

Altapass Allegories

by

A Church Member

I would like to share a true account of a little fishing village on the coast of Maine. The people depended mainly on the fishing trade for their livelihood. It had been a hard year for them. Bad weather had kept them from fishing for days or weeks at a time. The storms and high winds had also caused several to lose their boats. Two men had lost their lives at sea. If they could not fish, their village would not continue to function. They would have to abandon their village and be scattered to new locations.

Not willing to give up so easily, they called a meeting of everyone in the village to discuss their predicament. After the meeting started, a stranger joined them. He offered advice and suggestions, but the people rejected everything he said. He did not look nor dress like them. His accent and the way he placed his words were different than what they were used to. He was a stranger and they thought he knew nothing of their problems nor how to solve them. They were determined to be in control of their village.

The meeting was over; the stranger left. A latecomer to the meeting arrived and asked if the man had been there. He was told that the man had, in fact, been there and even joined in the discussion. His input was rebuffed. The man was astonished. He had been out on the sea in his boat and saw an enormous ship come in to dock. He had recognized the ship and the man as John D. Rockefeller. He had all the resources and power to save their village. He was the only one who could help them but they had sent him away.

How many times is there a stranger among us and we refuse to recognize Him or accept His help? Then when all our plans and hopes and dreams collapse at our feet we wonder what happened. It's then we may realize we've been running around spouting off our knowledge, showing off our talents and rejecting the stranger among us. No amount of self-effort will accomplish anything without our Lord. He loves each of us so much and is just waiting to help us when we recognize Him as Lord. Our lives will never be happy or our churches prosperous or growing without adopting and living by this principle. Let's determine to follow the Stranger among us.