

# Wellspring

April – May 2008 Isaiah 58.6

*All things are possible with God*  
[A publication of Broken Yoke Ministries, Inc.]



## Me?

By Bob Van Domelen

<sup>25</sup>Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" Jesus answered, "Yes, it is you." (Matthew 26.25)

This coming Sunday is Palm Sunday followed by the most meaningful week of the year, in my estimation, Holy Week. If one participates emotionally and mentally, there is the experience of incredible darkness and pain associated with the death of Jesus on the cross but also the indescribable joy that comes with the resurrection.

Every year I find myself thinking about Judas and the simple question he asked Jesus during the last supper. And I wonder if Judas actually believed that he was betraying the Son of God or if his question was little more than window dressing for the benefit of the others present. I doubt, however, that I would have risked being exposed in this manner, so I come back to the intention Judas had in asking.

This article is not about whether or not Judas deserved the scorn many over the centuries assigned him. Everything that happened to Jesus had been foretold; someone (Judas?) would betray Jesus.

No, my focus this month is more on the notion that I have committed sins during my life that others clearly called sins that I would have argued were justified behaviors.

The question remains, "How could I do something clearly designated as sinful behavior and not call it sinful behavior?" My answer might surprise you but I think I could do that because I considered myself a good person. Good people don't do bad things; bad people do bad things.

### Romans I

Years ago the sins mentioned in God's word belonged to others although I knew myself to be just as guilty. Romans 1.29-32 offered me this indictment:

<sup>29</sup>They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, <sup>30</sup>slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; <sup>31</sup>they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. <sup>32</sup>Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them. I have to ask, who is comfortable seeing this list as proof of his or her dark side?

How do we get around such an indictment? We say things like "I've done that but have confessed it and now make every effort to avoid future sins of that kind."

But there is another method we use—we simply say that what we do is not a sin. It might be a sin for someone else but not for us. We sometimes go even further and suggest that what we do and not call a sin is a sin for someone else.

<sup>24</sup>Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. <sup>25</sup>They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. (Romans 1.24-25)

The passage that follows this in Romans is pretty clear in pointing to the notion of men having sexual relations with other men; women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones.

But if we accept the argument that people are born gay, then these passages are really about heterosexuals who have rejected the manner in which they were born and have therefore rejected God's plan for them. They are not about people born gay unless the individual born gay exchanges same-gender attractions for opposite-gender attractions.

### But I am a good person

Years ago I really wanted the "I was born gay" argument to be true because it freed me from the guilt I experienced after acting on my same-gender attractions. I was a good person but everyone was saying the being a homosexual was definitely a major no-no. Bad people were homosexual or lesbian. How could I keep calling myself good if I kept giving in to my temptations?

The problem is that I was and am a good person. Many people I know who have accepted living as gay people are good people. So as I have written so many times in the past, the whole issue is not about being a good person. It is about dealing with the issues we face honestly and openly. It is acknowledging that we all face something that we would rather not have to face, some secret darkness to be protected at all costs

### Condition vs Behavior

Many Christians (all good people) out and out condemn someone who has same-gender attractions and pronounce those strugglers doomed for eternity. They are like the Pharisees Jesus said placed weights on the shoulders of others while not doing anything to ease that burden. My guess is that it is far easier for these good people to condemn others than it would be to become involved in their lives in some supportive fashion.

I have personally found considerable peace in accepting the fact that though I have such attractions, it is not mandated that I *act* on those attractions. Though not a

perfect analogy, it is like having a cold and deciding that life won't stop because of the condition. What are required are intelligent options—doing within reason given the condition of having a cold.

The gay community will probably argue that I am not being true to myself as one created gay. They would also argue that I am passing up opportunities for the physical pleasures associated with a committed relationship. They might even argue that because I still have the occasional temptations, I am doing a disservice to my wife as husband. She should, they'd maintain, not have to deal with a man in such a conflict.

