

Kingdom News

The Kingdom is Yours; the power is Yours and the glory is Yours, forever.... (Matt. 6:13)

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Motto for the year of 2012

You are worthy, Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for You have created all things, and for Your pleasure they are and were created. (Revelation 4:11 *KJV adapted*)

The Chief Cornerstone



The 5 W's of Life (*When?*)

By the grace of God, we have received from the Lord, exposures on some of the ultimate questions in life. *What?* and *Who?* And we have found God to be at the end of both of those roads. This month, let's find out *When?*

In one very real sense, the ultimate "*When*" is that great and notable day; *when* God shall judge the secrets of men, by Jesus Christ.⁽¹⁾ I hear you...you thought that I was going to say, that the answer to the "*when*" question was "*now*." As in...

"Now is the acceptable time...⁽²⁾
"*Now* are we the sons of God, but..."⁽³⁾ (Much more then, being *now* justified by his blood, we shall...⁽⁴⁾)

Chief Cornerstone

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The Leadership Corner *Leadership Living, Inc.*

Making Room for the Next Phase

All scripture is KJV paraphrased.

Periodically in life many of us find ourselves purging, cleaning, and organizing our space. Some of us do "spring cleaning" in March to get rid of old stuff to make room for new things we may want to acquire. Some of us prepare to move from one home to another home by "purging" or getting rid of things we have accumulated over the years.

There may be other times in our lives we have to clean out, give away, throw out, or in some way "make room" in our space. This activity can precede a time of anticipation where we are preparing for an upcoming event or new season.

Just as we make room in our space for upcoming events or seasons, periodically we may have to make room in our calendar, in our checkbook, and in our minds to prepare for something in the future. While this activity may seem like just a routine task, we can be sure that God is at the center of this principle.

From time to time God will instruct us to make specific changes in our lives. If we are not in tune with His voice, we may fail to act or we may complain about having to deal with the baggage. In some instances, we may follow His instruction, but have no clue as to what is going on.

The Leadership Corner

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Boot Camp Foot Washing



21st Century Version -

The concept of *foot washing* is such an antique (a relic of days gone by). At least to the Western mind, it is.

The washing of the feet, of another, (if properly understood) is an act of servitude; it is an act of grace. It is an act of humility, of such a kind; that it was reserved for the lowest servant. In the Middle East, it was the custom of the lower servants to take the cloaks of the master's visitors. But it was assigned to the lowest servant to perform the activity of washing the feet of the guests.

What I will share with you, admittedly, is a bit alarming to me. It seemed to be an interesting twist to my present understanding. When the Lord first whispered it to me; it made all the sense in the world (about a month ago). But as I began to pour over the scriptures, I became disheveled, because the scriptural event didn't seem to fit the revelation had I received. I was concerned that I had missed God; that instead I had *visions of sugar plums dancing in my head*. But everywhere else in my life and concourse, the Lord was bearing witness to what He had revealed.

And so the task before me (at the time of this writing) was "Lord, how do I reconcile these two seemingly incongruent realities?"

The two realities being:

- 1) That *foot washing* points to servitude [*according to scripture*];
- 2) That *foot washing* speaks to activities that affect our daily life [*as revealed to me by the Lord*].

As we move forward, may we find ourselves "waiting upon the Lord" for His breath upon this discourse. In the words of our Lord, "*It is the Spirit that makes an utterance spring forth with life; the [words alone] profit nothing: but (says the Lord) the words that I speak to you, they are of the Spirit, and they give and sustain life.*"⁽¹⁾ Lord, may that be the case for us today.

Within the past year, I had placed a series of questions before the Lord; of course He didn't answer them at that



A Journey to Intimacy Living a Show and Tell Life

(To Show is to Tell)

These days, we are *not* short on voices (lifting to the rafters) telling us what "... thus saith the Lord ..." *Many*, it seems, want to be a mouthpiece for the Lord. We want to quote scriptures; we want to hold others to high standards; we want to have great and swelling expectations of those whom we categorize as Christians; we want to hold sway over an audience (like rock stars); we want to

Unfortunately, what is most imperative and in painfully short supply are lifestyles that "show" us what it looks like to "walk the talk."

In this particular context, "talk is cheap." We need less of the voices, and more of the hands and feet; more of the heart and mind of Christ.

The gospel of Jesus Christ (which is the gospel of the Kingdom) is a "show and tell" way of life. The gospel of the Kingdom is "demonstrative." By the time, the gospel of the Kingdom "tells" you what it's about; you'll have already "seen" it.

Perhaps one reason that we don't have "more show" and "less tell," is because it "costs more to *walk*, than it does to *talk*." Again, in this sense "talk is cheap." One does not have to die to *talk* about the Kingdom and this Way of Life. But "death" is a Kingdom imperative if one will *walk* this Way out. This death will require a mortification of the deeds of the flesh.⁽¹⁾ It will require an unequivocal "NO!!" to the appetites of the flesh.⁽²⁾

What a "show and tell" life **is** and what it **is not**.

The "show and tell" life **is not** one that says, "See me exhibiting some transactional courtesies or pleasantries." It does not say, "See me opening the door for the widow." It does not say, "See me giving to the poor." It does not say, "See me allowing someone to pass in front of me in traffic." It does not say, "See me"

Nutrition, Health & Wellness

My Life! ... A Vineyard?

(Memoirs of a Journey)

And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. ⁽¹⁾

This was such a precious series to me. I still remember the first day the Lord gave this to me. It shook everything in me. Because it placed squarely before my eyes a responsibility that I was certain that I was coming up short on. But I also knew that if I allowed the Lord to carry me through it; there would be glory in it for Him.

