

February 2001

### **The Meyer Minute for February 2, 2001**

**Keyword: Syncretism**

**Happy Imbolc! Some Americans, claiming to be witches, today are celebrating a festival called Imbolc. Ann Moura writes, Whether you celebrate Imbolc, Saint Brigid's Day, Candlemas (The remembrance of the Virgin Mary's purification and the presentation of the Christ-child in the Temple), Groundhog's Day, or any of the other holidays of February, the themes are the same-the wheel of the year is passing, and the light of fertile spring draws near."**

**"The themes are the same." We call that "syncretism." YOU have your faith; I have mine. All paths lead to God. Jesus, however, is not politically correct. Uncompromising, He says, "No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6)**

**Yesterday at the National Prayer Breakfast the President said, "We have an obligation to make our case and not to demonize our opponents."**

**Spirit of Jesus, without demonizing the syncretists, convince us that it is better to be politically incorrect than to deny You. Amen.**

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### **The Meyer Minute for February 5, 2001**

**Keyword: Our Father**

**"What would really satisfy us would be a God who said of anything we happened to like doing, 'What does it matter so long as they are contented?' We want, in fact, not so much a Father in Heaven as a grandfather in heaven - a senile benevolence who, as they say, 'liked to see young people enjoying themselves,' and whose plan for the universe was simply that it might be truly said at the end of each day, 'a good time was had by all'" (C. S. Lewis, "The Problem of Pain," p. 40).**

**"We have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness" (Hebrews 12:9-10).**

God, help us to remember what it means when we come to You as "Our Father."  
Amen.

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## **The Meyer Minute for February 7, 2001**

**Keyword: ME!**

Back when I was a parish pastor, I'd meet with each bridal couple and ask, "Why do you want to get married?" Their answers were predictable. "Because she's so good for me." "Because he makes me feel important." Their answers were all about ME.

Obviously I don't know what went on with Nicole Kidman and Tom Cruise, but I'm quite confident the ME factor contributed to their split. That's what the ME factor does; it splits relationships. It's been that way ever since the first couple, Adam and Eve, chose ME over the great You, who is God.

I've often asked, "Diane, can I help you?" Sometimes she'll shoot back, "If you really cared, you wouldn't have to ask!" Tough woman, attacking ME! But she's right. It's best for us when we take time with each other to know each other's soul. After 27 years of marriage, I know that YOU is more important than ME.

Jesus, source of constant love, Jesus, source of selfless love, teach us how to love each other. Amen.

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## **The Meyer Minute for February 9, 2001**

**Keyword: Call Home!**

An older woman went to the funeral director. "I'd like to prearrange my funeral," she said. "We can do that," the director answered.

"I'd like to be cremated," she said. "No problem," was the reply.

"I'd like my ashes spread around the entrance of Wal-Mart." "OK," said the surprised funeral director. "But may I ask why?"

"That way I know that my children will finally come to visit me."

At the start of this weekend, resolve to visit your mom or dad if they live close. If they live away, call. And if relations have been strained, make a move this weekend toward reconciliation. "People who don't love other believers whom they have seen, can't love God whom they have not seen." (1 John 4:20)

**Jesus, forgive our past sins toward our parents and help us show them love. Amen.**

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### **The Meyer Minute for February 12, 2001**

**I'm writing to you from Florida...tough work, but someone has to do it! Today is Abraham Lincoln's birthday. At his second inaugural, he said this about the North and the South. "Both read the same Bible, and pray to the same God; and each invokes His aid against the other...The prayers of both could not be answered; that of neither has been answered fully. The Almighty has His own purposes. 'Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!'"**

**Lincoln reminds us that furthering our own purposes can thwart God's righteousness from coming to others. Woe to us if you and I should do that today!**

**That's why we should never glibly pray, "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." "On earth" means you and it means me, doing today what is right in the sight of God and for His righteous purposes in the lives of others.**

**Almighty Father, You have Your purposes. To do them can be tough work, but that is what you've called us to do. Amen.**

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### **The Meyer Minute for February 14, 2001**

**Keyword: Love**

**What other word would you expect on Valentine's Day? But tell the truth, isn't Valentine's Day really a manufactured holiday?**

**Today may leave you bitter, if you don't have a romantic interest in your life.**

**Today may leave you broke, if you imagine that a big purchase will prove your love.**

**And this manufactured holiday will leave you full of disappointment when the expectations of the "perfect" romantic evening fail.**

**So, act on what you know. Real love isn't industry created, nor is it confined to a solitary day. Christians are able to experience the most powerful love of all, God's Love, 365 days a year!**

**"I am giving a new commandment to you now-Love each other just as much as I love you! Your strong love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." (John 13:34-35)**

**"Love in Christ is strong and living, binding faithful hearts in one;  
Love in Christ is strong and giving, May His will in us be done!" Amen.**

