

2002 Proclaimer

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, .. to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord!" - Isa. 61:1-2

A teaching and exhortation medium by members of the Carmichael Church of Christ, meeting at 6044 Sutter Ave. Carmichael, CA 95608

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January 20th, 2002

When There is no Line of Morality

By Keith E. Heaton, Sr

Children kill their fellow students in the classroom and on the campus of our schools. Disgruntled employees kill their fellow workers and many innocent bystanders. Gangs dance through the streets of our cities spreading death in their wake. Homosexuality is viewed as an "alternate lifestyle" and its acceptance is portrayed as normal. Pornography reeks from the airwaves of television and the internet in volumes unchained. School libraries are filled with books describing the degradation of man's thirst for sexual pleasures.

These trends shock and dismay the public at large and yet the public is to blame for the continued rise in these levels of immorality. When immorality rises it is because the moral fiber of the society has been taken away. No longer are there clear lines of morality that will keep these acts from occurring. Because of the cry of "rights," we have given over all authority and ability to regulate the immoral acts of those who would impose their "freedoms" upon all. Freedom of expression has come to mean that I can do anything I want to do and no one can deny me that right. Is it possible for a society to live without law? Is it possible for a society to exist without a standard to live by?

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Children kill other children because they have been taught they have the right to express themselves by murdering their fellow students. If you have a disagreement at work, you have the right to kill those who oppose you. The perversion of homosexuality is seen as a lifestyle that is healthy and normal. Television has become the venue of sexual exploitation and viewing pleasure as well as the instrument to show how violence is the means to justify the end. Our school libraries cannot ban certain books because of the "rights" of those who impose their level of immorality upon our children. Is there any question why our society is in so much trouble today?

The sad part about humanity is that it has such a short memory. The most important subject taught in school should be history. Mankind has been around for a few thousand years and yet he can never learn from the past. History shows what happens when men seek their own way and fail to draw a line of morality. Is it any wonder then when we bury our dead children and live in fear of one another because of what is happening in our world?

During the days of the Judges, this statement is made: *"In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes."* (**Judges 17:6**) Does this sound familiar? Is this not what we are seeing today? With no law everyone will do what they please. David tells us what the root of this kind of action is founded upon: *"An oracle within my*

heart concerning the transgression of the wicked: there is no fear of God before his eyes. For he flatters himself in his own eyes, when he finds out his iniquity and when he hates. The words of his mouth are wickedness and deceit; he has ceased to be wise and to do good. He devises wickedness on his bed; he sets himself in a way that is not good; he does not abhor evil." (**Psalm 36:4**)

Solomon said that nothing was new under the sun. What we are experiencing today is the same lawless mind of man when he sets upon himself to do as he pleases. Until we have the courage to draw the line of morality and stand by it, we will be destroyed as a nation. As a people we must draw the line in our lives and in our words. School officials need to have the courage to draw that line. Our bodies of government must draw the line and have the courage to stand by it. As a people of God, we must draw the line of morality in our lives and let God's Word be the rule by which we measure our lives. If not, we are a lost nation. We shall become as all nations who did what was right in their own eyes. *"The way of a fool is right in his own eyes."* (**Proverbs 12:15**)

Guest Speaker at 6:00 PM

Jack & Dianna Mayberry, former members in Carmichael, will be with us this evening. Jack is now one of the elders in the Redding church. He'll be speaking for us tonight.

Please be sure to be here!

BORN OF A VIRGIN

Jim R. Everett

"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us," **(Matthew 1:23)**, as quoted by the Holy Spirit from **Isaiah 7:14**. *"...The angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man and the virgin's name was Mary,"* **(Luke 1:26-27)**. But modern theologians say that belief in the virgin birth of Jesus is not important. In fact, some of them not only doubt that Mary was a virgin, they openly ridicule the idea. But notice that it was the Holy Spirit who quoted **Isaiah 7:14**, and applied it to the birth of Mary's son. The birth of a baby by a virgin was a sign from God to verify the incarnation of His Son into the world. He was "God with us."

There are three witnesses who can be called to testify about the virginity of Mary: Mary herself; Joseph, the husband of Mary; and the Holy Spirit. Mary would know, because it was in her womb that Jesus was conceived. She knew that she had never had a relationship with a man. Joseph would know — as Mary's husband he knew that he had not had a relationship with her. And, finally, the Holy Spirit was the revealer of her virginity; first, by prophecy (Isaiah 7:14), and; second, by direct revelation to Mary and Joseph about the miraculous conception **(Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38)**.

