

2001 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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May 13th, 2001

"But Seek Ye First"

by David Riggs

"For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels." (Luke 9:26) "I'm not ashamed to own my Lord, nor to defend His cause." (From an old familiar hymn)

On one occasion, Frederick the Great invited some notable people to his royal table, including top-ranking generals. One of them by the name of Hans Von Zieten declined the invitation because he wanted to partake of the Lord's Supper on the Lord's day.

Sometime later, at another banquet, Frederick and his guests mocked the general for his religious scruples and made jokes about the Lord's Supper. In great peril of his life, the officer stood to his feet and said respectfully to the monarch, "My lord, there is a greater King than you, a King to whom I have sworn allegiance even unto death. I am a Christian, and I cannot sit quietly as the Lord's name is dishonored and His character belittled."

The guests trembled in silence, knowing that Hans Zieten might be executed. But to their surprise, Frederick grasped the hand of this courageous man, asked his forgiveness, and promised that he would never again allow such a travesty be made of sacred things. (From *Bible Illustrator*)

UNDERSTANDING THE GREATER THREAT

by Warren E. Berkley

*"And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him! Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows." -**Luke 12:4-7***

One of the most powerful motives in human behavior is the fear of the impending loss of your life. The fear of death will cause us to visit an emergency room with great haste, call the police, fire a weapon, hide or flee to a safe place. This will to live and defeat death causes people everyday to cancel air flights, take a cumbersome detour or seek professional protection. Police officers wear bullet-proof vests, men who work at risky heights use safety equipment and drivers enroll in defensive driving. We do not want to be killed. There is a natural human impulse to stay alive.

Jesus said, *"do not be afraid of those who kill the body."* Is Jesus telling us that the above typical cautions are unwise and faithless? Do His words recommend that we have no concern, no fear, no bother over the threat of death? No. First, we must study His words in the context of all He is saying on this occasion, in this text. Second, we must consider this

truth in the light of other biblical truth (Paul said to a man attempting suicide, *"do yourself no harm," **Acts 16:28***).

The point Jesus makes has to do with what is worse. There is something worse than physical death. Being cast into hell! There should be in us - not just the fear of physical death, but the greater fear of spiritual death. If we take lightly the approach of the devil, and we do not take God seriously - we haven't learned what Jesus teaches.

Isn't it revealing how strong and quick our impulses are when we think physical death is near. Yet when faced with something that could cast us into hell, we may show no evidence of any alarm! If we believe a vicious stalker is near, we act with caution. A gunman in the neighborhood will prompt our keen defenses. The devil is a murderer, a stalker and vicious enemy - but there is often no sense of alarm, no fear or concern (see **Jno 8:44; 1 Pet 5:8**). Jesus wants us to understand the greater threat! This is about taking God seriously (reverence and fear toward Him), and along with this - a sober, watchful defensive position toward the devil.

Who really cares about you? Not the devil. His interest in you is strictly carnal; you are meat to him (see **1 Pet 5:8**)!

God cares about you in the deepest, purest way. Sparrows have enjoyed their existence since their creation, under the protection of God's providence. But we *"are of more value than many sparrows."*

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## THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Sue Claiborne  
Truman Claiborne  
Helen Gray  
Willa Lockett  
Clifford Marshall  
Wendell Rapier  
Norma Romine  
Josie Steadman  
Nancy Valine  
Evie Westphal

## THOSE WHO ARE TRAVELLING:

*The Rusk's* are in Grass Valley today.  
*Bob Pemberton* is in New Jersey for the next six months.

PLEASE PRAY for these, and others you may be aware of, who are sick or away from this church family. **Prayers do avail!**

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## Report from Temecula:

IN OUR TRIP TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA we attended services in Temecula last Sunday. There was good attendance, with visitors from the community. Larry Davenport and some of the members there have initiated a "Religious Survey" door-knocking campaign in the area around the church meeting place that has produced encouraging results.

