

The Encourager

Therefore encourage one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4:18

THE WINDS THAT BLOW

By Alan Smith

The real estate salesman said, "This house has both its good points and its bad points. To show you I'm honest, I'm going to tell you about both. The disadvantages are that there is a chemical plant one block south and a slaughterhouse a block north."

"What are the advantages?" inquired the prospective buyer.

"The advantage is that you can always tell which way the wind is blowing."

It is important to know "which way the wind is blowing". But it is also possible to allow that knowledge to affect us more than it ought to. I heard of a well-

known hobo during the Great Depression of the 1930's who was asked how he decided which direction he would go every morning. He said, "It's easy. I find the way the wind is blowing, face away from it, and just let it blow me along."

And it's easy for us all to live our lives in just that way. Politicians are famous for doing it. Before taking a position, they'll take a poll and see how many people in the country believe one way or the other. But we're all guilty at times of allowing the "majority opinion" around us to shape who we are and what we do. It's so easy to look around to see which direction everybody else is headed and just turn our backs to the wind and drift along. And rather

than make an effort to change the world (which is very difficult), we follow the easier path of letting the world determine the direction we take.

May these words serve to remind us of what our task as Christians is:

"Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." (Romans 12:2)

HAVE A GREAT
DAY!



DEUS INTERRUPTUS

Jesus and the disciples had been headed for Bethsaida when the evening's storm blew them to Gennesaret instead. Notice our Lord's response. He does not tell the Apostles to set out to sea and try again. Instead, he disembarks and begins to minister to the people around him. Christ's response is to see the storm as God's will and to minister appropriately wherever he lands.

How do I respond when my day is blown off course? Do I respond to daily (or even major life-changing) "inconveniences" by looking for God's purposes or do I become angry and frustrated at the "interruption" of my plans and purposes?



I have found that the higher my personal agenda; the less I am able to see God's purpose in my daily "interruptions." Yet, I have also found that when I make myself available to "Deus Interruptus," incredible and miraculous things frequently happen. Have you ever considered beginning your day by "giving God permission to alter your agenda at any moment and any time?"

"Dearest God, feel free to interrupt my agenda today with yours at any time or in any place."

Jerry Goebel, Sheep without a Shepherd

Quotes

He does not need to transplant us into a different field, but right where we are, with just the circumstances that surround us, He makes His sun to shine and His dew to fall upon us, and transforms the very things that were before our greatest hindrances, into the chiefest and most blessed means of our growth.

Hannah Whitall Smith

AN EASY WAY TO MAKE A BAD DAY BETTER IS TO SMILE AT EVERYONE YOU MEET.

Unknown

If we only have the will to walk, then God is pleased with our stumbles.

C. S. Lewis

WE HAVE TO REALIZE THAT WE CANNOT EARN OR WIN ANYTHING FROM GOD: WE MUST EITHER RECEIVE IT AS A GIFT OR DO WITHOUT IT.

Oswald Chambers

Trust in the LORD
with all your heart,
and do not lean
on your own
understanding.

Proverbs 3:5



**COUNT YOUR NIGHTS BY STARS, NOT SHADOWS
COUNT YOUR DAYS BY SMILES, NOT TEARS
AND ON ANY BIRTHDAY MORNING
COUNT YOUR AGE BY FRIENDS; NOT YEARS.**

Unknown

TIME TRAVEL

Unaware that Indianapolis is on Eastern Standard Time and Chicago on Central Standard Time, Bob inquired at the Indianapolis airport about a plane to Chicago.

"The next flight leaves at 1:00 p.m.," a ticket agent said, "and arrives in Chicago at 1:01 p.m."

"Would you repeat that, please?" Bob asked.

The agent did so and then inquired, "Do you want a reservation?"

"No," said Bob, "But I think I'll hang around and watch that thing take off."

COOKIE DOUGH STUFFED OREOS

INGREDIENTS

1/2 c. (1 stick) melted butter

1/2 c. granulated sugar

1/2 c. packed brown sugar

1 tsp. pure vanilla extract

1 c. almond flour

1/2 tsp. kosher salt

2/3 c. mini chocolate chips

24 Oreos

1 c. chocolate chips

1 tbsp. coconut oil

1/4 c. sprinkles



Don't Drop the Baton

In the 1988 Olympics, the world assumed that the United States would be victorious in the 400-meter relay. They simply were the best. The gun cracked and they were off and running. After the last curve the unthinkable happened. The United States was ahead by 10 meters with no real competition in sight. And then, with victory in their grasp, it happened. They dropped the baton. The thousands in the stands gasped in disbelief. The United States team--sleek, muscular, and fast as leopards, lost the race. Why? Someone dropped the baton.

I would hate for us as a church to be the people who dropped the baton. What is God calling us to be and to do as God's people in this time and this place? It's not a question of resources but a question of faith.

King Duncan



DIRECTIONS

Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper. In a large bowl, whisk together melted butter, sugars, and vanilla. Stir in almond flour and salt, then fold in mini chocolate chips.

Separate Oreos trying to keep creme intact. Place 2 tsp of cookie dough on Oreo half with creme, then sandwich with other half of Oreo. Repeat with remaining Oreos and dough.

Place chocolate chips and coconut oil in a microwave safe bowl and microwave in 30 second intervals until melted. Dip Oreos halfway into chocolate, place on prepared baking sheet, and top with sprinkles. Refrigerate until chocolate is hardened, 1 hour.

<https://www.delish.com/cooking/recipe-ideas/a26144433/cookie-dough-stuffed-oreos-recipe/>

JOSHUA (CH. 6 - 7) WORD SEARCH



BiblePuzzles.org.uk

ACHAN
AMORITES
ARK OF THE COVENANT
CAMP
CITY
COMPASSED
CURSED
DEFEAT AT AI
DESTROYED
FIRE
GARMENT
GOLD

GREAT SHOUT
JERICH
JOSHUA
JUDAH
KING
PRIESTS
PURIFY
RAHAB
RAMS' HORNS
SEIGE
SEVEN DAYS
SILVER

SON OF CARM
SPIES
STONES
THEFT
TREASURY OF THE LORD
TRIBES
TRUMPETS
VALLEY OF ACHOR
VESSELS
WALLS
ZABDI
ZARHITES