

SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS FOR YOU?

An interesting letter from a mother once appeared in the *Catholic Digest*.

The mother wrote that she was just finishing up a load of laundry, heading back upstairs, when her kindergarten-aged daughter presented her deepest theological question.

“Mommy,” she asked, “if it were the end of the world, and everyone was getting ready to die ...”

The mother stopped, shifted the basket and said a quick prayer for wisdom to answer this question.

“Yes?” the mother encouraged her daughter.

The little girl went on: “Mommy, if the end of the world came, would you have to take your library books back?”

Obviously, that young lady did not want any unfinished business in her life.

How about you? Is there some unfinished business in your life that needs to be taken care of? Is there someone you need to forgive? Are there amends to be made? A letter written? A phone call placed? A visit you need to make or a word or two that you need to speak?

The little girl’s question reminds me of an incident in the life of Lewis Grizzard, writer and humorist known for his Southern demeanor and commentary on the South. He spent his early years as a newspaper sportswriter and editor, becoming the sports editor of the *Atlanta Journal* at age 23 (almost unheard of), but better known for his humorous columns in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and as a stand-up comedian and lecturer.

Some of his books included: *If Love Were Oil, I’d Be About a Quart Low*; *Elvis Is Dead and I Don’t Feel So Good Myself*; *My Daddy Was a Pistol and I’m a Son of a Gun*; and *Chili Dogs Always Bark at Night*. Well, you get the drift of his humor.



Grizzard had a somewhat troubled life, battling alcoholism, going through three divorces and suffering from a congenital heart defect.

(more)

Grizzard once told about a time when he was being visited in the hospital. He was scheduled to have open-heart surgery the next morning, and he confessed to his pastor that he had not exactly led a virtuous life.

He asked if there was still time to repent. The minister looked at his watch and replied, "Yes, but I'd hurry if I were you."

Now back to that little girl's question: Do you have unfinished business?

For He (Jesus) says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation (2 Corinthians 6:2 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter