

2 Hour Special

(August 14, 2007)

<p>Thumbing through a magazine that caters to LDS intellectual types, I came across a cartoon.</p> <p>Cartoons can be used to humorously address the reality of an otherwise sticky or difficult situation.</p> <p>This cartoon has a young girl kneeling beside her bed in a posture of prayer, her hands are clasped and she is looking toward heaven and the caption reads:</p> <p>Just another – another – working example of LDS teachings that lead FROM the true and living God and TO something else.</p>	
<p>Last week I was handed a very revealing compilation that I said I would share with you tonight.</p> <p>I was told that these quotes were given by people who claim to be Christians.</p> <p>Let me read them to you and then you ask yourself who you think these quotes are about:</p> <p>So who do you think these statements are referring to?</p> <p>These are statements Catholic believers have said about the Pope! Can you believe it? (BEAT)</p> <p>What do you think?</p>	

We'll don't believe it because that is not true.

Actually, these are statements made by Lutherans about Martin Luther . . . don't believe this either.

Muslims about Mohammed? Nooooo.

How about statements from Mormons about Joseph Smith?

Ding ding ding ding ding!

That's right, amazingly enough, these quotes are about the man Joseph Smith!

Now when the LDS are confronted with these statements they might respond by saying "*Well, the members are not perfect, you know, they get carried away and don't speak for the Church.*"

Well let's see what Latter-day Saints provided us with the quotes!

BOTTOM-LINE: The near-deification of Joseph comes from the top. If this doesn't prove it, I don't know what will.

If you EVER heard a Christian make a comment like this about another MAN – run.

Many of you are aware that I take a number of flights each month.

In the past 17 months, I've had the pleasure of over 280 take offs and landings.

With this much air travel, I've also had the privilege of being privy to a number of airplane conversations.

Yes, I eavesdrop.

Now imagine for a moment that you are sitting in an aisle seat listening to two strangers converse.

What do they talk about? This is an intriguing subject to me.

I think these conversations reveal what is in people's hearts.

I generally don't speak to people unless they want to speak to me first, with the exception of saying hello or excuse me.

And because I am usually sitting on an aisle seat and generally board the plane last, the two people sitting in the middle seat and the window seat typically carry on the conversation – if there is one.

Now, when men get together, they are generally trying to “network” or “brag about their latest business deals.

Unless they are Christians. Then the conversation often turns to Jesus or God or the Bible or this sermon or that.

If the passengers are women, they are generally expressive about their children, their homes, and travel . . . unless they are genuine Christians – because then they too end up talking about Jesus, the Lord, God . . . and their children relative to Him.

I've long wanted to take notes on the

conversations I have heard the LDS travelers have – I think it is quite revealing to hear the differences between the conversations two Christians will conduct and two Latter-day Saints.

Last Saturday, I listened intently - and took notes) on the conversation two females (who were strangers to each other) maintained on the flight.

Let me say that in the course of their conversation I learned that these women and their families were very active in their LDS ward and stakes, had been married in the temple, and were true believers in so far as I could tell by their expressions – and the CTR ring on one of their hands.

One woman was a young mother holding a male toddler on her lap.

The other was a middle aged woman who mentioned having a youngest child who was in his twenties.

The first **10 minutes** were spent talking about children – in particular the younger woman’s active little boy.

Then there was **four minutes** of a general discussion about “the Church.”

Four more minutes more were devoted to their past and present callings in the church.

Five minutes were then dedicated to their views about their present wards, relief societies, primarys and youth group leaders.

A full ten minutes were given to the topic of their homes and property, loan-

types, and things related to personal finances and equity accumulation.

The **next five or so minutes** were about their own respective upbringings – their parents and their relation to “the Church” today. Both of their parents, by the way, were still “active as can be!”

Then, for **five minutes**, the conversation somehow slipped into a strange discussion about animal bites and stings, including a rather graphic story about a woman who was recently stung by a stingray.

I’ve been stung by a stingray. I shared in her pain.

Three minutes were dedicated to their respective husbands.

Then **a full 11 minutes** was devoted to the very intriguing topic of boating and R.Ving – with each of these church-sisters confidently sharing how they had either owned a boat at one time in their life or currently own a boat now.

There was a full five seconds of silence.

Then **seven minutes** then passed with a discussion about sports – primarily volleyball – which then melded into a three minute discussion about height – which was initiated by a question posited by the younger woman: “How tall are you?” She asked.

This question was answered and then followed up with, “How tall are you?”

All very edgy stuff.