Today, I have a different perspective on my way of life; now seeing with a bit more clarity that my life is not my own. This reality is no longer just a theory or cliché. My duty is clearer to me, granted I have a long road ahead, but I have taken up my cross and I am ready to go.

Will you allow me to (pardon the expression) showcase some of the jewels from this treasure chest?

Excerpt from February 2012 (Part 1)

One morning as I was preparing for my day, I began to talk with the Lord regarding this column. I said "Father you gave me permission to include a column on nutrition, health and wellness. It seems that I have not received, from You, much on what to include in this column. I'm a bit concerned." Our Lord is so beautiful and temperate!!! As a Father does a young child, He humored me, as I stated my case (respectfully, mind you). I had finished my petition. He didn't respond immediately, so I had begun to go on with my day.

After a bit of silence, the Lord just started talking (*right in the middle of whatever was going on at the time*). He said, "The reason you hadn't really heard anything on this column is because you had a preconception of what ought to be included in a

Living Waters



They That Waitress Upon the Lord

Aaahhh! That familiar passage: ...they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength....⁽¹⁾ But they shall do much more than that, right. They that wait upon the Lord shall inherit the earth.⁽²⁾

I'm sure that that's "all good," but what does it mean to "wait" upon the Lord?

Well it depends upon who you ask. Oh, you're asking me?!? I see.

In that case, there is the traditional conception of the term "to wait," which intimates a disposition of expectation; or a posture to serve.

Let's look at these and other expressions of "waiting." Anymore the idea of "waiting" seems to be profane in our culture; which is, in some sense, quite ridiculous. After all, EVERYONE can't go first; someone has to wait. EVERYTHING can't be done *now*; something has to be done afterwards. Oh, I understand. It's okay if SOMEONE has to wait, as long as that someone is not "me," right.

May I bother you with something? This lack of a spirit to wait; to delay gratification; to serve; to allow another to be first; comes right out of the heart of the kingdoms of *this* world. However, it IS NOT the disposition of the Kingdom of our LORD and of His Christ. Not at all. In the Kingdom ... we wait. And we're delighted to do so. We stand in heart throbbing, "*I feel as if I'm going to explode*" with exhilaration at the idea of waiting upon the Lord. We have a personal, empirical intimacy with the reality that "*man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.*"⁽³⁾ It is not a metaphor to us; it is a way of life. We hang onto His every word; we wrap ourselves around His every utterance. *That* the Lord would even bother to speak to us; is of a *grace* that we have yet to approach.

The scripture says that *even the youth shall faint and be weary; and the young men shall utterly fall. But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*⁽⁴⁾

If that is what you thought, you're in good company. I thought the same.

However, His thoughts are not our thoughts, neither are our ways His ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are His ways higher than our ways, and His thoughts than our thoughts.⁽⁵⁾

The "When" that matters to the Lord, is when He will vindicate His glorious name and execute His righteous judgment. It is *when* He will make our Lord's enemies His footstool.

I will go so far as to point out that EVERY OTHER "when" will find either its "submission to" or its "expression in" the *WHEN* that matters most, to God.

The "when" that matters most to God (if I might take license on the use of the term "most") is when the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and He shall reign forever and ever.⁽⁶⁾ Why? Because at that time, these light afflictions which were but for a moment shall have produced for God a more exceeding weight of glory, when His Son and our Savior shall sit at His coronation dinner and receive His Bride and His Kingdom. Our God may say of Himself and of our Lord, "Well done ... well done."

Sidebar: May I share this with you quickly? One evening, I was praying and looking at how ugly and dishonoring we are to God, when we persist in our sins. I asked the Lord why He endured such abuse and disrespect, from us. *I pray that I never forget His response.* He said, "Because this light affliction (our abuse, our haughtiness, our rebellion) which is but for a moment [temporal], will produce for Him a more exceeding weight of glory [eternal]." He said (as it were) don't look at the things that are seen, for they are temporal; look at the things that are not seen, for they are eternal. The things that are not seen are: *when* He shall have vindicated His name before all of creation ... glory! The things that are not seen are: *When* He shall have put down the last enemy (death) ... glory!⁽⁷⁾

There is an ultimate answer to the ultimate question "WHEN?" And there are temporal, transient answers to the penultimate questions "when?" All temporal "when" questions will be properly addressed; as their answer finds its resolve in the ultimate "WHEN."

Question: "When?" will the pains of this life be assuaged (remedied)?

Answer: "WHEN" we allow the Lord to put down that last enemy within us "death." "How's that?" you ask. Well, James says it this way, "Every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it brings forth sin. When sin is finished, it brings forth death."⁽⁸⁾ When we allow the Lord to reign (in us) until the Father has made our Lord's enemies His footstool; we'll then see just how easy His yoke is and how light is His burden.⁽⁹⁾

Question: "When?" will dealing with difficult, unloving people be easier?

Answer: "WHEN" we count it all joy, regarding these diverse temptations. *WHEN* we stop returning "railing for railing;" instead we return a response of love for their deeds. We can do this *when* we know that that the trying of our faith works patience. And patience works hope; and hope makes not ashamed because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts.

If the answer to your temporal question: "When will this madness end in my life?" does not point to and corroborate with the ultimate glory of God; it has not properly been answered. And while you may prefer the "other" answer, at length, you will find its way hard; its burden heavy and its dues expensive.

The next time you ask a "when" question, consider very carefully the response you receive. If the response you receive does not have the glory of God at its culmination; the answer (although it may tickle your ear, and tantalize your palate) it will present to you a bill that you won't be able to pay throughout eternity.

