

# From The Pulpit

by Rev Donald M. Clark

LOVED by HIM  
(Emphasis on the Presence)

Text: "And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And He was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow; and they awake Him, and say unto Him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? And He arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. And He said unto them, why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith? And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this that even the wind and the sea obey Him?" (Mark 4:37-41)

THERE WERE FIVE EXPERIENCES that the disciples had with Christ and their environment in this story of relationships. In all relationships, the Presence is so vital. There is the storm phase and the calm phase in human living.

The Presence is real in either area. Whether, the environment be foul or fair, grace reaches us constantly. There is also the experience of being on "this side" of the storm. There is the entrance and the exit to all the trying experiences of life.

God has a way of hanging a colorful rainbow on every black cloud that comes our way. He has said, "I do set my bow in the cloud." (Gen. 9:13.) Mortal life on earth is characterized by



REV. D. M. CLARK

clouds, thunder, darkness, distress, sorrow and remorse. For the cloud of weakness, He has the rainbow of strength. For the cloud of sin, He has the rainbow of forgiveness. For the cloud of depravity, He has the rainbow of heart cleansing. For the cloud of need, He has the rainbow of supply. For the cloud of loneliness, He has the rainbow of cheer. For the cloud of perplexity, He has the rainbow of guidance. For the cloud of suffering, He has the rainbow of comfort. For the cloud of temptation, He has the rainbow of Divine deliverance. For the cloud of death, He has the rainbow of immortality. The Divine Presence throws a colorful, redemptive rainbow against every storm-covered cloud of the Christian's sky. Now let us examine the five experiences of the disciples in our text:

(1) EXPERIENCE of the "GREAT WIND". This experience is both physical and spiritual. Earth is full of "big blows". We have read of the big winds called hurricanes. There were Alice, Brenda, Connie, Diane, Edith, Flora, Gladys, Hilda and Ione! There was one cartoon we saw which said, "We are grateful that all the girls didn't show up at the same time." Great destruction was in the path of these awful forces.

There may be a "great storm of wind" blowing against your life at this time. Maybe some great wind of temptation or sorrow, or some big trial or unsolved problem is sweeping down upon you mercilessly. This Bible story will help you realize that you can survive the storm if

## Ministers, Please Note!

WE ARE REVISING our Church Directory in order to add churches not now included and to up-date information on churches listed previously. We would appreciate all ministers in this area with predominantly colored congregations to assist us in this endeavor. If your church has not been listed, please let us have the DENOMINATION of the church, the NAME of the church, the NAME of the pastor, a PHONE NUMBER where the pastor may be reached, and the ADDRESS of the church. If your church is incorrectly or incompletely listed in any of these respects, please send the necessary changes or additions to: Las Vegas VOICE, 958 West Owens Ave., Las Vegas, Nev. Thank you.

## Newlyweds



HAPPY COUPLE--Shown following their recent marriage here are Mr. Herbert Freeman and the former Miss Faye Brown. Mr. Freeman is a teacher at Highland School and Mrs. Freeman has been active in property management.

you place yourself in the hands of Jesus.

(2) EXPERIENCE of the "BEATING WAVES". The three-pronged attack of the night and the wind and waves struck terror in the hearts of the disciples. Notice, "the waves beat into the ship." The adverse experience was getting real close to home. It was hitting in a vital spot. The waves were heavy and dangerous. One solid punch from a wave would send the little, wooden boat to the bottom.

The vicissitudes of life come to us in such attacks. But here is the consolation that comes to us through Christ. The Presence offsets the waves and their danger. The extended Hand gives the needed help. No heavy wave can overcome a believing man. The believer has learned to tap the resources to cope with any adverse circumstance.

(3) EXPERIENCE of the "DIVINE SILENCE". "And He was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow." Every Christian has experienced the silences of God. It has been said there was a 400-year period of Divine Silence from Malachi to Christ. This was a crucial period. When Lazarus died, Jesus was absent and silent. Many of the lonely places we pass through are made conspicuous by the silence of God.

This kind of an experience is often God's best class room, one in which life's most important lessons are learned and valued. But God always makes His voice heard in due time. He really is not absent or indifferent or careless. He DOES care. He IS nigh. He WILL respond, even as He responded to the disciples.

(4) EXPERIENCE of "FERVENT PRAYING". "They awake Him, and say unto Him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?" Here we have the description of the urgency of prayer. Here is importunity. Here is that awakening prayer. Here is prayer with an earnest plea. "They awake Him." They get Him actively engaged in the providence of deliverance. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (James 5:16.)

(5) EXPERIENCE of the "OVERCOMING PRESENCE".

"He arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm."

Christ is adequate in the presence of great need. All the Promises give us this assurance. "Fear not, for I am with thee; be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." (Isaiah 41:10.)

The great hymns of the Church impart to us such faith in God. "Abide with me, fast falls the even tide; the darkness deepens, Lord with me abide."

"Though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, thine ear shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it."

The next time you are experiencing a rough sea, when great waves of trouble seem about to engulf you, remember that if Christ "is aboard," you have nothing to fear. And if you've been trying to sail through life without his Presence, now is the time to invite Him aboard. Don't wait until YOUR ship flounders in the tempest of life.

## St. Mark's Inducts Five New Masters

FIVE MEMBERS of St. Mark's Lodge No. 15, Prince Hall Affiliation, F. & A. M., were elevated to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason at a ceremony conducted last week according to Secretary Jessie J. Teate. They were Staff Sgt. Ernest L. Rickett, USAF; Tech. Sgt. Edward L. Turner, USAF; Billy J. Fairley, Warren G. Patterson and Willie Forbes Jr.

It was announced by Worshipful Master L. Frank Cottrell that future meetings of the local Masonic group will be held on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Doolittle Recreation Center, starting with Nov. 1.

## B'hai Faith Marks United Nations Day

UNITED NATIONS DAY, next Sunday, Oct. 24, will be observed by Clark County members of the B'hai faith with a special Proclamation Day program at the Teachers Federal Credit Union, 325 Maryland Parkway. The speaker will be Zona Murdock and the public is invited to attend without charge. For further information call Ginger Foss at 878-0215.

Fireside meetings of the sect open to the public are held at regular intervals at 5812 Harmony St. in the West Charleston area. The date of the next meeting may be obtained by phoning 878-4090.

## VARIETY HOME ALUMNI FETE TENTH BIRTHDAY

MORE THAN 100 former participants in the Divine Providence Variety Day Home program and their parents attended the 10th Anniversary Alumni Party of the 1001 'C' St. establishment last Saturday. Sister Charles was in charge of the celebration, assisted by the Sisters of the Holy Family who conduct the home for the sponsoring Variety Club Tent 39 of Las Vegas.

## Rummage Sale Saturday

WOMEN'S SOCIETY of Christian Service is holding rummage sales on succeeding Saturdays, Oct. 23 and 30, at Zion Methodist Church, 'G' and Washington, it was announced by Mrs. Oralee Glaze, president.

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