

BUT YOU PROMISED!

By Roy Goodlet

A man was sitting quietly reading his paper one evening when his wife walked up behind him and whacked him on the head with a frying pan. "What was that for?" shouted the husband. She said, "I found a piece of paper in your pants pocket with the name Mary Lou written on it. Who is she?" "Oh honey," the man chuckled, "Mary Lou is the name of the horse I bet on at the track last week!" The wife felt bad for accusing her husband of being unfaithful and she apologized to him. A couple of days later the husband was once again sitting in his chair and again his wife walked up behind him and whacked him on the head with a frying pan. "Ouch, what's wrong now?" The wife replied, "Your horse called!" We like to laugh at such jokes, but the laughs may also bring to the surface a lot of pain. Such pain is the result of someone's broken promise.

Road signs are meant for our protection if we obey them. God gives us directions and warnings too. He tells us not to lie, to obey the laws of the land, to not swear, to not steal, etc. Why does God tell us these things? God wants us to know how to live a life that is pleasing to Him. Psalm 32:8. "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you." God has promised to watch over us and help us in life, but only if we are willing to obey Him. We need to make some promises of our own today. We need to promise to listen to God and obey God.

People are still breaking promises today. I was speaking to one of my neighbors a few years back, and he sadly told me that his wife wanted a divorce. I said that I was sorry to hear that. He said, "So am I." Down deep inside he was saying to himself, "But she promised, 'for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, till death do us part' that we would be husband and wife." Their two children were probably thinking, "But, mom and dad, you promised to give us a home where we would always be together."

If you have ever carried a lantern on a dark road at night you know that you cannot see more than one step ahead of you. But as you take that one step, the lamp moves forward and another step is made plain. Amazingly you reach your destination in safety without once walking in darkness. You have light the entire way, even though it is only enough for one step at a time. And that is what happens when we keep our promises to God. We know what our final destination is, but we don't know what is on the trail between here and there. We take it one step at a time as we keep our promises to trust God, because we know He keeps His promises.

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