



# The Mustard Seed



Rehoboth Baptist Church Newsletter ~ February 2012



**Teach ME Lord** by Irene Davey, born 1/26/1908  
104 years old on 1/26/2012 (friend of Val Stout)

Teach me Lord with kindness,  
Touch me please  
For there's a hurt within me  
That only you can ease.

I've often reached out for you  
You've always been standing there.  
Lord, my God, my haven,  
You've answered my every prayer.

Not always the way I wished Lord,  
But the way you knew it must be,  
And somehow my pain recedes God,  
When I hold hands with thee.

Through my tears I reach out...  
You touch me.  
I lower my head and I cry  
Let me walk with you my Lord  
Until the day I die.

Then let me stand beside you  
In the ever promised land  
Touch me again, Lord, hold me  
Never let go of my hand.

---

## The Treasure that Turns Other Treasures to Garbage by John Piper

*But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.*

Paul has a way of playing your game, winning, and then saying the game is bunk. He does it, for example, in 2 Corinthians 11:21-12:11 where he lists his "superior" achievements and then says, "I have been a fool! You forced me to it" (2 Corinthians 12:11). In other words, I can play your game of measuring myself by your standards, win, and then call it all worthless. It is fool's play.

He does it again here in Philippians 3. He warns the church to watch out for the evildoing dogs who

mutilate the flesh (people who insist on circumcision as a way of getting right with God). The problem with these people is that they "put confidence in the flesh"-that is, they bank on their works for justification (vv. 2-3, cf. v. 9).

So Paul says, OK let's play that game for a moment. And then he lists his works of the flesh and knocks his opponents out of the ring with legal achievements. "If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more." Indeed he does.

Then come three of the best verses in all the Bible. In essence: the victory I just won in the contest of the flesh is a pile of garbage (the Greek is *sku,bala*, v. 8). And the reason he uses such a strong word (refuse!) is that the alternative is Christ. Compared to Christ being the greatest Pharisee of his time was foul garbage.

But that is too vague. He is not vague. He does not say simply that compared to Christ legal achievements are garbage; he is more specific. He says that what is superior to moral and religious achievements is 1) knowing Christ, 2) gaining Christ, and 3) being found in Christ.

**1. Knowing Christ.** "Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord" (v. 8). "Knowing" here is not just knowing the fact that Jesus is Lord. It is the kind of knowing that prompts the phrase, "my Lord"! He knows the supreme Lord of the universe (see 2:9-11) as his Lord. So there are two aspects to Paul's passion for Christ here. One is the rational and relational knowledge of the greatest person in the universe. Paul's mind and heart are full of Christ. The other is that he belongs to Christ as subject to the all-ruling, all-protecting Lord. This is better than being at the top of any human heap.

**2. Gaining Christ.** "For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ" (v. 8). "Gain" means get all that Christ is for us in heaven, not just on earth. Paul has already said, "To live is Christ and to die is gain" (v. 21), because "to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better" (1:23). And he is about to say, "I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own" (3:12). So it is clear that part of what makes human achievement a pile of garbage compared to Christ is that soon (and very soon!) he is going to meet the king-in a way far more full and intimate and stunning and satisfying than anything he has known here. And he has known so much of Christ here that the garbage verdict has been rendered on that alone.

**3. Being found in Christ.** ". . . and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes



# The Mustard Seed



Rehoboth Baptist Church Newsletter ~ February 2012

from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith" (v. 9). Paul was overwhelmed by the fact that "in Christ"-that is, united to Christ by faith alone-he possessed a righteousness that was infinitely better than all his legal achievements could ever be. Paul knew he needed a righteous life in order to be accepted by God and in order to enjoy all the glories of Christ forever. He did not have such a righteousness in himself. He needed the free gift of righteousness from God himself. God gave it to him in Christ.

Therefore Jesus Christ was both the treasure he cherished and the one who provided the right to have the treasure. In Christ alone Paul had a right to know and gain Christ. And that is all he wanted. That is the gospel. This is what we mean by treasuring Christ together. Christ alone is the ground of our acceptance with God and the goal of our heart's desire. He is our righteousness and our reward. Compared to him (knowing him, gaining him, being found in him) all else is garbage.

*Treasuring Christ together with you,  
Pastor John*

## Everything You Need

Are you hoping that a change in circumstances will bring a change in your attitude? If so, you are in prison, and you need to learn a secret of traveling light. What you have in your Shepherd is greater than what you don't have in life.

May I meddle for a moment? What is the one thing separating you from joy? How do you fill in this blank: "I will be happy when \_\_\_\_\_"?

When I am healed. When I am promoted. When I am married. When I am single. When I am rich. How would you finish that statement?