Evidence to support the virgin birth can also be gathered from the personal conviction of Matthew and Luke. They obviously believed what they reported. They record the events factually and without any doubt. While they relate the account from different views, they are harmonious in the material written.

To this evidence can be added historical testimony. The "Apostles' Creed" which was based upon the old Roman Baptismal Confession (ca AD 200) affirms the virgin birth. The use of the creed by Tertullian and Irenaeus place the acceptance of Mary's virginity well back toward the middle of the second century. Both Justin Martyr (ca. AD 100) and Ignatius (ca. AD 117) mention that Jesus was born of a virgin. Any other birth than the virgin birth would be a denial of messianic prophecy and a failure of Jesus to be God's son. It is no less than crude blasphemy to say that Jesus was an illegitimate son of Mary, and Joseph married her to cover it up. No doubt, God chose a virgin to bear His son, not only for the sake of purity, but also to eradicate false accusations of Jesus being just a man.

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WOULD YOU PLEASE INCLUDE THE WELFARE OF THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS TO GOD? IT WILL HELP BOTH YOU AND THEM FOR YOU TO DO SO!

Edith Ayers Sue Claiborne
Helen Gray Willa Lockett
Clifford Marshall John & Norma Romine
Barbara Sterling Nancy Valine Evie Westphal
Lela Mackey, Lucille Wilson's mother
Carlene Courtney, Jo Singleton's sister
Annie Holland, Rena Schultz's daughter

ALSO REMEMBER THESE:

Aaron Robertson who's leaving for military duty the first week in February, for approx. a year
Karen Rusk will be away 17-20th
Marie, Kristin, Ashley Wayne 19-21st

PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE, OUR NATIONAL LEADERS, AND OTHERS AS YOU ARE AWARE OF THEIR NEEDS.

ATTEMPTING THE IMPOSSIBLE

Matthew 14:25-33

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The impossible is often cloaked in words that say, "**You can't do that!**"
 - 1. I want us to think about *attempting the impossible* today, but I want us to think of it as "that which is impossible for man is possible with God." **Luke 1:37**
 - 2. It is here that Peter asks to also do the impossible, walk on water.
- B. Jamie Buckingham is quoted to have said, "*Attempt something so big (so impossible) that if God doesn't show up you are sure to fail.*"
 - 1. What is the "**impossibility**" in your life that holds you back, not allowing you to be all you can really be for the cause of the Lord?
 - 2. What is it that keeps telling you, "**You can't do that!**"
 - 3. When attempting to serve God by doing the seemingly impossible, remember the 4 L's: "don't **LISTEN**," "don't **LOUNGE**," "don't **LINGER**" and "don't **LOOK**."

I. **DON'T LISTEN TO THOSE WHO WOULD DISTRACT YOU.** Matt 14:25-27

- A. There is an older fellow who, to this day, cannot ride a bicycle, because his father kept telling him *that he would never learn to ride a bike!*
- B. When Nehemiah was rebuilding the city walls around Jerusalem he had to deal with the same voices of such detractors, didn't he? **Nehemiah 6:3**
- C. When you are attempting the impossible in service to God there will always be the voices of the detractors to contend with.

II. **ONCE YOU HAVE THE POWER TO DO SOMETHING, DON'T LINGER IN YOUR STRENGTH.** Matt 14:28-29a

- A. Peter had asked for what was impossible for the power of man, to walk on water.
 - 1. Peter was acting out of conviction; not looking for a chance to exalt himself!
 - 2. Remember the paralytic and his four friends?
- B. Peter knew that to walk on water would not be in his own strength, **but by his faith** in Jesus. **Phil 4:13**

III. **WHEN YOU HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO DRAW CLOSER TO THE LORD, DON'T LOUNGE IN YOUR BOAT!** Matthew 14:29

- A. Can you just imagine the thoughts of those in the boat with Peter as he was climbing out of the boat?
- B. Peter had the right motive, he showed the proper attitude, and his sincere desire gave him power to exercise that faith to get out of the boat.
- C. **BOAT LOUNGERS** are those who **do little** but always want things to be comfortable.

IV. **DON'T BE DIVERTED TO LOOK ON DOUBTFUL CIRCUMSTANCES** Matt 14:30

- A. What is impossible for man is a distinct possibility with God.
- B. It's never be a good time to attempt the impossible *when walking by SIGHT!*
- C. Please be advised that circumstances can adversely affect your walk with Jesus.

CONCLUSION:

- A. **Preaching** about attempting the impossible is easier than living in that realm!
- B. But when you do it by faith, God works the impossible in you.
- C. Think about trying to save yourself without the power of the gospel!