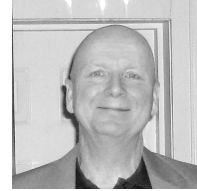




The Anecdote of Morphy

Elder Charles Moore



Him, put a crown of thorns on His head and led Him out to be crucified. (Matthew 27:27-31) And Satan said,

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"The Anecdote of Morphy" was originally documented back in 1898 but has been repeated many times since then with different variations, and by many people, but the account that had the most support is as follows:

While at the home of a Richmond gentleman in the early days of the Civil war, international chess master Mr. Morphy was drawn to a painting depicting two men playing chess. The name of the painting was "The Chess Players" by Morits Retzch.

The painting shows a young man playing chess with the devil, an angel intently looking on, and it is clear the stake is the very soul of the young man. The painting graphically captures the moment in the game in which it is the young man's move, but he suddenly knows he has lost the game -- intense concentration shown in every line of his features and attitude, while the devil from the opposite side of the table gloats over him with evil delight. The game appears utterly hopeless for the young man and his soul seems lost.

Contrast this with the undoubtedly true events

recounted in the first Good Friday story where it seemed that Satan had Jesus locked in a hopeless situation as well. Watch the play.

Jesus prayed and the disciples slept. (Matthew 26:36-45) And Satan said, "Check". Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss. (Matthew 26:46-49) And Satan said, "Check". Jesus was seized and taken to Caiaphas. (Matthew 26:57) And Satan said, "Check". Jesus was accused of blasphemy and sentenced to death. (Matthew 26:65-66) And Satan said, "Check". The rulers spat in His face, beat Him with their fists and slapped Him. (Matthew 26:65-66) And Satan said, "Check". Peter denied Jesus three times. (Matthew 26:69-75) And Satan said, "Check". Jesus was taken to Pilate. (Matthew 27:1-2) And Satan said, "Check". Pilate questioned Him and tried to free Him, but the crowd had turned against Him. (Matthew 27:11-25) And Satan said, "Check". The Roman cohort scourged Him, stripped Him, mocked

"Check". Jesus was crucified between two thieves. (Matthew 27:38) And Satan said, "Check". As Jesus hung on the cross, passers-by hurled abuse on Him and mocked Him, while even the thieves insulted Him. (Matthew 27:39-45) And Satan said, "Check". Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?" (Matthew 27:46) And Satan said, "Check". Jesus said, "It is finished!" and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit. (John 19:30) And Satan said, "Check". Jesus was then speared, taken from the cross, embalmed and laid in a borrowed tomb. (John 19:34-42) And Satan said, "Check". Guards are placed at the tomb of Jesus and it is sealed with a large stone. (Matthew 27:65-66) And Satan, with all of his bases seemingly covered, said, "Checkmate".

Those who play chess know however that just because your opponent says, "Checkmate" doesn't make it so. Let's look at the rest of Morphy's story. At the close of the supper, a deeply

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interested, Morphy approached the picture, studied it awhile intently, then turning to his host he said, modestly: "I think that I can take the young man's game and win." "Why, impossible!" was the answer; "not even you, Mr. Morphy, can retrieve that game." "Yet, I think I can." said Morphy. "Suppose we place the men and try." A board was arranged, and the rest of the company gathered round it, deeply interested in the result. To the surprise of every one, the chess master snatched the victory from the devil and the young man was figuratively saved.

