

Thus Saith God's Word

Rev. Ted Brooks, Pastor of West Saddle Creek Baptist Church
High Expectation

"The women of my people have ye cast out from their pleasant houses; from their children have ye taken away my glory forever." (Micah 2:9)

"Therefore night shall be unto you, that ye shall not have a vision, and it shall be dark unto you, that ye shall not divine, and the sun shall go down over the prophet and the day shall be dark over them." (Micah 3:6)

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine but after their own lust, shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears. And they shall turn away their ears from the truth." (II Timothy 4:3-4)

"And shall cut him asunder and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Matthew 24:51)

Micah, whose name means "who is like the Lord?" was a witness, a witness against Israel. God saw them from his holy temple. Micah saw him when he left from out of his place to come down to the earth. Micah declared that the mountain melted and the valleys shall be cleft like wax before a fire, and like the waters that are poured down a steep place. Transgression had taken place among the people of God and Micah received a revelation from God, a prophecy of a great invasion in the last days.

John, the Revelator, had an apocalypse. He was given a disclosure of that which was previously hidden and unknown. John was told to write concerning things past, "The things which thou hast seen. Things present. Things which are the existing churches." (Revelation 1:1-20; 2:1-3,22) John was told to write future things. The things which shall be hereafter. John, the Revelator of Jesus Christ, was shown to John his servant things which must shortly come to pass. John warned "Blessed is he that readeth."

John, the Revelator, like Micah saw a disclosure of what was previously hidden. John wrote and I saw three unclean spirits, like frogs, come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, for they are spirits of demons, working, that go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth and keepeth his garments lest he walk naked and they see his shame." (Revelation 16:13-16) God himself gave these prophets a message, a message with high expectation.

They were the men to whom he confided his plan and purposes. "Surely the Lord God does nothing without revealing his secret." (Amos 3:7)

Amos described the assembly for consultation between the Lord and the beings who surround and serve him in heaven.

In one such meeting of the heavenly council is described by Micaiah. "I saw the Lord sitting on his throne and all the host of heaven standing beside him on his right hand and on his left."

Micaiah not only sees but he hears. "I saw the Lord setting and heard the discussion and understood what God was about to do upon the earth. (I Kings 22:19-23) Of the false prophets, God says "If they had stood in my council, then they would have proclaimed my words to my people." (Jeremiah 23:22)

Touching the lips of his prophet, "Behold, I have put my words in your mouth." (Jeremiah 1:9)

A prophet is one who is in a condition of exaltation. One with a mind elevated and a heart profoundly moved by encounter with God. God looks for one who has a degree of concentration and excitement, enlightenment and exaltation. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica in that they received the word with all readiness of mind and searched the scripture daily, whether those things were so. (Acts 17:11)

In other words you can't wait ten minutes til seven and decide what you want to study. So now we see by God's word that it is God's word and not ours. And those whom he has called, he will instruct.

We have been sharing with you the life of Micah who preached "upon the rulers, prophets, judges, priests, Micah pronounces judgment. "Therefore, because of you Zion shall be ploughed as a field; Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins." Because of you.... Because of you. Corruption of the leaders, calamity will overtake Jerusalem, the temple site will be deserted, the once populous city will become a heap of ruins.

High expectation was expected of Micah. Can you imagine the profound shocks both to the leaders and the people to be told their city would be ploughed because of corrupt leaders? Why and how could this be? All the leading citizens were implicated, hating the good and loving the evil- the men of rank and influence have turned the moral order upside down. They oppress the people they govern and build the prosperity of Jerusalem on violence and injustice. (Micah 3:9-10)

The prophets are blind guides leading people astray, motivated by the love of money. They bless the man who satisfies their material wants and declares war against him who puts nothing into their mouths. God will forsake them in the days that are coming. Jesus called such a one a hypocrite and one day

he will receive his portion. (Matthew 24:51)

With high expectation and his lips touched by the fire of God, Micah declared that priests also have their price, like many today they manipulate the sacred oracle and give instruction in accordance with the size of the fee. (Micah 3:11)

Micah was a champion of the oppressed, his high expectation was on behalf of the peasant and was against wealthy landowners.