But the conflict is in their eyes and not mine. My role as a follower of Christ is not to validate same-sex unions as equal to traditional male and female weddings. I cannot and will not redefine what I have come to believe is God's design for my life as a man, nor can I openly condemn those who believe what they do is right.

Maybe you were with me until I wrote that last part arguing that Scripture is clear about the attitude we should have to sin. There is a difference between condemning the behavior and condemning the people. Only God has the authority to condemn people.

<sup>12</sup>*If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off?* <sup>13</sup>*And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off.*

<sup>14</sup>*In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost.* (Matthew 18:12-14)

Me? Am I the lost sheep that wandered off? I am pretty sure that I am but I also know that I am not alone. Jesus healed all sorts of people and the first thing they did was give praise to God. The second thing they did was tell everyone who would listen what Jesus had done for them.

Sometimes finding the lost sheep is one part of the process. The second part is convincing that one to come home, a task that is not always successful.

Would I have sought out Judas following the betrayal and encouraged him to seek forgiveness? Or would I have been glad to know that he took his life in despair over what he had done? When it comes to sin and sinning, I think we can all ask, "Is it I, Lord?" Me? □

**Broken Yoke Ministries is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) corporation and operates solely on the contributions of people such as you. All donations to this ministry are tax deductible and will be recognized. While there is no charge for this newsletter, it can only be published if there are funds available to make that possible.**

**Send your donations to:  
Broken Yoke Ministries, Inc  
PO Box 361  
Waukesha, WI 53187-0361**

**Did you send back notice that you wish to continue receiving this newsletter? If not, this is the last edition we can mail to you.  
(More on page 3)**

## Wisconsin Ministry Locations

### Broken Yoke

P.O. Box 361  
Waukesha, WI 53187-0361  
262-896-0841 (answering machine)  
Bob@brokenyoke.org

### **Meetings:**

**Support Group** (weekly)  
Tuesday, 7:00PM

### **Website:**

<http://www.brokenyoke.org>

### **Newsletter:**

**Wellspring** (published bimonthly)

*Note: This newsletter and some back issues are available in pdf format on our website. If you don't have Adobe Acrobat Reader, there are links that allow you to download that program free.*



### Redeemed Ministries

A support system for women  
Support Group (bi-weekly)  
Call 414-607-1935 for info

### Reclamation Resources

P.O. Box 1062  
Oshkosh, WI 54902  
920-303-1041  
<http://www.reclamationrc.org>

## Our Prayer Corner



*Because we care about one another,  
we pray . . .*

- For all those who struggle with same-gender attractions, that they accept the identity God had in mind for them from the beginning.
- For those who attended "Putting a Face on Ministry to the Homosexual" seminar (February 23), that the blessings they received and gave will continue to bring light to their lives.
- For Exodus International, that the planning stages they are in for the July 7-15 National Freedom Conference are blessed times.
- For family and friends, that they continue to shed feelings of shame for feelings of hope and encouragement.
- For today's youth, that they take the mixed messages they receive about homosexuality to God's word.
- For those on this mailing list, that they know they are welcome to continue receiving *Wellspring* and can do so by returning the subscription card.
- For Bob and Cathie, that this time of transition is a blessing and that the ministry is stronger for its future.
- For those unable to financially support this ministry, that they pray regularly for Broken Yoke Ministries and all whose lives are affected by it.

*All things are possible with God!*

## Is this your last edition of Wellspring?

In the February issue of this newsletter, we announced that it was time to take a serious look

at how many *Wellspring* newsletters were

actually reaching someone who might be reading

them. The cost of both printing and mailing the newsletters continues to rise. Though we are happy to mail you *Wellspring* free of charge, we need to remain faithful stewards of the donations we receive.

