

TRUTH & RIGHT

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MOTHER WAKES FROM COMA

I read an amazing story about a woman who recently awoke from a coma after 30 years and her loving son who faithfully stayed by her side the entire time. In 1991, after picking up her 4-year-old son from school, their car collided with an oncoming bus. In the back seat while her brother drove, she hugged her son tightly to protect him from the blow. While the boy walked away with no injuries, it would be 27 years before he would ever hear his mother's voice again. Since then, every day he would visit with his mother and care for her until she finally awoke. Doctors thought he was crazy for believing his mother would wake after all these years. "I never gave up on her because I always had a feeling that one day she will wake up," he said. He hopes her story will give hope to others who have loved ones in similar situations. "All those years, the doctors told me she was a hopeless case and

that there was no point of the treatment I was seeking for her, but whenever in doubt I put myself in her place and did whatever I could to improve her condition," he said. As I read this, I couldn't help but see a few similarities to our spiritual condition. The One who ultimately saved us from harms way has physically left us. While He is not in a coma unable to interact with us, His physical voice has remained silent to us and is seeking to reward those who diligently serve Him day after day who faithfully believe one day we will be reunited with Him. "Be dressed in readiness, and keep your lamps lit. Be like men who are waiting for their master when he returns from the wedding feast, so that they may immediately open the door to him when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master will find on the alert when he comes; truly I say to

you, that he will gird himself to serve, and have them recline at the table, and will come up and wait on them. Whether he comes in the second watch, or even in the third, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves...Who then is the faithful and sensible steward, whom his master will put in charge of his servants, to give them their rations at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes. Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions,” Luke 12:35-38,42-44. You can just picture the doctors and nurses shaking their heads at times when this son would come still full of such hope that he would hear his mother’s voice after the first ten years, and then into year twenty after the crash. I love the determination of this son who refused to give up hope and made sure that when his mother did awake he would be there for her to know he never left her side. We face similar opposition today with those who shake their heads in disbelief that we would continually devote ourselves to someone many believe is never coming back or ever even existed. “Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, ‘Where is the

promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation,” 2 Peter 3:3-4. The diligent faithful loyal service of this son is a wonderful example of the great reward it will be for us to be reunited with our Savior after all the years of our faithful service to Him. Don’t give up. Don’t lose hope. Don’t lose faith. However, there is another spiritual parallel from a different perspective worth noting and remembering as well, in regards to the patient waiting of the Lord on us. While many are in a spiritual coma of sorts, dead to the spiritual life God is seeking to waken us to, He is willing to wait, but only for so long. “A man had a fig tree which had been planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and did not find any. And he said to the vineyard-keeper, ‘Behold, for three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree without finding any. Cut it down! Why does it even use up the ground?’ And he answered and said to him, ‘Let it alone, sir, for this year too, until I dig around it and put in fertilizer; and if it bears fruit next year, fine; but if not, cut it down,’” Luke 13:6-9. “But if that slave says in his heart, ‘My master will be a long time in coming,’ and begins to beat the

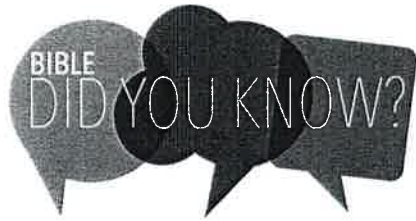
slaves, both men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk; the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces, and assign him a place with the unbelievers,” Luke 12:45-46.

The Lord is patient toward us, just as the son towards his mother was. He has done everything possible to provide the means for us to awake and live spiritually fruitful lives for Him. “Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed,”

Romans 13:11. But there is coming a time when His patience will have been exhausted, and sadly, many who never awoke will be lost eternally from the Lord’s presence to suffer in torment eternally. How sad this story between this mother and son could have ended. How heartbreaking had the son given up hope and this woman wake up all these years later to find no one of her family around and all haven given up on her. Or how tragic to find this son patiently hoping for his mother to wake, dutifully doing all he could to help her, only to have her tragically die and never awake. Thankfully, the story has a beautiful ending, and the

same can be our story if we faithfully refuse to give up and make sure we allow His word to awaken us all from the spiritual coma we end up in from living for this present world.

– Daniel Ruegg



“Better is a dry morsel and quietness with it than a house full of feasting with strife. A servant who acts wisely will rule over a son who acts shamefully, and will share in the inheritance among brothers. The refining pot is for silver and the furnace is for gold, but the LORD tests hearts. An evildoer listens to wicked lips; a liar pays attention to a destructive tongue.”
Proverbs 17:1-4

BIBLE TRIVIA

C H A L L E N G E

DIRECTIONS: After searching through your Bible, circle which answer is correct.

1. After praying to God, Jesus said this man went to his house justified.

- a) Pharisee
- b) Tax Collector
- c) Sadducee
- d) Priest

2. He became very sad in response to Jesus' command.

- a) Zaccheus
- b) Bartimaeus
- c) Nathanael
- d) Rich Young Ruler

3. The crowd told him to be quiet when he called out for Jesus.

- a) Blind Beggar
- b) Lazarus
- c) Judas
- d) Herod

4. Jesus said, "The Son of Man has come to seek and to save ____"

- a) Christians
- b) Good people
- c) Caucasians
- d) The Lost

5. While the rich gave out of their surplus, a poor widow gave out of her ____.

- a) Poverty
- b) Purse
- c) Wealth
- d) Leftovers

6. Came and strengthened Jesus while praying in garden.

- a) Peter
- b) Mary
- c) John
- d) Angel

7. Forced to carry cross for Jesus.

- a) Nicodemus
- b) Judas
- c) Simon of Cyrene
- d) Herod

8. Was with Jesus in Paradise after death.

- a) Pilate
- b) Thief
- c) Barabbas
- d) Ananias

9. Jesus was placed in this man's tomb when taken down from cross.

- a) Peter
- b) Abraham
- c) Joseph of Arimathea
- d) David

10. To prove the disciples were seeing Jesus alive in the flesh after death and not a spirit, Jesus ate this.

- a) Bread
- b) Lamb
- c) Skittles
- d) Fish

- 1) B, Reference: Lk. 18:9-14
- 2) D, Reference: Lk. 18:18-23
- 3) A, Reference: Lk. 18:35-39
- 4) D, Reference: Lk. 19:9-10
- 5) A, Reference: Lk. 21:1-4
- 6) D, Reference: Lk. 22:39-43
- 7) C, Lk. 23:26
- 8) B, Lk. 23:39-43
- 9) C, Lk. 23:50-55
- 10) D, Lk. 24:36-43