



The King (of Pop) is Dead

by Curtis Carwile

As most of us are aware, the King of Pop, Michael Jackson, is dead. I never really liked Michael Jackson. Now, there is no denying his world-wide popularity for over 40 years. Neither is there any denying his unnatural ability to perform and entertain. I just never got into him. However, my heart mourns the death of this man who was truly one of the modern wonders of the world. The only other people who have come close to eclipsing his fame and talent in the last 100 years are Elvis Presley and the Beatles; this is impressive company to keep.



It is with that said that we look at his life in remorse because of its tragic nature. He is, possibly, the perfect example of how there is more to this life than fame and fortune because of how truly empty those vessels are. When one looks at his life, it is hard not to think of the words of Solomon in Ecclesiastes 1:14 when he said, **"I have seen all the works that are done under the sun and indeed, all is vanity and grasping after the wind."** When we mourn this great icon's death, let us weep for the life wasted on vain things and let that motivate us not to have the same fate. Let us hear Solomon's conclusion of the matter when he said, **"Remove sorrow from your heart and put away evil from your flesh, for childhood and youth are vanity,"** and let us **"Fear God and keep His commandments for this is the whole purpose of man"** (Ecclesiastes 11:10;12:13).



Faithful Sayings Issue 11.28 July 12, 2009

Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.
Please come again.

● Let us know if you have any questions.

ISSUE

11.28

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

July 12
2009

Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Ken Ford
Charles Kelley
Pat Ledbetter

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Bill Davis
Pat Goguen
Neil Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Fred Perez
Rusty Scott

Evangelists:

Kyle Pope
Curtis Carwile

4700 Andrews Ave.
Amarillo TX 79106
806-352-2809
www.olsenpark.com



"Put away evil
from your flesh"
Eccl. 11:10

Shining Our Father's Shoes

by Curtis Carwile

I remember a story someone told me once about a time before his father had passed away. He told me about his father's shoes and how his father made him shine them every Saturday night for Church the next morning. At first, he hated it. It cut into his "me time" and it was hard work for him as a young child. But, he did it anyway because he knew that if he didn't obey his father, he'd get a "whippin'." So, he shined his father's shoes every Saturday night for Church the next morning. As time

passed, he continued to shine his father's shoes even though



he no longer feared his daddy's belt. Instead, he just did it out of a sense of duty. I remember asking him if instead of "duty" he meant "habit," but he didn'tt. He continued to shine his father's shoes because it was a task entrusted to him and no one else in the family. It made him feel as though he belonged and had a sense of purpose, a reason to



Olsen Park church of Christ

be there. Because of that, he decided that he was going to do the best job of shining his father's shoes that he could. So, he continued doing it (mostly without complaining) until he was old enough to move out on his own and start his own family. Even then, every time he would come home, he would shine his father's shoes on Saturday night for Church the next morning. On one such occasion, his father told him that he didn't have to shine his shoes any more—he wasn't making him. Then, he said to his father, "I know I don't *have* to, but I *want* to because I *love* you."

This is such a beautiful story for so many reasons. One big reason is because it's a true story. However, a bigger reason I think this is such a beautiful story is because it demonstrates the maturing nature of our relationship with our Father in Heaven. We are all given life by God and masterfully formed by Him in the womb (Jeremiah 1:5). In another sense, we are born again through Jesus (John 3:1-21). After we sin, we are separated from God, the Life-Giver, which causes a spiritual death (Isaiah 59:2; Romans 6:23a). We are made alive again by coming in contact with the precious blood of Jesus through baptism as a "full water-burial" (Titus 3:4-8; Ephesians 2:11-13; Colossians 2:11-13). Through baptism, we are added to His Church where we become members of

one another. In other words, we become a family with God as our Father (Acts 2:41, 47; 1 Corinthians 12; 1 John 1:7). In this family, we all have a responsibility to God and to each other to do what God tells us to do (Colossians 3:12-17). At first, many of us obey Him for the fear of shame or guilt (Ecclesiastes 12:13; Romans 1:20-32), rebuke (2 Timothy 3:16-17), ostracization (1 Corinthians 5:11-13), or to a greater extent, eternal damnation in Hell (Revelation 20:14-15; 21:8). At the time, we may not fully understand why we "have to" do things a certain way and we may not even like it, but we obey God's commands anyway. Over time, we begin to understand our place within this family and it gives us the comfort and peace that only God can give (Romans 8:31-39; 1 Corinthians 1:3-7; Philippians 4:7). As a result of that maturing understanding of responsibility and service, we focus less on our fear of correction and focus more on our duty to do the will of the Lord. As we do our duty unto the Lord, we understand that it is not out of habit or tradition, but out of our desire to do the best we can to serve the Lord in the tasks He has entrusted us to do. Finally, as we mature in Him, we notice that our motivation has shifted again, from focusing on our responsibilities to the Lord and to the Church to focusing on our love for the One who has loved us more than we could ever have imagined (John 3:16; Romans 5:6-11).

Let those who are not yet members of Lord's family hear and believe in the Gospel of the Christ to the point of humble obedience. Let those who are new members of the Church fear godly correction. Let those who fear godly correction focus on your responsibilities to the Lord and the rest of the Church. And, let us all strive for the maturity in Him which allows us to serve Him, not because we have to, but because we want to in love Him for all the wonderful things He is and all the wonderful things He has done. May God bless you all and may we all praise Him forever and ever. Amen.

