

2/25/24

Welcome / Prayer

**Review** – we're in our cast of chars for the Song. We looked at the Bride, the Adversary, and then touched on the Daughters of Jerusalem and the Watchmen.  
(read Taylor's quote)

It seems the Daughters of Jerusalem and the watchmen cannot see what the Bride sees.

- This comes out in Chapter 5 when they beat on her and argue with her

It's (Bride sees what they can't) not because the 'Bride' is better, (because God is no respecter of persons)

- John leaned against Jesus' chest while Judas was off doing whatever –
- every Christ follower has the same opportunity (God is just as available to you as someone else)

**Why then do some dig in, get serious about their purposeful time for their prayer life, studying, and worship in right spirit? and others don't?**

Let's consider this before we move on in our Cast of Chars (which is definitely part of the study)

**DETOUR**

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

Traditionally this is eschatological or even possibly at one's passing to the other side

But there is another aspect that should be considered.

"another aspect" example –

Hebrews 12: 14 Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.

We view this as

- "If a person doesn't get saved and being sanctified, he won't see the Lord when he dies".

This is true, but there is quite another aspect to this:

- "If we do not pursue peace with all men and sanctification, then OTHERS won't see Christ on earth"

So In that vein, Christ is already appearing on earth all over for thousands of years.

Old Testament – theophanies / Christophanies – revelations of Christ in the Old Testament

**any examples?**

- To Moses in the Burning bush
- To Abraham when he was going to sacrifice Isaac
- "The man" who wrestled with Jacob

In the New Testament though, revelations require development of Christ's character

(sanctification w/out which no one will see the Lord)

John 14: 21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."

The depth of a person's obedience is the barometer of his spiritual condition.

- Obedience (keeps my commandments) is the prereq to disclosure (not the ET kind, the Christ kind)
- As we obey *what we know*, we develop in His character
- Christlike character gives us the ability to see what the Lord is truly like

The depth of the revelation is based on the condition of the heart prior to the revelation

Psalm 18: 25 With the kind You show Yourself kind; With the blameless You show Yourself blameless; <sup>26</sup> With the pure You show Yourself pure, And with the crooked You show Yourself astute.

God reveals His character to a person in whom Christ does not dwell through the revelation of Christ as seen in His followers

- (they see Jesus in you and though they don't understand it, they are intrigued or repulsed)

1 John 2 28 Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming

There is hope here –

“continue in Him” or “Abide (live) in Him”

What does it mean to abide in him?

1 John 2:<sup>6</sup> the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

So walking as Jesus walked has a purifying effect on us does it not?

Getting back to our 1 John 3:2 text

when He appears we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is

- this is more than instant Christ-likeness @ death,
- It's the depth of His appearing being decided by His character development in us *prior* to His appearing. Thus, the next verse

<sup>3</sup> And everyone who has this hope *fixed* on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

- When you live with the hope of being like Him, you purify your own heart because you are already walking as He walked
- This hope 1) you have it in the 1<sup>st</sup> place, and 2) if it's fixed on HIM (not on your own gain) you purify your own heart
- The opposite side – if your hope is “I can live like the world's system complete with idols & denying Christ because Jesus will make me perfect when I die” then that Hope is not fixed on Him.

Christ appears because we pray, read the word, worship in ‘right spirit’

- (sanctification, see the Lord)
- When we pray, we begin to “see” the real value that the Bride saw
- Time in God's presence is the main way to develop in His character

The Bride differs with the Daughters because of what she ‘sees’

- The Daughters don't see because they aren't developing / making themselves available
- They can't see what the Bride sees because they operate out of religion, (checklists) not relationship
- OUR ROLE is to learn to identify with the Bride

Coming back to the Daughters of Jerusalem / Watchmen

These are more Martha vs Mary – explain?

Luke 10: <sup>38</sup> Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. <sup>39</sup> She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word. <sup>40</sup> But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me." <sup>41</sup> But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; <sup>42</sup> but *only* one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

Martha – bothered about so many things – saw Jesus coming & ran to Him after Lazarus had died

(Mary, Martha, Lazarus of Bethany, all siblings)

- Said If you'd been here he wouldn't have died, Jesus tried to clarify but she still didn't see
- Mary suggested the same thing but with fewer words and with emotional attachment (weeping)

A big difference in the two is

**Martha** listened but didn't *hear*, looked but didn't see / failed to recognize Christ

John 11: <sup>22</sup> "Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You." <sup>23</sup> Jesus \*said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup> Martha \*said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup> She \*said to Him, "Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, *even* He who comes into the world."

She gives lip service to Jesus' ability to raise Lazarus from the dead

Yet we see when it comes time for Jesus to raise Lazarus from the dead

- Mary is the one who brings Him to Lazarus' tomb
- Martha is the one who objects – can't "see" – says it will stink too bad

John 11: 39 Jesus \*said, "Remove the stone." Martha, the sister of the deceased, \*said to Him, "Lord, by this time there will be a stench, for he has been *dead* four days." <sup>40</sup> Jesus \*said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

The Daughters of Jerusalem are all about works and being busy for Jesus while they often miss Him entirely.

- They also take a role of provocation – see how Martha spoke about Mary – wouldn't that cut you some?
  - We'll see how they provoked the Bride later in Song 5
- This necessary role is designed to cause us to continue in our further pursuit of intimacy with Jesus
  - the 'spur'. **How does fertilizer work? Make the plant feel great, like it wants to get big muscles?**
  - (if needed, Rom 8:28 God causes all things to work together...)

**Mary** The one who sat at Jesus' feet was able to see Jesus for who He really is and was subsequently effective in the Kingdom of God

She anointed Jesus feet with pure spikenard, a pound

About the size of a coke can

- Judas – three hundred denarii
- A denarii = 1 day's wage. 260 work days / yr. Ave Income = \$70K.
- So 300 denarii = \$70k/260 \* 300 = \$80,700

Moreover, they're rounding the corner to Christ's impending death, you'd think you would want to hold onto all material possessions you had once He goes...

Who would DO something like this, this extravagant act of anointing?

- **Speculate - What might have "Martha" have said about that?**
- Possibly the same thing Judas did
- **Why might Mary have done something like this? Complete with her own hair?**

The work of God IS intimacy with Jesus. Mary's works were driven by her love for Jesus.

She was so full of Him,

- she was oblivious to the cost of the anointing,

- or the potential stench at the grave.

POINT:

- The daughters of Jerusalem are interested in the work of God
- The Bride is interested in the God of the work

POINT

To gain insight into intimacy with Christ, we must read ourselves into the Bride's person while recognizing our own tendencies to be a "daughter of Jerusalem"