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ONS TO OUR MINISTRY ARE TAD

THE BIRTHDAY OF THE STARS AND STRIPES, JUNE 14TH, 1917

Points to Ponder Below are two short articles taken from a list of over 100 that Ed wrote covering numerous topics that he called,

"Points to Ponder."

The Price Of Hogs, January, 1996

I asked a farmer recently about the price of hogs. He said a good rule of thumb for a hog just big enough to take to the stock yards would be about \$100.00. Then I thought of what happened to the 2,000 hogs that were drowned in the story of the Gadarene Demoniac. No wonder the towns' people wanted Jesus to leave. They had tried every way to control the two men with the legion of demons and failed. Jesus did what they could not do, but it cost the town \$200,000.

Owing \$200,000 is a big dent in the local economy. They would have been glad to have Jesus heal the men but not at that price. They would have advised the Lord not to go hog wild. Jesus was too expensive. Jesus costs too much. Besides all that money was wasted on just two men.

Actually sin is the most expensive thing in the world. If you have been pardoned, the price fell on Jesus at the cross. If you have not been pardoned, the price will fall on you on the Day of Judgement.

It takes about \$200,000 each year to bring the "God Is Just A Prayer Away" radio broadcast each week. \$200,000 here \$200,000 there in about five years runs into real money. Actually about a million dollars. It is the Lord's money and every time someone tells us they have been immersed into Christ for the remission of sins we have to ask the question-was it worth \$200,000? *Is Jesus too expensive?*

One woman wrote recently to say that she had listened for six years and taped the sermons and passed them on to a friend. I baptized her into Christ for the remission of her sins. Think about that-it took six years. The cost was well over a million dollars for just that one convert. Surely she is not worth that much money. *Jesus is too expensive*.

We learned a few days ago of a young man in Bible College who is a youth minister, but who now wants to get into the preaching ministry because he likes the type of preaching done on the radio program. We must ask again-is one recruit to the preaching ministry worth \$200,000? *Is Jesus too expensive?*

Heaven is expensive but not nearly as expensive as hell. That which we believe being true, there is nothing worse in life for a man than to live a Christless life, die a Christless death, to be put into a Christless casket, buried in a Christless



grave, raised up in a Christless resurrection, stand in a Christless Judgement and then go to a Christless hell. *Is Jesus too expensive?*

Jesus must have thought the price was worth it because He said, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Four Popular Questions, July, 1997

There are four popular questions that are asked by listeners on the "God Is Just A Prayer Away Broadcast." Four questions that we usually do not waste valuable time to answer. The questions may be good questions, but I have never been able to answer either one of them to anyone's satisfaction, so a quick glance at the contents and into the trash basket they go. The reason we do not answer is because it does no good to answer. No one is ever convinced. So here they are.

Question Number One regards the thief on the cross. We have dissected the thief many times, and yet they continue to talk about being saved like the thief without being baptized. 'The thief was not baptized so why should we?'' I no longer answer such letters. It is a waste of time. Into file thirteen it goes.

Question Number Two regards instrumental music. No matter what answer you give they are never satisfied and the letters will keep coming until you stop responding. A quick glance at the contents and into the waste basket it goes.

Question Number Three regards the Sabbath. Every time I mention the Lord's Day someone will write and remind me that Sunday worship is a pagan holiday. Nothing you can say changes anything so a quick glance at the contents and again it winds up in the trash basket.

Question Number Four regards baptism in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Every time I read the Great Commission in Matthew in a radio message, I can count on reviewing several letters blasting me for not using the name of Jesus only. Again a quick glance at the contents and into the waste basket it goes.

Trying to answer these questions is like trying to talk to Sheeba. Sheeba is my German Shepherd dog. One night Sheeba went into the kitchen for a late night snack. She opened a garbage bag and spread the goodies all over the kitchen floor and pigged out. Perhaps I should say dogged out. The following is the speech that was made to Sheeba.

"Sheeba, I have had it with you. Sheeba, if you ever do this again you are outta here! Sheeba do you understand me? Sheeba if you even look at garbage again you have had it Sheeba."

That is the speech that was made to Sheeba, but since Sheeba only understands about six English words this is the way that Sheeba heard my speech. Quote: "Sheeba, blah, blah, blah, blah, Sheeba. Blah, blah, blah, blah, Sheeba. Blah, blah, blah, blah, Sheeba. Blah, blah, blah." Unquote.

