The last Beatitude

Dr. Donald E. Wildmon
President

The Sermon on the Mount has always been one of my favorite sections of the Bible. It is there that Jesus explains the difference between the old way and the new.

The Sermon on the Mount begins with the Beatitudes. We know them well: "Blessed are the poor in spirit...Blessed are those who mourn...the meek...those who hunger and thirst for righteousness," etc.

Of all the Beatitudes, probably the last one is the one I have heard less about but am learning, in a real way, the meaning of. "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Within the past few weeks, *Playboy* magazine has decided to do an article attacking me. A reporter spent several days in Tupelo seeking information on me. He even went to my parents home unannounced on a Saturday and asked them for an interview without bothering to tell them who he was doing the article for. My parents are 87 and 86. They refused. He called several employees of AFA at their home seeking an interview. They all refused. He ran an ad in our local paper seeking information from present or past employees of AFA without telling them who he was doing the article for.

In the past several years, the porn magazines have made several attempts to secure an interview with me. I have always refused. Some years ago a religion writer for the largest paper in my state called for an interview, which I granted. Well into the interview, when I mentioned that we had not discussed what he said he wanted to interview me about, he informed me that he was actually doing two articles—one for his paper and one for *Playboy*. I immediately informed him that he was not. I later informed his editor of his actions. He no longer works for the paper.

Do I have enemies out there? You bet I do! But a person is known not only by his friends, but also by his enemies. I certainly have the right enemies.

Of course, what *Playboy* will try to do is to discredit me and this ministry, to raise questions in the minds of our supporters. They will try to do this by innuendo and half truths. That is to be expected. And the more effective this ministry becomes, the harder they will try.

A recent issue of *Current Biography* includes a very unflattering article about me. While the article sought to cast me in a bad light, I did appreciate one statement: "Wildmon probably exerts greater influence over network television programming and its sponsors than anyone outside the television industry itself." Personally, I think militant homosexual groups have that honor.

Many times in the past 15 years I have asked God why He didn't call me to another kind of ministry—a compassionate ministry instead of a confrontational one. You see, the more successful one is in a confrontational ministry the more difficult it becomes. But the more successful one is in a compassionate ministry, the easier it becomes. And it is human nature to want the easier way.

Recently a lawyer for *Penthouse* asked me if I considered myself a "good Christian." He was utterly shocked when I answered: "No." "You are the leader of a national organization; why don't you consider yourself a good Christian?" He simply didn't understand.

And he still didn't understand when I answered his question. "Because

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What is your child learning in school?

By Tim Wildmon
Associate Director

Do you know what your children are learning at school? A recent column by syndicated writer Suzanne Fields pointed out some startling information about the textbooks from which many of our children learn.

In the January 27, 1992 edition of *Insight* magazine Fields wrote: "When the United States Department of Education analyzed 60 textbooks for grades 1 through 6 to see whether they contained ideological bias, researchers found that most had hidden agendas, subtly undermining the authority of the family, rarely celebrating either motherhood or marriage."

The article went on to quote Dr. Paul Vitz, professor of psychology at New York University, who has done in-depth research on this subject. "The 60 textbooks included not one citation indicating that the occupation of a mother or housewife represented an important job, one with integrity, one that provided real satisfaction. Educators may bemoan teenage girls bearing children out of wedlock, but their own textbooks begin fostering the notion of family without marriage in grades 1 to 4."

In today's world we need to restore motherhood, marriage and family to a place of honor and respect as do the scriptures. The old saying "she who rocks the cradle rules the world" is certainly true. I strongly encourage you to follow what your child is learning—or perhaps not learning—about motherhood and marriage at school.

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Christians & Society TODAY

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A supplement for local bulletins and newsletters

Dairy Mart fires store manager who refuses to sell pornography

Dairy Mart, one of the leading retailers of pornography in America, has fired the manager of one of their convenience stores because she refused to sell pornography.

Delores Stanley, who was manager of a Dairy Mart store in Toronto, Ohio, was fired after she refused to sell porn magazines. When Mrs. Stanley assumed the job of manager, the store was losing money. Under her leadership the store began to make a profit. The store was even considered for recognition as the store of the month by Dairy Mart. However, after it became public knowledge that she refused to sell pornography, Mrs. Stanley was given orders by Dairy Mart to begin selling pornography or be fired. When she refused, she was fired.

