



Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ
Dover, Arkansas 72837-0299

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Email: staff@dovercoc.org

May 29, 2005

My Lines
Micah Williams

The Story

We all love stories, from movies to novels. Sports are even a story. Whether it is drama, comedy or suspense.

Stories are a part of our lives. Our lives are a story.

Every good story has conflict in it. From where does conflict come from? Why do we have conflict in our lives?

The rebellion against God explained why humans experienced conflict in their lives; and nobody knows of any other explanation.

The ideas of conflict would have no meaning to us unless they exist: tension, suspense, an enemy, etc. We understand these elements because we experience them.

Climax is where a point of decision determines the end of the story.

Jesus' story offers a decision, a climax. It also offers a good and a bad resolution. In part, our decisions are instrumental in the way our story will turn out.

We find in the Bible, our stories are not radically different from what has been happening to people throughout the course of Biblical history.

Small children are mesmerized by the bedtime stories we read to them.

We love stories; they entertain, they bring us joy, and they tell us who we really are. In a sense, we are the sum of our stories.

Stories that you hear and tell yourself profoundly shape your identity. We need stories to tell us who we are. This is also world view (how we view the world, according to our stories).

This is why God placed such extraordinary emphasis upon Israel's remembering the great story of Exodus. ". . . **and that you may tell in the hearing of your son, and of your grandson, how I made a mockery of the Egyptians and how I performed My signs among them, that you may know that I am the Lord.**" (Exodus 10:2)

When God commanded the Jews to remember, the goal was not to earn a stellar grade on Hebrew equivalent of an SAT exam. Rather, the goal was for every Israelite to know him or her own true identity, an identity embedded in the spiritual history of Israel.

The great stories of the Bible hand down to every child of Abraham a distinct understanding of one's origin, mission and destiny.

We are lost and our identity would be less without these stories.

We learn from childhood on.

"For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and all ate the same spiritual food. . ." (I Corinthians 10:1-3) Paul wrote to Timothy . . . reminding him of who he was.

Joseph is a great example. After his brothers' rejection and abandonment, after years of slavery and imprisonment – finally – Joseph sees the ultimate meaning of his life. Instead of getting upset with his brothers' betrayal he forgives them and recognizes the Divine hand God has played in his story.

Joseph was able to "rewrite" (or reinterpret the tragic events of his life).

Look at the stories of the Old Testament and also the prophets, Acts, Paul, Peter, etc.

We need to understand one particular story, the one Jesus lived.

Our ultimate goal is not to memorize or "master" the story, but to figure out how to live it.

"Performing" the life of Jesus – that is the core of the Christian mission and the very meaning of Christian spirituality in a word.

Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

"If your Christianity isn't contagious, it may be contaminated."

Chester H. Johnson

Just what does contaminated mean as for as Christianity? It is very serious. Something that contaminates means it corrupts or defiles. It is harmful, makes something dirty or impure. Contaminated Christianity is unclean, sinful, evil. We not only spoil our own religion but spoil it for others. It is bad enough for us, but even worse when we let what we do and how we act ruin another's chance for eternal life.

Our Christian life should spread something contagious. As we get older I think we realize a lot more how we affect others. How, what we do and say, may mold someone else. Even someone of whom we are not aware. The way we act when eating out. The way we act when waiting in a long, slow line. Others see us regardless of what we do.

"Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this; to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and keep oneself unspotted from the world." (James 1:27) How do we keep ourselves unspotted from the world? Well, we can't do as the world does, can we? We must be different. We must be better, act better. Caring for the needy is a start. Reading more of the Bible is a start. There are many other things that need to be done.

How hard is it to be a good influence when we know we fail in our own struggles every day? It is hard! We are human and we do worldly things. To be pleasing to God, with all of these weaknesses, we probably need to be more like David. Though David committed just about every wrong we can imagine, God still called him a "Man after His own heart." It had to be David's repentant heart. God knew how hard David tried. We must be repentant.

We will fail some every day. We are not perfect. Others will see our faults, but if we sincerely try, God will help us. He will help our religion to be contagious to others. He will spread it around!

Remember Our Sick

Luella Bellomo – is in the final stages of terminal cancer. Prayers are needed for her, her family and friends as they face this difficult time.

Ruby Boley – cancer in liver, has started treatments.

Bernice Brown – heart complications.

Otis Hibbard – had a successful surgery. No treatments necessary.

Kathryn Hobbs – close friend of Leota Hickey, has not regained consciousness since surgery April 13th, in L.R., UAMS.

Carl Lawley Family: requested prayer.

Bill McAlister – home, recovering.

Bill Moss – surgery to be scheduled soon..

Betty Walters – to have knee surgery soon.

Shut-ins: Needs your prayers and visits.

Dover Area: **Evelyn Burton**
Louise Killer
Mae Vanzandt

Russellville Nursing and Rehab Center
Thelma Hatcher

Others Who Need Our Prayers:

Doris Karnes Bachand, Susie Boley, Amber Bolin, Donna Brewer, Michelle Crutcher, Jeff Davis, Wanda Dickerson Bennie Drewry, Bob and Rose Lee, Jerry Martin, Debbie Meyer, John and Jannie Myers, Joe Miller, Nolan Passmore, Teresa Phillips, Wilma Shirley, Tanya Smith, Esther Sparks, Harold and Mildred Turner and Earl Whitted.

