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Draw Nigh Unto Me Part 85

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Defaced - Week 77

God's Coming Spiritual Revolution - Part 24

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

Let me begin this week by posing a question to you all.

If you believe as I do in the infallible Word of God, then what Divine Wisdom do you perceive the Story of Jonah contains that warranted the inclusion of this tenth shortest Book in the Holy Bible?

Certainly, the slight twisting of 'a great fish' into the emotive picture of a whale served to provide a wonderful Bible Story for children.

Also for us adults, the transparency of Jonah's disobedience displayed for all to see can serve to somehow make us feel better about our own failings before God.

This short personal tale of Jonah can so easily generate such modest reasonings for its existence but what I do know is that God's Divine Intention in sharing it with us in the Holy Scriptures has to be far deeper than that.

A most poignant fact to ponder is it's a very personal story of Jonah's dealings with God in regard to what quite possibly may have been the one & only such unflattering incident in his life.

Whatever he did for God before this incident, or whatever he may have gone on to do for Him afterwards, God has chosen that we know nothing of it.

For Jonah, the brief story ends with him still embroiled in his personal turmoil & whether redemption came again as it did in the belly of the great fish, none of us knows.

Just imagine, if, for each & every one of us, a small Book in the Bible was reserved to bear our name & the details of just one of our failures before God.

We most surely would not be able to hold the Bible in our hand as we now do, for surely the whole earth could not contain the sheer volume of it.

And what if all our failures were to be recorded in such a manner.

I think the whole universe might struggle to contain it all!

That is why I would contend that even though the Book bears his name it is not primarily aimed at simply revealing Jonah's failings because that is not Who God Is.

God Is Love & He Comforts us with Truth.

His Ways were never, & will never be to pander to our human thinking nor indulge our emotional needs, nor fulfil our expectations, nor to pull us down but rather to lift us up into Truth simply because we belong to Him & He Loves Us!

He sent The Word to us for One Divine Purpose.

To reveal to us The Way, The Truth & The Life.

All the efforts of the Heavens are aligned to the One Divine Purpose to Educate, Motivate & Inspire us as individuals toward being perpetually prepared & led into position for further steps into Truth.

This Divine Purpose will continue for as long as any still take a breath in this life.

The Bible says that the knowledge of Truth sets you free.

John 8:32 KJV

32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

The moment we first Believed & received Jesus as Lord, the Son of God, we first knew Truth & every time we come to further wisdom & revelation in the knowledge of Him we take another step:

Ephesians 4:13 KJV

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

It will be when **Ephesians 4:13** is made manifest that God's Divine Purpose will be fully fulfilled.

For that will be when God's Children return in the Unity of the Body of Oneness with Christ & through Him to Divine Oneness With God.

Throughout my thirty years of Life in Christ, there is one thing that is assured to always cause my inner being to tremble & my head to shake.

That is simply when a Preacher or Teacher stands & vehemently tirades on about a perceived or actual failure or failings of Apostles, Prophets or other men or women of God mentioned within the Holy Scriptures.

I am not talking about the legitimate sharing of what is written or for the teaching of aspects purposed to help our understanding & the bettering of our walk in Christ.

Rather I am talking about those rare times when a line is crossed for whatever reason & unfounded assumptions & assertions pour forth that go far beyond the scripture & the Truth it contains.

Unfettered they usually degenerate into personal attacks against the character or integrity of the target all of which is seemingly bandied about only in order to feed or boost poor 'spiritual egos'.

I quivered in my seat one day as I listened to a preacher degenerate the character & actions of Elijah the Prophet into a rapidly increasing laughing matter by simply focusing on when Elijah ran in fear for his life.

I lost count of how many times in that one instance that he continued to inflate his assertions far beyond Truth & no leadership stepped in because he was the leader!

Causing others to accept his assertions by focusing on that one time in Elijah's life while giving absolutely no credence to the fact that yes, he ran in fear but also found courage through God in the situation.

My mind was totally consumed in shock & amazement of how any Christian, much less a leader, could speak in such a manner about Elijah who stood in solid obedience & courage before God.

A man who was not to see death but was taken up into Heaven!!

Dangerous ground indeed & a great lesson in our need to be circumspect in all we do or say.

Matthew 7:3-5 ESV

3 Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?

4 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye?

5 You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

In such cases, the inference that attempts to beset the atmosphere is that we are so much better, wiser & stronger now that such things could not possibly happen with us.

Which is the 'twisting' of Truth & only serves to boost 'spiritual egos'.

But who is any one of us that we should think ourselves greater than our brother, for do not each one of us fall so far short of the Glory of God.

Are we not, every one of us, sinners still?

Set free from the penalty but certainly not the failings!

Only last week I came across an article where a Man of God told someone that no matter who we are or what we have done in God we are all still wearing our 'L Plates'.

For no matter how old we are in the Lord, how far we have Walked with Him, or how much we know or understand, we are all still Learners.

A second, thing in my Walk With Christ that has continually bemused me is to occasionally have Church brethren emphatically proclaim how they gave God a piece of their mind regarding a certain issue in their life.

At times plainly expressing they were so angry with God they raised their fist at Him & have then proceeded to physically demonstrate for due emphasis.

I am thankfully well aware that most of these instances were perpetrated by persons of weak or no real faith which in many of these instances has since been well demonstrated.

However, I am also aware that people of faith can become argumentive or even angry at times with God more especially I would think for His seeming non-action regarding their grievance.

So, with those matters now aired, let us next week look further into the reaction of Jonah after God's Reprieve of Nineveh in an attempt to discover what Truth might be hidden in Chapter Four of the Book of Jonah.

[to be continued]

Love,
Mwesigwa

[Defaced - Week 78 follows next week]

Your prayers of unity with us for God's Provision are most welcome.



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