Now return to the scene when Satan declared, "Checkmate" in his battle with Jesus. See then how Jesus turned the tables on Satan. An angel descends, rolls away the stone, sits on it and declares, "He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said." (Matthew 27:1-6) And Jesus said, "Check." Jesus joins two men on the road to Emmaus and turned their despair to hope, their grief to joy. (Luke 24:13-35) And Jesus said, "Check." Jesus met with His disciples and proved He was alive. (Luke 24:36-47) And Jesus said, "Check." Jesus ascended into heaven. (Luke 24:51) And Jesus said, "Check." Jesus told John, "I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades." And Jesus said, "Check." Jesus who is called, "Faithful and True, will sit on a white horse. Jesus will seize the beast and the false prophet and throws them into the lake of fire (Revelation 19:11-20) And Jesus will say, "Check." An angel will lay hold of Satan and bind him for a thousand years; and he will throw him into the abyss, and shut it and seal it over him, (Revelation 20:2-3) And Jesus will say, "Check." Satan will be thrown in the lake of fire and will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (Revelation 20:10) And Jesus will say, "Check." God gives John a vision of a new heaven, a new earth and a New Jerusalem that comes down from heaven John hears God say, "I will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." (Revelation 21:1-4)

And Jesus will say, "Checkmate."
Satan will tell you, "Give up, it's no use you've sinned too much, you've failed too many times for God to have anything to do with you." Don't believe it for one second. Jesus is able to forgive you. Jesus is able to deliver you and Jesus is able to save you, that is why He came and lived and died and most importantly rose again so that you can have everlasting life with Him.

Cyberspace News



Greetings on this cold morning. Of course this is winter and we do have a few of those. February is our winter retreat month and on the first weekend (our usual date) we had beautiful weather. The next weekend brought a little change. The forecast was miserable and Sonya Pease found her flight cancelled on Thursday with no hope of flying anywhere. We were sad because she must get the faithful traveler award. We did miss you, Sonya, but are looking forward to July. I think even Michigan foregoes snow in July! Deborah and Jim Stoner planned to surprise us at the retreat and I guess we were all surprised with the weather forecast because they had to cancel.

Now I have told you about the misses, I can proceed with the retreat. We moved to a new location this year. It is in the wild more so we did not know if the road would be cleared etc. Friday afternoon cleared away snow threats and all was well. We had to climb steps to get on the hill but even Dale with help from faithful Dave Fedor and granddaughter Sydney made it fine. Roy and Bennie Gee traveled Thursday from California so they had arrived in Howell easily and were there to climb the hill with us. It is a smaller place but by the time we left there on Sunday we were all acquainted with the routine and had had so many blessings.

The Charles family had an eventful weekend as David got out of the hospital that Friday with strict orders to not leave the house. I know we were all disappointed but things happen. Lynn Vaughn traveled from Howell to Monroe to nurse Dad and Kathy did the opposite drive to be with us as the Echoes were singing. If I told you all the arrangements that were changed around to accommodate the changes in the Charles' plans, your heads would spin. We have some faithful members! Thanks to you all!! Kay and Jim arrived Friday evening and the Brad Charles and Annie (Charles) Malburg families visited Saturday with their sweet babies.

Thelma Gilbert from Berrien Springs has joined us for quite a few years for our winter retreat but she wrote, "Tue Jan 28 I fell on the ice and broke my left hip. All my plans were put on hold. Surgery was the next day, followed by therapy." Thelma, we hope you are doing well now.

Roy and Bennie Gee traveled to Toronto after retreat and spent a few hours catching up with Roy's older brother. They traveled home on Wednesday and caught some spring-like weather to thaw them out!

Kane, Jennie and Ainsley Begeman arrived from Phoenix to visit with Mom Diane and Dad Tim and the extended family. What a happy time! Ainsley is two now and happy to chatter.

Kerry and Kathleen Johnson announce that their son, Casey, is engaged. "He has been dating Erin for two years. The pastor cooperated with Casey's plans- had the sermon before Valentine's Day titled "A Life of Love". At the end of the service, Erin and Casey read I Corinthians 13, Casey dropped to his knee and proposed. Erin's family was sitting up in the balcony to witness the event.

March has 'come in like a lion' so we are now looking for the 'going out like a lamb' weather!



