

Steek ertens in jou woonplek 'n kers aan terwyl jy lees.

Tema: Keuses en prioriteite

Skriflesing: Lukas 9:51-62

Broodjies vir die pad

"We are our choices."

— Jean-Paul Sartre

"It is our choices, Harry, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities."

— J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

"I finally understood what true love meant...love meant that you care for another person's happiness more than your own, no matter how painful the choices you face might be."

— Nicholas Sparks, Dear John

Nicholas Sparks is one of the world's most beloved storytellers. All of his books have been New York Times bestsellers, with over 105 million copies sold worldwide, in more than 50 languages, including over 75 million copies in the United States alone.

Sparks wrote one of his best-known stories, The Notebook, over a period of six months at age 28. It was published in 1996 and he followed with the novels Message in a Bottle (1998), A Walk to Remember (1999), The Rescue (2000), A Bend in the Road (2001), Nights in Rodanthe (2002), The Guardian (2003), The Wedding (2003), True Believer (2005) and its sequel, At First Sight (2005), Dear John (2006), The Choice (2007), The Lucky One (2008), The Last Song (2009), Safe Haven (2010), The Best of Me (2011), The Longest Ride (2013), See Me (2015), Two by Two (2016), Every Breath (2018), The Return (2020) and The Wish (2021) as well as the 2004 non-fiction memoir Three Weeks With My Brother, co-written with his brother Micah. His twenty-third novel, Dreamland, will be published on September 20, 2022.

"You're going to come across people in your life who will say all the right words at all the right times. But in the end, it's always their actions you should judge them by. It's actions, not words, that matter."

— Nicholas Sparks, The Rescue

"If conversation was the lyrics, laughter was the music, making time spent together a melody that could be replayed over and over without getting stale."

— Nicholas Sparks

"Our minds are susceptible to the influence of external voices telling us what we require to be satisfied, voices that

may drown out the faint sounds emitted by our souls and distract us from the careful, arduous task of accurately naming our priorities."

— Alain de Botton, Status Anxiety

"Only God knows the future. When told by doctors in 2014 that cancer could cease function of his mind and body in two years or less, the author experienced a transition. Suddenly all priorities were rearranged in order of their eternal value. Many of those things that seemed so important the day before, became nothing: a grudge was dropped, a hurt forgiven, a threat dismissed, an apprehension set aside, a bucket list reduced to one or two accomplishments prior to death."

— Gerald MacLennan, Wrestling with Angels: An Anthology of Prose & Poetry 1962-2016 Revised

"Things which matter most must never be at the mercy of things which matter least."

— Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

There are three constants in life... change, choice and principles.

-Stephen Covey-

"We are free to choose our paths, but we can't choose the consequences that come with them."

— Sean Covey, The 7 Habits Of Highly Effective Teens

"Debates about the existence of God or the gods were raging in Plato's time, twenty-five hundred years ago. Remarkably, they still rage on today, as a recent spate of books rehearsing the routine arguments for and against the existence of God demonstrates. By their nature these quarrels are about beliefs and can never be finally settled. But faith, which is more closely related to awe, love, and wonder, arose long before Plato, among our most primitive Homo sapiens forebears. Plato engaged in disputes about beliefs, not about faith."

— Harvey Cox, Harvey Cox Reader

"Students, like most of us, want answers, even to intractable mysteries. It is hard for anyone to come to terms with the raw truth that sometimes there just are none."

— Harvey Cox

Final Answers

Frederick Buechner

NOT LONG AGO I listened to an astrophysicist talk fascinatingly about the extraordinary strides science has made in understanding such things as the origin of the universe, the nature of matter, the relationship of space to time, and he spoke with such conviction and authority that I found myself asking him finally if he could conceive of a time, maybe a hundred years hence, when all his answers to these great questions might

look as primitive and inadequate as the theories of, say, medical science a hundred years ago look to us now. His reply was unabashed. He said that as far as he was concerned, these answers that modern science has reached are final answers, and all we need now is time and money enough to continue research into their ramifications and implications. Nobody could be less qualified than I am to pass judgment on the findings of science at any level, but because I know that, like all answers, these scientific answers are expressed in words and in numbers, which I take to be only another form of words, I simply cannot believe them to be final. It is as impossible for me to believe that the words even of scientific genius can say all there is to say about the origin of the universe as it is impossible for me to believe that the words even of Sophocles or Shakespeare can say all there is to say about human tragedy or the words even of Jesus Christ can say all there is to say about God and about our lives under God. Part, at least, of what I believe the New Testament means by calling Jesus himself the Word of God is that in the final analysis not even the most authentic and inspired words he ever spoke could exhaust the mystery he came to reveal, and that when he proclaimed not "What I say is the truth" but, instead, "I am the truth," he meant, among other things, that the truth cannot be fully caught in any expression of the truth in words but only in the great eloquence and complexity and simplicity of his own life.