I'll leave you with one question ...

WHEN?!?

May the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.⁽¹⁰⁾

Next month ... Where? ... Why? ... or How? <<CC>>

Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, SMHG

Scripture References - King James Version (KJV), unless otherwise stated.

⁽¹⁾ Romans 2:16; Acts 2:20

⁽²⁾ 2 Corinthians 6:2

⁽³⁾ 1 John 3:2

⁽⁴⁾ Romans 5:9

⁽⁵⁾ Isaiah 55:8-9

⁽⁶⁾ Revelation 11:15

⁽⁷⁾ 2 Corinthians 4:17-18; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28

⁽⁸⁾ James 1:14-15

⁽⁹⁾ Matthew 11:29-30; Matthew 22:44

⁽¹⁰⁾ 2 Thessalonians 5:23

might be left. He went on to say that if she would be obedient and empty herself for God, He would multiply what she had and sustain her household. God did just that.

In St. John chapter 6, Jesus was preparing to feed a multitude of people. However, in order to do this He requested to use the small amount of food a young boy had. Jesus required the boy to empty himself in order for our Lord to bless a multitude of people. This is exactly what happened. After Jesus multiplied the food, the disciples fed approximately five thousand men, not counting the women and children that were there.

Time and time again, we see in scripture where God instructed people to empty themselves so that He could do great things in their lives, as well as in the lives of so many others. Let me share a couple of personal examples of God working like this in my life.

In our small nonprofit agency, we had six different programs that we were administering. We use volunteer staff to provide services to clients and the community. A few months ago, God told me that our agency needed to “narrow its focus.” He instructed us to suspend three of the programs. In doing so, we would have three programs left, two of which are very similar.

I discussed this directive with our volunteer staff and with our board. No one wanted to suspend the programs, including me. Nevertheless, we understood this is what we needed to do. It was a difficult mandate to digest.

Shortly after we suspended the programs (and had to tell our clients and community partners of our decision – which was also hard to do), God gave another mandate. He told me to take several key activities off my calendar. These were important projects that I was working on.

God told me that if I would make room in my schedule, He would fill it with “resource-producing” activities. Once again, this was not an easy directive to swallow. But, I humbled my heart and obeyed. As is always the case, God came through. Our agency began to receive calls for a particular service that we get paid to do. We were also contacted by a trade organization to conduct several workshops (for which we received advance payment).

The Leadership Corner

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In II Kings chapter four, there was a widow of a prophet. She came to Elisha to tell him that she and her sons had no money. She only had one pitcher of oil in her house. Elisha told her to get empty pitchers, as many as she could. Then he instructed her to pour the oil from the one pitcher into each of the empty pitchers. When she did this a miracle occurred.

God multiplied the oil from the one pitcher. She was able to fill all the empty pitchers. She was then instructed to sell the oil, pay her debts, and live off the profit. In order to receive what God had for her, she had to get empty vessels. She made room for the next phase.

In I Kings chapter 17 God sent the prophet Elijah to a widow’s home during a great famine. The prophet asked the widow to make him a cake. She told him that she only had enough for herself and her son. She would make this small amount of food, they would eat it, and they would die.

Elijah told her to make the cake for him first. Then she could make a cake for her and her son out of what

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God told me that this is just the beginning. He said our agency is in a new season. He is taking us into a new phase of operation. We are going into our third year of existence and many things are changing. Time would fail for me to list all of the wonderful things God is doing.

Now, with these great opportunities also comes the normal challenges associated them. Because we have new opportunities, this means our team has to be trained in some areas. We also have had to almost completely re-arrange our tiny office to support the projects God has mandated (since He had us do away with some of the old programs).

Now that I've shared how God has and does instruct us to empty ourselves to make room for the next phase He has planned, maybe you too should consider this principle. Have you had a nagging sense that you need to lighten the load in some area of your life (i.e., relationships, physical space, in your schedule, and/or with your financial resources)?

If this is the case, maybe God wants you to empty yourself to prepare for the next phase He has planned for your life. God is so faithful and He loves us so much that when He gives us directives, it is because He already has something planned for us that requires our obedience.

Please would you allow me to encourage you to begin to take inventory of your life to see where God wants you to make cuts? In doing this, know that God has already made provision for the new phase He is taking you into.

Be blessed! [LL]

Joyce White, LMSW

Psalm 27:1, 4

[1] The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

[4] One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

time. And at length, the questions had "fallen off my radar." The questions were: Father, what are we to do with the practice of *foot washing*? What does it (or should it) mean to us? How do we fulfill our duty to you, regarding it? The contemplation went on ... "Lord, I'm certain that the physical, mechanical practice of literally washing another's feet is of little transcendent value. It may serve to temporarily place one in the position or posture of a servant, to others. But as quickly as the water has been poured from the basin and everyone has slipped back into their loafers, much of what was done may have been lost. Lord, what is the eternal purpose and implications of foot washing, I wanted to know."

It is easy to be dismissive of events and practices in the scriptures that "seem" to bear no resemblance to or fruit in our contemporary society. But if we want to "get serious" with God (and the things of God) we need to press these matters, right. Through desire a man (i.e., a human), having separated himself, seeks and intermeddles with all wisdom. ⁽²⁾ It was no small thing that our Lord, our Sovereign, our King got on His knees and literally washed the feet of the sons of Adam (including Judas). He is saying something to us; something of substantial import. At some point, it needs to matter to us; and we need to seek His face concerning it.

