



Glenn Brown

441 ½ Lark Drive
Grand Junction, Colorado 81504

Telephone 970-434-1377
Email casabrn441@gmail.com
Website www.glennbrownministries.com

SEPTEMBER , 2021

TWO GREAT EXPERIENCES

I have to tell you about two wonderful experiences last Friday while yard-saling with my daughter and sister: First: for the first time (at a yard-sale) I led someone to the Lord. Hallelujah! A lady about 80 years old was sitting in a wheelchair in her garage while having an estate sale. I asked her what had happened, and she said her husband has Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS) and was going to assisted living and she would move with him. I expressed my sympathy, told her I was a retired pastor, and asked if she knew for sure that she was going to heaven when she died.

She said, "Oh, I didn't know a person could be sure of that." She had a very innocent and child-like demeanor. I shared the good news about how God has provided a way for us through the sacrifice of His Son- - - and she told me that she had never heard that story in her life. She was eager for me to lead her in prayer to receive Christ as her Savior, and I encouraged her to share this with her husband.

Second: A couple of garages later, I approached a lady of about 60. She appeared to me to be worn-out by a difficult life. I asked her the question, and she said, "Oh, yes, I am sure I'm going to heaven, I love the Lord so much!" She took me by the arm and led me to the side and said, "I want to share something with you that I have told only a few people in all my life." This was her story:

"I had a very difficult childhood, and I always wanted to know God. But people from different churches told me different things about God and I got very confused. One night I prayed, 'God, if you can hear me, please help me. I need to know the truth.' Instantly, I had a vision. Jesus came to me, took me by the hand and led me to his Father, who was sitting on a big throne. When I looked into the Father's eyes I saw such love that it took away all my confusion and fear and I felt safe.

Jesus said to me, 'From now on I will be near you, and if you have any questions just ask me and I will always tell you the truth.'

She said, "Three days later my mother committed suicide. I knew that God had given me that beautiful time with Him to prepare me for the awful experience of my mother's death, and Jesus stayed near to me and helped me then and all through my life."

She said to me, "I am so glad you are telling people about Jesus. He is so wonderful."

Thank you, Lord, for these two amazing encounters with these two precious ladies.

Postscript:

It is really easy for me to approach strangers and talk about God and eternal life, but I have been doing that for 64 years. I have been standing up before groups and churches and individuals and witnessing, teaching and preaching. It wasn't always easy. When I first started teaching a young adult Sunday School class, I was so self-conscious and nervous that I got sick to my stomach every Sunday morning and trembled when I got up to teach.

I was thinking, maybe I have been putting pressure and guilt on people by trying to get them to witness to others. It's easy for me because of a lifetime of doing it, but it's awkward and intimidating for most folks. Maybe I should apologize for putting pressure on them to do this.

Immediately, I had an inner impression. You understand that this was subjective, but I felt that God was saying: "No! Don't apologize. I have commanded my people to go into all the world and preach the gospel, but many of them have never spoken to one person about Me in all their life. Tell them that I don't care if it's awkward. It's not about them. It's about the people who need to hear the Word of Life. If they will step out and obey Me, I will bless them."

My dear friends, I encourage you to ignore your fear and obey God by gently sharing with others your personal story about Christ. It is really important.

VIII -THOU SHALT NOT STEAL~!

Last month, a lady in my ex-cell group told me about what had just happened to her close friend who lives in Las Vegas. This friend, who is a humble Christian who has been serving others for a long time, just got scammed. An "investment counselor" convinced her that a certain investment was a safe, foolproof way to multiply her savings. The lady lost everything: her retirement savings, her home, and she even invested the money of a Christian non-profit organization that she was responsible for - money that was not hers. Not only is she now bankrupt but she is facing possible prison time.

