

"THE HARD WAY"

Exodus 2:11-12

Important lessons about life come the hard way.

Three-year-old playing with cigarette lighter in the car. He is told never to handle, dangerous, and he listened, promised not to touch.

Later mother shopping, putting groceries in the car, she heard Steve screaming at top of his lungs.

Rushing back to front of the car, discovered he had pulled lighter out, touched hot coils.

He learned the hard way!

Script - not tell how Moses knew about Hebrew background.

Ex. 2:11 - "He went out to his brethren and looked on their hard labors."

Miriam may have maintained close contact with Moses. Miriam assisted the Egyptian maiden in bringing him unto Pharaoh's house.

She may have had secret meetings.

Egyptians may have made it clear he was adopted son.

Hebrew heritage, (he killed an Egyptian) who was beating a Hebrew slave.

Buried the body - soon discovered by both Hebrews and Egyptians.

Fear he fled - desert.

He had learned some truth the hard way!

^{Make}
I. WRONGS NEVER RIGHT

Moses discovered Egyptian beating a Hebrew slave. He struck out in anger -- killed the Egyptian.

Murder was not the answer to acts of cruelty and Moses learned a wrong could not make a right.

Luke 9:51-56 - Jesus taught this simple truth. The Samaritians would have nothing to do with Jesus - "Because his face was set toward Jerusalem." V. 51.

James and John were indignant at the attitude of the Samaritans and suggested to Jesus that they should pray for fire to fall from Heaven upon the Samaritans.

If you had been there, you would have suggested the same treatment. V. 55.
Bible says, Jesus "turned and rebuked them."

Luke 22:15 - Jesus arrested. Peter disturbed to point of cutting off the ear of a slave of the High Priest. Jesus responded, healing the ear and said "Stop, no more of this." Jesus taught wrongs never made a right.

Paul wrote about how to react when confronting evil.

Romans 12:17, 19, 21 - Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Never take your own revenge. Leave room for the wrath of God for it is written. "I will repay, says

the Lord". "Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good."

If we answer a wrong with a wrong, we simply allow evil to become a part of our lives.

In the end - the evil we sought to destroy will destroy us.

Often a person says if I could get my hands on so and so -- I would murder them.

Nine year old Marcia Trimble was kidnapped and brutally murdered. A reporter asked Mrs. Trimble -- if you faced the kidnapper, what would you say?

She hesitated - "I would tell him that God loves him." Mrs. Trimble is a Christian - has refused to allow evil to destroy her spirit. She knows, another wrong will not make a right.

Diane Bristol, San Diego, California, murdered. Out of the hurt, pain, tragedy Diane's mother, (Mrs. Goldie Mae Bristol) turned to God and was converted.

She later spoke to a group of prisoners saying, found strength to forgive the young man responsible. She was aware that he was among the prisoners she was speaking to.

Conclusion of her talk, Michael Dennis Keeyes, convicted killer rose from his chair, and walked forward to identify himself.

His voice breaking, tried to express his gratitude to Mr. & Mrs. Bristol. They met later in the day.

With God's help, the Bristols have overcome evil with good.

A Korean student, 1958, murdered, gang. The family started a fund for religious education, vocational guidance of boys when released from jail.

Amos and Andy - great radio and T. V. comedians of all time. One episode. Andy had grown tired of abuse received by Kingfish.

Kingfish tells a joke and slaps Andy hard across the chest.

Speaking to Amos, Andy said, "I'm ready for the Kingfish." Throwing his coat open, he revealed several sticks of dynamite tied to his chest.

He said, "the next time the Kingfish hits me, he's gonna get his hand blown off."

Andy was forgetting that such an act would blow a hole in his chest.

Like Moses he was on the verge of learning a wrong never makes a right -- the hard way.

Why is it we have to learn the hard way? James Buckingham told how his son Timmy learned the hard way.

It was my Birthday and my wife was going to surprise me with a cake. She mixed the dough, a dozen eggs, and lots of milk and sugar - then placed the gooey mess in the oven.

She went back to the Den to tend the children.

Ten minutes later, heard a terrible explosion in the kitchen. She rushed in to find the oven door hanging loosely from its hinges, splotches of cake batter all over the kitchen.

Also, room filled strong familiar odor.

She dashed to the phone -- called husband's office. He was not in. She called the Gas people. Promised to come right over, warned to keep out and no matches.

Gas man arrived.

✓ Wife (discovered) Timmy seeing that Mommy was cooking a cake for Daddy. Decided to do something nice for a favorite friend - his friend was Randy, the brown Collie who lives in the dog house.

Unknown to Mother, Timmy had taken a can of dog food from the cupboard and put it in the broiler, underneath the oven. He wanted to get Randy's dog food nice and warm.

