

†††JMJ††† **Humor for today** †††JMJ†††

An elderly couple who were childhood sweethearts had married and settled down in their old neighborhood. To celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary, they walked down to their old school. There, they held hands as they found the desk they shared and where he'd carved "I love you, Sally".

On their way back home, a bag of money fell out of an armored car practically at their feet. She quickly picked it up, but they didn't know what to do with it, so they took it home. There, she counted the money - it was \$50,000! The husband said: "We've got to give it back".

"Finders keepers!" his wife said, and put the money back in the bag and hid it up in their attic. The next day, two FBI men who were going from door-to-door in the neighborhood looking for the money showed up at their home. One knocked on the door and said: "Pardon me, but did either of you find any money that fell out of an armored car yesterday?"

"No." She said. The husband said: "She's lying. She hid it up in the attic." She said: "Don't believe him, he's getting senile," but the agents sat the man down and began to question him. One said: "Tell us the story from the beginning."

The old man said: "Well, when Sally and I were walking home from school yesterday ..." At this, the FBI guy looked at his partner and said: "We're outta here!"

†††JMJ†††

I came, I saw, I forgot what I was doing. Retraced my steps, got lost on the way back. Now I have no idea what's going on.

†††JMJ†††

Waldo said: "You might think that I am bragging if I say that I am a very handsome and attractive gentleman. But nevertheless, it is a true fact that where ever I go shopping, the gals at the cashier's register are always checking me out."

†††JMJ††† **Fun Quiz on Testing Our Knowledge of the Scriptures** †††JMJ†††

Do you know at least two places in the Scriptures where you shall find the words: "Thou shalt not steal"?

†††JMJ††† **Did you know the answer to a previous Fun and Serious Quiz** †††JMJ†††

"What great and well recorded event took place the year that Noe's grandfather died (besides the fact that his grandfather died)"?

Genealogy from Adam to the flood.

Look at the genealogy in the 5th chapter of Genesis. Make a note of:

- 1) How many years each of the 10 Patriarchs lived before they begot the son that is named next.
- 2) How long they lived after that.
- 3) Make a chart (if need be).
- 4) See how many of his ancestors were still alive when he died.
- 5) Look in the 7th chapter of Genesis and read that Noe was 600 years old when the flood began.
- 6) Add the years from the time Adam was born until the year the flood began; and my math calculated 1,656 years.
- 7) Next add the 600 years from Noe's birth until the flood; to the 182 years that his father, Lamech, lived until Noe was born; to the 187 years that Noe's grandfather, Mathusala, lived until Lamech was born; - and you will know that Noe's grandfather, Mathusala, died the same year of the great flood at 969 years old.
- 8) Therefore, the oldest man in recorded history died the same year of the flood. But I do not know if Mathusala died before the flood began, or in the flood waters.
- 9) It is also interesting to know that Adam lived to see his offspring for eight generations. Adam died only 56 years before Noe was born. Noe's father, Lamech, died 5 years before the flood; and therefore, 5 years before Mathusala died.

10) I read someplace, many years ago, that Noe took Adam's remains (or at least his skull) onto the Ark. It was eventually buried on Mount Calvary. The English names Calvary and Golgotha derive from the Vulgate Latin Calvariae and Locum (all meaning "place of the Skull" or "a Skull"). When Jesus died on the cross, His Blood flowed into the ground over Adam's head; showing that the Precious Blood redeemed the original sin of the head of the human race; and reopened the gate of heaven.

†††JMJ††† This is Serious †††JMJ†††

The story related above about Sally and her husband is used as a type of humor. Nevertheless, let us also use it for some very serious reflection about the obligations of making restitution. If the story about Sally and her husband would have actually happened in the real world; they would be bound under pain of sin to restore that money – and could not enter the kingdom of heaven if they did not do so.

The following is from a sermon of Father Francis Hunolt

I return to the matter I have already spoken of. I have said and proved that it is indispensably necessary to make restitution in order to avoid eternal damnation, so that inability alone can excuse one from making it. Who must make restitution? That obligation rests on those who take, keep, or in any way injure what belongs to others.

What of the great thieves who commit gross injustices, who steal by hundreds and thousands in their offices or business dealings? Do they come back and make restitution? No, it is not easy to find people of that kind who are willing to make restitution, although they are bound to do so.

We must not forget that not only the people themselves who have taken, kept, or injured the property of others, but also their children, heirs, and all who share in the unjust gain, are under the same obligation, if the former do not make restitution, and the latter are aware of the injustice committed. Yet, many a one thinks to himself, what is it to me if my ancestors, or others from whom I have received anything, have acquired unjustly what they have given me? Let them look to it; it is their own affair; I have not stolen; I have taken in good faith what they have given me; how could I prevent them from doing wrong? No, that will not do; what is unjustly gained always cries out for its lawful owner: "Pay what thou owest." Even if I buy a thing with my own money, and hear that it is stolen, I must give it back and suffer the loss. The sin of injustice is the only one that binds the children and descendants of the guilty man to atonement. The children share in the sin of their parents if they do not restore the unjustly acquired property left them by their parents.

From this, parents can see how foolishly they act when they try to enrich their children by dishonest means. They think that it is out of parental love and tenderness they are acting when they endeavor to leave them a rich legacy, while in reality they could not do a worse thing for them than to leave them what they have made dishonestly. If they were determined, against the law of nature, to make their children miserable in time and eternity, they could not better carry out their cruel purpose than by making them heirs of their unjust gains; for in that way they lay them under an obligation so grievous and so troublesome that it is very likely that they will never fulfill it properly. From this, parents can see how foolishly they act when they try to enrich their children by dishonest means.

Restore what does not belong to you. But to whom? To its rightful owner, and to no one else. Give back the money you made by charging unjust interest in times of scarcity; give back to your workmen the wages you still owe them; make restitution to those whom you have defrauded of their rights. Give it all back, but to no one except its lawful owner; and if he is no longer alive, give it to his heirs or to his children. But if none of these can be found, then you can and must give it to the poor, not as a charitable alms, but as a debt that you are obliged to pay under pain of sin.

In order to avoid all this trouble, let us never seek to make any unjust gain. Better is it to have only a little, better to have nothing at all, with God as our friend, and a quiet conscience, than to have much money - nay, all the treasures of the world - with God as our enemy, and an uneasy conscience. Better be poor and honest than rich and dishonest. "Seek ye, therefore, first the kingdom of God and his justice, and all these things shall be added unto you" (St. Matthew 6: 33). Amen.

[You are encouraged to read the ENTIRE sermon, from which the above information was taken. You can find it, and other sermons, at: https://jmjsite.com/15th_after_Pentecost.html]

He that is partaker with a thief, hateth his own soul: he heareth one putting him to his oath, and discovereth not. (Proverbs 29:24)

He that stealeth any thing from his father, or from his mother: and saith, This is no sin, is the partner of a murderer. (Proverbs 28:24)

Diverse weights and diverse measures, both are abominable before God. (Proverbs 20:10)

Diverse weights are an abomination before the Lord: a deceitful balance is not good. (Proverbs 20:23)

Be not anxious for goods unjustly gotten: for they shall not profit thee in the day of calamity and revenge. — For confusion and repentance is upon a thief. (Ecclesiasticus 5:10)

Do not steal, do not fraud. (Mark 10:19)

Do not err: neither fornicators, nor thieves, nor extortioners shall possess the Kingdom of God. (1 Corinthians 6:9,10)

Some distribute their own goods, and grow richer: others take away what is not their own, and are always in want. (Proverbs 11:24)

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