

# THE MOST UNFORGETTABLE CHARACTER I'VE EVER MET

ser3992 Alone in the Room, Pt 5  
November 29, 2020 E & L

## I. POINT OF INTRIGUE

A. Who is the most *unforgettable* character you've ever met?



1. Was the person male or female?
2. Godly or evil?
3. Celebrity or every-day-Joe?
4. Friend or foe?
5. Historical or contemporary?
6. Fowl, fish, or animal? (**show photo of Moby Dick**)
7. Christophany or aberration? (**show photo of 3 Hebrew children**)



**NOTE:** People who live with schizophrenia often have imaginary friends. Not the case with Shadrack, Meshack, and Abednego. Their friend was a Christophany—Christ

making an appearance before His incarnation (putting on flesh).

**B. Have you selected the person, fish, fowl, or animal?**

Good. Push the save button; we'll come back to it.

**C. The Lead Team felt it would be good if the Pulpit Team kept in front of our church family the four challenges throughout 2020: *Bible reading, the Tithe, Connecting, and Serving.***

Therefore, we gave each month a “challenge” focus. This month, November, has been the tithe. Next month is “service”—certainly fitting for the month of December.

I loved Gina's tithe story. First, because the tithe is *God's promise to provide*, and secondly, it distinguished our tithe from our offering; there is a difference.

## **II. MY TITHE STORY**

**A. Where do I begin?**

I have a hundred tithe stories that I could share. I have often shared my “deal with God” when I was 15 or 16, wanting a job at a hardware store down the road from where we lived. But I don't often share the story I'm about to tell you now because it's somewhat embarrassing.

Sheryl and I were newlyweds, and I had been hired as the youth director and assistant pastor at Mt Pleasant United Methodist Church in Pleasantville, NJ. As typical

to ministry, the hours were long and the pay short. LOL! At the time, I was doing our family finances. (Sheryl took them over after she shattered an ankle in a car accident. And thank God she did, because she is more frugal than I. ☺ )

I don't remember what year it was, but I do remember the scene, clearly. I was working out our budget—you know, income vs expenses, putting in all the pieces of the pie: mortgage, taxes, gas, electric, water & sewer, groceries, auto expenses, etc., and of course, the tithe, which has always been number one on the chart. (**show photo of budget**) At the time, ours didn't have all the gingerbread; it was bare bones. Really bare bones.

When I filled in the tithe portion and saw what we were giving over the 10%, I thought, "Wow! That's a lot of money; we could get a car with what we're giving over the 10%." But I knew that God was urging me to give more. So, I'm arguing in my mind, "Should I increase our giving by 1%?" After looking at the bottom line, I thought, ½% will work.

Can I tell you, at that very moment, God knocked me off of my chair onto the floor and said, "Sofia, what is ½% to Me? Am I not the One who supplies the earth with its food, raises up the employer to provide people with jobs? Have I not met your every need?" And the list went on. I felt like I was Job standing before the King of the Ages getting a good tongue lashing. I was so ashamed of myself.

I gave what the LORD put in my heart, and have been doing so, and then some, ever since, and have NEVER regretted one penny. Never!

**B. Let us pray!**

# THE BUDGET

**Gross Income** (All moneys earned – combined incomes if married.)

	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Yearly</b>
	\$	\$

**Working (Net) Income** (What you bring home – the useable moneys.)

	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Yearly</b>
	\$	\$

## Expenditures/Expenses

	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Yearly</b>
	\$	\$

Tithe (10%)

Taxes

Social Security

Mortgage or Rent

Union Dues

Savings

Heat

Electricity

Food / Household

Water/Sewer/Garbage

Auto Loan #1

Auto Loan #2

Auto Insurance

Auto Gasoline

Auto Repairs

Health Insurance

Life Insurance

Doctor and Dentist

Medications and Prescriptions

Telephone

Internet

TV

Loans – Education

Loans – Credit Cards

Lawn Care

Cleaning / Dry Cleaning  
Clothes

Christmas Club

Allowances

Vacation

Recreation / Entertainment  
Newspapers / Periodicals

Other

**TOTAL LIVING EXPENSES**

\$

## THE REAL PICTURE

**Working (Net) Income** (What you bring home – the useable moneys.)

	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Yearly</b>
	\$	\$
<b>SUBTRACT total Living Expenses</b>		\$
<b>WHAT YOU HAVE LEFT (SMILE!)</b>	\$	\$

**SUGGESTIONS:**

1) Pocket money for HIM	\$	\$
2) Pocket money for HER	\$	\$
3) Additional savings	\$	\$
4) Additional charitable causes	\$	\$

**IF YOU'VE GOT ANY LEFT AFTER ALL OF THAT --  
YOU'RE THE BLESSED OF THE BLESSED!**

\* For **MONTHLY** figure, take the *weekly* figure, times it by 52, and divide by 12.

\* To figure your budget **WEEKLY**, take the *yearly* figure, times it by 12, and divide by 52.

### III. THE MOST UNFORGETTABLE CHARACTER I HAVE EVER MET

#### A. I was in senior high English class.

Mrs (Roberta) Nelson, our teacher, gave us an assignment. It was a 500-word speech on the most unforgettable character we had ever met, without using notes. Now, remember, most of us had only lived 17-18 years. Our library wasn't Mildred Keeyes deep. LOL!

I selected Saint Paul because at the time, to me, he was the bravest and boldest person I knew. Who had faced what He had faced? Here's St Paul's defense of his apostleship to the Corinthians.

