

Mid-week Meditation
September 2, 2020
Rev. Mark McLennan
New St. James Presbyterian Church

Ken Carter is a standardbred racetrack chaplain in Ontario. His wife has been battling cancer for several years now. I think a daughter had a cancer scare as well. This is something he passed on to others a while ago.

Chippie

Chaplain Ken Carter posted his reflections on Max Lucado's book, "In The Eye Of The Storm" on Facebook. He gave me permission to print his post here.

"The book is a story about a parakeet named Chippie. Chippie the parakeet never saw it coming. One second he was peacefully perched in his cage, and the next he was sucked in, washed up and blown over.

The problem began when Chippie's owner decided to clean Chippie's cage with a vacuum cleaner. She put the end of the hose into Chippie's cage to clean the bottom, but then the phone rang. She turned to answer the phone, and barely said 'hello' when she heard 'ssssopp!' Chippie was sucked into the vacuum. The bird owner gasped, put down the phone, turned off the vacuum, and quickly opened the bag.

There was Chippie, still alive, but stunned. Since the bird was covered with dust and dirt, she raced him to the bathroom, turned on the water and held Chippie under the running water. Then, realizing that Chippie was soaked and shivering, she did what any compassionate bird owner would do. She reached for the blow dryer and blasted Chippie with hot air.

Poor Chippie never knew what hit him. A few days after the trauma, the reporter who had initially written about the traumatic event called Chippie's owner to see how the bird was recovering.

'Well,' the owner replied, 'Chippie doesn't sing much anymore. He just sits and stares.'

It's not hard to see why. Sucked in, washed up, and blown over—that's enough to steal the song from the strongest heart.

'Sucked in, washed up, and blown over.'

That about sums up how many of us feel at times when life hits us hard. Isn't that right? You've felt that way before, haven't you?"

Sure Ken, we've all had bad days. Your family has certainly had its share.

However, since the book is talking about the day before the Crucifixion, I guess I can't say I've experienced anything that bad. It sure is beyond amazing how Jesus can go through all that rejection, suffering, humiliation, and torture and still choose to continue His journey to death on the cross just so all of us who caused His problems could live with Him forever in heaven.

Your point is spot on. Yes, Jesus does understand all our heartache, troubles, struggles, sickness, and pain.

He understands it all and wants to carry all these burdens for us.

I say we let Him.