

Maturity

*“After that you have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.”
1 Peter 5:10*

Notice that to become mature, perfected, settled, you must suffer a little while. What God calls a little while and what we call a while is quite different. The two following scriptures will give a little insight into becoming mature, a new creation, a man or perfected.

“And he who worships God must worship in spirit and in truth.”

“But when I became a man, I put away childish things.”

These are two of many scriptures calling us to perfection, maturity, a new creation or becoming a man.

The next wave of God’s glory will force all Americans into maturity or obscurity.

God is so sick of lukewarm Christianity that He is ready to spew the whole kit and kaboodle out of His mouth. Then, my dear deceived “Christian in name only” you will either sink or swim. Do you have the stuff inside of you that will humble yourself and turn to God for help or will you “go to hell in a handbasket”, so to speak, just to keep up your facade?

How much of the Bible do you believe???? Only John 3:16, or do you believe that if you suffer with Him you will glorify Him? Or do you believe that the way He went we must go also, making Him the way into a new life, the resurrection?

The story of Nebuchadnezzar is a perfect story of our journey from our Adam, self-centered man to becoming a real Christian, born again after everything of self is hacked down like a tree that has seen its best days — a journey from self glorification to glorifying God. Read chapter 4 of Daniel. Note that he was stripped down to becoming an animal, his understanding taken from him and his reasoning taken from him. And then it was returned after he overcame death and knew the Father. What was added to Nebuchadnezzar was a

new understanding, new reasoning, a new life, and a new appreciation of everything, for He overcame the shadow of death. Did you know that death is an enemy? So please spare me from the fairy story, “When I die I will go to heaven.”

We have all put on an image or mask or grave clothes or fig leaves, call it what you may. We continually live in a phony pretense and worship and give glory to the image. The Reagan fiasco was a good example. We have become fools worshipping an illusion. The whole country made much ado about Nancy standing by her husband as if it is abnormal to do the natural thing. How far we have strayed from reality, charity, and all the attributes that would make us a city set on a hill. Would Nancy have done the same if she had not ambitions of glory in her heart?? Could she have done it if kindness had its own humble reward???

All humanity was made to worship. Because we have been made into an image of God and not yet in the likeness of God we worship an image of what we can see or relate to with our senses, making idols or graven images; the very thing God told us not to do. Did you know we were all subject to vanity not of our own choosing?

Now let us turn the pages of time and watch a most poignant happening. Jesus leaves His disciples as they walked on the dusty path, perhaps going from one little village to another, and He went to Jacob’s well to get a drink while the disciples went off for something to eat. Now unfolds the most unbelievable of revelations. Jesus had a way of being in the right place at the right time. Perhaps that is the norm for those of us who purpose to do the Father’s will.

Now He strolls up to the well and lo and behold, there just happens to be a Samaritan woman getting a drink. Jesus nonchalantly begins to break all the religious rules. He simply ordered her to give Him a drink. That broke the ice for some interesting drama.

Shocked that a Jew (male) would speak to a woman (Samaritan) perhaps shook her out of her religious sleep and made way for the most interesting conversation in the entire Bible. Isn't it wonderful that Jesus was so ordinary that she never gave a thought that He might be carrying in His being the Christ, the Savior that she had longed and looked for all her life?

Jesus, perceiving the hungry heart, began telling her of spiritual things through the natural; using the water of the well as a type of the spiritual water of the Spirit.

This rhetoric between these two ordinary people is so poignant and so wooing. It is like a love affair between the Spirit of God and the soul of this woman sick with longing for the marriage to her Messiah.

She finally proposes to Him. "Where then shall we worship?" Shall I go to the Catholic church or Calvary Chapel, or which church shall I go to? Then Jesus gets very personal and familiar, **"Woman, believe me, the hour cometh when ye shall not worship in any church. You will worship the Father. You have been making love to idols and worshipping idols. However, God is spirit and you will be worshipping in Spirit and in truth."** Notice Jesus did not say the second time who she would worship or where she would worship — just she and God flowing together in a union that would indeed satisfy her every need and the place of worship which was filled with covetousness now content and at peace.

Are you aware that our Adam man cannot worship in Spirit and truth because he is of the world and the world and all in it are governed by the prince of the world called the devil? The world cannot receive the truth.

We are at the time of the evolution of man that the Bible calls being perfected like the Father is perfect — the fullness of time — the gestation period fulfilled. It is time to receive the inheritance for all willing to pay the price by following Christ to the end of our old life — to the end of the world, being changed into the likeness of Jesus, Himself. Therefore you see people going hither and yon to "churches" raising their hands and singing and thinking that is praising God. Far from it my dear sleeping Christian. **Back to our story.**

Now the woman says exactly what Jesus needs to hear to bring her into present time. "I know when Messiah cometh He will tell me all things I ever did." And Jesus let her know the time is now just as He is saying today. **"I that speak unto thee am He."** People today are also looking for a future coming when the truth is, He is already here. His righteousness will shortly awaken all the Earth from a deep sleep of deception.

I find it quite interesting that Jesus, kept the fact that He was the Messiah from everyone but this Samaritan woman. I also find it interesting that when she described Jesus to her friends she described Him as One who told all she ever did and not that He answered her question of where to worship; when in fact the whole discourse was to establish the fact *that our place of worship in our hearts would be eternal life and until that place in our hearts was filled with the water of life we would always be searching for something or someone to satisfy that thirst.*

As the church age fades away I pray the above story become very personal and real to all of you and we finally can say, "Ah yes, Lord, Thy kingdom has come and the water from your well does, indeed, satisfy." Gulp, gulp, gulp.....



Marie Kolasinski