



Monday Matters - June 18, 2012

Bridge Over Troubled Water

A number of years ago, I was part of a group known as Toastmasters which held weekly meetings on Mondays at 6:30 am. Having arrived early for one of these meetings, I was talking one of the members and somewhere along the line he was asking about my family. I shared with him the personal agony my wife and I were having over our youngest son's physical situation.

Bill must have seen how troubled I was as I described the doctor's inability to find the real cause for my son's deteriorating vision and that someday he would lose his eyesight totally. He listened intently and when I finished explaining our frustrations in not knowing how to help our son, he simply looked at me and said, "My family will begin praying for you, your wife and your son every night." Bill didn't know anything about my religious background but he knew we were facing troubled waters and he knew who to turn to.

Steve Wickham once wrote the following: "There is a song that makes me feel small, but in a very good way. It commences gently but assertively with a trickling piano then booms at the end in an eerily cool and comforting sort of way. The crescendo of the third verse is what brings goose pimples to the skin as I'm taken to the inner sanctum of God's court; his Presence. In this way it has the feeling of the 23rd Psalm. It is the safety of the Shepherd whom fills us with the feeling 'we shall not want.'"

The song he was referring to is the 1970 classic, *Bridge Over Troubled Water* by Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel. Numerous artists have recorded their own version of this universal favorite including Christian artists. Paul wrote this song about providing comfort to a person in need. It started as a modest Gospel hymn but became more dramatic as he put the song together. He said, "I have no idea where it came from. It came all of a sudden. It was one of the most shocking moments in my songwriting career. I remember thinking, 'This is considerably better than I usually write.'" Simon wrote this song with just two verses, considering it a "little hymn." Art Garfunkel and producer Roy Halee heard it

(Click to Listen)



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Quote of the Week

The 23rd Psalm

GOD, my shepherd! I don't need a thing.

You have bedded me down in lush meadows, you find me quiet pools to drink from. True to your word, you let me catch my breath and send me in the right direction.

Even when the way goes through Death Valley, I'm not afraid when you walk at my side. Your trusty shepherd's crook makes me feel secure. You serve me a six-course dinner right in front of my enemies. You revive my drooping head; my cup brims with blessing.

Your beauty and love chase after me every day of my life. I'm back home in the house of

as more epic, and convinced Paul to write a third verse, which he did in the studio. That was very unusual for Simon, as he normally took a long time writing his lyrics. Wickham also said, "The song is colossal. There is an eternal shrill to it. It builds upon the images of the overwhelmed. Whether we're 'feeling small,' 'friends can't be found,' or we're simply 'down and out' he is a bridge over that troubled water -- he's on our side. Who is this person? Have you 'met' him yet? He comforts and dries the tears. He'll surround us with safety and answers when 'pain is all around.'

"The first and second verses are melodies for the melancholy. Then the divine ballad shifts up in gear and suddenly lifts us... first musically, then spiritually. The theme of loneliness and sorrow ends suddenly and a new era of victorious hope emerges; again the overtones of the 23rd Psalm.

"Imagine in your pain and desolation, *the bridge* that carries you safely over the dark and treacherous torrent below, and through that dark period, mentally, emotionally, spiritually, psychologically."

Like Bill, so many years ago, who came alongside when I was facing troubled waters and said to me, "I'm going to pray for you", we know there is Someone who is always there to be that bridge, as He leads us through the storms in our lives. Praise God!

GOD for the rest of my life.

The Message

Bethel Dream Center



Anthony & Kristin Nelson
P.O. Box 243

Nicholasville, KY 40340

Phone: 859-940-0772

nelson.expedition@gmail.com

Monday Matters
Contact Information

Ron Nelson, CCA

P.O. Box 397

Folly Beach, SC 29439

noctelopus@bellsouth.net