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THE **GOOD NEWS**
IN EVERYDAY LIFE



Weekly Brief At a Glance. . .

Be A Little Deaf

“When a thoughtless or unkind word is spoken, best tune out. Reacting in anger or annoyance will not advance one’s ability to persuade.”

Summary: Political conversations will certainly not become less hostile with the passing of Ruth Bader Ginsburg. But perhaps RGB might leave us with some sound wisdom in this area.

Themes: anger, conflict, kindness, overlook offence, persuasion



Recovering The Politics of Lincoln

“None of us are, in any intrinsic or objective way, better than the people whose politics we loathe.”

Summary: Many claim to affirm, and even follow, the example of Lincoln, but very few actually do.

Themes: enemies, forgiveness, kindness, respect



The Donation Dollar

“. . . the ongoing, positive repercussions that each donation can make.”

Summary: Recognizing the struggle faced by charity, the Australian Mint designs a new coin.

Themes: generosity, giving, sharing, stewardship



What’s Wrong With Wholesome

“There is nothing wrong, lame or corny about being wholesome.”

Summary: Keke Palmer tells followers that being wholesome is not all that bad.

Themes: counter culture, doing good, persecution, purity, righteousness



Someone Has A Fake

“Two camps are claiming to be in possession of the REAL jersey. . . which means someone has a fake.”

Summary: Michael Strahan’s jersey is up for auction but he claims it’s not real.

Themes: apologetics, pluralism, creationism, evolution, naturalism



Don’t Scale Back God’s Word

God said, “No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac (Genesis 17:18-19).”

Summary: While waiting on God to fulfill his word, Abraham begins to revise the promises.

Themes: Trusting the Promises of God



Be A Little Deaf

Last Friday saw the passing of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Supreme Court Justice of the United States for 27 years. With her passing, in this hyper-polarized election year, political conversations are sure to become increasingly more hostile in the coming days. But perhaps RGB might leave us with some sound wisdom in this area.

No doubt, we would not agree with her on many important points. But even with those with whom we differ, we can find points of agreement. For example, you might agree with her advice on handling “thoughtless or unkind words.”

Near the end of the preface to *My Own Words*, Ginsburg wrote:

Another often-asked question when I speak in public: “Do you have some good advice you might share with us?” Yes, I do. It comes from my savvy mother-in-law, advice she gave me on my wedding day. “In every good marriage,” she counseled, “it helps sometimes to be a little deaf.” I have followed that advice assiduously, and not only at home through fifty-six years of a marital partnership nonpareil. I have employed it as well in every workplace, including the Supreme Court of the United States. When a thoughtless or unkind word is spoken, best tune out. Reacting in anger or annoyance will not advance one’s ability to persuade.

SOURCE: Ginsburg, Ruth Bader. *My Own Words* (New York; Simon and Schuster, 2016), p. iv.



KEY PHRASE

“When a thoughtless or unkind word is spoken, best tune out. Reacting in anger or annoyance will not advance one’s ability to persuade.”

THEMES

anger
conflict
kindness
overlooking offence
persuasion

PASSAGES

The vexation of a fool is known at once, but the prudent ignores an insult.

Proverbs 12:16

A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.

Proverbs 18:2

Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.

Proverbs 19:11

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger

James 1:19

Other Texts: 1Sa 25:25, 25:33; Pr 12:16; 14:29; 15:18; 16:32; 17:14; 18:2, 21; 19:11; Mt 5:5; 1Co 13:4-7; Pp 4:8; Co 3:13; Jm 1:19

Recovering The Politics of Lincoln

Seems that there is not much that we can agree on today. But the one common variable that seems to cross the party divide is a bipartisan respect for the great emancipator, Abraham Lincoln.

Theodore Roosevelt (R) kept a portrait of Lincoln behind his desk and would turn to it in contemplation during difficult times. Franklin Roosevelt (D) made regular trips to the Lincoln memorial and once wrote to a friend, "I think it is time for us Democrats to claim Lincoln as one of our own." Republicans William McKinley, Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan and John McCain, accepted their party's nomination for the presidency highlighting their allegiance to "The Party of Lincoln." Barack Obama cited Lincoln in his 2008 victory speech and took his first oath of office on the same Bible Lincoln used.

However, it is one thing to pay lip service to the legacy of a real leader; but, something quite different to follow his example.

