

The Bishop's Message
February 2009

THE MESSENGER

Before there was electronic communication, the Pony Express or even homing pigeons, messages were sent by human runners. During that time a certain messenger was sent by his king to deliver an important message to a distant city. The messenger rehearsed the message over and over in order to be sure he could deliver it without error. When he felt he had it “down pat,” he set out on his journey of many days.

The first day went well with good speed and few distractions. At the end of it, the messenger reviewed the information in his mind in order to keep it fresh and accurate. On the second day the messenger had to make a detour because of the condition of the path, and it added several miles to his journey. That night as he rehearsed the message he had some difficulty.

The next day was even worse than the day before. A river was swollen and swift which required a long search over many miles before he found a proper ford. That night as he thought about the message, he had even greater difficulty, and he worried about its accuracy. Additionally, it seemed the more he worried, the more he had difficulty remembering.

On and on he went, and each day the message deteriorated until, when he reached his destination, the only thing he had to deliver was garbled information that was anything but clear and accurate. As circumstances had distracted him, he had lost the whole reason for his running.

The lesson of this parable should be obvious. As Christians, we are entrusted with message of the King of kings, and our responsibility is to keep it and faithfully deliver it throughout the long and often difficult journey of life. As this season of Epiphany continues and as we begin Lent, there will be plenty of distractions and probably more than enough difficulties. His Word will be carried faithfully, however, if it is rehearsed regularly in prayer, the reading and studying of Scripture, corporate worship and charitable works. Renewed in Him who not only overcame the world but also death and the grave, we have the understanding that we share both in His victory and His peace. With that message in our hearts and on our lips, we have very important things to do and say.