

(1)

HAPPY PASTOR'S ANNIVERSARY

WELL, TEN YEARS LATER, AND HERE I SIT AT THE PASTOR'S DESK
JUST TO HELP OUT FOR A SPELL AND TO GIVE HIM A REST

AND I'M WONDERING IF HIS RESPONSIBILITY HAS GROWN A LITTLE LIGHTER
AS HIS CONGREGATION SPIRITUALLY MATURES HAVE THE DAYS GOTTEN BRIGHTER?

AS THE YEARS GO BY ARE THE ISSUES STILL THE SAME?
DOES OLD-FASHION PASTORING SURVIVE WITH ALL THAT HAS CHANGED?

BUT NOW I DON'T HAVE TO TAKE HIS PHONE CALLS UNLESS ALL ELSE FAILS,
BECAUSE BROTHER PASTOR BISHOP NOW HAS VOICE MAIL.

I CLICK ON HIS COMPUTER AND START TO BROWSE
AND ALL ELSE IN HIS OFFICE IS QUIET FOR NOW.

ALL ELSE IS QUIET FOR NOW EXCEPT ONE THING
JUST MINUTES AFTER HE LEFT -- THE PHONE AND IT RINGS.

BUT I DON'T HAVE TO PICK IT UP, I STAY ON THE INTERNET, AND THAT'S FINE
CAUSE BROTHER PASTOR'S OFFICE HAS MORE THAN ONE TELEPHONE LINE.

ONE RING, TWO RINGS, AND HIS GREETING BEGINS,
AND I DON'T HAVE TO SCRAMBLE FOR PAPER AND PEN

HIS VOICE GREETING SAYS, "I'M SORRY I CANNOT PICK UP THE PHONE,
BUT IF YOU'D LEAVE YOUR NAME, NUMBER, AND MESSAGE AFTER THE TONE,
I'LL BE SURE TO CALL YOU AS SOON AS I GET HOME.....BEEP"

(A)

PASTOR THIS IS BROTHER BOB AND I'M SURE YOU CAN REMEMBER WHEN,
YOU AND I WERE TALKING ABOUT THE MOVIE CALLED "THE FINAL SIN."

IT WAS SUPPOSE TO BE ABOUT THE LAST TEMPTATION OF CHRIST AND ALL THE
SUFFERING HE TOOK,

YOU SAID, THAT YOU'D HEARD IT HAD PROFANITY, NUDE SCENES, AND
MISREPRESENTED THE GOOD BOOK.

YOU SAID THAT SINCE I WAS YOUNG IN THE LORD THAT I SHOULD AVOID THE MOVIE
THEATERS AND ESPECIALLY THAT FILM AT ALL COST,

BECAUSE SOMEWHERE IN THE FILM MAKER'S INTERPRETATION THE REAL TRUTH GOT
LOST.

I'VE BEEN OBEDIENT, I AIN'T SEEN THAT FILM, AND I HAVEN'T GONE TO ANY MOVIE
SHOWS.

NOW THAT I'M THREE MONTHS OLDER IN THE LORD, I JUST WANTED TO KNOW
WOULD THE LORD MIND IF I RENTED "THE FINAL SIN" FROM BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO?

(2)

I CHUCKLED TO MYSELF WHILE I SENT A FAX,
THEN I BACKED UP SOME FILES AND RIGHT AFTER THAT

(B)
THE PHONE BEGIN TO RING AND THEN,
PASTOR'S VOICE MAIL GREETING STARTED OVER AGAIN:

"I'M SORRY I CANNOT PICK UP THE PHONE,
BUT IF YOU'D LEAVE YOUR NAME, NUMBER, AND MESSAGE AFTER THE TONE,
I'LL BE SURE TO CALL YOU AS SOON AS I GET HOME.....BEEP"

