

Trumpet Sounds 2018



Rebecca O'Connor

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Editor: Dennis O'Connor

Comeuppance

I have always heard of people getting their “come-uppans”, kind of like getting knocked off their pedestal, but had no idea it was an actual word: comeuppance is a noun that means an unpleasant experience a person endures, which is viewed by others as a just retribution for bad behavior or just deserts.

I had a trip down memory lane lately remembering all the time Holy Spirit gave me a reality check, and I got my comeuppance.

I remembered studying the Bible for myself in my 20s rather than just being taught the Word through teachers and preachers. I

had learned so much I had not ever heard ministered...I thought I had arrived! What I had arrived to was judging those who did not know as much as I thought I knew. One night in prayer I got my “come-uppans”...but good! I thought I was doing so well that in talking to God, I asked Him for a special word. I got one! It was found in Matt 23:12-33. This is the chapter where Jesus is giving the Pharisees their comeuppance. Every WOE I received was an arrow to my heart and after each woe I put the Bible to my chest and said, “Oh, Jesus, help me!” But the woes continued. I had never seen so many woes in all my life. By the end of it I felt as if I was Scrooge and the grim reaper was in the room pointing a gnarly finger between my eyes!! I pretty much followed the Scrooge script: “Can I change these shadows? Can I sponge away the writings on this stone, O God?!

It was a good lesson in humility for me, yet not the last lesson or comeuppance I would ever receive.

Another time, I was sitting under a minister who said some key things that I could not seem to get past. Week after week I sat in frustration until one sermon had me twisting in my seat, and I knew I had to get out or scream. I went into the nursery, which had

a window to view the sanctuary and a speaker to hear the sermon. I asking God how He could put up with such outrageous slander about Himself from this man? Very clearly in my spirit I perceived a still, calm voice saying, “I love him.” That was all it took for me, and I never saw that pastor in the same light again. All I had for my pastor was love and acceptance whether I agreed with everything he said or not...God loved him.

These are only two of many...very many comeuppance I have experienced and learned to embrace one and all. You can imagine my relief after the “woes experience” to learn that Paul, who had been a Pharisee of Pharisees, was not only forgiven but served the Lord. As a matter of fact, I do not know many Bible characters who did not have their comeuppance and still used of God.

Some people see it as if God is taking them to the woodshed to punish them. God has never taken me to the woodshed ever. He has, however, taken me to the toolshed. The way you see it depends upon how you receive correction. Some see it as painful, but I have learned to welcome it because I do not have to be right in my own mind; I want to know what is right in God's mind. I can always

find out in the toolshed. I do not have to be taken there as often simply because I go there frequently on my own: *1 Cor 11:31-32 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. 32 But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.*

The word for chastening is *paideuo* meaning to *train* up a child, that is, *educate*, or (by implication) *discipline*: - chasten, instruct, learn, teach. Looking at the entire definition we see that God's chastening is to educate us in Truth by changing our crooked thoughts, plans and actions and straightening them by the Word.

God is not a child abuser, as we can see by sending us His Holy Spirit: *John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*

Here again we see that same teaching and training done by God's Holy Spirit.

To lessen the comeuppance, we should go voluntarily to the toolshed often and not kick against the pricks by ignorance in fighting battles we will never win through error.

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Drowning In The Shallows

My Grandmother had a vacation house by a beautiful spring fed lake. We often went to swim, boat and fish. One time I remember relatives, on my dad's side, coming to swim and enjoy the day with us. One of the little cousins was only knee high in water when he tripped and fell completely immersed. He struggled and struggled until we noticed the poor little guy might actually drown in knee high water! We helped right him and showed him that all he had to do was stand up.

You hear of people drowning in the depths of water, but there is no reason to drown in the shallows when all you have to do is stand up.

Many Christians today are not drowning so much in the depths but in the shallows. It is all the

little things here and there that tend to take us down gasping for air.

So, what is it about the shallow water. Looking shallow up I see it means:

1. of little depth; not deep: **shallow water**
2. lacking depth; superficial: a mind that is not narrow but **shallow**
3. penetrating only the easily or quickly perceived
4. lacking in depth of knowledge, thought, or feeling

Christians owe it to ourselves to keep washing in the Water by the Word to be so fully saturated that we can not only survive the shallows

but the depths as well.

There is no danger when we become one with the water, which is to say Living Water.

There is a story about a little wave, bobbing along in the ocean, having a grand old time. He's enjoying the wind and the fresh air — until he notices the other waves in front of him, crashing against the shore. "My God, this is terrible," the wave says "Look what's going to happen to me!" Then along comes another wave. It sees the first wave, looking grim, and it says to him, "Why do you look so sad?" The first wave says, "You don't understand! We're all going to crash! All of us waves are going to be nothing! Isn't it terrible?" The second wave says, "No, you don't understand. You're not a wave, you're part of the ocean."

