

GOSPELFRAMES

THE GOOD NEWS
IN EVERYDAY LIFE





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Weekly Brief At a Glance. . .

Just Leave that Crown in the Garage

“When you walk in that door, just leave that crown in the garage. . .”

Summary: In *How to Lead*, Indra Nooy shares a humbling story about the night she became president of PepsiCo.

Themes: fatherhood, humility, leadership, lordship, motherhood, parenting



But What Do You Really Mean?

“When it comes to food jargon, ‘whole’ does not exactly mean whole, ‘natural’ does not all ways mean natural, and ‘local’ isn’t necessarily local.”

Summary: A recent issue of Oxygen outs the true (or untrue) meaning of food jargon.

Themes: deceit, Gospel, Jesus, meaning, pluralism, words



The Unlikely Donor

“If you asked me 100 names of who may give me a kidney, her name would have not been on the list.”

Summary: When Officer Terrell Potter experiences kidney failure, he finds a most unlikely donor.

Themes: forgiveness, giving, redemption, restoration, sacrifice



All Your Twisty Parts

“Actually telling someone our sins gives us the opportunity to admit we are flawed.”

Summary: The film *Words On Bathroom Walls* tells the story of a young man hiding the most broken parts of himself.

Themes: authenticity, confession, community, faults, forgiveness, vulnerability



Bear the Onus of Forgiveness?

“Why should the injured, the still bleeding, bear the onus of forgiveness?”

Summary: In *The Place Where the Crowds Sing*, Kya wrestles with the burden of forgiveness.

Themes: betrayal, easter, forgiveness, the cross, reconciliation



Thunder and Rain

“Do not be afraid; you have done all this evil.”
(1 Samuel 12:20)

Summary: When Israel demands a king, God gives them what they want, but his response is a mixture of judgement and grace.

Themes: consequences of sin



Just Leave that Crown in the Garage

In David M Rubenstein's new book "How to Lead," Indra Nooyi, former president of PepsiCo, shares what it means to be a mom and a successful corporate executive (what Rubenstein calls "having it all").

In December 2000, Nooyi was working into the evening at PepsiCo. At around 9:30pm her office phone rang. On the other line was a member of the corporate board who informed her that she would be the next president of the company. Nooyi was one of the first women to break this level of the corporate glass ceiling. And during her tenure, the company's sales grew 80%.

Nooyi recounts what happened when she arrived home to share the big news of her promotion.

I went home to tell my family that I was going to be president of PepsiCo, and Mum opens the door. She was living with me at that time. I said, "Mum, I have got news for you," and she said, "Before the news, go get some milk." I said, "It's ten o'clock in the night. Why should I get milk?"

You know you never question your mum. I went and got the milk, came back, sort of banged it on the countertop, and I said, "I had big news for you. I have just been appointed president of PepsiCo, and all that you care about is the milk."

She just looked at me and she said, "What are you talking about? When you walk in that door, just leave that crown in the garage, because you are the wife, the daughter, the daughter-in-law, and the mother of the kids, and that's all I want to talk about. Anything else, just leave it in the garage. Don't even try this with me anymore."

SOURCE: Rubenstein, David M. "How to Lead: Wisdom from the World's Greatest CEOs, Founders, and Game Changers" (Simon & Schuster, 2020), p 189..



KEY PHRASE

"When you walk in that door, just leave that crown in the garage. . ."

THEMES

*fatherhood
humility
leadership
lordship
motherhood
parenting*

PASSAGES

*Grandchildren are the crown of the aged, and the glory of children is their fathers.
Proverbs 17:6*

*The twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."
Revelation 4:10*

*Already you have all you want!
Already you have become rich!
Without us you have become kings! And would that you did reign, so that we might share the rule with you!
1 Corinthians 4:8*

Other Texts: Pr 12:4; 16:18-19; 17:6; 25:27; 26:12; 27:23-24; Ec 7:16; Mc 6:8; Mt 18:1-4; Lk 18:11; Ac 20:19; 1Co 4:6-8; 2Co 12:7; Gl 6:3; Pp 2:3-8; Cl 2:13; 1Tm 6:17; Jm 4:6; 1Pt 5:5; 3Jn 9; Rev 4:10

But What Do You Really Mean?

Sometimes words don't mean what you think they mean, even when that meaning seems obvious. Consider, for a moment, how we label food in this country. An article in a recent issue of *Oxygen* was titled "How to Deconstruct Food Marketing Jargon." Here are just a few examples the author mentions:

- Whole Wheat Bread - "A manufacturer can label an item 'whole wheat' if it contains just 51 percent whole-wheat flour."
- Natural/All Natural - "These labels mean absolutely nothing. . . The Food and Drug Administration does not define or regulate the use of these terms. It only advises that "natural" products should not contain artificial colors, flavors or preservatives and should be minimally processed."
- Local/Locally Sourced - "These terms indicate that a food is grown fewer than 400 miles away from the location in which it is sold/served."

