

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE STUDENTS AND FACULTY AT
THE LUTHERAN SEMINARY AT GETTYSBURG.

Table Talk

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Manuscript finds do not happen every day. Quite by chance it is possible to share with you the unexpurgated texts of some wisdom literature just recently come to light. They are in the original English. From the orthography it is possible to make a rough estimate of their date. Even more revealing is the Sitz im Leben which shows beyond reasonable doubt that they come from an institution dedicated to theological education, in the post-Vatican II period. That they have benefitted from the classical influence of Hebrew literature such as the book of Proverbs appears from a superficial glance. They also combine the earthiness of ancient wisdom writings with its more exalted vistas. In this respect they faithfully reflect the life from which they come.

Trying to listen to a sermon
while a baby cries and cries
is like trying to read a newspaper
soaked by the rain.

A polluted spring in the spring of the year
is like a wilted bouquet at a wedding ceremony.

With diplomacy the faculty may be challenged;
with tact, the professor may be disobeyed.

The bad student just bitches,
the good student makes suggestions.

Like a bridge over troubled water
the pastor rises above contention
and offers a path for brotherhood.

A quick-tempered person
is like a rocket without a guidance system.

A woman is like a day in spring-
who can tell what the next hour will bring?

There are two kinds of people in this seminary:
those who replace the used-up roll of toilet paper for the next person,
and those who simply rise up and walk out.

Expecting perfection in a man
is like expecting gratitude from a pig.

There is beauty in virtue;
kindness makes a face lovely.

A foolish man pays interest,
but a wise man makes interest.

As a stone makes ripples in the water
one good deed inspires another.

The seminary cries, "We need a prophetic message,"
and when the prophet speaks, words fall on deaf ears.

As bright stars in the night sky
are sparkling eyes in a black face.

The rich cry out for law and order,
the poor seek only for justice.

Watching a Raquel Welch movie
is like looking at Big Round top with double vision.

A man who simply wants to learn facts is performing masturbation,
for he is letting the fruit of wisdom fall on the ground.

A new born baby is a bundle of joy,
but a growing child taxes the nerves.

If you would know about God,
then you must know all about man.

As continually being meaningful can be meaningless,
so all work and no play can make Fox a dull boy.

Do not be glad for the fall of the Church,
nor for the collapse of its priesthood.

It takes courage to say always what you believe,
but it is foolish to believe always what you say.

Do not dream of success in the position you hope for
when it is possible in the tedious work before you.

Do not pray for eternal life
while you do not live now

As constant smog chokes the city
so ambiguity clouds the mind.

True friends are a perennial bed of sweet smelling flowers,
but false friends fade away like plucked blossoms.

To some, monogamy is a life-sentence with the same cell-mate;
to others, an open door to ever-deepening mutual experience.

For a seminarian, bills come in every month
like rain through the hole in the roof.

Even if a man passes all his courses and comps,
he still may not be prepared for the problems of the parish.

CPE is the seminarian's disease,
rendering his mind dull,
but his back sensitive.

The man who loves two women
resembles a burnt grilled cheese sandwich.

The wise man looks where he is going
but the fool looks where he has been.

The student who dictates the curriculum
is like the patient who decides the prescription.

The rich man agitates for welfare programs
like the bishop who advocates lay preaching.

It is a lot harder to think up proverbs
than it seems on the surface;
there is also a lot more in them
than simple reading can indicate.

If a man changes personalities for every occasion
his wife won't know with whom she is sleeping.

When the "must-do's" outnumber the "like-to-do's,"
then rising in the morning is difficult.

A bird flying has only the wind with which to contend;
a man right with his brother is already in good standing with God.

To force your better ways on someone else is pride,
but to live together despite your differences is love.

Supplying is like a blind date:
it only happens once to the same two parties.

Correcting the test of a wise man is good and enjoyable,
but correcting the test of a fool is like cleaning up a stable.

The Praise of the Good Wife

Proverbs 31: 10-31 (a paraphrase)

- 10 As I remember back on my dating years I could never seem to find the
right girl. I went out with blonds, brunettes, short girls, shorter girls,
thirty-inch chests and forty-inch chests. It took a long time to find the
girl I married. If I emptied my pockets, sold my car and hocked everything
- 11 I owned it still wouldn't pay for a day with her. When we first met she
was shy and self-conscious of all that she did but I guess my arm around
her and a kiss on the cheek gave her the courage to stand alone. If I were
proud of myself it would be foolish--but proud I am for this is the girl I
have married.

12 When I come home at night from a-son-of-a-bitch-of-a-day, I always find
a kind word, and understanding hug and a kiss that makes a wife different from
a girlfriend. If I forget the milk or bread for dinner--never a "well get out
there and get the milk" but a "we'll pick it up later we don't need it now."
This wife loves me everyday and everyday finds a new way to tell me.

13 She's constantly busy, never a minute to rest. There are times when she
looks at material to make a new dress. The work that comes from those hands
always seems dull to her but it amazes me how she does it. She must go to
14 every store in town in order to shop. Every meal is different and I never
15 know what to expect. You know, I don't remember getting up in the morning
before my wife for years except when I leave to go horse-back riding or hunt-
ing. When I arise in the morning breakfast is already started and she has a
16 list made of her day's chores. We have no ground to plant or cow to milk but
she rises to teach everyday. When we decided to move to this town she wrote
for applications and now she works everyday so that we have food on the table,
17 something to drink, a place to live and bills almost paid. She goes to school
two nights a week so that she might be strong with knowledge.

18 We often sit around and laugh at the foolish deals we made when we were
young and innocent. We bought an encyclopedia for which we are still paying
thirteen dollars a month and it will be so out-dated by the time our children
get to use it that it will be useless. Now my wife takes a close look at
everything to make sure it's worth the money. She works well into the evening
when she is not at school--washing, ironing, cleaning, cooking and all the
19 millions of tasks which must be done every week. She knits a sweater with the
20 ease of an old man whittling a stick--but the outcome is always beautiful. The
group of kids she teaches are known as the underprivileged--the kids with no
mother or dad, the kids with no breakfast, the kids with no clothes. She loves
those kids as if they were her own--which she thinks they are. She finds a
way to see that all her kids get at least one hot meal a day--even digging in-
21 to her own lunch money. When winter comes she knows I'm well protected--with
a big long yellow and white scarf around my neck. Each day as I walk from the
22 house she can see I won't catch cold. She makes the pillows that lay on the
23 couch. She wears the best of laces and cashmere. Her husband is known by
24 everyone; he is one of the leaders of the town. She's always baking a cake
25 for a bake sale. All her clothes are beautiful and of good quality. Tomorrows
are always looked forward to in a happy vein.

26 When she speaks she talks with the wisdom of experience. When she wants
to tell me how to do something she always finds the kindest way. She observes
27 her house like a cat, never missing a move by the occupants; trying to snatch
28 a bite of carrot from a salad may bring a stern "no" from her. As her sons
grow old they remember her--what a great mom she was. She always knew what
was best even though we didn't always listen. As for her husband she has made
29 every day since he met her worth a lifetime. There are few moms like her.
Maybe there have been great women in this world but a husband married to this
30 woman does not know one who could touch this one with a ten-foot pole. Putting
on false manners is in no way a groove and the saying "beauty is only skin deep"
still holds. She is the woman who deserves all that I own. I wish I had great
31 gifts to give to this wife for surely she deserves it. But all that I can do
is give her a hug, a kiss, this poem and simply tell everyone how really won-
derful she is.