



THE SEMINARIAN

VOLUME XXV

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Number 6

BIBLE STUDY

"Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?" Mark 3:4

Ernst Käsemann tells the story of a Dutch congregation meeting in emergency to decide whether to make urgently-needed repairs on a nearby dike on the Sabbath. The predictable arguments were advanced: God has given the commandments to be obeyed under all circumstances; life is obedience to His will; He can still the threatening waters. Finally the pastor suggested mildly that in fact Jesus himself had violated Sabbath law in the interest of healing and meeting life's necessities. At that one venerable gentleman rose and said, "I have always been troubled, Pastor, by something that I have never yet ventured to say publicly. Now I must say it. I have always had the feeling that our Lord Jesus was just a bit of a liberal."

Labels aside, the old gentleman had come to a perception of Jesus that is completely consistent with the gospel portrait and true (even) to what historians declare about the historical Jesus. Nothing is more characteristic of the man, nothing more central to his ministry, than his surpassing autonomy vis-a-vis the honored customs and traditions of society and even the divine commands themselves. In a word, Jesus was free.

But not only did the Dutch gentleman see Jesus aright, he was also right to be troubled--just a little bit offended--by the Jesus he saw.

There's little doubt where Jesus would have been on that stormy day beside the sea. Perhaps the source of the trouble lies in the way Jesus puts the question to his opponents (Mark 3:4). He poses an uncompromising either-or where our Dutch friend would much prefer to seek accommodation. Surely one is not "doing harm" in conserving the traditions that have served society so well. Surely no "killing" is involved if healing takes a little holiday.

. . . And is it so?

Are we followers (terrified to be sure) of a Lord whose attitude toward, and use of, the traditions of men is creative, rather than conserving? Does this following lead to the cross, where the traditions of men (in all the rich panoply of their institutional sanctions) work their way --and are overcome? Are we following a Lord who was just a bit of a liberal? That is, just a bit creative? Just a bit free?

R. D. Webber

CONTEMPORARY COMMUNION

A contemporary communion service will be celebrated on Monday, Nov. 19, at the regular chapel hour. This will be a sung service, using a modern-language version of the Methodist Order. Our own illustrious "orchestra" of guitars, tambourines, etc., will accompany the service. Profs. Vieth and Hartley will be the celebrants, and students will assist in the leadership.

CHRISTIANITY AS WATERGATE

In the responses to my articles published in The Seminarian, several of my classmates suggested, no-invited, no-subtly told me that now that I've said my piece I ought to have the decency to shut up, and kiss and make friends again. In their words "it is time to realize and accept, without undue criticism and comment on these differences, and to appreciate them in a positive sense." Wrongo, Gang! You see, we're not talking here about differing styles of ministry, because I will readily admit the virtues of diversity and differing individual talents and skills. What we're dealing with is the basic tenets of authentic Christianity - the teachings of our leader, Jesus Christ. Jesus taught us to work and to sacrifice to improve the lot of the poor, the suffering and the oppressed. Jesus never called Christians into a comfort context. ~~On the contrary, He called on us to relinquish our comfort and security -- to lose ourselves in doing for others.~~ If one studies the life of Jesus, one finds that in every case, in every instance Jesus sided with the poor, the suffering - those who were hated by society. Never did He side with the wealthy (remember the story of Jesus and the rich man) or the comfortable.

I can only construe this latest response to my articles as an example of the Watergate mentality which seems to pervade the American scene today. President Nixon said, in essence, that it is time to forget about Watergate and get on with the business of governing this nation. This sounds quite like my classmates' collective statement which was alluded to earlier. They hope that "this controversy has run its course and we will get down to the business of spending the next three years together" (curiously, Nixon also has three more years to spend with us also, unless he gets his just deserts). Well, I'm sorry to disappoint you, gang, but I'm not going to stand by and allow the scandal which is threatening the church, but it is doubtful - if not impossible - to suppose that He would condone the nationalistic "Christian" church of America which supports a government based on fascism, lies, and violence against the oppressed and suffering in this country and most of the rest of the world which America owns. The majority of the people in this country consider themselves to be Christians, and yet they stand by and allow the government, and the church as it supports the system, to continue to commit atrocities against the poor of this country and the Third World.

Why do I keep harping on these moral issues? You, friends, are the future leaders of the church in this country regardless of the positions you take. You will help to decide the future course of the church as it confronts the world and its people and institutions. Are you going to lead your people in the paths of comfort, happiness, and pseudo-spirituality, damning them under the judgment of authentic Christianity as taught to us by Jesus Christ; or, are you going to become aware and subsequently make others aware of the true situation in America - the decadence and perversity of the nationalistic "Christian" church of America (not God) - and strive to lead people to take action to change the situation? Hundreds of millions of poor and oppressed people are awaiting your decision. But be forewarned! If you make the wrong decision, you must then take responsibility for the consequences of a revolution which in all probability will result in the destruction of this country - materially, physically, and, perhaps, spiritually as well. The choice is yours! Choose this day whom you shall serve - God or Comfort. All power to Jesus Christ to triumph over the mediocrity of the church!