Now, with your answer firmly in mind, answer this. If your ship never comes in, if your dream never comes true, if the situation never changes, could you be happy? If not, then you are sleeping in the cold cell of discontent. You are in prison. And you need to know what you have in your Shepherd.

You have a God who hears you, the power of love behind you, the Holy Spirit within you, and all of heaven ahead of you. If you have the Shepherd, you have grace for every sin, direction for every turn, a candle for every corner, and an anchor for every storm. You have everything you need.

**From Lucado Inspirational Reader**

Copyright (Thomas Nelson, 2011) Max Lucado

## Mustard Seed Index for February 2012

1. Teach ME Lord by Irene Davey 104
1. The Treasure...Others Garbage by John Piper
2. "Everything You Need" by Max Lucado
2. "Jesus Lover of My Soul" Hymn Story
3. Mission News, Green's in Poland
4. Pastor "Resisting Sodom"
5. "God Listens" by Mx Lucado
5. Quiz Answers
6. Prayer in the Bible Quiz
6. Letter from Steve Brown, KeyLife Ministries
8. The Treasure
9. February 2012 Calendar
10. March 2012 Calendar

*Do you have any Newsletter articles or ideas?*

*See David Littlehale or email at [dla85@dlittlehale.com](mailto:dla85@dlittlehale.com)*

*Visit us on the web: [www.RehobothBaptistChurch.org](http://www.RehobothBaptistChurch.org)*

## Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Some have acclaimed it as the greatest hymn ever written! One soldier would have good reason to agree. Some years after the Civil War old soldiers from both the Union and Confederate armies met together. A former Confederate told how he was sent to pick off an exposed Union sentry. As he aimed his gun at the sentry, he heard him singing, "Jesus, Lover of My Soul."

The Confederate didn't care if the sentry was a Union enemy or not; he just couldn't shoot, and lowered his gun. An old Union soldier stood up and asked if that happened in the Atlanta Campaign of 1864. It had. The old Union man said he was that sentry. He told how he had been depressed and fearful when assigned to the isolated sentry post and had begun to sing the hymn to keep his courage up, little realizing how it had saved his life.

How did Charles Wesley come to write this hymn? One story is that Charles was returning to England in the fall of 1736 after serving as Governor Oglethorpe's secretary in the new colony of Georgia. A frightening storm arose at sea, and it seemed that the ship would go down with all on board. A frightened bird flew into Wesley's window during the storm and sought safety and protection in the folds of Wesley's coat! Another account says that the hymn was written when an angry mob drove Charles and John from the place they were preaching. Charles was beaten and composed the hymn while hiding under a hedge.

Charles' brother John did not like "Jesus Lover of My Soul" when he first read it; he thought it was too sentimental! The hymn didn't really become popular until after Charles Wesley's death.

Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to Thy bosom fly,  
While the nearer waters roll,  
while the tempest still is high.  
Hide me, O my Savior, hide, till the storm of life is past;  
Safe into the haven guide; O receive my soul at last.

Plenteous grace with Thee is found,  
grace to cover all my sin;  
Let the healing streams abound; '  
make and keep me pure within.  
Thou of life the fountain art, freely let me take of Thee;  
Spring Thou up within my heart; rise to all eternity.



# The Mustard Seed



Rehoboth Baptist Church Newsletter ~ February 2012

## Mission News:

- Pray for our committee as we discuss short term missions trips for our church and next year's missions budget.
- Pray for the Greens in Poland serving with World Venture. Pastor Bridge will begin mentoring Mike soon.

From Mike and Agnieszka Green in Krakow, Poland

We celebrated our tenth anniversary as a church this Fall. Our little church has had its ups and downs. We've lost and have gained some along the way. Our existence is a testimony to God's faithfulness and to your partnership in this church plant. Thank you for your partnership with us.

**Pray for the next generation of leaders** in our church. One deacon and his wife lead what is called the "Royal Rangers". Basically boy and girl scouts who are in middle school. Another currently attending seminary and would like to become a pastor. We will be mentoring him concerning the practical side of the ministry. Who knows, maybe he could become the pastor of this church one day.

## Uczeń Christian Elementary School

Agnieszka has been very busy this past Fall. The school is going through some turbulent times and being on the board of directors, she finds herself in the middle of everything. It is amazing how fast rumors and gossip travel among parents and school staff. Trying to find out exactly what the facts are is a very difficult task. Pray for Agnieszka and the school board, that God would give them wisdom in handling the different problems that exist.

Agnieszka was also informed this past week that the city is closing a bunch of schools and combining others. The school that they are renting from will be closed and another will use that same building, thus Uczeń needs to find another school to rent from. Please pray that they would find another building.

