

**Luke 10:39 “She had a sister named Mary,
which also sat at Jesus’ feet and heard His word.”**

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31423 Ann’s Choice Way, Warminster PA 18974 July-August 2009
Website: www.momentswithmary.org Email: mmako1968@msn.com

“MOMENTS WITH MARY”

“RAIN, RAIN! DO WE NEED AN ARK?”

Mary Mayko

Job 37:5-7 NKJV “God thunders marvelously with His voice; He does great things which we cannot comprehend. For He says to the snow, “Fall on the earth; likewise to the gentle rain and the heavy rain of His strength. He seals the hand of every man, that all men may know His work”.

Here on the East Coast, we’ve been in a rain pattern that seems endless at times! Once in a while the sun breaks through the clouds and gloominess and shines on the falling rain! A beautiful rainbow appears in a perfect half circle with all its glorious colors, reminding us of God’s promises. That is a reassurance that even though we cannot always see the sun, it remains faithful in its daily cycle! More evidence of God at work!

But the rains continue! After a while, we quiet our voices and business to listen intently. Could we hear the sound of distant pounding of nails into wood? Was some one building an ark? While this statement is a little facetious, we know people in Noah’s day thought he was absolutely crazy! He and his sons were building this huge ark, [boat] for what reason? It had never even rained before! As it tells us in the book of Job, God does many things we cannot comprehend! That helps us realize that He desires we recognize He is doing something again!

While most of us do not consider the whole earth being covered with water now, there are many other threats we face today! The News is full of warnings of a Global Warming that could cause much devastation! Is there an “Ark of safety” for anyone? What could people do or where would they go to escape these threats? Noah’s story begins with his birth in Genesis 5:28. Lamech named his son Noah. “And he called his name Noah, saying, “This one will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD has cursed.” [Genesis 6:13 -16] God tells Noah to build an ark of immense proportions and three stories high! Verses 18-22 God promises the ark will be a refuge, a place of safety for him and his family and the animals God will bring on board! [V.22] “Thus Noah did, according to all that God commanded him, so he did.”

Isaiah 40:1 “Comfort, yes, comfort My people!” Says your God”. What kind of comfort do we offer to each other in our times of distress and uncertainty? The Word of God is

full of reassuring and comforting words if we will only accept them! Psalm 33:20-21 “Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield. For our hearts shall rejoice in Him, because we have trusted in His Holy Name.” Do you hide some of these promises in your heart as a shield in times of trouble? Verse 22 “Let Your mercy, O LORD, be upon us, Just as we hope in You.” Without hope, we can’t see beyond today! Remember! Noah’s name meant comfort!

Genesis 7:1-5. Even though it still had not rained a drop, God said it would rain forty days and forty nights! V.5 “And Noah did according to all that the LORD commanded him.” It must have taken a great step of faith to build the ark and enter and wait for this rain to begin! Would we have been part of the crowd that mocked him? Would we have had the inner vision to understand what the LORD has done, and He still does amazing things beyond our ability to see? Sure enough, the forty days and nights came just as the LORD said they would! The rains started at precisely the time just as the LORD had said! Whatever the LORD says, will come to pass!

Isaiah 55:10-11 “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, That it may give bread to the eater, So shall My Word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”

What qualified Noah to be in an ark that would protect him and his family? Just what do we have to do to be in an ark of safety? Two things stand out to me. Number one thing I see in Genesis 7:1 is, that God declares that Noah was righteous before Him. The fact that Noah heard God as He spoke is very important! When God speaks to our heart, do we listen? Number two, is the evidence of Noah’s faith and obedience when he did every thing just as the LORD commanded him to do! [1 Sam.15:22b] “Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice”

Sometimes the storms in our life appear so threatening, we feel we will not, perhaps cannot, survive! Jesus got into a boat and the disciples went with Him. Jesus fell sound asleep as they sailed along. A violent roaring wind and heavy rain came upon them suddenly! When the waves started crashing over the rails of their boat, the disciples cried out in fear! [Matt.8:23-26] How could Jesus still be sleeping in the midst of this dreadful storm!

They quickly woke Him up and His words probably astonished them! “Why are you so fearful, O you of little faith?” Why was Jesus Himself unafraid? He trusted His Father fully that no matter what came His way. He was still in an ark of safety! He would not die until His appointed time! Even though Jesus has promised never to leave us nor forsake us, we sometimes have to fight a spirit of fear! [“For God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power and of love and of a sound mind”. 2 Tim 1:7]

Although many have “predicted” the End of the world by setting a particular date, they have faced ridicule when their dates pass, and the LORD has not yet returned. Let me

remind you of what Jesus Himself said about this matter. Matt. 24:36-44. Read this Passage very carefully and do not be deceived! The LORD will come at His appointed time! Look at a couple of these verses now. [36] “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only”. That sounds very clear to me! Why then, would someone want to say they know for sure when all this will happen?

The beginning of this writing refers to Noah and of an ark of safety he built according to God’s instructions! Seems Jesus is reminding people that the “when” is not as vital to us, as the question, “Are you ready when that time comes?” Are you in God’s ark of protection? In verse 37 Jesus uses Noah as an illustration of how the world will be before He returns. “But as the days of Noah were, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.” Read the rest of the Passage and ask yourself this question. Are people living in wickedness like they were in Noah’s day?

God’s mercy, as symbolized by the rainbow in Genesis still prevails today. He warns people because He loves them! The people of Noah’s day watched while the ark was being built. They had plenty of time to repent and be ready for God’s safe haven before the floods came. I wonder what those people were thinking about as Noah and his family and the animals entered the ark! Was the way it was sealed up visible to them? Did they come daily to see what would happen next to Noah and his family? When the rains started, did they run to hide or pound on the door? No matter, it was too late!

Matt.24:44 “Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect”. Where or who is your ark of safety?

In His Service ~ Mary Mayko

Email: mmako1968@msn.com

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