Dairy Mart fired Mrs. Stanley despite the fact that Dairy Mart does not sell pornography in their model display store at their corporate headquarters in Enfield, Connecticut.

Mrs. Stanley contacted AFA about her firing, and the AFA Law Center is handling her case. Unless Dairy Mart reinstates her, she plans to sue Dairy Mart because the firing constitutes a violation of the Free Exercise of Religion Clause of the First Amendment and because federal law forbids an employer from forcing an employee to work in a "sexually hostile...work environment."

Those who appreciate the courageous stand taken by Mrs. Stanley are urged to write her a letter of encouragement. Her address: Delores Stanley, 603 Broadway, Wellsville, OH 43968.

In Texas, National Convenience Stores has declared bankruptcy and gone into Chapter 11. Through their Stop 'N Go convenience stores, NCS is the largest retailer of pornography in Texas. AFA of Texas has been promoting a boycott of Stop 'N Go.

AFA has scheduled the next day of picketing of stores involved in pornography for March 7. You are urged to help organize on that date a picket of stores which sell pornography in your community. A picket sheet with complete information on how to organize and carry out a successful picket is available free from AFA.

Concerned individuals are urged to call and write and help promote these regional boycotts. The addresses: President V.H. Van Horn, Stop 'N Go Convenience Stores, P.O. Box 758, Houston, TX 77001, phone 713-863-2200 and Chrm. Charles Nirenberg, Dairy Mart Corporation, 240 South Road, Enfield, CT 06082, phone 203-741-3611. Chrm. Nirenberg has praised Playboy in the past for standing against those who boycott stores which sell pornography, calling boycotts censorship.

For more information on the state efforts, contact Jeff Fisher, Director, AFA of Texas, 2026 Guadalupe, Austin, TX 78705, phone 512-472-9196 and Steve Koob, Executive Director, Montgomery County AFA, 616 Five Oaks Avenue, Dayton, OH 45406, phone 513-274-2273.

Critic charges Hollywood with 'anti-religious bias'

An "imperial media" and an "anti-religious bias" in Hollywood are partly to blame for widespread pornography and the breakup of families, film critic Michael Medved told an anti-pornography conference last fall.

Medved, co-host of PBS television's SNEAK PREVIEWS, delivered the keynote address at the national conference of the Religious Alliance Against Pornography, a six-year-old interfaith alliance headed by the Rev. Jerry Kirk, a Presbyterian minister in Cincinnati.

In his address, Medved directed particular criticism at the film **Rapture**, which depicts a sex-crazed woman who is converted to Christianity by missionaries but later goes insane and kills her daughter.

He said the film is among a genre of new movies that depict anti-family and anti-Christian themes and exemplify popular culture's destruction of "the hope, values, the very idea of family."

Medved had little good to say about the industry he monitors closely, charging that Hollywood depicts a society in which family murders, divorce, drug abuse and sexual promiscuity are commonplace.

"That is a poisonous message to America's children...who are being marinated in a popular culture that can pickle your brain," he said.

"**Rapture**," which features Mimi Rogers, is "the most clear example of the anti-religious bigotry that thrives in Hollywood," yet it has drawn praise from many Hollywood critics, Medved said.

"Every Christian you meet in this movie is either weird, has twitches or is disgusting," said Medved, who is Jewish. Unlike the earlier "lovable priests" played by Bing Crosby or Spencer Tracy, he added, "today, if you see anybody in a collar, he's usually corrupt or dishonest."

Medved urged the activists to "reinject the idea of values into the national dialogue," and predicted that "we're going to prevail with people power and the power of the box office." He counseled the use of "occasional" corporate boycotts to send the family-values message to Hollywood.

Religious News Service, 10/11/91

Lesbian revelation rattles NOW

Patricia Ireland, the married president of the National Organization for Women, acknowledged she is involved in a lesbian relationship–a revelation some say could undermine NOW's chosen role as a mainstream women's group.

The disclosure, in *The Advocate*, a homosexual magazine, has raised eyebrows inside and outside the women's movement. And it's feeding conservatives' arguments that feminists in general, and NOW in particular, don't represent most women's views. Ireland, a lawyer who is president of the 250,000-member group, said she doesn't think her disclosure will hurt NOW.

Ireland said she agreed to talk to *The Advocate* about her "companion" of four years because "I think it's very important that women tell the truth about our lives."

She said her husband of 25 years, James Humble, a painter in Miami, knows about her companion, whom she refused to name.

USA Today, 12/3/91