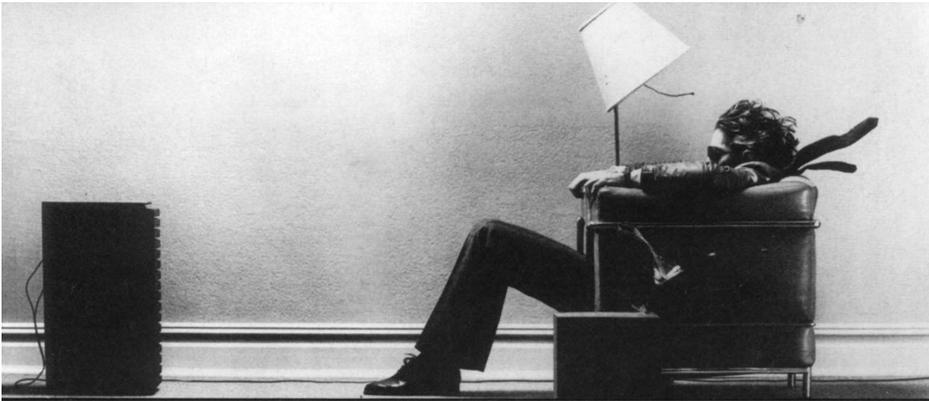


Highly Flavored *ministry*

BURNING ISSUES:

“Is it Live or is it Memorex?”



By Pam Key
Correspondence Editor

Matthew 14:22-33

In the 80’s a manufacturer as part of their promotion made a cassette tape called Memorex. This particular brand of tape proclaimed that it was so true to the real thing that you could never tell the difference between what was live or what was recorded. Their theme then became a challenge for the consumer to determine if it was *live or was it Memorex*. So it is with our faith. One minute we are full of faith and the next we are not. No matter how the Master, our Savior, tells us in His word or shows us through His miracles, we doubt.

Jesus sent his disciples away on the boat to go before Him. When the boat got in the middle of the sea the waves became boisterous. Later on that night Jesus went to them walking on the water. All of those in the boat thought they saw a ghost so they cried out in fear. When Jesus answered them assuring them that it

was Him, Peter asked to come to Him and Jesus allowed him to come. Peter, as he approached Jesus, began to notice the strong winds around him and took his eyes off of Jesus.

Just like Peter, Jesus allows us in the midst of the storm to get out of the boat and come to Him. We come to him through prayer and fasting but are still distracted by the circumstances of our storms or the distractions of others. This doubt is not because of the Father but because of our own belief inside of us. We often times also doubt that we are worthy of forgiveness. You hear it all of the time and may have even said it: “I will go to church when I get right” or “I can’t pray because God doesn’t hear my prayer” or “I will go to Jesus when I stop...” Well that is a lie of the devil. Jesus declares His unflinching and unwavering love for us and because of something that we may have done, or even our current circumstances we feel unworthy of His love (II Cor. 2:10-11). Jesus doesn’t want us to worry or be in

despair because He cares for us (Isa. 41:10).

Keep your focus on Jesus. He is faithful and true. All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God but Jesus stands with arms open wide to

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Highly Flavored Ministry is a not-for-profit organization committed to encouraging individuals and families of those who are incarcerated, released from prison, suffering from addictions and financial strain. Highly Flavored Ministry publishes a newsletters that are mailed to institutions and juvenile facilities internationally free of charge. This publication is also available for community outreach purposes. The corporation provides helpful resources and life-changing alternatives to those in unfortunate situations. Projects are also geared to help our community’s youth.

← BEEN THERE - DONE THAT →

ARE YOU NEXT?

By Jonathan Best, III

If you continue to do what you always did, you'll get what you always got ...



My Wasted Life

How did I get a second degree life sentence for murder? It took a lot of hard work.

It started at the age of thirteen. I began by sneaking cigarettes. That led to alcohol. As I got a little older, thinking I was all grown-up at 15, I started smoking a little weed here and there. Then I was selling weed.

Eventually I ended up in D.Y.S. for a punk three month bid. I came out doing it all over again. This time around I was using and selling cocaine. I was the man! I had it all: money, girls, rental cars, jewelry. I was a real time player/gangster.

I want you to know that this lifestyle will get you a one-way ticket to one of two places: prison (if you are lucky) or the cemetery (if you are not lucky). I ended up in prison all because

I wanted to be like “my boys.” I fell victim to peer pressure. I left my mother without a son, my daughter without her father. I wanted to like “my boys” – the same boys I haven’t seen or heard from since I have been in prison.

From one gangster to another, *forget this lifestyle now before you end up in prison or worse.*

Pay Attention!

Breaking the chains that bound me to my past bitterness was a long journey. During the 15 plus years I spent in prison, I’ve learned that true freedom is not from temptation or from prison. True freedom is having the power to stop doing things that will get me into trouble.

Good people sometimes are capable of doing bad things and allow stupidity to overcome thoughts. I blindly followed the wrong crowd. I’ll live with that the rest of my life, but I am still a decent person with ambitions, feelings and a vision for my future.