If you no longer wish to receive *Wellspring* on a bimonthly basis, you can either write to mention that or you can do nothing. Beginning with the June edition, all names without a code *will be deleted from the mailing list database.*

The question of *Into the Light* has been raised and it is possible we will do a similar check with that newsletter. The difference between the two newsletters is that there are a number of ministries writing about the Christian response to the homosexual issue. There are not an equal number writing to the issues that are addressed in *Into the Light.*

Finally, if you can contribute to Broken Yoke Ministries, by all means do so. **For now**, mail your donation to:

**Broken Yoke Ministries, Inc**  
**PO Box 361**  
**Waukesha, WI 53187-0361**

**IT'S OFFICIAL**

**Beginning in June**, the mailing address for letters and requests for the newsletter will change. The new address will be:

**Broken Yoke Ministries**  
**PO Box 5824**  
**De Pere, WI 54115-5824**

As I mentioned in the prayer request column, this is a time of change for both the ministry and me but I trust in God to continue to use Broken Yoke to draw people into His healing love. There can never be too many prayers offered on our behalf, my friends, so keep them coming.



**Has Homosexuality Changed?**  
By Bob Van Dommelen  
April 2004

[Continuing to celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on a monthly, I am reprinting this 2004 best article. I hope that you will be blessed by it.]

[God wants you to be holy, so don't be among in matters of sin. "Respect and honor your wife (husb)." Don't be a slave of your desires or the sin people who don't know God! (I Thess 4:3-5 CEV)]

[In 1973, Lawrence Hatterer wrote a simple and I think other guys as early as ten, however, would not even have been a consideration. That isn't saying that I would have rejected all same-sex activities that occur in the lives of many boys, just that I would have understood the behavior for what it was—behavior. It was not a matter of orientation. I believe we are all born genetically male or female, although there are occasional abnormalities. I believe orientation is the manner in which we learn to relate to...

## International Freedom Conference 2008



**July 15th-20th**

**Ridgecrest, North Carolina**

The International Freedom Conference is the largest gathering in the world for those struggling with or impacted by homosexuality.

For 33 years now, Exodus Freedom Conferences continue to serve as a life changing event for individuals seeking real answers, hope, and freedom. Every year, approximately a thousand people gather together for a week packed with incredible worship, teaching, life stories, and ministry support.

The International Freedom Conference attendees include men, women, parents, spouses, and students (ages 18 - 25) from all over the world, including a growing number of pastors, counselors, and other ministry leaders who are committed to becoming better equipped in ministering grace and truth to a world impacted by homosexuality.

Each day of the conference includes talks and testimonies given by the world's leading experts on homosexuality. Over 50 workshops provide opportunities to address the specific family, personal and ministry issues you're facing. Many social times and small groups are also available for learning from each other.

### Special tracks include:

- xScape** - daily programs for college-age and younger
- Parents Oasis** - encouragement for parents and families
- Men's Program** - evening times for men who struggle
- Women's Program** - evening times for women who struggle
- Steadfast** - a special one-day program and evening times for married couples

Exodus Freedom Conferences are amazing places to find answers, hope, direction, and purpose. For more information, visit the Exodus International website, move your mouse to Upcoming Events and click on "International."

You can also write Exodus for more information. Write

**EXODUS INTERNATIONAL**  
**Attn: Conference Department**  
**PO Box 540119**  
**Orlando, Florida 32854**

**Broken Yoke Ministries, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 361**  
**Waukesha, WI 53187-0361**

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**Dated Material**

### ***A Little Humor***

Jerry was taking his wife, who was pregnant with twins, to the hospital when he got into a bad car accident. Upon regaining consciousness, he found his brother Mike, a longtime practical joker, sitting at his bedside. He anxiously asked his brother how his wife was. "Don't worry, Jerry, everyone is fine. In fact, you have a healthy son and daughter, too. I have to tell you, though, that the hospital was in a real hurry with the birth certificates so they asked to name the kids because you and your wife were both unconscious." "Oh no," thought Jerry, "what has he done now?" "Well, what did you name them?" he asked. Mike responded, "I named the little girl Denise." Jerry said, "That's a very pretty name! What name did you come up with for my son?" With just a hint of a smile, Mike answered, "Denephew."