Becoming one with the Living Water/ Word gives us all the buoyancy we need to rise up and stand. Whether it is just standing in the shallows or standing on top of the depths holding Jesus' hand.

Life is full of challenges in which standing on the Word is our only saving grace: **Eph 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.**

Did you ever realize that if we are shallow Christians only penetrating what is easily or quickly perceived then to us shallow waters **are** the depths.



Intercessors... Who Me?

There are specific **gifts, administrations, and operations** given to God's children as God apportions. We are not by any means limited to these gifts however long suited we are in one particular area. For example, whether you have a gift of mercy as your long suit does not mean that we are not to work in mercy.

Gifts: *char'-is-mah* a (divine) *gratuity, endowments, miraculous faculty*: - (free) gift.

Administrations: *diakonia officis, specific service*

Operations: *energema an effect, to be active in*: - operation, working.

You can read about these in 1 Co. 12 and Rom 12:7-8, yet in these you will not see *intercession* as a

gift, administration or operation. You will find, however, that intercession is an example or charge to Christians as a daily practice in at least 35 passages in the Bible.

How did Jesus condense the description of the church? Isa 56:7, Mt 21:13, Mk 11:17, Lu 19:46 **It is written, My house is the house of prayer...**

Prayer: in Hebrew-tephillâh *intercession, supplication*; by implication a *hymn*: - prayer, in Greek -*proseuche prayer (worship)*: - X pray earnestly, prayer.

Howbeit, intercession is optional in most churches or a miniscule introductory to a message. Prayer is thought to be only for those "called ones".

I will tell you that within intercession is every gift, administration and operation. In any prophetic

word given there comes the bringing forth and birthing it through intercession. Let me say it in this example: God delivers the ingredients to the cook who brings them together to bake and viola the cake is done. Without intercession we see this: **Ezek 22:30 And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that it should not be destroy: but I found none.**

The prophecy is God's plan and by intercession it is fulfilled. The enemy fights every plan against God and His children, yet we are to invest in the spiritual armor to fight a spiritual battle. We know the pieces of the armor for the fight. So, what do we do when spiritually armored up? If you follow the Eph 6:11-17 verses of armoring up, you see what you do with it in verse **18 Praying al-**

ways with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Prayer is the same word *proseuche* as in Mt, Mk, and Lu as God's house or by God's children.

Ask yourself how goes the world, nation, town, family...you? Yes, it is a spiritual fight and usually it is the intercessors who are on the frontlines taking the blows for the administrations and operations. The attacks against our families come, but so do the victories. If intercession is optional then our answers are optional. You do not put on an armor to let someone else fight. Think about it.



A Time To Be Still

Ps 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God:

How can we know God? There are many ways to know Him in prayer and His Word, yet the opening Scripture is key.

In Ps 46:10 to know God is to be still...cease, leave off, let alone. This only makes sense since God's voice is a still small voice. ***1 Kings 19:11-12 And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: 12 And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.***

Tornadoes, earthquakes and fires are all pretty dramatic,

fearful and forceful. They claim attention and stir us to actions and reactions. These are as the trials of life, maybe not as dramatic as an earthquake, but our world shakes and quakes in personal trials more often than not. In those times of the winds, quakes and fires, it is easy for our minds to reel in overload. Our voice to God is at maximum velocity shutting out any still small voice of wisdom we need to hear. Our praying can become a one-sided broken record drowning out the answers God is trying to get through.

Elijah was under the stress of a death threat, for which he fled for his life. He was carrying the grief that he repeated over and over: ***1 Kings 19:10 I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword;***

and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away...vs.14 I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

Elijah knew his affliction by heart. He was troubled mentally in fear and grief, let alone the elements of wind, quakes and fire!

We, like Elijah, are troubled at the threats in the world arena, sending our children/grandchildren into the new warzone of school shootings, drugs, alcohol, pornography, abuses, abductions and bullying etc. If you listen to or read the news, you may feel like the only sane person left, although not too sure about your own sanity.

If there was ever a day that children of God needed to be still and know God, it is definitely now.

We do not need to rehearse all maladies in God's ear, but open our ears to hear what the Spirit is saying to the church. To do this we need to be still to hear and know.

Eyes closed, ears opened and mouth shut is the best body position to practice.

Most Christians think prayer is talking to God, which is only half of the conversation. I have found over the years that listening in prayer has the advantage over any words I might speak. I had to decide which was more constructive to any situation, whether I needed to tell God what I thought about it or whether to listen to what God thought about it.



God Skin

Being afraid, a little boy crept into his parents room and crawled in between them in bed. Father was roused from sleep to notice his son's presence and asked what he wanted. The boy responded that he was scared, in which his father comforted with, "Son, don't you know that God is with you wherever you are, and you are never alone?" The boy believed that yet replied, "Tonight I just need God with skin."

