



The Tri-Cities Edifier

Volume 6

June 2, 2019

No. 22

Amazement

In Mark 2:1-12, Jesus heals a man unable to move from his paralysis. Not only did this miracle prove Jesus had the power to forgive sins on earth it caused a great deal of amazement among the people. Their reaction was "We never saw anything like this!" (verse 12).

There are times in our own lives that we see something that we have never seen before and we observe in amazement. I was amazed the time I saw Lake Louis in Canada. The picturesque view caught me off guard and I was amazed by what God had created.

There are a number of times that people were amazed about Jesus.

- The time Jesus removed the demon "Then they were all amazed and spoke among themselves, saying, "What a word this is! For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out." Luke 4:36
- The time Jesus raised Jairus's daughter from the dead "Immediately the girl arose and walked, for she was twelve years of age. And they were overcome with great amazement. Mark 5:42
- So the multitude marveled when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed made whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel. Matthew 15:31
- Before Pilate: "But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly." Matthew 27:14

Those who actually observed what Jesus was doing were often taken back by what they saw. What Jesus did was amazing!

STACY

Just As Christ Loved the Church

~by Al Diestelkamp

For men who are married, I doubt that there is any greater challenge than the one posed by the apostle Paul in his letter to the Ephesians: "Husbands, love your wives just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it" (5:25). Loving our wives is easy, but loving them "*just as Christ loved the church*" sets a very high standard. Therefore, it is important that we see just how Christ loved the church so that we might act accordingly toward our wives.

Christ loved the church sacrificially

He "*gave Himself for it.*" To succeed at loving our wives "as Christ does the church," we must have an attitude of sacrificial service toward them. It's not likely that we will have to die for our wives, but we must be willing to serve their needs. As husbands, we need to understand that our wives' needs differ from our own. True love "does not seek its own" (1 Cor. 13:5). It is our responsibility to meet the needs of our wives. A great "fringe benefit" of doing this well is that our wives will respond in kind by making sure that our needs are met. While not all wives have identical needs, a survey of Christians attending a ladies' Bible class showed that their number one need is for their husbands to provide spiritual leadership. Other expressed needs (in order of their importance) were family commitment, communication, affection, and financial security.

Christ loved the church exclusively

The apostle says that Christ's gift of Himself was "that He might sanctify and cleanse it" (v.26). Though Jesus loves the whole world, He has "set apart" His church from the world. He has only one bride. The marriage relationship requires

sanctification—a setting apart from other relationships. In marriage, the husband is “set apart” to belong to the wife, and the wife is “set apart” to belong to the husband—he for her; her for him. Any interference with this God-given arrangement is sin.

Christ loved the church caringly

“So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church” (vs.28-29). The word nourish means “to feed,” and the word cherish means “to soften by heat” [*Vine*].

I think we know what we do for someone or something we cherish—“protect and care for lovingly; hold something dear” [*American Dictionary*].

Christ loved the church enduringly

As the church is joined to Christ, so “a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh” (v.31). This is a reference to the intimate sexual relationship between a husband and wife. However, Jesus used this same quote to teach the inseparability of marriage (Matt. 19:5-6). As Christ and His bride are “one body” which nothing can separate (Rom. 8:35-39), so the husband and wife are “one flesh” which man must not separate.

From the beginning, God said, “it is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him” (Gen. 2:18). As men, we should have a great appreciation for our wives. We should view them as highly-prized (and nicely packaged) gifts from our Creator. He knows just what we need to help us go to Heaven. *Think Magazine* April – May – June 2019 Vol. 50 No. 29 

Eli's Family: Lack of Discipline

- by Frank Himmel

The Bible depicts Eli as a godly man. He judged Israel forty years (1 Sam. 4:18), the next to last ruler of that era. Eli was a priest as well as a judge, serving in the tabernacle at Shiloh (1 Sam. 1:9). His last years were spent as a mentor to young Samuel, who grew to be one of the all-time great characters of Bible history. Eli's death reflected his character, too: news that the ark of the covenant had been captured by the Philistines made him fall off his seat, and he broke his neck and died (1 Sam. 4:18).

Eli's sons were another story. They “were worthless men; they did not know the Lord” (2 Sam. 2:12). They acted as though the priesthood existed for their benefit. Instead of limiting themselves to the prescribed priestly portion of a sacrifice, the breast and right thigh (Lev. 7:28-34), they took whatever their fork would hold. And they had no qualms about taking the Lord's portion, the fat (Lev. 3:3-5). They used the priesthood to make themselves fat!

Hophni and Phinehas were as brazen as any priests in history. They threatened anyone who challenged them. They even went so far as to commit fornication with the women who served at the tabernacle (1 Sam. 2:22).

Old Eli rebuked his rebellious sons (1 Sam. 2:22-25). He warned them that they were not only sinning themselves, they were leading others to sin, too. But his rebuke fell on deaf ears. God revealed to Samuel that the day would come when He would cut off Eli's house from priestly service. He explained, “I am about to judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knew, because his sons brought a curse on themselves, and he did not rebuke them” (1 Sam. 3:13).

How could God say Eli did not rebuke his sons when the text records his rebuke? The answer is obvious: Eli did not do enough. The word rendered rebuke literally means to be dim. We might say that Eli did not sufficiently take “a dim view”

of what his sons were doing. Yes, he reprimanded them, but when they did not repent he left them in office (Most translations use the term restrain). Actually, what Hophni and Phinehas did deserved death. God accused Eli of honoring them above Him (2:29).

Personal devotion to God and a good example are musts if we are to bring up our children in the way of the Lord. But more is needed. Persistent misbehavior calls for corrective discipline. Hopefully, a rebuke or mild punishment will suffice. When it does not, God clearly expects us to do whatever is necessary. May He bless us with wisdom and courage.