## School of Missions

This year we have eight students. Some are taking the courses because they find them interesting, but others are seriously pondering the idea of becoming missionaries. How great is that! This year the students enjoy being with each other and talking long into the night. Discussions at one or two o'clock in the morning can be very interesting. Pray that God would give them a definite call to His mission field.

Back in 2009, I had stated that we had sent out our first missionary. Since that time we have helped to send out about nine people in all. One couple who finished last year shall be joining a team that also finished our school and is working in Prague with Campus Crusade. Once they get on the field, Agnieszka and I shall be going to visit them and to do some consulting work in helping them to understand the culture and set up a strategy.

Mike will also be meeting with a Polish couple who

are working with an orphanage in Uganda between Christmas and New Year's Eve. He will be trying to teach them about Ugandan culture and anthropology. It is amazing to see Poland opening up to world missions and we are thrilled that God has allowed us to be a part of it.

## Evangelism

Our church is concentrating on evangelism and discipleship for the next year. As a way of encouraging evangelism, we are encouraging people to pray for unbelieving friends and family during each Sunday service. Also we are hoping that people will look at evangelism as a lifestyle as opposed to being an event that comes up from time to time.

## Thanksgiving and Prayer Requests

We are very thankful to all of you who make this ministry possible!

We're thankful for existing for ten years.

We're thankful for having a new generation of leaders to prepare.

We're thankful for the Polish missionaries who are leaving for the field.

Please pray that God would give us a burden for the lost and that he would open up doors to talking with them about Christ.

Pray for the Christian elementary school and for Agnieszka that they would find a new building and get through their problems.

Pray for the new students at the school of missions, that they would sense God's calling to the mission field.

Pray that God would give us wisdom as we help our church leaders prepare for the ministry.

May God bless each of you during the Christmas season. May He give you joy, peace, and satisfaction in all you do.

Blessings,  
**Mike & Agnieszka**

## Psalm 23

*The Lord is my shepherd;  
I shall not want.  
He makes me to lie down in green pastures;  
He leads me beside the still waters.  
He restores my soul;  
He leads me in the paths of righteousness  
For His name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk  
through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil;  
For You are with me;  
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
You anoint my head with oil;  
My cup runs over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
All the days of my life;  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
Forever.*



# The Mustard Seed



Rehoboth Baptist Church Newsletter ~ February 2012



From The Desk of Our Pastor:

## Resisting Sodom (Eph. 6:10-20).

With the recent joyful announcement of another marriage at RBC, I have been reminded again how sacred the marriage bond is, and how close the Western world is to destroying it. Following the lead of several European countries and our neighbors to the north, we are racing toward a redefinition of marriage that cannot fail to have a catastrophic impact on society. Of course, this is all done in the name of equality and fairness, but it is really nothing more than a monument to the arrogance and pride of men. For men to think they can so radically change thousands of years of history, ignore the biological reality, dismiss what was given by God for the happiness and procreation of mankind and not mess things up entirely is sheer lunacy. And yet, despite the objections of the majority of citizens, our nation is careening out of moral control at an alarming rate.

Washington State's Senate recently approved a so-called marriage equality bill that will allow same sex people to be legally married in the state. Although not yet law, and opposed by religious groups and a solid majority of the state's citizens, the bill is almost certain to be signed into law in 2012. Washington will join an increasing number of states that now permit same sex marriage (shamefully, Massachusetts was the first to do so in 2004). Similar bills are working their way through the legislative bodies of several other states with a high probability of becoming law. Same sex marriage legislation has been unsuccessfully attempted in Rhode Island. However, with a sympathetic governor at the state house the proponents of the bill will likely introduce it again soon. All these efforts are accelerating because of President Obama's decision to instruct the Department of Justice not to defend the federal Defense of Marriage Act.

In a related story, seven Episcopal Congregations in Virginia who have left the denomination over the ordination of homosexuals now find themselves homeless. By court order they are being forced to hand over the properties which they have built, paid for, and maintained for generations to a denomination which has abandoned biblical authority. Two of the churches, Truro Church in Fairfax, and the Falls Church in Falls Church, are two of the oldest congregations in the country. The founders must be turning in their graves!

Add to the above a recent White House edict issued through the Dept. of Health and Human Services to require all religious based hospitals, schools, charities and other health service providers to include free birth control, abortifacient pills and even sterilizations on demand as part of their health insurance plans – even if it violates their conscience and the stated doctrines of their church. Catholic hospitals, schools and charities are particularly vulnerable to these new rules due to the sheer number of organizations and personnel (over 700,000 employees). If these rules are fully implemented thousands will be faced with the choice of compliance, loss of job, or prosecution.