That was a true story and true as well for each of us. Even when we know God is omnipresent and knows the count of our hair at all

times, we still have those moments when we need *God with skin*.

God not only gave us Himself of skin in Jesus, but He gave us one another to give comfort from the storms and encouragement in the race of life. We are that Jesus with skin on this earth supporting the body, loving one another and lifting the feeble hands and weak knees.

We have to realize that God is still sending His son in those who carry the heart of God by receiving Jesus and giving Him back to

those in need of a Savior through our witness, time and love.

Many are the times we can think back of a teacher, friend or neighbor who lifted us with an outreached hand of skin. These have proven to be the stepping stones prodding us onto success. We are as that Scripture: ***1 John 4:2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God...***

We are born a second time who receive Jesus, and Jesus is come in the flesh. Our lives are that

God of skin in a time of despair, hurt or fear.

God wrapped Himself in Jesus and Jesus wrapped Himself in us.

Jesus carried his own cross as stated in John 19:17, yet it was Simon of Cyrene (Lu 23:26) who finished carrying it up the hill for Jesus whose body had weakened from the severe beating. Even Jesus who was God and is God needed God with skin in His moment.

Having God's image and likeness is no small thing.

FYI... Ghosts

An acquaintance once asked me if I believed in ghosts. I replied that I believed in the Holy Ghost, but not left behind ghosts of ancestors...those are familiar spirits of the demonic realm.

Heb 9:27 *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*

No, spirit of Jacob Marley is coming back in chains with a message to warn Scrooge of his misdeeds.

Jesus told of a beggar and a rich man...one that went to Abraham's bosom and the other to torment. In that story Jesus tells that there are no cross overs from one place to another spiritually to deliver messages, for the rich man had requested two things:

- ◇ **Luke 16:24** *Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.*
- ◇ **Luke 16:27-28** *Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: 28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.*

God's Word says it clearly:

Luke 16:26 *And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.*

There seems to be much more hype about ghosts and spirits these days with people trying to communicate. Since then, there is speculation that these spirits are of departed people who either left something undone or

died tragically.

What are these specters of unrest displaying various personalities whether mischievous, destructive or just a familiar presence?

Matt 12:43-45 *When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. 44 Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. 45 Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.*

- ◇ House: *oikos* a dwelling by implication a family, home, house (-hold), temple.

Familiar spirits are addressed throughout the OT as familiar ghosts and those mediums who communicate with them. The operative word is *familiar*, which means to be well known from close association, demon. Familiar spirits are familiar with the people they inhabit, oppress or are in a vicinity of contact. Even our angels, to whom God has given charge over us to lift us up if we dash our foot against a stone (Ps 91:11), are familiar with who we are and what we do. (Our communication is, however, not with them because they take their cues from God and not man, besides the enemy can disguise as an angel of light.)

We have both the demonic realm and the angelic working invisibly on earth. All of them are familiar with mankind personally and corporately in that sense.

The Bible tells of unclean spirits, foul spirits, lying spirits and jealous spirits as well as familiar spirits and spirits of infirmity. I

know that man is a spirit in a body, but this is not to say that the spirit of man is lying, jealous, foul etc. This is a separate spirit in addition to man's spirit. An internal human spirit of a person cannot be separated from their body except they be dead. But when Jesus cast these additional spirits out of human beings they were still alive with their God given spirit intact. The man from the tombs is a perfect example of many spirits being cast out of him and he was very much alive and restored.

Jesus often called sickness a spirit and cast them out as well.

The gospels record that Jesus healed the mute, deaf, and blind by expelling demons (see Matthew 9:32-33; 12:22; Luke 11:14). In Luke 13:11-16 Jesus met a woman who had suffered from what we might call spinal curvature or scoliosis for eighteen years. Although her condition seemed to be purely physical, Jesus declared that she had been bound by a "spirit of infirmity". On that basis He set her free and she was completely healed. In Mark 9:17-29 Jesus dealt with a boy who had the symptoms of epilepsy. He confronted it, however, as "a dumb and deaf spirit" (verse 25). When the demon was expelled, the boy was healed. Nearly two thousand years have passed, but the same principles still apply.

These spirits can relay information through channels that are quite accurate as if the person, now deceased, was in direct communication. These spirits take on a personality by being familiar with it, yet once a human being has passed they do not become trapped in a time warp or cross over just to resurface here again.

Spirits like familiarity of location whether it is a particular family, dwelling or city: **Matt 8:31** *So the devils besought him, say-*

ing, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine.

How scary are these demons since they beg to enter swine rather than leave their favorite haunt?

Destructive spirits cannot act alone, even though they might move objects or make threats telepathically, they must use a receptive empty vessel.

