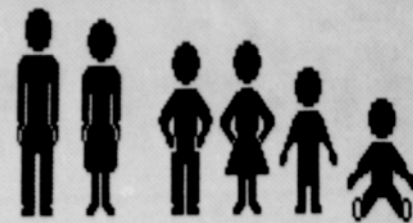




RELIGION

Strengthen Your Faith Through Prayer And Regular Church Worship

Scripture of the Week;
I Corinthians: Chapter 7



Contrary Winds (Matt. 14:22-33)

Sermon on Notes from the Pulpit of Dr. T.L. Lewis, Pastor of Morning Star Baptist Church

This morning I want to preach on the master of 'Contrary Winds.' There are four things I want to say about these winds and then we will be finished.

1.) The first thing suggested by our text is that doing what the Lord says is not always easy... These disciples were just following the Lord's orders and yet the wind was contrary.

2.) The second thing suggested by our text is that we are not responsible for the wind. There are some things that are just out of our control.

3.) The third thing suggested by our text is that we are not responsible for the wind. There are some things just out of our control.

4.) And finally the fourth thing that is suggested here is that although the wind may be contrary, the Lord is standing by.

Now with help of the good Lord I want to say a little about each point and then we can receive the blessing of the Benediction.

I. The first thing we want to note is the way of duty is not always easy. To be responsible for someone requires commitment on our part. It requires sacrifice, if need be.

The way of duty is not always easy. Being a church member may be easy, but being a Christian is hard task. Wearing a title is easy, but the responsibility behind the title requires commitment.

The way of duty is tedious because we have been called to deny ourselves, take up the cross day by day, and walk in the footsteps of the man from Galilee.

Its not always easy because we are called to relinquish authority over your own life. In other words you are no longer your own master... For when you become a believer you become a part of a spiritual army, in a spiritual warfare with spiritual weapons and on top of that you are not even the general you receive marching orders from general Jesus. So if you are looking for glory, the army of the Lord is not the army for you. However, if you are looking to give God the glory then sign your name on the dotted line.

These disciples had received their marching orders from General Jesus. The master commanded them to get into the ship and go over to the other side of the sea. The Bible says while he went into the mountain to pray.

They did just as the Lord had commanded them. They were walking in obedience to the Lord and yet they were facing adversity... The Bible says that the wind was contrary doing what the Lord says is not always easy.

As you travel this Christian journey you are going to find and no doubt most of you have already found out that there are some contrary winds that come about every time you set out to do what thus saith the Lord. Every time you open your orders from General Jesus contrary winds begin to blow.

However, it matters not how contrary the winds may become. It matters not how rough the road may become. It matters not how deep the hurt may be. It matters not how tough the going may be. It matters not how hard the task may be. It matters not how difficult and complex the situation may become.

When General Jesus gives out marching orders he expects for some marching to be going on. In spite of contrary winds. The Lord does not lower his standards.

He doesn't say "Since the weather is a bit adverse today you can take the day off. It looks like rain, you don't have to be a witness today. You don't have to be instant today after all it is out of season."

II. Now the second thing suggested by our text is that we are not responsible for the contrary wind. As we live and as we move in the will of God there will be some problems and difficulties that will come through no fault of our own. I know it sounds incredible but there are actually some problems that we face that we did bring on ourselves.

Peter and company (the other eleven in his band of merry men) were just rowing their ship across the sea, just as they had been commanded to do by General Jesus. And through no fault of their own the wind started rising...

Now if you haven't already experienced any contrary winds in your life you just keep keeping rowing. Just keep rowing your ship across the sea of life. One day soon contrary winds that you are not responsible for will start rising in your life.

There are two things that normally happens when we are confronted with contrary winds. First of all we cry out, "Why me Lord?"

You told me to be faithful and win souls for the kingdom, and yet these winds are steady rising.

You told me to be faithful and serve as a deacon, and yet these winds are steady rising.

You told me to be faithful and serve as a deacon, and yet these winds are steady rising.

You told me to be faithful and serve as an usher and yet these winds are steady rising.

You told me to be faithful and sing in the choir and yet these winds are steady rising.

I am down here Lord doing what you commanded me to do and yet these winds are steady rising.

That's the first thing that happens when contrary winds that we are not responsible for start in our lives. We cry out "why me Lord?"

The second thing that happens is that fellows pals and patrons, comrades and colleague start analyzing your life.

