

The Believer's Highest Honor

John 12:24-26

I'll never forget the best introduction I've ever received as an invited speaker. The presenter simply said, "It is my great pleasure to introduce to you my brother, Charles Stanley, servant of the Most High God". I couldn't move from my seat for a few moments: I was so struck by his opening that glorified the Lord and identified my proper position.

The Word of God describes believers as ambassadors (2 Cor. 5:20), soldiers (2 Tim. 2:3), and saints (Eph. 2:19). But the highest honor that we can receive is to be called servants of the Most High God. From the world's perspective, those who die to self in order to follow the Lord may stand in last place – in reality, however, they are first in His Kingdom. (See Matt. 20:16)

Sadly, service to God is often equated solely with what goes on at church. The preacher serves. The choir serves. The worker in the soup kitchen serves. But the guy pushing papers and the women cleaning up others' messes tend to be seen as simply doing their jobs. From the Father's vantage point, though, work well done brings as much glory to His name as a song lifted in praise. (See Col. 3:23-24). So take heart – if you're doing quality work and striving to make an impact on those around you, then you are serving God.

Service to the Lord is not about *what* we do, but rather *how well* we do all that the Lord has given us to accomplish (1 Pet. 4:10). A good servant shares both Jesus Christ's attitude of humility and His motivation to reach people with the love of God.

Dr. Charles Stanley
From In Touch – August 2017
Daily Readings for Devoted Living

Nothing We Can't Handle

No matter what distressing times I face,
When rain and storms replace the sunny weather,
When things I counted on fail to sustain me,
There's nothing we can't handle, Lord, together.

If those I thought were friends act more like foes,
If I start to lose the things I hold most dear,
I know that I can tell it all to You;
You want to listen to me and to hear.

When my earthly world dissolves before my eyes,
When problems seem too great for me to bear,
You'll always be there for me, Lord, I know;
I can come to you on bended knees in prayer.

It's such a comfort, Lord, to realize,
You'll always be my King, my Lord, my Friend;
To share my burdens, worries, and my cares,
You'll love me and support me to the end.

By Joanna Fuchs

Build a Firm Foundation of Faith

Faith is a force that is greater
Than knowledge or power or skill...
And the darkest defeat turns to triumph
If we trust GOD'S WISDOM and WILL.

By Helen Steiner Rice

When You Thought I Wasn't Looking

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you hang my first painting on the refrigerator, and I immediately wanted to paint another one.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you feed a stray cat, and I learned that it was good to be kind to animals.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you make my favorite cake for me and I learned that little things can be the special things in life.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I heard you say a prayer, and I knew there is a God I could always talk to and I learned to trust in God.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you make a meal and take it to a friend who was sick, and I learned that we all have to help take care of each other.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you give of your time and money to help people who had nothing and I learned that those who have something should give to those who don't.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I felt you kiss me good night and I felt loved and safe.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you take care of our house and everyone in it and I learned we have to take care of what we are given.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw how you handled your responsibilities, even when you didn't feel good and I learned that I would have to be responsible when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw tears come from your eyes and I learned that sometimes things hurt, but its all right to cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw that you cared and I wanted to be everything that I could be.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I learned most of life's lessons that I need to know to be good and productive person when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I looked at you and wanted to say, "Thanks for all the things I saw when you thought I wasn't looking."

Each of us - parent, grandparent or friend - influence the life of a child.

- Author Unknown -

Honey Garlic Crockpot Meatballs

Prep time	Cook time	Total time
5 mins	4 hours	4 hours 5 mins

Corey: Corey Valley

Serves: 6-8

INGREDIENTS

¼ cup brown sugar

⅓ cup honey

½ cup ketchup

2 TB soy sauce

3 cloves garlic, minced

1 (28oz) bag fully cooked, frozen meatballs
get ingredients

INSTRUCTIONS

In a medium bowl, mix together brown sugar, honey, ketchup, soy sauce and garlic.

Place frozen meatballs in a 3-4 quart crockpot and pour sauce over meatballs. Stir so all meatballs are coated evenly. Cook on LOW for 4 hours, stirring occasionally.

Use as an appetizer or serve over rice for a meal!