Micah denounces with a fierce indignation. What he saw was "the accursed love of possessing." He saw the greedy, the ruthless disregard for their rights and needs. He saw the cut throat competition, He saw the selfish ambition that inspired men to be more concerned about making a living than making a life. But what was more troubling was the priests had sold out and was motivated by money. They were social rather than religious. The land was now over run by bribery in the courts, heartlessness, brutality, prostitution, self-indulgence, the evils of luxury and dispossession of the helpless, the oppression of the poor. For these sins, said Micah, "The Lord cometh out of his place." (Micah 1:1) Judgement will fall upon all classes of the people.

Let me close with these words. Have you looked around where you live? Do you not see what these prophets saw and have shared with you? The things which are now and the things which shall be? John spoke of false prophets, men who are motivated by money. Those who have summer houses and winter houses. Those whom Jesus said would "eat and drink with the drunkards." Those who had the mind to think Jesus would delay his coming. John, the Revelator, called them frogs and they walked naked and they see his shame. Do you not see the shame? Do you not see those around you who are motivated by money. More stuff is needed, bigger churches, more pews, pave the parking lot, somebody's always got to go somewhere. Micah halted the folks long enough to say: it is the preacher who God is angry with. "Therefore, night shall be unto you, that ye shall not have a vision, and it shall be dark unto you that you shall not divine and the sun shall go down over the prophet, and the day shall be dark over them." (Micah 3:7)

O, my friend, the saddest things you will ever see or witness is a minister who once stood in the council of God, and whose lips were anointed to preach, led astray by fornication and adultery.

The saddest things to witness is to watch a backslidden preacher try to give an altar call to a lost person who is on his way to a demon's hell.

The saddest thing is to witness a preacher who is hungry for bread and that living water, trying to tell others where to find it.

It is a sad thing to see a preacher who has backslid on God stand before a congregation of saints with the plate of holy communion calling for them to come.

The saddest things you will witness is to see a preacher who has no high expectation standing in the river baptizing converts.

Finally, the worst is to see a low life preacher taking a prayer concern when death is approaching and those who occupy the pews know the preacher is naked and they see his shame. There is a warning to you "Behold I come as a thief." (Revelation 16:13) When you least expect him, he will slip in unannounced to rob you of what is most valuable. There are those out there whom God calls hypocrites. You may be ashamed and don't want to acknowledge it. They have no high expectation. They are now I-centered and they are no longer "thou centered." No longer concerned about the common people. You and I are now the culprit or we are the culprit in the witness box. The prosecutor is God. We are there because we have behaved so badly. From us will come the truth. Did the Lord deserve such ingratitude and disobedience? There the scales will be lifted by the hand of God. Words possibly spoken will be "mene, mene, tekel, upharsin." Probably some one will cry out what does it mean?

Possibly God will reply "God hath numbered thy kingdom and finished it." Tekel- "Thou art weighed in the balance and art found wanting."

Peres- "Thy kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians."

My friend, don't be fooled by the foolish who do not fear God. High expectation is expected of us all.

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Urinary Tract Infection? Cystitis? Prodiu[®] Treats Painful Symptoms

(NAPS) When it comes to Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs) or Cystitis, painful symptoms may persist during and even after the cure. However, researchers have found a way to combine prescription and nonprescription medications to help solve this painful and often embarrassing problem.

Every year, as many as 24 million women visit gynecologists due to Urinary Tract Infections or Cystitis. In fact, one fifth of women have at least one UTI a year.


While the types of bacteria that cause UTIs can vary, the symptoms are always the same: pain, burning, pressure and a frequent urge to urinate.

