

# One Cigarette Away From Going to Hell

Matthew 19:21-22

Edwin S. Jones  
January 14, 2007

---

Just when you think you are starting to figure out the titles .... I'll admit this one is a bit "out the re." It comes from an important chapter in the Bill and Debbi Mulligan story. It seems Bill had his eye on a particular young lady in his class and would have asked her for a date, but he learned she smoked—a Bill *no no*. Can you guess who was the next young lady he asked out? Those of you who guessed Debbi win the as yet to be determined prize! So what is this all about? Well, Debbi converted Bill to Jesus you see. Our convictions determine our choices and our choices set the course for our lives.

## **Convictions > Decisions > Actions > Character**

- The importance of our worldview—the Sermon on the Mount example (Matt. 5-7)
  - Attitudes lead to ...
  - Influence through our ...
  - Actions
- Purpose > Content > Results

## **Jesus is the *Context***

- John 14:18, 23
- II Corinthians 3:18
- Galatians 2:20; 4:19
- Ephesians 3:16-17
- I Peter 3:15

## **Examples of the Principle in Action**

- Daniel (Dan. 1:8)
- Joseph (Gen. 39:7-10)
- Paul (Gal. 2:20)

You see, the convictions we develop guide our decisions, define our actions, and mold our character. Can you imagine Bill without Debbi? What would have become of him ☺ Can we imagine ourselves without Jesus? Without Him we have no chance at developing the attitudes that will guide our decisions, and mold our character into His image (Rom. 8:29).