



Let's Get Better! Let's Do Better! Let's Be Better!
Helping Developing Christians Grow!
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David's Devotional "How Big Does It Get?"

A man ran into the town crying loudly, "Big John is coming! Big John is coming!" At the news, everyone went inside their homes, locked their doors, and disappeared from sight. The street quickly became vacant and silent.

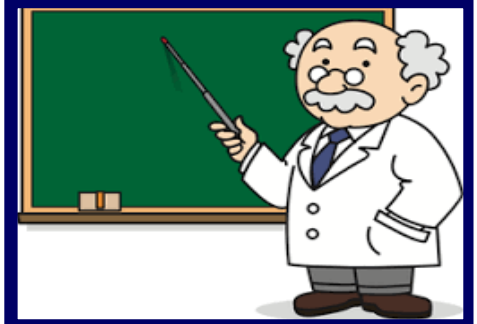
Soon a man rode into town on a wild bull! His huge frame made the large animal look small! There was a live cougar draped around his neck! He had a rattlesnake wrapped around his waist! It was a dreadful sight!

As he passed an alleyway, he saw a young man standing against the wall. The young fellow was terrified as their eyes met. He froze on the spot, unable to move or speak. The large man peered at him for a moment then turned to leave. The fearful fellow summoned all of his courage to ask a question, "Where are you going"? The stranger turned and said, "Haven't you heard? Big John is coming!"

No matter how "big" or "wonderful" our life is, we simply cannot imagine what is coming! Are we ready for it?

"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." I Corinthians 2:9

David Conley



An Interesting Quote:
"A commitment is your personal guarantee that you will do what you promised." Steve Farrar

"But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil." Matthew 5:37

When we were children we may have been caught breaking our promise. We would defend ourselves by saying, "I had my fingers crossed!" We believed we were not obligated to keep our commitment if we had our fingers crossed when we made it! The religious leaders of Jesus' day had similar ideas. They came up with elaborate ways to legally lie! Jesus told us to simply tell the truth! Do this and there will be no need for taking oaths and such!

David Conley

Did You Know?

July was named after Julius Caesar

Julius Caesar was born in this month. Since he developed a calendar that our calendar is based on, it was decided to name the month, "July". Men love to have their names honored and exalted! Jesus' name is exalted above all others! "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:" Philippians 2:9 Wear the name "Christian"!

What Happened? Gospel Meeting at the Cherokee Church of Christ



Gospel Meeting at the Liberty Church of Christ



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"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven"
Ecclesiastes 3:1



Mrs. Booker & Mrs. Hogan

Mrs. Booker was my 4th Grade teacher at New Bethel School.

She was very nice. Mrs. Booker spoke with soft, low tones. After a year of her meek and mild demeanor, it was fairly difficult to get used to one of my 5th Grade teachers, Mrs. Hogan. She, too, was very nice, but she spoke with bolder and much louder tones. Mrs. Hogan was African American. There were not many black people in our school or community.

One day she allowed the class to tell their favorite joke. Everyone took turns telling their funny stories. *"Who has the next joke?"* Mrs. Hogan asked. A girl eagerly raised her hand and began to speak. No sooner had she started, she stopped. She sheepishly said she did not want to finish her joke and sat down. Mrs. Hogan insisted that she continue. She stood and reluctantly told this story: *"God was standing over His oven baking his wonderful people. He reached in to pull out the next batch and said, 'Uh -Oh, some burnt ones!'"*

We all wanted to laugh, but did not dare! All eyes turned to Mrs. Hogan. What would she think? What would she do? Mrs. Hogan was bent over her desk laughing! The whole class joined her.

I appreciated Mrs. Hogan's attitude. Sometimes we take ourselves far too seriously. Laughing is good medicine. Laughing at ourselves is good health!

Proverbs 17:22 *"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones."*

Romans 12:16 *"Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits."*

David Conley



Statue of Liberty



In New York harbor stands a lady

With a torch raised to the sky.

And all who see her know she stands for

Liberty for you and I.

I'm so proud to be called an American.

To be named with the brave & the free.

I will honor our flag & our trust in God

And the Statue of Liberty.

On lonely Golgotha stood a cross

With my Lord raised to the sky.

And all who kneel there live forever

As the saved can testify.

I'm so glad to be called a Christian

To be named with the ransomed & whole

As the Statue liberates the citizen

So the cross liberates the soul.

Oh, the cross is my Statue of Liberty.

It was there that my soul was set free.

Not ashamed!

I'll proclaim that a rugged cross

Is my Statue of Liberty.

Submitted to me by the late Robert McWilliams

A Funny Thing Happened ...



The preacher knew five year old twin boys. Bobby was pessimistic while Billy was very optimistic. Bobby was always negative and unhappy, but Billy was always positive and happy.

Their parents were concerned for both of them fearing that Bobby would miss the joy of life and Billy would not be able to see the reality that life was not always kind.

On their sixth birthday, they put the boys' gifts in two separate rooms. At the suggestion of a psychologist, they filled Bobby's room with wonderful toys. The idea was to show him good things were possible. Billy's room was filled with manure! This was harsh, but it was an effort to show him that bad things were possible!

Bobby looked at each toy and found something wrong with them all! He was once again disappointed!

Billy begin to joyfully dig in the pile of manure screaming, *"There's got to be a pony in here somewhere!"*

The preacher thought of **Proverbs 4:23** *"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."* Sometimes we think we will be miserable or we think we will be merry. In either case we will be right!