



September 13th, 2007

On a Personal Note . . .

I was reminded this past Sunday that a major reason why we don't want to right the wrong committed when we sin is that it requires humility. This past Sunday I had to fly to Asheville, NC, for a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the International Mission Board. I left NEHBC at noon, immediately following my sermon in the third service, to make a mad dash to my 1:00pm flight. I was on a tight schedule, to put it mildly. I was relieved when I walked into Terminal B to find that there was no line at the security machines. I put my laptop and shoes in one plastic bin and then sent the bin and my suitcase through the x-ray machine. I then turned and walked through the metal detector and prepared to collect my suitcase and shoes on the other side of the x-ray machine. That is when it happened.

The lady running the x-ray machine and her supervisor grabbed my suitcase as it came out of the x-ray machine. They opened it up and took out my deodorant. They read the label on the container which declared the container contained 4 oz. of deodorant. The lady looked at me and said I couldn't take the deodorant on board the airplane because it was 4 oz., and the law says I can only take it on if it is 3 oz. or less in size. They told me to either go back out and check my deodorant at the luggage counter, or else they would have to confiscate my 4 oz. of deodorant. Sadly, I did not respond to the news well. I misrepresented Jesus Christ. Frankly, I sinned. I looked at the lady and her supervisor and threw out terms like, "unbelievable", "ridiculous", and "asinine". The supervisor in turn made some unsavory comments to me. Then I put my shoes on and gathered my suitcase and left to go find my gate.

I hadn't even left the security area when I felt Him. The Holy Spirit was stirred up to say the least. It was like my insides became tight and my body temperature increased. I knew I had sinned. I knew I had to go back and apologize. But, I didn't want to. I threw every excuse at the Holy Spirit that I could. First, I was exhausted. Did you know that scientific studies have shown that a 30-minute sermon requires the same emotion and mental concentration as seven hours of work behind a desk? Hard to believe, but it is true. By the time I finish the third service, I have used the same emotion and mental capacity as someone who has sat behind a desk working for 21 hours. Throw in the early morning hours of prayer and nervousness each Sunday and by the time the third service lets out, it takes everything I have to smile and be jovial with people. When I'm standing in the lobby after the third service, I have just worked the equivalent of 24 hours straight. So, I reminded the Holy Spirit that I was exhausted and justifiably living on a short fuse. Combine that with the fact that I left the church at noon to catch a 1pm flight because I was preaching and I was in a justifiable rush, which also put me on a short fuse. Combine that with fact that I didn't want to even go to North Carolina to begin with so I was justifiably in a bad mood. Put all those things together and humanly speaking, I was a ticking time bomb, and it just happened to be the airport security personnel that pushed me over the edge. Not to mention the

supervisor made unsavory comments toward me in return. We were even, right? He'd struck back at me.

All these thoughts flashed through my mind in under five seconds. The truth is, the reason I did not want to right my wrong is because of personal pride. Righting the wrong would require a dose of humility. When I got done rationalizing my sin, the tightness inside of me only swelled, and my temperature only increased. I had just sinned again. Not only did I misrepresent my Lord when I responded to the security personnel, but I was giving the Holy Spirit pushback. I knew He was telling me to go back and apologize, and I didn't turn around and go do it. I was arguing with Him. It is amazing how quickly a sinful situation can compound itself. To make matters worse, I was reminded that I was using unbiblical thinking. The security personnel did not push me over the edge; I chose to sin. Nobody makes me sin. Nobody makes you sin. When we sin it is our choice to do so. So, I turned and went back to apologize to the lady and her supervisor. I had to right the wrong I had committed. I wish I could say it ended well and we had one big love fest when I apologized. It was not the case. When I apologized, they just glared at me and the supervisor told me to leave the security area.

I hate sin. I hate it when I sin. I misrepresented the Lord Jesus because I did not portray Him accurately to the lost world. I reacted like Christ's enemy would react. I wish I had not done so. I want to pursue holiness. Don't you? Is the Holy Spirit asking you to right a wrong in your life? Have you committed a sin that He is asking you to do something about? Are you giving Him pushback and only compounding the sinful situation? Make it right today. It is distancing you from the Lord Jesus. Obey the Holy Spirit and come back into proper fellowship with your Lord. There is no greater joy than being in good standing with Jesus Christ.

A word about The Word

This past Sunday I preached 1 Corinthians 12:10 on the topic of spiritual gifts in general and the gifts of miracles, prophecy, discernment, tongues, and the interpretation of tongues in particular. My prayer is that as we explore the spiritual gifts, that the Holy Spirit would impress upon you your spiritual giftedness and that you would be compelled to use it at NEHBC "for the common good" (1 Cor. 12:7). Over the next few weeks, we will continue to explore the 21 spiritual gifts listed in the New Testament. I want to encourage you to come to worship on Sunday so that you don't miss this important study (1 Cor. 12:1).

