

# Wellspring

August – September 2006 Isaiah 58.6

*All things are possible with God*

[A publication of Broken Yoke Ministries, Inc.]



## WWJD?

By Bob Van Domelen

<sup>3</sup>The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group <sup>4</sup>and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. <sup>5</sup>In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" <sup>6</sup>They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. (John 8.3-6)

<sup>7</sup>All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner." (Luke 19.7)

My thoughts are rushing around at the moment because the verses that I have just shared offer so many directions. Let me share a bit of what prompted this article. Just as I originally thought about this in no particular pattern, so there will be no order in this list. Just bear with me and maybe it will become clear.

- I've noticed that when good people try to convince me that being gay is okay or even blessed, they never call the behaviors of same-sex intimacy with another person sin. They call it love.
- I've noticed that when good people argue that homosexuality is an abomination according to God's word, every passage that bolsters their argument is a passage about homosexual behavior or something that demanded consent. It is rarely about homosexual temptation.
- I've noticed that it is the people who are at one end of the argument or at the other end who see those at the opposite end as 'those people.'
- I've noticed that the people in the middle of this argument either have the right idea about the human condition or they don't know enough about it to have an opinion one way or the other. This latter group is most often willing to say "As long as the gay person doesn't come on to me" or "As long as that religious dude keeps his opinions to himself."
- I've noticed that if those in each group claim a relationship with God, then God is seen as blessing the opinion they hold and in contempt of the opinion the other group claims. This is a little like, I suppose, believing that God wants my Milwaukee Brewers to finish the season with a winning record because God is, after all, a Brewer fan.

Just because I have noticed all these things doesn't mean that I have come to conclusions that would be acceptable to everyone. I am, I think, biased because of my

own daily walk with its temptations and difficult times alternating with feelings of divine love.

While not as marketable as it was not long ago, WWJD bracelets, book markers, and anything else that could or would be used by Christians still are evident. I am certainly not Jesus, but I have to ask myself, "What *would* Jesus do?"

One of the first things I think is that Jesus would not be afraid to call some behavior a sin. Today we tend to define sin as what other people do; reasons for us to come alongside them and say, "Let me pray for you." In such moments, it seldom occurs to me that my own life has its share of sinful behavior. But I tell myself "God understands. God knows I am trying. And Jesus already died for the sins I commit." So what's with the dark cloud that has me pointing at other sinners with scorn and self-righteousness?

There is no doubt that the woman caught in adultery was, in fact, caught in adultery—never mind the fact that there was a man present. The rules were different for men back then, I guess.

Jesus didn't say, "Give her break. She was just earning a living to support herself." He didn't say, "Couldn't you see that she loves the man she was with—even if he was married. Sometimes it just happens that way." No, Jesus looked at her after everyone had left, asked her if anyone was left to condemn her, and when she answered, "No one, sir" said to her, "Then neither do I condemn you. Go now and leave your life of sin." (vs11)

Jesus called it sin and that meant he was on the side of those who refuse to call sin something more pleasant to the ear. But Jesus did not condemn the woman, and that puts him in the middle group—those understanding the human condition. This middle group of understanding people would have encouraged the woman, would have asked how they could help, would not have turned their back on her.

The self-righteous people were correct in identifying a behavior that was not in God's plan and certainly something that was considered abomination. And this isn't a bad thing because we are all called to recognize the absolutes of God's law (the things that are right or wrong and to be observed). But the self-righteous people are also the ones who saw Jesus leave with Zacchaeus. They were the ones who said, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner." I don't know about you, but when I read this line, I can almost taste the venom in their voices when they said 'sinner.' No encouragement here; no help offered; no invitation for the sinner to come and have a meal with them.

To the liberals, this story of the woman caught in adultery really has no relevance to them because there was

no sin for Jesus to consider. Had they been in the crowd, they would have been arguing against the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, demanding that the laws be rewritten so as to be fair to the woman.

Nothing is ever so simple when real people are involved, however, so I am catching myself even now choosing to stand on the side that agrees with my own beliefs. Given a different issue, I might just as easily stand in the middle or at either end with almost equal comfort.

My daughter reminds me that I am a Republican because of my conservative views, and I find myself saying "No, I vote for the person I believe will do the best job whether Republican or Democrat." But she's right. I *will* vote more on the conservative side than on the liberal side.

So what would Jesus do with the issue of homosexuality? I think Jesus affirmed marriage between one man and one woman when He said, "*For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife*" (Mark 10.7). I don't believe He said that as an affront to gay rights. I also don't believe Jesus said much anything about homosexuality because the Jewish position on this at the time was so clear. It didn't need comment.

Some might argue that if Jesus walked among us today He would have said it differently. If that's true, then right and wrong are not defined by a single scale but by circumstances and times. And if that's true, then thousands of people like myself who have same-gender attractions are missing out on all the gay community has to offer. Despite the potential in this idea, I am happy to be standing right where I am.

