

Signals on the Sea

The captain of the ship looked into the dark night and saw faint lights in the distance. Fearing a collision, he immediately told his signalman to send a message: "Alter your course 10 degrees south."

Promptly a return message was received: "Alter your course 10 degrees north."

The captain was angered: His command had been ignored. So he sent a second message: "Alter your course 10 degrees south. I am the captain!"

Soon another message was received: "Alter your course 10 degrees north. I am seaman third class Jones."

Immediately the captain sent a third message, knowing the fear it would evoke: "Alter your course 10 degrees south. I am a battleship."

Quickly the reply came: "Alter your course 10 degrees north. I am a lighthouse."

In the midst of our dark and foggy times, all sorts of voices are shouting orders into the night, telling us what to do, how to adjust our lives, what we should think. Out of the darkness, one voice signals something quite opposite to the rest -- something almost absurd to the world's ears.

But the voice happens to be the Light of the World, and we ignore it at our peril.

--Beecher Hunter