When I now make a commitment in life, I take the first step to make the necessary changes. I choose God first. I close the door behind me and the further I go and the longer I remain committed, the more it becomes a part of who I am going to become!

Watch Your Step

Each of us was conceived by destiny, produced by purpose and packaged with potential to live a meaningful and fulfilling life. There’s only one quality that has had more of an effect on my life in the past and that is not believing in myself.

“Lord Jesus, I believe You died for me and I believe You live again. I believe You have forgiven me and I believe You can help me defeat my addiction. Come inside and fill me with Your Spirit. Help me organize my life around You. Give me the courage, wisdom and strength I need, one day at a time.”

BURNING ISSUES

(Continued from Page 1)

welcome us into His kingdom. As a matter of fact He sits at the right hand of the Father interceding on our behalf asking continually for the Father to forgive us of our sins. He wants you to come just like you are. Don’t allow doubt and disbelief to cause you to miss out on all that God has for you here on earth.

Jesus loves for us is the real thing it is never Memorex.

*Inspired by the **real** people of God. Write Pam Key about **Burning Issues** you would like direction on.*

HELP WANTED: WRITERS FOR HFM NEWSLETTER

Please send your writings and we will publish you in our newsletter. Keep in mind HFM reaches over 1,000 prison residents per quarter. This is an incredible tool for those *Saints Behind Bars* to witness to others in the same situation. Send your articles directly to me. **Big thanks** to all who keep the mail and articles coming.

Also write us to get on our mailing list and be included in our congregation’s prayer box.

Send your material and requests to:

Highly Flavored Ministry · Attn: Val Carr · P.O. Box 4418 · Gary, IN 46404



KEEP IT REAL SAINTS

NOT ABOUT "ME"

By Larry Smith

I once stayed thirsty; there was a void I felt all my life, before Christ. A hungered for something I didn't know and had no clue where to find it. I looked for something to fill the void. I searched for it in love, in the sex that I mistook for love, through drugs, people and in trying to feel important by inflating myself in the eyes of others but I could never find an answer in sight.

I needed help so badly, I ended up finding a place to be by myself and I prayed from the depths of my soul; I cried out in my torment to God. I begged and pleaded and told Him all that I needed from Him. I'm a bit on the hard-headed side, a Missourian. I felt like being saved wasn't quite enough; I needed to feel and see things to believe they were real. So I told God that too and while I prayed I began to see things in my mind. These things showed me why no answers were in sight for me. It was because the eyes cannot see the spirit of hope. I didn't realize it at the time but God did and He knew the only place I could find it was with Him.

He showed me that I do not have to see Him to know He is real. He laid His hand on my heart that day. There was more feeling of love in that touch than I can ever explain. It gave me a great deal of understanding but my being a bit hard-headed, I still couldn't put it all in perspective so I told God that too. Then I asked Him why did I still feel so lost? I began to see something else.

In my mind I watched Jesus being whipped and beaten, driven across a city with a huge post on His back.

When He'd stumble and fall they'd beat Him more. His flesh was torn and bleeding. I watched Him nailed down, suffering; it was His decision to go through it willingly. He was doing it to atone for all our sins but I felt acutely aware that He was doing it for me. It also dawned on me if He was dying for all sin you and I may as well have been there to help crucify Him. That is also when I



realized exactly what my sin meant and it made me feel so small and unworthy. He looked down on me from the cross with so much pain and love in his eyes it ripped my heart out.

I've never really felt worthy of being loved, and this was a love I knew was there. I don't think I could ever really explain what I felt or how deeply it was at that moment. But as I stood there turned wrong-side out emotionally, tears streaming down my face, I knew that Jesus was dying for me. I finally saw all my sin, all the pain I've caused, the lives I've helped destroy and I knew that I was loved way beyond any love I could ever comprehend. I'm not sure, but I may have even cried out for Jesus not to love me because I wanted no part of Him dying there because of me. I know I sound like a lunatic, but I was there at the base of that cross in my sin, just as surely as I'm standing here today.

I knew then I could never refuse His *unselfish gift*, not when I knew all Jesus paid to be able to give it to me. Knowing all He endured for me, how could I ever have felt embarrassment or shame for a gift of love that great, one that cost a life and that gives life everlasting each and every day?

I should be ashamed of myself for ever letting myself be considered my main priority.

WHY ARE WE HERE?

By Shell McIntosh

I am here to preach the Gospel.
I am here to be an example, as Christ was an example to me.
I am here to praise God.
I am here to worship God.
I am here to give thanks to His Holy Name.

Jehovah Jireh, my provider. The most serene, I am here to Glorify God in all I do.

I might not be where I am supposed to be with Jesus but I'm not where I used to be without Jesus.

HOW I CAN MAKE THE WORLD BETTER AND SAFER FOR THE FUTURE AND TOMORROW?

By Charlie Carter

- ◆ Get out of prison and don't come back by living a repented life, while warning those in society to turn from their ways of lawfulness and sin, before they too must one day come here.
- ◆ By establishing a crime victim relief and recovery center for all people of all ages, genders and national origins. This is to include men, women, children, and both single and married.
- ◆ Establish a potential crime awareness education program. To establish all people to the dangers of potential crime to them or someone else in their immediate presence.

