



The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ
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Confidence Corner John F. Board

In this week's *Confidence Corner* we want to examine two events that may not often be compared and contrasted in Scripture. One event is recorded in Acts 27; it is

Paul's experience on the Mediterranean Sea during a storm. The other event is Jonah's experience much earlier on the Mediterranean Sea, likewise during a severe storm.

In examining the two narratives we also find that not only are Jonah and Paul traveling on the same sea but they are also both traveling in an east-to-west direction. In each narrative there are boats with one famous passenger and a number of other unnamed passengers. In both narratives there is a concern that a major character will possibly drown. In Acts 27 as well as the Jonah narrative, someone or something is thrown overboard to prevent a catastrophe. But, there is one major difference.

In the Jonah narrative the storm is sent from God; it is God's attempt to break down Jonah's disobedience and reluctance to go to Nineveh. For Paul, though God's power is shown in His protection of Paul through the storm, the storm itself is simply a phenomenon of weather. What does all of this information teach us?

Today, though we as Christians can avoid Jonah's storm because it was a miraculous storm brought on by God, we cannot avoid the natural storms that come into our life. Sometimes the natural storms are literally physical storms, but sometimes they are figurative "storms." In the life of even the most devoted servant of God there may be a great deal of "storms" they must endure. That surely was true in the life of Paul, and especially true of Jesus, the most righteous One ever to grace the earth. But like Jesus and Paul we must trust that our Father will see us through the "storms" we face in this life. May we all endure to the end!

jfb

In the right side article I wanted to share with all of you a poem that I hand wrote in one of my first New Testaments I purchased at the Freed Hardeman Lectures after finding the truth! *jfb*

Are You Preaching?

From Gospel Digest, November 1959

There isn't a word that a preacher can say
No matter how lovely or true;
Nor is there a prayer his eager lips pray,
That can preach such a sermon as you.

You vowed to serve Christ and
men know that you did,
They are watching the things that you do;
There is not one action of yours that is hid,
Men are watching and studying you.

You say you're no preacher?
Yes, but you preach a wonderful
sermon each day.
The acts of your life are the things
that you teach,
It is not the things that you say.

So, Christian, remember you bear
His dear name,
Your lives are for others to view
You are living examples, men praise
you or blame,
And measure all Christians by you.

Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. — Giving Up Our Inheritance
Matt 16:24-26

P.M. — Authority
Hebrews 7:11-14

Evangelizing in a Social Media World

I'm really struggling today! On the one hand I can see that social media can have a huge impact in many different areas. I do think that using it to "help" spread the Gospel can be huge. Getting messages out to young people regarding youth events and even getting messages out to adults using social media can be very effective. Leaving a positive footprint on social media regarding Christ and God's word is important. But I wonder if we are missing something. I wonder if what we think is an easier way to reach others is actually a less effective way to reach people. I am open to feedback...as I said, I am struggling.

First let me address one thing that I think is important to our use of social media to "help" reach others with the message of Christ. I think our efforts to reach others with Christ using social media will definitely not be effective if we send mixed messages. We can have fun and show humor but if we act or post in a way that is contrary to Scripture, our efforts to share messages of Christ will be viewed as hypocritical.

I have seen many people who use social media effectively to spread the message of Jesus. This is a good thing and should not be discredited or lessened. That being said, I think we all have to be careful that we do not lose sight of the fact that we can use social media as a crutch to avoid actually making the face-to-face contact that cannot be replaced if we truly want to impact people with a message from Christ.

Social media is a tool to lay a foundational message that then needs a personal caring touch—a caring touch like our Savior. It is too easy to reject a message that is a text or a Facebook post. One can also reject a face-to-face appeal to follow Christ, but it is only through a face-to-face encounter that the true emotion of one's concern for another's soul can clearly be conveyed.

*John F. Board
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