Then they went back to some individual volleyball war stories for two or **three more minutes**.

Child bearing came up – the actual process, believe it or not – which lasted a full **14 minutes** – I never knew so much could be involved! The pushing here, the forceps there – when are we going to land!

Oddly, this exchange was then followed by a **five minute** treatise on what kind of work the other does?

Then came "What does your husband do?" Not much to say there. And then the subject turned to temples, and I actually heard one of them state: "I think the San Diego is the prettiest. Which one is your favorite?"

This was the conversation highlight for me.

After naming several pretty temples, and shaming a few they each found unattractive, the topic accelerated into "Which temple were you married in (which lasted a **full seven minutes**) followed by a brief commentary on the traffic patterns in Los Angeles, and then by the question "Where did your husband serve his mission?"

There was a bump, the plane had landed, and I'm pretty sure the conversation ended there.

I left that flight reminded of the words of the LORD as found in Luke

"for of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh."

And for some strange reason I thought

<p>about the fleeing nature of life.</p> <p>I wondered about my conversations.</p> <p>I just thought I would share this with you tonight.</p>	
<p>Let's have a word of Prayer</p>	<p>Current events?</p> <p>Bless Sandra and Doris Viewers and channel surfers Staff and volunteers</p>
<p>Before Sandra Tanner and Doris Hanson join me here on set, I want to provide some historical background information on polygamy in Mormonism and the State of Utah:</p> <p>(READ DOCUMENTATION)</p>	
<p>INTRODUCTION OF SANDRA TANNER:</p> <p><i>Sandra, take a minute if your would and tell the audience about who you are, where you came from, and why you are here:</i></p>	
<p>INTRODUCTION OF DORIS HANSON:</p> <p><i>Doris, if you could, in brief, share your story with the audience:</i></p>	
<p>We've touched on polygamy here on our show and over the past three or four weeks have talked about the wives and lives of five of Joseph Smith's</p>	

<p>extra-marital marriages.</p>	<p>Question: <i>From ALL of your knowledge, experience, study and research, why do you think Joseph initiated the practice and why do you think Brigham Young continued it?</i></p> <p>Sandra:</p> <p>Doris:</p>
<p>Richard Bushman, LDS author of Rough Stone Rolling, said the following in an interview on PEW:</p> <p><i>“In actual fact, polygamy seemed to have served a function in society. We now have a fine-grained study of polygamy in one community where we know every family in the community and everything about them. And what polygamy seems to have been was a way in which young women without male protection, no father, no older brother, no near relative to care for <u>them were absorbed</u> into Mormon society.”</i></p>	<p>Thoughts?</p>
<p>From my observations, the LDS leaders have been very evasive and misleading on the present-day Churches position on plural marriage today.</p> <p>Let me give you some quotes from Gordon B Hinckley’s interview with Larry King and hear your thoughts:</p> <p><i>“The (Church) has nothing to do with it.” “It has had nothing to do with it for a very long time,” and “It’s behind us.”</i></p> <p>Is polygamy behind the LDS Church today?</p>	<p>Sandra?</p> <p>Doris?</p> <p><i>Talk to me about your thoughts on the</i></p>

<p>King then point blank made the statement: <i>“You condemn it.”</i></p> <p>To which Hinckley replied:</p> <p><i>“I condemn it, yes, as a practice, because I think it is not doctrinal. It is not legal. And this church takes the position that we will abide by the law.”</i></p>	<p>topic of <i>“Lying for the Lord?”</i> (see article)</p> <p>Is the practice doctrinal?</p>
<p>I maintain that the spirit of Joseph Smith is embodied in the LDS church today, no matter what is said in the media.</p> <p>The leaders today say they revere him, learn from him, and are grateful to Joseph Smith for all he has done for the Gospel being available on this earth.</p> <p>QUESTION <i>If Joseph Smith were alive today, what do you suppose would be different in the Church?</i></p>	
<p>Question:</p> <p><i>I am admittedly quite terrible when it comes to social and governmental issues related to morality in our world.</i></p> <p><i>To me, the less intervention the better.</i></p> <p><i>I personally believe that adults should</i></p>	

be able to practice what they wish as long as everyone is a consenting adult – polygamy included.

My issue is the LDS Church insists on saying they have nothing to do with it, but in fact, they do – in spirit, in temple ordinances, and in accepted doctrine. I am looking for the LDS Church to be honest – that's all.

QUESTION 

Aside from wholesale collapse, what do you hope for relative to the LDS Church today?