

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

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April 21, 2013

Volume 33, # 17

Weed Seed

Matthew 13:24-25 presents Satan's M.O. He waits until the farmer is asleep before making his move. And what is his move? He walks quietly along scattering weed seed. Thus the poor farmer wakes up the next morning with no clue that he's been had. And that's how Satan works. He doesn't have to set your crop on fire; he just plants a little weed seed so that when harvest comes, the farmer wakes up feeling like a fool because he's been had.

We're the clueless farmer. It's amazing how unacceptable behavior of a few years ago is now the accepted thing. It's as if we shrug our shoulders with an "Oh well ..." response of "Whatever ..." – as if we are powerless to do anything. Well, we're not! As someone has said, "The problem with Christians isn't that we're quiet, but that we're comatose!" So how far does it go before we wake up and say, "Enough!"

- Example #1: Do you know some video games can be modified to include scenes of pornography? Others allow players to kill police officers, pedestrians, and engage prostitutes. When one mom asked her son where he got such a game, he responded, "You gave it to me." She

thought it was okay since other kids at church had the game. The problem? Those parents weren't paying attention either! Weed seed ...

- Example #2: An Abercrombie and Fitch catalog once contained pictures of unclothed models in various poses. One man drew the line and started sounding a warning — and it wasn't one you might expect. It was NFL coach and NASCAR owner, Joe Gibbs. Gibbs sounded such a strong warning, got others involved, that soon A&F were receiving over 300 phone calls per hour from angry parents. They pulled the catalog within days. Weed seed...

- Example #3: The popular morning new show, Today, has for eleven years aired the “Modern Day Wedding” program in which viewers vote on a couple to win a wedding that is telecast live on the air. Recently the contest was opened to same-sex couples after the Network received complaints from GLAAD (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation). It is another blatant attack on the values of Christians. Weed seed ...

Ezekiel 3:17-19 presents the picture of a watchdog that doesn't watch very well. Thieves come in and carry away the whole house while he wags his tail and utters a weak, “Woof.” Is that how we have become? James said that if you stand up to Satan, he would turn tail and run (James 4:7). So, let's stand! Perhaps 2 Chron.25:2 gives us the best commentary on why we don't — Amaziah “did right in the sight of the Lord, yet not with his whole heart.” He was half-hearted in his attempt to live right and encourage others to do the same.

Have we become just like him? Has our salt “lost its savor?” It only takes a little weed seed for Satan to destroy you and your family.

—Wilson Adams (*adapted*)

A Young Man's Pledge To His Date

The parents of my girlfriend place their trust in me. I will not violate it. I will respect my girlfriend as I expect other men to respect my sister. I will respect womanhood because my mother is a woman. I will ask my girlfriend to do nothing I would be ashamed of if my mother found it out.

My girlfriend has given me the honor and pleasure of her company. It is wrong for me to expect more in payment for this date.

My girlfriend will be a wife and mother someday. She must be an example to her children and the pride of her husband. I will help her to be as pure and decent as I want my wife to be.

God is everywhere, sees everything, knows everything. Darkness may hide me from people but it cannot hide me from God.

A Young Woman's Pledge To Her Date

Our parents have trusted my date and me. I will not violate it. I will look up to my date as I expect other woman to respect my brother. I will respect manhood because my Dad is a man. I will not tempt my date with immodest apparel, talk or actions.

My date has honored me with the request for my time. I will act towards him with honor and not ask him to take me to improper places.

My date will be a husband and father someday. He must be the teacher of and example before his own children. I will do nothing with him that might harm his future influence in that work.

God is everywhere, sees everything, knows everything. Darkness may hide me from people but it cannot hide me from God.

- Unknown

Sympathetic Lines of a Father to a Daughter in Bed with Mumps

Thus generations come and go,
From youth to age they wiser grow;
Yet as they pass they all relate
They learn their lessons just too late.
Our junior wisecracks dodge the truth
That dense old parents once were youth,
That present youth must older grow,
Oft haunted by, "I told you so,"
And all their youthful bombast rue
When *they* as parents suffer too!

When they as parents suffer too,
As with strange certainty they do,
They marvel at the self-sure ways
The *next* relay of youth displays.
They hear the same old arguments
Arrayed in fresh accoutrements—
The times are different, so are we,
Just let us have *our* way, and see.
For artful Nature oft repays
Her rebels in ironic ways.

Thus generations, as they go,
Perpetuate the tale of woe.
They will not learn from yesterday,
But choose to learn the harder way—
Experience shall be teacher, please;
And well he teaches—but what fees!
What fees he charges those he schools
Before he makes wise men of fools!

How oft his scholars have confessed,
“Ah yes, poor Dad and Mum knew best!”

Each generation soon is past,
So sure at first, so sad at last.
As ranks of youth successive rise,
Each thinks, “We are supremely wise.”
They each a lot more knowledge know,
And yet a bit less wisdom show.
O sanguine youth, God’s word revere—
Honor your parents while they’re here;
And you will find in later days
What handsome dividends it pays!

- Unknown

THIS WEEK’S LESSONS: Sunday morning & evening:
“Face-to-Face With Facebook!” (text: Titus 2:11-13).

SCHEDULE: Our Gospel Meeting will be July 28 – Aug. 2,
Sun. regularly scheduled times, M-F at 7:00 p.m., with Tanner
Campbell, of Piggott, AR.