With regard to this, Michelle Malkin wrote an article in Frontpagemag.com titled: First, they came for the Catholics, which harkens back to the famous words of German pastor and anti-Nazi, Martin Niemoller, who wrote: *"First they came for the communists, and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a communist. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak out because I was Protestant. Then they came for me and there was no one left to speak out for me."* Edmund Burke put it this way: *"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing."*

These are but a few of the many examples of a mounting virulent attack on Christianity which can be seen every day in our rapidly degenerating culture. We are, in a very real sense witnessing the same reaction to righteousness that occurred in ancient Sodom. Lot lived in Sodom and his righteousness was a thorn in the side of the residents who hated him and wanted to destroy him (Gen. 19:9). In the same way the world of fallen men seeks to be free of the constraints of morality and godliness (cf. Psalm 2:1-3). Writing to Timothy, Paul said that perilous times would come and evil men would grow worse and worse, and that all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus would be persecuted (2 Tim. 3).

Well, it would seem that persecution of Christians has arisen anew in our time and it is time for those of us who name the name of Christ to be ready to face it in the power of the Spirit. There are two ways to do this. As citizens of the eternal Kingdom we must pray to God, who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, for the success of the gospel. It was the gospel that triumphed over the godless Roman Empire. It was the gospel that rescued the world from the spiritual darkness of the Middle Ages. It was the gospel that awoke a sleeping Great Britain and an insulated America into powerful missionary sending countries. It is the gospel that is now transforming large segments of Asia. What God has done before in our country, He can do again. But He will only do it if we pray and if we are willing to stand up for the truth and not be silent (2 Chron. 7:14).

Second, as citizens of this nation we have the right to make our opposition known. While we are required



# The Mustard Seed



Rehoboth Baptist Church Newsletter ~ February 2012

by the word of God to be subject to the governing authorities (Rom. 13), that does not restrict Christians and churches from standing against such authorities when they do things which are in defiance of the word of God (Acts 4:19-20). The time has certainly arrived for Christians of all stripes to find their voice and make their opposition to these immoral, anti-christian and socially destructive movements known. Apathy in the face of such hostile and godless actions is simply not an option. At the very least, each Christian must speak with their vote and seek to elect men and women who will uphold biblical principles and freedom of conscience, and reject those who seek to advance their agenda by any means at their disposal.

It is a well known fact that the pulpits of America led the opposition to the oppression of unjust laws imposed by an imperialistic power. Perhaps the time has come when that voice should be heard again.

For the kingdom,

Pastor Ron

## God Listens

You can talk to God because God listens. Your voice matters in heaven. He takes you very seriously. When you enter his presence, the attendants turn to you to hear your voice. No need to fear that you will be ignored. Even if you stammer or stumble, even if what you have to say impresses no one, it impresses God—and he listens. He listens to the painful plea of the elderly in the rest home. He listens to the gruff confession of the death-row inmate. When the alcoholic begs for mercy, when the spouse seeks guidance, when the businessman steps off the street into the chapel, God listens.

Intently. Carefully. The prayers are honored as precious jewels. Purified and empowered, the words rise in a delightful fragrance to our Lord. "The smoke from the incense went up from the angel's hand to God." Incredible. Your words do not stop until they reach the very throne of God.

Then, the angel "filled the incense pan with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth" (Rev. 8:5). One call and Heaven's fleet appears. Your prayer on earth activates God's power in heaven, and "God's will is done on earth as it is in heaven."

You are the someone of God's kingdom. You have access to God's furnace. Your prayers move God to change the world. You may not understand the mystery of prayer. You don't need to. But this much is clear: Actions in heaven begin when someone prays on earth. What an amazing thought!

**When you speak, Jesus hears.  
And when Jesus hears, thunder falls.  
And when thunder falls, the world is changed.  
All because someone prayed.**

From [Lucado Inspirational Reader](#)

Copyright (Thomas Nelson, 2011) Max Lucado

## Psalm 28 (njkv)

***To You I will cry, O Lord my Rock:  
Do not be silent to me,***

***Lest, if You are silent to me,  
I become like those who go down to the pit.***

***Hear the voice of my supplications  
When I cry to You,  
When I lift up my hands  
toward Your holy sanctuary.***

***Do not take me away with the wicked  
And with the workers of iniquity,  
Who speak peace to their neighbors,  
But evil is in their hearts.***

***Give them according to their deeds,  
And according to the wickedness  
of their endeavors;  
Give them according  
to the work of their hands;***

***Render to them what they deserve.  
Because they do not regard  
the works of the Lord,  
Nor the operation of His hands,  
He shall destroy them  
And not build them up.***