So to recap, "whole" does not exactly mean whole, "natural" does not all ways mean natural, and "local" isn't necessarily local.

The religious terms used by many today are no different. They are just jargon, which must be deconstructed. "God" doesn't always mean God. "Love" doesn't always mean love. "Gospel" isn't always good news. Even the name "Jesus" doesn't always refer to the reigning King of Heaven described in the Bible.



KEY PHRASE

"When it comes to food jargon, 'whole' does not exactly mean whole, 'natural' does not all ways mean natural, and 'local' isn't necessarily local."

THEMES

deceit
Gospel
Jesus
meaning
pluralism
words

PASSAGES

But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.
Galatians 1:8

Many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray.
Mark 13:6

So the king took counsel and made two calves of gold. And he said to the people, "You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt."
1 Kings 12:28

Other Texts: *Ex 32:4–8; Dt 32:17; 1Ki 12:28; Jr 2:12–13; Mt 24:5–31; Mk 13:6–27; Lk 21:8; 25–28; 2Co 11:4; Ga 1:8*

The Most Unlikely Donor

Last November, Terrell Potter, a former officer with the Phil Campbell Police Department in Alabama, learned that his kidney was failing. Doctors prepared him for the reality of a seven to eight-year waiting period for a compatible donor, a wait he might not survive.

“We began praying about getting the right kidney,” Potter said. The family began reaching out to potential donors across the southeast. But little could they know that the perfect match would be just two miles away, in the body of a most unlikely prospect.

On the other side of town, Jocelynn James was scrolling through her Facebook feed when she saw the post about Potter’s search. She knew Potter well. She remembers, “I just threw my phone down and the holy spirit told me right then that I had that man’s kidney.”

This level of sacrifice is always admirable, but James willingness to be a donor was totally unexpected. In a recent interview, Potter shared:

If you asked me 100 names of who may give me a kidney, her name would have not been on the list. It’s just unbelievable that she was willing to do that.

Why? Because between 2007-2012, James was arrested 16 times for theft and drug charges, once even appearing on “Franklin’s Most Wanted.” And on multiple occasions, Potter was the arresting officer.

James, who has been clean for 7 years now, said “I was just living a really bad life, doing a lot of really bad things that I shouldn’t have had no business doing, and I was just a really lost person. . . I was sick of living that life.”

James was tested, found to be a perfect match, and last month she made the sacrifice that saved Potter’s life. Citing her faith, James said it was very humbling that God would use a piece of her, with a body that she says she harmed for a long time, to extend someone’s life. She concludes, “God restored me from the inside out, and to be able to give another human a kidney to extend his life is really rewarding.”

SOURCE: Weaver, Stephanie. "She saved my life': Police officer receives life-saving transplant from woman he put in jail 8 years ago." FOX1a. Retrieved from <https://www.fox1a.com/news/she-saved-my-life-police-officer-receives-life-saving-transplant-from-woman-he-put-in-jail-8-years-ago>.



KEY PHRASE

“If you asked me 100 names of who may give me a kidney, her name would have not been on the list.”

THEMES

*forgiveness
giving
redemption
restoration
sacrifice*

PASSAGES

*Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.
Philippians 2:4*

*Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.
Hebrews 13:16*

*Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it.
Proverbs 3:27*

Other Texts: Dt 15:11; Pr 3:27; 11:25; 19:17; Mt 5:16; 42; 10:8; 25:44–45; Lk 3:10–11; Rm 12:13; Ga 6:2; Pp 2:4; Hb 6:10; 13:16; Jm 2:14–17

All Your Twisty Parts

The film *Words on Bathroom Walls* tells the story of Adam, a witty, introspective teen diagnosed with a mental illness during his senior year of high school. After experiencing a psychotic break at his school, his parents relocate him for a fresh start to St Agatha's, a private Catholic school. In their first meeting, when the head master inquires if he is ready to join St. Agatha's, Adam answers, "The only person that can't reject you is Jesus, right?"

As he struggles to keep his illness a secret, Adam connects with Father Patrick in a confessional and asks about the reason for confession. While he initially dodges Adam's question, later Father Patrick responds;

Actually telling someone our sins gives us the opportunity to admit we are flawed. . . Everyone is flawed. But admitting our flaws, that gives us the opportunity and the strength to face them. And that's why we confess.

At the end of the film, after discovering his need to depend on others, Adam shares:

As for honesty. . . you have to let people discover all your dark and twisty places inside because those are the people that can show you what's real, when you can't see that yourself. It can be the beginning of everything, if you let it.

