



and that's...
The Gospel Truth!!
with Pat Corn

a brief message of encouragement to make your day just a little bit brighter

Farmer Joe decided his injuries from the accident were serious enough to take the trucking company (responsible for the accident) to court. In court, the trucking company's fancy lawyer was questioning farmer

Joe. "Didn't you say, at the scene of the accident, 'I'm fine?'," questioned the lawyer.

Farmer Joe responded, "Well I'll tell you what happened. I had just loaded my favorite mule Bessie into the....."

"I didn't ask for any details," the lawyer interrupted, "just answer the question. Did you not say, at the scene of the accident, 'I'm fine!'"

Farmer Joe said, "Well I had just got Bessie into the trailer and I was driving down the road..."

The lawyer interrupted again and said, "Judge, I am trying to establish the fact that, at the scene of the accident, this man told the Highway Patrolman on the scene that he was just fine. Now several weeks after the accident he is trying to sue my client. I believe he is a fraud. Please tell him to simply answer the question."

By this time the Judge was fairly interested in Farmer Joe's answer and said to the lawyer, "I'd like to hear what he has to say about his favorite mule Bessie."

Joe thanked the Judge and proceeded, "Well as I was saying, I had just loaded Bessie, my favorite mule, into the trailer and was driving her down the highway when this huge semi-truck and trailer ran the stop sign and smacked my truck right in the side. I was thrown into one ditch and Bessie was thrown into the other. I was hurting real bad and didn't want to move. However, I could hear ole Bessie moaning and groaning. I knew she was in terrible shape just by her groans.

Shortly after the accident a Highway Patrolman came on the scene. He could hear Bessie moaning and groaning so he went over to her. After he looked at her he took out his gun and shot her between the eyes. Then the Patrolman came across the road with his gun in his hand and looked at me. He said, "Your mule was in such bad shape I had to shoot her. How are you feeling?"

How often do we gauge our responses to situations based on what is happening around us. This poor fellow figured that he was next after Bessie was put out of her misery. I can't hardly blame him.

Some folks are 'peace keepers' and some folks are "peace makers". The peace keeper does what ever is necessary to not make waves. This is a sad existence because one denies the truth

sometimes just not to “make waves”. A peace keeper denies themselves the right to operate in truth. They become a servant to circumstance. This attitude often becomes the “enabler” for someone who actually needs confrontation for correction in their lives. Parents participate in this regularly with their kids who, if disciplined properly, will throw a hissy-fit. So rather than discipline them immediately they try to placate them with statements like, Just wait ‘til you get home...” Spouses live in “co-existence”, not being honest about their concerns for the other just to keep peace in the relationship. Employees never voice their opinions for fear that it may stir up a hornet’s nest at work. Residents of communities accept injustice and political manipulation just to “keep peace”. Being a “peace keeper” creates a false sense of security. It is not an honest relationship.

On the other hand the “peace maker” meets the problem head on, in love, and resolves an issue, one way or the other. A peace maker is interested in having no circumstance impede the well being of the environment around him. If there is a problem, he voices his opinion in a loving way and seeks concrete way to resolve it. This eliminates a great deal of strife and lingering doubt. A peace maker is interested in partnership. In conflict there are three stages that a person will find himself in; an adversarial relationship, co-existence (peace keeper), or partnership (peace maker).

Sometimes it is absolutely necessary to enter the tough adversarial stage to voice and identify the problems at hand be they personal, spiritual, or relational. Sure, no one likes to approach another to engage in a possible heated discussion to resolve conflict, but it is necessary in order to leave the co-existent state and enter partnership again. Of course it must be the desire of both individuals to be in a partnership role for the ultimate success in resolving a conflict. That ultimate goal needs to be confirmed at the onset of the discussion. It’s hard to enter into the conflicting discussions but it is absolutely necessary to make peace. It takes honesty with a loving desire.

You’ll never find a peace treaty signed unless some degree conflict has been resolved. If you are to experience true peace in your life, you may have to go to war a little. Don’t be afraid to fight to save something worth saving. Make peace, don’t just co-exist in a neutered state of mind.

“Perfect love casts out all fear”. Move from the “peace keeper” to being a “peace maker” and enjoy the truth, honesty, and freedom it provides. Who are you just “keeping peace” with? Make peace. It is God’s will in your life.

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