When the Lord shared the reality of *Foot Washing for the 21st Century*, He essentially said, that we, as co-laborers and joint-heirs with Christ, have a transcendent responsibility to each other to "keep before the eyes of each other," what Jesus has said and what our Lord requires of us. Now that part (*I believe*) I "got." What escaped me was how that reality corroborated with the *foot washing* event.

The Lord, bit by bit, began to unveil this truth. You'll notice that the practice of foot washing is not just a family affair. Whenever a visitor came under the roof of a householder, if there were servants, the lowest servant had the duty of washing the guests' feet. If there were no servants, at the least the householder would provide a basin of water and towels so that the guests could wash their own feet. ⁽³⁾ On one level, the practice of foot washing is a matter of hygiene. But the Kingdom of Heaven is not primarily about hygiene, is it. And we know this because when the scribes and Pharisees thought to "check" Jesus because His disciples ate with unwashed hands; ⁽⁴⁾ "He took them to school." He said (what amounted to) "*You care more*

about what goes into the mouth. But my Father cares more about what comes out of the mouth." Now that was a mouthful (no pun intended).

In one sense, "feet" are representative of our mode of transport through this world, our life's journey. "Feet" are representative of our comportment, our conduct, our behavior or our way of life. And so we see anew, the expression "*How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace...*"⁽⁵⁾ Said otherwise, "*How beautiful are the lifestyle and concourse of those who preach the gospel of peace...*" Said still again, "*How beautiful are the feet of those whose life is a continual proclamation of the gospel of peace...*" Still doesn't wash? That's reasonable. This beautiful declaration in the book of Romans is a quotation from the book of Isaiah (our Lord's resume).

How beautiful, upon the mountains, are the feet of him that brings good tidings that publish peace; that brings good tidings of good that publishes salvation; that says unto Zion, Your God reigns!⁽⁶⁾

In Isaiah, the original text from which the word, "feet" is derived could also have been translated, "journey." You may recall that the term "mountain" symbolizes "spiritual authority;" which is why idols were often built on the tops of mountains or in the sides of the mountains.⁽⁷⁾ We also get an intimation of this when the devil took Jesus into an exceedingly high mountain to proposition Him concerning the kingdoms of the world and their glory.⁽⁸⁾ In the original text the term "beautiful" could have been translated "to be at home." But that might have been confusing, right. Well, let's look again, at Isaiah. Now we see something quite different, something a little more personal and imposing.

How at home, in the places of spiritual authority, are the feet (or the lifestyle) of him whose life is a proclamation of the good news that peace has come. How precious is the life that is a demonstration of the reality of salvation. Verily this is the way of life that says to Zion, Your God reigns!⁽⁹⁾

I MUST take a quick sidebar here: Can you see what I see? From this place of "being at home in the places of spiritual authority" comes the statement made by the evil spirit to the sons of Sceva. The evil spirit said, "Jesus, I know; Paul, I know ... you (on the other hand) are not at home in the places of spiritual authority, because... we... don't... know...

you."⁽¹⁰⁾ Now, lest confusion comes of this, allow me to light a few lanterns here. The phrase "to be at home in the places of spiritual authority" does not mean that "godly men are comrades with the powers of darkness." It means instead that "the devils believe that there is one God, and they tremble..."⁽¹¹⁾ The enemy also trembles at the sight of "godly men" (that includes women; for in the kingdom, we are all "of" One).⁽¹²⁾ Said again, the enemy trembles at the sight of "God in man." The feet (or the way of life) of godly men are beautiful and are quite at home in the places of spiritual authority.

Are we beginning to see, what all of this has to do with the practice of *foot washing*? Again, the use of the term *feet* is a "symbolization and a simplification" of one's journey or passage through this life. Isn't it our feet that carries us through this life. The "feet" are an expression of our way of life: that we walk not in the counsel of the ungodly; nor stand in the way of sinners; that we keep the charge of the Lord and walk in His ways; that we walk before Him in truth with all of our heart and soul.⁽¹³⁾ The path of a man's feet tells a great deal about his life (his heart even), right. The feet follow the heart, don't they? The scripture talks about the "feet" that run to shed innocent blood. But isn't it the heart that provokes and the hands that facilitate blood-shed?"⁽¹⁴⁾ The preacher warned his son about the strange woman, how her feet go down to death and her steps take hold on hell.⁽¹⁵⁾

On a transcendent level, the *washing of the feet* is the practice, of bringing one's own life to the Fountains of Living Waters, daily. It is the washing of water, by the Word.⁽¹⁶⁾ Jesus said to his disciples, that if one has already been "cleansed by the Blood" they need only to have their feet (way of life) continually "washed by the Word." Again, "If one is a servant of God, they are clean; needing to simply keep their daily life (feet) clean. They have simply to keep the concourse of their life before the word of God, which washes them. The way we say it (in our circles) is "we need to keep *short accounts* with God." Although we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we shall fear no evil. But if we trip and fall on our way through the valley; we ought to get up immediately and dust ourselves off (washing our hands and feet with the Word of God.) In the places or times of our lives where there are no "servants of the Lord" then one is obligated to wash his own feet,

right. But, where there are "servants of the Lord" then we are to wash each other's feet.

In this context a "servant of the Lord" is one who ...

- Has God's best interest at heart and holds God's interests preeminent to all things else.⁽¹⁷⁾
- Does not seek his own, but another's wealth⁽¹⁸⁾
- Holds himself (and others) accountable to the things that God requires of us.
- Honors God, not going his own ways, nor finding his own pleasure, nor speaking his own words. For his delight is in the law of the Lord and in His law does he meditate day and night.⁽¹⁹⁾
- Etc.