I always thought I was too smart to get scammed. It is embarrassing for me to admit this, but about 6 years ago they got me. I got a call from a friend of mine, so I thought. A terrible thing had just happened: his car had slipped on black ice and he ran over and killed a pedestrian, a lady walking on the sidewalk. He was crying as he told me that he needed to borrow \$2,000 until next month so that he could get out on bail. I felt so sorry for him. I ran right down to my bank and withdrew the money from my emergency fund and e-mailed it to the address he gave me. In a couple of hours he called back to say they had increased the bail to \$4,000 and could I send some more money.

A 40-watt bulb came on in the darkness of my mind, and I thought, "Wait a minute! That doesn't sound right." What an idiot! (Sorry, you are not supposed to say ugly words about yourself, but you can tell that I still haven't gotten over it.)

The moral to this story is that you need to caution your parents and grandparents and, if possible, carefully monitor their bank balance. There are a lot of smart thieves out there thinking up ingenious ways to scam people.

Not long ago, I was talking to a lady that works in the jewelry department of the local Walmart and she told me that in the previous year \$73,000 worth of merchandise (jewelry and watches) had been stolen from that one department! Guess who ends up making up for all the money and goods stolen from Walmart and Dillards and Krogers?

VI -THOU SHALT NOT MURDER~!

If you want to see something horrifying, Google "Wars and numbers of people killed." The list starts back in earliest recorded history and goes on for pages and pages. Wherever men have gathered together in tribes and nations, they have soon started killing their neighbors wholesale: Asia, Africa, Europe, North and South America. They killed each other with stones, knives, clubs, swords, and arrows.

In 1914, mankind sank to a new level, a World War! Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, and a lot of smaller countries went to war against Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Japan and the U.S. An estimated 40,000,000 people died. (Stop for a moment and think about the 3,000 people killed on 9/11. Think about the suffering involved. Now think about a million people being killed. Then think about 40 million killed in one war.) Our advancing technical skills enabled us to kill each other with guns, bombs, and poison gas. That war ended only 9 years before I was born.

In 1939, a 2nd World War started. Germany, Italy, Japan, and a lot of smaller countries went to war against France, Great Britain, the U.S., the Soviet Union, and a host of smaller countries. An estimated 85,000,000 people died. Civilization (?) had advanced so that we could kill much more efficiently, with guns, planes, bombs, submarines, missiles and atom bombs.

Following that massive blood-letting, the U.S. and the Soviet Union entered an almost 70 year "cold war" when we aimed enough nuclear weapons at one another to destroy each other 20 times over. We trained school children to hide under their desks if the sirens sounded. We were also involved in wars in Korea (as many as 4,500,000 killed); Viet Nam (Possibly 4,000,000 killed); Iraq and Afghanistan (3,000,000 killed). Now we are confronted with China and Russia that are acting belligerent, so we may be forced to kill them.

Not only do we humans kill others, but we are terribly self-destructive. We kill ourselves purposely by suicide and accidently in car wrecks, with alcohol, drugs, etc. And since Roe vs. Wade in 1973, our society has killed 65,000,000 unborn babies through abortion.

WHAT IS WRONG WITH US? AND IS IT POSSIBLE THAT GOD COULD HELP?

Humans are not kind, rational beings. We are dangerous to others. Scan through the little articles above. The wars between nations simply reflect the murderous rage in the hearts of the citizens.

God has a solution, but it is really offensive and even insulting to most people. When God sent His Son to explain His plan to people, they hated it! They beat his Messenger almost to death and then nailed him to a cross to die in agony.

What was it that Jesus said that so offended people?

