

"I FAIL To Miss Your POINT"

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JIM O'BRYON

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Preface

For some unknown reason, I have always been intrigued and challenged by interesting anecdotes, humorous stories, plays on words, inspirational stories, sermons and illustrations about everyday life, faith, youth and growing up, and a whole bunch more. As a kid, I loved to hear my mom and dad share stories, many of which had a Biblical application. When I entered Emmaus Bible School (now Emmaus Bible College), I began jotting down some of these stories first on 3x5 index cards and later on my computer. I have been doing so ever since as I have graduated from three other colleges, served in the Army, worked in a research lab, worked as a radio announcer at a couple of radio stations, worked in the Pentagon, communicated online with friends and family, raised 4 kids with my wife Adina and continue to gather inspiration as our 4 grandchildren have arrived.

It wasn't until I made the decision to publish this volume a short time ago that I began to sort my stack of random stories, anecdotes, quips, quotes and illustrations into subject categories. While the sorting is not well defined by library standards (or anybody else's), it could be of some help if one is looking for a quote or illustration on a particular topic. A more comprehensive subject index can be found in the Index. I make no apologies for the preponderance of Biblical illustrations, stories and quotes with a conservative political bent. You'll notice that all biblical quotes use a different type font to help distinguish them from the words of others. While all of the quotes and stories do not represent my personal point of view, many of them do, and I include the others as well here since I felt they would provide a broader perspective on the issues included.

I have indicated the source of each quote where I knew it but there are many entries where I have not listed a source since I have no record of it. Some of these have been gathered from sermons, public speeches, radio listeners, carpool discussions, signs along the road, e-mails from friends and simple one-on-one conversations. Some I have authored myself. If the reader knows the original source for any of the quotes that, as yet, has no credit given or has a misattributed credit, I would very much welcome your e-mail corrections to me at jamesobryon@obryongroup.com and thanks in advance. You can even call me at 443-528-2711.

My hope and prayer is that these thousands of thoughts will give you a smile, encourage you, challenge you, cause you to think, and most importantly, be an inspiration to you as you live day by day.

Jim OBryon

Endorsement

I Fail to Miss Your Point, Jim O'Bryon's new book, is packed with 487 pages of quotes, trivia, historical interest, inspiration and wisdom. Even the massive *Index* is fascinating. (Look for your name; you might be quoted without knowing it.) Miss Alabama, the ACLU, Alexander's Ragtime Band, Woody Allen, the First Amendment, answering machines, the Apocalypse—they are all there, and that's just a few of the hundreds of topics under the A's. And the B's are better yet. Speakers and writers, especially, will find this trove of treasure worth the read. Jim collected this detritus of humor and human interest over 45 years, and this has yielded a very unusual book. You will be touched by the accidental wisdom and humor of children; surprised to learn of the devotion the American founders had to the Bible; groaning with Jim's penchant for punny stories; laughing out loud at bumper stickers collected over four decades; and entertained by it all. This is the best book of its kind, a great gift for friends and family, and I can hardly wait for the second volume, which according to Jim, may take another 45 years, but he's working on it.

—*J. Stanley Oakes,*
President, The King's College



Dedication

*I dedicate this book to all those along my life's path that
encouraged me, challenged me with wisdom, lifted me with laughter,
inspired me with truth, prayed with me and for me and to those
who took the time
to share with me their stories.*

Jim O'Bryon

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A. Out of the Mouths of Babes

A1. What Does Love Mean?

A group of professional people posed this question to a group of 4 to 8 year-olds: "What does love mean?" The answers they got were broader and deeper than anyone could have imagined:

01. When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love. (Rebecca - age 8)

02. When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You know that your name is safe in their mouth. (Billy - age 4)

03. Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other. (Karl - age 5)

04. Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your french fries without making them give you any of theirs. (Chrissy - age 6)

05. Love is what makes you smile when you're tired. (Terri - age 4)

06. Love is when my Mommy makes coffee for my Daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK. (Danny - age 7)

07. Love is when you kiss all the time. Then when you get tired of kissing, you still want to be together and you talk more. My Mommy and Daddy are like that. They look gross when they kiss. (Emily - age 8)

08. Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas when you stop opening presents and listen. (Bobby - age 7)

09. If want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate. (Nikka - age 6)

10. Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it everyday. (Noelle - age 7)

