**Famous, But Still Human**

**And Jesus entered into the temple of God,**

**and drove out all who were buying and selling in the temple,**

**and he overturned the trays of the moneychangers**

**and the stands of those who sold doves.**

**And he said to them, It is written,**

**My house shall be called the house of prayer;**

**but you have made it a bandits’ cave.**

***(St. Matthew 21: 12-13)***

**Jesus said, O my Father, if it be possible,
let this cup pass from me.
(St. Matthew 26:39)**

**Jesus entered again into the synagogue,**

**and there was a man there whose hand was withered.**

**And they watched him to see if he would heal him on the sabbath,**

**that they might accuse him. And he said to the man whose hand was withered, Stand up in the center. Then he said to them also,**

**Is it lawful to do good or evil on the sabbath,**

**to save a life or o destroy it? But they were silent.**

**And Jesus looked at them with anger,**

**sad because of the hardness of their hearts;**

**and he said to the man, Stretch out your hand,**

**and he stretched it out; and his hand was restored.**

***(St. Mark 3:1-5)***

**For now we see through a mirror, darkly.**

***(1 Corinthians 13:12)***

**One of the toughest tasks a church faces is choosing a good minister. A member of an official board undergoing this painful process finally lost patience. He'd just witnessed the pastoral relations committee reject applicant after applicant for some minor fault ... real or imagined. It was time for a bit of soul searching on the part of the committee. So he stood up and read this letter purported to be from an applicant. “Gentlemen: Understanding your pulpit is vacant, I should like to apply for the position. I have many qualifications. I've been a preacher with much success and also have had some successes as a writer. Some say I'm a good organizer. I've been a leader most places I've been. I'm over 50 years of age and have never preached in one place for more than three years. In some places, I have left town after my work caused riots and disturbances. I must admit I have been in jail three or four times, but not because of any real wrongdoing. My health is not too good, though I still accomplish a great deal. The churches I have preached in have been small, though located in several large cities. I've not gotten along well with religious leaders in the towns where I have preached. In fact, some have threatened me, and even attacked me physically. I am not too good at keeping records. I have been known to forget whom I have baptized. However, if you can use me, I promise to do my best for you.” The board member turned to the committee and said, “Well, what do you think? Shall we call him?” The good church folks were appalled! Consider a sickly, troublemaking, absent-minded ex-jailbird? Was the board member crazy? Who signed the application? Who had such colossal nerve? The board member eyed them all keenly before he replied. “It's signed, The Apostle Paul.” (Dear Abby column)**

**As pilot of Apollo 11's lunar module—“Eagle”-- Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin was the second man to set foot on the moon. Getting back to earth, however, turned out to be a much easier task than getting his feet back on the ground psychologically. After his historic space flight, Aldrin slowly began to sink into a state of severe depression, a condition that was difficult to rationalize in the light of his Life magazine image as an astronaut. “We looked to be happy, open-faced, well-adjusted people,” he said, “with no skeletons in the closet.” Through a combination of psychiatric therapy, psychological exercises, and antidepressant drugs, he gradually emerged from his dark mental state. Aldrin candidly reveals the details of his illness and recovery in his book Return to Earth (1973). (Wallace/Wallechinsky, in The Book of Lists, #3)**

**The Bible is filled with people God used who, by today’s standards of ability and mobility, wouldn’t have qualified for much at all. Noah was a drunk, Abraham was too old. Isaac was a daydreamer, Jacob was a liar, Joseph was abused, Moses stuttered, Gideon was afraid, Samson was a womanizer, Rahab was a prostitute, Jeremiah was too young, David was an adulterer, Elisha was suicidal, Isaiah preached naked, Jonah ran from God, Naomi was a widow, Job went bankrupt, John the Baptist ate bugs, Peter denied Christ, all of the disciples fell asleep while praying, Martha worried about everything, the Samaritan woman had several failed marriages, Zacchaeus was too small, Paul was too religious, Timothy was too young and had ulcers, and Lazarus was dead. *(Robert A. Schuller, in Walking in Your Own Shoes, p. xvii)*
Even major biblical characters felt discouraged and despondent. For example, Moses said, “If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once . . . do not let me see my misery” - Numbers 11:15. (Victor M. Parachin, in Unity magazine)Julius Caesar always wore a laurel wreath on his head because he wanted to hide the fact that he was bald. (Paul S. Hagerman, in It's a Weird World)**

**Andrew Carnegie, one of the richest Americans ever, practically became allergic to money as he grew older. He was offended, he said, just by the sight and touch of it, and never carried any. Because he had no money with him with which to pay the fare, Carnegie was once put off a London tram. (Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 60)**

