

Audio sermons: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/caboose-ministriesaudiopodcast/id506049887mt=2>

YouTube Channel for Time Machine Dramas & Sermons: "Michael Robert Guertin"

***NOTE: Via Dolorosa signups via <https://www.immanuelchurch.us/via-dolorosa> website have begun! See attached flyer for details!**

Via is 7 weeks away but there are already 500+ signups! Don't wait!

March 2019

"TIME IS ON MY SIDE?"



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Dear **Friends & Family**,

[2/4] I returned home from **Tel Hai Camp** yesterday. I had a youth retreat with a group I had never been with before. They, not knowing me re: "what" I do & "how" I do it, had initially allocated to me 20-40 minutes for my "talk". When I first saw this, months before the retreat, my heart sank. Why? It has been my custom for many years in my traveling itinerant work to request from my hosts an hour if there was any way they could give that much time to me. I always feel horrible making such a request! To someone who doesn't know me, it must look incredibly presumptuous & arrogant! 😞 And yet, in a very real way, my presentation of the Word of God is not just a "sermon", but a "production" if you will. It is accompanied by many visuals [& at times, drama] with continual background music. It is very fast-moving as well. My host I'm sure was a bit taken aback by my request, & understandably so.

"SERMON EXCHANGE"



After the initial shock I'm sure my hosts had re: my request, I was amazingly surprised that they granted my request for a more extended time than they originally offered! And this happened despite the fact that the host was very organized, structured, & had conducted the retreat basically the exact same way for the previous 14 years! Upon my extended time request, their leadership team met & prayed. They asked the Lord to help them be flexible, to be changeable, & to be open to doing things a different way. Wow! [btw-I was praying the same on my end! And to be honest it was very hard, as I love doing what I do how the Lord graces & gifts me to do it! My only ache is to inculcate as much Scripture & systematic theology into my audiences as I can in the time allowed in the hopes by doing so they will adore the Lord like I do when I study & meditate upon such things! I told the Lord, "Lord? I only want to give them as much of You as I can. I'm not going to be talking about me, Lord."]. By the hosts graciously doing this for me, they preached a sermon to me several weeks before I even met or started preaching to them. THEY were a sermon & living object lesson to me! I shall never forget it & definitely took it to heart for myself.

"BOMBS AWAY!(?)"



Since 1997 I have been teaching re: **Judgment Day** to both old & very young. Why? It is one of the most powerful & life-changing doctrines of the Bible. Few things have affected my daily living more. As this group continued to get to know me as the weekend progressed, all the while I was dropping “bombs” on them-this is how a dear friend of mine, a.k.a., Rob Klein, described my ministry a couple of years ago when I preached at his church. He said my preaching was like dropping scriptural & theological bombs of truth on people-bombs that break up mindsets of indifference & religiosity. Well, these teens were getting an air raid. [Years ago, after speaking at a breakfast, a woman came up to me & said, “You teach college-level-with toys.”] They sat there, however, listening attentively & some intensely. [For the drama out of my Time Machine I had a young man assist me who was a former camper years ago. It is one of the deepest joys of my life having little boys who were in kids church or camp with me in “days gone by” now by my side serving the Lord in ministry. This particular promising young man was **Ben Hoyt**.]



Near the end of the Judgment Day message I cover what the “Day” will mean for Christians. It will be a day of intense scrutiny by our Lord of our works & service we rendered Him while on Earth. “The fire will reveal it”, as Paul told the Corinthians. Though in this context Paul is discussing ministers’ works, one scholar said it surely applies to the saints’ works of service to the Lord in general, an opinion with which I concur. Every time I give this message, I confess to my audience that so many of my works of service to the Lord that people compliment me for

