

Before you read this, I would like you to take a minute to pray this prayer;
“God, open my eyes to see how this writing applies to me today”.

Star Light

SL/2023-E7 Like stars, shine through the dark night sky

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Destroying Others Lifting me!

Watching movies with people is really a tick off for me; the reason is simple: I like to repeat scenes to be able to make meaning out of actors' actions, statements, connect these to earlier or future occurrences and to pick lessons. I have watched **Blacklist** more times than I can count and today, I would like to share one of the lessons I got from one of the episodes.

Alexander Kirk (Ulrich Thomsen) a corrupt, shady and definitely dangerous and rich man had hatched a plan to have Liz (Megan Boone) kidnapped. According to Red Reddington (James Spader), Kirk was in search of a stem cell donor in order to help stem his aplastic anemia and Liz being, supposedly, his daughter would be a perfect match (*aplastic anemia is a rare condition in which the body stops producing enough new blood cells due to bone marrow damage*). When the plan to use either Liz or her daughter (baby Agnes) failed, Kirk made one desperate attempt, this attempt is the subject of our discussion today; Kirk made plans to steal a particularly dangerous virus called the “Rabowski Virus” (this is an imaginary virus). Kirk's plan (according to Reddington) was to deliberately infect himself with the virus and give himself leukemia (one of the symptoms of infection with the virus is leukemia – *a condition that will cause rapid blood cell proliferation*). In the movie it was theorized this rapid blood cell

production will reverse Kirk's aplastic anemia and give him a few more years to live. So, what would kill others was going to give Alexander Kirk life. In healthy individuals, this explosion in blood cell production would lead to death, where as in Alexander Kirk, it was proposed to lead to life and health! Like Kirk, we are exempted from the destruction that sweeps other away:

Job 22:29 “When men are cast down, then thou shalt say, there is a lifting up ...” (KJV).

Psalms 91:7 “Though a thousand fall at your side, though ten thousand are dying around you, these evils will not touch you” (NLT).

But unlike Kirk, we are not exempted because of an existing medical condition, but because of who we have become, and who we are following and obeying; “For all who are allowing themselves to be led by the Spirit of God are sons of God” (Romans 8:14 AMP).

Let's have a quick look at how operating under God's guidance brings us lifting where others are sinking:

Noah builds an Ark on God's instruction:

When God made the decision to destroy the earth along with all it housed, the Bible records that “... Noah found favour with the LORD” (Gen 6:8 NLT) as a result God instructed Noah to build an Ark (Gen 6:14). Noah did everything exactly as God had commanded him (Gen 6:21). “For forty days the floodwaters grew deeper, covering the ground and lifting the boat high above the earth. As the waters rose higher and

higher above the ground, the boat floated safely on the surface” (Gen 7:17-18 NLT). Had Noah refused to construct the Ark, he would have perished like others. Had he refused to enter the Ark, he would have perished with the others.

Peter acted on Jesus's words and walked on water:

On one of their sea voyages, the disciples saw a figure walking towards them on the water. Afraid for their lives, they began to shout in panic, “It’s a ghost!” (Matthew 14:26 NLT), but it turned out it was Jesus walking to them on the water. With the realization it was Jesus, Peter made a request; “Lord, if it’s really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water” (Matthew 14:28 NLT) to which Jesus replied “Yes, come” (vs 29). The result was “... when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus” (vs 29). Humans aren’t wired to walk on water, but in obedience to Jesus’ command, Peter walked on water.

Daniel’s obedience to God saved him from lions (Daniel 6:21-22), the three Hebrew boys were saved from the fire (Daniel 3:19-27), and Moses acting on God’s instruction brought Israel out of Egypt (Exodus 12:40-42). When we live in obedience to God’s instruction, we can do and experience the humanly impossible!

Is it always smooth sailing to end on a positive note the way we expect? Not necessarily:

Jesus was persecuted and killed:

Jesus came to earth on God’s instruction. Apostle John confirmed this much when he wrote; “For God so [greatly] loved and dearly prized the world, that He [even] gave His [One and] only begotten Son, so that whoever

believes and trusts in Him [as Savior] shall not period but have eternal life. **For God did not send the Son into the world to judge and condemn the world** [that is, to initiate the final judgment of the world], but that the world might be saved through Him” (John 3:16-17 AMP, emphasis added; check also Romans 8:32). But while living in obedience to God, He (Jesus) was severely persecuted and eventually killed; “The experts of our day haven’t a clue about what this eternal plan is. If they had, **they wouldn’t have killed the Master of the God-designed life on a cross**” (1Corinthians 2:8 MSG, emphasis added).

James was murdered:

James was called and made a disciple by the Lord Jesus. Was it an all jolly ride that ended in bliss and accolades in his life time? Not exactly! The Bible records that “About that time King Herod Agrippa began to persecute some believers in the church. **He had the apostle James (John’s brother) killed with a sword**” (Acts 12:1-2 NLT, emphasis added).

How about Deacon Matthias who was martyred, Apostle Peter who suffered imprisonment, Apostle Paul who was imprisoned, had several lashes, suffered shipwreck, and a host of others.

While living by God’s instructions brings hope of exemption from evil in this world, we must never be led to believe it will all be hunky-dory. However, there is a consolation that even if things don’t go our way and come to an end at our preconceived destination, we would take whatever comes knowing we lived true to our calling.

Would you listen to His instructions and live according to them?