PASTOR, THIS IS SISTER MARY JO
I'VE GOT SOMETHING YOU REALLY OUGHTTA KNOW

THEN ME AND YOU NEED TO TOUCH, AGREE, GO DOWN IN PRAYER,
BECAUSE SIS SUE'S HUSBAND, BROTHER DAN, IS HAVING AFFAIRS

THE BAD PART ABOUT IT IS THAT SHE DON'T EVEN KNOW,
HE'S DOIN' A REAL GOOD JOB AT KEEPIN THIS ON THE DOWN LOW

AND HERE I THOUGHT HIS MARRIAGE WAS AS STABLE AS MINE,
I GUESS YOU NEVER REALLY KNOW IN THESE DAYS AND TIMES

NOW, I KNOW YOU'RE WONDERIN' HOW I KNOW THIS TO BE TRUE
I'D RATHER TELL YOU TO YOUR FACE, BUT YOUR VOICE MAIL WILL HAVE TO DUE

YOU KNOW HOW MY TELEPHONE MINISTRY HAS REALLY GROWN?
ADMNISTERING TO SICK, IMPRISONED, AND ABANDONED IN THE OLD FOLKS HOME?

WELL, ONE DAY, THE LORD TOLD ME, "SIS. MARY JO, CAST YOUR NET WIDE!"
TO JUDEA, SUMMARIA, EAST, WEST, NORTH, AND SOUTHSIDE!

THEN THE LORD SAID, "RUN TO THE PHONE AS FAST YOU CAN!"
DIAL 1-800- I-NEED A NEW MAN..."
AND WHO SHOULD PICK-UP, "IT WAS BROTHER DAN!"
BYE, PASTOR! -- CLICK-UP.

I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, "WHO DOES SHE THINK SHE'S FOOLIN'?"
YOU'D HAVE TO BE SPIRITUALLY BLIND, DEAF, AND DUMB TO NOT KNOW WHAT SHE
WAS DOING.

I SAID TO MYSELF, "FOR ME TO JUDGE, THAT WOULD BE A DISASTER."
THIS IS A MATTER BEST LEFT TO GOD AND THE PASTOR.

AS SOON AS I CONSOLED MYSELF WITHIN MY OWN RESOLVE
THE PHONE RINGS AGAIN -- YES ANOTHER A CALL.

BY NOW I HAD GOTTEN OFF THE INTERNET,
BECAUSE AS SHOCKED AS I WAS AND I KNEW HADN'T HEARD NOTHIN' YET!

(3)

THE VOICE GREETING SAID: "I'M SORRY I CANNOT PICK UP THE PHONE,
BUT IF YOU'D LEAVE YOUR NAME, NUMBER, AND MESSAGE AFTER THE TONE,
I'LL BE SURE TO CALL YOU AS SOON AS I GET HOME.....BEEP"

(C)

BROTHER PASTOR YOU WERE RIGHT,
WHEN YOU ADVISED ME THE OTHER NIGHT!

TO ORDER THE BOOK ZERO-DOLLARS TO BUY A NEW HOME!
REMEMBER HOW YOU TOLD ME I COULD ORDER IT OVER THE PHONE?

WELL, IT CAME IN THE MAIL AND ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN
WAS A HOUSE UP FOR REPOSSESSION AND THE BANK SAID I COULD HAVE IT WITH NO
MONEY DOWN!

BUT I WAS SADDENED TO DISCOVER AS I FILLED OUT THE LOAN APPLICATION,
THAT THE HOUSE WAS BEING TAKEN AWAY FROM SOMEONE IN OUR CONGREGATION.

I FELL ON MY KNEES AND I BEGIN TO PRAY
DEAR FATHER GOD THE BANK NEEDS AN ANSWER FROM ME TODAY

SHOULD I ASSUME THE MORTGAGE AND HELP MY FELLOW CHURCH MEMBER OUT,
ISN'T THIS WHAT BEING A BROTHER'S KEEPER REALLY ALL ABOUT?

