



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

April 21, 2015

O God, Please Be Jealous Of Me!

Michael L. King



It is not uncommon during courtship for one member of a pair to conduct himself or herself in such a way to intentionally incite jealousy in the other. This is usually done to extract a confirmation of one's love and affection. There is a measure of personal satisfaction in having significant others "fight" over us to secure our loyalty and devotion.

The nation of Israel was selected to be God's love. He heaped His affection and His providence upon them, but sadly in futility. He instructed them to "*not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God*" (Ex. 20:4-5). This appeal was repeated with similar sentiments, usually pleading for them to avoid giving attention to other gods. Hear God's repeated reminder as the Children of Israel are approaching the Promised Land: "*You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are all around you (for the Lord your God is a jealous God among you), lest the anger of the Lord your God be aroused against you and destroy you from the face of the earth*" (Deut. 6:14-15). Their entrance into Canaan was contingent upon their total devotion and loyalty to God (Deut. 6:18). We know in advance how the last chapter of their history concluded. The Northern Kingdom was sent into Assyria captivity in 722 B.C. under Sargon, and beginning in 589 B.C., the Southern Kingdom was held hostage for seventy years in Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar.

It would be easy to conclude that God was harsh or extreme in His demands. Our attitude changes when we realize the reason for God's jealousy. Moses explains: "*For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth, but because the Lord loves you...brought you out... redeemed you...Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments*" (Det. 7:6-9). Israel had been the recipient of God's marvelous love, but persisted in provoking their God to wrath. They rebelled against Him from the time of deliverance from Egyptian bondage to their arrival at the Promised Land (Det. 9:7).

Man today faces the same threat of being "*...tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death*" (Jas. 1:14-15). God does not want us to have an "affair" with the god of this world, causing us to be drawn away from His love so that "*We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair*" (II Cor. 4:8). He has promised us "*all things that pertain unto life and godliness*" (II Pet. 1:3) in addition to "*all spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ*" (Eph. 1:3). We reciprocate that love by obedience to Christ (Jn. 14:15). Great hurt comes to the heart of God when we "*fall away*" for in doing so we "*crucify... the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame*" (Heb. 6:6). The desire of every individual, who has their gaze set on heaven, should be for God to be jealous of them. His unlimited love for His created deserves total devotion of heart, soul, strength and mind (Lk. 10:27). Could we be guilty of "*provoking the wrath of God*" by flirting with the god of this world and rejecting the love of God? The song writer expressed what our response should be: "O love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in Thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that in Thine ocean depths its flow my richer, fuller be."

“KNOWING WHERE TO HIT”

Neil Richey

This morning I read a funny story about a plumber who was called to a job in order to fix a leak. He looked at the suspect pipe, then grabbed his hammer and hit the pipe as hard as he could. The leak stopped! He handed the customer the bill which amounted to \$250.35.

Furious about this total the homeowner said, "You were here only two minutes and all you did was hit the pipe." So, the plumber itemized the bill as follows: "Wear and tear on the hammer--35 cents. Knowing where to hit--\$250.00."

Experience is a great teacher, and paying attention to the sage advice of those who have been around the block a time or two can save us from a lot of personal turmoil. But, we have to be willing to listen.

The Bible tells us about one such man that listened to the wisdom of his father-in-law. Though wise and important to God's cause, he didn't know everything, nor was he too proud to accept input from others. The man to which I'm referring is Moses--God's deliverer.

While leading Israel from the land of bondage to one of bounty, he was faced with many tasks. One of which was handling disputes between the Israelites. The Bible says, *"And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses sat to judge the people: and the people stood by Moses from the morning unto the evening"* (Ex. 18:13).

Jethro, his father-in-law, saw what was going on and said *"...What is this thing that thou doest to the people? why sittest thou thyself alone, and all the people stand by thee from morning unto even?...The thing that thou doest is not good. Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone"* (Ex. 18:17-18).

One of the great lessons for us is to listen to those who have more wisdom than we do. Most of the time, when folks try to share with us it's not out of a desire to hear themselves talk, but because they care and want to help.

