



OAK GROVE ENCOURAGER

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

JUNE 3, 2007

ONCE IN A BLUE MOON

Every now and then I get wondering where certain expressions of speech originate from. Phrases such as “cold as ice” and “stiff as a board” are fairly easy to understand and generally people don’t give them a moment’s consideration but what about “once in a blue moon?” Just last Thursday night, May 31st 2007 our part of the world experienced a “blue moon.” As I donned my Sherlock Holmes cap (although not the pipe) and hammered on the keyboard it took mere nanoseconds for over six million answers to await my click of a mouse and reveal the truth of the matter.

RESOURCE MATERIAL

The following is from an article by Borgna Brunner and Anne Marie Imbornoni

Oak Grove church of Christ
9203 Thixton Lane
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

oakgrove.churchofchristonline.org

According to the more recent definition, a blue moon is the second full moon in a calendar month. For a blue moon to occur the first of the full moons must appear at or near the beginning of the month so that the second will fall within the same month (the average span between two moons is 29.5 days). May 2007 had two full moons: the first on May 2, the second on May 31—that second full moon was called the blue moon. ...Note that the May 31 date applies to most of the Western Hemisphere, including the United States.

Over the next twenty years there will be a total of 17 blue moons, with an almost equal number of both types of blue moons occurring. No blue moon of any kind will occur in the years 2006, 2011, 2014, and 2017.

"Blue moon" appears to have been a colloquial expression long before it developed its calendrical senses. According to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, the first reference to a blue moon comes from a proverb recorded in 1528:

***If they say the moon is blue,
We must believe that it is true.***

Saying the moon was blue was equivalent to saying the moon was made of green (or cream) cheese; it indicated an obvious absurdity.

...The phrase, *once in a blue moon* today has come to mean "every now and then" or "rarely"

OUR SPIRITUAL CONDITION AND THE BLUE MOON

Unfortunately it seems like “once in a blue moon” someone responds to the gospel call because maybe we fail to impact the unbeliever with the urgency of their soul’s condition.

2 Cor 6:2 For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

But to those of us who have been disciples for some time need to consider our own inclination for doing the will of the Father. How long has it been since we dispensed a good deed to our neighbor or challenged our steadfastness in the gospel?

2 Cor. 13:5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? --unless indeed you are disqualified.

Phlp 2:12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

My admonition to us all is not to do what is right “once in a blue moon” but to make righteousness in all its splendor part of who we are.

1 John 3:7 Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.

- Bruce J. Dehut

ROCKS IN A JAR

by Alan Smith

One day an expert on the subject of time management was speaking to a group of business students and, to drive home a point, used an illustration those students will likely never forget. As this man stood in front of the group of high-powered overachievers he said, "Okay, time for a quiz." Then he pulled out a one-gallon, wide-mouthed mason jar and set it on a table in front of him. Then he produced about a dozen fist-sized rocks and carefully placed them, one at a time, into the jar.

When the jar was filled to the top and no more rocks would fit inside, he asked, "Is this jar full?" Everyone in the class said, "Yes."

Then he said, "Really?" He reached under the table and pulled out a bucket of gravel. Then he dumped some gravel in and shook the jar causing pieces of gravel to work themselves down into the spaces between the big rocks.

He smiled and asked the group once more, "Is the jar full?" By this time the class was onto him. "Probably not," one of them answered. "Good!" he replied. And he reached under the table and brought out a bucket of sand. He started dumping the sand in and it went into all the spaces left between the rocks and the gravel. Once more he asked the question, "Is this jar full?"

"No!" the class shouted. Once again he said, "Good!" Then he grabbed a pitcher of water and began to pour it in until the jar was filled to the brim. Then he looked up at the class and asked, "What is the point of this

illustration?"

One eager beaver raised his hand and said, "The point is, no matter how full your schedule is, if you try really hard, you can always fit some more things into it!"

"No," the speaker replied, "that's not the point. The truth this illustration teaches us is: If you don't put the big rocks in first, you'll never get them in at all."

Time is precious. There never seems to be enough of it to go around to do everything we want to do, so we spend our lives making choices. It is crucial that we begin with the "big rocks", those things of greatest importance. That's what Jesus meant when he said, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matt. 6:33).

BEATITUDES FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Blessed are the husband and wife who continue to be affectionate, considerate and loving after the wedding bells have stopped ringing.

Blessed are the husband and wife who are as polite and courteous to one another as they are to their friends. Blessed are they who have a sense of humor, their marriage shall be much brighter.

Blessed are the parents who abstain from alcohol (I would add, "tobacco and

drugs"), their children will surely follow their example.

Blessed are they who are faithful to each other and mutually helpful. God will surely guide them.

Blessed are the husband and wife who thank God for good things which come to them. They shall receive both good things and thankful children.

Blessed are the parents who recognize their children as gifts from God, their home shall be filled with love.

Blessed are those mates who make their home a place "where seldom is heard a discouraging word." They shall inspire others to do likewise.

Blessed are the parents who attend and support their church. Their children shall develop a strong faith.

Blessed is the couple who are good stewards of all God's gifts, their children will bless them and follow their example.

Blessed are all those whose lives are a testimony of faith in God, they shall be the channels through which God's kingdom will come on earth.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow them all the days of their lives and they shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

- via The Voice of Truth

THE LORD'S DAY PRIVILEGE LIST

Sunday Morning Service

Announcements: **J.O. Smith**

Song Leader: **Arvil Young**

Opening Prayer: **Bill Milliner**

Lord's Table: **Mike Shepherd Jr. Stout
Andy Milliner
Randall Alford**

Scripture Reading: **Chris Runner**

Sermon: **Bruce Dehut**

Closing Prayer: **Doug Smith**

Sunday Evening Service

Announcements: **J.O. Smith**

Song Leader: **Arvil Young**

Opening Prayer: **Bruce Dehut**

Singing Service:

Lord's Table: **Mike Shepherd**

Closing Prayer: **Kenny Case**