John R. Specht

Editor's Note: Though I may not completely agree with your statements, John, I do agree that something must be done, and we are the ones who should be doing it. May our Lord help us to see and do those things.

THE LEFER

Nothing was alive where he lived. The trees were merely decaying wooden tubes rooted to a sandy earth which rejected their life. Each level of existence was a level of negation. Jagged promontories were everywhere. Yet, there was no shade-no rest. After all, this was still his movement. Motion, however, is not meaning. The sun and moon do doubt. The dead and dying were all around him. There came a time when knowing He was with him did not ease his suffering. His sores were large gaping questions which could no longer be healed by His Son. The caves were filled with the living who insisted that he die. He could have lived, but he learned at an early age that it was neither wise nor good to live in slime among the cave-dwellers. He positioned himself, therefore, atop a high cliff. It was impossible for him to surrender to reality that Truth which no longer sustained him. Helpless and hopeless his sores grew ever larger until he died. No fanfare accompanied his rest. The cave-dwellers thought that he died because of his foolishness. He believed that he died - in one way or another - because of God.

---P. E. Clark

LIBRARY SURVEY

There have been some requests to extend library hours from 9:00 PM to 10:00 PM nightly. If enough people would use the library at those extra hours action will be taken to try to get the hours extended. An alternative or perhaps another answer to the problem of a quiet place to study late at night might be to set up a study room in a room in the HUB where quiet would be respected. If you have any response to either of these ideas, please let me know. Remember--it is your response that gets actions.

---Alice Zimmerman
Bowman 204

NOTES FROM THE HUB COMMITTEE

The HUB has slowly been getting into gear this semester, but it still needs help both physical and mental. The physical aspect includes things like cleaning up the the building, because whether or not you realize it, this is your building, and it will look as good or as bad as you want it to look. The mental aspect includes finding ways to use the building and having ideas for programs in the HUB. It can be as good or as bad as each of you want it to be.

As far as new features, we have just bought new pool balls and some new sticks. There are also new ping pong paddles and a dart board for your enjoyment. This will be available as long as we make sure that the HUB is used by our community and that each of us must help to guard the HUB from vandalism which in the past has caused us to lose many of the other pool balls, a few of the cue sticks and many soda bottles. Every time this happens we have less usable equipment and more expenses which can only be paid for by our profits from the soda and candy machines.

Your help is needed, so please do your part.

---Paul Thompson

HOME-COOKED HARVEST DINNER

"Singles Only"

How long has it been since you've had a delicious, home-cooked dinner (not just meal), lovingly prepared, especially for you? The Farrar's think it's about time you had one. So-----Come!

Sunday, November 11, 1973

Serving--5 to 8 PM

519 West James

Informal--Drop in, drop out as you wish.

BRIDGE, ANYONE?

Bill and Demak Mark are interested in setting up some bridge games. 392-3073

THOMPSON SHOTS????

Last week, if you can remember, this writer asked the question of whether or not "Doc" Englert had on new bowling shoes. The question has been answered and I can report that Doc does have the new shoes, and is in the process of breaking them in.

Peculiar things happened in the world of bowling this past week. This reporter talked with Jack Seville about his Tuesday night bowling, and Jack said that he had a cold and did not bowl but two games. We hope Jack is back next week in good shape. (It seems peculiar that Jack got sick the same day he probably graded a nine-chapter Greek test.)

After viewing the replays of last week's bowling, Coward Hosell called to explain why the Thompson-Jessup reversal in standing took place. Coward explained that Thompson moved into third place ahead of Jessup because Lee didn't receive enough "Thompson Shots." We asked our resident bowling expert, "Thumbs" Wetzel to explain a "Thompson Shot." Wetzel said and I quote, "a Thompson Shot begins with, "...rump end out and up, head down, shoe strings tied together, ball up over the head, ball bounces twice when thrown, and the old cannon puffs up another strike." (A Thompson Shot can be aimed at any pin and still be effective.)

Bowlers of L.T.S. unite!! Let's hear that slogan initiated by Mick "7-10 split" Szilagyi last week, namely, "BEAT THOMPSON!" GO!

Lee Jessup

Note: Let it be resolved that the bowlers of LTS refuse to be known as the "Holy Rollers."

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STAFF FOR THIS ISSUE

Editor: Dennis A. Moritz
Typist: Deni Bechard
Gestetnerer: Don Wetzel
and help from others.

UNDER THE CHEF'S HAT

"KAASSTOKJES"
(Cheese Sticks)

1½ cups grated Gouda cheese
1-¾ sticks butter, softened
1 egg yolk
½ teaspoon salt
1½ teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
3 cups flour

Combine ¾ cup cheese and all the remaining ingredients and mix until well blended. Wrap dough in wax paper and refrigerate for 2 hours. Roll the dough out to a ¼ inch thickness and cut into strips 3 inches long and ¼ inch wide. Coat the sticks with the remaining grated cheese and arrange them on a buttered cookie sheet. Bake in a preheated oven at 400° for 15 minutes. Makes 50-60 sticks.

