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The Fox and the Crow

Aesop

Vanity is largely a matter of self-control, or lack thereof. Others may try to feed our ego, but it is up to us to constrain it.

A coal-black crow once stole a piece of meat. She flew to a tree and held the meat in her beak.

A fox, who saw her, wanted the meat for himself, so he looked up into the tree and said, "How beautiful you are, my friend? Your feathers are fairer than the dove's.

"Is your voice as sweet as your form is beautiful? If so, you must be the queen of birds."

The crow was so happy in his praise that she opened her mouth to show how she could sing. Down fell the piece of meat.

The fox seized upon it and ran away.

If we let our egos get the best of us, we can get ourselves in a lot of trouble. Read what happened to Herod in Acts 13:21-23 because of his ego. Self-control comes in handy in a lot more places than just alcohol and fornication. We must control our thoughts as well.

"Don't think too highly of yourself" (Rom. 12:3)

Mark Legendre

"What Lack I Yet?"

By Mark Legendre

In Matthew 19 we read a story of a rich young ruler who comes to Jesus and asks Him this most important question, "What must I do to have eternal life?" Jesus responds by telling him to keep the commandments of God. The man says that he had been doing that already and then ask Jesus this question, "What lack I yet?" It took a lot of courage for that young man to ask such a question. But when Jesus answered this question by telling the young man to sell his possessions and give the money to the poor, the young man went away sorrowful because you see he had great possessions. While he seemed to be interested in obtaining "eternal life", he did not want it bad enough to make the necessary sacrifices in order to have it. I am

convinced there are a lot of people like this young man in the world today.

It is foolish reasoning to get so attached to earthly possessions that we will allow those things to keep us from making it to Heaven. All of our earthly belongings will be left behind when we die. In 1st Timothy 6:7 Paul said, "For we brought nothing into this work, and it is certain that we can carry nothing out." In Matthew 6:19-21, Jesus warns us against the danger of "laying up our treasures on the earth" because as He says "for where your treasures are, there will your heart be also." If we have our "affections set on things above" as Paul speaks of in Colossians 3:1-4, then chances are we will have our mind on the things of this world and that will distract us from our goal of Heaven.

"WHAT LACK I YET?" When we ask such a question as this, we should be willing to look at ourselves honestly and if we are found lacking in any way, then we must also be willing to make the necessary changes that are called for in our lives. Why ask the question if we are not going to do anything about it. Yes, it takes courage to ask this question, but it takes even greater courage to change our lives in those areas where they are found to be lacking. But it may very well be that the changes that are called for are the things that must be changed in our lives in order that we might have "eternal life." Are there any changes that need to be made in your life?

"For God So Loved The World"

by Mark Legendre

What an amazing story! God loves Me! He loved me so much "that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Amazing indeed! Especially in light of the fact that "all have sinned, and fallen short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:23) And especially in light of the fact that "He became sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (2 Cor. 5:21)

Jesus did not deserve to die for He never sinned a single time in His entire life. He wore a "crown of thorns" that belonged to me. Nails were driven through his hands and feet when it should have been my hands and my feet that were pierced through. He was beaten and spit upon. He was mocked and ridiculed. And then He was put to death. He never did anything wrong. I did. I deserved to die. I was the one who had sinned, not Jesus. But God gave Him to die for my sins because it was the only way that I would truly be forgiven of my sins.

According to John 10:17-18, Jesus also "gave Himself" for me and according to John 15:13 it was because of the love He had for me as well. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man would lay down his life for his friends." That is what Jesus did for you and me. AMAZING INDEED!

In Galatians 2:20, Paul makes the following statement: "I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who LOVED ME, and GAVE HIMSELF FOR ME." Paul gets personal in this scripture. It was the personal application of the life of Jesus to his own life that caused Paul to live the life that he lived as a Christian. Listen to Paul's words from 2 Corinthians 5:14-15: "For the LOVE of Christ constraineth (compels) us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again." And in living our lives for the one who died for us, we can find forgiveness of sins and the hope of everlasting life! "FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD!" What an amazing story. AMAZING INDEED!