Well, he warmed it all right. The can of dog food got hotter and hotter until it exploded - right underneath the Birthday cake. Blowing the unappetizing conglomeration of cake and dog food all over the kitchen.

The wife dumped what was left of the cake and the whole pan into the garbage. Then spent the evening scraping dog food off the walls and cabinets in the kitchen.

The conclusion, they had to buy a new electric range, which the wife secretly wanted for a long time. Timmy learned the hard way about monkeying around with a cook stove.

Why is it that we are prone to get things the hard way?

Even religion. It is told, I cannot say it is 100% truth.

Preacher John Green in Clay County, N. C. has a test for sinners.

There were 3 men out there, about whom public opinion was never split.

We'll call one Cicero Brown, whom everybody liked a little bit.

Let's call the second Alec Wood, who wasn't liked very much at all.

The third, John Fisher, nobody could stand him.

Preacher Green got his nephew, a lad named Willie, on the mourner's bench one evening. He applied his sinners test to him.

Willie was praying, and the preacher walked past and said, Willie, son, do you like Cicero Brown?

"Yes, Uncle."

"Pray on son, you are making progress."

Few minutes, preacher came back to Willie.

Willie, son, he said, do you like Alec Wood?

Yes, Uncle.

Pray on, you are making progress.

Thirty minutes later, preacher Green returned to Willie.

"Willie, son, he asked - do you love John Fisher?"

"Yes, Uncle."

✓ "Get up, son, you've got religion."

Not really a hard way to get salvation.

Bible says Rom. 12:21- "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Wrong never makes right.

II. SAND WILL NOT COVER SIN

V. 12 - "He slew the Egyptian, and hid him in the sand."

Moses attempted to hide his deed. Digging a hole, he buried the dead man. Fearing detection, and possible punishment, he assumed that burying the body would conceal the murder. However, the tragic deed was known.

Moses found out the hard way sand will not cover sin.

My question is -- How shall we cover our sin?

Luke 18:9-14 - Pharisee denied his sinfulness. ("God, I thank Thee that I am not like other people: Swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax gatherer.")

This attempt is futile - living in illusion.

I John 1:8 says "if we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

To deny your sin is to guarantee that you will have a permanent seat in Hell.

Garden of Eden - Adam and Eve deal with sin by blaming others. Adam blamed Eve, Eve blamed the snake.

They learned the hard way they could not pass the buck or blame.

Judas - sought to escape his sin by suicide.

History - men and women turn to this course of action.

Attempts to cover sins can be amusing.

1875 - J. P. Wofford, pastor Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Webster County, Miss.

At end of cotton season, several members of the church rode in wagons to West Point, Miss., to sell their cotton.

While in West Point, they all got drunk and had trouble getting back to the Mt. Pleasant Community.

Upon hearing of the incident, the Reverend Wofford prepared a Hell fire sermon on the evils of alcohol.

Wofford was so persuasive in his delivery that one of the congregation jumped up and with tears in his eyes said --

"Brother Wofford, don't you ever send me to West Point any more to get your whiskey."

Wofford later claimed that the whiskey had been medicine for his wife, Peggy.

The Bible tells us how our sins can be covered.

I John 1:9 - "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Our sins can only be covered by the blood of Christ.

I John 2:2 - "When we come to Christ confessing our sinfulness, his death on the cross becomes our mercy seat where our sins are covered by his blood."

Seaborn McKelva Cole - preached immediately after the Civil War in Northeast Miss. Baptist. Before the war, (Seaborn) known for riotous living, heavy drinking.

Converted at the battle of Gettysburg.

A member of company K of 42 Miss. Regiment.

Participated in Pickett's charge on the last day of the great battle.

Reaching the crest of cemetery ridge, Seaborn was wounded in the arm.

Battle had turned against Confederates.

Rebel troops fleeing for their lives.

Running as fast as his legs would carry him - Seaborn attempted to escape the enemy fire.

When he was half way down the hill, he was struck in the eye. As he fell to his knees, he felt blood cover his face.

He looked to Heaven and cried, "Lord, I'm a sinner, please forgive me."

Then he got up and struggled down the hill. Again struck by a minnie ball, the shock threw him to the ground.

This time he looked to Heaven and said, "Lord, if you will help me get off this hill, I will not only get saved, I'll be a preacher."

God spared Seaborn's life and he was one of the few survivors of Pickett's charge.

Because of sins, mistakes, we too are often forced to learn the hard way.

If this has been your experience, don't be discouraged. 3:10. "Come now therefore,
and I will send the deliverer of Israel." Moses had learned the hard way.

God is still seeking you, confess your sin, and find God's will for your life.