

Finding the Way Back to Mayberry Episode # 80, "High Noon in Mayberry"

Introduction:

Luke Comstock, an ex-con, returns to Mayberry to see Andy about him having shot Luke in the leg during a robbery years ago. It crippled him and sent him to prison. Barney is convinced that Comstock is seeking revenge so he overreacts a little. Barney's paranoia then spreads to Gomer, Otis, Aunt Bee, and Opie. Along with faith and courage, this episode also looks at repentance and forgiveness.

Lesson Points/Questions:

Worry or Faith? (Psalm 23:4, Matthew 6:27)

What do You Worry About?

Uncertainty, future, pain, death, grief, crime, separation

When Do You Turn Over Your Worries to God? (1 Chronicles 22:13)

Fear or Courage? (Joshua 1:9, Hebrews 13:6)

Can Fear Be a Good Thing?

When Is Fear Bad?

Does Being Afraid Mean You Are A Coward?

Does Courage Always Seem Courageous? (Hebrews 3:6)

Revenge or Forgiveness? (Romans 12:17-19)

Which Should You Choose?

Do You Get Mad, Or Get Even?

Do You Forgive, But Never Forget?

Do You Turn The Other Cheek? (Matthew 5:38-41, 1 John 4:18)

Discussion:

1) Andy was concerned when he read Luke Comstock's letter, but Barney immediately chose to believe that Luke had revenge on his mind. Why would Barney jump to that conclusion? Why did Andy refuse Barney's advice? Why did Andy start to load his revolver and then put it away instead?

2) For whom was Otis actually afraid? Were his fears justified? Was Barney just as scared as Otis? Was Andy just as scared as Barney? Explain the difference in their reactions. Why did Barney, Otis and Andy react in the ways they did? Discuss differences and similarities in worry, anxiety, fear, panic, and phobias.

3) Aunt Bee surely understood that there were dangers involved with Andy's occupation, even if it this is Mayberry, but why did she begin to worry this time? Why did Opie become concerned? How did Andy answer Opie's questions about fear? Was it good for Opie to know if his father was ever frightened? How can you be fearful and courageous at the same time?

4) Luke Comstock had made a mistake, and he had to pay a price for it. Do you think, at that time in his life, that he was fearful or courageous? What about coming back to Mayberry? Do you think he ever felt sorry for himself? Why do you suppose that Luke didn't just call Andy and thank him or mail the shotgun to Andy?

Final Thought:

Opie: Are you scared, Pa? **Andy:** Well, I am a little nervous. **Opie:** Is this your first time? **Andy:** No, I've been scared a whole lot of times.

Opie: Really, Pa? Gosh, you sure couldn't tell it.

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Psalm 23:4

4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Matthew 6:27

27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

1 Chronicles 22:13

13 Then you will have success if you are careful to observe the decrees and laws that the LORD gave Moses for Israel. Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged.

Joshua 1:9

9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

Hebrews 13:6

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

Hebrews 3:6

6 But Christ is faithful as the Son over God's house. And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory.

Romans 12:17-19

17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.