

From: Bill Stephens <wstephens@sparrowhawk.org>
To:
Date: 8/21/2016 10:23:58 AM
Subject: Stand up to those Downtown Girls?.....

All BCC

For those who could benefit from a little spiritual reflection and reassurance this morning:

I have quoted the following passage in the Bible many times since my confirmation in the Methodist Church more than 50 years ago. These words of Jesus of Nazareth were spoken long before he ever became a target for intimidation, ridicule, and execution at the hands of authorities.

Mark 8:34 and 8:35

"³⁴And when He had called the people unto Him with His disciples also, He said unto them, "Whosoever will come after Me, let him deny himself daily, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ³⁵For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it."

My personal symbol of faith and service was first conceived during my service as Chaplain of DeMolay. Maybe it will strike a chord with you, as well:



Growing up in the 1960's the messages of one contemporary "poet" stood out in my mind. No – not one of the Beatles or one of a thousand folk singers. One song, more than any other for a moment in time, spoke to millions in 1969. The message resonates today with millions who have never heard the song.

***Stand* by Sylvester Stone of Sly and the Family Stone**

Stand

*In the end you'll still be you
One that's done all the things you set out to do*

Stand

*There's a cross for you to bear
Things to go through if you're going anywhere*

Stand

*For the things you know are right
It's the truth that the truth makes them so uptight*

Stand

*All the things you want are real
You have you to complete and there is no deal*

Stand

*You've been sitting much too long
There's a permanent crease in your right and wrong*

Stand

*There's a midget standing tall
And the giant beside him about to fall*

Stand

*They will try to make you crawl
And they know what you're saying makes sense and all*

Stand

*Don't you know that you are free
Well at least in your mind if you want to be*

Everybody

Stand, stand, stand

Here's the link:

https://youtu.be/1K_6ieXv7bE

Now, a friend recently sent me the link to this song:

Tell Old Bill

Traditional

**Tell old Bill when he comes home this mornin',
Tell old Bill when he comes home this evenin',
Got to tell old Bill when he comes home,**

To leave them downtown girls alone.
This mornin', this evenin', so soon.
Bill left home by the alley gate this mornin',
Bill left home by the alley gate.
You know, Bill left home by the alley gate,
Old Gail said, "Hey Bill! Don't be late."
This mornin', so soon.
Bill's sweet wife was baking bread in the mornin',
Bill's sweet wife was baking bread,
Well Bill's sweet wife was baking bread,
When she found out her Bill was dead.
This mornin', so soon.
She cried "Oh no! Cannot be!"
"Oh no! Cannot be!"
She cried "Oh no! That cannot be!"
"They killed my William in the third degree."
This mornin', so soon.
Well, they brought Bill home in a hurry-up wagon,
Brought him on home in a hurry-up wagon.
You know, they brought Bill home in a hurry-up wagon,
Poor old Bill. His boots were draggin'.
This mornin', so soon.
Tell old Bill when he comes home this mornin',
Tell old Bill when he comes home.
Won't you tell old Bill when he comes home,
To leave them downtown girls alone.
This mornin', in the mornin', this mornin', so soon.

Here's the link:

<https://youtu.be/jKu8tIXKxb8>

Stand up to those "Downtown Girls" this mornin'?

Seems like the right thing to do.

And the word is "*daily*" – not "*occasionally*".

Will Stephens