As servants of the Lord, we are to diligently seek to know the will of God (as expressed in His Son and in His Word). We are obliged to align (wash) our lives and philosophies, etc. with the precepts of the Kingdom and of the King. And we are to be mirrors by which others may behold themselves "as they ought to be." As is the Master; so too is the servant; we look at Him and see what we "ought to be."

Those things being the case, just here is the rub. In our Western, 21st Century worldview and philosophy of life, we have cast off all restraint. We have come to (somehow) believe that every man is an island and must do what is right in his own eyes. Not so, in the Kingdom; for there are no islands; there are no seas. There is a Bride and there is a Bridegroom. And presently that Bride is being washed and adorned for the Bridegroom, feet and all.

The 21st century version of the practice of *foot washing* is a covenant fellowship of responsibility and accountability. It is a community of godly love, wherein we align our lives with the mandates of our Lord. We point each other to the Word of God and fully expect that we each will come up to it. The practice of *foot washing* is where we each take the posture of a servant to the other; supporting one another as Christ is being formed in each of us. We are willing to spare no expense to that end; willing to give all, to risk all in order that the soul of our brother would come to a place of full, unmitigated bond service to the True and Living God. Into our LORD's hands we have commended our *own* spirit.⁽²⁰⁾ We do not seek or esteem our *own* (our own possessions, our own resources, our own lives); we seek the benefit and promotion of our brother.⁽²¹⁾ For we know that God is able to keep that which we have committed unto Him against that day. The servants of the Living God are a mirror of the counsel of God, to the body of believers.

The washing of one another's feet is a common practice in the Kingdom of Heaven, among the servants and sons of God.

Perhaps I can show you better than I can tell you. Here ... where is that basin and towel? Oh, here it is. Okay, take off your shoes. (Yes, I'm talking to you). Take off your shoes, please. Allow me to wash your feet...

WASHING OF WATER BY THE WORD⁽²²⁾

Dearly beloved, I beseech you ... abstain from fleshly lusts, which is the enemy of the soul. Ensure that your conversation (or way of life) is honest among those who are not of the household of faith. So that whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation. I adjure you by God, to submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so it is the will of God, that with well doing you may both put to silence the ignorance of foolish men and silence the foe and the avenger. This we do as ones who are free, not using our liberty for a cloak of maliciousness; but as the servants of God. Honor all men, love the brotherhood, fear God and honor the King. Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the difficult and unpleasant ones.⁽²³⁾

You may now put your shoes back on. Now "go thou and do likewise."

God bless you. -bc-

Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, sMHG

Scripture References - King James Version (KJV), unless otherwise stated.

- (1) John 6:63
- (2) Proverbs 18:1
- (3) Luke 7:44
- (4) Matthew. 15:2, 11-12
- (5) Romans 10:15; Nahum 1:15
- (6) Isaiah 52:7
- (7) Numbers 22:41

- (8) Matthew 4:8
- (9) Isaiah 52:7
- (10) Acts 19:14-15
- (11) James 2:19
- (12) Galatians 4:28-29
- (13) Psalm 1:1; Proverbs 2:12-13; 4:26-27
- (14) Proverb 1:15-16; Isaiah 59:7
- (15) Proverbs 5:1-8
- (16) Ephesians 5:26
- (17) Matthew 6:33
- (18) 1 Corinthians 10:24
- (19) Isaiah 58:13; Psalm 1:2
- (20) Luke 23:46
- (21) 1 Corinthians 10:24; Philippians 3:8
- (22) Ephesians 5:26
- (23) 1 Peter 2:11-18

- The nations of this world don't know how to be *poor in spirit*.
- The nations of this world don't know how to *mourn*.
- The nations of this world don't know how to be *meek*.
- The nations of this world don't know how to *hunger and thirst after righteousness*.
- The nations of this world don't know how to be *merciful*.
- The nations of this world don't know how to be *pure in heart*.
- The nations of this world don't know how to be *peacemakers*.

The "show and tell" life is one that must cover its face, when descending from the mount of God⁽³⁾ because the glory of the Lord is so overwhelming. It is the life that, when Jesus sees your 2 fish and 5 loaves and a multitude of hungry people and says to you, "Lovest thou Me? Then feed My sheep."⁽⁴⁾ It is a life to whom the Lord asks, "Can these dry bones live?" To which we reply "Thou knowest Lord." To whom the Lord then says, "Prophecy over these bones; and prophecy to the wind."⁽⁵⁾

The "show and tell" life is one that progressively passes from death to life. Beginning to see why there are so few initiates? We want to *live* but we don't want to *die*. In the kingdoms of this world, that may be just the recipe for temporal, transient, inexpensive, fruitless "success." As you can appreciate it; in the Kingdom of Heaven, it is verily **the** recipe for failure. The life of the Kingdom is a resurrection from the dead; it is nothing else, if it is not first that. There is no "following" where there is no "taking up of the cross" first.

The world doesn't need another person *telling* them that the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, temperance, faith, meekness.⁽⁶⁾ They *get* that. What they don't *get* is how to make the fruit of the Spirit, the fruit of *their* lives. They need to *see* it, so that they can *be* it.

But what is more woeful than that, is that it seems that we don't know "how" either. And so we resort to "telling only."

There will come upon us shortly a great shaking; and a great divide. On the one side will be those who relish solely the conversations about the kingdom; and on the other those, who will die for it.

In the Kingdom, to "show" is to "tell;" but *not* the other way around.