Barry Lohman

* * * * *

MY GOD

My God
my will
my holy light
be with me
keep me still

Thy rod
Thy staff
that comfort me
bring joy
eternal thrill

My purpose love
to love Thee more
than ever was before
to keep my faith
and make it known
to all whose doubts
implore

Robert S. Morse

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SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

Wednesday, November 14, at 9:30p.m.
in the Chapel.

Gary Marcy - liturgist
Robert Webber - preaching

LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - 149:8

Thursday, November 8, 1973

- * Open to Seminary Community
 - ** Open to General Public
- Numbers in parentheses refer to announcements which follow.

CALENDAR

Monday, November 12

- * 9:10 A.M. - Morning Prayers
Preacher--Mr. Max Nuscher, Pottstown, Pa.
 - 7:30 P.M. - ASW
 - * 9:00 P.M. - Bowling
- Tuesday, November 13

- * 9:10 A.M. - Morning Prayers
- 9:00 - 12:00 - Budget Council Room L 204
- 12:00 - 4:30 P.M. - Sesquicentennial General Committee Room L200
- 4:30 P.M. - Alumni Council L 204
- * 6:30 P.M. - Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 - 8:30 P.M. Senior Colloquy L 204
- * 9:00 P.M. - Bowling

Wednesday, November 14

- 8:00 A.M. - Executive Cabinet
- * 9:10 A.M. - Morning Prayers

Thursday, November 15

- * 9:10 A.M. - Morning Prayers
- 1:30 P.M. - Junior Students meet with Dean Bricker (1)

Friday, November 16

- * 9:10 A.M. - Morning Prayers
- CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS WORKSHOP

DATES AHEAD

November 16 and 17 CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS WORKSHOP

November 20 - Samuel C. Saylor III (2)

1974 - CONVOCATION - January 28-29

(over)

(1) Junior students who are interested in discussing the Parish Training Program will meet with the Dean and former Directors of the program on Thursday, November 15, at 1:30 P.M. in room 103 in the Academic Building. Students who have participated in former PTP program are also invited.

Dean Bricker

Registration for the January Session will be held in the Office of Dean, Wednesday and Thursday, December 14-15.

Dean Bricker

A description of courses to be offered will be placed in all mail boxes by the beginning of next week.

Dean Bricker

All students planning to graduate in May are requested to make an appointment with the Dean before they register for the Spring Term to discuss their fulfillment of the requirements for graduation.

Dean Bricker

(2) Ministers Life and Casualty Union regional secretary, Samuel C. Saylor III, will be in the HUB on Tuesday, November 20 to discuss all phases of insurance, including health insurance, with students of the Seminary.

Lyman Farrar

Basketball will begin week of November 11. Watch bulletin board for notice.

Professor Englert

OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATION

Articles from newspapers on the bulletin board in the Academic Building are needed for filing purposes. If anyone takes clippings down, please place in Mrs. Payne's or Mr. Farrar's mail box. Some are missing from a week or so ago. Thanks!

Lyman G. Farrar

Lancaster Ministerium Meeting on December 10 at 12 noon (bring your own sandwich) at St. John's United Church of Christ, 1921 Wheatland Avenue, Lancaster.

Lyman Farrar

N O W AND/OR H O W ? Plan with imagination!

NOW is the time to redesign the package you're putting together as your professional preparation.

Three years of sitting in classes will not do it (no matter how brilliant they are). Not even if you do all the assigned reading and all the extra reading and understand all mysteries and all knowledge.

Why wait until after graduation to answer and satisfy those nagging vocational questions -- Is this for me? Can I do it? Where are my talents needed? Think about including in your curriculum some other, exciting components.

Like:

a summer or two or three of experimental ministry¹

AND/OR an "involvement year" (after your first year at LTS) working in some specialized ministry to help you discover your strengths and interests²

AND/OR an "intern year" (after two years at LTS) to test your understanding and practice of your vocation³

AND/OR a year in the parish training program instead of your middler year⁴

AND/OR a variety of practical, regular involvement experiences in different ministries as parttime jobs, as a place to supplement, experiment with and apply your Seminary learnings, as another way of getting started now in your life work⁵

AND/OR a month away from campus in January to try your wings someway (where) else⁶

AND/OR transfer to another institution for a part of your experiential and academic preparation

(fill in the blank)

AND/OR _____

HOW?

Don't be satisfied with your present understanding of the available possibilities. Challenge the system. Demand that your peculiar needs be met. Make your collegium (or your adviser or the dean or the president or the director of field education or the director of vocational planning or yourself) function to help you to discover all the options and to plan how best to develop *your* skills and insights for faithful response to *your* call.

¹ I have begun to get requests for next summer. See me. Or, better, be creative.

² See me for suggestions and some ideas about funding.

³ A number of openings have already been announced. See me or Paul Irion.

⁴ Time to find other interested first year people and get planning (a lot of time is needed to invite churches to participate, etc.). See the catalog and Dean Bricker and students who have done it (Karl Jones, John Fureman, Barry Smock, Lew Long) and Profs. Duke, Gable and Payne, who have participated).

⁵ I still have many good openings, some of which pay very well. See me.

⁶ Dean Bricker has compiled a list which he will make available to you for starters.

Allen E. Kroehler
Director of Field Education

November 8, 1973