

February 2009

Ridiculous Laws Hidden For Us?

It has been said: If Jesus came and did the gospel miracles as **God**, then I applaud Him but I have no inclination to follow. But if, rather, He came as a **man** – in right relationship with God – to model for us how His Kingdom on earth is to operate, then there is hope that I can actually do what Jesus did – and even greater things. **There are ways of the Kingdom yet to be discovered and implemented** which Jesus came to model for us. But are we sure we want to discover them (or have them revealed to us), because the likelihood is that they're going to seem really ridiculous?!

It's kind of like this: If one thousand years ago you suggested to your fellow villagers that 300 of you could fly at 30,000 feet above the earth in a metal machine they would have called that a "miracle" (or they would have burned you at the stake for witchcraft). **The law of gravity was unshakably established as the truth...until superceded by the law of Flight.** Now we realize that flight wasn't a "miracle" but simply a more powerful law waiting to be discovered

Similarly, when Jesus came He brought another world with Him and modeled new laws, principles and authority to be enjoyed by us, His ambassadors, while carrying out His plans. He asked the Father, "May your Kingdom come to earth and may your will be done on earth as in Heaven." What if the "miracles" Jesus did were simply laws of a different kingdom that He has hidden for us to discover? Remember what He said to His disciples in the storm at sea when they said, "We are going to drown!?" "Good grief, when are you guys going to get it?" Then He turned to the storm and said, "Peace be still".

Based on scriptural examples, when God reveals His plans, they may seem pretty ridiculous, and we will feel ridiculous walking them out! Put yourself in these stories and feel what it might have felt like:

- 1) *You need tax money? Go fishing and the first fish you catch will have a coin in its mouth to pay the tax! Matt 17:21*
- 2) *Deeply in debt and creditors coming? Borrow jars from your neighbors and fill them **all** with the few ounces of oil you have left in the bottom of your little jar! II Kings 4:2-7*

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Happy Valentine's Day from the girls

News

- ✂ NMM staff has been busy on phones and computers working on website design, online vessel research, talking with boat brokers, preparing meals and the guest room for frequent visitors, and watching the Lord's Spirit bring healing and freedom to His children. Whew! We feel privileged to be working for the King in this little corner of His Kingdom.
- ✂ Neil continues to travel here & there examining potential ministry vessels and meeting with boat builders and designers. Our anticipation is growing as each day we get closer to discovering the vessel that God has set aside for the boat retreat vision.



MV Atlas – for sale in Anacortes

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- 3) *You have to conquer an army as numerous as sand on the seashore? Send all but 300 of your soldiers home!* Judges 7
- 4) *Want to feed 12-15,000 hungry people? "First bring me what little you have, I'll bless it and then you hand it out and in the end pick up more than you started with!"* Mark 6:34

Are you in the picture? He hands you a portion of five loaves and two fish and you now turn around to look at a sea of eager faces. How is this going to work? What if you get to the tenth person in the first row and you run out?

Are we honestly willing to partner with God in doing His plan His way, fully knowing that His ways are likely to appear ridiculous? What about saying 'yes' even before we hear the plan?! **I believe the odds of even hearing the plan will be greatly diminished if our will is set on self-protection.**

Here at Noble Maritime Ministries, our assignment seems about as impossible as the above examples. However, God is calling us to forsake our thoughts and our ways and seek Him and His ways instead. (Isa 55:7-9) So we have had to answer the question: are we seriously willing (not just with mental assent) to look ridiculous as we follow the Lord? This week Neil and crew say a hearty 'YES'! I'll tell you at another time what daring steps of trust we have taken recently but for now we are excited, expectant and encouraged as our Father continues to reveal Himself and how His mysterious Kingdom operates.

Prayer Request

We are fervently asking God for a heightened sensitivity to His Spirit as we get closer to the "target". We need to hear Him clearly and see His hand of direction very specifically.

Thanks for standing with us,
Neil, Kathy and crew

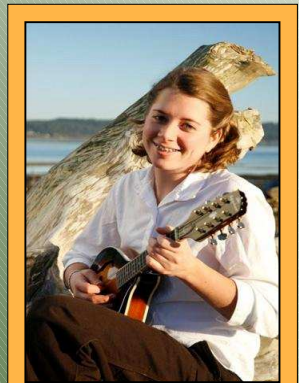
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February sunrise from our deck

Family News

- ✂ Josh is back in Kona at the University of the Nations teaching and making films.
- ✂ Julie & Betsy are doing college studies at home and working at their jobs.
- ✂ Kathy is enjoying a Beth Moore women's Bible Study on the book of Esther.
- ✂ Neil drove with his parents and brother, Ross, to Invermere, B.C. (10 hour drive from Vancouver) to attend his aunt's memorial service. They had an awesome time of fellowship and reconnecting with extended family. We have a growing appreciation for our remarkable heritage! (He also brought home an heirloom mandolin for Julie that belonged to her great grandfather!)



What better place to play mandolin than on the beach?

Tax-deductible donations may be made to:

Noble Maritime Ministries
PO Box 1224
Anacortes, WA 98221
or online at www.noblemaritime.com