**George Clooney is acutely aware of his own mortality, said Tim Teeman in the London Times. While shooting Syriana, in 2005, the actor suffered a serious injury to the base of his neck, which left him in agony, with spinal fluid leaking out of his nose. Lying in a hospital bed, he considered suicide. “I was in real trouble,” says Clooney, 50. “For the first time, I contemplated whether I had accomplished all I wanted. I felt I was going to die or have to die; I felt I couldn’t live with so much pain.” He had three operations, but the pain is still with him. “I know when I wake up it will always feel like a hangover, but I can’t mourn what I used to be.” His health aside, Clooney is also aware that the clock is ticking on his Hollywood career. “There’s only a certain amount of time” – about 10 years, he thinks – “when you get the keys to the kingdom. I’m terrified of the moment when you’re the guy who goes to the studio and says, ‘I’ve got this idea,’ and they’re like, ‘Thanks for stopping by,’ and you walk out and they roll their eyes.” *(The Week magazine, March 9, 2012)***

**Calvin Coolidge loved to fish, but always wore gloves and made sure the Secret Service men handled the worms. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 62)***

**Every year, U.S. doctors leave surgical tools inside about 1,500 patients. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 240)***

**When Christian Science “treating” -- both self-administered and guided by her disciples--failed to end her pain, she took injections of morphine. Mary Baker Eddy had, of course, been dead-set against drugs, but in 1905 she revised Science and Health and added this line: “If from an injury or any cause, a Christian Scientist were seized with pain so violent that he could not treat himself mentally ... the sufferer could call a surgeon, who would give him a hypodermic injection.” (David & Elizabeth Armstrong, in The Great American Medicine Show)**

**To publish a magazine presenting new religious beliefs was not easy. To support his family, Charles Fillmore had to continue in the real-estate business and because his friends ridiculed his religious works as a fanatical delusion, he tried to keep as quiet as possible about the writing that he was doing in connection with the magazine. For many years, he wrote under the pen name of Leo Virgo. Myrtle Fillmore merely signed her articles M. or M. F. (James Dillet Freeman, in The Story of Unity , p. 63)
Gerald Ford was so nervous on his wedding day that he wore one black shoe and one brown one. (Ed Lucaire, in Celebrity Setbacks)
Auditors in 1940 discovered from old records of Philadelphia’s early Bank of America that none other than Benjamin Franklin routinely overdrew his account about three times every week. Benjamin Franklin, so good at so much, was no good at all in math. (L. M. Boyd)**

**I was comforted to read that in order to “become a gentleman,” Mohandas Gandhi (in his late teens) spent hours practicing the arranging of his tie and hair and taking lessons in dance and music. It's nice to know that such a great man experienced the awkwardness of youth. (Dynamic Preaching)**

**Ulysses S. Grant was arrested for exceeding the speed limit while driving a team of spirited horses through the streets of Washington. (Bruce D. Witherspoon, in Astounding Facts, p. 100)**

**H&R Block reported last week that it had underestimated its own corporate taxes by $32 million. Shares of the No. 1 tax preparer dropped 9 percent on the embarrassing news. *(Chicago Sun-Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, March 10, 2006)***

**When in sunshine, the late J. Edward Hoover tried to maneuver himself into positions where nobody could walk on his shadow. (L. M. Boyd)**

**J. Edgar Hoover would not allow anyone to walk on his shadow. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 97)***

**Bob Hope was jailed as a youth for stealing tennis balls. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 246)***

**Jesus went to the tree as a man seeking food to satisfy his hunger, and not as a God creator of the trees and giver of the fruit. He did not use divine power to find out whether the tree had fruit on it or not, because he was living and thinking as a man. On his arrival at the tree he was disappointed to find plenty of leaves but not fruit. *(George M. Lamsa, in Gospel Light)***

**That faith begins with the assumption that the human soul is fallible, that it can delude itself, make mistakes and see only so far ahead. That, after all, is what it means to be human. No person has had the gift of omniscience. Yes, Christians may want to say that of Jesus. But even the Gospels tell us that Jesus doubted on the Cross, asking why his own father seemed to have abandoned him. The mystery that Christians are asked to embrace is not that Jesus was God but that he was God-made-man, which is to say, prone to the feelings and doubts and joys and agonies of being human. Jesus himself seemed to make a point of that. He taught in parables rather than in abstract theories. He told stories. He had friends. He got to places late; he misread the actions of others; he wept; he felt disappointment; he asked as many questions as he gave answers; and he was often silent in self-doubt or elusive or afraid. *(Andrew Sullivan, in The Conservative Soul)***

