

Tossing Out that Smelly Shoe

It was a smoky old juke joint where teeth are generally frowned upon. You know the kind, where they pat you down for weapons at the door, and if you don't have one, they offer you a rental?

We were setting up our band equipment to play there one night when I came across a big old crusty high heel shoe. It was just sitting there, wedged in a hole in the stage. I don't know what made me do it, but I tore it loose and tossed it in the back of my buddy's guitar amp for kicks.

He didn't find it that night, but he did the next week at practice. When everyone kept asking, "What's that smell?" I just snickered.

After that, the old shoe started making its way around pretty good. One week it showed up in the drummers stick bag, the next in the bass player's guitar case. It'd gotten to be quite a joke, at least until one of the wives sniffed it out- boy did she have some questions!

This all seems to be bringing something back to my remembrance. Let's see, what is it? Oh yeah, like how glad I am that we all finally gave our lives to Jesus and got a real life! You can read more about our band's testimony at www.soulfoodministries.org.

That shoe also reminds me of how we have to be careful and not let smelly little sins latch on to us. If we don't watch it, we could find ours lives needing some serious fumigating.

Little sins stink too you know. They might not be as noticeable as one of those really big whoppers, but God notices. In fact, He's really concerned about them. For He knows if we keep petting those little foxes they'll eventually spoil the whole vine.

You see, sin is never satisfied. It may start off as only a little irritating foot fungus, but if you keep putting that nasty shoe back on it'll eventually rot you like a cancer.

Do you know of any children that aspire to be a serial killer? Of course not, and nobody just wakes up one morning and says, "I think I'll kill a few people today on the way to Sunday school." The vilest premeditated actions are just that, premeditated. Somebody almost always fellowshipped with some really bad ideas before those thoughts ever worked there way into the physical realm.

Evil thoughts come to us all, but it's when we fellowship with them that we enter into the devil's playground, and into sin. Jesus made this point clear when He said, (*But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.* **Matthew 5:28** KJV)

Bad thoughts need to be cast down and combated with God's Word. We should set a firm guard at the gates of our mind and scrutinize every seed that we allow to be planted in its garden.

God's not some cosmic kill joy. His laws are the most wonderful expressions of His love for us. We should rejoice in them. They demonstrate His concern. He is a Dad warning his children to stay away from a hot stove. It was His law that pointed us toward our ultimate victory in life! (*Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.* **Galatians 3:24** KJV).

Jesus was the only one to ever completely conquer sin, and He wants to help us have victory in our lives too. Trust in Him and He will send His Holy Spirit into your heart to save you and help you destroy the works of the enemy in your life.

But anyway- I'm sure I'm just preaching to myself. (Note to self: Keep your eyes on Jesus, watch out for holes in the stage, and stay away from anything to do with that old slew footed devil.)

-Guy Sheffield 2-5-06