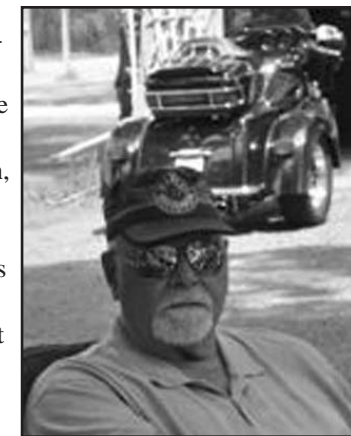


**A Mummy's Curse**

Growing up around Motorcycle Clubs, Jaysee was familiar with every kind of individual imaginable. One of the most "colorful" of all the creatures God had made was Mummy, whom youthful Jaysee first saw in the hospital, wrapped in white sheets like a dead Egyptian Prince. Jaysee's young mind assumed that Mummy had been burned in a fiery conflagration of some kind, as he heroically saved a mama and her children, or more likely, in a motorcycle crash resulting in flames or even extreme road-rash. As it turned out, Mummy had been "in a fight with a \_\_\_\_\_ dog, and was ripped up pretty \_\_\_\_\_ good when he got too \_\_\_\_\_ close to a new litter of pups." Mummy was pretty good natured about his new "road-name," and taught the young Jaysee the real meaning of a Mummy's curse. Of course Jaysee had heard biker talk, and knew about "cussing like a sailor" and other descriptions of the profane use of language, but it was Mummy who exemplified REAL cussing. In the interest of good reporting, it would be impossible to do justice to the colorful language which Mummy employed as descriptive metaphors, without overwhelming the sensibilities of women, children, and men, alike. Besides, even Mummy was careful to utter his expletives outside the range of women's and children's hearing. In case of an inadvertent slip, he always tried to convince Jaysee he was speaking French. True to the form of a good-hearted biker, Mummy always told Jaysee to refrain from cussing, "Do as I \_\_\_\_\_ well say, don't do as I \_\_\_\_\_ well do." Jaysee was certain that he would never need to say such things to adequately express himself, and so it was.

It so happened, on a day some years later, that Jaysee and the Brotherhood of the Wind were riding over to the chicken place, to meet with some other riders, and have a confab. Things were going pretty well in the motorcycling world, and it seemed that Jaysee's plans for peace among the various clubs was heading in the right direction. During the conversation over wings and thighs, some of these other riders began to brag about certain raunchy things they had done in the past, and their desire to band together to do even worse things in the future. Their language was filled with cursing, disrespect, and hate, even using God's name as an expletive. Knowing that most bikers are interested in food, fun, and fundraisers, Jaysee and the boys wondered what rock these guys crawled out from under. It was immediately obvious that these riders would never fit in with the type of biker lifestyle typified by the Brotherhood. It was here that Jaysee used the first cussword anybody could ever remember, when he said, "If your hand causes hurt, or if your foot causes you to stray, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to be thrown into HELL. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into HELL, 'where the worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.'" Somebody whispered, "He said 'H-E-L-L!'" Jaysee explained to his pained brothers that his reference to Hell was not intended as a cussword, but as a reminder that there really is such a place waiting for those who go their own way, instead of trusting in Jesus Christ, and following Him.

Jaysee knew that Mummy, many long years before, had come to faith in Jesus Christ, and turned his tongue over to the praise of God. He had learned that words were important and descriptive, but they could be used for evil, as well as for good. When we utter a word in anger, hate, fear, or any number of other ways which do not refer to or express the real meaning of the word, they are said to be spoken "in vain." They have no real meaning to the hearers. When Jaysee spoke of hell, he was speaking of a real place where those who reject God and His forgiveness will spend forever. When we say it to express anger or frustration, it means, "Duh, I can't think of anything else to say." The Bible says, "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain." (Exodus 20:7) There are other places in the Bible where we are told to be careful that every word we speak conveys the right message. We should learn to "say what we mean, and mean what we say." The Word of God also says, "Our tongues are small, and yet they brag about big things. It takes only a spark to start a forest fire! The tongue is like a spark. It is an evil power that dirties the rest of the body and sets a person's entire life on fire with flames that come from hell itself. (James 3:5-6 CEV)



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"Cussing," said old Mummy, "is the language of hell. It will make people think you have nothing worthwhile to say. It will cause people, even friends, to quit listening to you. It will make people avoid having to talk to or be around you. Cussing will close you off from others as surely as if you were in hell itself, and that is the ultimate isolation. I know, about cussing. It is worse than being wrapped up tight in those white bandages, which bind you up like death. People want to stay away from death." Jaysee never forgot Mummy's wise words, and he never cussed. Pastor Sam Downey White Creek Congregational Church P.O. Box 557 Adams, WI 53910 608-547-8198 fbcaf@aol.com

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