

Where did that saying come from?

Overview

Most of us think that the common sayings we use each day came from our mothers, but this is only partially true, as most of them originated from the bible. A few samples follow and I will periodically add



more. If you study the bible you will find that many expressions come exactly from bible text and other expressions were derived from study and interpretation. The point is that our forefathers paid a lot of attention to the Word of God. Bible passages are from the NAB and are shown in italics.

Handwriting on the wall: This comes from Daniel 5:5, where Daniel is interpreting the dream of King Nebuchadnezzar *“Suddenly, opposite the lampstand, the fingers of a human hand appeared, writing on the plaster of the wall in the king's palace.”* Read Daniel 5:1-30 for the complete account as the hand spelled out the fate of the King.

The blind leading the blind: You will find this in Matthew 15:14 where Jesus is explaining a parable. *“...Let them alone; they are blind guides (of the blind). If a blind person leads a blind person, both will fall into a pit.”*

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you: Is a common expression of charity which comes from Matthew 7:12. *“Do to others whatever you would have them do to you. This is the law and the prophets.”*

Do not judge a book by its cover: Is a well known expression that comes from 1 Samuel 16:7 where God is speaking to Samuel about David. *“But the LORD said to Samuel: “Do not*

judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature, because I have rejected him. Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the LORD looks into the heart.”

You do not know if you are coming or going: has been heard by most of us when we are confused and it is found in John 8:14. *“Jesus answered and said to them, even if I do testify on my own behalf, my testimony can be verified, because I know where I came from and where I am going. But you do not know where I come from or where I am going.”*

Don't shoot the messenger: Most of us has experienced this at least once when we bring bad news and it comes from Luke 11:49. *“Therefore, the wisdom of God said, I will send to them prophets and apostles; * some of them they will kill and persecute.”*

Go the extra mile: Has its roots in ancient Jewish culture - where a person coming upon another on a road in need of help in carrying goods - was required to help him for one mile. In Matthew 5:41 Jesus was saying to go beyond what we are required to do in service to others. *“Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go with him for two miles.”*

Your reputation precedes you: Is from an interpretation of Luke 4:37 referring to knowledge of Jesus. *“And news of him spread everywhere in the surrounding region.”*

You are just babbling away: Comes from the account in Genesis 11:17-19 where the people created a tall tower to become like god and God confused their language. *“That is why it was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the speech of all the world. It was from that place that he scattered them all over the earth.”*