That is the way people hear the answers to those four questions as well as much of everything else I preach. Every week I say to people; Ladies and Gentlemen, salvation, damnation, 0 beloved brethren, repentance, the Lord's Supper. Dear Friends, the plan of salvation. I speak of heaven, hell, the Judgement to come, Dear ones.

That is my message every week, but since people don't understand Bible language this is the way they hear me. Quote: "Ladies and Gentlemen, blah, blah

Actually many of these folk like to hear me preach, they tell me so, but I can tell from the response they give that all they really hear is blah, blah, blah, blah, blah.

A STRANGE MIRACLE October, 1998

The miracle of the changing of water into wine was a strange miracle. If you look carefully the bridegroom didn't come in on crutches. The bridegroom did not have leprosy. The bridegroom was not deaf. The bridegroom did not have a legion of demons living in him. The bridegroom was not dead. The bridegroom did not have a fever. The bridegroom did not have the dropsy. In fact the bridegroom did not even have the most popular malady that New Testament people seem to have, something called divers diseases. So how come the Lord worked this miracle of changing the water into wine just for His benefit?

It must have been because the Lord is concerned not only about the great events that threaten our health and life, but He is also interested in the everyday affairs as well. The bridegroom would have been embarrassed to run out of refreshment at a time like this and so the Lord saved the day with the miracle.

The Lord is interested in our everyday life also. He is interested in our activities, in such things as our day time chores. Naomi is a very spiritual person. She fixes breakfast for me every morning. Most of the time she fixes bacon, or sausage and eggs; sometimes old country ham and eggs; home ground grits are cooked and sometimes red eye gravy. Sliced tomatoes appear on my plate along with three or four cups of hot black coffee, not to mention a generous amount of jelly. Rarely do I eat any toast. Who needs toast with all the rest of those goodies? The reason she does this is because she has such great spirituality. Fixing breakfast is a spiritual activity. If the Lord was concerned about the bridegroom and worked a miracle at Cana, we can be sure that He is just as concerned about me eating breakfast in Lynchburg. Naomi prepares herself for this daily morning chore by arising and reading the Bible for forty-five minutes to an hour. If any of you men in the New Testament Church have wives that do not render this God given service please send me her name. I will pray daily that she will become more spiritual. And remember the Lord is concerned about what goes on in the kitchen at your house as He was in the kitchen of that house in Cana of Galilee.

I asked Naomi what she thought of this article, and she thought it was GREAT!

WWJD – December, 1998

Ever since I have been hearing those letters and reading those letters W.W.J.D. there has been something about them that bugs me. The first time I heard about them was when someone wrote me a letter and told me about something I had said in a sermon and suggested that I should always remember W.W.J.D. I did not know what those letters meant, but in the next line I was told it meant WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?

The writer meant that if I had done what Jesus would have done, I would not have preached that sermon or at least a part of it. I looked over the manuscript of that message and found the place in question and after reading it, I concluded that I had done exactly what Jesus would have done. I also concluded that the writer of the letter who told me to remember W.W.J.D. did not know what Jesus would have done. To the person who wrote the letter W.W.J.D meant that Jesus would do what they thought Jesus would do.

To do what you think Jesus would do, may not be doing what Jesus would do at all. Some folk who say W.W.J.D. have no idea what Jesus would do. How can you know what Jesus would do if you have never read the eighty nine chapters of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John?

Then there are others who wear W.W.J.D. and to them it means that Jesus would always do what their denomination teaches. There again W.W.J.D. may not be what Jesus would do at all; this reminds me of the late great agnostic Robert Ingersoll. Someone asked him if when he died and found himself standing before Jesus at the Judgment what would he say to the Lord at the moment he was about to be cast into Hell. Ingersoll said that he would say, "I forgive you Lord, do unto others as you would have them do unto you." I suppose that was his way of saying W.W.J.D. When we say W.W.J.D. we need to understand what it was that Jesus would really do. One time a preacher in Lynchburg came up with the idea that the members of all the churches in town should meet in front of the local school house at a given hour. We would march downtown waving the America flag and the Christian flag, singing hymns and march into one of the local saloons have prayer and one of us preach a sermon on the evils of booze. I declined the invitation. I did not know it at the time, but my reason for not going along with it was W.W.J.D. What would Jesus do? I know what Jesus would do in a similar situation. When He cast the legion of demons out of the wild man at Gadara they told Him to leave. In a situation like that what did Jesus do? W.W.J.D. Jesus would not insist in preaching in a place where He was told to leave. So He got into the boat with the Apostles and left. And that is W.W.J.D.

