

Waiting for the Lord

The joke goes like this;

A farmer is caught in a flood. The water is rising rapidly, finally reaching his porch. A row boat comes along and they call out to the farmer, who is sitting in his rocking chair on his porch.

“Come on buddy, we’re getting everybody out of here. Come on and climb in the boat.”

The farmer replied, “I’m waiting for the Lord to save me. I have prayed and prayed. I have fasted and worn a hair shirt. The Lord is going to save me. I know he will.”

Finally the boat rows away. Time passes and the water continues to rise. The farmer has now moved to his roof when a motor boat comes by.

“Come on friend,” they call out, “the dams about to give way and we have to evacuate everyone. Climb on into the boat.”

“I’m waiting for the Lord to save me,” the farmer replies, “I have prayed and prayed. I have fasted and begged the Lord to save me. I have faith that the Lord will save me.”

Finally the motor boat pulls away. More time passes and the water continues to rise. The farmer is treading water when a helicopter comes by.

“Climb up the rope,” the pilot yells as a rope is dropped, “we’re going to save you.”

“I’m waiting for the Lord,” the farmer replies.

“Okay, just hold onto the rope, we’ll pull you up,” the pilot tells him.

“I’m waiting for the Lord. The Lord will save me. I have prayed and prayed and fasted and worn a hair shirt. I know the Lord will save me.”

The farmer swims away and finally the helicopter flies away. The farmer unable to swim any more drowns.

When the farmer gets to the Gates he goes to St. Peter and begins to complain.

“What happened?” he pleads, “I told them all I was waiting for the Lord. I told them I prayed I told them I had faith. Why didn’t the Lord save me?” the man begged of Peter.

St. Peter looked up from his great book and stared down at the farmer there. After a moment he shook his head in amusement and befuddlement.

“What do you want from Him?” he asked, “He sent you two boats and a helicopter!”

Talk about not seeing the forest for the trees. Or maybe this farmer wasn’t getting the exact answer that he wanted so he ignored the answer all together. How many times have we asked the Lord for something and found **AN answer** but not **THE answer** at least not the one we were looking for?

I particularly like the helicopter in this joke. When he refuses to climb up the rope they tell him to just hold onto it and they’ll pull him up. It reminds me of one of Fr. Chuck’s sermons concerning the Prodigal Son. As soon as the father saw the son heading his direction he ran out to meet him. He ordered a feast and fine clothes brought out to the son. See, the boy did not have to make all the way back on his own, he only had to be headed in that direction.

Another part of that story is that the boy had been humbled. The farmer on the other hand held up his relationship with God as a matter of pride and arrogance. He would not take the slightest step to save himself but demanded that God do it for him.

Even Jesus himself says not to tempt the Lord.

The blessings are there for us to see it’s just that sometimes we have to take that first step and take it with humility. If we are faithful and humble we don’t even have to climb by ourselves. We just have to grab hold of the rope.

If you have any questions or comments about these writings please call me
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