SOUND THE TRUMPET IN PRAYER

**And if you go to war in your land against the enemy that opresseth you, then ye shall blow an alarm with the trumpets; and ye shall be remembered before the Lord your God, and ye shall be saved from your enemies (Numbers 10:9).**

Walking His Way

There is a way that seems right unto men, but it is not the way to life. If not governed by God’s word, most of men’s ways will lead to death. This Biblical principle is applicable to the lives of all men. This can be said not only of this proverb, but of all instruction God has given mankind. The book of Proverbs gives us good advice, and we would be wise to take heed to His instruction. When God manifested Himself in the flesh by overshadowing the Virgin Mary with His Spirit, His intent was to bring salvation to all men. And in doing so He also came to show the Jews, and then the Gentiles, a way to walk in that would bring them abundant life. A Jewish Rabbi was once heard to say that Jesus was the perfect example of everything a Jew should be. His ways are the way to a life of abundance for us. By living in them, we will also bring abundant life to those around us. His ways heal, give hope, peace, prosperity, and make the blind see.

It is often hard for us to understand His ways because His ways are not our ways. This is not only true for those of us who have not seen Jesus in the flesh, but it was true for His disciples. Mark 10:32 says, **“And they were in the way going up to Jerusalem; and Jesus went before them: and they were amazed; and as they followed, they were afraid…”** This was written after Jesus told them how hard it is for rich men to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. And that those who leave all to walk in His way should receive a hundredfold now in this time; houses, brethren, sisters, mothers, children, lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come life eternal. Their humanity could not embrace these things, but after this; He began to tell them of His crucifixion. Imagine their confusion. No wonder they were afraid. This was another way they could not understand. It is hard to know how life will come from a seemingly dead situation, but with God all things are possible. If Jesus did not come, there would be no hope for mankind. He came as a light to show us a better way, and to show us that we can be changed. That is, if we want to.

We do not have to remain the same. We see a perfect analogy of this in the account of blind Bartimaeus. When Bartimaeus heard Jesus coming, he began to cry out to Him. He was begging by the roadside, and most likely this was all he had ever known, but apparently he was tired of it. He wanted to change, and something inside him knew that Jesus had a better way. He didn’t care what those around him thought. Even those who told him to be quiet could not stop him. At the sound of his cry, Jesus took notice of him, and asked him what he wanted, which was to see. Although Jesus surely knew what he wanted, there is something about prayer that moves the heart of God. Prayer demonstrates faith, and a desire for something greater. Jesus answered Bartimaeus, and the Bible says that Bartimaeus followed Jesus in the way.

The Bible does not record Bartimaeus as a disciple, but it is very likely that he became a believer, and followed the ways and teaching of Jesus after his encounter. There are many of us that have similar stories. We were spiritually blind before our encounter with Jesus, and we could not see. We walked in darkness, but Jesus showed us a better way. There still remains a battle against darkness even after an encounter with Jesus. Many of us have to live with the results of choices we made before we walked in the light. If we allow these circumstances to govern our lives, we are still walking in darkness. The Bible says in Romans 8:1, **“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”** To “walk after” literally means to tread. It implies purposefully walking a sometimes rugged path to follow the ways of Jesus; who is our bread of life. If we embrace condemnation, we are not walking in His way. Most likely we will all have days when regret will overshadow us, and try to make us live in the past. We must not put ourselves in this self imposed prison because there is a better way. BMLR

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**THE ROSE MEMORIAL FUND**

Rose Golden believed that every inmate should receive a card or newsletter. Upon learning of her passing, an inmate requested a memorial in her honor. All funds go to mailing the monthly newsletter or sending a card to an inmate who has lost a loved one. Please make funds payable to International Christian Fellowship. Thank you.

