

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Complaining

February 7, 2016

Issue 249

One day a cowboy was driving his truck down a winding western highway. His dog, Duke, was riding by his side, and his favorite horse, Montana, was being pulled in the trailer behind him. But the cowboy was driving too fast around a turn, and he lost control of the truck. Both the truck and trailer tumbled off the road. The local sheriff quickly arrived on the scene. He found Montana writhing in pain with two broken legs. The sheriff had no choice but to put the horse out of his misery by shooting him with his sidearm. Not far away was Duke, who was also beyond the point of saving. So the sheriff shot Duke as well.

Then he found the cowboy lying in a ditch. He had broken ribs, a broken arm, and he was bleeding from multiple cuts and scrapes throughout his body. The sheriff stood over him and asked, "Are you okay?" The cowboy instantly shouted, "I've never been better!"

We tend to complain a lot less when we are surrounded by those in worse situations. Someone once said, "I complained that I did not have shoes until I met a man who had no feet." Today there are children being born in South America with abnormally small heads because their mothers were bitten by mosquitoes that carried the Zika virus. The average

North Korean is three inches shorter than his South Korean cousin because his people have been malnourished for generations. Over one billion people on earth have never lived a day in their life with electricity.

Just because someone else's problems might be worse than yours, that doesn't mean your problems are insignificant. But perspective is always helpful. Remember Mark Twain's comment: "Don't complain and talk about all your problems. Eighty percent of the people don't care, and the other twenty percent think you deserve them."

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Ruby Johnson is the mother of David Johnson, who passed away recently. Her address is 40 Spurlin Dr., Somerville, AL 35670.
 - James will be at Freed-Hardeman this week. His Dad will teach Wednesday night and next Sunday morning.
 - We will study the 10th Commandment tonight—"You Shall Not Covet."
 - Pray for Paula Lee, Addie Farmer, Mildred Walker.
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**We Had A Generous Building Fund Contribution Last Week!
Hillcrest Nursing Home Worship Today At 2:30**

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Garrett

Pray: Brown

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: E. Walker

Serve: Billingsley, L. Newell, Gupton

Pray: Terry Walker

Pleasant View church of Christ
2500 Highway 49 East
P.O. Box 189
Pleasant View, TN 37146

Sunday School: 9:30
A.M. Worship: 10:30
P.M. Worship: 6:00
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 pm
Phone: 924-9714

Psalm 5:11
"But let all who take refuge
in You be glad. Let them
ever sing for joy; and may
You shelter them, that those
who love Your name may
exult in You."

*"Don't walk in front of me—I may not follow.
Don't walk behind me—I may not lead. Walk
beside me—just be my friend."*

Albert Camus

*"You can't stay in your corner of the forest wait-
ing for others to come to you. You have to go to
them sometimes."*

A.A. Milne, in "Winnie the Pooh"

Acceptance

Keith Hernandez was an over-achiever. He was drafted in the 42nd round of the 1971 Major League Baseball draft, and no one expected him to have a successful MLB career. But they were wrong. Playing 16 of his 17 seasons with the Cardinals and Mets, Hernandez won 11 Gold Glove Awards for being the best defensive player at his position. He was also named the Most Valuable Player in the National League in 1979. Offensively, the goal of every player is to hit .300. Late in his career, Hernandez accomplished that feat. One of his greatest doubters, unfortunately, was his own father. One day Hernandez called his dad and said, "I have a .300 average.

What more do you want?" His dad calmly replied, "But some day you're going to look back and say, 'I could have done more.'" (Gary Smalley, "The Gift of Honor").

What do others have to do in order for you to accept them? What hurdles must they jump over? What mountain must they climb? How attractive do they need to be? How much formal education must they obtain? What does it take for you to look at someone else and say, "You're good enough for me."

Think of the various relationships you have and ask yourself if your standard of acceptance is too high. Do you expect your spouse to make sacrifices you aren't willing to make?

When your child gets an "A-" do you question why they couldn't have done better? Do you expect your church family to cater to you when you're hurting, but you refuse to reach out to them in similar situations?

God's people have never been taught to lower someone else or make others feel like they are "less than." We are all made in the image of God. We are all special. And we should let others know that.

"...I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are Your works, and my soul knows it very well" (Psalm 139:14).

James Hayes