***Blessed be the Lord,  
Because He has heard  
the voice of my supplications!***

***The Lord is my strength and my shield;***

***My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped;  
Therefore my heart greatly rejoices,  
And with my song I will praise Him.***

***The Lord is their strength,  
And He is the saving refuge of His anointed.***

***Save Your people,  
And bless Your inheritance;  
Shepherd them also,  
And bear them up forever.***

---

### Quiz Answers

- (1) live, Genesis 20:4-7
- (2) Because she was barren, Genesis 25:21
- (3) He thought she was drunk, 1 Samuel 1:12,13
- (4) chariots of fire all around Elisha, 2 Kings 6:17
- (5) Call the Shunammite woman, 2 Kings 4:8-12
- (6) strike them with blindness, 2 Kings 6:18
- (7) Healed him, 2 Kings 20:5
- (8) Restored the fortunes, Job 42:10
- (9) Gabriel, Daniel 9:4,5,21
- (10) belly of the fish, Jonah 2:1



# The Mustard Seed



Rehoboth Baptist Church Newsletter ~ February 2012

## Prayer in the Bible Quiz

**1.) God spoke to Abimelech and told him that Abraham would pray for him and he would...**

- live.
- prosper greatly in every way.
- develop leprosy which will stay in his family forever.
- dip in the river seven times and be healed.

**2.) Why did Isaac pray to the LORD for his wife, Rebekah?**

- Because she was barren.
- Because she had leprosy.
- Because she had been bitten by a snake.
- Because the king had chosen her to be his wife.

**3.) What did the priest Eli think when he saw Hannah praying?**

- He thought she was mad.
- He thought she was drunk.
- He thought she was holy.
- He thought she was having a seizure.

**4.) When Elisha prayed for his servant and the LORD opened the eyes of the servant, what did he see.**

- The four horsemen of the apocalypse riding towards them.
- He saw men as trees, walking.
- A mighty army was descending on them.
- The mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

**5.) When Elisha had prayed for the child of the Shunammite woman, what did he tell his servant to do?**

- See to it that the flesh of the child became warm.
- Walk to and fro in the room.
- Count how many times the child sneezed.
- Call the Shunammite woman.

**6.) What did Elisha pray for the Arameans when they came down against him?**

- That God would strike them dead.
- That God would strike them with blindness.
- That God would show him a way out even although there was no way.
- That God would hobble their horses.

**7.) What did God do in response, as Hezekiah wept to God in prayer?**

- Healed him.
- Killed him.
- Killed his enemies.
- Raised his child from the dead.

**8.) What did the Lord do when Job prayed for his friends?**

- Sent his friends away.
- Brought more of his friends to comfort him.
- Restored his friends and gave them twice as much as they had before.
- Restored the fortunes of Job and gave Job twice as much as he had before.

**9.) Who responded to Daniel's prayer of confession?**

- The Lord himself.
- The angel Michael.
- The angel Gabriel.
- The king Darius.

**10.) Where was Jonah when he prayed to God?**

- On the wharf at Joppa.
- In the boat, about to be thrown in the water.
- On the road to Ninevah.
- In the belly of the fish.

---

### Steve Brown's Letter:

There's an old story about some kids who, as a practical joke, slipped into a department store and changed all the price tags. The next day, some of the customers were overjoyed with the bargains while others were shocked by the grossly overpriced items.

Oscar Wilde once suggested that people know the price of everything but the value of nothing.

They do.

Me too.

Do you know why? Because everybody tells us the price and, in doing so, thinks they've defined value. The voices are everywhere and those voices are passionate. They come from the politicians, the preachers, the authors, the con artists and the "sellers of the trinkets," and they seem so sure. Then they remind us that we "only go around once," so we have to get it right the first time.

I'm old—as old as dirt—and over the years, I've listened to so many of those voices. It took me a long time to have an "attack of sanity" and to realize that those voices didn't know anymore than I knew. And I found out that most of them were wrong. Late at night, an old man knows that sometimes he, as Mark Twain put it, "paid too much for his whistle."

I'm not depressed about the voices I listened to though. In fact, just the opposite.

I started thinking about this because a friend of a friend asked me to write the foreword to a book by Kyle Drake, *Unsucceding*. I liked it. It's about a man who had everything and decided he was listening to the wrong voices. So, he decided to only listen to the voice of Jesus, to trust him, and to see what happened. The man resigned from his job, and then allowed Jesus to deal the cards and determine the rules of the game. His story wasn't manipulative, self-righteous or guilt-producing. In fact, he was quite honest in both the successful and less than successful places.