Last night Pastor Sonny preached about the Christian and sin. He discussed the difference between committing sin and developing a pattern of sin. He talked about how a pattern of sin is a red flag about one's relationship with the Lord Jesus. I don't always like to listen to sermons about sin . . . they are too convicting. But, they are always good for me. They are good for you also. Medicine isn't always tasty when it goes down, but it is healing for the body.

Sermons are available on cd for purchase at the sermon booth in the church lobby. You can also find my sermons in MP3 format on our church website [here](#) or via podcast at www.itunes.com. Simply search for "Nathan Lino" in the search box of the iTunes store.

Striping the Parking Lot

Well, I hope you noticed the parking lot got cleaned up last Saturday. Most of the dirt from the field project is gone. I want to say thank you, Bill Campbell, my Church Administrator, and the team of men who helped him with the project. They worked long and hard under the beating sun so our church family could be good stewards of the parking lot that the Lord Jesus has entrusted to our care. Thank you, men,

for your behind the scenes service.

Speaking of caring for the parking lot. Tomorrow, our parking lot will be striped. The parking spots will be repainted as well as the handicap spots. It is hard to believe we have been using that parking lot for 53 months now. There has been so much wear and tear, and it is time to freshen up the place.

IMB Meeting

Thank you to those of you who prayed for my IMB meetings earlier this week. I flew out to Ridgecrest, NC, immediately after the third service and flew back into Houston on Tuesday night. Our International Mission Board is quite the organization. It is no mom and pop outfit. Hundreds of millions of dollars in assets and thousands of employees in over 100 countries of the world. It is so amazing to see how the Lord is using our missionaries and your tithe to impact our planet for Himself.

One of the meetings I have to attend as a member of the Board of Trustees is the final approval of the new missionary candidates. They are pretty well vetted by IMB staff by the time we meet them in person, but we have previously learned so much about them via the mounds of paperwork and background checks that take over 12 months to complete. (Since it costs in the six figures to put a missionary unit on the field, we can't just put anyone out there. The IMB only sends the best of the best.)

Each time we meet with these new missionary candidates, my heart is refreshed and renewed. I wish you could have the experience yourself. I have sat with families of all ages to talk with them in person and to hear their hearts. Kids fresh out of college, full of enthusiasm, thinking the world is their playing field, willing to go to the most difficult of places on the planet. Couples in their 30's with young preschoolers called by God to leave promising careers and extended family and move to places like North Africa, the Middle East, and East Asia. Couples in their 40's with kids in college here in the United States leaving their kids and going to places like South Africa and Brazil so that the lost can have access to the Gospel. Couples in their late 50's and early 60's who can see the finish line of their career and are looking forward to spending their years playing with grandbabies and traveling the country, and God calls them to places like the Pacific Rim or South America. All have to learn new languages. All have to become acclimated to new cultures. All have to make tremendous sacrifices.

Each time I am reminded that for one to bear much fruit, it requires much personal sacrifice. You cannot bear much fruit in the Kingdom of God without personal sacrifice. You cannot fulfill God's call on your life without personal sacrifice. If you are only willing to give to God out of your abundance and you are not willing to go without so God can have, you will not reach full blossom, spiritually speaking. You will never become all that the Lord wants you to be.

What is God asking of you that you are not doing? What is God calling you to do that you are not obeying? Put aside human logic, and embrace the will of God for your life. The only way to get from your comfort zone to God's will for your life is to cross the bridge called Faith.

5-Year Anniversary

The celebration is upon us. This coming Sunday. I hope you are making plans to join Nicole and me as we make note of such a tremendous mile marker in the life of our church. I can assure you that during

our bleak first year as a church family, I wasn't sure NEHBC would even see five years. There were some very trying days. But, look at us now. The Lord Jesus is so faithful, and His grace has been so abundant. Hundreds of lives have been saved. Countless people have been won to Christ. Sick marriages have been healed. Broken relationships have been reconciled. Parents have gained wisdom. Children have learned to submit to their parents. Our trust in the Bible has intensified. Our love for the Lord Jesus has grown. The Lord is transforming lives through NEHBC. Join us Sunday as we celebrate the goodness of our God.

Here are a few brief reminders:

1. Muslim Bible Day—we are taking up a one-time offering, over and above our tithes, to purchase Bibles for Muslims in North Africa and the Middle East. You can give your offering on-line through our website at www.nehbc.com between now and Sunday, OR you can give your offering via the pink envelope in a worship service on Sunday.
2. Parents of children 5th grade and under: your child was challenged in Sunday School to collect \$5 to purchase one Bible. This coming Sunday in each of the services, the children will be invited to the front to give their \$5 offering. Whether the money your child collected is in quarters or a \$5 bill, please help your child be ready for the offering on Sunday.
3. 17 people are signed up to be baptized on Sunday at NEHBC following the 3rd worship service. We will baptize at 12:30pm on the east side of the church right in front of the cross.
4. Churchwide picnic: we will have a churchwide picnic following the 3rd service. NEHBC will provide all the food, drinks, paperware, etc. Please bring lawn chairs and such.