That's what happened to brother Job. When he was in the midst of his affliction his friends accused him of hidden sin. Yet the Bible says that he was perfect and upright one who feared God and shunned evil. (Elucidate)

When contrary winds that we are not responsible for come into our lives, friends and associates sometimes accuse us of having done some wrong to deserve contrary winds.

Its a narrow and bigoted kind of theology that relates everything that happens to you to some fault or shortcoming in your life. Though it is true that we sometimes cause our own problems sometimes we are responsible for our own storms.

When we get into trouble for the wrong reason we can expect judgement. We can expect contrary winds when we knowingly function outside of the will and plan of God for our lives. There are some things that we do that if we know get caught doing them we can expect contrary winds. We can expect the judgement of God.

However, when you get into trouble for the right reasons instead of judgement you can expect redemption. Peter and the Boys were just rowing their ship just as the Lord had commanded them and through no fault of their own the contrary winds started rising.

III. The third thing that is suggested by our text is that god can use contrary winds to prepare us for a higher service in the cause of Christ.

God doesn't allow contrary winds to come upon us just to scare us out of our wits. He doesn't allow contrary winds to come for no reason at all. He isn't sitting up in heaven saying "It's a slow day, I feel like a little excitement, there's old T.L. Lewis, look at him just rowing his ship across the sea of life. I think I'll have me some fun and send a contrary wind or two his way, that ought to shake him up a bit, get his knees to knocking."

God uses contrary winds to build our Christian character. He uses trying circumstances to make our faith stronger. There is nothing that happens in the life of the child of God that is without divine purpose.

Now most of us have Christian character, but we want to have it without contrary winds. But you see you can't have character apart from contrary winds because character comes as a result of us experiencing and learning from contrary winds.

You can't come forth as pure gold until you have been through the fire.

You don't really know that the Lord is a deliverer unless he has delivered you.

You don't really know that he is a rock, a fortress, a shield and buckler until you have need a place of refuge.

You don't really know that he is bread in a starving land unless you have been hungry.

There are some things about the Lord that only contrary winds can teach us. So instead of falling apart when the winds start blowing let God teach you how to weather the storm.

When you allow the Lord to teach you how to weather the storm you will have the testimony that John talks about in the Book of the Revelation.

These are they which have come through great tribulation these are they which have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the lamb.

A Growth Experience

Today I said, "I love You, Lord, Please bless this day You've given. I thank You for the blessings, Lord, And all the joys of living."

"My cup is full to overflow, You've been so good to me. I thank You for Your gift of love To us at Calvary."

Before the day drew to an end My heart had known much pain. From the mountain top where I had been Through the valley once again.

I'll not ask why, just simply trust In Him to lead the way. It must be best for me, I know, So close to Him I'll stay.

"A little more," I hear His voice, "My child keep sweet and pray, And soon you'll know the joy you had On the mountain top today."

Ruby Roberts Cox

These are they which are undefiled. These are they which follow the lamb whithersoever he goeth when you allow the Lord to teach you to weather the storm, how to weather contrary winds you will discover that in spite of contrary winds you do the incredible.

When you read the text you will discover first of all the obvious, Peter sank, and its so easy to see because it is always so easy to point out the faults in others. But before he sank the Bible says, "Peter walked on the water, to go to Jesus. Yes he did sink, but before he sank he actually accomplished the extraordinary. He did the miraculous.

IV. Fourth and finally the text suggest that even though the wind is contrary, even though trouble is at every hand the Lord is standing by. You see the Lord never promised that the winds wouldn't be contrary. But he did promise Hebrews 13:5, he did promise that he would never leave us nor forsake us.

He never promised that as we rowed our ships through the seas of life that we wouldn't be confronted with adversity, that toil and trouble wouldn't board our vessels, but he did promise Matthew 28:20. He did promise that he will be with us always.

He never promised that the storms would rage and that the wind wouldn't be contrary, but he promised never to leave us alone.

I have seen the lighting flash. I have heard the thunder roar. I have felt sin breakers dashing trying to conquer my soul.

But I heard the voice of the Saviour, he bid me still fight on. For he promised never to leave me never to leave me alone.

United Church's Executive Council Vows to Push for Change in Media Images of African-Americans

The United Church of Christ's 44-member Executive Council, concluded a four-day meeting in Cleveland.