**Miami Vice star Don Johnson was dumped as Pepsi’s TV pitchman when he was photographed by People magazine drinking a Diet Coke. Oops! (Don Voorhees, in The Essential Book of Useless Information, p. 18)**

**The civil rights leader tried to commit suicide at age twelve and again at thirteen by jumping out of an upstairs window. The first time was after Martin Luther King thought his brother killed their grandmother; the second was after his grandmother died. *(Ed Lucaire, in Celebrity Setbacks, p. 208)***

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King David of Israel was an excellent sovereign. The Bible bears witness to his overall record. “So David reigned over all Israel; and David administered judgment and justice to all his people.” (2 Samuel 8:15).**

**But the biblical record shows that even David had serious problems with his royal family, with the royal court and with his chief military officer. And, yes, he even had problems with himself. After all he was human, too. (John Ross Schroeder, in Plain Truth magazine)\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**King Henry II invented those huge frilled collars in France in the 16th century to hide a scar on his neck. *(Ripley's Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 94)***

**Abraham Lincoln had periods of absent-minded abstraction that were very trying to his wife. When they were newly married in Springfield, Illinois, Mary would go to church while Lincoln minded the baby. One day he bundled the baby up and put him in a wagon. He then began to read a book while pulling the wagon back and forth in front of their house. When Mary returned, she found that the baby had fallen out and was squalling on the ground. Lincoln, obliviously absorbed in his reading, was pulling an empty wagon. (John & Claire Whitcomb, in Oh Say Can You See , p. 143)**

**On January 1, 1863, Abraham Lincoln spent the entire morning meeting dignitaries, shaking their hands, and spreading goodwill. Exhausted by his nonstop morning, Lincoln finally returned to his office at noon. With a deep sigh, he settled in his chair, only to be interrupted by William Seward, the secretary of state. Lincoln was presented with the final draft of the Emancipation Proclamation for his signature. Twice the president picked up his pen to sign it, but his hand shook so badly that he finally put his pen down. He turned to Seward and said, “I've had an exhausting morning. In fact, I've been shaking hands since nine this morning, and my right arm almost feels paralyzed. I don't want to sign this document until my hand is more steady. If my name ever goes into history, it will be for this act, and I want you to know that my whole soul is in it. So you see, if my hand trembles when I sign the proclamation, all who examine it thereafter will say, ‘He hesitated -- look at his handwriting.’” A short time afterward, the president took up his pen with a strong and steady hand and firmly wrote, “Abraham Lincoln .” That historic act endeared Lincoln to the world as the Great Emancipator. (Glenn Van Ekeren, in The Speaker's Sourcebook , p. 119)

The paws of a lioness get damp when she is nervous. (L. M. Boyd)**

**You’ve seen pictures of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow with his full flowing beard. Not for style did he wear that bush, but to cover the scars from the fire that killed his wife. (L. M. Boyd)**

**One hundred seven incorrect medical procedures will be performed by the end of the day today. *(Noel Botham, in The Book of Useless Information, p. 201)***

**In 1978 Tom Osborne nearly took the open coaching job at Colorado. Osborne was tired of feeling he wasn’t wanted at Nebraska after winning only one of his first eight games against Oklahoma. At the end of his Husker career he owned three national championships and authored two Heisman trophies. This guy they tried to throw away is known today as a coaching legend and one of the all-time greats of the college game. By the way, he finished his career winning nine out of his last 10 games with the Sooners and his career record vs. Oklahoma was 13-13. (Butch Rasmussen, in The North Platte Telegraph)

A plaque on the par-five ninth hole of a Los Angeles golf course commemorates the achievement of Arnold Palmer in the 1961 Los Angeles Open. No, Arnie didn't score an ace on that hole, or even a triple birdie. He recorded 12 strokes, including five out-of-bounds shots! (Denver P. Tarle, in A Treasury of Trivia , p. 68)**

**Few know that early in the ministry of Norman Vincent Peale, he was on the verge of a complete nervous breakdown. In his best-selling book ThePower of Positive Thinking Dr. Peale relates how the work of serving a large university church became unbearable. “I began to experience overstrain. I began to get rather tired and nervous and had no feeling of normal power.” Sensing he was about to collapse emotionally, Dr. Peale wisely sought help from one of the professors who had become a good friend.(Victor M. Parachin, in Unity magazine)**

