

## Chasing after the wind

*Yet when I surveyed all that, my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve,  
everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.*

*Ecclesiastes 2:11*

*Ecclesiastes is the Hebrew word for Preacher*

Writing using Old Testament scripture in TALKS has been something I avoided. Over the next few weeks, I plan to write more from the original Hebrew texts. Ecclesiastes (Preacher) is one of the five wisdom books that has intrigued me. I believe it is as good a place to start as any.

Solomon, the writer of the Book of Ecclesiastes, tells how he tried all the things which in his time were thought to be fulfilling. One by one Preacher dismisses his experience with the phrase chasing after the wind. The words run like a thread through the book. You may think a sailor at sea or on the lake chases the wind. Chasing the wind is not the objective. To chase the wind provides little progress toward reaching the desired port.

What I know is that winds too strong or winds too weak can each cause peril. Intentional preparation for either extreme is a life saver and a life changer. Knowing how to capture whatever wind is available, no matter the direction, will take the sailor to a safe harbor. The trick is getting every person on the ship working toward the same dream of securely docking the boat.

With some conviction I say those human beings on either side of the political, religion, and emotional harbor are chasing the wind. Regrettably the extremes on all sides draw in the neutrals who are just attending the rally. Through the magical pull of group think, people get caught up in the battle and make regrettable decisions. Emotions increase among noise and impassioned chitchat. Injuries and accidental setbacks occur when people are chasing the wind.

Each desire is hard to achieve when people are embittered, disapproving, unforgiving, or simply caught up in the quarrel. Create a Dream, and we individually and collectively grow based on *Kindness. Love. Care. Support. Joy.* We must know all these are gifts from the Prince of Peace.

The Preacher came slowly and painfully to the understanding which ends his story. We hear his disappointment at the end of each frustrating experience. We sense the emotional and spiritual woundedness each time some grand experiment left him feeling empty. Many of us may experience similar feelings in our attempts to reach desired destinations. He was persistent and stubborn. He tried it all! All of us who have worked hard to achieve some dream can easily understand. We have been there. Some of us are still there.

Today we Dream. Today we personally stop chasing the wind and strive to achieve our Dreams. With God's help, we model and achieve peace and unity in our nation and throughout the world.

Peace always,

*Ted*