THEN LIKE A HURRICANE A LOUD VOICE SPAKE UNTO ME,
"OWE NO MAN," IN FEAR AND CONFUSION LOOKED AROUND TO SEE

"LORD IS THAT YOU AND HOW CAN THIS BE?"
"OWE NO MAN," LORD IS IT THEE?

"OWE NO MAN?" LORD WHAT DOST THOU MEAN?
THE HEAVENS OPENED UP AND THE ANGEL'S DID SING.

LIKE THUNDER IN A HURRICANE GOD'S FINAL MESSAGE CAME
"GET THEE TO THE BANK, THEIR LOSS YOUR GAIN!"

THANKS PASTOR! -- CLICK-UP

NOW I KNOW MY PASTOR AND THAT'S A FACT
AND THE WORD HE PREACHES IS NOT CONSISTENT WITH THAT!

THERE'S ALWAYS THE BATTLE IN THE MIND GOING ON
THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN WHAT GOD WANTS AND WHAT WE WANT IS NEVER DONE

GOD'S THRONE OF GRACE, HIS ALTER OF FORGIVENESS
HIS UNCHANGING WORD AND GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESS

AS THESE THOUGHTS I PONDERED SETTLED MY MIND
ON THE OTHER END OF A CALL, ANOTHER PROBLEM OF ANOTHER KIND:

"I'M SORRY I CANNOT PICK UP THE PHONE,
BUT IF YOU'D LEAVE YOUR NAME, NUMBER, AND MESSAGE AFTER THE TONE,
I'LL BE SURE TO CALL YOU AS SOON AS I GET HOME.....BEEP"

(4)

(D)

PASTOR, THIS IS SISTER NANCY GUESS WHAT HAS HAPPENED AS OF LATE!
REMEMBER YOUR MESSAGE ON MODERATION WITH FOOD AND IMPROVING YOUR
FITNESS AND WEIGHT?

WELL, THE TV MINISTRY PREACHER REVEALED IT ALL AND YOU KNOW IT'S JUST A RIOT
HE SAID GOD TO ME AND MY HUSBAND TO GO ON THE ATKIN'S DIET!

I'VE ALREADY LOST 10 POUNDS AND I GOT THE DEVIL OFF MY HEELS
BUT WHY WON'T MY SAVE SANCTIFIED HUSBAND YIELD TO THE GOOD LORD'S WILL?

NOW, HE CLAIMS HE ALREADY EXERCISES AND SHOULD EAT WHATEVER HE PLEASE,
HE OUGHT TO KNOW THAT EATING BREAD AT MY DINNER TABLE IS A TEMPTATION AND
A TEASE.

SO, NOW, HE EATS ON A TRAY IN THE LIVING ROOM WATCHING TV,
HE SAYS AS LONG AS WE SAY THE LORD'S GRACE TOGETHER THAT SHOULD BE ALL
RIGHT WITH ME.

CALL MY HOME AS SOON AS YOU CAN -- I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD!
AND TELL THAT SO-CALLED-MADE-MAN-OF MINE TO DO ATKINS LIKE HE SHOULD!

BYE!

I JUST ABOUT FELL OUT OF MY PASTOR'S CHAIR AS LAUGHED MYSELF TO DEATH
AND AS I PICKED MYSELF OFF THE FLOOR, BUT BEFORE I COULD CATCH MY BREATH:

RING! RING! RING!

(E)

"I'M SORRY I CANNOT PICK UP THE PHONE,
BUT IF YOU'D LEAVE YOUR NAME, NUMBER, AND MESSAGE AFTER THE TONE,
I'LL BE SURE TO CALL YOU AS SOON AS I GET HOME.....BEEP"

PASTOR THIS IS SISTER RHONDA AND YOU KNOW I ALMOST LOST MY SALVATION
WHEN I GOT MY REVIEW FROM MY SUPERVISOR AND LOOKED OVER MY JOB
EVALUATION!