When Jesus healed the leper ... He said "Don't *tell* anyone, go your way and *show* yourself to the priest."⁽⁷⁾

If Christ has cleansed you from your leprosy, before you *tell* them, *show* them. Let them see what it looks like to be free from the debilitation of a degenerative and deadly disease, namely sin. -JTT-

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Scripture References - King James Version (KJV), unless otherwise stated.

- (1) Colossians 3:5-6
- (2) 1 Corinthians 9:27
- (3) Exodus 34:29, 33
- (4) John 21:17
- (5) Ezekiel 37:3-4, 9-10
- (6) Galatians 5:22-23
- (7) Matthew 8:2-4

column of this type. But it's not what I had in mind, at all." "Oh my!" I thought.

Essentially the life of the person (whether Christian or not) is the vineyard of the Lord.

Excerpt from March 2012 (Part 2)

The first question we'll want to revisit is: "*Father, again how do the parables of the vineyard have anything to do with nutrition, health and wellness?*" The Lord's responses to this question are that:

1) "*Nutrition*" - In the Kingdom nutrition is quite simple: Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. So we can talk about physical nutrition (and we will), but that won't bring to bear the Kingdom requirements for overall health. By and large, what our physical bodies portray is indicative of what our spiritual bodies convey.

2) "*Health*" - There is natural health; then there is Kingdom health. The former flows out of the latter. Natural health is easy to talk about, everybody's doing it; Kingdom health, not so much so. Proverbs says that health consists of (at least) three things: an absence of conceit (self-righteousness), the fear of the Lord, and a departure from evil. ⁽²⁾ Now we see why it's not that easy to talk about.

3) "*Wellness*" - Jeremiah said that if we obey the voice of the Lord, it shall be well with us and our soul shall live. ⁽³⁾ The Lord said to Moses, that it would be wonderful if Israel had a heart to fear Him and keep all of His commandments; as this would greatly secure their well-being. ⁽⁴⁾

"Nutrition, health and wellness" in the Kingdom is that disposition of our overall being that renders us useful to the fulfillment of the purposes of God. Incidentally, what we eat; whether or not we exercise; and how we manage stress and rest, are all symptomatic of our relationship to the Kingdom principles of life.

Excerpt from May 2012 (Part 3)

Nothing escapes the scrutiny of the Word of God. There is particularly brilliant wisdom in our Lord's

responses. *Please Everlasting God, may we learn from Your examples?* Again, embedded in our "principles" are our desires, ambitions, predispositions, etc. What were some of our Lord's desires? Ambitions? Well we can tell by the specifics of the temptations, right. Our Lord says, through James that "*EVERY man is tempted when he is enticed to fulfill his own desires.*" ⁽⁵⁾

Quick sidebar: James 1:13 (KJV) reads "... God cannot be tempted with evil" And intimates (Interlinear NT) "... God is untried; although evil is trying"

- One of our Lord's physical desires was to nourish His body (after 40 days and nights of fasting, we can certainly understand that). So the enemy attempts to appeal to the humanity of His desires; suggesting that Jesus turn stones into bread. Here in the winepress, our Lord's physical hunger collides with His Father's directive that man shall not live by bread alone.
- Another of our Lord's desires was to be kept and protected by the Father. Jesus knew that His humanity alone could not help Him weather the storms of His life (and so it is for us). Our Lord also knew that His divinity alone would not support Him with an incongruent, non-compliant lifestyle. Again the enemy attempts to entice our Lord to see whether or not the Father will actually keep Him; suggesting that Jesus cast Himself down, in light of the Father's Psalm 91 promise.
- Last, but in no way least, we see that our Lord, anticipated a Kingdom. *As God*, this was a part of His discussions with the Father, prior to His incarnation. *As Man*, this was part of His prophetic promises; His Father had told the prophets (and others) of His Son's kingdom all along. So the enemy attempts to draw Him away by suggesting that our Lord fulfill his own desires for a kingdom; instead of waiting on the Promise of the Father.

Excerpt from June 2012 (Part 4)

We are looking at our lives as a vineyard. By this I believe that the Lord will lay for us a solid foundation upon which to understand the purpose of nutrition, health and wellness. Why should God be invested in or even care about our health? Except that it ultimately serves the purpose of the Kingdom. I know to some that may sound cold. That's not my intention.

However, it is my intention to express that God cares (primarily) about those things that directly serve His Kingdom purpose. Even so, He may regard (secondarily) those things that indirectly support His goals.

Bodily exercise is profitable (but its ROI is comparatively small): but godliness is profitable in all things, having promises that are to be realized both in the life that now is, and that which is to come. (1 Timothy 4:8)

But for those things that do not intentionally hallow His name, promote His Kingdom or contributing to the doing of His will, Wisdom bids Him leave. Proverbs 16:4 teaches us that God has created all things for Himself. Our Lord is so strategic in His doings that even the wrath of man shall glorify and serve the purposes of God, or it shall be restrained.⁽⁶⁾ That is to say that nothing about the character of God obligates Him to invest in those things that bring glory to another, our nutrition, health and wellness included.

One afternoon, as I was talking to the Lord about how unappreciative I was about a situation. There was this long pause in our conversation. ... But that wasn't good enough the Lord came right out and told me. He said, "*JoAnn, the reason this is so distasteful to you is because you're just like that. You're looking at yourself; but you won't notice it in yourself. So I had to give you a mirror.*" If I said that at that very moment I had a *paradigm shift*, it would be a euphemism for "I had just had my mail read on national TV." I was FINISHED.