At any rate, as I read the book, I thought about the roads I had walked just because everybody told me that if I wanted to be successful, those were the roads I should walk. How could so many people be that wrong?



# The Mustard Seed



Rehoboth Baptist Church Newsletter ~ February 2012

Are you shocked? You didn't think preachers were concerned with things like career, fame and fortune? Let me disabuse you of your naiveté. There aren't, after all, separate airport bathrooms for men, women and preachers. The difference between our sin and your (the un-ordained) sin is that we attach Jesus' name to our sins in order to make them sound religious.

I have a preacher friend who resigned from his church after serving there for only two years. He had been offered a very large church and more money...to say nothing of the prestige. Most preachers would have said something about how they had agonized over the decision and God had made it clear; so, as painful as it was to leave, they must "follow Jesus."

Not my friend. He said to the congregation, "I love you guys but I've been offered \_\_\_ Church. It's a once in a lifetime opportunity and all my life I've wanted to be the pastor of \_\_\_ Church. I'm not going to get another chance so I'm out of here. Do pray for me and I'll pray for you."

I loved what he said and so did Jesus. Not only that, Diogenes—the cynical Greek philosopher who, in the fourth century, strolled around with a lamp in his hand looking for an honest man—blew out his lamp and went home.

The question isn't the authenticity of what my friend said to his congregation, but whether or not he made a wise decision. At the time, I thought he was both authentic and wise. Now that I think back on it, I still think he was authentic but he may not have been very wise. He served that big church for a lot of years and, I suppose, enjoyed some of it. I suspect, though, he sometimes thought about the church he left and wondered if maybe his decision had been wrong.

Jesus talked once about how we worry about the wrong things, e.g. how long we'll live or how we'll be fed and clothed, and then he said something astonishing: "For the Gentiles (read "unbelievers") seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" (Matthew 6:32-33). On another occasion, Jesus said, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:29).

I've listened to a thousand motivational speakers all telling me how to be successful. I've listened to some of those voices and tried to walk down those roads. We preachers and religious leaders do the same thing as you do but we put God into the mix. Do you grow tired of being challenged to "make your life count"? Do you grow tired of those who admonish you to "change the world" or "make an impact for God"? Do you wince at the calls for excellence? Do you feel guilty after some very godly people say they want to "burn out"—not "rust out"—for God? I do. In fact, it drives me nuts!

Don't get me wrong. I'm all for excellence, success, and making an impact for God (not to mention motherhood, apple pie and the flag). The problem isn't that those things are bad. The problem is that they aren't necessarily the places where God is calling us.

I would like to preach a sermon one day and call it, "The Challenge to be Mediocre for Jesus." I would talk about serving Christ by being a good dad or mom, giving one's job an honest day's work for an honest day's pay, and trusting God with one's family, job and church. I would talk about being available to God even if what he wants isn't a big deal.

What if seeking the kingdom God is about spending time with friends and family—those who will cry at your funeral out of grief and loss, not because you are so important? What if seeking the kingdom of God is about taking your wife to dinner or telling your pastor that the sermon made a difference in your life? What if seeking the kingdom of God is about playing ball with your son or dancing with your daughter instead of going on the mission field? What if God doesn't require greatness of you...but just faithfulness in the "normal" of life?

One time my late friend, Rusty Anderson (I still miss him), told me he had talked to God that morning.

"Really?" I asked.

"Yes, really," Rusty said. "I told him that I was available for whatever he wanted me to do and there weren't any exceptions or reservations."

"What did he say?"

"He asked me what I wanted to do. I told him that wasn't the issue. I wanted to do whatever he wanted. But he persisted in asking me what I wanted to do, so I finally told him, 'Alright, already! I would like to build a barn out in the back part of my property.'"

"Well, what did he say?" I asked.

"He said," Rusty said, laughing, "that I should do it with joy!"

As I read Kyle's book, I thought about the times, by God's grace, I did what everybody told me I shouldn't do. I remembered the times I was called a fool for walking the road Jesus told me to walk. It made me feel kind of good about myself. But then, as I read the book, I winced when I thought about the mistaken voices I listened to, the wrong roads I walked and the many times I played poker with confederate money...even when Jesus told me that the currency was worthless.

But as I wrote above, it's okay. Jesus likes me. In the first instance, I thanked him. In the second, I ran to him and he loved me anyway.

In his book, *In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership*, Henri Nouwen wrote: "I am deeply convinced that the Christian leader of the



# The Mustard Seed



Rehoboth Baptist Church Newsletter ~ February 2012

future is called to be completely irrelevant and to stand in this world with nothing to offer but his or her own vulnerable self...The leaders of the future will be those who dare to claim their irrelevance in the contemporary world as a divine vocation."