The resolution charges the media, especially television; with too often "creating the misleading perception" that the "ills of American society," such as drugs, crime, AIDS, illiteracy, poverty, and teenage pregnancy, are centered in African-American communities. Calling the media "valuable tools" which "influence American societal behavior," the resolution calls on them to depict "more positive images and realities within African-American communities."

The Council vowed to work for change through personal contacts with journalists. It called upon two United Church agencies, the Office of Communication and Commission for Racial Justice, to "raise the consciousness" of church and secular media by advocating more honest images of ethnic minority persons in news, documentary and entertainment programming.

The resolution was submitted by two United Church special interest groups, United Black Christians and Ministers for Racial and Social Justice.

The letter was sent to President Sam Nujoma to acknowledge the "decades of oppression and domination" Namibia had been under and said, "your new nation has emerged as a beacon of hope for liberty, justice and the common good."

The 1.6-million-member United Church of Christ is a 1957 union of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches.

In Memory of . . . Luther Strong, Sr.

Born: May 14, 1914

Died: March 20, 1990



Luther Strong Sr.

To his family and friends he was a man of great depth. He provided wisdom and direction for those who needed it. He also had empathy for everything that touched those whom he loved.

He leaves to carry on the torch of love, his wife of fifty-three years, Opal Strong,

Bethel A.M.E. Church 5828 N.E. 8th, Portland

The Busy Bees of Bethel AME Church will present it's annual day, "Mad Hatter's Tea on April 8, 1990 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Please place this date on your calendar. Jan Allen, President.

Gospel Concert Tour

by Mattie Ann Callier-Spears
The Lane College from Jackson, Tennessee will be appearing at the Jefferson High School on March 29, 1990 at 7:30 p.m.

The choir is on a nine city tour. They began in Tulsa, Oklahoma; then on to Phoenix, Arizona; Los Angeles, California; Oakland, California; Portland, Oregon; Salt Lake City, Utah; Denver, Colorado; Kansas City, Kansas; and then, back to Jackson.

The members of the Lane College were not aware of the population of Blacks in the city of Portland. They have presented gospel tours for five years. This will be the very first time that they have been this far north. Lane College is a CME sponsored institution. This concert will be a family event and promises to satisfy all who may come.

Tickets will be sold at the door: \$10-adults and \$5-children. If there are more than 2 children per family, the rate will be \$2.50 per child. If choirs are attending, in mass, the fee will be \$5-per every two persons.

See Linda Thompson at the door.

optical illusion

these kids in red maybe they're preparing for the world we've made shaping an identity for the world to come where death is casually summoned in an argument about hope where the brand of the shoes makes the man politics long since subsumed in style emotions trapped on the outside television is the drug commerce blind to its own depravity greed the presence hovering above this scene crack is merely the inverted host generic and colorless submitted by

Lee R. Martin
Portland, Oregon

MARANATHA CHURCH

4222 N.E. 12th Avenue
Portland Oregon

Sunday Services
Sunday School
9:00 A.M.
Morning Worship
10:30 A.M.
Maranatha School of Ministry
6:30 P.M.
Mid-Week Services - Wednesday
7:30 P.M.

Rev. Wendell H. Wallace
Senior Pastor

community activist; sons: Luther Strong Jr. of Portland, Oregon, Julius Strong of Los Angeles, California, Darnell Jackie Strong of Seattle, Washington; daughter: Gail Strong of Frankfurt Germany; brothers: Arthur Chapple, Wilbert Reed; sister: Lucille Reed; 10 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

He was a member of First Church of the Nazarene until his grandson became the Pastor of Immanuel Free Methodist Church.

Luther Strong Sr. was born on May 14, 1914 in the city of Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was one of four children.

In 1934, he married his high school sweetheart, Opal Thompson. This union produced five wonderful children who brought him joy and great pride.

In the early 1940s he travelled northwest to Portland, Oregon. Here he worked hard to establish a secure foundation for his

family whom he loved. During this early period, he worked at Magnus Metals in the shipyards as a shipping clerk. In the late 1960s, he became a longshoreman at Waterways Terminal. He retired from Waterways in 1979.

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Portland Sickle Cell Foundation to Hold Gospel Music Program

Theme: Bloodline Awareness Through Gospel Music Transfusion

Portland Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation, Inc. will hold its Sixth Annual Gospel Musical, on Saturday, April 28, 1990 at Maranatha Church, 1222 N.E. Skidmore, Portland, OR 97211 (on the corner of 12th & N.E. Skidmore), at 6 p.m.