11. During my piano recital, I was on a stage and scared. I looked at all the people watching me and saw my Daddy waving and smiling. He was the only one doing that. I wasn't scared anymore. (Cindy - age 8)

12. My mommy loves me more than anybody. You don't see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night. (Clare - age 6)

13. Love is when Mommy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken. (Elaine - age 6)

14. Love is when Mommy sees Daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Brad Pitt. (Chris - age 7)



C. Our Founding Fathers

Faith in God

C1. Abraham Lincoln once said, "I can see how it might be possible for a man to look down upon the earth and be an atheist, but I cannot conceive how he could look up into the heavens and say there is no God."

C2. *"And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice."* (Matthew 10:29), is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? (Verse on Christmas card from VP Dick Cheney, 2003, Benjamin Franklin, Constitutional Convention, 1787)

C3. Mayflower Compact

Prior to landing, the Pilgrims spent one day fasting and praying and wrote the Mayflower Compact, a compact between them and the Lord. "In the name of God Almighty, we whose names are underwritten ... having undertaken for the Glory of God, and the advancement of the Christian faith ... a voyage to plant this first colony in Northern Virginia (they were in Massachusetts); do by these present, solemnly and mutually in the presence of God and one another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politick ..." (November 1620)

C4. Pray for Government Leaders

Therefore I exhort, first of all, that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. (I Timothy 2:1, 2, New King James Version)

C5. What Makes A Great Nation?

If continental expanse made a nation great, Siberia would be the mightiest nation. If concentrated population made a nation great, India would be the greatest nation. If ancient culture made a nation great, China would be the leader of all families on earth. What makes a nation great? It is the character of the people. A nation is made not by its fruitful acres, but by the men and women who till them, not by its rich mines, but by the men who work them. *"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."* (Proverbs 14:34) (David Jeremiah, "The Soul of America")

C6. EU (European Union) Debates God's Place in its Charter

A panel trying to write a constitution for the European Union struggled Wednesday over whether there is a place for God in the charter that is to guide the Alliance. It is a contentious issue because of the varied religious beliefs of the 15 member countries and 10 more that will join in the next two years. Former French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, leader of the 13-member panel, was expected to present a draft today (Feb 6, 2003) that doesn't mention God in a statement of "Fundamental European Values." Some conservatives want the document to mention God and define

D. Just Plain Funny

D1. Flower Power

A couple of friars were behind on their belfry payments, so they opened up a small florist shop to raise funds. Since everyone liked to buy flowers from the men of God, a rival florist across town thought the competition was unfair. He asked the friars to close down, but they would not. He went back and begged the friars to close. They ignored him. So, the rival florist hired Hugh MacTaggart, the roughest and most vicious thug in town to "persuade" them to close. Hugh beat up the friars and trashed their store, saying he'd be back if they didn't close up shop. Terrified, they did so, thereby proving that "only Hugh can prevent florist friars."

D2. Gandhi, as you know, walked barefoot most of the time, which produced an impressive set of calluses on his feet. He also ate very little, which made him rather frail and, with his odd diet, he suffered from bad breath. This made him ... (Oh, man, this is so bad, it's good) a super callused fragile mystic, hexed by halitosis. (From the Movie "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang")

D3. Where did George Washington keep his armies? In his sleeves!

D4. "Blessed" by an Unusual Name

The story is told of a man whose parents named him "Odd," a very unusual name indeed. With such a name, he went through life experiencing much ridicule, with children and adults alike making fun of his very uncommon name. In his will, he requested that his name not be put on his tombstone and that the stone be left with absolutely nothing written on it so people wouldn't continue to make fun of him after his death. Now as people pass through the cemetery, they're sure to look at the unusual gravestone and remark, "That's odd."

D5. Have You Ever Wondered?

01. Who was the first person to look at a cow and say, "I think I'll squeeze these dangly things here, and drink whatever comes out?"
02. Why do toasters always have a setting that burns the toast to a horrible crisp which no decent human being would eat?
03. Why is there a light in the fridge and not in the freezer?
04. If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why is there a song about him?
05. Can a hearse carrying a corpse drive in the carpool lane?
06. If the professor on Gilligan's Island can make a radio out of a coconut, why can't he fix a hole in a boat?
07. Do illiterate people get the full effect of alphabet soup?
08. Why do your OB-GYN doctors leave the room when you get undressed if they are going to see you naked anyway?
09. Why does Goofy stand erect while Pluto remains on all fours? They're both dogs aren't they?
10. What do you call male ballerinas?



