



“Tuesdays” with Pastor Jake

Where Theology Touches Life

Tuesday, July 2nd
in the year of our Lord, 2024



A Freedom Worth Celebrating!!!



Do you know from what movie the above picture is from?

Every Christmas for the last many years, Marilyn and I like to watch “Holiday Inn.” It’s a classic movie featuring Bing Crosby, Fred Astaire, Marjorie Reynolds and Virginia Dale. The gist of the movie is that Bing Crosby, tired by the endless tours of an entertainer, wanted a change. He only wanted to work on the ‘holidays,’ so he bought an ‘inn.’ Hence the title: *Holiday Inn*. In celebration of the July 4th Holiday, he sang, “Song of Freedom.” Remember some of the lyrics?

On this day of independence, on this Independence Day.

Listen to an American troubadour from the U.S.A.

I'm singing a song of freedom for all people who cry out to be free.

Free to sail the seven seas. Free to worship as we please.

Free to speak and free to hear, free from want and free from fear.

Sons of freedom far and near who agree, sing with me that all God's people shall be free.

No one likes to be enslaved. There is a deep, inherent desire to be free. There are appropriate limits to freedom, but there is something dark and demeaning and degrading about being held captive against your will.

Did you know that Jesus spoke about freedom?

In a heated dialogue with the Pharisees Jesus responded at one point and said, “*If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*” The Pharisees responded by claiming they had never been enslaved, but Jesus wasn’t talking on a political level. He was talking on a much deeper, personal and spiritual level. To help them understand He added, “*everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.*”

From what then, does Jesus set people free? Let me mention two:

#1. He sets free those who believe in him from an eternal judgment in hell.

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life;

whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.”

Years ago, the noted psychiatrist, Karl Menninger wrote a book entitled, “Whatever became of Sin?” Dietrich Bonhoeffer once wrote: “In New York they preach about virtually everything; only one thing is not addressed, or addressed to rarely that I have as yet been unable to hear it, namely, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the cross, sin and forgiveness.” Jesus died as the hymn writer wrote: “*He to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.*” That’s the heart of our freedom in Christ!

#2. He sets free those who believe in him from the controlling influence and power of sin and the devil. Hear the wonderful words St. Paul wrote to the Colossians, reminding them of their freedom from bondage:

“He (Christ) has delivered us from the domain of darkness and

transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

Sin is a terrible taskmaster. Jesus is a benevolent taskmaster, and all who follow after him find motivation and power to leave behind things that destroy and to embrace everything that is good. John Newton, the hymn writer, once said: “*I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I want to be, I am not what I will be; but thank God I’m not what I once used to be!*”

This is the liberating power of the Gospel and the celebration of our freedom in Christ!

Bet Ya Didn't Know!



“God Willing and the Creek don’t rise!”

Did you know the saying, “God willing and creek don’t rise” was in reference to the Creek Indians and not a body of water? It was written by Benjamin Hawkins in the late 18th Century. He was a politician and Indian diplomat. While in the South, Hawkins was requested by the President of the U.S. to return to Washington. In his response, he was said to write: “God willing and the Creek don’t rise.” Because he capitalized the word “Creek” it is deduced that he was referring to Creek Indian tribe and not a body of water.



It’s gonna cost you ‘An Arm and a Leg.’

In George Washington’s days, there were no cameras. One’s image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are ‘limbs,’ therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression: *‘Okay, but it’ll cost you an arm and a leg.’*

Not ‘playing with a full deck’

Common entertainment included playing cards. However, there was a tax levied when purchasing playing cards but only applicable to the ‘Ace of Spades.’ To avoid paying the tax, people would purchase 51 cards instead. Yet, since most games require 52 cards, these people were thought to be stupid or dumb because they weren’t *‘playing with a full deck.’*



Minding your P’s and Q’s

At local taverns, pubs, and bars, people drank from pint and quart-sized containers. A bar maid’s job was to keep an eye on the customers and keep the drinks coming. She had to pay close attention and remember who was drinking in ‘pints’ and who was drinking in ‘quarts,’ hence the phrase *‘Minding your ‘P’s’ and ‘Q’s.’*

Early politicians required feedback from the public to determine what the people considered important. Since there were no telephones, TV’s or radios, the politicians sent their assistants to local taverns, pubs, and bars.

They were told to ‘go sip some Ale’ and listen to people’s conversations and political concerns. Many assistants were dispatched at different times. ‘You go sip here’ and ‘You go and sip there.’

The two words ‘go sip’ were eventually combined when referring to the local opinion and, thus we have the term ‘gossip.’



“We must recognize that, as we grow older, we become like old cars – more repairs and replacement parts are necessary.” C.S. Lewis

“Old age is like a plane flying through a storm. Once you are aboard there is nothing you can do about it.” Golda Meir