**P.S. This minute was written by my daughter. Thanks, Katie**

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## **The Meyer Minute for February 16, 2001**

**Keyword: Weekend Priority**

**Richard Baxter, a 17th Century Puritan, imagined the following words of regret spoken by someone who didn't make it to heaven.**

**"How many weeks and months and years did I lose, which if I had improved, I might now have been happy! Could I find no time to study the work for which I had all my time? No time, among all my labors, to labor for eternity? Had I time to eat and drink and sleep and none to save my soul? Had I time for mirth and vain discourse and none for prayer? Could I take time to secure the world and none to try my title to heaven?"**

**So, what are your priorities for this weekend?**

**"Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" (Matthew 6:33).**

**God, as You give me time may Your Spirit lead me to use my time this weekend to "labor for eternity." In the Savior's name I pray. Amen.**

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## **The Meyer Minute for February 19, 2001**

**Keyword: Revenge**

**With whom do you want to get even? A co-worker? A neighbor? Your ex? Go get 'em! After all, doesn't the Bible say, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth?" (Exodus 2:21-24)**

**Pastor Michael Walther pointed something out that had escaped me. That verse was addressed to the judges of ancient Israel, not to the common people. Here's what the Old Testament said to common citizens. "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself". (Leviticus 20:18)**

**Hmmm...That puts a different light on our natural desire to get even.**

**Something more. God hasn't gotten even with us sinners for the mess we've made of life in this world. He sent us a Savior. Jesus says, "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." (Luke6:27)**

**Spirit of Jesus, help me dump my desire for revenge. Amen.**

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## **The Meyer Minute for February 21, 2001**

**Keyword: Truth**

**"Much emphasis these days," said Judge Clarence Thomas last week, "is placed on who has the quickest tongue, and who looks best on television. There seems to be an obsession with how one looks to others; hence, a proliferation of public relations professionals and spin doctors...But this is madness. No car has ever crashed into a mirage. No imaginary army has ever invaded a country."**

**What the judge calls "madness" threatens the church too. Sin, hell, doctrine, anti-abortion, immorality, only one way to heaven..."Shhh," some say, sacrificing Biblical truth to spin.**

**"If anyone is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His Father's glory with the holy angels". (Mark 8:38)**

**Jesus, thank You for not letting the PR department write the Bible! Make us Your army of truth to this mad world. Amen.**

## **The Meyer Minute for February 23, 2001**

**Keyword: Grace**

**A young couple has invited me to talk with them this evening about their troubled marriage. Good for them! Asking for help is a hard thing to do, in marriage and in many other areas of life. It's hard to ask for a loan. It's hard to admit failure in a job. It's hard to own up to an addiction and seek help. It's hard to get older and not be self-sufficient.**

**Follow this line of reasoning farther and you begin to understand why the Bible's teaching about grace is so difficult. It's hard to face up to the fact that we're having trouble making it on our own in this life and it's hard to admit that we'll never see heaven without help. Some people give grace lip service but they really don't think they need help. How about you?**

**Lord, bless the young couple I'll meet this evening. Lead us all to acknowledge our need for Your grace in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **The Meyer Minute for February 26, 2001**

**Keyword: Blessed**

**"A Firestorm over Stay-at-Home Moms" was the title of a column in yesterday's "Wall Street Journal Sunday." It was filled with some scathing shots between stay-t-home and working moms.**

**I sensed guilt running through many of the comments, although that word was never used. Stay-at-home moms feel guilty because they're not using their college training in a profession, not to mention some anger at covering for their working mom friends. Working moms feel guilty for not spending more time with their children and not being more available for taxi service, school clubs, etc.**

**Jesus doesn't remove the work/home dilemma, but He does bless it. He forgives you when you don't get the balance right. In the Bible He gives you grace, strength, to do the best in whatever situation you're in. And He offers you this peace: do your best and commend it all to God. Yes, He'll bless your situation!**

**Spirit of Jesus, bless all our families. Amen.**

## **The Meyer Minute for February 28, 2001**

**Keyword: Lent**

**"I heard a story once of a husband and wife hopelessly lost in a cave," wrote Barbara Hurd in "The Yale Review." "After days had passed and they had given up hope of rescue, hey began to confide in each other as they had never done. They revealed extramarital affairs, the disdain each felt for the other's naivete...On and on they went, unwrapping secrets, lifting layers off their life together..."**

**"Of course, they were rescued. Hauled out of the labyrinth and returned to their kitchen, where they could no longer stand the sight of each other. Knowing more than they could bear, they divorced, went their separate ways."**

**Let Lent be your time in the cave with God. Tell Him all your secrets. When you come out, He won't divorce you. Nothing "will separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:39)**

**Lord Jesus, bless my Lenten time with You. Amen.**