

Would Jesus Visit the Baths?

"Inconceivable! How Could One Even Consider Such a Thing!?"

Such is the likely response of many people calling themselves Christians today. But it is ironic that their attitudes and notions more closely resemble those of Jesus' enemies, the Pharisees and Scribes, than those of Jesus himself. He sought out those shunned by the respectable religious of his day, being far more concerned with the inner state of men's hearts than the outward behavior observable to the world. Not that he condoned a tax collector gouging the poor or the illicit act of an adulteress he saved from stoning; he simply knew that much of the righteous indignation of the pious was a cover for their own imperfections and their unreflective condemnation of the scandalizers was unlikely to lead to any real change of heart in anyone. Both the condemner and the condemned share a common need for the personal inner transformation that Jesus urged.

Jesus knew that faced with disapproval and rejection from others, we are unlikely to confront our deepest and most troubling issues and more likely to retreat into the bunker mentality of rationalization. Paralyzed by fear and smarting from hurt and anger, we are easily caught up in a self-perpetuating cycle of conflicted behaviors, pursuing that which "feels right" at the time while thwarting the realization of what we most deeply desire. At some level we may be aware of our plight but are helpless to escape on our own.

Our best hope for liberation is God's love. Each of us has a mental concept of what it means to be loved, but many of us do not comprehend and have not known a love so powerful it can break down our bunkers. Knowing and experiencing the love that exceeds all other love, we are finally empowered to begin loving ourselves and we discover the courage to risk seeing ourselves as we truly are, both the good and the bad. Thus becomes possible the repentance Jesus calls for in the gospels.

Would Jesus visit the baths? Who knows? But if he did, it would not be to wag a finger at the patrons. In the uncanny way he conveyed love and acceptance to those rejected by others and himself, Jesus would point to the worth and value of every man there. He would grant each the authority to decide for himself whether his motives and intentions were consistent with his own deepest values and whether he was acting out true freedom or irrational compulsion. And regardless of how an individual chose to face these questions and no matter how he might answer them, Jesus would continue to love him.

Not all who met Jesus were ready to accept unconditional love. For some religion acted as a protective shield while for others skepticism proved too strong. For some however, meeting Jesus was the turning point in their lives.

A Message from the Anawim Community

A Community of Gay Men Seeking to Follow Jesus
 gayanawim@aol.com



sorry.
 we don't do exotics.

Rose City VETERINARY HOSPITAL

CRAIG QUIRK DVM
 STEPHEN KOCHIS DVM
 809 SE Powell Blvd
 (near the Ross Island Bridge)
 232-3105

La Rog Jewelers Diamonds on Broadway

now offers you
 the biggest
 selection of
 commitment
 rings in
 Portland.
 Stop by
 our
 downtown
 store,
 open
 7 days
 a week.



James Giardina
 Your Downtown
 Jeweler with Pride



Oregon's Family Business of the Year
 (503) 223-5051
 539 SW Broadway
 www.Larog.com

Jewel A. Robinson B'Zillion \$\$\$ Producer



OFFICE (503) 281-4040
 VOICE MAIL (503) 301-4283
 E-MAIL Jewel2U@teleport.com

Visit me now at:
<http://www.jewelrobinson.com>

1730 N.E. 10th Avenue
 Portland, OR 97212



Be Treated Like "Family"

Over 120 New & Used Subarus in Stock!

2003 Subaru Outback

All Wheel Drive Wagon

Loaded with Power Windows & Locks, Power Mirrors, Air, CD Player, Alloy Wheels, ABS Brakes, Rear Window Dust Deflector & much, much more...

Promo Price **\$20,995 auto**
\$20,295 5-spd

STK# 37616344 (auto) & 366332226 (5-spd)

Over 30 In Stock Starting At This Price



Come See Lithia Subaru's
 New Promo Pricing—
GREAT SAVINGS
 Without the Hassle!

2003 Subaru Baja—All Wheel Drive

Over \$6,000 Off

Loaded with Power Windows & Locks, ABS Brakes, Moonroof, Leather Interior, Club Quality Sound System, Bed Extender, Splash Guards & much more...

Suggested Retail Price \$27,132
 Lithia "Family" Discount \$6,137
 Lithia "Family" Price **\$20,995**

STK# 36108169



Portland's Fastest Growing Subaru Dealer

LITHIA Ask for Jim Andrews
 America's Car
 & Truck Store

SUBARU 1-800-311-7310
 The Beauty of All-Wheel Drive® 1404 Main Street • Oregon City
 www.lithiasubaruoregoncity.com

LICENSE TITLE AND \$50 TITLE & REGISTRATION PROCESSING FEE NOT INCLUDED IN PRICE. ALL VEHICLES SUBJECT TO PRIOR SALE. NOT ALL SALES ARE FINANCED. ALL FINANCING ON APPROVED CREDIT. PRICES GOOD THROUGH 8-01-03.

Live Long. Live Strong. Get Tested.

Free Walk-In HIV Testing
 Monday Nights 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

• Anonymous • Needle Free • Results in one week



Washington County Health Clinic - Beaverton
 12550 SW 2nd (between Hall & Watson)

For more information, please call 503|846|4734.