Sherry's Book Corner

Hello ladies! It's that time of year again. Ah... what time of year is that you may be thinking. It's time for fall cleaning. You know, washing the windows, scrubbing the rugs, and whatever else you do to suit your fancy! Since the kids are back in school and the weather has become much cooler, now is the time to prepare your home for the holidays that will soon be approaching. Since fall is my favorite season, I am going to decorate along with my cleaning.

There are so many cleaning books to chose from, but I have to admit, the authors other titles caught my attention. Since I am also a housekeeper for four families, they were food for thought. They are, *Is There Life After Housework?* and *How Do I Clean the Moosehead?* This author is also the founder of a \$10 million janitorial service. I found his advice superb and fun to read. I realize most of us expect spring cleaning, but I have always enjoyed cleaning our house in the fall. Getting ready for the shorter days and the longer nights have always been a treat to me. How about you?

In Him,
Sherry Kline Bolitho

Adult Book:

Title: *500 Terrific Ideas For Cleaning Everything*

Author: Don Aslett

Publisher: Galahad Books/New York

Price: \$5.99

Once read, your housework will become easy, more efficient, and more enjoyable. Don Aslett has your best interests at heart on the world of cleaning. There are also over 30 black-and-white illustrations to guide you. Learn where to buy tools and supplies the professionals use at no extra cost to you.



Sherry's Kids Corner

Hi kids! You might say this column is for the older generation of kids. I am thinking like young adults. Many of you may be going off to school and having a place of your own. Without mom and dad around you might want to learn how to do things for yourself...your way. Since I was an only child there was only three of us in a small home. Two bedrooms and one bath was part of our little bungalow. It was perfect for us three!

I love to be organized. When I was a kid my bedroom was mine to do what I wanted. I loved it! I have to say, I didn't fill it with "stuff." I enjoyed having just what I needed. If you are on your own and paying for most of the things you need, I think this book will come in quite handy. I was taught if you start good habits at a young age they will stick with you forever! I believe that's true. When I think about it, I have a whole house to do what I want, and I still like to keep it simple. Only the things that mean something to my heart has a home here.

In Him,
Sherry Kline Bolitho

Children's Book:

Title: *The Easy Organizer*

365 Tips for Conquering Clutter

By: Marilyn Bohn

Publisher: Betterway Home

Price: \$17.99

Each tip given to lead a clutter free life is quick and to-the-point. There is also a bonus chapter with twenty-one organizing concepts to give you more time for the things you enjoy doing. Life is fun and so is having your own place. Whether it is a studio apartment or you are sharing space with a friend, being organized is a great way to live.

Songs We Love

Submitted by Ruth Warren

Charles Gabriel grew up in Iowa on a farm. His one passion was music and his family bought him a small organ on which he taught himself to play. By age 16 he was teaching singing schools teaching others how to sing and know the notes.

His first marriage failed because of his frantic schedule so he moved to California to get a new start. He started working at the Grace Methodist Episcopal Church and was asked to write a song for the offering at Easter time. The congregation liked it as did the missionary who was speaking that morning. He liked it so much that he took it back east when he left.

The song became so popular that Gabriel went back east to devote his life to writing songs and soon he was doing just that.

Here are some of the many songs he wrote:

His Eye Is On The Sparrow
I Stand Amazed in the Presence
Brighten The Corner Where You Are
That Will Be Glory For Me
Higher Ground
Will The Circle Be Unbroken
Since Jesus Came Into My Heart
The Way Of the Cross
and this one...

SEND THE LIGHT

There's a call comes ringing o'er the restless waves, send the Light
There are souls to rescue, there are souls to save, send the light

We have heard the Macedonian call today, send the light
And a golden offering at the cross we lay, send the light

Let us pray that everywhere grace may abound, send the light
And a Christ-like spirit everywhere be found, send the light

Let us not grow weary in the work of love, send the light
Let us gather jewels for a crown above, send the light.

Send the light, send the light, send the light, the blessed gospel light,
Let it shine from shore to shore Send then light the blessed gospel light
Let it shine from shore to shore.

Autumn Apple Chicken Recipe

TOTAL TIME: Prep: 20 min. Cook: 3-1/2 hours YIELD:4 servings

Ingredients

1 tablespoon canola oil
4 bone-in chicken thighs (about 1-1/2 pounds), skin removed
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
2 medium Fuji or Gala apples, coarsely chopped
1 medium onion, chopped
1 garlic clove, minced
1/3 cup barbecue sauce
1/4 cup apple cider or juice
1 tablespoon honey

Directions

1. In a large skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Brown chicken thighs on both sides; sprinkle with salt and pepper. Transfer to a 3-qt. slow cooker; top with apples.
2. Add onion to same skillet; cook and stir over medium heat 2-3 minutes or until tender. Add garlic; cook 1 minute longer. Stir in barbecue sauce, apple cider and honey; increase heat to medium-high. Cook 1 minute, stirring to loosen browned bits from pan. Pour over chicken and apples. Cook, covered, on low 3-1/2 to 4-1/2 hours or until chicken is tender. Freeze option: Freeze cooled chicken mixture in freezer containers. To use, partially thaw in refrigerator overnight. Heat through in a covered saucepan, stirring occasionally. Yield: 4 servings.

Why Jesus' Unconditional Love Toward Women Is Good News

By: Christine Caine

Jesus saw the woman caught in adultery as a beloved daughter, His creation, someone to be nurtured and enabled, someone for whom He was willing to die, someone for whom He had a vital purpose and destiny. He entered a male-dominated culture that devalued women, and to the consternation of the powerful men around Him, He talked to women, addressed their concerns, healed them, forgave them their sins, and treated them with respect.

Imagine the impact this had on women treated as slaves for so long!

Jesus engaged with women throughout His ministry.

At a time when Jewish men — and especially rabbis — had nothing to do with women in public, even their own wives, Jesus esteemed women, touched women, spoke to women, taught women, and as we saw in John 8, interceded for and protected women. He welcomed women to minister to Him. Physically touching Him, washing His feet, anointing Him with oil. Rather than rebuke them, as the Pharisees wanted, He affirmed them. And to top it all off, women ministered with Him. They traveled with Him and helped fund His ministry. In a seldom mentioned passage from Luke 8, just before the parable of the sower, Luke says:

After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with Him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means. — Luke 8:1–3

Don't miss the exciting implications of this quiet passage. Women — some of them married, and apparently some of them not — were not only traveling with Jesus and His disciples but also, grateful and joyful that they had been healed of their diseases or freed from demonic oppression, were supporting Jesus' ministry from their own funds. That means, first,

that they had their own funds, and second, that they had the freedom to dispose of those funds as they saw fit. In the male-controlled society those women lived in, that is nothing short of remarkable. We know from biblical accounts that even some of Jesus' own disciples saw this as unseemly, even scandalous.

They were chosen to be the very first to bear the most powerful message in the history of mankind, the axis of our Christian faith, the event that makes Christianity Good News and not just good advice: "He is risen from the dead!"

In a time when a woman's testimony was not valid in a Jewish court, when women were not permitted to be legal witnesses; in a time when there was no social media to capture the moment, Jesus entrusted women to be the very first ones to go and tell the disciples that Jesus was risen from the dead. And the disciples then went and told the world.

There's a powerful understanding here: Jesus wanted women to go and tell. This was planned. This was intentional. He knew who would come looking. He did not expect women to be silent, hidden, withdrawn, or invisible.

As He had done numerous times prior to His death, He valued, esteemed, and included women. He entrusted the Good News to be delivered by women.

(Truthfully, I think He knew that if you wanted a message spread — back then or today — just tell a woman! In twenty-four hours, it will have gone viral!)

When I think about what Jesus did, and reflect on the serious assignment He gave those women, I feel like I'm one of them. Jesus lifted shame off me, and so today, I can't help but want to go and tell everyone that He is alive. I want women everywhere to experience the same freedom I enjoy.

I believe you feel the same way, because once shame is lifted off you, you can't keep this Good News to yourself. You want to be included in the Great Commission, filling every person's life in your sphere of influence with His message of salvation and freedom. You want every woman to know that whoever believes in Him will never be put to shame (Romans

10:11). You aren't able to hold yourself back from telling every woman all of the Good News...

