

The Lakeside



Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday September 2 2024 - MATTHEW 6: 26:27

26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

Read Matthew 6 for meditation and inspiration.



Dear Lakesiders and Friends,

"No prophet is ever accepted in his own country" (Luke 4:24).

In this lesson, Jesus is preaching in the synagogue in Nazareth, where he had been raised. "No prophet gains acceptance in His native place," Jesus says. Then, as He continues to speak, the congregation's response seemingly proves His point. Jesus' hometown audience becomes enraged when He says that God's gracious benevolence extends to all people, even to people of other nations and religions whom they regard as enemies. Jesus already had alluded to an Old Testament passage to describe His ministry:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me ... He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, recovery of sight to the blind and release to prisoners (Is .61:1).

"The whole audience in the synagogue was filled with indignation," Luke tells us. "They rose and expelled Him from the town, leading Him to the brow of the hill on which it was built and intending to hurl Him over the edge" (Lk.4:29). They wanted to kill Jesus, then and there, because He had announced to them His ministry of loving service to all persons -- even those whom they despised -- even their enemies. "No prophet gains acceptance in his native place."

Many are accepted as they go along to get along. My dear friend Rev. Dr. Bob Pitman would start his teaching on evangelism saying, "Everyone likes to be liked! Everyone wants to be accepted!" The church is the "Place of Acceptance, so come as you are and find love, acceptance and respect no matter who you are or what you have done!"

But out of that same loving body comes from time to time prophets. These are the people who are more interested in playing to an audience of one (God) than being accepted by the crowd, they are more interested in being faithful than being careful to not offend. These are the prophets. We need them, God uses them and they often say things that we just do not want to hear, or accept but in our heart of hearts we know that their message rings with truth (the Truth of God). They are often

never accepted by the in-crowd, or the popular clique but have God's truth to share, and truth will set us all free, or in Jesus' words: "glad tidings to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, recovery of sight to the blind and release to prisoners".

We all want to be liked but let us be sure that the price for the comfort of like-ability is not so high that we loose the Truth of God.

Welcoming Prophets,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roger".

Roger