

THE TRENTON BULLETIN

Cruel Bread (Paul R. Blake)

From 1959-1961, China suffered a catastrophic famine. Official government figures put the number of deaths at 15 million deaths from starvation, but today, scholars estimate it at 30-43 million. The actual figure may never be known.

The subject is still taboo in China, referred to euphemistically as the Three Years of Natural Disasters. Yet it's clear that this famine was mostly man-made by Communist mismanagement.

During the famine, the people made "bread" from a kind of edible earth. But this ingredient lacked nutrients, so those who ate the loaves starved to death on a full stomach.

Other famine foods include the nardoo plant. The spores of this clover fern can be made into bread and porridge. But they contain no proteins, carbohydrates, or vitamins—the essentials for sustaining life. Those who depend upon it for food will have their stomachs filled, but they'll eventually die of starvation.

A rather accurate illustration of the philosophies and reasoning of our world, wouldn't you say? Instead of feasting on the bread of life, most folks fill their minds with television, social media, and pop news and, thus, live morally malnourished and die of spiritual starvation. Sadly, they are surrounded by access to spiritual feasts while they greedily ingest the cruel bread of the Adversary.

"So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord" (Deuteronomy 8:3).



You Are Important To God (Kent Heaton)

After an ocean-churning storm, thousands of starfish have washed ashore. A little boy was walking along the beach, throwing these marooned fish back into the water. A more sophisticated man was watching the small savior and felt it was his duty to point out the futility of such an endeavor. He called this boy's attention to the thousands of starfish that lined the beach.

He commended the little guy for his compassion but quickly noted, "What you're doing is great, but frankly, it's not going to make much of a difference." The little sage picked up another starfish and said, "Maybe not," as he threw it back into the surf, "but it sure made a difference for that one."

It is easy to believe we cannot make a difference. With so many problems that compound our lives, we settle for the mediocrity of our importance to others. A small pebble makes a ripple that can be far-reaching. Everyone is important for what they can do to make a difference in the lives of others.

A smile can change a downtrodden heart. Saying "thank you" can lift a spirit. A simple card mailed to a lonely person brings cheer to the soul. It only takes one little boy throwing a starfish back into the water to realize the value of what one act of kindness can do.

God so loved the world He gave His only begotten Son. One gift. One sacrifice. One Son. One expression of love that changed the world. Jesus changed the world, and He was only one. YOU are important to God.

The prophet Isaiah says God has a name for every star in the heavens (Isaiah 40:26). In the vast world of billions of people that inhabit the earth, YOU ARE IMPORTANT to God. He knows YOUR name. You are important to God. He wants you to know He knows you.

One little boy was in a crowd of more than five thousand people when Jesus needed some food

(Matthew 14:13-21). The little boy had five loaves and two fish. Jesus took the five loaves and two fish and fed five thousand men, not counting women and children. When they all ate their fill, the disciples gathered twelve baskets full of fragments.

One boy made a difference. Jesus took what one boy had and changed the world. He can do the same with YOU. When you realize what the Lord can do in your life, you can change one other person. We cannot change the world, but we can bring one person to Christ.

Sentence Sermons

- ✓ Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisors.
- ✓ It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.
- ✓ If God is your co-pilot, swap seats.
- ✓ When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.



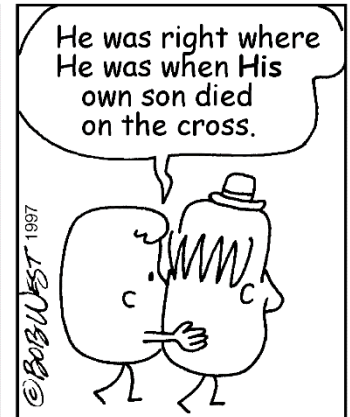
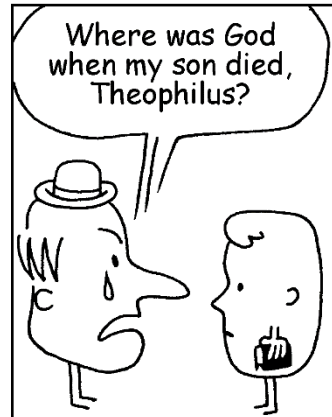
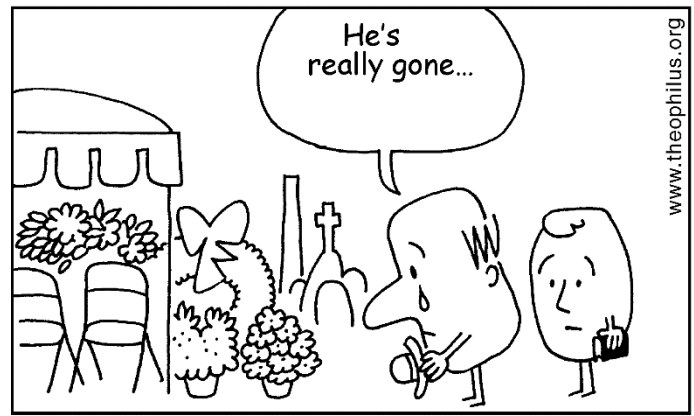
SCRIPTURE HIGHLIGHT

For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. (Revelation 22:18-19)

If we add to the word of God, we have added too much. If we take away from the word of God, we have too much away.

THEOPHILUS

The Sting of Death



New Year's Resolutions (Jonathan Edwards)

Resolved:

1. To live all my might while I do live.
2. Never to lose one moment of time, to improve it in the most profitable way I can.
3. Never to do anything which I should despise or think meanly of in another.
4. Never to do anything out of revenge.
5. Never to do anything which I would be afraid to do if it were the last hour of my life.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS. As the couple sat with a marriage counselor for their first session, the good doctor asked them to identify what seemed to be the root of their problems. The wife responded, "It all started when we thought it would be cute to think up each other's New Year's resolutions."

**INVITE SOMEONE TO CHURCH
THIS WEEK
HELP BRING A SOUL TO CHRIST**