BIBLE FILL IN THE BLANK:

1. "For I know the _____ that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of _____, and not of _____, to give you an _____ end." Jeremiah 29: _____
2. "_____ them through thy _____: thy _____ is _____." John _____:17.
3. "But shun _____ and _____ babblings: for they will _____ unto more _____." 2 Tim. 2: _____
4. "A wholesome _____ is a _____ of life: but _____ therein is a _____ in the _____." P _____ 15:4
5. "And _____ will be _____ among you, let him be your _____." Matt. _____: _____

"Seek and You Shall Find"

You never know when you are going to cross paths with someone who is searching for the Lord. There are people in this world who are seeking and it is our duty as Christians to show them the way. I learned this lesson in 1989. His name was David.

I had gone to get a simple haircut. At the time, I did not have a regular hairdresser, so I went to one of those chain salons. Oddly enough, this was the one and only time I went to this particular salon. I walked in and a man named David was available to cut my hair. As I was sitting there, he began talking about how he had seen images of Jesus. He caught me off guard and I really did not know how to respond, so I said very little. In fact, I mostly listened. After he finished cutting my hair, I paid him and was about to leave when I felt the tug of conscience. I knew I needed to say something but what? I did the only thing I knew to do: I jotted down our service times and told him that we would love for him to visit our services. He thanked me and I left.

The following Sunday morning—there he was! David had come. I was thrilled not only that he came but also that I had found the courage to invite him. He came back again and about a week later on a Wednesday night, he stayed after services and had a Bible study with my dad and two other members. The study lasted four hours and somewhere around 2:00 A.M., David was baptized. Since then he has married a Christian and together they have two children. To this day he is a faithful to the Lord.

I walked into the salon that day, expecting only a hair-cut. I walked out with a haircut and an opportunity realized. I walked into the salon that day with no idea that I was about to cross paths with a man who was searching for the Lord. All of which says, the next time you pick up your dry cleaning, or stand in line at the grocery store, or sit beside someone at the ball field, or get a haircut, just remember ... that person has a soul—a soul that may be searching. And who knows, you may be the very one God uses to show them the way. (Est.4:14; Rom.8:28).
~ By Jennifer Kegley, via Biblical Insights

For daily devotional & updates call NEWSLINE @ 534-0016

PRAYER LIST



Nicki Weaver has been diagnosed with an immune deficiency, a possible benign tumor in one of her parathyroid glands and she also has a GI bacterial infection. Please continue to pray for *Nicki* as she continues having tests and procedures.

Whit Robertson, grandson of *Troy* and *Novene Robertson* is improving from RSV (respiratory infection) because his immune system is weakened. He was expected to go home the first of the week.

Nancy Petrowski was scheduled to have a bone marrow biopsy Mon., at the Vanderbilt Hospital. This was a scheduled check-up from her bone marrow transplant last year. She continues to be under doctors care for a foot infection.

Judy Kirk of the Ingomar community has been diagnosed with cancer.

Continue to Remember:

Barbara Davis, Jann Hicks, Jackie Dodd, Natalie Griffin, Genice Collett, John Elliott, Timmy Bolden, Judy Ward, William Wilson, Sonny Gay, David Crossings, Andy Ulmer, Sheila Thomas, Yolanda Stubblefield, Barbara Davis, Justin Forsyth, Preeble Foster, Donna Haynes, Roy Crow, Shane Hutton, Jack Dunlap, Terry & Betty Young

Shut-Ins:

Jean Drummond, Teresa Clark, Linda Griggs, Billy Joe Garner, Claudia Senter

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Betty Lang, Miriam Styers, Grace Anderson, Mattie Golden, Laura Mae Harris, Louise Holcomb

Military List:

Tiffany Erwin, Aaron Raines, Raegan Cole, Derek Bradley, Jesse Stroud



I've Learned...

Keep your temper - - nobody wants it.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



April 26. Austin Garrett
April 29. Lana Todd
April 30. Jamie Crow

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

April 28. Larry & Linda Ashmore
April 28. John Michael & Brooke Mann
April 29. Harold & Deloris Crowe



YOUTH NEWS

- There will be a Youth Devo Sunday night April 22nd following our evening service, *Phil* and *Paige Young* will be hosting. 
- If you plan to go to Maywood Christian Camp this summer you need to make your reservations soon. New Albany week is July 12-18.