- “God loves you with all His heart, and He has sent me to be your Savior.”
(The People’s Response) - - “Savior! We don’t need to be ‘saved.’ You fanatic, we are doing fine without you.” (refer to the Commandments VI and VIII above)
- “Repent of your sins and God will freely forgive you.”
(The People) - “Sins! Don’t tell us that what we are doing is wrong. We know the difference between good and evil.” (refer

to

the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the Garden)

- “I came directly from God in heaven; I existed before Abraham, 2,000 years ago; I am sinless; If you will believe in Me, and obey my teachings, I will take you to heaven.”
(The People) - - “You are insane and full of demons!” (refer to Chapter 8 of the book of John. This is exactly the conversation that Jesus had with certain Jews, and then they took up stones to stone him to death)
- “Surrender total control of your life to God. Surrender your selfish ambition, your desire to be successful, rich, respected. Give your life to Me without any reservations. Die to your passions and desires. Take up your cross and follow Me.”
(The People) - - “You are crazy! And you are evil! Let’s kill this blasphemer, come on boys. Let’s kill him. Crucify him!”

REFLECTION

Our nation, and the whole world, is coming apart at the seams. We simply don’t have answers for the problems confronting us. God has the answer, and it is not to join a church and follow religious rituals. That was never the invitation that Jesus gave. Jesus said to people, “Come to me and die. Die to yourself. Surrender yourself to me, body and soul, as a love-slave (a bond servant).” God wants to use you and me to rescue a dying world, but a half-hearted commitment is useless.

Jesus invited people to believe in Him and to follow Him, but He warned them to “count the cost.”(Luke 14:25-35) I suggest that we all read this portion of Scripture, Luke 14:25-35, meditate on it, and decide whether we are willing to pay the cost of being Jesus’ disciples in this desperate time. God is depending on us.

TO VAX OR NOT TO VAX?

Yesterday I received a call from a dear lady in Canada who participates in our Tuesday night Zoom meetings. She attends a small Baptist church, and they have started persecuting her because she got a Covid vaccination as mandated by her government. Her church believes that is the Mark of the Beast. She was confused and troubled and asked my opinion. We had a long conversation. Following are my thoughts:

It’s impossible to avoid this subject because it is always in the news and is affecting all of our lives. President Biden has just mandated that all government employees, members of the military, health care workers, employers with more than 100 workers, etc, must be vaccinated, and Republican governors are filing lawsuits and threatening civil disobedience.

The Bible addresses the subject of our submission to the government:

(A) I Peter 2:13-17: “Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king as the supreme authority, or to governors sent by him to punish those who do wrong.....Live as free men, but don’t use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.”

(B) In Acts 5, the apostles were arrested by the Jewish leaders and put in jail because they were publicly preaching about Jesus and healing the sick. That night an angel released them (!) and told them to continue to preach. They were brought

before the Sanhedrin and the High Priest said: “We gave you strict orders to stop teaching this way. Why have you disobeyed our orders?”

Note Peter’s response: “We must obey God rather than men!” The Jews had the disciples flogged and again ordered them to stop preaching about Jesus, but they resumed preaching in the temple courts and from house to house the good news that Jesus is the Christ. (See Acts 5:12-42)

So God tells us that we must submit (obey) the governing authorities. Without government, there is anarchy and chaos. But when the government demands that we stop preaching or that we do something that is ungodly and anti-biblical, we must obey God rather than men. (This doesn’t solve our dilemma, because both sides of the present political divide believe that their position is the one that is right and godly.)

Note what the apostles did and did not do: they refused to submit to the anti-Christ government mandates, but their refusal was respectful and submissive. They did not stir up a riot; they did not send out circulars (emails) condemning the evil Sanhedrin; they did not express hatred and outrage toward the Jews and Romans. They obeyed God while showing respect toward their enemies, and they were even willing to suffer public flogging and disgrace for the cause of Christ. In fact, they rejoiced because they were counted worthy to suffer for the name of Jesus. Isn’t that what Jesus did and what He told us to do in the first part of the Sermon on the Mount, Mathew 5:9-12 ?

Last year the Governor of California mandated that all churches in that state close and that people could not even have prayer meetings or Bible studies in their own homes, but many exceptions were made for “essential businesses” including stores that sold alcohol, strip clubs, etc. This was clearly an anti-God attack, and I believe the churches were right to disobey the government and take this issue to the courts. In my opinion, pastors should never again allow the government to shut down our churches or forbid prayer meetings and Bible studies in our homes, and if that happens they should immediately take the matter to the courts. But they should do it respectfully and if they are sentenced to jail they should submit to that. (Easy for me to say since I am retired.)