In a recent issue of the National Review, historian Cameron Hilditch explains the complex but powerful political stance of our 16th president. He argues persuasively that Lincoln sought to balance the freedom of each citizen to pursue their own self interests with the need for the government to limit that freedom when it would restrict the rights of others (i.e. slavery). He summarizes by writing that Lincoln's America is "philosophically if not theologically, a kind of classical Christian America." And then he concludes by offering this advice to all political thinkers who would like to practice the politics of Lincoln:

To recover it, all we need to do is think seriously, deeply, and regularly about the fact that none of us are, in any intrinsic or objective way, better than the people whose politics we loathe. If you're interested in practicing the politics of Lincoln, try to bring to mind the person in public life whose views you find the most appalling, and meditate long and hard on the fact that they are your unalterable and inalienable equal. Our sixteenth president was quite adept at this. On the night that Robert E. Lee surrendered, Lincoln, after four years of being cursed, warred against, and burned in effigy by the soldiers of the South, turned to the White House band and asked them to play "Dixie."

SOURCE: Hilditch, Cameron. "Self-interest is not enough: Lincoln's Classical Revision Of the Founding." *National Review*, Sept 2020. Retrieved from <https://www.nationalreview.com/2020/09/abraham-lincoln-american-founding-self-interest-not-enough/#slide-1>.



KEY PHRASE

"none of us are, in any intrinsic or objective way, better than the people whose politics we loathe."

THEMES

enemies
forgiveness
kindness
respect

PASSAGES

*He said to David, "You are more righteous than I, for you have repaid me good, whereas I have repaid you evil. And you have declared this day how you have dealt well with me, in that you did not kill me when the Lord put me into your hands."
1 Samuel 24:17-18*

*Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.
Hebrews 12:14*

*But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.
Matthew 5:39*

Other Texts: Gn 50:15; Pr 17:13; 20:22; Mt 5:16; Lk 6:33; Rm 12:20-21; Ga 6:9; Co 1:10; 1Th 5:15; 1Pt 2:12; 3:16

The Donation Dollar

Like many charities in the United States, Australian not-for-profits are expecting a sharp decrease in donations during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Economists forecasts an 18% shortfall over the next two years.

In response, the Australian mint has designed a brand new coin called the "donation dollar." The image of Queen Elizabeth II is pressed into the front of the coin. The reverse features a green center surrounded by an embossed message which reads "give to help others." The center is accented with a gold ripple design. According to the Australian Mint, the ripples symbolize the "ongoing, positive repercussions that each donation can make."

The coins, which are the first \$1 piece to feature a color other than gold, will be minted over the next three years. Twenty-five million in total will be put into circulation, one for every Australian. But officials have made it clear, the coins are not collectable or commemorative. Mint Chief Executive Ross MacDiarmid recently told ABC:

Hopefully, they will look at the message that is being conveyed on that coin and they will look to donate it. . . What we are trying to do here is get people to stop and reflect. If they did just that alone and thought about the idea of donating that in itself would be an amazing outcome. If ever there was a time of need, this is that time.

SOURCE: Nowroozi, Isaac. "Royal Australian Mint releases 'donation dollar' coin designed to be given to charitable cause." ABC News. Retrieved from: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-09-02/mint-releases-special-dollar-coin-designed-to-be-given-away/12621404>.



KEY PHRASE

“. . . the ongoing, positive repercussions that each donation can make.”

THEMES

generosity
giving
sharing
stewardship

PASSAGES

*And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."
Matthew 22:20-21*

*For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.
2 Corinthians 8:12*

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

*And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise."
Luke 3:11*

Other Texts: Pr 11:24–25; 19:17; 22:9; Mt 3:10–12; Mk 6:21; 10:8; 19:21; 22:20–21; Mk 12:41–44; Lk 3:11; 19:8; Ac 20:35; 2Co 8:12; 9:6–8; 1Tm 6:17–19; Hb 13:16

What's Wrong With Wholesome

There seems to be a pervasive idea today that if you have a moral center you are somehow robbing yourself and your children from experiencing the richness of life. Fortunately, there are numerous examples that prove this does not have to be the case.

Growing up in a spotlight comes with its own unique challenges, especially if you are raised with a moral standard different from the Hollywood "norm." Keke Palmer knows a thing or two about navigating these challenges to her identity. Palmer grew up as a Disney actress on *Akeelah* and *The Bee*. As you know, Disney child-actors and actresses do not always fair well into adulthood (insert image of Miley Cyrus here). But Palmer went on to star in films like *Ice Age*, and *Hustlers*.

Recently, she shared a message with her Instagram followers about what it really means to "stay true to yourself:"

Growing up I was often teased for being "wholesome", the shows I acted on, the fact that I had a bedtime on tour and even sometimes the way I spoke. What I hated most was that people assumed that because of all these things I somehow hadn't experienced life.

In a parallel post on twitter, she wrote: "Idk who needs to hear this, but there is nothing wrong, lame or corny about being wholesome." I could not have said it better in 280 characters or less.

