

Playing Marbles with Diamonds by Vance Havner, Baker House Publishing, Grand Rapids: 1985 (8 Quotes selected by Doug Nichols)

1. Jesus Demands a Lot

"You don't have to be included in 'Who's Who' to know what's what."

"I'm not trying to build a fan club or make a reputation/or myself. I make my messages hard. God means business and we that preach should also. The gospel isn't cheap. It cost God his Son and the Son His life, and it'll cost us everything to follow Him. Jesus demands a lot from us, but He has a right to." [p. 9]

2. God Chooses the Man for Revival

"Preachers can't stir up revival on earth; revival has to fall like fire from heaven. The man that God uses to stir revival fires - may not be from the same fabric that seminaries turn out these days. He may be a man uncultured and uneducated by the world's standards. It'd be refreshing to see a man with a well-worn Bible from the backwoods who has spent time with God." [p. 10]

3. Afflicting the Comfortable

"My ministry is to comfort the afflicted and to afflict the comfortable." [p. 12]

4. The Gospel is Not Entertainment

"A young woman in Vienna visiting the place where Beethoven's piano was on display had the audacity to sit down and play some rock-and-roll music on that rare instrument. The old caretaker remarked that Paderewski had once visited that spot. When the teenage tourist asked what he had played the old custodian replied, 'Nothing. He felt unworthy to play Beethoven's piano.'"

". . . salvation is the costliest item on earth. It cost our Lord everything to provide it and it costs us everything to possess it." "The natural man cannot receive spiritual truth and it is not only stupid but sinful to get folksy with Sodom and Gomorrah to make our message acceptable. The whole sickening business is the clever strategy of Satan to debase the holy into the profane. The gospel was never meant for entertainment nor was the church ever intended to play the accompaniment to the music of this world." [p. 16]

5. Today's Cross Is Different

"... the church has devised a new cross today: an ornament to wear around the neck, a commonplace symbol twisted out of context, a charm, oa holy horseshoe. Such an

ornament does not interfere with godless living, never goes against the grain of our old nature." [p. 23]

6. Rearranging Our Priorities

"Life is a matter of priorities. The quality of our living is determined by those things to which we give first place. With too many of us, the first has become last and the last first and our biggest business is to rearrange our priorities." [p. 29]

7. Double-Mindedness

"My kingdom is no place for a man with his face pointed one way and his feet the other. I am not taking people to heaven backwards." [p. 30]

8. All to Him We Owe

"Christ deserves to be first and He demands it. He is not standing, hat in hand, like a bargain on an auction block waiting for some sinner to 'accept' Him. Actually, the word is not 'accept' but rather 'receive, believe, trust, come, commit, follow.'" The real issue is, will He accept us? Indeed He will for He said, 'Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.' But while salvation is free it is not cheap. It cost God His Son and the Son His life. Jesus paid it all but all to Him we owe." [p. 34]

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