They do this effort on the first Saturday of each month, and it started in April. People contacted in the April visit have been attending and some have had Bible classes. One of them was baptized on Sunday night. New ones attended last Sunday from their May 5<sup>th</sup> visits. The "religious survey" element of their visit allows a gathering of data about the people that wouldn't be freely available otherwise. They're doing a good work there, and we're doing a good work in the financial support we're putting into it.

--Vern Wilson

## Motherly Tributes

### Charles Spurgeon:

"I cannot tell how much I owe to the prayers of my good mother. I remember her once praying: *"Now Lord, if my children go on in sin it will not be from ignorance that they perish, and my soul must bear swift witness against them at the day of judgment if they lay not hold on Christ and claim Him as their personal Savior."*

### Washington Irving:

The love of a mother is never exhausted. It never changes – it never tires – it endures through all; in good repute, in bad repute, in the face of the world's condemnations, a mother's love still lives on.

### Source Unknown:

Once the New York Times was asked to help a group of club women decide on the twelve greatest women in the United States. After due consideration, the editors replied, *"The twelve greatest women in the United States are women who have never been heard of outside of their own homes."*

### AMAZING:

Dr. G. Campbell Morgan had four sons and they were all preachers. Someone once came into the drawing room when all the family was there. They thought they'd see what Howard, one of the sons, was made of – so they asked him this question: *"Howard, who is the greatest preacher in your family?"* Howard had a great admiration for his father and he looked straight across the room at him and then, without a moment's hesitation, he answered, **"MOTHER!"**

**SERMON TONIGHT AT 6:00**

**COMING TO PROVIDENCE**

## Affirming Godly Mothers

### Exodus 1:8-2:10

#### INTRODUCTION:

As a part of showing that “mothers” are deserving of our honors, I would like you to consider a young mother who lived during one of Israel’s saddest hours. In this mother’s life are *three qualities of motherhood that we want to affirm today.*

#### I. NATURAL AFFECTION

- A. Illus. of a super-cautious mother
  - 1. Once, she wished there were a way to tell if her baby were teething. A friend told her, "Why, just put your finger in his mouth and..."
  - 2. She was stopped short by the horrified expression on the young mother's face!
- B. In a New Orleans cemetery is a monument to that bond of mother/child affection.
  - 1. At the base of statue is an inscription saying that the mother and child buried there were drowned on July 4, 1900.
  - 2. A judicial tribute is given to a mother's natural affection for her child!
- C. That same "natural affection" is what caused Jocabed to defy the king's decree and keep her baby boy. **Isaiah 49:15** - *"Can a woman forget her nursing child And have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, but I will not forget you.*
- D. Love your children. Devote yourself to their raising!

#### II. PROFOUND SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE

- A. Jocabed didn't know at the time she was raising a prophet!
  - 1. From her perspective, she was just taking care of her little boy.
  - 2. That little boy would influence the world right down to our own time!
- B. The chain of God's providence very often is held in place by some pretty fragile links - *in this case, the tender protection and care of a young Hebrew slave woman.*
  - 1. *God was working in that little home through the faithfulness of this brave woman.*
  - 2. If you believe that what goes on inside our homes is inconsequential and unimportant, then you haven't been reading and understanding your Bible.
- C. And you Moms, sometimes it's hard to see that what you are doing is significant in history. Yet, it is.

#### III. STRONG FAITH Heb 11:23

- A. Where does one get the courage to make the tough decisions and stand against the tide of wrong that threatens to sweep us away?
- B. Many of you mothers can identify with that time when you thought you would never get the kids out of diapers (some of you are still there!).
- C. In order to not lose heart, you MUST take every opportunity to strengthen your own personal faith and relationship with God.
  - 1. Let your children see your actions of faith.
  - 2. Let them hear you pray. Let them see you study your Bible.

#### CONCLUSION:

- A. Jewish historians tell of atrocities, even by mothers, when Jerusalem was under siege by the Romans in 70 AD, showing that good mothering must be God-based!
- B. Godly Mothers are special to us and imperative to our nation. Don't let anyone belittle your important role. You've helped guide godly people to a high spiritual calling.