will actually be burned up on that Great Day as they were done with impure, selfish motives. I especially see this after ministering when I go back before the Lord & expose myself to His Word & Holy Spirit's refining fire. Yes-this often dismays me but it also drives me to His feet to be even more purified in word, thought, & deed. Another dear friend & "little brother" of mine, a.k.a., "Matty" Jordan, whom I've gone to many times over the years to confess my sins, faults, & weaknesses-to bring out my various & numerous struggles into the light by confessing them to a trusted brother-told me a few years ago, "Ministry is a mixed bag". I know what he meant. Ministers handle & are exposed to God's "holy things" on a consistent basis. It is the highest calling God ever gave a man-but also *the most dangerous*. Hence, preachers deal with The Refiner's fire much-with others & within themselves. We preachers carry these glorious things, but in doing so we also carry them in "earthen vessels"-steeped in weakness. **"THE LAST STRAW"** For these works that are done "for the Lord" but are from impure motives, I hold up a bag of straw, along with some pieces of coal. These represent works that will not stand the test on that Great Day & will be burned up-not receiving a reward. On the other hand, works that our Lord does through us by His grace & Spirit, are likened unto gold & precious stones, both of which I have object lessons for. I hold these up & tell the audience the wonderful "secret" re: this-on Judgment Day: our Lord will reward us for the works *He* does through us! Via the fruits of His Spirit. Via Jesus' life-juice & power that flows through us when we cling to & abide in Him, the True Vine-cling to Him Whom apart from we can do nothing.

"A LIVING, BREATHING, WALKING 'PRECIOUS STONE'"



After the message, one of the older teen guys came up to me, very slowly, tenderly, sheepishly. He said to me, "Thank you for the message. I am one of your precious stones." What he meant by that was that via what the Lord had done to him via the message, *he himself* was one of the rewards, symbolized by precious stones, that our Lord would give me on that Day of Days. Wow. In my 30+ years of preaching to children & youth [& adults], I've never had someone say that to me before. Again, as with the "sermon" I received from this youth group's leadership team above, I shall never forget it. **"SPEAKING OF JUDGMENT"** I often have missed God through the years judging by appearance. I did it again at this youth retreat. One of the older guys had a somewhat "rough" appearance. He'd wear a ski-cap during the meetings-some-thing which speaks to me of irreverence & disrespect [my 1st mistake]. He also was in "the back row" [not necessarily indicative of an issue but I truly believe sitting in the back row,

even with folks at church, can say a lot re: where they are at spiritually-& sometimes where they are at in their hearts with the pastor/preacher! But again-*not always*.]. He also had a “shiner” under one of his eyes. 😊 However! He too, came up to me after the meeting & said to me, “You’re a great teacher.” Wow. Was I dumbfounded again-& found myself eating yet another piece of “humble pie”! It meant more to me than I can convey. Do you see the “mixed bag” again, Beloved, that happens so very much in gospel ministry? I’m ashamed-but once again I’ve learned my lesson.

“TAUGHT BY A TEEN-CORRECTED BY A KID”



Speaking of preaching, I have had a habit in my preaching that I absolutely hate but can’t seem to stop doing. When I have been severely impacted by a truth from God’s Word & convey that same truth to God’s people, what I feel is so strong in conviction re: this said truth, that I instinctively hold up my hand to my ear & lean toward the audience & open my mouth wide & raise my eyes. I do not do this to be funny. I want soooooo very much to make sure my audience heard & understood what I just said. Back in 2000 a fellow preacher at a camp I was serving at mentioned to the teens when he was preaching, but not in a critical way. In fact, he kind of apologized that *he* didn’t do stuff like that! I’m so glad he didn’t. That way only one of us has to be embarrassed! 😞 Well, another of the teens at this retreat came up to me in the dining hall & very gently & sweetly said, basically, that my doing this gesture during my preaching? That it was distracting & “drove him...”! He tried to say “crazy” but I think he was trying to be as respectful as he could. I thanked him & told him that I am truly trying to stop this bad preaching habit. During the next two sessions I caught myself a number of times, even slapping my hand at times when I did it. I shared with the group what this young man had shared with me & thanked & publicly honored him for it. 😊

“Sunday, March 31, 1974 @ 12 Noon-45 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH”