Letters

Sister Naomi, Praise God! Thanks so much for the opportunity to study the word with you. I had no idea you'd authored a Bible Study. It's been a true pleasure.

Sam, Welch, WV

JOHN MASEKA and the Churches he ministers to:







My Dear Sister Naomi, We received the Bibles. We need more Bibles and Bible story books.

I had a safe journey to visit the Churches in chief Mujimanzovu and Mumena, 85 km away from Solwezi town, Kyansange and Lukendo turn off Churches of Christ. Thank you for your prayers during this period of time. I encouraged our brothers and sisters in the Lord with the message about Lot's wife. I said. to look back like Lot can have disastrous consequen-ces, but to look back and see the evidence of God's hand at work is a positive faith building exercise. About three women and men stood two to repent; the message touched many who confessed while sitting and listening.

Straight from Kya-sange, I went to Luken-do turn off Church. I shared the same message about Lots wife. Only two brothers stood to repent. All the brothers and sisters were very happy to see me and for the message. The sad thing is that our sister congregations have no fruit of the vine for the Lords' supper. Attached are the pictures.

I am asking you to pray for the Churches in town and those in rural areas. And pray for me, too, that God will continue to help me keep my eyes on Him and use me in whatever ways He sees fit. I am thankful for your prayers and continued support. We pray for your good health. God continue to bless you.We are looking forward hearing from you very soon.

Many thanks, John Maseka, evangelist to Messenger Church of Christ, Zambia, Central Africa

I am writing you today in regards to your Bible Study correspondence program. I am currently incarcerated in Huntsville, TX at the Holliday Orientation and Transfer Facility. Have encountered another person within my housing unit whom which relayed your information to me. I am interested in furthering my education in the Bible as well as seeking spiritual guidance; with high hopes of never leading the path which brought me to where I am now. I humbly ask of you for a Bible and Bible Studies. Thank you!

God bless. Paul

Dear Sir/Madam,

A few days ago I had the possibility to receive one of your programs. About this reception I'm sending you a letter regarding the quality of the signal. It was sunny and 46 degrees. I'm 60 years old. I made an apprenticeship as radio-TV technician. Now I'm working in a telecommunication company. Radio listening is my favorite hobby for more than 40 years. I live in a village 10 miles outside of Zurich, the biggest city in Switzerland called Schwerzenbach. The reception was excellent signal strength, no interference. The message was called "Perfect

Conversation" from John 4, the program was called, "God Is Just A Prayer Away," Short Wave - Bible Voice-Europe.

Hello, my name is Glen Dale.

I'm locked up in Montgomery County jail headed to T.D.C. The reason I'm contacting you is to see if I can get a Bible for me and my wife. My wife is incarcerated also but she is going home May 1st. I would like for us to be on the same page, therefore asking you to send a Bible to me and one to her along with Bible Studies.

Thank you, Glen Dale and Sherry

I just started a 70 year sentence in Texas for drug possession. A man I met in Huntsville, TX gave me this address. He told me I could get a Bible and Bible Studies from you. If this is true, I very much want a Bible and any Bible Studies you can supply me.

Thank you. Mark

My name is Nathan and I am currently in T.D.C. I am in need of a KJV Bible. I have written to the Chaplin at this unit but all they have to offer is the NIV. I have weighed the evidence and this version proves to be inferior. I pray that you can help me out. God bless you and your ministry.

Beeville, TX

Hello my name is Shawn, and I am currently in Galveston County Jail. Some of my fellow inmates are doing your Bible Studies. They informed me also that you send Bibles to inmates. I would really appreciate it if you would send me one along with your studies so I can further my walk in Christ Jesus. May God bless you and your ministry on your mission to save lost souls. I also pray that He blesses and watches over your families. Thank you for everything.

Galveston, TX

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY The greatest Father of all is our HEAVENLY FATHER!



Return Service Requested

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