

In the Barn!

Barneys Newsletter



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A World Out of Control

of isolation from the world. That isolation combined with hearing about world events has certainly conveyed the sense to me that the world is out of control.

No event in the world has epitomised this like Afghanistan returning to the hands of the Taliban. Watching people clinging to the sides of departing planes in desperate attempts of escape was terrible. What would cause a person to think that holding onto an airforce jet as it accelerates into the sky is better than the safety of the ground? I don't think we can imagine the horrors awaiting those who collaborated with the Americans during their governance of the nation.

I keep joking with Trudy that everyday feels like Christmas at the moment, as every time there is a knock on the door there appears to be a box of surprises for us to enjoy. Imagine being someone who worked with the Americans in Kabul - or worse yet one the 15,000 Americans still trapped

In a strange juxtaposition of emotions this week, though connected to the world through the internet, I have felt strangely isolated. This certainly has not been a negative experience for me, I have in fact enjoyed seeing more of my wife and children every day. And the times I have spent with them has only deepened those feelings. But the extended lockdown has increased my sense

**by Adam
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Unexpected Thoughts

There are times when unexpected thoughts cross my mind when reading the Scriptures. Here are some examples.

thought he could stay there and resist her she would have had him I reckon, but he did the only thing he should and fled from the house.

Satan has a field day with the lusts of the flesh. If confronted with any lusts of the flesh temptations we must immediately pray to have the eyes of Jesus standing between ourselves and from where temptation is coming. He resisted all his temptations and is the only way to overcome Satan's persistent attack on Christianity morality.

Next consider the prodigal son in Luke's gospel. There he is in the field feeding swine. He is starving for food while the swine has plenty to eat. But then he comes to his senses. God can use any situation or event. In this case hunger, to bring people to a realisation of their need for God in their life.

To all of us who are praying for loved ones and people we know to come to the Lord, do not give up. Persevere with the prayer of faith, the assurance of things hoped for, the certainty of things not yet seen (Heb. 11:1). Here is a quote, "When it comes to our praying we do not wait well. We're not microwaving; God, on the other hand is usually into marinating." So do not give up for God can use anyone or anything to bring people to the realisation of their need of Him.

We see this with the woman brought to Jesus who was caught

in the act of adultery. (John 8) Picture the Pharisees waiting for Jesus' answer and then he says, "Let him who is without sin among you, be there first to throw a stone at her." Jesus then returns to writing with his finger in the ground. Can you imagine the Pharisees leaving one-by-one with the clunk, clunk, clunk, clunk, clunk. These are the stones dropping, clunk, there was a big one. This is putting sound effects into the reading of Scripture. It helps me to bring the situation more alive.

When the Pharisees had all gone Jesus asks the woman, "has no one condemned you?" She replies, "no-one Lord", Jesus said, "neither do I condemn you; go, and sin no more." Here is the unconditional love in the words, "neither do I condemn you". But with unconditional love there is always a challenge as we see in the words, "Go and sin no more."

We must never take Christ's unconditional love for granted and ignore the challenge He gives, to always follow Him on His terms. What can encourage us to do that? Remembering Jesus love for us in the gospel. For Jesus said, "For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). Jesus' love comes as a challenge in His words, "Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more."

Keep up your Bible reading. God Bless, John Mason.

**by John
Mason**

After Issac married Rebekah, his father Abraham at 125 years of age was married again to Keturah and fathered a further sin sons. The thought came to me, 'talk about having your second wind' or perhaps, 'he could be considered a slow starter and like good wine have improved with age.' Then I realised that we are never too old to be used by God. Those of us who are now living longer than we ever imagined can on each birthday recommit our availability to God to be used any way for His purpose. Age is not a

Consider Joseph when he went down into Egypt.

But one day when he (Joseph) went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house were there, she (the wife of Joseph's master) caught him by his garment saying, "lie with me" which wasn't the first time she had wanted Joseph. (Get 39:11)

I thought golly she is keen and no doubt having a plunging neck line, wearing a garment which showed off a curvaceous figure wearing the equivalent of Channell No. 5. If Joshua

barrier to God as we have seen with Abraham.
Gen. 25.

in the country.
Every knock on
the door would not
be a time for mirth, but
abject horror and fear!

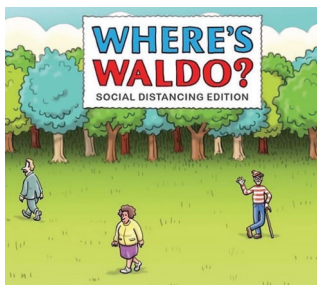
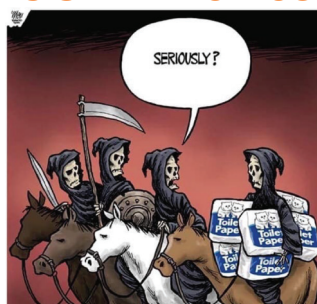
Then there is the ridiculous
language of politicians who
have declared a war on COVID.
These declarations are nothing
but the feeble attempts of man
to control the uncontrollable.
That is not an argument
against sensible precautions
- we should be thinking how
to care for the vulnerable. But
no army can fight a disease.
There are no diplomats with
whom to negotiate a cease-
fire. We might as well scream
at a hurricane to stop. No, that
is foolishness. In a hurricane -
you batten down the hatches

and pray you get through it
as you realise how small and
feeble we truly are!

We live in a world out of our
control. But here is the little
secret we ignore but times like
these serve to remind us - We
always did! That realisation
can be truly horrifying. As
I met with someone to read
the Bible this week we talked
about Philippians 1:21 - to live
is Christ and to die is gain. As
we discussed the verse it took
on new significance for me. It
made me realise that in a world
out of my control, it doesn't
matter. That no matter what
happens to me that my future
is secure - and in that I rejoice!

God Bless. In Christ, Adam.

COVID Memes



Find-A-Word

Accelerate	Imagine	Scream	Uncontrollable
Assurance	Marinate	Significance	Vulnerable
Consider	Persistent	Situation	World
Diplomats	Realisation	Temptation	
Foolishness	Recommit	Unconditional	

U N C O N T R O L L A B L E U
S D T F N H U V L E D O E H R
W I O Y O G E O A T P R T Q E
E P E A I W S M N A E E A E C
L L C R T U S A O R R D N B O
B O N E A P E E I E S I I Q M
A M A A T A N R T L I S R S M
R A C L P S H C I E S N A I I
E T I I M S S S D C T O M T T
N S F S E U I D N C E C S U D
L N I A T R L L O A N P K A A
U B N T W A O R C S T J X T P
V W G I X N O O N F V K N I B
M E I O Z C F W U H X R S O O
T F S N L E I M A G I N E N Y

PRAYER POINTS



- Give thanks for our church and the gift of each other.
- Pray for our Spiritual health at the present time as we continue to suffer through being isolated from one another.
- SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT
Think of a person who you could be praying for at church. Pray that they will grow in love and discernment of God's love at this time.