SOURCE: Jackson, Vanessa. "Keke Palmer Recalls Being Teased For Being "Wholesome" in Heartfelt Message." Retrieved from <https://www.eonline.com/news/1187516/keke-palmer-recalls-being-teased-for-being-wholesome-in-heartfelt-message>.



KEY PHRASE

"There is nothing wrong, lame or corny about being wholesome."

THEMES

*counter culture
doing good
persecution
purity
righteousness*

PASSAGES

*Where there is no prophetic vision
the people cast off restraint, but
blessed is he who keeps the law.
Proverbs 29:18*

*But godliness with contentment
is great gain,
1 Timothy 6:6*

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy,
peace, patience, kindness,
goodness, faithfulness, 23
gentleness, self-control; against
such things there is no law.
Galatians 5:22-23*

Other Texts: Gn 6:13; Ps 1:1-6;
19:11; 58:11; 119:1; 119:2; 128:2; Pr
8:11; 11:25; 29:18; Mt 5:1-
12, 16; Rm 7:12; Ga 5:22-23; 1Tm
6:6-11; Hb 6:10; 13:16

Someone Has a Fake

The headline of a recent TMZ article reads: "Two camps are claiming to be in possession of the REAL jersey worn by Michael Strahan in Super Bowl 42. . . which means someone has a FAKE."

Michael Strahan, Pro Football Hall of Famer, who wore the jersey, claims the real thing is on display at his home.

But Goldin Auctions, one of the top sports memorabilia dealers in the country, which prides itself on trading in authentic items, claims it holds the real thing and plans on putting it up for auction to the highest bidder.

Strahan claims after his NY Giants beat the New England Patriots on Feb. 3, 2008, he gave his jersey to a friend and instructed that person to take it straight to Strahan's hotel room for safekeeping.

But, Goldin Auctions is disputing that claim, insisting the REAL jersey ended up with a Giants equipment manager that day, who then passed it along to another person, who brought it to Goldin Auctions.

Without more information, we cannot be sure which one is right. But the one thing we can agree on is this, both jerseys cannot be real. One is authentic and the other is not. Or to put it in the words of TMZ, "someone has a FAKE."

SOURCE: TMZ. "Two Super Bowl Jerseys Surface; War Raging Over Which Is Fake." Retrieved from <https://www.tnz.com/2020/08/19/michael-strahan-super-bowl-42-jersey-fake-ny-giants-auction/>.



KEY PHRASE

Two camps are claiming to be in possession of the REAL jersey worn by Michael Strahan in Super Bowl 42. . . which means someone has a FAKE."

THEMES

pluralism
creationism
evolution
naturalism

PASSAGES

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

Galatians 1:7–9

And Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." And the people did not answer him a word.

1 Kings 18:21

For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.

Matthew 24:24

Other Texts: 1Ki 18:21; Ps 19:1; 115:4–8; 135:14–18; Is 36:19; 37:19; Jr 10:12; Hs 8:4–6; Mt 7:15–20; 24:24; Ac 19:26; Rm 1:20; 2Co 11:13–15; Ga 1:6–9; 1:8; 4:8–11; 1Tm 6:20–21; Hb 11:3; 2Pt 2:1; 3:5–13; 1Jn 4:1



Don't Scale Back God's Word

Genesis 17:15-21

Trusting the Promises of God

Back in the book of Genesis we find Abraham waiting on God to fulfill his promises. Sometimes we imagine these patriarchs were infused with perpetual confidence, but nothing could be further from the truth. After a while, Abraham begins to assume that the promise had already been fulfilled through Ishmael, his son through Hagar. But the promise was not just for him alone, it was for Abraham and Sarah as a couple. At the ages of 100 and 90, after waiting for decades, they would have another child.

When Abraham hears the full measure of God's plan, that the foretold offspring would not be Ishmael but yet another son who would be born through Sarah, he literally fell down in laughter. In his mind, he was too old and Sarah was way too old. He took an inventory of his own abilities and resources, and then determined it to be unbelievable. But he had learned by this point that he must trust God, who had proved himself to be faithful. What can he do?

Since he could not see this happening, he began to revise God's plan. Ok God, let's just call Ishmael the heir of promise and be done with it. Just let Ishmael walk before you!

*And Abraham said to God, "Oh that Ishmael might live before you!"
God said, "No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son,
and you shall call his name Isaac
– Genesis 17:18-19*

There is a constant temptation to follow a path of least resistance. This is especially true in matters of faith. When waiting on God to fulfill his word, it is easy for us to give into an impulse to scale back his promises, to substitute what we can do in our own power rather than wait on what he can do with us, to settle for the second best of our own making rather than the very best of his will for us. But God's abilities exceed our abilities, his resources surpass our resources, and his promises can overrule our limited expectations.



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