

June Weddings

Joe Slater

I've wondered why so many weddings occur in June. Is it because graduation is over so high school sweethearts seize the opportunity to tie the knot? While that sounds reasonable, the tradition of June weddings pre-dates modern educational practices. Here's some interesting material from the internet:

"June was traditionally the most popular month to marry, and still very common. Why? The goddess Juno (for whom June is named) was the protector of women in all aspects of life, but especially in marriage and childbearing, so a wedding in Juno's month was considered most auspicious.

"The idea of June weddings also comes from the Celtic calendar. On the Cross-Quarter Day of Beltane, or May Day (May 1), young couples would pair off to court for 3 months and then be wed on the next Cross-Quarter Day (Lammas Day, August 1). Youths being impatient, the waiting period was shortened to mid-June, and the popularity of June weddings was ensured."

(<https://www.almanac.com/content/wedding-traditions-customs-and-etiquette>)

Now, that doesn't mean you're a Juno-worshipper if you married in June! Scripture reveals no "right" date for a wedding. It places great weight, however, on the permanence of marriage (one man, one woman, for life, with one exception – Matthew 19:3-9). It emphasizes the relationship God wants between wife and husband (Ephesians 5:22-33). And it exalts the church as the bride of Christ (2 Corinthians 11:2; Revelation 21:9).

May God help us to pay heed to these matters, regardless of when (or if) we married!

Monsters Within

I sometimes watch the TV show "Monsters Within." There truly are some monsters that can affect our health in terrible and disastrous ways. These monsters are so small that they can be seen only if one looks at them under a microscope. When enlarged they actually look like terrible, hideous, monsters! They look like something out of a monster movie. Then there are some that are slightly larger and can be seen with the naked eye, but are equally deadly.

We shudder to think that something so terrible could invade our bodies and make us so sick, or even kill us. Doctors, in many cases, can administer medicines that can render a cure. Sometimes even our own body can cure itself with self produced antibodies. Sometimes there is no cure.

As terrible as these "monsters" are, there is one that is the most dangerous of all. It is a monster that cannot be seen, even under a microscope. It is the spiritual invasion of the monster called sin. While it cannot be viewed under a microscope, it can readily be seen in our own actions.

Neither antibiotics, nor other manmade medicines, will rid our lives of this sin monster. There is only one cure, the blood of Jesus Christ.

You see, Jesus himself, while exposed to the temptation of sin, never allowed his life to be invaded by it. He resisted sin and in so doing he provided the antiserum (his own blood), that would provide the cure for us when we allow our own lives to be invaded. The apostle Paul writes, "Him who knew no sin he made to be sin on our behalf; that we might become the righteousness of God in him" (II Corinthians 5:21).

Through Christ we can overcome the sin monster. Through the blood of our savior the monster doesn't win. John writes "and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (I John 1:7). Praise God, there is power in the blood.

Will we accept His cure?

--Roy Allen Crutcher (Mt. Carmel, IL)

Do Diets Work?

Do you want the truth? Can you handle the truth? Diet's don't work! You have to work at a diet! Exercise doesn't work; you have to work at exercise. Being a Christian doesn't work; you have to work at being a Christian! We have become as a people at ease, we want something done for us. Give us a pill, handle my child, and take care of my problems. Don't pick up that hoe; you might have to work in the garden.

Christianity is a way of living. It is a method of having and dealing with everything that life may bring. It isn't putting our life in neutral and hoping it all works out for the good. It is working on being good. The key is working! Jesus gave us a clue in this statement, "Do unto others. . ." Paul gave another, "Work out your own salvation."

What did Jesus mean when he said, "take up your cross and follow me"? Doesn't that entail sacrifice and great effort? Paul said, "we strive toward the mark of the high calling..."

We have become a nation of quitters. If it isn't easy, I don't want to do it. Family life hard? Just quit! Marriage getting rough? Just quit! People not treating you right at Church? Just quit! Folks, the crown comes at the end of the race, not when you quit!

--Floyd C. Johnson (via Sayre, OK)

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A VARIATION

"God grant me the serenity to accept the people I cannot change,

the courage to change the one I can,
and the wisdom to know it's me."

(author unknown; see Matthew 7:3-5)

Shared by Kathy Pollard via Facebook