We have been given authority over these spirits not only to judge them but also cast them out: **1 Cor 6:3** *Know ye not that we shall judge angels?*

Luke 10:19-20 *Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. 20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.*

Do not be fooled by mediums or the media hype of people's spirits being trapped here. The demons laugh at these exploits and play the game of human ignorance buying themselves time.

There have been comforting visions or dreams of a loved one who passed that I do believe the Holy Spirit can give to comfort the bereaved. That is not communicating with familiar spirits. This is very different than the spirit of the deceased coming back to communicate or being trapped here. It is as fine a line as the difference between astrology and astronomy.

Our loved ones who have passed into the next life are in their eternal home and not frequent guests at séances, FYI.

Hard Sayings

During the recent celebration of Jesus dying on the cross to His resurrection, we hear or read so many hard sayings. They seem hard because they butt heads with our understanding and the barriers of our language translations. Most of the time we just pass over what our understanding cannot manage or adjust the Scripture to guesswork in which we pacify our lack of knowledge. We have to give our pastors the luxury of forgiving their guesses and explanations for the dilemma of trying to explain these hard sayings as best possible.

For me, I sit at my computer and explore the hard areas. I am not responsible for an entire sermon, though I have been, but mostly do not view an audience. I can sit for hours, days, weeks, months and years pondering over something and researching it instead of a week's preparation for an hour on the Sabbath. So saying, this is neither a critique or correction on pastors.

Here are the top hard sayings in my mind of this celebration:

Isa 53:4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

I thought maybe I misunderstood the meaning for *smitten* in Hebrew so I looked it up: *nâkâh*—to *strike* (lightly or severely-beat, give [wounds], kill, make [slaughter], murderer, punish, slaughter, slay (-er, -ing), smite (-r, -ing), strike, be stricken, (give) stripes, wound. No misunderstanding about that! Next I looked up the word used for *God*: 'elôhtym—Plural word *gods* in the ordinary sense; or supreme *God*; also used for

magistrates; and sometimes as angels. Translators have chosen to use the singular Supreme God rather than the plural magistrates, which by definition is a *civil officer or lay judge who administers the law, especially one who conducts a court that deals with minor offenses and holds preliminary hearings for more serious ones.*

Who were the civil officers officiating over the trial secretly in the middle of the night? The Jewish court was made up of magistrates, the high priest, who rent his robe and his officers who smote Jesus as well as the Roman magistrates by whose hands Jesus was given the very stripes for our healing.

The next hard saying was misunderstood by those witnesses at the cross as well as today: Matt 27:46 *Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?*

- ◇ *Eli, Eli*—'el: my God, my God
- ◇ *Lama*—mâh: why
- ◇ *Sabachthani*—shebaq: allowed to remain

The witnesses could not tell the language, yet in Hebrew the words translate: ***My God My God, why have I been allowed to remain?*** Remember there was a total solar eclipse and it was dark in the middle of the day. The Jewish Sabbath would have begun at dusk in which the bodies of the crucified could not remain on the cross. This is why they broke the legs of the thieves for them to suffocate and die quickly, however Jesus had no broken bones as prophesied, for He had already perished and the centurion speared

His side to make sure of His death. God, who says He would never forsake us did not forsake the Son of Man. ***John 16:32 Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.*** Jesus never questioned God's presence for He said, ***John 10:30 I and my Father are one.***

Jesus did not become sin, but was a sin offering. That is very different. Remember that the Jews used an unblemished lamb as a sin offering, Ex 12:5. Jesus did not become blemished; He was as the unblemished lamb.

Another mind boggler is Jesus in the garden saying, ***Matt 26:39 O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.***

The Son of Man was wrapped in flesh and had all the properties of a flesh and blood man, yet the Spirit of God in Him was stronger, thus His prayer. It was an answered prayer that God's Will was accomplished just as Jesus knew it would be. Jesus also knew that He did not have to face the cross except by choice as He acknowledges to His disciples: ***Matt 26:53-54 53 Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? 54 But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?***

Also this witness:

John 10:17-18 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I

might take it again. 18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

Jesus had a choice and made it as God and made it for us. Even though He, as a man felt the grief of His great sacrifice, as God He knew it was the only choice to make.

There are many such hard sayings. Jesus came as hail (hard water) to wash away the lies of religion: ***Isa 28:16-17 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation, a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste. 17 Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place.***

Religion dilutes even the washing of the water by the Word, but that Word became flesh and though the religious saw Him as hail, that hard Truth swept away the lies and walked as a man with us to show what Truth looked, sounded and tasted like.

Many times we read our guesses into the Word, yet the Word is all One Truth and not verses of contradiction. When we see what we think are contradictions in the Word, we must also acknowledge that it is we who are missing the understanding. One thing I believe is even a child can see clearly if we allow the Holy Spirit to be our teacher and learn to listen.