

Never Lick a Moving Blender! Humorous Insights That Motivate and Encourage by Marvin Phillips, Howard Books, Brentwood, TN, 1996. (13 Quotes selected by Doug Nichols)

1. Others Should Not Affect Your Peace and Harmony

Grudges always hurt the “grudger” more than the “grudgee.” Our attempts at revenge hurt us more than they help. You stay away from the family reunion because someone will be there who has done you wrong. You quit church because someone hurt you or because you didn’t agree with some decision that was made.

Never give anyone the power to affect the peace and harmony of your life. Staying away from that reunion can affect scores of people. Damage may be done for years to come.

Quitting the church because of something someone else did is a lot like getting mad at the dog and kicking the cat. The church belongs to Jesus. He died for it. He bought it with his blood. Don’t let anyone affect your response to the amazing grace of the cross. [Page 5]

2. Life without Giving

Some attempt another impossible task – they try to live without giving. Someone has said there are three philosophies about your possessions:

What’s mine is mine and you can’t have it!

What’s yours is mine if I can get it!

What’s mine is yours if you need it! [Page 7]

3. Keeping Positive

Someone said if you want to keep a positive attitude, you’ve got to stay away from the psychotics and the neurotics. There’s a difference. The psychotic believes two and two are five. And if you hang around him long enough, I warn you, you’ll end up believing two and two are five. But they don’t affect you as much as the neurotic. He knows two and two are four...but it worries him. [Page 14]

4. Don’t Share Your Problems

Someone said, “Don’t tell other people your problems. Eighty percent don’t care, and the other 20 percent are kind of glad it happened to you.” [Page 14]

5. Wanting to Be Someone Else

You know, we're always wanting to be someone else. Boy, oh boy, if I was only Kevin Kostner. By the way, ladies, do you know what frustration is? It's when your husband and Kevin Kostner fight over you, and your husband wins! [Page 22]

6. Let Others Know Your Love for Them

Let your spouse and kids know how much you love them. Expand your love to your relatives and close friends. Use those precious, golden words, "I love you," often and sincerely.

Get in the world's hugging line. Give and receive at least twelve hugs a day. You need at least four to survive, four more for maintenance, and four more for growth. Give hugs generously. Receive them gratefully. [Page 33]

7. Earthly Discomforts Don't Change the Important

What's the worst scenario you can paint? Is your marriage gone? Have you just been diagnosed with terminal cancer? Kids on drugs? Fired from your job? In the middle of a terrible lawsuit? It's still all "compared to what?"

God is still in heaven. He's still dealing in forgiveness, second chances, and mercy. There is no sin that the blood of Jesus cannot cleanse. The Bible promises that "all things work together for good to them that love God" (Romans 8:28 KJV). God's family (the church) is still there. It's still an oasis in this desert of sorrow and sin. None of these temporary, earthly discomforts can change what's really important. [Page 40]

8. When Things Have You

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:19-21)

America has lots of baubles and bangles. In pagan lands they bow to gods on totem poles and worship all kinds of statues, idols, and images. Americans wouldn't do that, would we? No, we'd just take on second jobs, live beyond our means, and sacrifice all peace and serenity just to possess a few more idols or status symbols or trucks.

Someone said, “It’s great when you have things, but when *things* have you, it’s bad.”
[Page 41]

9. Adding Up What You Have

The world’s longest field goal (sixty-three yards) was kicked twenty-five years ago. It was the New Orleans Saints versus the Detroit Lions. The Saints were down 17-16. Billy Kilmer passed to the forty-yard line and called time out with two seconds left on the clock. They called Tom Dempsey onto the field, and the rest is history. The gun went off, ending the game, as the ball was in the air. It was good. The Saints won the game 19-17.

But the real story is that Tom Dempsey had one deformed hand and no toes on his kicking foot. In the after game interview reporters asked, “How does a handicapped guy kick a ball that far and that accurately?”

His reply? “I don’t look on myself as handicapped. You can’t worry about what you don’t have. You’ve got to add up what you do have. You’ve got to bloom where you’re planted!” [Page 47]

10. Pick Friends Carefully

Many people are busy copying others’ flops just to prove they are orthodox. The rules for success are identifiable and learnable, and they are the same in any field. So study successes in business, marriage, relationships, morality, and spirituality.

Pick your friends carefully. You say, “My parents are always on me about my friends.” Good! The Bible says, “Bad company corrupts good character” (1 Corinthians 15:33). You can’t run with goats without smelling like them. And you can’t fly with eagles if you hang around a bunch of turkeys. [Page 48]

11. Not Needing to Deal with Every Issue

We need to learn that we don’t need to answer to every question or deal with every issue. It’s not necessary to respond to everything you disagree with. It’s easy to get led into fussing and fighting, which results in stress, anguish, and hurt feelings. [Page 53]

12. Don’t Hurt Others

Don’t cause tears by your thoughtless words and actions. We have no right to hurt others. I used to tell bald jokes and fat jokes. There’s a lot of “good” material about bald

and fat people. When I told those jokes, people would laugh, and that encouraged me to tell them again another time. Then someone gave me a definition of *funny* that changed a lot of my material: “Unless *everyone* is laughing, it’s not funny.” You see, if someone in your audience is offended by humor at their expense, it’s not funny! [Page 114]

13. Integrity Values Right Above Reward

A person of integrity values right above reward. James Garfield was the twentieth president of the United States. He was assassinated in 1881. It is lesser known that he was an elder in his church and a Sunday school teacher. During his presidency a crisis arose and an emergency cabinet meeting was called for the following Sunday morning.

The president respectfully declined to attend the meeting, saying that he had a previous appointment that took precedence over this one. The crisis passed. The nation survived.

The president was later asked, “Just what kind of appointment was more important than that cabinet meeting?”

Mr. Garfield replied, “That appointment, Sir, was with my Lord. I have faithfully attended worship every Sunday, and I intend to do so the rest of my life.” [Page 154-155]