

Preparing Our Hearts for the Return of Jesus

6-HOW HUMILITY/SURRENDER MAKES PRIORITIES CLEAR (1Pet: 5)

I. HOW CAN WE EVER LIVE OUT THE ENCOUNTER IF WE RUN AWAY FROM WHAT HE IS ASKING OF US.

¹²Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. ¹³Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world. (1Pet 4:12,13)

I looked at a few versions of 1st and 2nd Peter to see the story Peter is telling by the titles given as He changes subjects in his two epistles.

Here they are:

Hope of Eternal Life

Holy Living

Respecting Authority

Be like Slaves- Love Slaves

Living for God

Suffering for being a Christian

Lead people to Righteousness, and listen to authority that's leading you into Righteousness

Growing into Christlikeness

Trust the Scriptures

Danger of False Teachers

The Day of the Lord is Coming.

After many moments of analyzing the Christian experience, the journey I think I have come to the conclusion that many Christians/just the human response is that the journey of maturing Christianity is an entitlement. Much like we treat work, I have been working here for 20 years so therefore, if you come into my business there is no way you can be above me.

We set up these parameters to make sure nothing is taken away from us.

As if we must protect what is ours at all cost, seemingly missing the point of where is your treasure being laid.

There is a message that is key to unlocking this Lovesickness to understand that Jesus and His Return is paramount, and it's the essence of the Fact that He is everything yet He gives it away for us. It's the most unselfish heart, because it is THE unselfish heart.

And unselfishness is the #1 antagonist to selfishness

Our inability to trust that someone else has us as a priority in their hearts is rooted in the reality that it is not true, and most people will hurt you if you give them that opportunity

So we spend the Christian life in only reveling in the 'good' stuff, while ever ignoring His deep call to us. Songs Ch. 3-4 describe the heights that follow encounter. Chapter 5 brings a somber choice that requires maturity.

¹I have gathered from your heart, my equal, my bride, I have gathered from my garden all my sacred spices—even my myrrh. I have tasted and enjoyed my wine within you. I have tasted with pleasure my pure milk, my honeycomb, which you yield to me. I delight in gathering my sacred spice, all the fruits of my life I have gathered from within you, my paradise garden. Come, all my friends— feast upon my bride, all you revelers of my palace. Feast on her, my lovers! Drink and drink, and drink again, until you can take no more. Drink the wine of her love. Take all you desire, you priests. My life within her will become your feast. (Songs 5:1)

It feels good not only to be wanted but to know that you have “graduated” of sorts into a part of life where people see the glow on your face. This is attractive to us, because we want this, and it’s a promise of His, but there is more He requires of us, something deeper, something more and it is to prepare us to receive the eternal version of this feeling of beauty.

²After this I let my devotion slumber, but my heart for him stayed awake. I had a dream. I dreamed of my beloved— he was coming to me in the darkness of night. The melody of the man I love awakened me. I heard his knock at my heart’s door as he pleaded with me.... (Songs 5:2)

His response to her is as follows:

...Arise, my love. Open your heart, my darling, deeper still to me. Will you receive me this dark night? There is no one else but you, my friend, my equal. I need you this night to arise and come be with me. You are my pure, loyal dove, a perfect partner for me. My flawless one, will you arise? For my heaviness and tears are more than I can bear. I have spent myself for you throughout the dark night. (Songs 5:2)

Her response is classic, because her words here signifies our heart posture. We do not have the guts to ever mutter these words, but our actions, our choices, our own degree of “our truth” speaks these sentiments much louder than words could ever:

³I have already laid aside my own garments for you. How could I take them up again since I’ve yielded my righteousness to yours? You have cleansed my life and taken me so far. Isn’t that enough?.... (Songs 5:3)

Two Quotes:

From Guyon,

“The Spouse perceiving the intention of the Groom to make her take part in His Public Shame/Disgrace, is fearful, is now in such intense depression at her coming Shame that it rivals the intensity she had when she Arose and went after the One She loved.