Our program will feature local groups and choirs. Special features - Inspirational Sounds of Eugene, Oregon; Emanuel Ap-

ostolic Choir of Bremerton, Washington; and The Generators of Seattle, Washington.

Local talent - Alpha One; Karen Patterson, Celloist; Portland Metro Area Choir and many others will be featured in our musical extravaganza!

For further information, please contact us at 249-1366.

Greater St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church Celebrates Pastor's First Anniversary

Greater St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church will celebrate the Pastor's First Anniversary and 12th Year in the Ministry in a series of services April 1st and 4th through 8th. The church is located at 3922 North Williams Ave. at the corner of Williams and Failing. Serving as Anniversary Chairperson is Sis. T. McNeal. Sisters Sue C. Carey and Bettye J. Coppage are Co-Chairpersons. Sis. Nancy J. Kimmons is the Banquet Chairperson.

These services will honor Rev. Robert E. Houston, Sr., Senior Pastor and his family. Pastor Houston was born on May 16, 1960 in Portland to the union of Rev. Phene and Ms. Naomi Houston. He is married to the former Hester Jeanette Hart and they have one son - Robert E. Houston, Jr.

He spent his formative years attending Ockley Green Elementary School. He graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in 1978, and has attended Multnomah School of the Bible, Portland State University, American Baptist Seminary of the West, Golden Gate Theological Seminary, and United Theological Seminary & Bible College. He has received college credit from the National Baptist Sunday School and B.T.U. Congress in Nashville, Tennessee, and attended the last Bishop College (Dallas, Texas) sponsored L.K. Williams Institute. He is very active in Christian and local community organizations.

The selected theme this year is "The Limitless Ministry Through Jesus Christ" (Philippians 3:14).

The Anniversary festivities will begin on Sunday, April 1st at 3:00 p.m. The featured speaker will be the Rev. Dr. O.B. Williams, Pastor, Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church.

Services will continue on Wednesday, April 4th at 7:00 p.m., the featured speaker will be Rev. Chester Staples, Pastor, Greater Faith Missionary Baptist Church.

On Thursday, April 5th at 7:00 p.m., the featured speaker will be the Rev. Johnny Pack, IV, Pastor, Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church.

On Friday, April 6th at 7:00 p.m., the featured speaker will be Dr. T.L. Lewis, Pastor, Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church.

Guest churches will be featured nightly in music service participation. The scene shifts to the Bethel A.M.E. Church on Saturday, April 7th for the Anniversary Banquet at 6:00 p.m. The featured speaker will be Sis. Ida Simpson-Daniels of the Greater Mt. Calvary Church of God in Christ. Special music will be provided by Sis. Lorene V. Wilder and the Sermonettes. Tickets for this event are available for just \$15.00 by calling 281-6337.

At Greater St. Stephen on Sunday, April 8th at 11:00 a.m., Dr. Shelby L. Tate, Sr. and the members of Rosehill Missionary Baptist Church of Seattle, Washington will be the guest church. Dr. Tate will be accompanied by approximately 100 guests from Seattle.

The grand finale worship service will be held on Sunday, April 8th at 3:00 p.m. at the Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church. Dr. Tate will bring the closing message and the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Rev. Walter M. Brown, Jr. will be the guest church. It is advised that you would come early in order to get a good seat to this event.

The public at large is cordially invited to this grand occasion. For more information you may call 281-6337.

"A Teaching Church With A Reaching Ministry."

MT. OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. James E. Martin, Senior Pastor
116 N.E. Schuyler • (503) 284-1954

3 MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES
8:00 A.M. - WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 A.M. - WORSHIP SERVICE 12:30 P.M. - WORSHIP SERVICE
CHURCH SCHOOL - SATURDAY MORNING 9 A.M. TO 10 A.M.
BIBLE STUDY:
10:30 A.M. - 12 NOON - WEDNESDAY
6:30 A.M. - 8:00 P.M. - WEDNESDAY
Radio Ministry Each Sunday, 8:00 A.M. - KBMS

Jesus Loves You!

Allen Temple CME Church

4236 N.E. Eighth Avenue
(corner of 8th & Skidmore)
Portland, Oregon 97211
(503) 287-0261
Phillip S. Nelson, Pastor

Psalm 34:3