H. Theology According to Kids

H1. Are You Jesus?

A few years ago a group of salesmen went to a regional sales convention in Chicago. They had assured their wives that they would be home in plenty of time for Friday night's dinner. Well, as such things go, one thing led to another. The sales manager went longer than anticipated and the meeting ran overtime. Their flights were scheduled to leave out of Chicago's O'Hare Airport, and they had to race to the airport. With tickets in hand, they barged through the terminal to catch their flight back home. In their rush, with tickets and briefcases, one of these salesmen inadvertently kicked over a table which held a display of baskets of apples. Apples flew everywhere. Without stopping or looking back, they all managed to reach the plane in time for their nearly missed boarding.

All but one. He paused, took a deep breath, got in touch with his feelings, and experienced a twinge of compassion for the girl whose apple stand had been overturned. He told his buddies to go on without him, waved goodbye, told one of them to call his wife when they arrived at their home destination and explain his taking a later flight. Then he returned to the terminal where the apples were strewn all over the terminal floor. He was glad he did. The 16 year old girl who owned the stand was totally blind!

She was softly crying, tears running down her cheeks in frustration, and at the same time helplessly groping for her spilled produce as the crowd swirled about her, no one stopping, and no one to care for her plight. The salesman knelt on the floor with her, gathered up the apples, put them into the baskets, and helped set the display up once more. As he did this, he noticed that many of them had become battered and bruised; these he set aside in another basket. When he had finished, he pulled out his wallet and said to the girl, "Here, please take this \$20 for the damage we did. Are you okay?" She nodded through her tears. He continued on with, "I hope we didn't spoil your day too badly."

As the salesman started to walk away, the bewildered blind girl called out to him, "Mister ...". He paused and turned to look back into those blind eyes. She continued, "Are you Jesus?" He stopped in mid-stride, and he wondered. Then slowly he made his way to catch the later flight with that question burning and bouncing about in his soul: "Are you Jesus?"

Do people mistake you for Jesus? That's our destiny, is it not? To be so much like Jesus that people cannot tell the difference as we live and interact with a world that is blind to His love, life and grace. If we claim to know Him, we should live, walk and act as He would.



I. Bumper Sticker Wisdom

- I1. Bumper Sticker: Know God, Know Peace; No God, No Peace
- I2. Bumper Sticker: America: It's Time To Bless God
- I3. Bumper Sticker: Reduce Crime. Teach God's Word
- I4. Bumper Sticker: Eternity - Smoking or Non-smoking?
- I5. Bumper Sticker: The Meek Shall Inherit The Gulag
- I6. Bumper Sticker: What Happens If You Get Scared Half To Death Twice?
- I7. Bumper Sticker: As Long As There Are Tests, There Will Be Prayer In School
- I8. Bumper Sticker: Equal Rights For Unborn Women
- I9. Bumper Sticker: Children Need Fathers, Not Weekend Visitors
- I10. Bumper Sticker: Pro-Choice Before Conception, Pro-Life After Conception
- I11. Bumper Sticker: Being Pro-Choice Is Not Hereditary
- I12. Bumper Sticker: Before I Formed You In The Womb, I Knew You (*Isaiah 44:24*)
- I13. Bumper Sticker: All Women Whose Mothers Aborted Them Please Meet Today For A Pro-Choice Rally
- I14. Bumper Sticker: The Meek Shall Inherit The Earth. They Are Too Weak To Refuse.
- I15. Bumper Sticker: Pray For Whirled Peas
- I16. Bumper Sticker: God, Please Save Me From Your Followers
- I17. Bumper Sticker: I'm Not Aging, I Just Need Re-Potting
- I18. Bumper Sticker: I Don't Repeat Gossip, So Listen Carefully
- I19. Bumper Sticker: God If I Can't Be Skinny, Let All My Friends Be Fat
- I20. Bumper Sticker: Discover Wildlife! Have Kids!
- I21. Bumper Sticker: Your Secrets Are Safe With Me And All My Friends