**Why was the poet Edgar Allan Poe kicked out of Annapolis? It was West Point. The posted parade uniform for the day was “gloves and saber belts.” He strolled into formation wearing nothing but gloves, a saber belt and a smile that didn’t last too long. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Bad week for: Infallibility, after Pope Francis accidentally cursed in Italian while delivering his weekly blessing at the Vatican, using the word cazzo, the equivalent to the F-bomb, rather than caso, which means "example." *(The Week magazine, March 14, 2014)***

**Did a pope ever lose his temper in public? The only time that the affable Pope John XXIII was ever seen to lose his temper in public came when he was about to make a short talk and a Vatican garden worker began to remove some palms nearby. Pope John asked the man to leave the palms where they were, but the man ignored him and kept working at the removal of the palms. The pope asked him again, and still the man went on with his work, oblivious to the pontiff. Plainly miffed, Pope John flailed both arms at the worker and ordered him out, using some choice words of Venetian dialect. *(Nine Lo Bello, in The Incredible Book of Vatican Papal Curiosities, p. 44)***

**Pope Paul IV, who was elected on May 23, 1555, was so outraged when he saw the naked bodies on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel that he ordered Michelangelo to paint clothes on them. *(Noel Botham, in The Book of Useless Information, p. 167)***

**Psychology teaches people to reconcile their differences, does it not? Two of the greatest psychologists Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung met in 1907 and formed a close friendship, then split in 1913. Couldn’t reconcile their differences. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Dan Rather once stormed off the set of his newscast, leaving six minutes of dead air, when he learned a tennis match would run a few minutes into the broadcast. (Don Voorhees, in The Essential Book of Useless Information, p. 15)**

**Plagued by anxiety and hypochondria, Norman Rockwell was almost socially dysfunctional. His children remembered him as distant; his first two marriages ended badly. (The Week magazine, November 22, 2013)**

**Nolan Ryan admits it can become a load. Baseball's latest 300-game winner and all-time strikeout king almost struck out before he got started in the big leagues. He came close to quitting twice in the early days of his career. He was uncomfortable with the lifestyle and wanted to go back to work the ranch in Alvin, Texas. “It is such a grind, and you don't see the instant signs of success,” said Ryan. “You get better in this game with experience. You don't just overpower the opponent with your size or strength. You have to learn to adjust so you can survive.” (Tracy Ringolsby, in Rocky Mountain News)**

**Charles M. Schulz died a bitter man, says author David Michaelis. The 77-year-old creator of Peanuts was enormously wealthy. Charlie Brown, Snoopy, and the rest of the grade-school gang he had drawn for half a century were adored by millions, and he was arguably the most popular American artist in history. But as cancer weakened him at the end of 1999, Schulz appeared to one friend to be "angry at God, angry with friends," and "angry with fate." Though surrounded by his children and other loved ones, he was oddly preoccupied with bullies he'd known in childhood, and with the wish that he had been able to get revenge. (The Week magazine, November2, 2007)**

**President Martin Van Buren lost a lot of money betting on outcomes of elections, historical footnotes indicate. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Short of money, wondering how to make ends meet? You're not alone. Even the Vatican predicts a $25.6-million deficit for 1982. (Ripley's Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 110)**

**Voltaire drank seventy cups of coffee every day. (Bruce D. Witherspoon, in Astounding Facts , p. 95)George Washington spent about 7 percent of his annual salary on liquor. *(Noel Botham, in The Best Book of Useless Information Ever, p. 175)***

**How many slaves worked at Mount Vernon when George Washington got it? How many did he add? There were 18 when he took over. He pushed the number to 200. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Oprah Winfrey has admitted suffering symptoms of a nervous breakdown while attempting to keep the "struggling" Oprah Winfrey Network afloat last year. The media mogul told Access Hollywood she realized she was spinning out of control after interviewing Jason Russell, the "Kony 2012" founder whose breakdown caused him to run naked through the streets of San Diego. His symptoms were close to the kind of manic behavior she was experiencing, she said. "When I realized that, I thought, 'All right, if I don't calm down I'm gonna be in serious trouble.'" The breakdown occurred, she said, "in the middle of my struggling network" -- a time when her TV channel was suffering low ratings and harsh media criticism. "I had reached a point where I just couldn't take in any more stimulation," Winfrey said. *(The Week magazine, October 4, 2013)***

**Bad week for: Tiger Woods, after he finished 18-over par at the Bridgestone Invitational, scoring a 298. That’s Woods’ worse score in any PGA Tour event he’s ever played. (The Week magazine, August 20, 2010)**

**A total of 63 errors were made in the 1886 World Series. (David Louis, in Fascinating Facts , p. 160)**

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