



"Bits from Bob" for March 24, 2021

St. John United Church of Christ
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This Day in History

- 1609 Henry Hudson embarks to find a passage to Asia
- 1668 The first horse race in America
- 1776 Continental Congress authorizes a medal for George Washington
- 1807 British Parliament abolishes slave trade throughout British Empire
- 1813 Frigate *USS Essex* flies first US flag in battle in the Pacific
- 1863 First US Army Medal of Honor awarded to six army soldiers
- 1882 First demonstration of pancake making held at department store in NYC
- 1898 Intercollegiate Trapshooting Association formed in NYC
- 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist fire kills 146 in New York City
- 1915 First submarine disaster: a US F-4 sinks off Hawaii, killing 21
- 1939 *Billboard Magazine* introduces country music chart
- 1947 Coal mine explosion in Centralia, Illinois kills 111
- 1954 RCA manufactures first color TV set (12½" screen at \$1,000)
- 1958 Sugar Ray Robinson is first boxing champ to win 5 times
- 1960 First guided missile launched from nuclear powered sub (*Halibut*)
- 1965 Martin Luther King Jr leads 25,000 to state capitol in Montgomery, AL
- 1966 US Supreme court rules "poll tax" unconstitutional
- 1970 Concorde makes its first supersonic flight (700 MPH)
- 1982 Wayne Gretzky becomes first NHL to score 200 points in a season
- 1996 US issues newly redesigned \$100 bill
- 2013 Golfer Tiger Woods returns to his world number one ranking
- 2018 First scheduled non-stop flight between Australia and UK
- 2019 NASA cancels historic all-female spacewalk because doesn't have enough spacesuits to fit women

We'll walk through 2021 with devotions written by Joshua Dubois. Dubois writes a regular column for The Daily Beast and teaches at New York University. He also founded Values Partnerships, which advises leaders in government, business, and the nonprofit sector on faith-based partnerships and religion in the public sphere.

"Declared Disciples"

Nevertheless many, even of the authorities, believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they didn't confess it, for fear that they'd be put out of the synagogue; for they loved human glory more than the glory that comes from God. (John 12:42-43)

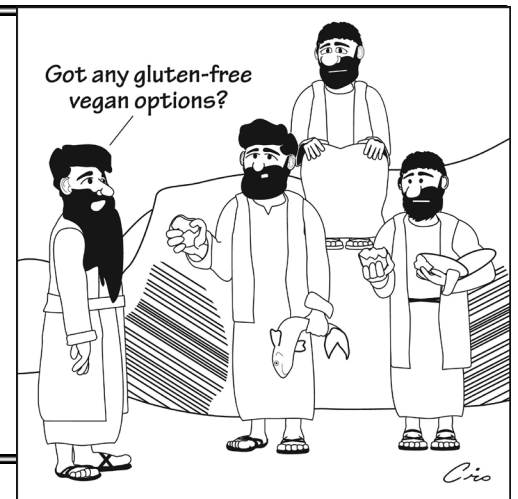
How many disciples might Jesus have had if men and women were bold enough to declare themselves as such? The twelve disciples that have been forever recorded in the pages of history might have been joined by dozens, even hundreds more. Jesus's teachings touched this many, for sure, but there was one problem. Like the "rulers" described in John 12, many of those whom he touched were afraid to say it for fear of ridicule and shame.

Perhaps they received some small private benefit from Jesus's words. But imagine what more God could have done through those rulers if they stepped out in faith and declared, "I am your disciple." Whenever we have the opportunity, today or in the future, let us boldly declare our status as followers of Christ. And let history record that we were not ashamed.

Dear God, let the private love I feel for you find ways to express itself publicly. Present me with an opportunity to let my brothers and sisters know how I feel about you. Amen.

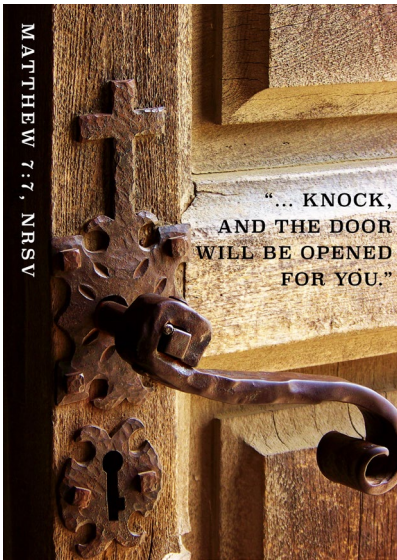
Bad Dad Jokes

- ✓ What's made of leather and sounds like a sneeze? *A shoe*
 - ✓ I am on the moon and there is now where to get a beer. There is no space bar.
 - ✓ How do you make antifreeze? *You take away her blanket.*
 - ✓ Why isn't the 24th of July a holiday? Are we really expected to work 24/7?
 - ✓ Waitress: "How did you find your steak, sir?"
Customer: "I just looked next to the potatoes, and there it was!"
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Today's Links