Expectant Mothers: Melissa Jackson and Kristen Loper Nordin.

Special Children: (Birth Defects) - Zachary Shelton, Gabriel Ross Finlayson, Keith Martin and Noah Williams.

Military: John Allen, Darus Brown, Greg Davis, Paul Holt, Randall Nixon, Cole Wetzell and Rudy Will.

Monday, June 13th
The Southern Christian Home
Truck will be here. List of items
needed in foyer.

"Freedom Isn't Free"

I watched the flag pass by one day,
As it fluttered in the breeze,
A young Marine saluted it,
And then he stood at ease . . .

I looked at him in uniform,
So young, so tall, so proud,
With hair cut square and eyes alert,
He'd stand out in any crowd.

I thought how many men like him
Had fallen through the years.
How many had died on foreign soil,
How many mothers' tears?

How many pilots' planes shot down?
How many died at sea?
How many foxholes
were soldiers' graves?
No, freedom isn't free.

I heard the sound of Taps one night,
When everything was still.
I listened to the bugler play
And felt a sudden chill.

I wondered just how many times
That Taps had meant "Amen,"
When a flag had draped a coffin,
Of a brother or a friend.

I thought of all the children,
Of mothers and the wives,
Of fathers, sons and husbands
With interrupted lives.

I thought about a graveyard
At the bottom of the sea.
Of unmarked graves in Arlington.
No, freedom isn't free.

Source Unknown

Pray for
Our Troops
and
Our Nation!

Events

WEDDING

for
Kayla J. Evans
and
Nathan L. Killer

Saturday,
June 4, 2005
11 AM

Dover Cumberland
Presbyterian Church
Dover, AR

Invitation to Attend Open

“In Search of the Lord’s Way”

Now 24/7

The SEARCH Program can
now be accessed at any time
on its website:

www.searchtv.org

Mack Lyon’s weekly lessons
can be heard in this area on
KATV, Channel 4 on
Sunday, 8:00 AM.

Mark Your Calendars

WEDDING

Deidra Wilbanks
And
Jason Luker

May 28, 2005, 4 PM

Raymond Munger Memorial
Chapel
University of
The Ozarks
Clarksville, AR

Reception to follow

Congregation Invited

“Cancun” Pool Party
at the Veasmans
Cancelled

Vacation Bible School
Dover Church of Christ
June 20 thru 24th
More Details to Follow

Lawn Care

Friday, May 27

Lawrence Boley
and
James Chadwick

JUNE Birthdays

- 1 Sandra Boatright
- 2 Chase Chance
Debbie Meyer
- 3 Allen Veasman
- 4 Michele Helton
- 7 Bob Bennett
Victoria Mitchell
- 10 Leanna Mullins
- 11 Joe Miller
- 12 Tina Davis
Ashlee Wilson
- 15 Jacqueline Helton
Joan Vance
- 21 Caitlyn Straight
- 22 Andy Land
Nina June Qualls
- 25 Ashley Anderson
Pat Holloway
Iris Lawley
- 28 Tanya Smith
Joyce Walters

If we missed your birthday,
please let us know so it won’t
happen again.

Needs:

Cereal for Community Drive, items
for Benevolence Food Barrel and
canned drinks for Camp Caudle
Campers

Singles Breakfast
Every Saturday,
9:00 AM
Dewayne’s,
Dover, AR

THOSE TO SERVE

May 29, 2005

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters
Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

Chris Loper
Brett Walters

Communion

Podium: Allen Veasman
Serve: Rick Hollis
Troy Curtis
William Boley
Doug Wilson

Scripture Reading

Alan Boatright

Sunday P.M. Prayers

Dennis Whiteside
Donny Forehand

SPEAKER

Sunday A.M.

Micah Williams

Sunday P.M.

Youth of Dover Church of Christ

Prepare Table for Communion

Communion to Shut-Ins

Allen Veasman
Blake Forehand

Greeters

Marion and Joyce Helton

Wednesday Night Devotional

June 1, 2005

Merrell Shoptaw

Meeting Times

Sunday Morning Bible Classes
9:45 A.M.

Sunday Morning Worship
10:45 A.M.

Sunday Evening Worship
6:00 P.M.

Ladies Tuesday Bible Class
10:00 A.M.

Wednesday Bible Classes
7:00 P.M.

Minister: Micah Williams
Church Office: 479-331-3428
Or Cell: 479-264-9244

Elders:

William Boley 858-7131
Jim Killer 331-2802
Allen Veasman 331-2156

Deacons:

Donny Forehand
Brent Hottinger
Chris Loper
Rex McDaniel
Joe Miller

Nursery Attendants:

Sunday Class: Carin Chance
Sonia Williams

Sunday Service: Bonnie Vinson

Wednesday Class: Pat McAlister

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Dover Church of Christ
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