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**International Christian Fellowship extends thanks to Johnny Plass, and Oscar Falcon for their sacrificial, monetary gifts to the Rose Memorial Fund.**

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For more information about the Rose Memorial Fund, The Illinois Prison System, Life Catalyst, Hospitality House; or if you would like to receive the newsletter by email please visit

[**http://www.inspirationalwordsforinmatesandtheirfamilies.yolasite.com/**](http://www.inspirationalwordsforinmatesandtheirfamilies.yolasite.com/)

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WORDS FROM BEHIND THE WALL

SMARTER PERSON

The smartest thing to do when dealing with a heated situation is to practice patience while restraining oneself from an embarrassing outburst; which will get us into trouble. No one likes violent people who live by rage because they ruin the moment constantly. Dwelling on stuff keeps a person stuck on the past as others leave them behind. It is best to move on and be the smarter person (Proverbs 19:11). **William Moctezuma**

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WALK IN FAITH (PART I)

At times this walk with God is frustrating because it feels like I’m walking alone, but when I feel like that, I rebuke the evil spirits, and read footprints in the sand. If you never heard of it, find it and read it. And when you finally read it, you will be touched just like I am every time I read this. You know there is a time and place for everything. Take this time, and place building blocks for your life when you get out. God will give you the tools to build everything you need to prepare for when you get out. Don’t ever give up because God never gave up on you, and the footprints in the sand proves that to everyone. **Charles Moctezuma**

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GETTING ALONG TOGETHER

There are two absolute “musts” when it comes to getting along with one another:

1. You must be considerate! I do this when Antoinette is trying to take a nap in the evenings after my story, The Young and the Restless, goes off. I am considerate, and I turn the TV all the way down so she can rest. The only way to avoid “difficult” people is to leave the planet, and that won’t happen. Difficult people usually have unhealed emotional wounds, deep insecurities, irritating mannerisms, poor social skills, and dysfunctional backgrounds. I myself can be difficult at times, and have one or more of these same issues going on. I’m far from perfect myself, but these people are not me. They are ERG (Extra Grace Required) people! Get to know where people are coming from. Even get to know us prisoners behind these walls. We have made either small or huge mistakes in life, but we’re still human no matter what was done. Once you know what we’ve been through, you’ll be more understanding. Furthermore, just because you don’t fear something, that doesn’t make our fear an invalid feeling. True and real fellowship happens when people know we can share our doubts, and fears without being ridiculed or judged.
2. You must be Humble! Pride builds walls, and humility builds bridges; it’s the oil that soothes relationships. How can we develop more of it? We can do this by admitting our own weaknesses, opening ourselves to correction, being more patient, and helping others grow.

Paul writes: Live in harmony. Don’t’ try to act important. Enjoy the company of ordinary people…don’t think you know it all (Romans 12:16 NLT). To the Christians in Philippi he wrote: “Give more honor to others than you do to yourself. Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others.”(Philippians 2:3-4 NCV). Humility is not thinking less of one’s self. It’s thinking of your self less, and others more. It takes God’s grace, and our best efforts to get along together. God’s grace is available to all. Listen: “You are joined together with peace through the Spirit, so make every effort to continue together in this way”. (Ephesians 4:3 NCV). **Brandy Holmes**

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THE REALM OF GOD

Do you think God is going to make trash? He is not going to make a confused new creature or a defeated creature. This means the moment you are born again or come to know God; He puts all of the ingredients in you that are necessary for you to be victorious in life. I remember one time; back in 2004, my girlfriend at the time, Trina, and I went on a cruise. We went scuba diving with masks, special breathing equipment, and flippers on our feet. Underwater we saw some of the most beautiful fish we had ever seen in our lives. It is a whole new world that you can’t see from ground level. Likewise, the moment you are born again, a whole new world opens up to you as it has for me. Jesus said, “…except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God” (John 3:3).This means the minute you are born again, you can see all that God has done for you. You move into a whole new dimension the moment you are born again! You can scuba dive in these scriptural realities, and look for a while. Or you can go ahead and get one of those tanks, put it on your back, and submerge for thirty minutes or an hour. You ask, “How in the world do you submerge?” When God’s Spirit is moving, and you get in God’s presence; He will take you underwater, and show you who you are in Him. This is not something you try to be; it’s who you are. It’s not something you try to produce. It is something God has produced for you. You are not trying to make it so. God made it so, and you can declare; “It is so.”

 **Jamie Alexander**

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**Inmates, please submit your inspirational thoughts for Words from Behind the Wall to Beth Marie Laccone-Rexford, C/O International Christian Fellowship, 9146 Lincoln Ave, Brookfield IL 60513. Office Phone: 708-387-9009. Thank you.**