



**TRAIL TIP:**

**Be Prepared on the Range for rapid Weather Changes.**

Growing up in the Oklahoma/Texas region we often heard that if you don't like the weather just wait a few minutes and it will change. Indeed our region of the country is used to rapid changes in temperature. I can remember days going to school in a heavy coat and by lunch you were in short sleeves. I also can remember going to school without even a sweater and by lunch time you needed to call for a ride home because school was shutting down due to a snowstorm. These are no exaggerations to be sure.

**Proverbs 27:1** *Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.*

My Great-Grandparents homesteaded in Southwest Oklahoma so I am sure they were used to rapid changes in the weather. This is why there are so many tornados in the region. Extreme weather is not uncommon.

One of the most peculiar phenomena was the "mud storm" which came about when you had a dust storm blow in from the west due to high winds on dry plains then followed by a heavy rain storm. Sometimes the two mixed together and you literally got mud dropping from the sky. More than once we had a muddy windshield on the family car and would have to pull over and wash the windows.

Life is a lot like that, too. You just never know what is going to happen. Cars break down; people get sick; jobs are lost; disappointments may come or you might get a pleasant surprise along the way. You just never know.

That's why it's important to be prepared for the rapid changes that come along. If you just haphazardly go through life you will get tossed back and forth emotionally, financially, and physically sometimes as well.

It's better to go "prepared" or as my mom used to say "just in case." She'd say, just in case the weather changes better throw in the raincoat today; or sometimes: better take a sweater "just in case."

**John 16:33b** *"In the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."*

Jesus wants you to be prepared as well. You don't know what today will bring. It may be pleasant and calm or it may be harsh. He isn't talking about the weather here either and neither am I.

No, I am talking about being prepared for whatever life throws at you. It might be as simple as catching a bad cold with fever and having to miss out on a trip to a friend's house or it might be worse like coming home and getting some bad family news for example.

If you are a born-again Christian, then Jesus has made you a promise!

**Matthew 28:20** *"...lo I am with you always even unto the end of the world."*

Thing is, the promise is for the born-again Christian. Have you accepted Jesus as personal Savior?

[Present salvation here].