There are many who are content to bear the cross; but there is barely a single one willing to bear its name in infamy (the state of being well known for a bad deed or quality)

The soul is apprehensive of two things, when the possible Shame of walking with Christ is presented: ONE- that she may quickly fall back into seeing herself as she once did or TWO- that the “creature” will defile her and lead her back to a life she came from.”

From Nee,

All Spiritual progress must necessarily involve change from whatever is a present status and order of things. The willingness to change is precisely the price of progress. To covet, or to rest in, spiritual complacency at any time must always and forever mean a refusal to be motivated to a still higher calling.

The Calling of Jesus is first for you to understand that you are Loved and you bear His image, secondly is for you to become like Him.

²⁴Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If you truly want to follow me, you should at once completely reject and disown your own life. And you must be willing to share my cross and experience it as your own, as you continually surrender to my ways. (Mt 16:24)

Her realization of the Deeper Calling

⁴My beloved reached into me to unlock my heart. The core of my very being trembled at his touch. How my soul melted when he spoke to me! ⁵My spirit arose to open for more of his touch. As I surrendered to him, I began to sense his fragrance— the fragrance of his suffering love! It was the sense of myrrh flowing all through me! (Songs 5:4,5)

I have said this many times, the manifold wisdom of The Father was to use Satan idea of a rebellion and throw it right back into its own face, showing victory over it while allowing it to blossom to it's fullest ugliness so that there can never be any doubt that His way conquers all, and Love conquers all.

So Jesus modeled for us that in order to defeat death, we must die, and His consolation prize for truly believing this is everlasting life.

This is why His Bride will have the essence of Myrrh, the sacrificial fragrance that stomps out the stench of death.

Jesus exhorts this heart as further evidence that the Bridegroom in Songs is Jesus because He upholds this heart as the standard of His pleasing when He says this to Smyrna:

⁸"And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, 'These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life: ⁹"I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. ¹¹"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.' " (Rev 2:8-11)

The Beauty of this message to the Heart of Smyrna is the assurance He lays out. They are absolute assurance in who He is and what His Promise is:

I am the First and Last, assuring us that He is the ultimate ruler, He was there before evil, and he will be there after evil. He is the champion of champions, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

There is No One Like Him...

and the eternal reward He offers, is eternal life.

Grasping the sense his fragrance— the fragrance of his suffering love! It was the sense of myrrh flowing all through me! is the assurance of eternal life.!

Do you think that persecution only comes in the form of being killed.

Doesn't Peter describe one of the worst kinds of persecution when he says:

³Most importantly, I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires. ⁴They will say, "What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again? (2Pet 3:3)

Watchman Nee says this about maturity :

"In Mature Believers, His discipline is withheld until after the response of obedience is made. Only after this response is made does such a one understand how shameful such disobedience or lack of response is. In earlier stages of spiritual experience chastisement comes before obedience, and its purpose is to provoke obedience. It continues until there is obedience. but to the mature believer, chastisement or discipline follows

after the act of obedience when he discovers the bitterness resulting from that complacent spirit which has failed to go along with the Lord.” Nee

When you are one that has bathed your Spirit in the posture of ¹¹***And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. (Rev 12:11)***

Then you feel the burn of scoffers, haters, persecutors. Because you see that there actions are not only of sin, but of people that are unwilling to **sense his fragrance— the fragrance of his suffering love! It was the sense of myrrh flowing all through me!**

This is what hurts my heart the most, is meeting Christians who do not have the fortitude to make this call.

The strength to die to their desires for His, and if they don't have the strength to die to desires, do you think the courage to die for Him would suddenly arise.

You know I wonder how when Paul says: ¹³***The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure. (1Cor 10:13)***

So to me that suggests that we are judged by the heart that either has or has not accepted the fragrance of myrrh of sacrificial love.

Because what if We have been chosen to live in such a time as this, that if we are the last generation, we will be faced with the ultimate decision of where our love is aligned, suggesting that we have a Spirit that can handle such a temptation.

Because in Revelation it does give a place of precedence to those that act out their fragrance of suffering love its culmination....

⁹***When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. ¹⁰And they cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” ¹¹Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed. (Rev 6:9-11)***