* *Originally published in A Room Called Remember*

<https://www.frederickbuechner.com/quote-of-the-day/2021/6/29/final-answers>

Unthinkable

Frederick Buechner

DYING AND DISSOLUTION continue to strike fear in me. Death itself does not. Ten years ago if somebody had offered me a vigorous, healthy life that would never end, I would have said yes. Today I think I would say no. I love my life as much as I ever did and will cling on to it for as long as I can, but life without death has become as unthinkable to me as day without night or waking without sleep.

* *Originally published in A Room Called Remember*

<https://www.frederickbuechner.com/quote-of-the-day/2022/6/30/unthinkable>

"In the past, censorship worked by blocking the flow of information. In the twenty-first century, censorship works by flooding people with irrelevant information. [...] In ancient times having power meant having access to data. Today having power means knowing what to ignore."

— Yuval Noah Harari, *Homo Deus: A History of Tomorrow*

"Intelligence is the ability to solve problems. Consciousness is the ability to feel things such as pain, joy, love, and anger. We tend to confuse the two because in humans and other mammals intelligence goes hand in hand with consciousness. Mammals solve most problems by feeling things. Computers, however, solve problems in a very different way."

— Yuval Noah Harari, *21 Lessons for the 21st Century*

Brood vir die pad

As jy jou pa én jou kind in die spieël herken

Wilhelm Jordaan

Toe 'n mens jonk was wou jy dit nie weet nie. En soos jy ouer word en oud ís, kom die duidelike indruk, soms met skok, soms met verbaasde herkenning en soms met 'n bietjie droefheid: Ek is nes my pa! Ek is nes my ma!

Stef Bos se lied "Papa" is 'n aangrypende bevestiging daarvan: "Ek het dieselfde oë / Ek kry jou trekke om my mond . . . En ons sit langs mekaar / En ons sê nie veel nie / Vir alles wat jy doen / Het ek dieselfde ritueel / Papa / Ek is meer en meer soos jy / Ek het dieselfde hande / En ek kry jou plooië in my vel . . ."

En so gaan die lied aan met bevestiging van eendersheid én andersheid. En jy beleef dit in jou eie lewensgang: Die tyd toe jy na jou ouers opgesien het, nes jou pa wou wees toe hy nog die held was.

En toe dryf julle bietjie uitmekaar in die soektog na die eie self. Soms kom daar 'n onoorbrugbare gaping. Soms wel later 'n onuitgesproke maar vertederende besef hoe naby julle eintlik aan mekaar is; hoe eenders julle is.

Sulke indrukke kom wanneer jy dit nie verwag nie, amper soos die digter Sheila Cussons dit in 'n ander verband sê, as " 'n aanraking van die verstand, sag soos 'n veer, vlugtig maar presies": Dis mos my ma se hande dié! Dis my pa se frons! Dis uitgeknip my oupa se manier van lag! Ons huil oor dieselfde lewensgoedjies.

Saam daarmee kom die wete, onthutsend, vleiend, of bevrydend, dat julle na mekaar aard – hy na jou, want jy is sy voorsaak en, met 'n bietjie nadink, dat jy ook na jou kind aard! En dat jy hom of haar daarvoor moet ag, nes jy jouself ag.

Nog later, wanneer jy self oud is en jou ouers nie meer hier is nie, onthou jy al dié dinge met 'n jammerte oor alles wat ongesê gelaat is en tog gesê moes wees.

Uit dit alles kom 'n familie se stories, sy lewensverhaal – met sy "karakters" en sy dinge wat onvergeetlik in die geheue gebêre word en wat so nou en dan opgediep, afgestof en weer vertel word. En dan word daar so gelag dat die familie aan mekaar moet vashou om nie om te val nie.

Maar dis nie net lag en pret nie, nè.

Daar kom ook vet in die vuur en die vonke spat, veral wanneer 'n naïewe erflikheidsleer ter sprake kom.

Soos wanneer 'n man, as sy vrou hom betig oor 'n slegte gewoonte, hom so verweer: "Dis oorerflik. Ek aard na my pa. Hy was só. My oupa ook. Ek ook. Deal with it!"

Of wanneer hy met bitterheid vir haar sê: "Jy raak nou nes jou ma."

Dit alles help jou om die omvang en diepte van liefde in familieskap te begryp.

Soos T.S. Eliot dit met insig en vertroosting sê: "There is no vocabulary / for love within the family / love that's lived in / but not looked at, love within the light of which / all else is seen, the love within which / all other love finds speech / this love is silent."

* *Jordaan is 'n emeritus professor in sielkunde.*

<https://www.netwerk24.com/netwerk24/stemme/menings/wilhelm-jordaan-as-jy-jou-pa-en-jou-kind-in-die-spieel-herken-20220629>

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