

Having Enough Sense to Come In Out Of the Rain

June 20, 2007

In Cincinnati a few years ago while in the middle of our morning walk, Ruth and I got caught in the rain without an umbrella. We left the house about 7:15 one Wednesday morning and walked to a nearby park about a mile and a half away. It was a nice place to frequent with a beautiful lake that had almost two miles of sidewalk around its perimeter. The lake was nestled in a valley shadowed by evergreen trees, large oaks, and a number of redbuds and dogwoods. Ruth and I often enjoyed each others company as we strolled hand in hand reminiscing, conversing, meditating, and revisiting the yesterdays and yesteryears.

This day really had nothing unique about it; it was just another day, so we thought. It was a cloudy day, calm, somewhat cool, and what we thought would be a nice pleasant time to enjoy a casual walk. However, we didn't notice the dark clouds to the southwest which happened to be to our backs when we left our house. It wasn't until after we had walked halfway around the park lake and changed directions to make our way back home that we saw the dark black clouds looming - clouds that we knew without a doubt contained a lot of moisture!

Forty minutes now away from home without an umbrella, and no nearby facility to shelter us, we felt that our only hope from being drenched was if the clouds would change directions and what we thought to be a sure gulley-washer would somehow pass us by. After a few pining moments we began seeing a change in the mirror-like lake and our wishful hopes waned. The calmness was replaced by a strong breeze and the raindrops, one by one, slowly fell around us and created further doubt that we would escape a downpour. We had an insatiable desire to stay dry, but we were helpless in our hopelessness. We knew we could do nothing to avoid being inundated with a torrential rain.

As expected, before we could get to a place that would shelter us where we could wait out the storm and remain dry, the clouds unleashed upon us a drenching rain. We were a miserably pathetic sight. I couldn't help but think of what other people must have thought when they saw a couple of middle-aged, youth-wanna-be's, running down the sidewalk sopping wet in their street clothes (I had on blue jeans and a tee-shirt, Ruth was adorned with a jean skirt and blouse). I'm sure that some folks thought "they don't have enough sense to get in out of the rain". Perhaps they were right!

Albeit, all of this could have been avoided if we would have done at least one of three things; 1) Listened to a weather report; 2) Given stricter attention to what was going on around us; or 3) taken an umbrella or raincoat.

Today, if people would listen to warnings of wise counsel (Proverbs 1), give stricter attention to things that are spiritual (Galatians 5), and use the essential tools and wear the necessary armor (Ephesians 6), eternal punishment could be avoided, eternal bliss enjoyed. Preparation (Matthew 25) is of paramount importance if one is to be accepted of the Father. It was necessary in the days of Noah before the flood came (Genesis 7), and it is necessary for all people today if heaven is to be their eternal home.

While some may not have enough sense to come in out of the rain, I pray that we all will have better sense to avoid the eternal fire that even a deluge of water cannot quench (Mark 9:43-48).

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