Keep on working on these plans.

WE ENCOURAGE ... WE EMPOWER ... WE REDIRECT!
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YOUR DAILY SOUL FOOD

← "O taste and see that the Lord is good!" →

July

1. Step Out in Faith- Jn. 11:38-44
2. The Circle of Life- Ps.121
3. The First Good Friday- Luke 23:32-43
4. Going Deeper- Ps. 119:97-105
5. Would You Serve Judas? - Jn. 13:1-20
6. A Familiar Voice- Jn. 20:11-18
7. Searching For God - Matt. 7:7-12
8. Spiritual Sleeping - Luke 10:38-42
9. Everyone Who Asks - James 2:8-17
10. Waiting at the Tomb - Matt. 27:57-61
11. Crosses of Ash - Joel 2:12-16
12. A Time to Bloom - Luke 13:6-9
13. Antidote to Fear - Heb. 11:4-32
14. No Greater Love- Jn. 3:16-21
15. Seeing How I Feel - Col. 3:1-14
16. Making Amends- Eph. 4:25-32
17. Not By Ourselves - Jn. 15:1-11
18. Bearing Their Names - Luke 18:1-8
19. Unstable No More - Ps. 31:1-8
20. Peace in Chaos - Jn. 14:15-27
21. "Lord, Save Me"- Matt. 14:22-33
22. In God's Hands - Is. 49:13-21
23. An Everyday Faith - Rom. 8:35-39
24. From Deceit to Repentance - Matt. 23:23--28
25. Never Alone - Rom. 14:7-9
26. A Personal Message - Ps. 19:7-11
27. Memorable Night - Matt. 25:331-46
28. The Tent Peg - II Cor. 5:1-9
29. Christ's Beloved - I Cor. 13:1-13
30. The Face of God - Gen. 33:1-11

August

1. Love in the Box - I Cor. 13
2. Strong and Courageous - Josh.1:1-9
3. A Faithful Witness - Rom. 8:28-39
4. Knowing and Believing - Col. 1:24-28
5. When Trouble Comes - Ps. 42
6. Many Partners - Rom.10: 13-17
7. Moving Forward - Eph. 1:3-14
8. Follow Me! - Jn. 21:15-22
9. Always With Us - Hab. 2:1-4
10. Self Love - I Jn. 3:18-22
11. Making Choices - Matt. 6:19-24
12. Tear-Stained Shoes - James 5:13-20
13. A Path to Faith - Ps. 78:1-8
14. Treasure in the Stones - Matt. 7:7-11
15. Drink Deeply - Ps. 63:1-8
16. Tell Me About Your Jesus - Acts 8:26-35
17. A Heart Set Free - Ps. 32
18. It Will Be All Right - II Kings 4:8-37
19. This Way! - Is. 30:15-21
20. In Spite Of - I Jn. 4:7-11
21. Refuge - Ps. 46
22. Valuable to God - Acts 10:9-35
23. Mirroring Our Lord - Col. 3:20-24
24. Passion - Hosea 14:1-9
25. Solace - Prov. 3:5-8
26. Through Parents' Eyes - Ps.139:1-6
27. Finding Your Place - I Peter 2:4-10
28. Pulled Free - Eph. 2:1-10
29. Interruptions - Ps.16
30. Scripture Lullaby - James 1:22-25
31. Wasting Talents - Matt. 25:14-30

September

1. God Knows My Name - Is. 45:2-7
2. First Love - Rev. 2:1-7
3. God's Messenger - Acts 12:1-19
4. The Way of Love - Phil. 1:1-9
5. Always There - Matt. 25:31-40
6. Seeing the Potential - Mark 4:26-32
7. God's Treasure - Ps. 103:1-5
8. All of Your Resources - Matt.11:28-30
9. Turning Point - Luke 15:11-32
10. Learning to Forgive - Matt. 5:43-48
11. Something To Offer - Philemon 4:7
12. Vision of Peace- Ps. 23
13. Easy to Fix - I Cor. 12:21-27
14. Letters to God - Jer. 30:1-11
15. New Life - Joel 2:21-26
16. Expect the Unexpected - Jn. 1:32-42
17. My Father's Hands - II Cor. 5:16-21
18. A Chip Off The Old Block - Rom. 8:12-17
19. The Lord Who Heals - Luke 18:1-8
20. Stumbling in Darkness - Ps. 19:97-105
21. Grow Up - I Cor. 3:1-4
22. Listen - James 1:19-22
23. Good Soil - Matt. 13:3-9, 36-42
24. Someone Is Listening - Ps. 34:4-18
25. A Place of Separation - Neh. 13:4-9
26. Our Strong Tower - II Sam. 22:1-7
27. Mini-Prayers- I Thess. 5:12-28
28. Where Are You Taking Me? - Exodus 6:6-9
29. When God Seems Distant - Gen. 28:15-17
30. Call to Prayer - Rom.14:4-12