

**June 30, 2019 | PRIDETIDE**  
*Bible Pride ~ The Bible Says...*

*Too many people spend too much time  
railing against what they believe is wrong  
instead of doing what they know is right.*

**First Reading ~ Micah 6:8**

Listen, O mortal, God has told you what is good, and what does God require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

**Second Reading ~ Mark 12:28-31**

And one of religious scholars who had listened to them debating and had observed how well Jesus had answered them, now came up and put a question to him: "Which commandment is the foremost of all?" Jesus replied, "This is the foremost" 'Hear O Israel, God, Our God, is One. You must love the most high God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second one is this, "You must love your neighbor as yourself.' There are no commandments greater than these."

**Third Reading ~ John 13:34-35**

Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment: Love one another. And you are to love one another the way I have loved you. This is how all will know that you are my disciples: that you truly love one another."

**Fourth Reading ~ adapted from *The Collected Sermons of Fred B. Craddock***

So Mary has just told Joseph she's pregnant, and he knows that he has not been with her. Joseph is a good man, a devout man. He is wondering what he should do. He has some friends just fresh from the synagogue who say, "Just do what the Bible says, ok? You can't go wrong if you do what the Bible says."

What about that for an answer? I have heard that all my life! "Just do what the Bible says." Well, I will tell you what it says. From Deuteronomy 22: "She is to be taken out and stoned to death in front of the people." That is what the Bible says.

I get sick and tired of people always thumping the Bible as though you can just open it up and turn to a passage that clears everything up. You can quote the Bible before killing a person to justify the killing. "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth," the Bible says. You can hit back, take an eye when yours is taken, a tooth when yours is knocked out. Do you know what the Bible says? The Bible says, "If a man finds something displeasing in his wife, let him give her a divorce and send her out of the house." It's in the Book. Do you know what the Bible says? "Let the women keep their heads covered and their mouths shut." Do you want me to find it for you? It's in there. I run into so many people who carry around a forty-three-pound Bible and say... "Just do what the Book says." It's not that simple.