

“Rainy Day Believers”

By Mrs. Sojourner

King Solomon, known as the wisest man, emphasized the importance of times and seasons.

1 There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven
Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NIV)

We are now in the Age of Grace and Jesus gave us a commission:

15 He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. . . 17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; 18 they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.” Mark 16:15-18 (NIV)

Jesus did not say for us to spread his word when we feel like it, or when it is convenient, he just instructed us to “go,” and to “preach.” Verses 17-18 tell of the signs that follow those who



Foot-
notes:

believe. It seems to me that, at times, situations where one would need to drive out demons, or pick up snakes, or drink poison, may be uncomfortable or hazardous. (The Word is clear though, that we are not to put God to the test by putting ourselves in harm’s way for the sole purpose of seeing if God will deliver us.)

So, let us remember that on “rainy days,” or uncomfortable times, we believers need to walk out our salvation as much as we do during the “mountain-top” times. Let us trust God! Adverse situations allow his glory to shine even more spectacularly than ever. His glory shining through obedient hearts will brighten any ordinary or rainy day, and bring healing and deliverance to people God puts in our paths.

The Sojourner
Sojourner's Fellowships
717-C West High Street
Manchester, TN 37355-1694

Phone: 931-409-1406
Toll Free: 800-391-6944

Email:
thesojourner@sojournershub.org



Sojourning

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...with The Sojourner

“A Life Of Love” (Teaching Sketch)

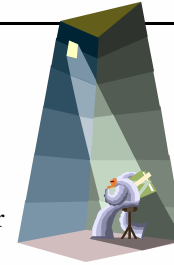
Ephesians 5:1-14 (NIV)

The Apostle Paul continues in Chapter 5 of this letter to the Ephesians to steer them toward godly behavior. He uses the word imitator or follower^[a] to impress on the Ephesians the importance of their practiced behavior. Yes, their practiced behavior. Imitation is the behavior Paul is endeavoring to guide them into, so they can fulfill their call to service in Christ.

This life, Paul explains, to which we have been called, is one of love. God has shown us his great love, and we are to show his love in our every act—acts of love and kindness, and preferring others above ourselves. This does not mean we do not love ourselves, but that we do to others what we would want others to do to us. We are, in short, to love our neighbor as ourselves.

No Hint of The Ungodly

The Ephesians are admonished to avoid even, “a hint



of sexual immorality or any kind of impurity.” He then goes on to name other areas that need to be carefully monitored:

- Greed
- Obscenity
- Foolish talk^[b]
- Coarse joking
- Idolatry
- Immorality
- Impurity

He tells the Ephesians not to be partners with others who do such things. Saints are not to partake or partner in the doing of such things with those who do. Believers are to be in the world, but not of it.

Thanksgiving

Paul lets the Ephesians know they need to remain in a state of thankfulness for their being Saints in the Kingdom of Christ. It is this state of thankfulness and showing the blessing of following Christ which will cause the sinner to want to repent and be as the believer. This is done by two understandings

Notes:

[a]

mim-ay-tace; an imitator:— follower.

[b]

eutrapelia oyo-trap-el-ee-ah From a compound of and a derivative of the (meaning *well turned*, that is, *ready at repartee, jocose*); *witticism*, that is, (in a vulgar

Scripture:

Ephesians 5:1-14 (NIV)

1Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children 2and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

3But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. 4Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. 5For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.^[a] 6Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. 7Therefore

Notes:

^[a] Or kingdom of the Christ and God

do not be partners with them.

8For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light 9(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) 10and find out what pleases the Lord. 11Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. 12For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. 13But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, 14for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said:

"Wake up, O sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."

"A Life Of Love"

(Teaching Sketch)

Ephesians 5:1-14 (NIV)

observed in the unrepentant:

- Conviction of depravity in contrast to the believer.
- Seeing God's blessings and Spirit in the believer.

The unbeliever then wants to repent and partner with others in Christ's Kingdom. Believers must remain humble in relating to the unbeliever remembering they, also, were once in spiritual darkness.

Light Brings Awareness

Paul says it is, "Shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret." We need not focus on the evil in their lives, in conversation. Believers, rather, need to focus on the light shed in our hearts that convicted and changed us by the blood of Christ. Believers then dwell in a new kingdom and should be telling of God's glorious grace. Paul quotes a hymn of his time:

"Wake up, O sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on
you."

Demonstrate that you woke up and the light of Christ shone on, and in, you!

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