

Finding the Way Back to Mayberry

Episode # 94, “Mountain Wedding”

Introduction:

Andy, as the Justice of the Peace, has married Charlene Darling to Dud Wash. However, Ernest T. Bass believes they aren't truly married since he isn't a real preacher. Ernest T. tries to woo Charlene and schemes to keep the wedding from taking place. But Andy has a trick of his own up his sleeve that involves our favorite deputy!

Lesson Points:

COMMUNICATION (Speak now or forever hold your peace) – Isaiah 6:9-10

- Saying the right thing at the right time – Proverbs 18:2
- Knowing when to hold your tongue – Proverbs 10:19, James 3:7-8
- Listening, I mean *really* listening – Proverbs 18:13, Proverbs 1:5, James 1:19
- Knowing your boundaries – Deuteronomy 5:21, Matthew 12:33-37
- Settling disputes and misunderstandings – Proverbs 20:3 and 17:14, 1 Cor. 6:1-11

COMMOTION (For better or worse) – 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 and 4:16-18

- Making the best of a bad situation – James 1:2-3
- Seeing the good in every situation – Psalm 46:1
- Getting help when you need it – Psalm 121:1-2
- Causing trouble/Handling trouble – Psalm 7:15-16, 1 Thes. 5:14, Psalm 23:1-6
- Sticking together in good times and bad – Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

COMMITMENT (...Till death do us part...) – John 16:33

- Keeping a promise – 2 Samuel 7:25-29, Nehemiah 5:12-13
- Enduring changes and problems – Hebrews 13:6
- Enjoying God's gifts – 1 Timothy 6:17-19
- Marriage (any relationship) is a two-way street – Genesis 2:24, Romans 8:35-37

Discussion:

- 1) Why did Charlene and Dud have to marry twice? Why did Mr. Darling ask Andy for help? Why did he feel comfortable doing so? Why did Andy agree to help?
- 2) Have you asked for help, with nothing to offer in return (like Briscoe)? Have you threatened others (like Dud) when you faced trouble? Have you ever helped someone (like Andy) without expecting anything in return? Have you (like Ernest T.) ever made trouble for others just to satisfy yourself? Give examples of each.
- 3) Did Ernest T. have a right to court Charlene and try to “charm her with his ways”? What did you think of the manner in which he set out to make Charlene his wife? Was he fair to Dud? Was he fair to Charlene?
- 4) Ernest T. didn't hardly play by the rules. Why did he do the things he did? How can you reason with a person like that? What is the best way to communicate with him/her?
- 5) No marriage and very few relationships/friendships are easy. What kind of marriage would Charlene have had with Ernest T.? What are the problems Dud and Charlene now face? How can they handle these problems successfully?
- 6) Are the newlyweds in the clear now with Ernest T.? What did he say he would do to Dud if he weren't good to her? Did Bass change his attitude? How do you respond when threatened? What is the *real* reason Dud should be a good husband to Charlene?

Final Thought:

Andy: If you ask me, this Ernest T. Bass is a strange and weird character.

Briscoe: Just plain ornery is what he is.

Barney: I think he's a NUT!

Isaiah 6

⁹ He said, "Go and tell this people: " 'Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving.'

¹⁰ Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed."

Proverbs 18

² A fool finds no pleasure in understanding but delights in airing his own opinions.

Proverbs 10

¹⁹ When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.

Proverbs 18

¹³ He who answers before listening- that is his folly and his shame.

Deuteronomy 5

²¹ "You shall not covet your neighbor's wife. You shall not set your desire on your neighbor's house or land, his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

2 Corinthians 1

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. ⁵For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. ⁶If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. ⁷And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

James 1

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.

1 Thessalonians 5

¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

John 16

³³ "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Hebrews 13

⁶ So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"

Genesis 2

²⁴ For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

Isaiah 6

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 " 'Be ever hearing, but never understanding;
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Proverbs 18

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 but delights in airing his own opinions.

Proverbs 10

¹⁹ When words are many, sin is not absent,
 but he who holds his tongue is wise.

James 3

⁷All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, ⁸but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

Proverbs 18

¹³ He who answers before listening-
 that is his folly and his shame.

Proverbs 1

⁵ let the wise listen and add to their learning,
 and let the discerning get guidance-

James 1

¹⁹My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,

Deuteronomy 5

²¹ "You shall not covet your neighbor's wife. You shall not set your desire on your neighbor's house or land, his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

Matthew 12

³³"Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. ³⁴You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. ³⁵The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. ³⁶But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. ³⁷For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

Proverbs 20

³ It is to a man's honor to avoid strife,
 but every fool is quick to quarrel.

Proverbs 17

¹⁴ Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam;
 so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out.

1 Corinthians 6

¹If any of you has a dispute with another, dare he take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the saints? ²Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? ³Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! ⁴Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, appoint as judges even men of little account in the church!^[u] ⁵I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers? ⁶But instead, one brother goes to law against another--and this in front of unbelievers!

⁷The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? ⁸Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers.

⁹Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders ¹⁰nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were

sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

2 Corinthians 1

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. ⁵For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. ⁶If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. ⁷And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

2 Corinthians 4

¹⁶Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

¹⁷For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

James 1

²Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.

Psalms 46

¹ God is our refuge and strength,
 an ever-present help in trouble.

Psalms 121

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills-
 where does my help come from?

² My help comes from the Lord,
 the Maker of heaven and earth.

Psalms 7

¹⁵ He who digs a hole and scoops it out
 falls into the pit he has made.

¹⁶ The trouble he causes recoils on himself;
 his violence comes down on his own head.

1 Thessalonians 5

¹⁴And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

Psalms 23

¹ The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures,
 he leads me beside quiet waters,

³ he restores my soul.

He guides me in paths of righteousness
 for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk
 through the valley of the shadow of death, ^[u]

I will fear no evil,

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff,

they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me
 in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and love will follow me
 all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord

forever.

Ecclesiastes 4

⁹ Two are better than one,
 because they have a good return for their work:

¹⁰ If one falls down,

his friend can help him up.

But pity the man who falls

and has no one to help him up!

¹¹ Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.

But how can one keep warm alone?

¹² Though one may be overpowered,

two can defend themselves.

A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

John 16

³³"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

2 Samuel 7

²⁵ "And now, Lord God, keep forever the promise you have made concerning your servant and his house. Do as you promised, ²⁶ so that your name will be great forever. Then men will say, 'The Lord Almighty is God over Israel!' And the house of your servant David will be established before you.

²⁷ "O Lord Almighty, God of Israel, you have revealed this to your servant, saying, 'I will build a house for you.' So your servant has found courage to offer you this prayer. ²⁸ O Sovereign Lord, you are God! Your words are trustworthy, and you have promised these good things to your servant. ²⁹ Now be pleased to bless the house of your servant, that it may continue forever in your sight; for you, O Sovereign Lord, have spoken, and with your blessing the house of your servant will be blessed forever."

Nehemiah 5

¹² "We will give it back," they said. "And we will not demand anything more from them. We will do as you say."

Then I summoned the priests and made the nobles and officials take an oath to do what they had promised. ¹³ I also shook out the folds of my robe and said, "In this way may God shake out of his house and possessions every man who does not keep this promise. So may such a man be shaken out and emptied!"

At this the whole assembly said, "Amen," and praised the Lord. And the people did as they had promised.

Hebrews 13

⁶So we say with confidence,
"The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.
What can man do to me?"

1 Timothy 6

¹⁷Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Genesis 2

²⁴ For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

Romans 8

³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶As it is written:

"For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.