THEY SAID I ALWAYS RUNNING LATE, I TOLD THEM WHAT WAS THE MATTER:
I SAID YOU WOULDN'T BE ON TIME EITHER IF YOU HAD AN OVER ACTIVE BLADDER.

THEY SAID I WAS LOUD AND BOISTEROUS ALWAYS RIGHT AND NEVER WRONG
I SAID THE FIRST AND SECOND COUNT IS FALSE THE THIRD AND FOURTH ARE TRUE: BUT
LIKE RODNEY SAY, "WHY CAN'T WE ALL GET ALONG!"

WELL, I COMING OVER THIS EVENING TO GET A LETTER OF RECOMENDATION FROM YOU
I GOT DOWN ON MY KNEES AND ASKED THE LORD, HE SAID THIS IS WHAT WE SHOULD
DO.

(5)

YOU AND ME, PASTOR WE GOING TO THE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE AND YOU WILL
PRESENT MY CASE.
BETWEEN YOU, ME, AND SWEET JESUS THIS AIN'T NOTHING BUT DISCRIMINATION
AGAINST MY RACE!

BYE!

NOW THE BIBLE SAID GOD IS DECENT AND IN ORDER AND THAT OUR WORDS SHOULD BE
FEW
JESUS SAID IT: PEACE BE STILL AND I'LL CALM THE STORMS FOR YOU.

UNDER GRACE AND TRUTH IN THE VOLUME BOOK, WHAT SHE HAS SOWN IS WHAT SHE
REAPS?
STILL HEAVY LADEN, SHE LEFT ONLY SOME OF HER BURDENS, WHILE THE OTHERS SHE
CHOSE TO KEEP.

RING! RING! RING!

"I'M SORRY I CANNOT PICK UP THE PHONE,
BUT IF YOU'D LEAVE YOUR NAME, NUMBER, AND MESSAGE AFTER THE TONE,
I'LL BE SURE TO CALL YOU AS SOON AS I GET HOME.....BEEP"

(F)

PASTOR! THIS IS BROTHER JOHN HERE AND I'M STILL TARRYING FOR THE HOLY GHOST
I'VE OVERCOME ALL MY TEMPTATIONS OR SHOULD I SAY JUST ABOUT MOST

I'VE GIVEN UP FRIDAY NIGHTS AT THE BARS, REPLACED THEM WITH BIBLE CLASS
I VOLUNTEER AT THE RED CROSS AND I EVEN MENTOR BOYS WITHOUT DADS

I USED TO BE VERY SUPERFICIAL, CONDESCENDING, AND MATERIALISTIC
BUT NOW THAT THE LORD HAS COME INTO MY LIFE MY PERSPECTIVE IS MUCH MORE
REALISTIC.

WITH ALL THAT SAID, I PUT MOST HANG-UPS DOWN, BUT STILL THERE'S JUST ONE
CATCH!
I CAN'T SEEM TO PUT THESE CIGARETTES, CAN I TRY THE NICOTENE PATCH?

BYE!

UNDER GRACE AND TRUTH IN THE VOLUME BOOK, WHAT SHE HAS SOWN IS WHAT SHE
REAPS?
STILL HEAVY LADEN, SHE LEFT ONLY SOME OF HER BURDENS, WHILE THE OTHERS SHE
CHOSE TO KEEP.

RING! RING! RING!