God doesn't love me more than God loves a gay person. God doesn't make me rich with reward for saying no to same-sex behavior any more than God casts evil and bad things on those who say yes. But it isn't a matter of God's love because God's love is *always* there. The real issue is one of seeking God's will in all things despite how I might feel about those choices—especially when they conflict with the ones I would rather make.

Choosing what I want to do and then creating the image of God blessing or actually orchestrating my choices is backwards. That's what I came to see in my life when I finally surrendered myself to God. And that surrender, my friends, is something that I try to do each and every day.

Rather than being a fluffy Christian sentiment, I think WWJD asks a very important and difficult question. Because if we ask the question, we might just find out that what Jesus would have us do is the opposite of what *we'd* do. And if that were the case, what would our response be then?

**Broken Yoke Ministries is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) corporation and operates solely on contributions. 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. It currently costs approximately \$600 per *Wellspring* edition. If you cannot support us financially, pray for us. Send your donations to:**

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

**PS A substantial number of our readers are incarcerated and unable to offer financial support. Please consider a donation on their behalf.**



## *Our Prayer Corner*

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

- For all those who attended the Exodus International 2006 Freedom Conference, that the nourishment and encouragement they received will continue to bless them.
- For parents dealing with the conflicting emotions experienced because of this issue, that they never stop loving their children as Christ loved His church.
- For our church leaders, that they ask WWJD and then prayerfully listen for a response.
- For ministries struggling to stay afloat financially, that they be blessed in having their needs met and their programs supported.
- For those who come under attack because of their ministry, that they will remember the opposition Jesus faced *despite* the countless miracles He worked.
- For the book project completed in late June, that those receiving the book on homosexuality will find appropriate answers and direction to meet their needs.
- For Bob, that his daily walk reflects God's loving and healing strength in his ministry and in his personal life.
- For Broken Yoke Ministries, that its financial needs will be met through the generosity and prayer support of the readers of this newsletter.
- Finally, for all who feel they have no choice but to live as gay or lesbian, that they wake each morning seeking to serve the Lord in all things. God will move all of us into His loving arms if we surrender our will to Him.

## **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.*

### *Other support*

#### **Redeemed Ministries**

A support system for women  
Support Group (bi-weekly)  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, 7:00PM  
Call 414-607-1935 for info

#### **Reclamation Resources**

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

Come to me, you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11.28

## “Intimacy with God”

October 13-15, 2006

Association Retreat Center  
Osceola, WI  
(near Hudson, WI)

Whether it is same-gender attractions that bring you down or sexual brokenness or just plain mental, emotional, or spiritual fatigue, this is a conference that can refresh you and renew you.

Join us at the recently remodeled Association Retreat Center. Join us as we allow God to heal us and refresh us from the inside out.

Hosted by

Minnesota Ministries  
Anchor of Hope Ministries  
Eagles' Wings Ministry  
Outpost, Inc.  
Simon Ministries  
UpStream Ministries

Wisconsin Ministries  
Broken Yoke Ministries  
Reclamation Resource Center

Illinois Ministries  
Nehemiah Ministries  
Transformed by Grace  
Desert Hope QCA

Iowa Ministries  
White Stone Ministries

Montana Ministries  
Higher Ground Ministries

### Note:

For specific information about one of the host ministries, go to [www.exodus.to](http://www.exodus.to), click on “Find a Ministry” (left panel), and either click on the state or the state name.

## Meet our keynote speakers:

### Tom & Donna Cole

Tom and Donna Cole have been working in pastoral care with Christians who struggle with sexual and relational issues for the past 16 years and have spoken at conferences both nationally and internationally.



### Ministry background:

- Director, Reconciliation Ministries of Michigan, for 9 years
- They have shared their story on 20/20, eXtra, Inside Edition, and other venues
- Currently full time staff at the International House of Prayer in Kansas City

### COSTS:

Earlybird Special (EB) – Must be postmarked by September 15 to:

Simon Ministries  
PO Box 11041  
Minneapolis, MN 55411

(Please **do not** mail registration requests to Broken Yoke Ministries.)

\$125 Individuals (EB)  
\$230 Couples (EB)  
After Sept 15: \$140 per person

### Pastor's Special Deal

\$15 Saturday only

Conference check-in begins Friday, October 13, at 3:00PM.

Brochure & Application form are available on the Broken Yoke website: [www.brokenyoke.org](http://www.brokenyoke.org)  
Click on “Events”

### *Closing Thoughts:*

Every now and then I think of little things I can do to encourage the changes I feel I need to make. Here are some of them:

- I define myself by what I believe God created me to be, not by what I have done or thought that was not compatible with His image of me.
- A balanced life (time for work, play, and prayer) will be a healthier life than one driven by single goals (the Rule of St Benedict).
- Temptation always makes me ask myself “Am I taking good care of me—enough food, rest, or exercise?”
- Change is not defined by being like someone else. Rather, change is defined by being a better me.
- Isolating myself from others encourages problems I would rather not have. So I choose to be as connected with good people as possible.
- Above all, I trust God—the source of all healing.