SOURCE: Walton, Julia. *Words on Bathroom Walls* (New York: Ember, 2018)..



KEY PHRASE

“Actually telling someone our sins gives us the opportunity to admit we are flawed.”

THEMES

*authenticity
confession
community
faults
forgiveness
vulnerability*

PASSAGES

*Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.
James 5:16*

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
1 John 1:9*

*But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers in their treachery that they committed against me, and also in walking contrary to me. . .
Leviticus 26:40*

Other Texts: *Le 5:5; 16:21; 26:40; Nm 5:7; Ez 10:1; Ne 9:2–3; Ps 32:3–6; 38:18; Pr 28:13; Daniel 9:3–12, 20; Mt 3:6; Mk 1:5; Ac 19:18; Jm 5:16; 1Jn 1:9*

Bear the Onus of Forgiveness?

In Delia Owens best-selling book, *Where the Crawdads Sing*, readers are introduced to a young girl named Kya living in Barkley Cove in 1969. Known to locals as "Marsh Girl," she had lived a hard, lonely life, abandoned and forgotten by virtually everybody. As her story unfolds, one of those characters returns to the marshes of North Carolina. Tate was her first love, had taught her to read, and had become the only family she knew. He had left the swamp for success elsewhere, promising to return for her. But Tate never returned, and he never wrote to explain why.

One night Tate comes trolling up to her front door on an old fishing rig. Kya is filled with rage as he attempts to apologize:

Kya, leaving you was not only wrong, it was the worst thing I have done or ever will do in my life. I have regretted it for years and will always regret it. I think of you every day. For the rest of my life, I'll be sorry I left you. I truly thought that you wouldn't be able to leave the marsh and live in the other world, so I didn't see how we could stay together. But that was wrong.

He continues, "I knew how many times you'd been left before. I didn't want to know how badly I hurt you. I was not man enough. Just like you said." Finishing his plea, Tate watched her until she asked, "What do you want now, Tate?"

He responded, "If only you could, some way, forgive me."

As Kya looks at her toes, she thinks to herself "Why should the injured, the still bleeding, bear the onus of forgiveness?"

It's a good question. One we should ponder every time we think about the work of Christ on the cross.



KEY PHRASE

"Why should the injured, the still bleeding, bear the onus of forgiveness?"

THEMES

betrayal
easter
forgiveness
the cross
reconciliation

PASSAGES

And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.
Luke 23:34

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
2 Corinthians 5:21

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.
Isaiah 53:5

Other Texts: Nm 14:18; Ps 86:5; Is 53:5-8; Mt 6:12, 14-15; Mk 11:25; Lk 6:37; 17:4; 23:34; Ac 20:28; Rm 4:7-8; Ep 1:7; 4:32; Co 3:13; 2Co 2:5-8, 10; Hb 9:22; 1Jn 1:9

SOURCE: Owens, Delia. *Where the Crawdads Sing* (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2018), p. 198.



Thunder and Rain

1 Samuel 12

The Consequences of Sin

In the days of Samuel, Israel noticed that their neighbors had something they did not. Every other nation had a ruling authority leading them. From the outside looking in, this seemed like a great idea. Maybe they saw the beauty and wealth which surrounded the monarch as a bragging right. Maybe they simply wanted the ability to outsource their cares and responsibilities to a single ruler. But whatever their surface motivations, Israel's real problem was a rejection of God's authority.

If you wonder how God felt about all this, you need look no further than Samuel's exit interview in chapter 12. Samuel begins by reminding the people what life was like under the previous system. Moses and Aaron were used by God to rescue them from Egypt. After he brought them into the Promised land, God raised up judges to fight with and for the people. Things weren't bad. The historical record showed that the only time they found themselves in want for help is when they rejected God. And at the end of his speech, this God, who they had rejected, testifies from heaven by a show of thunder and rain.

Rain has always been seen as a blessing. They needed the rain. It was a sign of God's grace and mercy on his people. But thunder still startles us today. Thunder and lightning in the ancient world have long been an emblem of a fear provoking message from heaven. And there it is. Intertwined in God's response to their demand for a king was a blending of judgment and grace. After hearing God speak, the people acknowledged their sin and asked Samuel to pray for them. Samuel responds:

“Do not be afraid; you have done all this evil. Yet do not turn aside from following the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart. And do not turn aside after empty things that cannot profit or deliver, for they are empty. For the Lord will not forsake his people, for his great name's sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you a people for himself.

– 1 Samuel 12:20-23

Their repentance did not undo the consequences of their decision. They now had a king, and would have to live with that choice. Judgment, at least in this case was God giving the people what they thought they wanted. But neither did their sin undo God's promise. Grace was God remaining with them in spite of their sin.



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