

How Do We Treat Our Enemies?

Chuck Webster

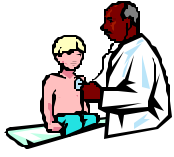
Steve May tells this story: "Former Boston Red Sox third baseman Wade Boggs used to hate going to Yankee Stadium. Not because of the Yankees—they never gave him that much trouble—but because of a fan. That's right: one fan. The guy had a box seat close to the field and when the Red Sox were in town he would torment Boggs by shouting obscenities and insults. It's hard to imagine one fan getting under a player's skin, but apparently this guy had the recipe. One day before the game, as Boggs was warming up, the "fan" began his typical routine, yelling, "Boggs, you stink", and variations on that theme. Boggs decided he'd had enough. He walked directly over to the man, who was sitting in the stands with his friends, and said, "Hey fella, are you the guy who's always yelling at me?" The man said, "Yeah, it's me. What are you going to do about it?" Wade took a new baseball out of his pocket, autographed it, tossed it to the man, and went back to the field to continue his pre-game routine. The man never yelled at Boggs again; in fact, he became one of Wade's biggest fans at Yankee Stadium.

Have you ever found yourself in a similar situation? Perhaps a co-worker views it his role in life to make you life miserable, peppering you with constant criticism and insults. Or maybe it's a neighbor who decided long ago to view you with suspicion and distrust. How do you respond? The natural thing to do is to "fight fire with fire" - to criticize when criticized, to approach enemies with the "I'll show you" attitude. After all, we can't allow others to take advantage of us right?

Here's what God says (and the story above illustrates): "Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay' says the Lord. Therefore if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Rom. 12:17-21 NKJV)

Here's an idea: Go out of your way to be nice to the selfappointed critic in your life. Buy his lunch. Take her garbage cans to the road on trash day. Send him a complimentary note. You might just lose an enemy, gain a friend, and open a door for Christ.

Sick Jack Cook continues his recovery at home.



Shannon & Aaron Martin, friends of Michelle Earnhart, are in need of our prayers.

Leslie Jearls, grandfather of Mitch Jearls, fell last week and is in Montgomery Regional Hosp.

Jack Pyott, Patty Gwaltney's brother, had a medical procedure in Kingsport, TN on Friday.

Continue to remember in prayer: **Marguerite Charles, Margaret Kratz, Betty Jenkins, Jim Dorsett, Lynn & Mary Anderson, Curtis Doss, Roy Doss, Martha Keplinger.**

Happy Birthday this week to:
Natalie Valentine—5/19
Jim Harrington—5/21
Paul Faw—5/23
Paula Gibson—5/23



Happy Anniversary this week to:

Mike & Judy Durham—5/19

Kim & David Brown—5/23

Bobby & Peggy Paxton—5/25



MAY ITEMS FOR THE

STAFFORDS: Taco Seasoning packs & dry Ranch Dressing packs. Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!



MILITARY

Kyle Nester— in Iraq

Erich Felps—in Iraq.

Chris Coleman—in Iraq.



On August 3, 2008 the very first meeting of the Beijing Church of Christ will occur. Details are on the board.

Remember this effort in your prayers.

Everyday Survival Kit

Toothpick: to remind you to always pick out the good qualities in others. (Gal.5:22,23)

Rubber band: to remind you to be flexible. Things may not always go the way you want, but it will work out in the end. (Rom. 8:28)

Band-Aid: to remind you to heal hurt feelings—yours or someone else's. (Prov. 15:11)

Pencil: to remind you to list your blessings everyday. (acts 17:28)

Eraser: to remind you that everyone makes mistakes, and that it is ok, as long as you learn from them. (Rom 3:23-26)

Spoon: to remind you to feed your soul everyday with God's Word. (II Tim. 2:15)

Chewing Gum: to remind you to stick with it and you can do just about anything. (Luke 1:37)

Candy Kiss: to remind you that everyone needs a jug and a kiss everyday. (Prov. 17:17)

Lollipop: to remind you how sweet you are. (Eccl. 7:1)

A Shining Star: to remind you to always shine by being a good example every day. (Phil. 2:15)

Snickers: to remind you to laugh even when you feel like crying. (Prov. 15:13)

Paper Clip: to help you hold things together. (Prov. 15:1)

Lemon Drop: to remind you that if life gives you lemons, make lemonade. (Prov. 16:20)

F Y I

For Your Information

Team 3 (Brown)— Bar-B-Que at the Gilpins! Friday, May 30 at 6:00. Sign up sheet on the board. Everyone welcome!



WEDDING SHOWER FOR LADIES

There will be a wedding shower luncheon for all ladies to honor Caleb Guard and his fiancée Carrie today after morning services. They are registered at Target and Bed, Bath & Beyond.

LADIES NIGHT OUT

Our May LNO will be on May 22 at 6:30 here at the building! Info sheet on the board.

GRADUATES DINNER

Join us on May 25 to honor our high school graduates. A pot luck fellowship meal will be after morning services.