There was a young man, sixteen years of age, who, along with his parents & three younger sisters, moved from a nice five-bedroom house in suburban South Jersey to the basement of a liquor store in the mountains of southeastern Missouri! He was following his father, who had made a major career change in his middle-aged years. About two years went by. The young man was eighteen now & a senior in high school. He decided to attend a retreat for junior & senior high school boys that his Catholic diocese was hosting in a small town nearby at an Ursuline Academy, where retired nuns lived. He went just to do something different. He hung out with some guys who smoked pot & who may have done so at the retreat, but this young man was too afraid to do it there. He “eyed out” the girls who served the food in the cafeteria, & pretty much just followed the crowd & the scheduled order of activities. On Sunday morning of that weekend, the group had a prayer meeting around the altar, where an older man who was a chaperone stood in center. The man wept as he asked for prayer for a certain burden he was carrying. The young men around him all held hands & prayed. As they did, this young man felt what seemed like an “electric current” flowing through his hands & arms. He looked up out of one eye to see if anyone else might be experiencing the same sensation.



[The young man is 3rd row up from bottom-2nd one in from the right]

When the meeting was over, the young man felt as though that man's request was answered. The young man also felt as if it were the first time in his life that he really thought someone's prayer *was* answered! As the men left the chapel to go to lunch, the young man was the last one in line. When he got to the side exit of the chapel, "something" stopped him. He watched the rest of the guys walk down the long hall that led to the cafeteria. He turned around, went back into the center aisle of the chapel. He stared up at the life-sized crucifix hanging there, & began to weep profusely. He never said a word. After a few moments, his tears turned into those of deepest joy, & he was bathed in a love he had never known before. It felt as if scales dropped from his eyes, & he saw the world in a whole new light. From that point on, he began hugging all of the other guys at the retreat. One of them even referred to the young man as "the hugger". It was the only way the young man could think of to express the deep love that God had just poured into his soul. After the retreat, the young man went home & told his father what had happened. His father shared that he had had similar experiences when he was young but that it would "wear off". The young man's father is now very glad for his son that it didn't wear off for him. The young man told his girlfriend & she looked at him as though he were a ghost. Needless to say, the young man's new experience led to the dissolution of that relationship. The Lord would have the perfect helpmate waiting for him in another state. The young man couldn't articulate very well what had happened, but there was one thing he was certain of—he had met God, he was different, & nothing else mattered now but knowing God & making Him known! That "young man"—was *me*. I told the story to the best of my recollection.



***Caboose! Commentary Corner:** [Our daughter Laura once said she'd love to have my old Bibles when I passed for all of the notes I have written in them over the decades. This was quite humbling to say the least, especially coming from one of your own children. Hence, I've decided to post each month random notes/comments from various Bibles I have studied from]: "God deserves from us 'unconditional worship'" [2/24/'19]. "Jesus' 'blood type' is the same as His moral report card: A+." [1/24/'19]



Caboose! On the Loose:

***Lookin' out for the little guys...**

Ministry/Events for MARCH & those not listed in last month's newsletter:

March 5: Petra Church, New Holland, PA: hsc board mtg.

March 24: Immanuel Church, Wilmington, DE: Via Dolorosa preliminary setup begins!

March: will be comprised mostly of continuing to recuperate from hip surgery & preparing for the huge annual production of **Via Dolorosa!** [2/26]: hip surgery recuperation has been very long, slow, & painful! It was 3 weeks this past Wednesday since the surgery. Yes-I wish I was playing football by now! 😞 My hope is to be ready for **Via Dolorosa** setup which begins later this month!



[right hip replaced Feb. 6]

*Michael is an ordained *Elim Fellowship* itinerant Stateside missionary & is also licensed to preach the gospel by the local church he attends, *Immanuel Church. Caboose!* is also an affiliate ministry of *The Hopewell Network of Churches*. For 14 years he served on various local church staffs as their children's pastor. Since 2000 Kim & he have lived by faith, having no set salary, retirement, etc. to speak of. Yet-this is their calling at this season of their lives. Michael preaches God's Word & systematic theology, using both drama & visual aids, to all age groups, from children to senior citizens, either separately or combined. **To help support this work [any amount no matter how small is greatly appreciated!]**, please make all tax-deductible gifts payable to: Elim Fellowship, c/o 1703 Dalton Rd., Lima, NY 14485, marking it "Preferred-Michael Robert Guertin" or you may click on the link below to give directly. Any sized amount would be greatly appreciated! Thank you! [click here](#)

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