

The Servant



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The man Christ Jesus

Here is God “humble.” Here is God “holy.” Here is the man Christ Jesus. Here is the hope of the world. He came as a lamb into the land of wolves. Here is God incarnate. He seems to come unarmed, and although he could have brought legions of angels, He chose to do what He came to do alone in the man Christ Jesus. He holds no weapon in His hand and will bring Goliath down without a sling. He will demonstrate the martial arts of faith and obedience. He will show all who believe, the power of God’s word. His heart is the center of the universe and the citadel of truth. It is a city and a safe-house for all who seek refuge. His kingdom is the city which hath foundations whose builder and maker is God.

When theologians talk of Christ “emptying himself,” it should be with “fear and trembling.” One dare not make Jesus less than He is when He is more than we can imagine. Here is a fault line of creeds and denominations. Here is where Paul and Barnabas (if you will) “have words.” Here is where many part company and each go their own way. I believe Jesus laid aside His power as much as He laid aside His robe in the upper room when He girded Himself with a towel.

The Son of God became the Son of man to face the world, the flesh and the devil. He came to show us how to live as well as to show us how to live forever. The smallest child armed with nothing more than faith can foil the foe. There were no phone booths or superman costumes in the New Testament story. I will go farther. This itinerant Jewish teacher must have looked more like Jimmy Olsen than Clark Kent. Goliath must have laughed out loud when he saw the little “scrub” of a lad sent by the armies of Israel. The powerful in Christ’s day seemed perplexed by the presence of this “carpenter’s son.”

When He came, He came weak. He came poor. He came un-credentialed. God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the mighty. The Second Adam succeeded where the first Adam failed. There were simple rules in Eden: Trust and Obey. That’s it. That’s all. No church as we know it, No temple, priesthood, or Bible. God simply asked Adam to trust Him and Obey Him. Adam failed on both points.

Satan seemed to sabotage God’s plan and with insinuations, started an insurgency that goes on to this day. Adam failed in the best of circumstances. Jesus came to demonstrate that trusting and obeying not only was possible, it was possible in the worst of circumstances. Faith trusts and becomes an instrument of God’s will and success.

Looking unto Jesus

Looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross despising the shame and is set down at the right hand of the Throne of God Hebrews 12:2

*Looking unto Jesus- **Someone Adored**
Author & Finisher- **Something Assured**
The Cross- **Something Endured**
Set Down- **Something Secured**
The Throne of God- **Something Insured***

Jesus Christ is the Focus of our Faith as well as the Founder and the Finisher. Just as Jesus looked beyond the cross to some greater joy of triumph, we are to keep our eyes on Him. His triumph is ours.

Sling

David came with stone and sling
And stood before the foe from Gath
A shepherd boy would fear no thing
Not sword of man or giant’s wrath

His only armor was his trust
His faith his only shield
Belief in God his only “must”
Left victorious from the field

Evil laughed in David’s face
Saying “What is this they send?”
But David trusted in God’s Grace
And knew he was God’s friend

Down Goliath bloody fell
His army startled, gazed
Good News, lift up your voice and tell
the God of Heaven praised.

-id

Thought Police

“Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.” (2Cor. 10:5)

We are at war. It is a war of imaginations. This is not a war between liberals and conservatives. It is not about what is happening in the Middle East. It is about what is happening between your ears. This is a battle for your heart and mind.

Hollywood and Madison Avenue know this. They are in the idea business. They are determined to control your thinking. It is about creating appetites for products. It is about getting us to buy and consume things, or getting us to buy into bad ideas. Gay marriage is the latest crusade. The enemy of the Spirit has long ago begun an aerial bombardment of the very beaches they are now storming. Our positions are about to be over run.

We don't need the thought police to enforce God's Word however. The world already suffers enough under the swords of the Taliban. The Taliban want to impose Sharia law in Pakistan. They beat little girls who would learn to read, and kill barbers who shave men's beards. A faith that must be forced is a farce. There is no way the Christian Right can make America right. The key word here

is “make” not right.

The weapons of our warfare are not carnal. Politics are carnal. Somehow, thinking that we can appeal to Democracy to save us is absurd. The righteous are always in the minority. Thinking that we can “out-flank” the enemy at the ballot box is Peter cutting off the antagonist's ear. It won't save us. Republicans are trying to figure out how to retake the White House and to recapture the Congress, as if that will somehow solve our problems. We cannot fix spiritual problems with physical solutions. The “every thought” that Paul was talking about are my thoughts, not my neighbor's. We are to preach the Gospel. God changes hearts.

Western, false prophets have shaped American thinking. Darwin, Freud, and Marx have created the last generation. They are the founding fathers of the new America. Great maga-media giants preach their doctrines. Their beliefs, like blood, run through the veins of National Geographic, Disney Land, CNN, and modern American Churchdom. Abortion, gay marriage, and Practical Atheism* are its children. Freud tries to answer man's question, “Who am I?” Darwin: “Where did I come from?” Marx: “Why are we here?”

The American pseudo-church has long been infected with these philosophies

which are akin to a moral swine flu. When the spiritually hungry come to the American church asking for bread they often get stones, pop-psychology, politics, and a possible following on face book . The word for church is ekklesia. It means “called out.” The early church knew what “called out” meant. Peter put it: “having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” Today we are trying to be “in,” not out. That is why the church is so worldly. The answer to the culture wars is a call again to Holiness (glory and virtue). Don't try to save Sodom. Sodom is doomed. Yes, knock on doors and warn people to get out of town, but forget about trying to save the city. Recognize a bad idea when you see it. They will try to sneak into your heart every time you turn on the TV. Cast down evil imaginations. Imagine that!

*Practical Atheism is claiming to believe in God but living like you don't. ☹

Gentle Rain

Gentle rain, that saves the dying flower
Gentle rain, each drop God fills with power
Gentle rain, from heaven high up above
Gentle rain, God's gift, God's grace, God's love

Some soul was parched and scorched by sin
A desert place without, within
faith felt God's Word as a drop begin
God's saving gentle rain

One danced with joy as blessings fell
A sinner saved from flames of hell
Each drop filled up a grateful well
With God's free gentle rain

Then trouble and adversity
Would test all he has meant to me
but faith would pray on bended knee
till it felt God's gentle rain- id

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