The "irrelevant" part is hard, but it is also the path toward incredible freedom and joy. It is about Jesus and once we see that, we discover it's about us too. It's about a love so pervasive that everything else pales in its light.

He told me to remind you!

Bless,  
Steve Brown, Key Life Ministries

---

## When the Bible Blows Your Mind - John Piper

The Bible teaches us to expect mental jolts when we think about God. It teaches us that our familiar ways of seeing things may be replaced. For example, it says, "Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!" ([Romans 11:33](#)). Or again, "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:9).

One of the reasons (not the only one) that some people reject the biblical teaching of unconditional election is that it seems and feels to them out of sync with other teachings in the Bible - like the compassion of God for people or the moral accountability of people before God. It seems to many that God can't choose unconditionally to save some and not others and then also feel compassion for those he does not choose and hold them accountable for their sin.

The problem here is that our instinct or intuition for what is right or possible for God does not fit Scripture. And the danger is that we shape Scripture to fit our feelings.

The Scriptures teach that God chooses who will be saved before we are born or have done anything good or evil (Romans 9:10-12). "It depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy" (Romans 9:16). The Scriptures also teach that we are responsible for the obedience of faith and will be judged if we are disobedient. "But for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury" (Romans 2:8). We are chosen (or not chosen) unconditionally for salvation. And we are accountable for our faith (or unbelief).

As I said in my sermon on 12-8-02, I do not fully understand how God renders certain the belief of the

elect and the unbelief of the non-elect. If you want to go deeper into this, I recommend Jonathan Edwards' book *The Freedom of the Will*. It is slow reading, but you will grow more from the effort than you can imagine.

To help you accustom yourself to living with such felt tensions (unconditional election and human accountability) consider two similar ones from the example of Christ.

First, we see Jesus weeping over Jerusalem because the things of the kingdom were "hidden from [their] eyes." But on the other hand we also hear Jesus say that God has "hidden these things."

**Luke 19:41-42.** And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes."

**Luke 10:21.** In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will."

Second, we see Jesus feeling compassion for those who were sick - irrespective, it seems of their faith. On the other hand, we know from illustrations and teachings elsewhere in the Bible that God is finally and decisively in control of sickness. So we have Jesus feeling sorry for people who have sicknesses that God's wisdom has ordained (at least for a time).

**Matthew 14:14.** When [Jesus] went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

**Exodus 4:11.** Then the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?"

**1 Samuel 2:6.** The LORD kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up.

Implications: 1) Don't cancel one truth in the Bible because it feels out of sync with another. 2) Don't draw emotional or behavioral implications from God's sovereignty that contradict faith, compassion, accountability, prayer, evangelism, or hard work. On the contrary, consider Colossians 3:12 and let your unspeakably happy condition as "chosen, holy and loved" produce "compassion, kindness, humility and meekness."

*By John Piper. © Desiring God*

---

**If we live like this, we shall know that we are children of the truth and can reassure ourselves in the sight of God, even if our own hearts make us feel guilty. For God is infinitely greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.**

I John 3:19-20 (jbp)

# February 2012

## Rehoboth Baptist Church Mustard Seed

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Jan 2012</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Mar 2012</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table> </div> </div>			S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;"><b>1</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Prayer Meeting</p> <p>8:00 PM Choir</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Bob Munroe</i></p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;"><b>2</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Men's Bible Study</p> <p>Groundhog Day</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;"><b>3</b></p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;"><b>4</b></p>
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7																																																																																				
8	9	10	11	12	13	14																																																																																				
15	16	17	18	19	20	21																																																																																				
22	23	24	25	26	27	28																																																																																				
29	30	31																																																																																								
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																				
				1	2	3																																																																																				
4	5	6	7	8	9	10																																																																																				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17																																																																																				
18	19	20	21	22	23	24																																																																																				
25	26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																				
<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;"><b>5</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship</p> <p>6:30 PM Evening Service</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;"><b>6</b></p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;"><b>7</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Deaconess</p> <p>7:00 PM Missions</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;"><b>8</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Prayer Meeting</p> <p>8:00 PM Choir</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Bill &amp; Linda Rose</i></p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;"><b>9</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Ladies' Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 PM Men's Bible Study</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;"><b>10</b></p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;"><b>11</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Game Night</p>																																																																																				
<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;"><b>12</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship</p> <p>6:30 PM Evening Service</p> <p>Lincoln's Birthday</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Ron Bridge</i></p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;"><b>13</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Cindy Williams</i></p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;"><b>14</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Elders &amp; Deacons</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Kari Guest</i></p> <p>Valentine's Day</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;"><b>15</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Prayer Meeting</p> <p>8:00 PM Choir</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;"><b>16</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Ladies' Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 PM Men's Bible Study</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Donna Poole</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Katie Swallow</i></p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;"><b>17</b></p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;"><b>18</b></p>																																																																																				
<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;"><b>19</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship</p> <p>6:30 PM Evening Service</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;"><b>20</b></p> <p>President's Day</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;"><b>21</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Deacons Pray &amp; Visit</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Adam Schneider</i></p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;"><b>22</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Prayer Meeting</p> <p>8:00 PM Choir</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ash Wednesday</b></p> <p>Washington's Birthday</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;"><b>23</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Ladies' Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 PM Men's Bible Study</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;"><b>24</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Nicholas Phelps</i></p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;"><b>25</b></p> <p>6:00 PM Conversational Dinners</p>																																																																																				
<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;"><b>26</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship</p> <p>6:30 PM Evening Service</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Meredith Azevedo</i></p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;"><b>27</b></p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;"><b>28</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Kathy Frye</i></p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;"><b>29</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Prayer Meeting</p> <p>8:00 PM Choir</p>																																																																																							

