and a nuisance.

Not discouraged, the truck driver kept on with his mission, and in time the people at the bar began asking questions. He said, "At first they treated me like a joke, but I kept up with the questions and when I couldn't answer one, I went and got the answer and came back with it. Fourteen of my friends became Christians."

Carter writes, "The truck driver's speech, of course, was the highlight of the convention. I don't believe anyone who was there will ever forget that five-minute fumbling statement—or remember what I or even Billy Graham had to say."

Citation: Jimmy Carter, Sources of Strength, Meditations on Scripture for a Living Faith (Times Books, 1997), pp. 71-72; submitted by Ted De Hass, Bedford, Iowa

When you wake up to serve - God is going to use you to bear fruit in the lives of others!