AREA EVENTS

- 25th Annual Ladies Day at the East Main Church of Christ will be April 25th beginning at 9:00am. The guest speaker will be *Christine Wilson*.
- A Gospel Meeting will be held April 26-28 at the Tiplersville Church of Christ with *Wade Webster* as the guest speaker. Time: 7:30PM
- The Oak Ridge Church of Christ in Baldwyn will have a Gospel Meeting April 26-29 with *B. J. Clarke* as the guest speaker. Time: 7:00PM
- You are invited to an Area Wide Ladies Bible Class hosted by the Beech Hill Church of Christ April 27, at 6:30PM. The guest speaker will be *Amy Collum* from Pine Vale Children's Home.
- The West Main Church of Christ invites you to their Gospel Meeting April 26-29, with *Keith Parker* as the guest speaker. Time: 7:00PM
- Potts Camp Church of Christ Ladies Day is planned for Sat. May 2nd. Registration begins at 9:00AM. Lunch will be served. The guest speaker will be *Jo Martin* of the Tiplersville congregation.

Visit our website @ <http://www.nacoc.us>

Email: nacoc15s@gmail.com

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School.....9:30
Morning Worship.....10:30
Evening Worship.....6:00
Wednesday Bible Study....7:00

MINISTER

Mike King 507-0625
Home..... 534-6872
Office 534-4649

ELDERS

Richard Jennings316-1305
Troy Robertson316-3163

DEACONS

Greg Clayton252-9762
Roger Clayton 538-8195
Brad Pounders.....316-7931
Harold Russell..... 507-1180
Randy Wall 316-9255
Lonnie Weaver.....801-8448

TO SERVE

Scripture.....Michael Crotts
A.M. Prayer.....Troy Robertson
Closing Prayer.....Gary Turner
P.M. PrayerHarold Russell
ClosingTyler Weaver
Wed.4/29.....Thomas Wall
Wed.4/29.....Phil Young
Usher & LockGreg Clayton
Greeter.....R & K Clayton

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....122
Sunday A.M.....137
Sunday P. M.....101
Wednesday.....142
Contribution.....\$3,819.55
Budget.....\$3,984.46



PANTRY ITEMS

Crackers

THE INFORMER

April 21, 2015

Volume 16

THE INFORMER (USPS 581-500)
Church of Christ
511 Hwy. 15 South, P.O. Box 148
New Albany, Mississippi 38652

Periodical
Postage Paid
New Albany, MS

(662)534-4649

POSTMASTER: Send address changes
(Form 3579) to: The Informer, P.O. Box
148, New Albany, MS 38652

Remembering Our Drug Problem

The other day a gentleman at a store in a small town read that a methamphetamine lab had been found in an old farm house in the adjoining county. He asked me a rhetorical question. "Why didn't we have a drug problem when you and I were growing up?"



I did have a drug problem when I was a kid growing up on the farm. I was drug to church on Sunday morning. I was drug to the church building for weddings and funerals. I was drug to family reunions and community socials, no matter the weather.

I was drug by my ears when I was disrespectful to adults. I was also drug to the woodshed when I disobeyed my parents, told a lie, brought home a bad report card, did not speak with respect, spoke ill of a teacher or the preacher, or if I didn't put forth my best effort.

I was drug to the kitchen sink if I uttered a profane four-letter word (I do know what lye soap tastes like). I was drug out to pull weeds in Mom's garden and flower beds and cockleburs out of Dad's fields.

I was drug to the homes of family, friends and neighbors to help out to fix a clothesline or chop some firewood; and if my mother had ever known that I took a single dime as a tip for this kindness, she would have drug me back to the woodshed.

Those drugs are still in my veins; and they affect my behavior in everything I do, say and think. They are stronger than cocaine, crack or heroin, and if today's children had this kind of drug problem, the world might be a better place today.

~ copied