BACHELOR POUNDING

There will be a Bachelor Pounding for Trae Bailey on June 1. All items can be placed in basket located in the foyer. Include easy to prepare foods or Kroger/Walmart gift cards!

TABLE CLOTHS

Please check your laundry rooms or cars for missing table cloths that belong in the fellowship room closets.

VBS

Water World at West Side
June 28—9:30 AM

Please check the insert and see where your name is located. If you are on the list and will not be able to fulfill your position please let Greg or Jo Ann know today!

Also we are need of a few more monitors and helpers with costumes and small props.

**Early Bulletin deadline this week:
Thursday at 8:00 AM**

Teens

ATTENTION GRADS: All papers due to Michelle today!!

May Dates:

May 17— Lynchburg Senior Banquet
May 25—WS Graduates Dinner



VCC & Horizon's applications and bus forms are located in the foyer. Pick yours up today!! Yellow bus forms for Senior week!

WOW

The WOW group had over 40 people join them at the Barter Theatre on Thursday. All had a great time!!

The WOW GROUP will meet on TUESDAY, June 10 at 10:30 AM.

Please sign up on the WOW board for the video Auto-biographies being done by Richard Simms.

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VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CAMP

6 weeks until Virginia Christian Camp.
Camp Dates—June 15-21.

Applications are in the foyer—please return to Curtis Graves ASAP.



Kitchen item needed from West Side— 16 oz. squeezable bottles of grape jelly. See Velda!

List of craft items needed: Dish Rags and towels, disposable plastic table cloths, paper towels, pens & pencils, Ziploc bags, sand paper. See Melissa or JoAnn.



May 2008

But, You Weren't Here

Announcements Danny Guard
Song Leader (AM) Jeff Durham
Opening Prayer (AM)
5/4 Barry White
5/11 Gene Benefield
5/18 Charlie Gwaltney
5/25 Tom Rogers
Preside at Communion Wayne Dixon
Serve Table Sam Valentine Roger Mays
Greg Edwards Bob Garby
Closing Prayer
5/4 Jim Harrington
5/11 Glenn Gabbard
5/18 Richard Simms
5/25 Collin Gregory

Song Leader (PM) Paul Mays
Opening Prayer (PM)
5/4 Eric Earnhart
5/11 Bob Martin
5/18 Jerry Anderson
5/25 Herb Baker
Scripture Reader Ethan Rogers
Closing Prayer (PM)
5/4 Norris Gearhart
5/11 George Mellon
5/18 Mark Brooks
5/25 Squeaky Valentine
Serve Table (PM)
Cameron Brown Bradford Durham

Song Leader (Wed) Tom Duff
Prayer (Wed)
5/4 Fred Altizer
5/14 Preston Duff
5/21 David Brown
5/28 Mike Durham

Open/Close Bldg Eric Earnhart
Greeters Duff Pettit
Nursery Attend
Melissa Marshall Dorothy Mays
Ushers Glen Hartman John Black
Handouts Preston Duff Garrett Durham
AC Janney Jim Bush

Alternates
Prepare communion
Michelle Earnhart Marsha Cooke

Cards & Pencils
Chandler Jearls Jimmy Harrington

Last weeks attendance 5/11-14/08

Bible Class—173 Worship Service—203
Sunday Eve.—152 Monday Eve.—171
Tuesday Eve. — 174 Wednesday Eve.—184
Contribution—\$5792

Number 29120
May 18, 2008

We just completed a wonderful gospel meeting with Glenn Colley. Glenn did an outstanding job in every way. The singing was excellent, the prayers fervent, the fellowship sweet and the subjects of study relevant and timely. We had visitors throughout the week and were encouraged by visible responses to the truth.

There were some who were unable to attend because of sickness. Others had previous engagements, were out of town and worshipped elsewhere. It is not to those who were not able to attend that these words are addressed. However, there were some who simply did not show up. You deemed something else of greater value than worshipping God. You had several opportunities to enrich your life and strengthen your soul- but, you weren't here. You had ample opportunity to encourage your brethren and be encouraged by them- but, you weren't here. You had occasions to demonstrate to the world that the Lord and His kingdom take priority in you life- but, you weren't here. You could have helped us show to our visitors what a joy it is to be Christians and to worship together- but, you weren't here. You had an opportunity to study about such subjects as "Seven Things Only a Mom Can Do," "Why I Love the Church of Christ," "Three Assertions of Peter in Acts 2," "Torpedoes the Devil Will Shoot at Your Marriage," "How to Put a Golden Band on the Right Left Hand" and "The Prodigal Son"- but, you weren't here.

Dear one, where are our values when we place things of the world, a little rest, sports, a favorite television show or a host of other activities above serving God and exhorting our brethren? If you are among those who forsook the assembling of the church this past week, ask yourself why. Why weren't you with us? We wanted to see you, needed your support and longed for your presence- but you weren't here.

-Eddy