# March 2012

## Rehoboth Baptist Church Mustard Seed

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Feb 2012</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Apr 2012</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> </div>				S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29				S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						<b>1</b>  <b>7:00 PM</b> <b>Ladies' Bible</b> <b>Study</b>  <b>7:00 PM Men's</b> <b>Bible Study</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																				
		1	2	3	4																																																																																					
5	6	7	8	9	10	11																																																																																				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18																																																																																				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25																																																																																				
26	27	28	29																																																																																							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7																																																																																				
8	9	10	11	12	13	14																																																																																				
15	16	17	18	19	20	21																																																																																				
22	23	24	25	26	27	28																																																																																				
29	30																																																																																									
<b>4</b>  <b>9:00 AM</b> <b>Sunday School</b>  <b>10:30 AM</b> <b>Worship</b>  <b>6:30 PM</b> <b>Evening</b> <b>Service</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  <b>7:00 PM</b> <b>Deaconess</b>  <b>7:00 PM</b> <b>Missions</b>	<b>7</b>  <b>7:00 PM Prayer</b> <b>Meeting</b>  <b>8:00 PM Choir</b>	<b>8</b>  <b>7:00 PM</b> <b>Ladies' Bible</b> <b>Study</b>  <b>7:00 PM Men's</b> <b>Bible Study</b>  <i>John B Gendron</i>	<b>9</b>  <i>Joshua Strolsky</i>	<b>10</b>																																																																																				
<b>11</b>  <b>9:00 AM</b> <b>Sunday School</b>  <b>10:30 AM</b> <b>Worship</b>  <b>6:30 PM</b> <b>Evening</b> <b>Service</b>  Daylight Savings Time Begins	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  <b>7:00 PM Elders</b> <b>&amp; Deacons</b>  <i>Matthew Guest</i>	<b>14</b>  <b>7:00 PM Prayer</b> <b>Meeting</b>  <b>8:00 PM Choir</b>  <i>Karen Dick</i>	<b>15</b>  <b>7:00 PM Men's</b> <b>Bible Study</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  St. Patrick's Day																																																																																				
<b>18</b>  <b>9:00 AM Sunday</b> <b>School</b>  <b>10:30 AM</b> <b>Worship</b>  <b>6:30 PM Evening</b> <b>Service</b>  <i>Bob &amp; Debbie</i> <i>Walls</i>  <i>Bruce &amp; Renee</i> <i>Swallow</i>	<b>19</b>  <i>Dan Guest</i>  <i>Gloria Grace</i>	<b>20</b>  <b>7:00 PM</b> <b>Deacons Pray</b> <b>&amp; Visit</b>	<b>21</b>  <b>7:00 PM Prayer</b> <b>Meeting</b>  <b>8:00 PM Choir</b>	<b>22</b>  <b>7:00 PM Men's</b> <b>Bible Study</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  <b>Missions</b> <b>Coference</b>																																																																																				
<b>25</b>  <b>9:00 AM</b> <b>Sunday School</b>  <b>10:30 AM</b> <b>Worship</b>  <b>6:30 PM</b> <b>Evening</b> <b>Service</b>  <b>Missions</b> <b>Coference</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  <b>7:00 PM Prayer</b> <b>Meeting</b>  <b>8:00 PM Choir</b>	<b>29</b>  <b>7:00 PM Men's</b> <b>Bible Study</b>  <i>Bob Price</i>	<b>30</b>  <i>Vivian Brochu</i>	<b>31</b>  <i>Don Roy</i>																																																																																				