



Let's Get Better! Let's Do Better! Let's Be Better!  
**Helping Developing Christians Grow!**  
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## David's Devotional The King & The Court Jester

There was once a mighty king. He was very powerful, educated, wealthy, and strong. For entertainment he enjoyed watching his favorite Court Jester perform. The Jester's name was Chester.

During an especially funny and entertaining evening the king gave Chester the Jester his Royal Ring. "Chester," said the king, "I challenge you to go throughout the kingdom, find a greater fool than you, and give him my Royal Ring as a gift. If you do not find a greater fool, keep the Royal Ring as my gift to you!"

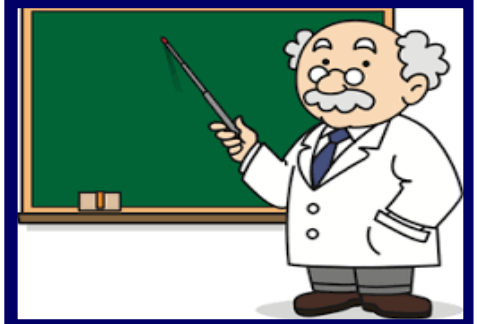
Being a royal command Chester started his quest immediately. Chester searched in every village, town, city, and community throughout the kingdom. Just as the king had thought, Chester could not find a greater fool than himself. He started back to the king's court.

When he arrived Chester was shocked to discover that the king had died the day before! He went to view his body in the Royal Courtroom. As he stood beside the open coffin the king's grand daughter approached. "Chester" said the grand daughter, "I am sad for my grandfather's life, but most of all because he was never baptized into Christ for the remission of his sins. He did not make peace with God!" With that, she cried and walked away. Chester removed the Royal Ring from his own finger and placed it upon the finger of the king. "Take your ring back, my king, for you are a greater fool than I!"

"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good." **Psalm 14:1**

Although we do our very best in life we are still "corrupt" and have "done abominable works" because "there is none that doeth good"! We need God's forgiveness! We need God! **It is foolish to think otherwise.**

David Conley



### An Interesting Quote:

"Money is a great servant but a bad master"  
 Frances Bacon

"... money answereth all things."  
 Ecclesiastes 10:19

Solomon was a very rich man. In his wisdom he made the observation that "money solves a lot of problems." This is true. If you don't believe it, try living life without money (buying groceries; paying utilities, housing, and rent; giving to good causes; etc.) It is now taking even more and more money to solve these problems! May God give us the wisdom to use our money wisely. However, when we allow money to become our master and we serve it instead of letting it serve us, we will find out how miserable it is! Jesus warned, "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven." **Matthew 19:23**

David Conley

### Did You Know?

"You can lead a horse to water, but you cannot make him drink."

This proverb is said to have dated back to at least the "Old English Homilies", published in 1175.

It is not found in the Bible, however, **Revelation 7:17** says Jesus "... shall lead them unto living fountains of waters ...!" Will we drink?

## What Happened? Snow & Ice

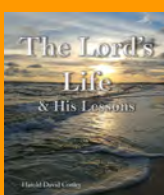
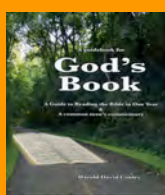
The day after is still treacherous, perilous, and the clouds are still there, but the sunlight gives us a new perspective and hope. Jesus does the same during the storms in our lives. The difficulties are still there, but the Son light gives us hope!



The snow and ice started falling January 14th, 2024. Within hours things started coming to a halt. For the next week many of us were not able to get out on the roads. We were stuck. What did we do?



Did we play? Did we pray? Did we read? Did we catch up on projects? Did we rest? Time rolled on if even we couldn't. We spent the time. It is gone. Hopefully we used it wisely. (Many figured out a way to go and went on to work!)



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## Once Upon A Time ...

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



### Eye For An Eye

I am thirteen months older than my brother, Dale. We shared everything from our clothes to our bed.

In fact, we slept in the same bed until the night before I got married! One night I was awakened in a "half sleep - half awake" status by a low groan from Dale. I had thrown my hand over his face! I must have slapped him pretty hard. This was not good. Dale believed in the doctrine of "retribution"! My only hope was he was too deep in sleep to realize what had happened. I lay in quiet anticipation. Was he still asleep or was he going to exercise "payback"? Then it happened. I felt a sharp pain as Dale's fist punched my mouth. I tasted the warm, salty blood as it flowed down my throat. It was all over and we both went back to sleep.

I got married when I was eighteen. After all those years, Dale finally got a bed to himself. I have never had a bed to myself. I have now shared a bed with Debra for almost 43 years. She is far more merciful than Dale. She has never punched me in the mouth (*intentionally*). I wonder if I have ever woke her up by throwing my hand over her face in my sleep? I am too afraid to ask!

I am just thankful that she lives by **Matthew 5:38-39** *"Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also."*

Living by the "eye for an eye" standard is exhausting! There is always something or someone that offends us so we will spend a lot of energy to "get back at them". Since everyone will offend us at some point, we will lose many relationships. Why don't we forgive people and "resist not evil". Let it simply pass through us. After all, resistance is futile!  
David Conley

## With What Judgment Ye Judge



One day a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head. She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, "Why are some of your hairs white, Mom?" Her mother replied, "Well, every time you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white." The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then said, "Momma, how come ALL of grandma's hairs are white?"

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Jesus teaches us about setting standards that we use to judge and condemn others:  
*"For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again."* **Matthew 7:2**

Let's not be so quick to condemn others using questionable standards. We may find ourselves being judged by those same standards! Only God can judge and then it will be by HIS standards!

Paul said, *"But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord. Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God."* **I Corinthians 4:3-5**  
David Conley

## A Funny Thing Happened ...



The preacher watched as an ice fisherman pounded on the ice trying to cut a hole to access the fish. Suddenly a voice rang out, "There are no fish beneath the ice!" The fisherman was horrified! He asked the voice, "Are you God?" The voice answered, "No, I am the manager of the ice rink!"

The preacher remembered Jesus telling his disciples that Lazarus had died. He used the word "sleep" to describe it. *"Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep."* **John 11:13**

*We must pay close attention and be willing to rethink our position. Things may not always be what they seem to be at first thought. Are we able to think again?*