



OAK GROVE ENCOURAGER

“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works” Hebrews 10:24

NOVEMBER 19, 2006

RUNNING ON EMPTY

The tell tale lurching of his iron chariot was followed by the involuntary smack to the forehead with the palm of his hand. Why had he allowed his so-called frugality, aka pride, to pass by that gas station 30 miles back? Half an hour ago as the lights of the filling station were disappearing in his rearview mirror he rationalized his decision not to stop was good economics. The price per gallon of gas had been 3 cents higher than most everyone else and hey, 3 cents was 3 cents.

But as the endless road ahead of him emptied into the horizon with nothing in sight except sand and sagebrush the last of the vaporous fuel spilled through the tailpipe into the atmosphere and left his vehicle lifeless alongside that lonely highway. His decision

to save less than dollar would now cost him in a different way, that of time and the utter feeling of helplessness.

SPIRITUALLY OUT OF GAS

I believe we all have times when we find ourselves short on the energy needed to continue on in our daily tasks. Whether it's the mother at her wits end concerning her children, the man who collapses in the recliner after an exhausting day of work, or the seemingly endless academic and social pressures endured by students, we all require refreshing at times.

Even an awesome prophet like Elijah, who had stood toe to toe at Mt. Carmel against *“the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah”* (1 Kings 18:19) found himself wearied by running for his life.

1 Kings 19:4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, LORD, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!"

LET GOD FILL'ER UP

It is tremendous to realize that even though we are but a speck in the realm of the cosmos we have a Lord with infinite ability to know our every necessity.

Matthew 6:8 "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

Yet right on the heels of the declaration by Jesus He commences to instruct the disciples how to pray, how to address their heavenly Father with awe, recognizing His majesty and

beseeking Him for our daily means, to forgive us of sins and protect from Satan.

Matthew 6:9-13 "In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. 13 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Self dependence is the short road to ruin. Just as “It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps” (Jeremiah 10:23) so man cannot fill his own dry cup.

2 Cor. 3:5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God.

When we put our trust in the God of the universe He will open the flood gates of blessings into our laps.

Luke 6:38a "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom."

But these blessings are reserved for those who voluntarily put themselves under the gentle yoke of the Master.

Acts 3:19 "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

- Bruce J. Dehut

Oak Grove church of Christ
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Louisville, KY 40291

**Oak Grove
Church of Christ**

(502) 749-9209

Sunday

Bible Class:

9:30 AM

Morning Worship:

10:30 AM

Evening Worship:

5:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class:

7:30 PM

Evangelist:

Bruce J. Dehut

Home Bible Studies Available
Upon Request

Respectable Worldliness

by Robert Harkrider

The most common idea of "worldliness" is the idea of overt sin-lying, drunkenness, adultery, etc. The Bible explicitly condemns such a life. "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend to the world is the enemy of God?" (James 4:4).

Another kind of worldliness is prevalent which is not so easily recognized as the enemy of God. It is the kind of worldliness which is respectable, for it is involved with only the good things of this world. It has to do with the material-our jobs, family, recreation, education, etc. All of these material blessings have their place in our lives, but any or all of them become sinful if we attach more importance to them than to the service of God (Matthew 6:33).

An increasing number of church members are engaged in "respectable worldliness." They are not drunkards, liars, adulterers, etc., and wouldn't be found in company with such. But their lives have become so involved with wholesome activities they have pushed Christ aside. How often do we hear, "I do not have time!" We are too busy earning wages, enjoying ballgames, or visiting friends; consequently, we no longer have time to study and teach the Bible, attend all the services, visit the sick, or restore the fallen. We mean no harm; in fact, we say we love the Lord, but our lives demonstrate a misplaced affection.

The blessings of this great nation have become a curse to the spirituality of the church. Take a look at ourselves. We have no time for in-depth study of the Bible, and some prefer a sermonette during the short time that is set aside for teaching. We drive several miles to attend a ballgame but cannot drive across town to attend a gospel meeting. We hardly blink an eye at the debt we assume to buy a new color TV or automobile, but we would suggest a psychiatrist for the man who would make the same sort of debt to support gospel preaching in a needy area.

On and on this analogy could go, but probably it would do little good. This kind of worldliness has given us a "ho-hum" attitude toward evil because it seems respectable. We all know the drunkard, the liar, etc., are going to hell, and we will amen the preacher who steps on their toes! But can a person be lost because he worked too many hours making an "honest living?" Or will one be condemned for attending ballgames? Or relaxing with friends? Or for buying a new TV or car?

The answer to these questions is found in the parable Jesus taught in Luke 14:16-24. The people who were forbidden to taste of the great supper did not commit any overt act of sin. They were lost over a piece of ground, five yoke of oxen, and a new wife. The lesson is simple: PUT GOD FIRST! "For what is a man profited if he should gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" (Matthew 16:26).

Sentence Sermons

*Families are like fudge
mostly sweet, with a few nuts.*

*Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut
that held its ground.*

*Generally, Give Satan an inch & he'll be a
ruler.*

*Be ye fishers of men
you catch them & He'll clean them.*

*Plan ahead
It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.*

*Suffering from truth decay?
Brush up on your Bible.*

*Never give the devil a ride -- he will always
want to drive.*

*Nothing else ruins the truth like stretching
it.*

*Did it ever occur to you that nothing occurs
to God?*

*There are two things I've learned: There is a
God. And, I'm not Him.*

*Following the path of least resistance is
what makes rivers and men crooked.*

*Lead your life so you won't be ashamed to
sell the family parrot to the town gossip.*

THE LORD'S DAY PRIVILEGE LIST

Sunday Morning Service

Announcements: **Arvil Young**

Song Leader: **Greg Walker**

Opening Prayer: **Jr. Stout**

Lord's Table: **Kenny Case
Jim Phelps
Robert Hood
Andy Milliner**

Scripture Reading: **Steve Smith**

Sermon: **Bruce Dehut**

Closing Prayer: **Mark Smith**

Sunday Evening Service

Announcements: **Arvil Young**

Song Leader: **Greg Walker**

Opening Prayer: **Larry Runner**

Sermon: **Bruce Dehut**

Lord's Table: **Kenny Case**

Closing Prayer: **Mike Shepherd**