Michigan Report

Tim Begeman

This month started out with mediocre winter weather such as snow one second and fifty degrees the next. For those of us who like winter weather and the seasonal sports that go with it are left wanting. Speaking of sports, this month starts out with the final football game for the season, thank God. The way I see it the Super Bowl is nothing but a bunch of overconfident, overpaid, overgrown, so call professional athletes that are jacked up on adrenaline and testosterone running toward each other at full speed running into each other head first, all being directed by an over histrionic, frothing at the mouth coach. The only reprieve from this borage of overhyped glorified vehement brutality is a halftime show consisting of women so called performers squeezed into under-sized outfits who can't seem to do anything but swing their over teased, bleached hair around long enough for all of us to scream make it stop.

At the beginning of February David Charles re-entered the hospital with a lingering infection from his surgery he had in December. As the month progressed he slowly conquered for the most part that infection and got out of the hospital. He suddenly had chest pains so they took him to the emergency room and found out he had blood clots that lodged in his right lung. They immediately put him back in the hospital and on blood thinners to dissolve them and he will have to take that for about six months. This revolving door to the hospital experience is trying David's patience, but with a lot of prayer and resolve I'm sure he will make a complete and utter recovery.

Speaking of recovery, my wife Diane badly sprained her ankle while walking on some uneven ruts in our icy driveway. After a visit to the doctor, he said after years of sprains dating back 35 years her ankle was one of the worst he has seen in a person so young and with such pretty legs. Even though she is in excruciating pain she is hobbling around and never complains (much).

We had our annual winter retreat start on the second weekend in February this year. We had a new venue this year which was the Howell Nature Center. There was much apprehension and vexation about moving our locale to a new neck of the woods but we all adapted with little or no anguish. Roy Gee was again our very special guest speaker this year. His topic was a series called "Travels with the Twelve: Life lessons from Jesus and the Twelve Disciples in Luke 9:1-27." The Friday night talk was called "Keep It Simple". We were all glad to have special guests Sue and John Schott drive up to hear Roy that evening. The next morning we were blessed with an uplifting time with the Echoes of Happiness. They sang and talked about conversation candy heart messages which lined up with Valentine's Day. Our service continued with Roy's second talk in his series entitled "Anatomy of a Miracle." The rest of the day we filled it with a comedy DVD starring Ken Davis and food, fun and conversations. Sunday morning Roy Gee finished off the weekend series with a talk entitled "I'll show you how." Regrettably, Sonia Pease could not make the trip to Michigan this year because of a colossal winter storm in her area of Rochester New York. All in all we had a wonderful weekend that was filled with blessing, enlightenment, edification, inspiration and invigoration.

This month we had a visit from our son Kane, wife Jennie and their daughter Ainsley from Arizona. It was music to our ears hearing once again the sound of pitter patter of tiny feet running through our house. Di and I had a wonderful time getting to know our granddaughter better. I even got her to try to read my book on Christian epistemology, however unfortunately, I think she likes her Elmo book better for right now.

Act the way you want to be and soon you'll be the way
you act.
Leonard Cohen

CHURCH OF THE
LORD OUR
RIGHTEOUSNESS

1922 LaSalle Road
Monroe, MI 48162
Church 734-242-9511

Editor - Jamie Carothers
Jamie.Carothers@utoledo.edu

Publisher - Diane Begeman
734-417-2392
veggie@charter.net

website
colornet.org

Shampoo

After trying a new shampoo for the first time, a guy fired off an enthusiastic letter of approval to the manufacturer.

Several weeks later, he came home from work to a large carton in the middle of the floor. Inside were free samples of the many products the company produced: soaps, detergents, toothpaste, and paper items.

"Well, what do you think?" his wife asked, smiling.

"Next time," he replied, "I'm writing to General Motors!"

What's happening at COLOR



Sydney's Sixteenth Birthday



Knoll Lodge, the new place at
Howell Nature Center



Dale Begeman
Ethel Johnson



Listening intently to Roy



Raegan Gill, Ainsley Begeman & Ryann Gill
Cousins!



Roy Gee by the dam, Old Mill in the
back ground, Dundee Michigan



Kane, Ainsley & Jennie Begeman