

## **Not Affected by The Whether!**

### **Ecclesiastes 11:1-6 – NIV -Invest in Many Ventures**

**11** Ship your grain across the sea; after many days you may receive a return.

<sup>2</sup> Invest in seven ventures, yes, in eight; you do not know what disaster may come upon the land.

<sup>3</sup> If clouds are full of water, they pour rain on the earth. **Whether** a tree falls to the south or to the north, in the place where it falls, there it will lie.

<sup>4</sup> Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap.

<sup>5</sup> As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things.

<sup>6</sup> Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let your hands not be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or **whether** both will do equally well.

Today, in our world, we have people who are known as meteorologist that construct **W.E.A.T.H.E.R.** forecasts.

#### **Weather forecasts are made by collecting data ---**

- **About** the current state of the atmosphere
- **At** a given place
- **Using** our scientific understanding of atmospheric processes
- **To** project how the atmosphere will evolve at that place.

For years' people have tried and continue to try **to predict the weather.**

**Now in the church** we are not exempt from **W.H.E.T.H.E.R** forecasting.

**Some folks are always predicting cloudy skies of disappointment.**

There will be those who will say things such as **"I wouldn't try that if I were you; it's bound to fail."**

**They will discourage** good people from stepping out by faith and exploring new places in **their walk with God.**

There will always be a question as to whether or not something will work or be successful.

In Ecclesiastes 11:1-6, the writer is giving us insight for those who chose to be affected by the whether.

<sup>4</sup> *Whoever watches the wind will not plant;  
whoever looks at the clouds will not reap.*

If you focus on the wind, you won't sow anything; *if you focus on the clouds*, you won't reap anything.

If farmers decided to not plant any seeds, because it looked like it might rain or if they felt it was too windy; *we would all be in big trouble*.

Unfortunately, that's not the weather we want to talk about.  
*We are talking about the W.H.E.T.H.E.R.*

**Whether – expressing a doubt about a choice between alternatives.**

<sup>5</sup> As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things.

<sup>6</sup> Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let your hands not be idle, *for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well.*

According to the writer: we don't know the works of God, we should just do what has been proven to work!

*In the morning sow your seed*, in the evening don't stop.

*Vs6 For you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well.*

**Don't allow your external circumstances to keep you from doing what God has called you to do.**

**Don't stop** praying because you didn't get the answer you wanted last time!

**Don't cease** to fast because you're not sure if it will work!

**Don't give up** on daily bible reading because you're not sure what some things mean!

- **Whether** or not I understand everything!
- **Whether** or not I get what I want!
- **Whether** or not If it works!

**I have to do it**, because if I do; it may prosper, but **If I don't** I've already failed.

***Some folks never venture out of their comfort zone; they are complacent*** in their routine.

#### **Psalm 126:5-6 - NIV**

<sup>5</sup> Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy.

<sup>6</sup> Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.

**Even** in our grief, sorrow, and sickness; **we have to sow**.

**Whether** or not it grows and works is **up to God**, but Paul declared:

#### **1 Corinthians 3:6-7 - NIV**

<sup>6</sup> I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but **God** has been making it grow.

<sup>7</sup> So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, **but only God, who makes things grow**.

#### **Mark 4:35-40 – NIV - Jesus Calms the Storm**

<sup>35</sup> That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side."

<sup>36</sup> Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him.

<sup>37</sup> A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped.

<sup>38</sup> Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

<sup>39</sup> He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

<sup>40</sup> He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

**Jesus is with his disciples** in the ship, he just finished teaching a multitude of people, and he’s exhausted, sleeping in the back of the boat.

**A giant storm arises** and his disciples get scared senseless.

***This story has two storms; one made by nature - one by human-nature.***

- The natural storm **wasn’t** the one to be worried about
- **Yes**, it could have capsized the ship
- It could have drowned the men,
- But that **wasn’t the one** to be concerned with.

**It was the storm in the minds of the disciples:**

***“Do you care about us; don’t you realize that we are going to die!”***

***The whether needs to be addressed today.***

**It has nothing to do with meteorology,**

- It’s **whether** or not he loves me enough to let me go through the storm
- **Whether** he knows what’s best for me.

**He does love me whether he chooses to bless me and make life easy**

- Or if he knows **I need challenges**
- **I have faith** that He Loves me.

***When you get a revelation that ----***

- ***He knows me***
- ***He loves me***

Then **when the storms come** and the winds and waves crash against your vessel

- You can **do as Peter did** in another story; **he walked on the water**.
- **He had faith**; He loves me; He **won’t** let me down.

### **Matthew 17:20 – NIV – Jesus Replied**

<sup>20</sup> He replied, “Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

### **Mustard seed determination!**

There is a scientific discipline within the field of Botany called Allelopathy. Allelopathy [uh-lee-lop-uh-thee,] is a process that describes the inhibition of growth in one species of plants by chemicals produced by another species of plants.

In other words, it is the tendency of a plant to be affected by the characteristics of its surroundings.

**Seeds** can be affected by what is in the soil and even by the toxins from surrounding plants.

According to the **American Heritage dictionary**, “... plants will often not grow underneath black walnut trees, since these trees produce juglone, a chemical inhibiting plant respiration.”

**This inhibition of growth** can affect the size, color, and even the taste of a vegetable.

When people say, “the tomatoes aren’t very good this year” **it is not** always because of lack of rain.

**Many plants have a tendency to be affected by their surroundings**

- **Altered** by their environment
- **Changed** by constant forces of the climate.

**For example**, if you plant a tomato seed and jalapeno seed together the result is hot tomatoes.

**Why?** The tomato, like many other vegetables are affected by its surroundings.

**So what does this have to do with anything?**

Glad you asked! Here is the biblical application!

## **Matthew 17:20 – NIV – Jesus Replied**

<sup>20</sup> He replied, “Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

What scientists have found out about the mustard seed is it has the tendency to remain unaffected by its surroundings.

- You can plant the mustard seed anywhere and it grows and tastes the same.
- You can plant it right on top of a jalapeno and it will be pure mustard.

It has even shown to be an invasive plant that will take the negative toxins of its environment and use them for its good!

To have the kind of faith that Jesus talked about

- Don’t allow your surroundings to change how much - - -
- You are willing to believe God in your situation.

**Mustard seed determination doesn’t care** If people say it will never happen!

- The circumstance has gotten worse since you prayed
- And if everyone criticizes what God has promised you.

## **Psalm 1:3 - NKJV**

<sup>3</sup> He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

Who is the “**he**” that David is talking about?

- He is the “Man that doesn’t walk in the counsel of the ungodly.”
- The counsel of the ungodly will always be part of your surroundings!
- The seat of the scornful will always be part of your surroundings!
- The way of the sinners will always be part of your surroundings!

But David said, I’m not walking in the counsel of the ungodly, I am not sitting in the seat of the scornful.

**Close:**

***But David said: I am standing on the promises of Christ, my King***

- Through eternal ages let his praises ring
- Glory in the highest I will shout and sing,
- **Standing on the promises of God.**

**Whether** you praise Him or not - - -

**Whether** you serve him or not - - -

You won't affect me.

**And maybe we can say as Paul did:**

**Acts 20:24 – NIV**

<sup>24</sup> However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.