#### ***2 Corinthians 11:21-33***

But whatever they dare to boast about—I'm talking like a fool again—I dare to boast about it, too. <sup>22</sup> Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. <sup>23</sup> Are they servants of Christ? I know I sound like a madman, but I have served him far more! I have worked harder, been put in prison more often, been whipped times without number, and faced death again and again. <sup>24</sup> Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine lashes. <sup>25</sup> Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea. <sup>26</sup> I have traveled on many long journeys. I have faced danger from rivers and from robbers. I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles. I have faced danger in the cities, in the deserts, and on the seas. And

I have faced danger from men who claim to be believers but are not.<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>27</sup> I have worked hard and long, enduring many sleepless nights. I have been hungry and thirsty and have often gone without food. I have shivered in the cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm.

<sup>28</sup> Then, besides all this, I have the daily burden of my concern for all the churches. <sup>29</sup> Who is weak without my feeling that weakness? Who is led astray, and I do not burn with anger?

<sup>30</sup> If I must boast, I would rather boast about the things that show how weak I am. <sup>31</sup> God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, who is worthy of eternal praise, knows I am not lying. <sup>32</sup> When I was in Damascus, the governor under King Aretas kept guards at the city gates to catch me. <sup>33</sup> I had to be lowered in a basket through a window in the city wall to escape from him.

I closed my speech with these words from the Apostle Paul, with a little assistance from Mrs Nelson, because there was a phrase in the verse I couldn't remember.

### ***2 Timothy 4:8***

Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who await His appearing.

**B. If we were to meet a man like that today, most likely we would say, "That's the most unforgettable person I've ever met." Now, if you're a woman, you select someone else, but we guys,**

we love “a battle to fight, an adventure to live, and a woman to rescue.” I’m not sure who the woman was Paul rescued, but I’m sure when we get to Heaven, we’ll find out her name, maybe “their names.”

To face what Paul faced in his lifetime, he had to be willing to be “alone in the room.” Over and over again Paul found himself alone in the room: on a ship, in a crowd of angry people, before Kings and magistrates, before the High Priest, in a prison cell, and before his own people when they compromised the GOSPEL (God Offers Sinful People Eternal Life). He stood alone before Peter, who was considered, by some, to be the head of the early church. Here’s the scenario:

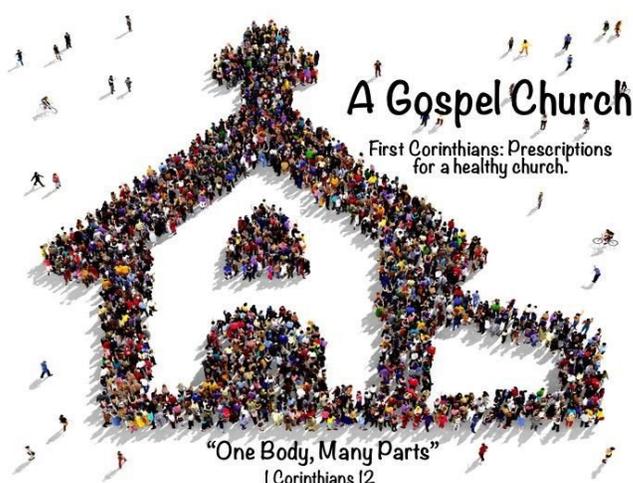
### ***Galatians 2:11-15***

<sup>11</sup> But when Peter came to Antioch, I had to oppose him to his face, for what he did was very wrong. <sup>12</sup> When he first arrived, he ate with the Gentile believers, who were not circumcised. But afterward, when some friends of James came, Peter wouldn’t eat with the Gentiles anymore. He was afraid of criticism from these people who insisted on the necessity of circumcision. <sup>13</sup> As a result, other Jewish believers followed Peter’s hypocrisy, and even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.

<sup>14</sup> When I saw that they were not following the truth of the gospel message, I said to Peter in front of all the others, “Since you, a Jew by birth, have discarded the Jewish laws and are living like a Gentile, why are you

now trying to make these Gentiles follow the Jewish traditions?

<sup>15</sup> “You and I are Jews by birth, not ‘sinners’ like the Gentiles. <sup>16</sup> Yet we know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law. And we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be made right with God because of our faith in Christ, not because we have obeyed the law. For no one will ever be made right with God by obeying the law.”<sup>[d]</sup>



**C. Every person in the Body of Christ has a place and purpose. (show photo of church)**

Anyone who accomplishes anything for Christ has at one time or another “stood

alone in the room.” Whether you’re John the Baptist, Mary the Mother of our Lord, one of the women in Herod’s household who met the needs of Jesus, the Ethiopian eunuch, or St Paul, you were willing to “stand alone in the room.”

**D. Where is it God is calling you to stand alone in December of 2020?**

This is not for me to see, nor anyone else at this moment—just you and God. Write it on the card you

were given when you came into the sanctuary today and place it in your Bible, or somewhere you'll not lose it.

#### IV. INVITATION

**For those of you who have never given your life to Christ, that's the BEST place to begin.** Here's how:

**Admit**– your sins have separated you from God.  
(Psa 14:1-3; Rom 3: 23);

**Believe** – that God did something about your sins through Jesus Christ. (The final Pascal Lamb/Messiah.)  
(Lev 17:10; Heb 9: 19-22);

**Commit** – yourself to His righteousness by confessing Jesus as Lord and Savior. (Isa 53:5; Col 1:22);

**Do it today!** (Isa 49:8; 2 Cor 6:2).

Father in Heaven, I'm sorry for the things I've done that are wrong: I am a sinner; forgive me. Thank You for loving me and sending your Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for my sin. Holy Spirit come into my heart; Jesus be my Lord and Savior. I give You my life. Amen.

ser3992, *The Most Unforgettable Character I've Ever Met* (Alone in the Room, Pt5) 1786 words w/o Budget (approximately 13.7 minutes with Invitation and no HG detours).