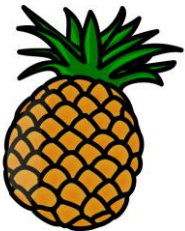
Fear is banished (1 John 4:18).
Love is stronger than death (Romans 6:9).
Good triumphs over evil (2 Corinthians 2:14).
Our needs can be met in Christ (Philippians 4:19).
Captives can be set free (Luke 4:18).
Hope can be restored (Romans 5:5).
Diseases can be healed (Matthew 8:17).
Peace can prevail (John 14:27).
Joy can reign (John 16:24).
Failures can be redeemed (Romans 8:28).

Jesus has entrusted you and me purposefully to share this news with a lost and dying world — so let's put off shame and put on Christ so that no one misses out on hearing it. Go and tell!

Pineapple Nut Cookies

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In a mixing bowl, cream together 1½ cups of sugar and ½ cup of vegetable shortening. Add ½ cup of crushed pineapple, drained, and 2 large eggs. Mix well. Sift together 3 cups of flour, 1 teaspoon of baking powder, ½ teaspoon of baking soda, and ½ teaspoon of salt. Add sifted ingredients to pineapple mixture. Stir in 1 cup of chopped walnuts and mix well. Drop by teaspoon onto a greased cookie sheet. Bake in a 375 degree oven for about 15 minutes. Makes 3 dozen.

Submitted by Brenda Angelo



Kids Say the Funniest Things

1. HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHO TO MARRY?

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming. - Alan, age 10

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. - Kirsten, age 10

2. WHAT IS THE RIGHT AGE TO GET MARRIED?

Twenty-three is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then. - Camille, age 10

No age is good to get married at. You got to be a fool to get married. - Freddie, age 6

3. HOW CAN A STRANGER TELL IF TWO PEOPLE ARE MARRIED?

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids. - Derrick, age 8

4. WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR MOM AND DAD HAVE IN COMMON?

Both don't want any more kids. - Lori, age 8

5. WHAT DO MOST PEOPLE DO ON A DATE?

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough. - Lynnette, age 8

On the first date, they just tell each other lies, and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date. - Martin, age 10

Stranger in My House

A very weird thing has happened. A strange old lady has moved into my house. I have no idea who she is, where she came from, or how she got in. I certainly did not invite her. All I know is that one day she wasn't there, and the next day she was.

She is a clever old lady, and manages to keep out of sight for the most part, but whenever I pass a mirror, I catch a glimpse of her. And whenever I look in the mirror to check my appearance, there she is, hogging the whole thing, completely obliterating my gorgeous face and body. This is very rude. I have tried screaming at her, but she just screams back.

If she insists on hanging around, the least she could do is offer to pay part of the rent, but no. Every once in a while, I find a dollar bill stuck in a coat pocket, or some loose change under a sofa cushion, but it is not nearly enough.

I don't want to jump to conclusions, but I think she is stealing money from me. I go to the ATM and withdraw \$100, and a few days later, it's all gone. I certainly don't spend money THAT fast, so I can only conclude the old lady is pilfering from me.

You'd think she would spend some of that money to buy wrinkle cream. Lord knows she needs it. And money isn't the only thing I think she is stealing. Food seems to disappear at an alarming rate – especially the good stuff like ice cream, cookies and candy. I can't seem to keep that stuff in the house anymore. She must have a real sweet tooth, but she'd better watch it because she is really packing on the pounds. I suspect she realizes this, and to make herself feel better, she is tampering with my scale to make me think I am putting on weight too. For an old lady, she is quite childish. She likes to play nasty games, like going into my closets when I'm not home and altering my clothes so they don't fit. And she messes with my files and papers so I can't find anything. This is particularly annoying since I am extremely neat and organized. She also fiddles with my VCR so it does not record what I have carefully and correctly programmed.

She has found other imaginative ways to annoy me. She gets into my mail, newspapers and magazines before I do, and blurs the print so I can't read it. And she has done something really sinister to the volume controls on my TV, radio and telephone. Now all I hear are mumbles and whispers.

She has done other things – like make my stairs steeper, my vacuum cleaner heavier and all my knobs and faucets harder to turn. She even made my bed higher so that getting into and out of it is a real challenge. Lately, she has been fooling with my groceries before I put them away, applying glue to the lids, making it almost impossible for me to open the jars. Is this any way to repay my hospitality?

She has taken the fun out of shopping for clothes. When I try something on, she stands in front of the dressing room mirror and monopolizes it. She looks totally ridiculous in some of those outfits, plus she keeps me from seeing how great they look on me.