- ✓ [Here are twenty pictures](#) showing how people in the past imagined the future.
 - ✓ For the first time in a year, since Covid-19 began spreading across the United States forcing Americans to stay home, [retail alcohol sales have fallen](#).
 - ✓ Holi is an ancient Hindu festival that celebrates the triumph of good over evil. [See why one of its nicknames is the "Festival of Colors."](#)
 - ✓ [What do you think?](#) Did a man really find shrimp tails in his *Cinnamon Toast Crunch* cereal?
 - ✓ Kermit the Frog's *The Rainbow Connection* has been honored by the National Recording Registry. [This link](#) will take you to an article that also has its own link to a video of the song.
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- ✓ **Zoom worship is at 9:15 AM each Sunday.** Log in [using this link](#) and meeting ID 815 064 120. You can also dial in at (312) 626 6799 and log in with the meeting ID.
 - ✓ **Maundy Thursday is next week, April 1, and Good Friday is next Friday, April 2. Both services will be on Zoom:** [follow this link](#) and join us using meeting ID 817 6838 2706. Easter is April 4. We'll have our 6:30 AM outdoor sunrise service at the old village cemetery, and a 9 AM outdoor Easter service on the south parking lot.
 - ✓ **The next Bible study session will be April 7 at 7 PM and cover Acts 22 and 23.** Follow [this link](#) and log in with meeting ID 846 9061 3289.
 - ✓ **The 9:15 AM contemporary worship service will be back the Sunday after Easter, April 11.** We'll "play it by ear" and see how things go, with special thanks to those members of "Common Lot" who are comfortable coming back at this point.
 - ✓ **Sunday School classes will also resume on April 11.** The post-confirmation and confirmation classes have been meeting for a few weeks, and the Board of Christian Education decided to move to the next step. I know they still need helpers and teachers for some of the slots in the weekly rotation model we use. Contact DCE Susan Juenger at dcesusan@att.net for more information or to volunteer.
 - ✓ **The SAKS for CESNA shop wil reopen April 10.** Volunteers needed to help run the shop on St. John's next Saturday to work, May 1. Contact the church office if you'd like to help (475-2947, stjucckdesknaill@att.net).



Today's Prayer Concerns

✓ Please pray for all battling COVID and for the healthcare professionals fighting the virus on the frontlines. Please also hold in prayer all mourning the deaths of loved ones, especially the families of **J.D. Patton, Denny Karban, and Betty Fulte.**

✓ Please pray for all those struggling with cancer: **Harvey Van Buren**, battling bone cancer, Mary Shoup's brother-in-law, **Dave Gaab**, diagnosed with Stage 4 kidney cancer, Evonne Albert's mother, **Louise Bluff**, fighting breast cancer, **Roger Grefe**, receiving treatment for skin cancer, and my cousin **David Mehrrens**. We received word in the church office that **Bob Junge** has lung cancer and is getting chemo and radiation at this time. Please hold him in prayer, too.

- ✓ **Sandy Cummins** received a new liver at Barnes. The surgery went well, and Sandy is now recovering.
- ✓ Jessica Kearns asks that we continue to pray for **Ron Mason**, a coworker's husband. He's out of ICU, recovering from a burst blood vessel in his brain, and beginning a long recovery .
- ✓ Laura Wildermuth asks that we pray for her cousin **Stewart Johnson**, in ICU with health complications caused by an aneurysm in his carotid artery.
- ✓ **Sue Kosarek** is home, but needs prayers for recovery and strength.
- ✓ Kim Hughes asks our prayers for her niece **Sabrina**, facing surgery for degenerative back disease.
- ✓ **Tom Kohmen** is scheduled for a kidney transplant!! Please pray for him and all involved in his April 13 surgery, as well as for quick return to health.
- ✓ Let's keep praying for **Matt Liefer**, who is on a heart transplant waiting list.
- ✓ Please continue to pray for **Kim Juenger**, who is home but contending with several health issues.
- ✓ Donna Reuss asks our prayers for her cousin, **Angie Van Buren**, who is still hospitalized.
- ✓ Please pray for the **residents, staff, and administrators at all nursing homes**, especially those at the New Athens Home for the Aged, as well as at the Freeburg Care Center and Cedar Trails. **We rejoice with the families and friends** who are resuming in person visits this week in New Athens!
- ✓ Pray, too, for the safety of **the teachers, administrators, and students at area schools**, as well as at our own **New Beginnings Daycare**.
- ✓ Here are the folks on this week's congregational prayer calendar: Mary Thomas, Rose and Tim Thomas, Jill and Ed Toedte, Dylan, Alayna, and Drake, Phyllis and Ed Toedte, Julie and Dave Trout, Ashley Trout, Wilda Utz, Peggy Vayette, Janet and Paul Voegtler, and Cynthia and David Vogler.

