



REFLECTIONS

April 30, 2023

Jesus said to his disciples: "Things that cause people to sin are bound to come, but woe to that person through whom they come... So watch yourselves."

Luke 17:1, 3

Puppeteering

Refreshed from the Archives of April 28, 2013

A large stranger sitting in front of me shifted slightly to his left. Although his move was slight, it blocked the stage from view. The man likely meant no disrespect and was probably unaware that his every move prompted a move of my own.

Distracted by my situation, my mind drifted from the speaker to my bondage with the stranger. I felt like a puppet controlled by a puppeteer. Each movement he made moved me too.

And what about those around me, I wondered. Were they forced to move when I did? Could the movement of one large stranger create waves of movement in the entire auditorium?

I envisioned a sea of people shifting like waves, each move producing another, all begun by an unknowing puppeteer who placed it all in motion. Then I began to wonder. Once I am freed from the bond with the stranger, might my independent movements in daily life force responses from those around me? Might I be puppeteering too? It was an intriguing question but the answer profound.

Our lives are bonded together into one body just as tiny drops bond to form great oceans. The movement of a single drop inspires rolling waves that find their way to shore only to retreat beneath the surf to form new waves perhaps in different places. Some waves bring peaceful sounds and renewed freshness to the seashore. Others though produce angry waters that batter the land with stormy destruction.

We are all puppeteers. Some things we do may come ashore with refreshing peace, while others may strike like a destructive storm. Our movements make a difference to those around us.

Some could take their life.

You are the light of the world,

Richard +

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