

Hungry Through Corona



by Dawn Reed
E. Ky. Columnist

The day after our dental office closed due to the Coronavirus, the hunger began. There was so much more time to eat! My beloved is an

awesome grocery shopper so we had amazing snacks! I had lost 20 pounds since last summer and tried to pace myself.

Also at that time, my beloved re-joined the masses on Facebook. He reacquainted himself with loads of friends and family he hadn't heard from in many moons. Much to his delight, most of them had recipes to share. He texted each one to me. (I was sitting across the room on the couch.)

First, he sent me a Buttermilk Pie recipe. It was followed by an Egg Custard Pie. There was a Banana Cream Pie Lush, Blackberry Cheese Bars, Pineapple Cake with Coconut Frosting and also a Strawberry Pretzel Salad, which he hoped could be modified to a non-pretzel crust he liked on another dessert. He came across a Kentucky Butter Cake he was sure would be life-changing. The recipe called for three cups of sugar and one and a half cups of butter (no kidding). We had a hearty discussion about diabetes.

I searched through all the recipes he had sent across the room and found one containing only ¾ cup of sugar: Impossible Coconut Pie. Not post-worthy, but it hit the spot.

He also sent casseroles, soups, and main dishes. Trying to stay low-carb was a difficult task; alas, I love the smell and taste of food!

Even reading the Bible made me hungry! Verses like Psalm 119:103: "How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth," and Psalm 34:8: "Taste and see that the LORD is good..." had my mouth watering.

We joked about eating the paint off the walls. Curiously, the more I looked at them, the more I realized they were the color of chocolate milk, which sounded delicious!

Matthew 5:6 tried to guide me along a better route: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they will be filled". I WAS hungry for righteousness but also anything with carbs-and a side of

Mayfield chocolate ice cream, please.

Hoping to make good use of my time while laid off, I was hungry to read God's Word. (I planned to read as much Jesus stuff as possible!) I was also hungry to clean and get organized. (That passed quickly.)

As time went on, I became hungry to get out. I was hungry to get back to work, helping kids who have cavities. I was hungry to touch my face! These days, I'm hungry for human interaction and hungry to go back to church! I haven't seen our sheep in months! I can't wait to NOT hug them when services resume!

I'm also hungry to make a difference, to be used by God! We've been stalled, at a stand-still, for so long! Mission trips, mission projects, and real-life Bible studies have all come to a screeching halt. I am ready to move and shake-and SHARE!

Now that I'm back to work I'm especially hungry for NORMAL!

Not that you need to know, but I gained eight pounds. :(

Seeds of Hope



There is a big difference between power and influence. Power comes from a position we have in a group or organization. We gain influence by what we know or are able to do. In our relationship with God, He has all of the power and He uses it to shape us into the plan He has for us. But we can go to Him in prayer and ask Him to grant us His power to overcome some sin in our life and bring hope, healing and wholeness to us or our loved ones when we are sick or broken.

Our Psalmist reminds us of this important fact. When we feel alone or abandoned, depressed or have a doubt about God's care or concern for us, he reminds us to look to God for help:

"Unless the Lord had given me help, I would soon have dwelt in the silence of death."

Unfortunately, we do not know what was going on in the life of the writer. He may have been facing a life-threatening illness, grieving over the loss of a loved one or perhaps facing financial disaster. He reminds us that "it" made no difference. Whatever problem he was facing or whatever disaster may have been on the horizon or whatever sickness may have stricken him no one could have made a difference in his life but God.

"Unless the Lord..." he wrote. Not "unless I find" or "a friend helps me find" the right physician or the right attorney or the right banker. No. He realized the limitations of man. His situation was beyond them. But he knew first hand that only his Lord could rescue him.

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It is Written . . .

by BOB CASEY, preacher
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Within the Gospels of Matthew 4 and Luke 4, we find the story of Jesus in the Wilderness being tempted of the devil when he was at his most vulnerable condition physically after fasting for 40 days. But, my article will not be dealing for this time, upon but one thing that our Lord said when Satan made his approach to him. By suggesting turning the stone into bread, Satan approached the physical need. By suggesting that Jesus jump off the highest peak in the city, Satan appealed to the fame he could get from it in that way. The third time, he approached Jesus was to offer him fortune of earthly wealth ownership.

But I want us to take note the instrument our Lord used to thwart his every attempt to turn him aside from his real mission (which) was to seek and to save the world (Luke 19:10). Our Lord used the most powerful weapon he had; and this of course is the written Word of God. Three times Satan made his attempt. Three times our Lord said to him, "It is written." So, "the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." **1 John 2:15-17** says so.

So, to make my point short, clear, concise; what can we do when we are tempted of the devil to do things our way or to copy some things other men may do. How can I be sure that I am on the right course? I suggest we do as Jesus did. He appealed to what is written.

To young Christians, I suggest what John wrote in **1 John 2:21**; "I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth."

In **1 Thessalonians 5:21**, it is written, "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." You might ask, how can this be done? First, by knowing that the truth is. **2 Timothy 2:15** says to "study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Then, in **2 Peter 3:15**, we are commanded to "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

I believe I know the reason that so many are struggling in their quest for truth; the answer is that they do not and have not studied the full context of the Holy Scriptures like **2 Peter 3:16**, saying there "are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction."

Now, I know from what is written in 2 Corinthians 5:10 that I shall one day stand before Jesus to give an accounting of the things I will have done while I lived in this body; good or bad.

So, on that day, the Lord may ask me, "Bob Casey, why did you preach so strongly that the church of Christ is my only church?" My answer now and then will be, Because of what you said in Matthew 16:13-15. Plus, the Holy Spirit which you sent to aid the Apostles said in **Colossians 1:17-18**, that you are "the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence." I might also use Ephesians 5:25, which says, you loved the church and gave yourself for it. What else can I say?

Also on that day, my Lord might say unto me, "Bob Casey, why did you declare so strongly that baptism is a burial in water, plus it was for the remission of sins?" My only answer will be, because of what is written in Matthew 25:15-20 and Mark 16:15-16, also in Acts 2:37-39; along with Romans 6:3-5. What other answer could I give and abide in the truth?

One more thing that the Lord may ask me, "Bob Casey, why did you preach so strongly concerning eating of my supper each Lord's Day?" My answer is now and will be in that day, because of what is written concerning what you said about it in Matthew 26:21-30 and Luke 22:14-20. Also, Acts 20:4-7 plus 1 Corinthians 11:23-29. What else can be my defense?

Then, I began to think about all who may not know, nor believe, nor practice these things. What will be their appeal or defense against that day? Friends, at this writing, my heart is aching; know that many of you may not be obeying the established, written Word of God.

What will you say, when the Lord questions you? **James 1:21**, it is written, "receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls."

I hope you will do this soon.
Call 1-859-369-4165, anytime

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Mark in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. From Genesis 32, who was "greatly afraid and distressed" about a reunion with a brother he had wronged? Joseph, Jacob, Esau, Peter

3. In Numbers 20, who died on a mountain-top after being garment

stripped? Moses, Abraham, Noah, Aaron

4. What city was beat down and sowed with salt? Shechem, Caesarea, Gaza, Berea

5. Who lost all his horse-drawn chariots in a sea? Ornan, Balaam, Pharaoh, Benaiah

6. Where did Abraham meet angels? River, Tent door, Juniper tree, Prison

Answers on bottom of Page 12

"Test Your Bible Knowledge," with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in bookstores and online.

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BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

LUKE 3:5-6

Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all people will see God's salvation.

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Find the bolded/underlined words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

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