



BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



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Donovan Webster was a war correspondent, author, and occasional filmmaker. His job included adventures and the opportunities to see a great part of the world many of us could only dream of seeing. But the stress of the job resulted in an abuse of alcohol. Like most who drink and drive, Donovan felt he could handle it. Then one night on a dark road, his car collided into the car of Wayne White. Donovan survived the accident, but White did not. Donovan's blood-alcohol level had exceeded the amount allowed for driving, and he was convicted of manslaughter. For his crime, he spent twenty-one months incarcerated.

Living in a small town in West Virginia, Donovan's wife, ashamed from the guilt of her husband's crime, left him and returned to her hometown in Tennessee. Donovan's adult children, in an effort to deal with the aftermath, distanced themselves from him, leaving him alone to put the pieces of his life back together.

No doubt many reading this article are, like Donovan, struggling to put their lives back together. Your circumstances may be much different, but the feelings of the struggle are much the same. Whether you feel your circumstances are smaller or great-

er than Donovan's, the results of your mistakes can be just as devastating. But I'm here to tell you, you don't have to face the consequences alone. Proverbs 18:24 reminds us the Lord is a Friend who sticks closer than a brother. He is One who, as

Ephesians 3:20 reminds us, is able to do above and beyond all we think or imagine! That even means helping us through our difficult times in life.

In fact over two thousand years ago, He died on a place called Calvary so through His death and resurrection we would have assurance of His help!

The psalmist said in Psalm 27:10, "When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take care of me." Johnson Oatman, Jr. wrote, "There's not an hour that He is not near us . . . No night so dark but His love can cheer us – No, not one! No, not one!" On this Resurrection Day, you can receive His help during the difficulties of your life — because of His wonderful love!

- Dr. L.W. Edwards



MAKING EASTER MATTER

Critics and scoffers have been trying to silence the message of the empty tomb for years, but none will so nearly succeed as Christ's own followers . . . when we are distracted. Like a machine gunner in the heat of battle who turns his back on the approaching enemy to shoot at a passing goose, a believer distracted from the resurrection of Jesus Christ is ineffective at best and deadly at worst.

CHOOSE YOUR BATTLES WISELY

One of the telltale signs of distracted Christians is the nature of their conflict. Recently, the world-famous Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, Israel, closed its doors to the public to protest \$185 million dollars'-worth of municipal taxes for its properties. With its reputation as the traditional site of Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension, its iconic location, and its popularity with Christians who visit daily to tour its grounds and pray, the church's decision to close sent a shockwave around the world.

Now, \$185 million is a hefty sum of money. You'd probably be in shock, too, if you found such a bill in your mailbox. Taxes on religious-owned properties had been non-existent in Jerusalem up to this point. (Places of worship are still exempt from taxation, but the city's new tax plan will apply taxes to church-owned properties.)

The Jerusalem Municipality implemented the tax in an effort to curtail abuses by those who rented out the property purchased from the church. The church, on the other hand, felt the government was singling it out and attempting to marginalize its influence in the city.

After a tense three-day standoff, the government of Jerusalem blinked first. City officials suspended taxes planned for church properties, and the church reopened — a major victory for the church — but only on paper. The church's response to the misunderstanding had caused collateral damage in its relationship with the city and in its testimony to the world at large.

One of the Jerusalem council members commented, "We see this as a very cynical move from the church. . . . Jerusalem is the only city in the Middle East where there is true freedom of religion and true freedom of worship, and they choose instead of protesting the millions of people, the Christians getting slaughtered around the Middle East, instead of worrying about that, they are worrying about something affecting only their pockets."

OUR BATTLES REVEAL OUR VALUES

Our conflict reveals what we value most. The unbelieving city officials who observed this situation concluded that the church was more concerned about its finances than the lives of endangered Christians in the Middle East. Whether the municipality's assessment of the church's position was accurate or not, and whether the church's actions were right or wrong is not the point. The point is, when our motives are questioned, we want our emphasis to reflect a vision of the bigger picture.

It's easy to jump in the fray and take sides amid the conflicts, tensions, and misunderstandings inevitable in our fallen world. But the bigger picture is always to bring honor to the name of Jesus Christ.

Let's get personal for a moment. Many times on Easter Sunday, we make light of the influx of one-time visitors who show up just to show off a new suit or dress. They take our parking spaces and sit in . . . [>>>Keep Reading](#)



Contact Dr. Edwards if you would like to have him as your special guest.

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