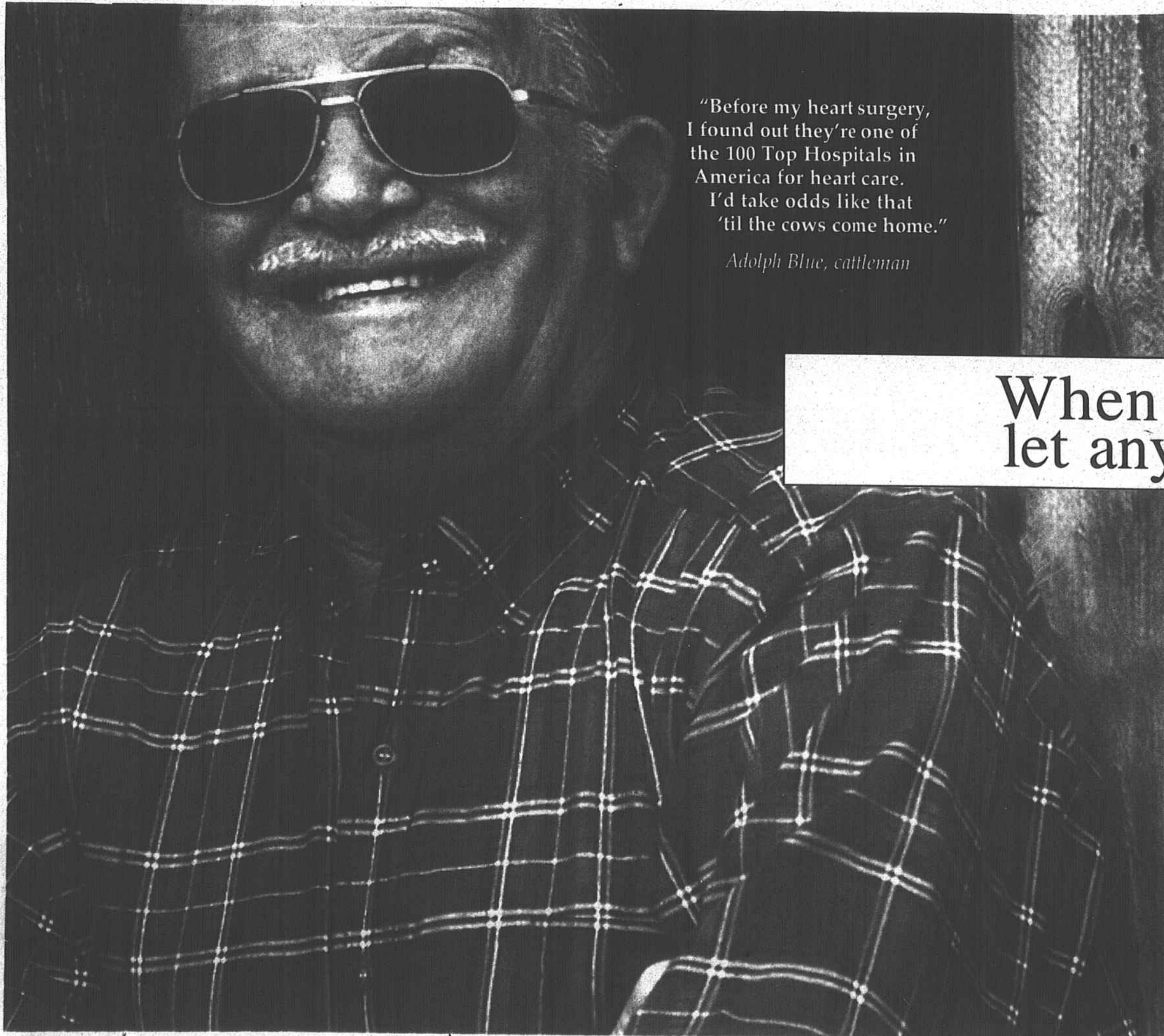
Because UTIs are caused by bacteria, antibiotics are usually prescribed to treat the condition.

Taking the full dose of prescribed medication generally cures the infection, but the symptoms often take longer to disappear.

To help treat UTI symptoms, many people take an over-the-counter medication such as **Prodiu[®]** for fast, temporary relief of urinary tract discomfort. (As with all medications, read and follow directions carefully.)

While such medications are not meant to cure UTIs, they can help relieve painful symptoms before (or even after) the infection is cured. If UTI symptoms are severe or persist for more than two days, call your doctor promptly. For more information on **Prodiu[®]**, consult your pharmacist or doctor. To receive a free booklet on UTIs, write: Requa, Inc., P.O. Box 2384, Bridgeport, CT 06608.





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