

Corrections

Joe Slater

After two crashes (October, 2018 and March, 2019) which killed a total of 346 people, the entire fleet of Boeing 737 Max 8 airplanes is grounded as of this writing. Rather than point fingers and assign blame, let us pray for the families of the deceased and try to learn from these disasters.

According to public statements, some think faulty sensors indicated the planes were climbing at too steep an angle when they really weren't. Other reports say the fault is with a new computer program that pushes the plane's nose down if it is climbing too steeply. Or it may be a combination of the two. Or it may be the manufacturer's failure to train pilots adequately about the new system. Or . . . you name it. Since most of us are not pilots or software engineers, we would be well-advised not to speculate.

What can Christians learn from all of this? First, when something is wrong, recognize it and correct it! This is called repentance – a word the New Testament uses at least 60 times. 3000 people in Acts 2 realized they were wrong about Jesus; they repented and were baptized for the remission of sins (v. 38). The people of Nineveh were sinful; they repented, and God spared their city. Denying a problem doesn't fix it. Someone said "denial is a river in Egypt – and if you stay in it, you will drown or be eaten by crocodiles!"

Second, don't jump to conclusions. People love to point fingers and cast blame. I was glad to hear the manufacturers say they will take time to do this correctly. Let the same be said of us. Knee-jerk reactions seldom help. Take time to study the Scriptures. Make certain that any "fix" isn't worse than the original problem.

Jesus on the Economy

Economic and financial specialists talk about "economic indicators" that tell us whether things are going to get better or worse. Did you know that Jesus also talked about investing and economic indicators? Really! He warned about falling stock markets and failing corporations. No, not in exactly those words. Instead, He spoke about thieves, moths, and rust (Matthew 9:19-21). Those were the threats to financial investments in His day just like corporation executives and panic-driven stock markets can have a devastating effect on mutual funds and 401Ks today.

Jesus said that a much better, safer investment than treasures on earth are treasures in heaven. Just exactly how does one invest in heaven? What's the ticker symbol for this on the New York Stock Exchange? HEAV? Let's just say this is a unique investment opportunity. There's not another like it. A stock broker won't be able to tell you about it, either.

The Bible, though, explains it quite clearly: "... give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven" (Matthew 19:21). "Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, not to trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they may be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come" (1 Timothy 6:17-19).

Using one's earthly treasure to care for those in need and doing good is how treasures are laid up in heaven. Is that really a good investment? Let's talk about return on investment. How about worth that exceeds all the world's wealth combined" (Matthew 16:26). How about a "far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory"?

This also serves as an economic indicator: It is the location of our treasure that identifies our heart's home (Matthew 6:21). We may say or claim or wish that our heart is in the right place, but one sure-fire way to find out is to see where our treasure is going. Our heart will follow our treasure.

How's that for an economic indicator?

--David Deffenbaugh (Oklahoma City, OK) via *Old Paths*

Mother's Day

"Let your father and your mother be glad and let her rejoice who gave birth to you" (Proverbs 23:25).

Julia Ward Howe, who wrote "Battle hymn of the Republic," was weary of all the carnage of the Civil War. She soon began a protest against the war and it came to be known as "Mother's Day for Peace." For the next 30 years Americans celebrated Mother's Day for Peace on June 2.

But it was not Julia Ward Howe who is recognized for the Mother's Day holiday that we now enjoy. It was a Philadelphia woman by the name of Anna Jarvis who is universally credited with founding the holiday. The birth of this observance was incubated in the crucible of grief as Anna searched for some way to honor her deceased mother. Because of her efforts, in 1914 Congress declared the second Sunday in May to be Mother's Day.

It was not long until entrepreneurs perceived Mother's Day as a holiday that could be exploited. Anna was appalled at this commercialization. It went against everything she had intended.

Anna spent the rest of her life trying to stop something that could not be stopped. Most of the fortune that she received from her mother was spent to fight against the very holiday she created to honor her.

I don't know how you plan on observing Mother's Day, but let me offer a couple of suggestions. First of all, be genuine. Let it be a time when your heart speaks openly and honestly of your love for your mother. Secondly, don't let it be simply a fulfillment of expectations.

For more suggestions you may want to peruse First Corinthians chapter 13. That tells us explicitly how we can show our love to our mother's, and to others.

--Dennis Russell (Santa Maria, CA)