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Draw Nigh Unto Me Part 80

ISSUE: 0082 - Published 30th October 2018

Defaced - Week 72

God's Coming Spiritual Revolution - Part 19

So how do spiritual longings retard the growth of Spiritual Desire? (cont)

My wife & I are blessed to have a 3-year-old grandson who possesses a mind that seemingly operates many years ahead of his real age.

Some months back, without any provocation, he suddenly launched into an articulately detailed & graphic account of Jonah & the "Big Whale" [accompanied with compulsory arm gestures of course] that swallowed Jonah up into its belly for three days & then spat him out again.

I asked him if he thought maybe it was not, in fact, a whale that swallowed Jonah but it might have been just a Big Fish with a belly big enough to fit Jonah in.

This question immediately invoked from him an incisive & very articulate defence of his whale assertion.

For to the mind of a child, what is the Story of Jonah without the Whale!

It was a cherished moment of interaction with a child's mind & its playful yet passionate desire for a compulsory smattering of delusional fantasy within any story.

I was to discover that his defined knowledge on the subject of Jonah & the Whale had come from his Sunday School lesson some months previous.

His final assertion was that Papa needed to get his facts straight & his stride away from me was entirely indicative of a mission fully accomplished.

I believe he moved on with a full assurance that Papa was now a much wiser man!

And indeed it did, but not for the reasons he had perceived in his innocent mind.

This interlude with him occurred around the time that I had just been led, for unknown reasons, into a prolonged look into the Story of Jonah.

Now after eight weeks since Issue 74 & three different writers' sharing on the Book of Jonah, I for one have received quite a startling revelation.

That is the fact that I had never before realised how much there is for all of us to glean from the Book of Jonah!

In our human way of assessment, we can so easily assume it is too short & straightforward a story to hold any great insights for us.

More especially, with it being a favourite Children's Bible Story with the addition of the whale providing the necessary delusional fantasy element to its telling.

Don't we all remember it as a Bible Story favourite in our childhood or the lives of our children?

Furthermore, to be honest with you all, at the time I decided to launch into using **'The Sign of Jonah by Doug Batchelor'** I was not wholly confident that I was being led to share it for the right reasons.

This year we have had a virtual deluge of personal drama in our lives & having moved 200kms from where we spent 30 years residing, I was starting to find that with so much going on the weeks were flying by.

Before I knew it, I would find myself arriving at Tuesday again without having or giving much, if any, reflection at all upon the upcoming Issue.

Especially this year, the number of times I sat with nothing & yet God remained ever Faithful to the Call He placed in my heart to produce a timely weekly Sharing Awareness as led by His Spirit.

That particular week I was feeling despondent & somehow seemingly desperate, I flicked through my different notes looking for the leading of the Spirit of God.

In doing so, I came upon the article on Jonah which I quickly reread & in isolation found it a somewhat interesting article which is why I had felt to retain it in the first place.

Then, for no particular reason that I can share & despite a feeling that it seemed out of context to the immediate previous issues & overall subject at hand, I was mildly feeling to use it anyway.

Then I immediately began to wonder if it was more about me taking an easy way out.

Especially, upon realising that in light of the average length of the eido999 messages, it could cover a six week period.

This break, in turn, gave me a personal sense of release in thinking that this could provide me with:

- a) a short reprieve from the pressure I was feeling**
- b) an ability to create a buffer zone to alleviate any future recurrence.**

Of course, as in all such scenarios, some six weeks later I found myself in the same situation other than for the fact of having rested from sharing directly whatever the Spirit of God might have given me.

The ending of the six weeks just happened to fall in the midst of a particularly difficult time of family commitments & other issues prevailing around us.

All this served to do was launch me into a prolonged time of questioning my motives that in turn promoted feelings of maybe I had 'lost my way' & wondering if in doing so had lost the thread of the overall aspects of where it was heading.

Considering that the present subject matter was supposed to be **"So how do spiritual longings retard the growth of Spiritual Desire?"**

I am sure you can understand why I was feeling this way.

How is an extended look at the Story of Jonah possibly going to lead anywhere concerning the overall subject matter?

When my 'rest period' ended after the six weeks I started to be somewhat concerned as I felt I had lost the thread altogether & could not find a place to take up from to make a start again.

In myself, I started to think that I needed to extricate myself from 'Jonah' convinced that possibly it had served my need more than God's Desire.

Then on the prior Saturday, I pondered myself into a mild frenzy finding no answers apart from one word that repeatedly took my mental attention from within the turmoil of my mind.

Jonah! Jonah!! Jonah!!! It was as though his name was haunting me now!

That night I was still rudderless in my sea of thoughts & so mentally drained regarding the matter I said to God " **if this is was from you then let Jonah be mentioned in Church tomorrow, even just one mention, then I will know it is of you & to continue.**"

To once again be honest with you I did not hold much hope for an answer as both our Pastors were on holiday together at the time.

The Church Newsletter named a particular woman who was going to share on Sunday & being relatively new in the Church I took more interest in trying to identify who she indeed was.

I told my wife that I felt it was the woman who once before did a short segment of dramatised storytelling, but other than that nothing further dawned on me.

Not even knowing in advance the title of her sharing was to be **"A Big Fish, A Lost Son & Amazing Grace"** did any bells ring.

Maybe it was my grandson's insistence that it was indeed a 'Big Whale' that caused me to overlook the obvious!

I must have been out of it for I am sure by now you all have guessed what is coming next!

Her first segment turned out to be to be a dramatised storytelling of the entire Book of Jonah - 'A Big Fish' !!!!

When I finally 'awoke from my slumber' as she commenced her drama I chuckled to myself inwardly as I remembered that I told God that even one mention of Jonah would be enough & here He presented the whole story to me!

As if that wasn't enough leading, her dramatisation of Chapter 4 in particular, delivered to me the key to the seemingly lost connection to our current topic & thus opened the way for me again.

I am not sure whether that qualifies as being categorised as being with 'A Resounding Voice', but it came to me in such a way!

I now saw that my quiet fears were indeed unfounded & no new path back needed to be found as we have been on the right track all along!

All of this then led me more confidently into issuing a further two weeks of sharing other people's writing's on different aspects of the Book of Jonah.

God most definitely works in mysterious ways.

Ways we so often fail to understand but of which we need a more in-depth knowledge & understanding, more especially in this season in which we live.

We all need to experience God if we are to indeed truly start to See & Know Him at all.

When someone asks us do we know that person, we say yes even when we only know of them or said hello to them.

Only in spending time with someone, sharing experiences with them, spending hours exchanging our thoughts, moving through our joys & trials together can we honestly say we know them.

It is no different with God; we need to See&Know Him if we are going to understand His Ways to any depth, for without the knowledge of Him they will remain mysterious to us.

Now, let us move on together confidently as we Seek Him for the discovery of what wisdom & revelation He Desires to reveal to us here in this seemingly simple, short Story of Jonah.

Love,
Mwesigwa

[Defaced - Week 73 follows next week]

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