Excerpt from July 2012 (Part 5)

"Every event in life is a TEST." Said otherwise, "Every event in life is a "servant of the Lord; in as much as it is intended to bring about the purpose of God in us." It comes to draw out of us the harvest." There is a sense in which God says to every one of life's events, situations or circumstances, "Have you *tried* my servant (put your name here)?" E-V-E-R-Y thing that happens to us, serves the purpose of proving our hearts before the Living God. When I say "everything" I mean EVERYTHING. There is not a solitary *person, place or thing* that is not strategically set in array to prove us.

Really quickly, what is the *harvest* that God is

seeking to draw out?!? That's right!!! The harvest that God seeks is love, joy, peace, longsuffering (patience), gentleness, goodness, meekness, faith and temperance.⁽⁷⁾

You've seen it. You're sitting at a *red light* that seems to be the longest red light in the history of automotive transportation. (*Servant*) You're in a long line at the store and the cashier has to shut down just as you approach the counter. Now you have to move to the end of another line. (*Servant*) You're passed over for a promotion. (*Servant*) You just bought a new house, now you find yourself laid off from work. (*Servant*) What do you do? Everyone is watching: God, the angels, our neighbors, our friends, our family, etc. All eyes are on you. What will be your response?

Excerpt from August 2012 (Part 6)

Our lives are the vineyards of God. He has hired them out, to us, for the span of some three score and ten years. He created *us* for Himself, that He may offer to the nations the wine of His covenant (in us and through us). But we won't afford Him that luxury. We won't be "*keepers*" of His vineyard; we want to be the "*landlord*." We refuse to be told what to do with *our* life. The "choice is ours to make," we say. And we will not brook any usurping of our freewill. We eat what we will; we walk and talk how we will; we think and say what we will. We will abide no shackles of chastity; nor fetters of integrity; we loathe the chains of temperance and the handcuffs of obedience. Of course, we would never "say" these types of things. We draw nigh to God with our mouths, but in our hearts we are quite impudent; quite far from Him. We see this most when the "servants" of the Lord, come to make their withdrawal; when life's circumstances descend upon us, we find that our accounts are empty. No response of *love* ... no giving of *joy* ... no making of *peace* ... no show of *longsuffering* ... no *gentleness* of disposition ... none of the fragrance of the King. But it doesn't have to stay this way.

Thank you for allowing me to share excerpts from this series. You may certainly collect the full articles in each of the editions this year. You may

collect them from the online repository. Please visit the Archives section at www.kingdomnewsonline.com.

May God be glorified in your life. =NHW=

Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, sMHG

Scripture References - King James Version (KJV), unless otherwise stated.

(1) Genesis 1:29

(2) Proverbs 3:7-8; 4:22

(3) Jeremiah 38:20; 42:6

(4) Deuteronomy 5:29, 33; 6:3

(5) James 1:14

(6) Psalm 76:10

(7) Galatians 5:22-23

What to do While Waiting

Study the Word of God, because here's what happen when you don't.

1. *There is no inner strength*, or nourishment, or refreshment for the human spirit. There's no vital contact with God. No knowledge of the Lord Jesus, personally.
2. *There's ignorance of self*. The absence of this give rise to our need for psychiatry and psychology, in our day.
3. *There's no power to regulate life*. And there can't be. The absence of power to regulate life gives rise to anger, quarrelling and fighting.
4. *World conditions baffle and depress*. It seems that we don't understand what's happening.
5. *There's no real answer* to the questions being asked.
6. *There are widespread delusions adopted* about the past, the present and the future. This gives rise to the mass followings of specious theories of origin and destination; which has neither foundation nor fruit.
7. *There is defenseless exposure* to the works of the enemy.

Ray C Stedman, sermon - What to do While Waiting (in his *Treasures of the Parables of Jesus* series slightly adapted)

You're not in a rush, are you? Let's take some time with this, shall we.

Translation (JCW version): The course of this world is of such a pace that even the strength that is common to youth shall not be able to sustain them. They shall find their natural vigor waning; which will move them to frustration and weariness.

It used to be the case that a society would invest in their young, because they had so much to look forward to. But it is evident today that our young men are on a course that will ensure their utter failure.

Not so, of those who wait upon the Lord. We find that the opposite is a reality for us. Almost despite ourselves, we find that in our waiting we have an abundance of strength. As our walk, through the kingdoms of this world, places a demand on our strength; we find that God has made available to us endless streams; as from a reservoir of endurance. If fly we must, we find that we have the wings of an eagle. If run we must; we find that our stamina is persistent. If walk we must; we do so with an energy that is not our own; for it is uncommonly transcendent.⁽⁵⁾

So we see that "to wait," is to hold a disposition of *expectation* or to take a posture of *servicing*.

Oh, but there is more. To "wait" also means to "bind oneself to."⁽⁶⁾ This one is a particular favorite of mine. With that light, we see that those who "bind themselves to" the Lord, find that they have increased strength. They have a strength that is "other." In this day of sub-par customer service; seeing the significance of this phrase will require some reach. I like to say it this way: *They that waitress upon the Lord, shall renew their strength*. In all genuine honesty, I cannot take the credit. I didn't coin the phrase, our Father did. Last month, when preparing the August edition, I do not believe that I had even, really asked the LORD. He simply gave me the title and topic for this article. He literally said, "They that waitress upon the Lord..." The peculiar thing was that while I was dumbstruck with the phrase itself, He imparted its rich and overwhelming meaning in a single dispensation. He intimated:

