**SKELETONS IN YOUR CLOSET**

***Idioms With Spiritual Applications (#2)***

Idioms have filtered into our everyday language. Remember the old Hunt’s Ketchup commercial that used the idiom: “Good things come to those who wait,” as the thick red sauce slowwwly made its way down the bottle onto a plate of french fries? Or maybe you’ve been referred to by others as “A chip off the old block,” meaning you are just like your dad or mom. Surely you have heard someone tell you when you explained a difficult situation that you had “hit the nail on the head.”

Idioms are a phrase that has a figurative (not literal) meaning. According to theidoms.com website there are now about 25,000 idioms in the English language. I use them all the time, and so do you. They make our language come to life and give it some pizzaz. For example, look at the top idioms being used in America right now and tell me which you would prefer to hear:

1. “That’s a hot potato” – or, “that’s a controversial issue I don’t won’t to deal with”?

2. “That’s a piece of cake” – or, “that is so easy to do”?

3. “That happens once in a blue moon” – or, “that happens so rarely”?

4. “Whoa! It’s raining cats and dogs!” – or, “Whoa! It’s raining really hard”?

5. “Ha! That will happen when pigs fly!” – or, “Ha, that will never happen.”

6. “Young man, zip your lip!” – or, “Ricky, be quiet”?

7. “Well, birds of a feather flock together” – or, “those girls are so much alike”?

Do you see now why idioms are so colorful to a language? Of course, you have to use them in a setting where others will understand what you are saying. For example, since I use them constantly out of habit I find myself throwing them around unconsciously when I go to China to teach. It’s funny when you see them trying to translate into Mandarin when I say something like, “Don’t cry over spilled milk,” or, “Forget it, that’s water under the bridge.” When the Chinese ask me how I’m doing they looked confused when I tell them, “I’m finer than frog hairs” or, “I’m gooder than grits.” Why don’t they understand me? I reckon something is lost in translation, huh?

Which brings me to my lesson for today. Do you have any skeletons in your closet?

If someone has a skeleton in the [closet](http://wiki.answers.com/Q/What_does_skeletons_in_your_closet_mean), they have a dark, shameful secret in their past that they wish to remain secret. Perhaps it is a private sin that they are even now engaged in. We can think of such shameful things as a past abortion, an adulterous affair, an addiction to some drug, maybe a gambling habit or viewing pornography.

If you are carrying around this “secret sin,” terrified that it will come to light and expose you as a horrible sinner, then you need this message. I am not suggesting that your sins must always be confessed before everyone in order to cleanse your soul. But if they were of a public nature, it might be the wise thing to come clean and put that dark past behind you. James, the Lord’s brother, wrote these words: “*Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed*” (Jam. 5:16).

Paul confessed his sin of murder and imprisonment of God’s people, admitting he was “*the chief of sinners*” (I Tim. 1:15). The Corinthians had been fornicators, drunkards (drug addicts), homosexuals and other sinful things but confessed them and put that sinful life behind them when it says, “*and of such were some of you, but now you are washed, now you are sanctified, now you are justified*” (I Cor. 6:9-11). They had removed the skeletons in their closet and could now live free from their dark past.

On the other hand, your skeletons might be of a private nature. In that case, you need to hear John’s advice: “*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*” (I Jn. 1:9). Open your closet doors and let God do a thorough spring cleaning. Like David, come clean with your past. Read in Psalm 32 how he opened his closet door for the Lord to look in:

​1 Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered.  
2 Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit   
 there is no deceit.  
3 When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long.  
4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the   
 drought of summer.  
5 I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, “I will   
 confess my transgressions to the LORD,” And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.  
6 For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You, In a time when You may be   
 found”

Living with fear of your past is no way to go through life in Christ. The Lord has not given us a spirit of fear (2 Tim 1:7). Or, as John put it, “*There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear*” (I Jn 4:18). Get rid of all those secret sins that hold you back from living as a free man in Christ!

Get rid of those skeletons in your closet! Don’t procrastinate, do it today! - Rick