Just when I thought she couldn't get any meaner, she proved me wrong. She came along when I went to get my picture taken for my driver's license, and just as the camera shutter clicked, she jumped in front of me! No one is going to believe that the picture of that old lady is me.

- Author Unknown -

Some do's & don'ts by Dr. Peter Ruckman

Don'ts:

Don't envy sinners

Never underestimate the power of the scriptures

Don't have friendships that destroy your personal relationship with Jesus Christ (memorize Proverbs 13:20 "A companion of fools shall be destroyed" and 1 Corinthians 15:33 "Evil communications corrupt good manners")

Do's:

Take the Lord into your confidence. Talk to Him plainly and clearly.

Let the Lord have your worries.

(1 Peter 5:7 "Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you")

Learn to tell others about Jesus Christ. Christ died for you when you were His enemy.

Untruths

It's a little sad in our society today that there are so many people that seem unable to tell the difference between a truth and a lie. Webster defines a lie as "to make a statement that one knows is false, especially with intent to give a false impression; deceive one". Everyone tells a lie from time to time but not in a manner that is meant to hurt but quite the opposite. For example, by telling someone their hair looks nice when you can see they've taken pains with it but it still needs help, or when asked "How are you?", and you reply, "just fine" when you are anything but fine. In the first case, you are trying to let the person know the effort they've taken with their hair was noted and you are giving them a little pat on the back – so the compliment was for the effort not the results. In the other instance, the way you feel is not always something you want to talk about or burden someone else with and it's just easier to say you are fine and move on.

Children are notorious for untruths. Psalm 58:3 says "...they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies". They learn almost as soon as they can talk that a lie can divert blame away from themselves, or at least cast some doubt on who's to blame for something they have gotten into. When my son was not much older than a toddler, he didn't have a sibling to blame anything on, so he would blame our dog, Ginger for everything. If something got knocked off a table while he was playing and broke, his reply was "GinGin did it" to keep the blame away from himself. Because of his age it never occurred to him how truly unlikely that could be when Ginger, a little Yorkie was entirely too small to have the ability needed in height, weight or inclination to accomplish what he was giving her credit for. As usually happens, when confronted with the truth and finding that lies just didn't work, and learning that lies are not acceptable behavior, he quickly grew out of that sort of behavior. There are some though that never learn those lessons and carry on into adulthood with seemingly no conscience, never feeling a sense of guilt or wrongful doing in this bad behavior.

I've known two adult people that were or are consummate liars. They lied for no reason and about almost everything to the point that I couldn't believe anything at all that they told me. If they said it was a sunny day, I would look out the window to see for myself before I replied. One of those two people started going to church and cleaned up her behavior over

time. Unfortunately, the other is still practicing her untruths. I happen to work with this young lady. I've seen up close what her untruths cost in the workplace, but the same thing would happen at home or out in society as well I am sure. They cause chaos, hurt others both professionally and spiritually, and cause distrust. Romans 14:13 tells us not to be a stumbling block that could cause our brother to fall. In the aftermath of told lies there follows stumbling blocks in the form of anger, hostility, gossip, and more. Romans 14:19 says, "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another". In an effort to elevate her position in the company, this lady has laid claim to abilities she does not possess, taken credit for work performed by other employees as her own, passed off blame for work not completed due to the fault of someone other than herself, and other things - all through lying. This makes it hard to work with her or to trust her. For "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches..." (Proverbs 22:1), and this lady does not have a good name. There are many that feel the same way I do because they have also seen things she has done using lies and the repercussion of them.

What good are telling lies anyway. Telling the truth is much easier, since you never have to remember what lie you told, when you told it and to whom you told it. Also, in the event that you did tell a truth, chances are no one would believe you thinking it was just another lie. If telling lies was habitual it would be a big job to keep track of them all so that one didn't contradict something previously lied about. What a waste of time and effort! We are to practice to be more like God and it is impossible for God to tell a lie (Hebrews 6:18). The bible is full of verses entreating us to bridle our unruly tongues and pursue only what brings peace with our mouths. We should never pursue a lie. Lies hurt, tear down, destroy where as Christians we are to do the opposite – heal, build up, and never ever become a stumbling block.

LeuAnna Taylor

Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

Psalm 34:13-14

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15