They that waitress upon the Lord ... they that "bind themselves to God," honor Him; by not doing their own way; by not finding their own pleasure and by not speaking their own words. They delight themselves in Him; they meditate in His law day and night. They seek after Him, if haply they might find Him; although He is never very far from them. They humble themselves; they pray; they seek His

face; and they turn from their own, personal unrighteousness. They cast it off as a thing despised. They lay aside every weight and the sin that had so easily beset them. And they run with patience the race that is set before them, looking unto Jesus Who is the Author and Finisher of their faith. They count it all joy when they fall into diverse temptations, knowing that the trying of their faith works patience. And they want patience, oh my, do they want patience. When patience has run its course, they are left thoroughly furnished, lacking in no good thing. They not only *want* patience, they **NEED** it; for after they have done the will of God, they might receive the promise. Chastened where they need to be chastened; empowered where they need to be empowered; all the while resting in the palm of His hand. They take the spoiling of their goods joyfully, knowing within themselves that they have, in heaven, a better and an enduring substance. They have there, a treasure that neither moth nor rust does corrupt and thieves do not break through nor steal.

With one breath, He brought me to this place. And I wanted to share it with you.

I want to be one of them; I want to *waitress* upon the Lord!!!! There's room for more, will you come with me? *LW*

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Scripture References - King James Version (KJV), unless otherwise stated.

- (1) Isaiah 40:31
- (2) Psalm 37:9
- (3) Matthew 4:4
- (4) Isaiah 40:30-31
- (5) Isaiah 40:30-31
- (6) Niphal, 8/31/12 from

<http://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strong's=H6960&t=KJV>

Philippians 2:6

[7] But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

[8] And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Are You Sure?

There is a healthy contemplation that drives us to check our commitment to our various relationships with others. While I have your attention may I ask another question? Do you ever wonder if you're really saved? I don't mean to intrude ... okay maybe I do intend to intrude. Do you contemplate your loyalty and commitment to your relationship "with Christ" very specifically? Respectfully, we are not talking here about your relationship with a religious institution. We're asking about a very up-close and personal relationship with the Person of Jesus Christ. The scriptures encourage us to periodically check our "fruit." We are admonished to work out your own soul's salvation with fear and trembling. ⁽¹⁾

I can just imagine Jesus standing before the fig tree, asking "Hey guys, what type of tree is this?"

His disciples replied (almost snickering), "My Lord, it's a fig tree."

And Jesus asks again, "How can you tell, that this is a fig tree?"

His disciples reply again (almost bursting at the seams), "Teacher, we can tell by the leaves."

Jesus once again, "Okay, let Me ask you guys one more question ... what is the purpose of a fig tree, if it won't bear figs." They all fell silent.

Jesus cursed the fig tree saying, "Any branch in Me that does not bear fruit, My Father will remove. It will not be allowed to continue to make demands of (or trouble) the ground." ⁽²⁾ He looked at the disciples and walked away en route to Bethany. ⁽³⁾

So I ask again, how do we know that we have a personal covenant with God?

May I make a few suggestions on ways to discover the truth? ⁽⁴⁾

1. How does your covenant with Jesus Christ affect your concept of God and your attitude towards Him?
2. How does your relationship with God affect your attitude towards Jesus Christ (Him as a Person and His Lordship over your life)?
3. How does your covenant with God affect your attitude towards the Holy Scriptures?
4. How does your relationship with Christ affect your attitude towards your "self-life" or your "flesh"?
5. How does your covenant with Christ affect your relationship with and attitude towards your fellow Christians?
6. How does your relationship with Jesus affect your relationship with and attitude towards the world?
7. Last, but in no way least, how does your covenant with Jesus affect your attitude towards sin?

Perhaps we should take the next couple of weeks or months and grapple with this? Try to answer each question thoroughly in light of the scripture's mandates on each of these respective relationships. Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that Great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to Whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. ⁽⁵⁾

Be Sure!

Scripture References - King James Version (KJV), unless otherwise stated.

- (1) Philippians 2:12 (2) John 15:1-2; Luke 13:7
- (3) Matthew 21:17-19
- (4) Gleanings and adaptations from A.W. Tozer's Man: The Dwelling Place of God, p.62-68 (5) Hebrews 13:20-21

❧ SUMMARY ❧

The Chief Cornerstone



If the answer to your temporal question: "When will this madness end in my life?" does not point to and corroborate with the ultimate glory of God; it has not properly been answered. And while you may prefer the "other" answer, at length, you will find its way hard; its burden heavy and its dues expensive.

Boot Camp



The 21st century version of the practice of *foot washing* is a covenant fellowship of responsibility and accountability. It is a community of godly love, wherein we align our lives with the mandates of our Lord. We point each other to the Word of God and fully expect that we each will come up to it. The practice of *foot washing* is where we each...

Journey to Intimacy



- The nations of this world don't know how to be *merciful*.
- The nations of this world don't know how to be *pure in heart*.
- The nations of this world don't know how to be *peacemakers*.

But what is more woeful than that, is that it seems that we don't know "how" either. And so we resort to....

❧ SUMMARY ❧

The Leadership Corner

From time to time God will instruct us to make specific changes in our lives. If we are not in tune with His voice, we may fail to act or we may complain about having to deal with the baggage. In some instances, we may follow His instruction, but have no clue as to what is going on.

Nutrition, Health & Wellness



Today, I have a different perspective on my way of life; now seeing with a bit more clarity that my life is not my own. This reality is no longer just a theory or cliché. My duty is clearer to me,

Living Waters



Anymore the idea of "waiting" seems to be profane in our culture; which is, in some sense, quite ridiculous. After all, EVERYONE can't go first; someone has to wait. EVERYTHING can't be done *now*; something has to be done afterwards. Oh, I understand. It's okay if SOMEONE has to wait, as long as ...

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