

The purpose of this publication is to spread the truth, to sow God's good seed, the Word of God, and to confront religious error for the good of men's souls. Editor: Allen Dvorak

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God's people in the right way (1 Kings 3:5-15). He built a temple for the Lord; he loved the Lord (1 Kings 3:3). If someone had approached the king in the early years of his reign and asked him if he intended to go and worship false gods, I am confident that he would have vehemently denied the possibility!

And yet we read of his apostasy in 1 Kings 11, drawn away by his love for foreign women. The same man who built the temple for the Lord also built temples for false gods on the very outskirts of Jerusalem. How unexpected!

If someone had asked Judas at the beginning of his time with Jesus, "Would you be willing to betray your Master for 30 pieces of silver?" I am confident that he would have been aghast. Betray the Master? Are you kidding? Yet the same man who saw countless miracles would later secretly conspire with the chief priests against Jesus for the paltry sum of 30 pieces of silver! Something happened to Judas so

that he became the betrayer of the Just and Innocent.

I have spoken with Christians in the past, brothers and sisters who were sporadic in their attendance. I saw the waning of their interest in spiritual things, like Bible study, and their willingness to be absent from their brethren at services for whatever "excuse" they believed others might accept. "Oh, no! I am not falling away! I'm as strong as I ever was. You don't need to worry about me."

Famous last words.

Editor's Note: With this issue I am moving to different software for the layout of the bulletin. The articles will still be the same lame, boring material, but the layout will become smoother as I get more proficient with the software.

Bible Challenge Question - Answer

God appeared to Abraham in Genesis 17 to inform him that Sarai would bear him a son. Ishmael had already been born and was 13 years old. Abraham was 99 years old. This was also the occasion on which the covenant of circumcision was instituted.



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Last Words

By Allen Dvorak

The joke is that the last words of many a southern redneck were: "Hey, ya'll – watch this!" Unexpected calamity immediately followed. Unexpected by the redneck, but foreseeable by virtually anyone else!

You don't have to be a redneck to fall prey to the unexpected. Sometimes just being over-confident is enough. Take, for example, the experience of Peter on the night that Jesus was betrayed. Peter declared his faithfulness, especially in contrast to the other apostles:

³⁰ And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ³¹ Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' ³² But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." ³³ Peter answered him, "Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away."

-- Matthew 26:30-33; ESV

Peter saw himself as being stronger, more faithful than the others. But the Lord then made a specific prediction about Peter:

³⁴ Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." ³⁵ Peter said to him, "Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!" And all the disciples said the same.

-- Matthew 26:34-35; ESV

When Jesus predicted that Peter would deny Him three times that very night, Peter apparently felt the need to strengthen his declaration of faithfulness – not even at the cost of death would he deny the Lord! Famous last words.

It was Peter, of course, who drew his sword and tried to take the life of one of those who came to arrest Jesus, cutting off his ear (Matthew 26:51). Perhaps he [continued on page 3]

The Real Jesus: The Perfect Example

By Allen Dvorak



Text: _____

A disciple is literally a _____.

We “follow” Jesus as we _____ to His word and _____ His example.

Some biblical people we can imitate:

1. _____ – _____
2. _____ – _____
3. _____ – _____
4. _____ – _____
5. _____ – _____

All of these men were _____!

Jesus is a _____ example.

We can imitate Jesus in:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

“Be imitators of me, as I am of _____.”
1 Corinthians 11:1; ESV

Although he was a son, he learned _____ through what he suffered.

And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all

who _____ him,

-- Hebrews 5:____; ESV

“So what if our forefathers had to haul water from the well? At least they didn’t have to stay up nights trying to figure out how to pay for the bucket.”

-- Dave Ramsey

was attempting to follow through on his declarations, but the Lord rebuked him for his action. Soon afterward, Peter fled with the rest of the disciples (Matthew 26:56b).

Peter was not done for the night; with the help of John (? – John 18:15-16), he gained entrance into the courtyard of the high priest where, no doubt out of fear, Peter fulfilled the prophecy of Jesus by denying Him three times. A month earlier, even earlier that same evening, Peter never dreamed that he would be guilty of denying the Master he loved!

If Cain had been asked prior to the rejection of his sacrifice to God about murdering his brother Abel, I suspect that he would have been shocked by the suggestion. They were BROTHERS! Maybe he would have protested that he loved his brother; how could he do such a terrible thing?! But then Abel’s sacrifice was accepted by God and Cain’s was not (Genesis 4:1-7). Cain’s

jealousy and anger turned him into a murderer.

What would king David have said, if someone had asked him about committing adultery with his neighbor’s wife? I suspect that David, the sweet psalmist of Israel, would have protested that he would do no such thing! Adultery was punished with death by stoning and, after all, he was a “man after God’s own heart.” He had steadfastly refused to raise his hand against Saul, the Lord’s anointed, even when no man would have blamed him, because it was not right.

And then he saw Bathsheba bathing and his lust overrode his commitment to God (2 Samuel 11). She was a very beautiful woman and her husband was gone, off to battle with the army of Israel. The same man who penned some of the most eloquent affirmations of faith and trust in God committed adultery with his neighbor’s wife and, if that wasn’t bad enough, schemed to have the husband put to death. How selfish! How worldly! How unexpected! But David let his guard down and the devil took him hostage.

David’s son, Solomon, was quite a different matter, he would assure us! He humbly asked the Lord, in the beginning of his reign, for wisdom so that he might lead

Bible Challenge Question

How old was Abraham when God told him that Sarai would bear him a son?

The answer to this question is on the back page.