

Hide Not!

*Will comes into church with a large cardboard box, and hides himself in it, peeking out. Stephen comes along.*

S: Will, what are you doing in there?

W: (*Will is startled*) Oh, you scared me. For a moment I thought you were going to hit me with your walking stick.

S: Walking stick? I don't have a walking stick. Merna might have one, but even she is not going to hit you with it. Are you Merna? And she's not going to run you over with her walker either.

W: Yeah, well, I'm in here because the world is a scary dangerous place, and I'm trying to keep myself safe.

S: Surely the world's not that bad that you have to hide yourself in a cardboard box!

W: Hey, is that a virus over there? ... Oh,.. no, it's Edgar.

S: Will, Jesus promises us that we are safe with him, and he will look after us.

W: Oh, so Jesus promises that bad things won't happen to us?

S: No, he doesn't promise that.

W: Whoh... I just thought I saw a red parrot swooping on me, but it was just Nicki's hair.

S: It's true that Jesus does say that in this world we will have tribulation. There's no denying that.

W: Yeah, and the apostle Paul can talk about being stoned, whipped, shipwrecked, beaten up, and put in gaol. There was one time he was going to be killed. ... Hey, is that one of those scammers over there, one of those people who try to steal your money?

S: Where?

W: Over there. See?

S: That's not a scammer, that Pete!

W: Oh ok. But the thing is, every Sunday morning Pete's in the foyer with his computer, and all the little kids come to him. Without them being aware Pete might be sneakily scamming them of all the money in their piggy banks.

S: I think you are seeing danger where no danger exists.

W: Maybe, but you can't deny that this world is a dangerous place, and bad things do happen to God's people. People in this congregation have had cancer; they've been injured, they've been abused. Only yesterday I broke a fingernail.

S: Will, I get your point. This world is dangerous, and probably even more than we think, because of course the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking to devour us. But, when Jesus said that we will have tribulation, he also said that he has overcome the world. And when Paul pointed to all the bad things that happened to him, he also said he was convinced that no matter what, nothing would ever separate him from the love of God.

W: Yeah, but I would have thought that if God loved us, he wouldn't let bad things happen.

S: Probably most of us have thought that way at times. How can a loving God let bad things happen? ... That can be very hard for God's people to work through.

W: Tell me about it.

S: I just happen to have with me a tin of baked beans. You and I are like the beans inside this can, safe and secure with God's protective armour around us. What is absolutely certain is that we will continue to be safe in God's arms, and he will bring us through life to be with him for ever, where no more danger will exist. What that means for you is..?

W: Is what?

S: You don't need to hide in your cardboard box.

W: (steps out of the box) I knew that. I was just testing to see if you knew it as well.