

The Rock, The Pigs, and Us

“The rock of my strength, my refuge is in God.” Ps 62:7b

Jesus makes it quite clear that he wants us to build our house on the rock, or the storms will blow it away. Just what or who that rock is can never be in doubt for God’s people. The rock is God. The rock is Jesus. The rock is the One we can always count on and who will always be there.

There are rock stars, and many sing or play music quite well. But they are only people, and are gone away after a relatively short time. There are rock collections, but they are nothing compared to the rock who is God. There are times to be flexible, and there are times to stand like the tallest mountain for what and who we believe in.

Thomas Jefferson, one of the founders of our country, stood fast with his friends for freedom and the formation of a new country. He wrote, “In matters of style, swim with the current; in matters of principle, stand like a rock.”

And matters of faith are the most important things to stand like a rock on. Matters like salvation, heaven, forgiveness, hope, eternity. Matters like the priceless value of God’s church, and of the values we must pass on to our children or see the ruin of civilization.

Mohammed Ali was one of the great boxers of our time. He almost never lost a fight. Known for his brash style and exaggerations, he was quite a man of words. He said once before a fight, “I done wrestled with an alligator, I done tussled with a whale; handcuffed lightning, thrown thunder in jail; only last week, I murdered a rock, injured a stone, hospitalized a brick; I’m so mean I make medicine sick.”

But one day he lost. He made faith the most important thing in his life. And when Parkinson’s disease struck him, he became stronger and better than he was in all of his skills as a boxer and all of his celebrity status.

The three little pigs had a hard time in the children’s story. They had a problem with the wolf who kept blowing their houses down. Finally, the smarter one built his house out of bricks, and the wolf had to walk away. The other two, with house of straw and sticks, were in trouble.

It is hard not to believe that the writer was not thinking of the passage where Jesus tells his followers to build their house on a rock, or the storms would wash it away. The rock, of course, is Jesus.

There is nothing which life can send our way which can hurt us when we build our house on the rock. When the storms come, we stand fast. When death comes, we are not defeated, because we know our real destination is heaven, and that is forever.

Two people can look at the same situation and see it very differently. We must, as God's people, be people of vision and hope. We must see the big picture, and not be disheartened by looking down too much.

A man once walked by a building site and saw three stone masons side by side, sweating over their work in the hot sun.

He asked the first, "What are you doing?"

"Laying bricks" came the reply.

He asked the second stone mason, "And what are you doing?"

"Building a wall." came the reply.

Then he asked the third mason, "And what is it you are doing?"

"I am building a great cathedral."

The first man, who looked at the same bricks, saw the ordinary. His life was probably quite ordinary as well. He is like men who walk by the church and just see the rocks it took to build it.

The second man saw a little higher, but was still looking at a part of the total picture. He could be like many who see the church, walk or drive by, but never see it for what it is- the most important building in the community to be in.

Perhaps the third man had seen the plans. Maybe he had a different attitude. But I suspect he was a man of faith, and was looking forward to worshipping God in that great church he was building. And when the mighty organ struck up, when the pastor read the scripture, he saw that the rock which was Jesus was dwelling in that lovely place, and in the hearts of his people.

So meet the real Rock. Be a smart pig. Build your house on Christ. And find that cathedral which is right in front of you.

"There is no one holy like the LORD, Indeed, there is no one besides You; nor is there any rock like our God." Isaiah 44:8