

(For Monday, November 20, 2017) Have you thought about the exalted state of humility?

“Exalt the Lord our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is He! Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the Lord our God is holy.” (Ps. 99:5,, ESV)

Some perspectives which are fundamental to an understanding of Scripture have little to do with earthly reality. It’s intriguing to note that the Psalmist encourages us to worship God on the mountaintop in one verse, yet at “God’s footstool” in another. This kind of ubiquity seems contradictory, until you start to reflect on some other truths imparted in Scripture. In her beautiful *Magnificat*, Mary says, “God has exalted the humble.” And Jesus promises as much in the *Beatitudes*. While a position of humility and exaltation would seem non-sensical by this world’s standards, apparently, according to The Kingdom’s “laws of physics” it’s perfectly ordinary to inhabit both of these states-of-being. Have you found yourself occupying a role characterized by sincere, generous humility recently? If so, have you thought about what a glorious character-trait that was in the eyes of The Lord? And isn’t HIS point of view about you and me the one that matters the most?

(For Tuesday, November 21 , 2017) Who’s got your back?

“And with the God of heaven it is all one, to deliver with a great multitude or a small company. For the victory of battle standith not in the multitude of an host; but strength cometh from heaven.” (1st Mac.3:18b-19, KJV)

When you look at the Intertestamental Period of Israel’s history – those years between the time the voice of the Prophets had fallen silent, and the coming of the Messiah into our world – life must have seemed somber indeed for the faithful followers of Yahweh. The country was perpetually plagued by the violence of occupying armies, and pagan deities seemed to have permanently established the upper-hand in the nation’s Spiritual life. Yet, there were always people like Judas Maccabeus and his family who kept alive in their hearts the knowledge that the God of their forefathers who had brought the people through so much would never abandon them to ultimate defeat and destruction. And you can see in this declaration by Judas Maccabeus that bedrock conviction which had been expressed by David so many years before when he fearlessly told the giant Goliath, that he was coming to do battle “in the name of the Lord.” And Jesus would reaffirm this same sentiment when he came to walk among us, assuring us that “With God, all things are possible.” Paul famously wrote, “If God is for us, who can stand against us?” (Rom. 8:31) Have you stopped for a moment recently to think about who it is that’s got your back?

(For Wednesday, November 22, 2017) ?

“And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.” (Rev.21:10, ESV)

So much of *Revelation* seems surreal and inaccessible. But is it really? Multiple times during this book, John of Patmos declares that he saw all these marvelous wonders because he was “in the spirit” (See, for example, in addition to this verse, Rev. 1:10; 4:2) Is it so far-fetched to accept that other believers might also be witnesses to mighty visions from God when they are, “in the spirit”? Various highly-respected theological historians have noted how, until very recently mysteries like speaking-in-tongues, or miraculous healings were extremely rare occurrences. It can be argued that, the more meaningful and powerful aspects of Christianity have really only been commonly observed since the beginning of the Charismatic Revolution, which only started at the beginning of the last century. But that means being willing to accept the fact that God is working in mighty, marvelous, and mysterious ways in our world in our here-and-now. Are you comfortable with, and willing to accept the mystical aspects of the Christian faith? Because He can truly change your entire vision of this amazing universe!

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(For Thursday, November 23, 2017) Are you willing to let your child out to play?

“Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” (Mt.18:4)

Jesus seems to have extreme respect for the mind of the child. He’s frequently telling us of our need to be like children, if we would enter the Kingdom of God, or be great among its citizenry. I think part of what is going on here is the power of child-like faith; a faith which has not yet been tainted with the cynicism and skepticism of this broken world. Psychologists and Counselors I respect can often be heard talking about our “inner child.” It is a part of the human psyche which is so easy to forget, or burry in the frenetic pace of our “adult” world. But there is probably great value in returning once in a while to that marvelous, whimsical place where the wonder of things is embraced anew. Maybe wading in the crystal waves of a beach; or watching an impossibly large harvest moon rise; or even a trip to Disney World!.

Do you need to re-connect with whimsey in your walk with God? Because it’s so true: Whimsey is good for the soul.

(For Friday, November 24, 2017)) ?

“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.” (Mt.18:10)

Yep. Angels! I’m so glad Jesus said this. Although Angels keep cropping up all through Scripture, some believers hold that the concept of Angels is fanciful. Not for me. And what I love about this particular verse is that Jesus says “their angels.” I take this to mean that each of us has at least one Angelic Being assigned to us to watch over us as we go through our day. Now that is way cool!! And although I don’t believe that we should be praying to any intercessor other than Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I DO think that it is never a bad idea to praise Jesus and thank God for the Spiritual protectors with which he provides us, to keep us safe in the cosmic battle between good and evil, and between darkness and light that is raging around us even as you read these very words (See Eph. 6:12) And I believe I will also get the chance to actually meet “my” Angel/s in the next life, and when I do, I feel sure that He/She/They will be awesome to behold.

I mean, why else would Angels have to keep repeating “Fear not!” when they come to visit us? ☺
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