

SPEAK UP SPEAK OUT

One day recently, I was sitting in my Lazy-Boy (oh, wait, that's so WRONG – it must be Lazy-Girl, or Lazy-Person), minding my own business (yes, it's possible), fussing about what to put here in this space.

I like to do humorous stuff and Tootles, but not all the time, since there are big issues of significance that also need to be addressed.

So I asked God what to put here, for several days, and that morning, in the Lazy-Person chair, He zapped me, not once but three times. In my morning reading and meditation, He put in front of me three messages from the articles that I read off great commentary websites.

All three articles said the same thing: awful things are happening to our country and we MUST now fearlessly speak up and speak out about what is going on. We must be willing to lose good will or friendships or business if speaking the truth offends.

The three baseball bats that God hit me with:

1. "Speak Up and Speak Out in 2019" by Michael Brown, from Townhall.com, 1/1/2019.

May I propose a New Year's resolution for 2019? Let's determine to speak up and to speak out, to raise our voices with clarity and compassion, to refuse to hold back regardless of cost or consequence. Will you join me? . . . One of the most important principles taught by Jesus was that if we try to save our lives, we lose them. But if we lose our lives for Him – for the gospel – we find them. . . . If we speak what is right and do what is right and live what is right, we might lose a lot in the process, but we will find our souls. We become alive! . . . What a contrast with today's "gospel of nice," a PC-compliant, made-for-America message if ever there was one. Whatever you do, don't offend! Better to skirt the truth. Better to mislead. Just be sure to smile and be nice! . . . But if ever there was time to crucify our cowardice . . . regardless of cost

or consequence, it is now. If we don't, day by day, our freedoms will be taken from us, one at a time, until we find ourselves confined to a tiny, silent corner. . . .

So what will we do? Will we continue to retreat in order to avoid conflict, thereby muting our own voices? Or will we speak the truth in love – as compassionate as we are bold, as Christlike as we are firm, as wise as we are unwavering? . . . If not now, then when? If not you and me, then who?

Let's make this our resolution in 2019: 'I will not hold back for fear of consequences. I will speak up and speak out as the occasion demands. I will love my neighbor by speaking the truth.' Are you in?

2. "The Truth About Democratic Morality", by Lloyd Marcus, American Thinker, 1/2/19.

Lloyd Marcus first recited some of the evil happenings coming from the Left: Nancy Pelosi and Democrats calling a border wall immoral as they protect themselves with walls and armed guards; the gay/lesbian/transgender pressure groups teaching elementary school children about perverted sexual practices; pushing to allow criminals and murderers into the country, endangering Americans everywhere. And I would add, killing the most defenseless humans of all, babies. The Democrats block spending \$25 billion on a border wall but shower illegals with \$135 billion in free services annually. Marcus ends by saying:

To free his people, God told Moses to tell Pharaoh, "let my people go". It occurred to me that to free his American people from Democrat immorality, God instructs his servants, let my people know.

Patriots and Christians must become more outspoken. Stop being afraid to let our fellow Americans know how the Democrats are stealthily repealing our constitutional freedoms while forcing us to embrace immoral agendas. We must find new and creative ways

to get our message out. We must spread the truth about issues that Democrats routinely get away with lying about. . . . Commonsense and truth made me a black conservative Republican. Conservatism offers personal responsibility, dignity, and commonsense solutions to every problem. The Democratic Party appeals to our base sinful instincts: class envy (covetousness), racial resentment, division and victim/entitlement mindsets. The Democratic party stinks with the foul odor of bigotry of low expectations, telling blacks everything wrong in their lives is always the fault of whitey. God made you and me better than that. . . . Brothers and sisters, to liberate our misinformed and ignorant fellow Americans we must find the courage to spread the truth. . . . We must let God's people know.

3. The third baseball bat came from a book entitled "Redeemed" by Will Graham, grandson of Billy Graham. In an article he called "Persevering Through Criticism", Will told the story of Billy Graham's crusade in London, England in 1954, only 5 years into his career as a major evangelist. There was much opposition to his coming to Great Britain, and those against him tried to do everything in their power to prevent him from doing the Crusade there, including lying about him. He and the Crusade group asked God to pave the way for them to do the Crusade, if that was His will, and ultimately they did prevail and the Crusade happened as planned.

Will Graham included this scripture in his article: "Blessed are you when men revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven."

So, do you think that there is a theme here? Do you wonder what God was trying to tell me? I think it's pretty clear and a little scary, since I, too, allow myself to

be intimidated by the evil Left, and I don't always clearly speak out. However, in Hebrews 10:37-39, we are told: "Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him." But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

I sure got God's message. To use Michael Brown's challenge: Are you in?

Linda Gammel

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Contributed. From the Web.

SOME THOUGHTS TO PONDER

- Do twins ever realize that one of them was unplanned?
- What if my dog only brings back my ball because he thinks I like throwing it?
- If poison expires, is it more poisonous or is it no longer poisonous?



- Which letter is silent in the word "Scent," the S or the C?
- Why is the letter W, in English, called double U? Shouldn't it be called double V?
- Maybe oxygen is slowly killing you and it just takes 75-100 years to fully work.

- Every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty.
- The word "swims" upside-down is still "swims".

- Intentionally losing a game of rock, paper, and scissors is just as hard as trying to win.

- 100 years ago everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Today everyone has cars and only the rich own horses.

- Your future self is watching you right now through memories.

- If you replace "W" with "T" in "What, Where and When", you get the answer to each of them

- Many animals probably need glasses, but nobody knows it.

- If you rip a hole in a net, there are actually fewer holes in it than there were before.

- 100 years ago a Twenty Dollar bill and a Twenty Dollar gold piece were interchangeable. Either one would buy a new suit, new shoes and a night on the town. The Twenty Dollar gold piece will still do that!!



Lloyd Marcus



Billy Graham in England

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