

**FRIDAY, June 18, 2010:**

**Seven Sins to Avoid**

*Avoid: Inhospitality*

Job 31:31-32 *"If the men of my tent have not said, 'Who is there that has not been satisfied with his meat?' (But no sojourner had to lodge in the street, for I have opened my doors to the traveler)"*

I have been known from time to time to tell guest that stayed late into the evening to stay as long as they wanted but that I was going on to bed. I was not trying to be inhospitable. I really meant it, they could stay as long as they liked but I had other considerations to consider / like an extremely busy day the next day with a lot of people counting on me and me needing to be at my best. I think the answer is that hospitality works both ways.

But when does not being hospitable become a sin? A good measuring rod would be when our actions are motivated by a feeling of superiority. Anytime we make someone feel "less than" we are straying away from God's heart. There were times recorded in the Gospels when Jesus slipped away from the crowd to get his rest, but there was never a time that he did so in an arrogant or condescending way. Hospitality finds a way to accommodate people. Hospitality is being willing to sacrifice in order to find a way to meet the needs of people. It doesn't mean that you have to cater to their every whim and whine but it does mean that you see everyone as valuable and worthy of your attention and service. That is what Calvary represents / a most hospitable and loving Savior.

**SCRIPTURE: Romans 12:13**

**SATURDAY, June 19, 2010:**

Job 31:33 *"If I have covered my transgressions as Adam, by hiding my iniquity in my bosom..."*

I don't know about you, but it is still difficult for me to say, "I'm sorry." I'm not talking about a gracious apology like when you bump into someone in a crowded room; I'm talking about an apology that is needed because I blew it.

Just this morning I had to apologize to Sonja / it wasn't easy. I'm out of town as I'm writing this devotional and the night before, because I was so tired, instead of calling my wife and wishing her a good night, I sent her a short note on Facebook and then hit the sack.

Sonja didn't appreciate that one bit / and rightfully so. I knew that I had taken a shortcut on our relationship but I wanted so much to justify myself and make excuses (I'm better at excuses than I am at admitting I was wrong.)

But thankfully I bit the bullet and made my "apology call" to Sonja the first thing I did / even before coffee (just to punish myself a bit ☺).

As soon as my apology was made the air was cleared and our relationship was back in good standing. The same is true with God. Don't try to hide things from God / repent / confess / clear the air / you will never regret it.

**SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 1:7**



**Pastor Kemp's Weekly Devotional**

*For the week of June 13, 2010*

Daily Reflection Questions:

- Reflection: Of what eternal benefit was my day?
- Reflection: What eternal truth(s) did I observe today?
- Reflection: Did my behavior match my values?
- Reflection: What am I thankful for today?

***What I am thankful for this week:***

MONDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

TUESDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

WEDNESDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

THURSDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

FRIDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

SATURDAY: \_\_\_\_\_



**MONDAY, June 14, 2010:**

**Seven Sins to Avoid**

Avoid: *Disregard of the Poor (Injustice)*

Job 31:16 *"If I have kept the poor from their desire, or caused the eyes of the widow to fail..."* (31:16-23)

During a recent trip to Romania, I saw firsthand the dreadful results that Communism can have on a country. I've been to Central and South America, Haiti and other island nations many times and witnessed the poverty and despair that is so prevalent there. So many times I've wondered, "How can government and church leaders and the wealthy live with themselves knowing that most of their fellow citizens live in poverty and in some cases abject poverty?" And I must say, that own country is no stranger to poverty and injustice.

It is easy to simply write people off because you think they're lazy; but poverty and ignorance grinds a person down to the point they have no hope. To the person trapped in poverty, it doesn't even register that there is another way to live. Unless someone cares enough to bring a message of hope and self-respect to them, they are trapped.

I know, this is pretty heavy stuff to start your week with. I know that you have your own problems and issues, but my dear friend, please hear the heart of God. He cares about you; but He also cares about the cries of the hungry and starving, the weak and weary, and the sick and dying. He cares about those that are oppressed simply because of their race, gender or some other devil-inspired prejudice.

I beg of you to take the time to ponder on these things. Listen to the voice of God, read his word intentionally looking for issues of injustice. Instead of blaming others, ask God what you can do. A glass of cool water is far better than complaining about what others ought to do. Thanks for listening...

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 22:23-24**

**TUESDAY, June 15, 2010:**

**Seven Sins to Avoid**

Avoid: *Making Money Your God (idolatry)*

Job 31:16 *"If I have made gold my hope..."* (31:24-25)

Money is not your answer! I know that the temptation is always tugging at you to think that if you just had a little more money your problems would be solved; but that is not the case.

God is not against you having money and the things that money can buy; but God is against anything that replaces Himself in your life.

Today, instead of going to work to earn money, go to work to please God. Instead of longing for things that money can buy, long for the things that money cannot buy.

Bottom line, be a wise manager/investor of the money that God blesses you with, but never, never, let it be the passion, pursuit, and purpose of your life.

**SCRIPTURE: 1 Timothy 6:10**

*"Quantity is no assurance of quality. Many people who have the things money can buy have lost the things money cannot buy."* \_W. W. Wiersbe

**WEDNESDAY, June 16, 2010:**

**Seven Sins to Avoid**

Avoid: *Idolatry*

Job 31:25-28 *"If I have observed the sun when it shines...this also would be an iniquity deserving of judgment, for I would have denied God who is above."*

There for a while, Starbucks was putting little quotations on their coffee cups from their customers. I liked this one and added it to my quotation file.

☐ *"Scientists tell us we only use 5% of our brains. But if they only used 5% of their brains to reach that conclusion, then why should we believe them?"* \_Joseph Palm, Starbucks customer from Oshkosh, Wisconsin, "The Way I See It" #236

Sometimes I think it proves that we only use 5% of our brain when I consider the things we trust in. I know people who worship themselves, thinking that they are where they are because of their own strength, ingenuity, and wisdom. They actually think that they are in control of their destiny.

Others worship their money thinking that it is going to take care of them in troubled times. Others worship friends, country, guns, stars (movie and celestial), luck, lotteries, and dozens of other things.

Friend, what are you really trusting in? If you say God, then why are you worrying? Let God be God / trust Him and let him do "being God" his way. In the end, you will never regret it.

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 20:7**

**THURSDAY, June 17, 2010:**

**Seven Sins to Avoid**

Avoid: *Hatred*

Job 31:29-30 *"If I have rejoiced at the destruction of him who hated me...by asking for a curse on his soul."*

I would expect that hatred is not something that you feel that you do not struggle with, but hatred is basically wishing others harm.

Sometimes I wonder about the way people talk. They would never say they hate someone and yet their negative and critical language seems to betray them.

They would never dream of physically harming someone and yet they verbally wound and kill them daily.

My dear friend, be known as someone who speaks guardedly and wisely. Let your words be healing words. Be a source of hope and inspiration not negativity and despair.

**SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 15:4**

*"If I had shot her the first time I wanted to, I'd be out of prison by now."*

\_Country & Western song