

WHEN YOUR PREACHER LEAVES: SERVICES FOR CHURCHES BETWEEN MINISTERS

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PROCESSING ANGER

by Jerrie Barber



I think I process my anger when I think about it and put the different pieces in the right places. I need to have the appropriate amount of anger at the right people, expressed at the right time in the right amounts. To do that, I need to think and be honest. Anger is a secondary emotion. There is something that precedes anger (Mark 3:5). Often people can hear my grief easier than they can deal with my anger.



Who prompted my anger? If I am irritated with the elders, then I don't need to take it out on my wife or children. If a member of the congregation hurt me, I may not need to preach a sermon and hope they get it. It would be better to talk to them when I am ready.

Even if I am planning drastic action, I need to think about it and plan it-not "fly off the handle." In John 2, Jesus made his whip to drive out the moneychangers. He thought about what He was going to do and did it deliberately.

Do I need to do anything? When someone cuts me off in traffic, I may get angry instantly and think to myself or say to someone in the car with me, "Why would anyone do something like that?!!!!!!!" After thinking for a few seconds I may reflect: Probably for the same reason I did a similar thing yesterday. I don't have to chase the person down, get their tag number and demand that they be arrested or get into road rage and take vengeance myself.

If I have much anger built up for a long time, I need to be sure I am not delivering the entire load on the last person who crossed me.

There is value in Psalm 4:4: “Be angry, and do not sin. Meditate within your heart on your bed and be still.”

When I think of processing my feelings, I think of a computer. It has a processor that takes the 1’s and 0’s in computer language and puts them in usable form and files them in appropriate places in order that I may access them and use them profitably in the future. I also like to make multiple backups so I don’t waste valuable time, thinking, work, and experience. When I can’t find something I need on my newer computer, I can go to my backup files and access everything I have done on a computer in the last several years. It has been processed, saved, and preserved for my use. I don’t have to do the same things over when I process what I have done.

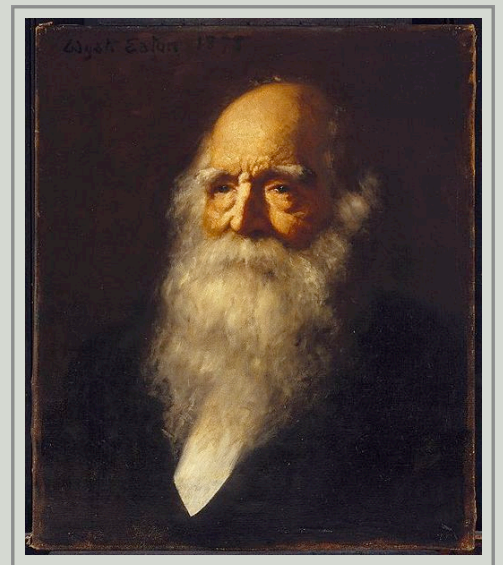
I may process my anger and realize that I have sinned while angry (Ephesians 4:26). If that is true, I need to repent and ask forgiveness.

LITERARY WORKS FOR CHURCH LEADERS

John Parker

From William Cullen Bryant's *Thanatopsis*

So live, that when thy summons comes to join
The innumerable caravan which moves
To that mysterious realm, where each shall take 75
His chamber in the silent halls of death,
Thou go not, like the quarry-slave at night,
Scourged to his dungeon, but, sustained and soothed
By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch 80
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams.



SMILE OF THE MONTH



I was on a flight from Washington, D.C., to San Francisco. In a seat ahead of me was an off-duty senior airline captain. After an unusually rough landing, I overheard another passenger asking the off-duty captain to critique our pilot's skills.

"A good landing is one that you can walk away from," he said. Then he added, "And a great landing is one where you can reuse the plane" (Robert G. Hahn, in *Reader's Digest*, June 1999, page 121).

MUSTARD SEEDS FROM FAVORITE BOOKS

[*What Are You Going to Do with Your Life? Unpublished Writings and Diaries*, by Edwin H. Friedman, Copyright © 2009 by Edwin H. Friedman](#)

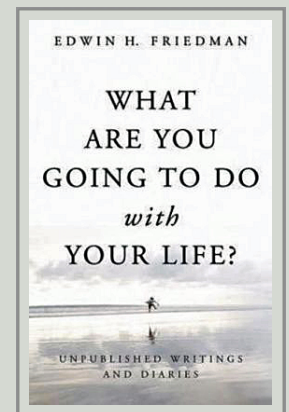
Einstein's refusal to rely only on what appeared to be true, or common sense, or what society believes, or what the previous generation taught as if it were divine wisdom, correct for all time, carried over from his mathematical ponderings to his attitude toward life in general. In a letter he wrote to a schoolgirl, he freely admitted that many teachers did not take kindly to him. He himself had trouble in school! He was too independent. He was certainly no model student, he said, and they were always passing over him when they wanted assistants (Kindle Locations 263-266).

In our own personal lives also, therefore, we must not expect the joy of discovery to come without the pain of exploration, the tedium of experiment, the frustration of human limitations, the conditioning of experience.

But the choice is not pain or joy; it is both, or else it is impassivity. As with Columbus, it is a choice of living forever in a world that is old or trying to discover one that is new (Kindle Locations 650-653).

The number of divorces that occur after early military retirement is quite high. The general rule would seem to be this: where the marriage was balanced by mother being intensely involved in the children, and the father with the service (which becomes a sort of extended family), his retirement often unbalances the relationship, particularly if he now tries to reenter the family and finds himself excluded, or seeks a replacement in the form of an extramarital relationship. This phenomenon is not limited to the military and can occur with any profession that involves the husband deeply in his work relationship system (lawyers, clergy, etc.) (Kindle Location 1042).

Another major family ramification of retirement is the onset of senile processes. If experience with my mother and aunt have more universal application, the following rule may be true: if around the time any older



person begins to reduce their functioning significantly (throughout retirement or illness), there is available an over-functioning, anxious family member who at that moment has no outlet for his or her energy, the likely outcome is senility for the former (Kindle Location 1055).

Barber Clippings

The search team has turned over the names of recommended men to the elders. They will be interviewing them and inviting them to visit with the congregation.

I am nearing the time to preach my "How to Treat Your Next Preacher sermon. Please send your suggestions to me. If you were going to the the next preacher at LaVergne, what would you like me to suggest that would make your time here better?

Please send to: jerrie@barberclippings.com .

— Jerrie Barber

John Parker

Jill and I are happy to announce the birth of our first grandchild, Ian Benjamin Parker, born to our son Robert and his wife Bria February 14. We look forward to seeing them all this week at their home in Alexandria, Virginia.

School is going well as the weather turns and we all leave for spring break next week.

I look forward to speaking at the East Cullman church in Alabama the first Sunday in April.

— John Parker



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