Following is the way I would go about it, and you will notice that I am making a lot of assumptions in this scenario: I would announce to the church that because of the pandemic the State has just

mandated that all churches close their doors, and I would call for an all-church meeting to announce the decision of the church leadership and to discuss the matter. At the meeting, I would say that the leaders of the church had spent many days talking, fasting and praying about this matter and have concluded that we would not obey this order, that we would continue to meet, and that we would file a lawsuit against the State. (If your church has a “congregational” type structure, this decision would require a vote of the congregation. You may decide that this is the wisest course to take anyway.) I would explain our reasons for coming to this decision. We would acknowledge the risk involved to our families, community, and church. “What if members of our church or their children die as a result of this decision?” And I would point out the issues involved if we submitted to this mandate. I would say that this is a matter of conscience, between each of us and God, and that we would not judge anyone or try to force anyone to follow our path, that we would love and bless people regardless of their decision. (Of course, we would make our services available on social media, as we did last year, for those who choose not to attend services in person.) Then I would open the-meeting for what would surely be a long discussion.

Peaceful protests are within our Constitutional rights, but it is really difficult for people to keep their emotions under control. I will never forget the photo that appeared in the 1970’s in Life Magazine of a protest at an abortion clinic: Two older men with pro and anti abortion signs were standing face to face screaming and cursing one another. Their faces were contorted, spittle was flying, and their rage was barely under control. Each of those men thought they were right and doing God’s will. But they were two sides of the same coin....and they clearly did not have the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

How about the Covid vaccine? A friend sent me an email this morning quoting “an authoritative source:” “A massive die-off will happen in 2022 as the lethal stuff hidden in the Covid vaccines takes effect.” Such nonsense. I have had two shots and will have the booster when it becomes available.

-I love and respect my friends, but to be honest I think many of the conspiracy theories they believe are nutty. (When I tell them that, they tell me I am blind to reality. Ha!) Christians are God’s people, but we have always been inclined to be gullible. Even in Bible times the churches were believing false prophets and false teachers. Some were

believing that the 2nd Coming of Christ had already happened or was going to happen by a certain date; some believed that Christians had to be vegetarians; some believed that it was OK for Christians to live in sexual sin.

We are all subject to deception. I told you how I got deceived and scammed, and we all need to be careful not to be scammed in some of the things we believe theologically and politically. And I am definitely not claiming that I have it all figured out.

My cardiologist is a brilliant man. He thinks that anyone who doesn't get vaccinated is ignorant and irresponsible. But another doctor friend of mine in the same hospital told me that the hospital may fire him because he will not get vaccinated. And my grand-daughter's pediatrician, recognized as one of the outstanding physicians in this area, is making plans to move to another state because of his refusal to be vaccinated. These are not ignorant, irresponsible men. It's very confusing for me and probably for you, and we are going to have to pray for God's wisdom in order to find our way.

My goal is to love God with all my heart, soul, mind and strength.....and my neighbor as myself - regardless of their theological or political position. I fall short of that all the time, but that is the goal that Jesus set for us.

PATHWAY TO FREEDOM CLASS

God has been so gracious to me. Every year when I have the PATHWAY class I think it will be the last, but here we go one more time:

Pathway to Freedom

Every Wednesday for 8 weeks, starting on

Wed., September 29 to Wed., Nov. 17

Location: Chapel

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Babysitting in main church.

Manuals will be provided

The teaching is cumulative, but each class stands alone, so feel free to come when you can.

I would like to thank each of you for your support of this ministry.
If any of you want to receive tax credit for your financial contributions,
you may send them to:

CANYON VIEW VINEYARD CHURCH
736 24 ½ Road Grand Junction, Co. 81505