"I'M SORRY I CANNOT PICK UP THE PHONE,
BUT IF YOU'D LEAVE YOUR NAME, NUMBER, AND MESSAGE AFTER THE TONE,
I'LL BE SURE TO CALL YOU AS SOON AS I GET HOME.....BEEP"

(6)

(G)

PASTOR, THIS IS SISTER LEOTHA AND I HAVE GOT AN ISSUE OF MY OWN
LAST WEEK I GOT A CALL FROM SIS. MARY JO, SAID THEY WAS GOIN TO CUT OFF HER
PHONE

NOW, PASTOR YOU KNOW I'VE BEEN GOING THROUGH AND THEN I GET THIS CALL
OUT OF THE GOODNESS OF MY HEART I GAVE MARY JO MY ATM CARD FOR HER PHONE
BILL AND THAT WAS ALL

I WAS ABOUT TO GO DOWN TO BUY MY NEW CAR AND I'M SURE YOU'D UNDERSTAND,
THE SHOCK THAT I RECEIVED WHEN I SAW A DEBIT OF \$1000 TO 1-800-FIND A NEW MAN!

I KNOW IT'S NOT FRAUD IF I SHE DIDN'T STEAL MY CARD AND I KNOW WHAT I DID
WASN'T RIGHT
BUT PASTOR, I GOT SO MAD, THAT I CALLED THE POLICE, IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.

I KIND OF, SORT OF STRETCH THE TRUTH AND I RAISED A LOT OF HELL,
PASTOR COULD YOU GO DOWNTOWN TO THE POLICE STATION AND GET HER OUT OF
JAIL!

BYE!

RING! RING! RING!

"I'M SORRY I CANNOT PICK UP THE PHONE,
BUT IF YOU'D LEAVE YOUR NAME, NUMBER, AND MESSAGE AFTER THE TONE,
I'LL BE SURE TO CALL YOU AS SOON AS I GET HOME.....BEEP"

PASTOR THIS IS SISTER BETTY LOU AND I JUST GOT BACK FROM MY PICNIC DATE
WITH THE MAN YOU SAID WOULD BE A GOOD MATCH FOR ME, WELL LET'S JUST GET THIS
STRAIGHT!

YOU KNOW I WANTED AN EDUCATED MAN, NOW THAT I GOT MY ASSOCIATES DEGREE,
WHEN I ASKED HIM FOR HIS CREDITIALS HE JUST STARED AND LOOKED AT ME

HE SAID HE WAS A OLD FOOL FROM THE OLE' SCHOOL AND HE GOT A DEGREE STUDYING
ROCKS

I SAID WHERE IS THIS OLE SCHOOL FOR OLD FOOLS, HE SAID "THE SCHOOL OF HARD
KNOCKS"

WELL, I GOT MAD, GOT MYSELF UP, THEN I GRABBED MY KEYS AND PURSE,
I TOLD HIM I'M EDUCATED WOMAN AND ONE DAY I'LL BE A NURSE

GOOD FOR YOU! HE SAID AS HE STOOD TO HIS FEET AND WHAT HE EXCLAIMED
KNOCKED ME OF MY ROCKER!

THEN ONE DAY, YOU CAN COME AND WORK FOR ME CAUSE I'S A MEDICAL DOCTOR

(7)

PASTOR, NOTHING CAN HURT A DUCK BUT HIS OWN BIG BEAK, AS SURE AS I'M YOUR
SPIRITUAL DAUGHTER,
BUT LIKE A DUCK MY HURTFUL WORDS ROLLED OFF HIS BACK, JUST AS IF IT WAS ONLY
WATER.

I LEARNED MY LESSON, MY HEAD WAS FULL OF DESTRUCTION AND PRIDE;
THE LORD DOES TRULLY SPEAK THROUGH YOU, YES YOU'RE ON THE GOOD LORD'S SIDE

AND WHEN NOTHING'S WRONG AND EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT AND STILL I FEEL LIKE
SOMETHING'S MISSIN.

YOUR WORDS AND ADVICE NEVER LEAD ME ASTRAY, IF ONLY I WOULD CHOOSE TO
LISTEN

GOD BLESS AND KEEP YOU PASTOR, YOU'RE A TRUE MENTOR AND A FRIEND
AS SHE HUNG-UP, I CLASPED MY HANDS TOGETHER AND SAID AMEN, AMEN, AND AMEN!