

The Clearing After The Rain

2 Sam 23:3-4

1

3 “The God of Israel said, The Rock of Israel spoke to me, ‘He who rules over men righteously, Who rules in the fear of God, 4 Is as the light of the morning when the sun rises, A morning without clouds, When the tender grass springs out of the earth, Through sunshine after rain.’ NASV

The KJV reads...

2 Sam 23:4

2

4 And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain. KJV

As difficult to understand as it might seem when we are getting soaked trying to go somewhere are come into the building for Church services while it is raining cats and dogs, the rain is a blessing. Keep repeating that when the storms are pouring rain on you and the roads are treacherous to drive on. But truly, what a blessing it is that God has brought the rains to help stave off the drought conditions that we have been experiencing, though we probably still have a ways to go to see the ground water replenished, but If you are like me, there is little that is as beautiful as the morning after a cleansing rain. The clear air that smells so fresh, the...

3

“The earth by clear shining after rain”

But I think this text speaks to something with a deeper meaning than this. David is speaking here of an honest and wise ruler. Something to note about the times that David was speaking in, not all the rulers, if any, for that matter, were what could be called honest or wise. Most looked out for themselves and were anything but honest. Remember I am speaking about David’s times, not now. David says that, where rulers were wise, just, and upright, their country flourished, prospered. A good ruler was like "a morning without clouds"; and the people round him grew like the grass after heavy showers of rain and the sun the earth. My daughter’s father-in-law runs a herd of somewhere between 100 and 200 head of cattle up in the foothills above Fresno and the number and quality of his herd depends a lot on the rainfall and the grass growing to feed his cattle. Without grass he has to resort to buying hay to feed his stock in the summer months. David is saying that a wise and honest ruler is as refreshing as the rain and as fruitful as the grass that grows.

The analogy that David uses between the rule of a good king and the rain and sunshine paint a beautiful picture with which he draws the comparison is produced by a combination...

4

- A) Rain
- B) Clear shining of the sun after the rain

For Larry’s cows to have a sufficient amount of grass to get through the summer months there must be rain, and a goodly amount of it. But if all that ever happened was rain, there wouldn’t be any grass, there would just be mud. And, in this area, we have a pretty good idea of what happens when all there is, is sunshine, there is no grass, just parched dry land that can’t produce

anything worthwhile. I see in this also the analogy that the true condition of spirituality is also produced by two causes;

- 5 C) The good heart of a man (Rain)
- D) The Love of God (Sunshine)

Man can never rise to the highest spiritual state of salvation if all he has is a good heart.

1 Cor 13:1-3

6

1 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

Paul states the fact plainly; without love, man's love for God, Christ, their Word, and even more importantly God's Love for man, then spiritual gifts, faith, knowledge, even death profit nothing. That's why the combination of the two is a must for a man to be found righteous before God.

In our discussion in this lesson we want to look at the effects of this idea of the...

7

"The clear shining after rain"

And how it affects...

8

- 1) The Heart of the Convert
- 2) In the Soul of the Believer
- 3) In the Ministry of the Word

The book of Acts has many examples of conversions that contain principles and dynamics that are still true today. So for our first point...

9

- 1) The Heart of the Convert

When someone is truly converted, how it is manifested? All conversions are not alike, that is what we see in the examples of them in Acts; there is a great difference between them. Some are very definite; you can tell the moment when they are converted. Others are somewhat indistinct; there is a long process, and you can't say exactly when they turned to God. Some people know exactly the moment when they saw the light of God shining in Christ Jesus, some just know that it came upon them, but they can't tell when. The point is that whether or not we might know the exact moment of our conclusion of conviction or don't it doesn't mean that we are any less converted. It would be foolish if I were to say that just because someone might not know the exact moment of their conversion that they are not believers and followers of Christ.

There is a truth that must be mentioned. We have often discussed that someone cannot truly come to God unless they know from where they are coming. How can the burden of sin be forgiven if that burden is not recognized. Typically, God's grace begins in the heart that understands the spiritual death that sin brings.

Isn't that what we see in David's simile? The clouds roll in, there is a gloom without the sun and then the rain falls. The work of the Spirit of God as revealed in His Word often follows the depression of guilt that comes with the recognition of our sin. That recognition guilt of sin is when repentance really begins, we become sorry for our sin and seek that which can remove it, the Gospel. Here is where the difference between the good and honest heart of a true convert and the deceitful heart that doesn't hear God's call is seen. When the "Clear shining after the rain" of the Love of God manifests itself in a good and honest heart, that heart responds.

Luke 8:15

10

15 But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.

The progression that is seen in the world of agriculture can be seen as analogous of the progression of the true convert, clouds, rain, clear shining, and then growth.

Which then brings us to our next point, the clear shining...

11

2) In the Soul of the Believer

I recognize that I am probably splitting a fine hair here, but I am making a distinction between How God's Word works within the convert and, in a different sense, how it is to work in the heart of the believer.

I know that these are not different things but bear with me a moment. I would venture to say that we have all known people who when coming to God through obedience to the Word are full of zeal and enthusiasm in their pursuit of and desire to spread the Word. They want nothing more than to learn everything there is to know, NOW. But something happens, the tares of the world begin to weigh down upon them, their own lusts and desires slowly lead them away, and they begin to discover that not everyone shares in their zeal and desire for the Word. As these things begin to build in the heart and mind, what I will call the soul of the convert, that which was once "clear shining" begins to fade and as it does, so does its influence.

Luke 10:25-27

12

25 And a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" **26** And He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?" **27** And he answered, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

This idea of Loving God is at the crux of this discussion. With all our...

13

E) Heart

F) Soul

G) Mind

Barnes, in his commentary, Barnes Notes, breaks these down this way...

14 *[Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart]* The meaning of this is, thou shalt love him with all thy faculties or powers. Thou shalt love him supremely, more than all other beings and things, and with all the ardor possible. To love him with all the heart is to fix the affections supremely on him, more strongly than on anything else, and to be willing to give up all that we hold dear at his command.

15 *[With all thy soul]* Or, with all thy "life." This means, to be willing to give up the life to him, and to devote it all to his service; to live to him, and to be willing to die at his command.

16 *[With all thy mind]* To submit the "intellect" to his will. To love his law and gospel more than we do the decisions of our own minds. To be willing to submit all our faculties to his teaching and guidance, and to devote to him all our intellectual attainments and all the results of our intellectual efforts.

As we look at these things and Barnes explanations of them it becomes clear that the passage Christ quotes from in...

Deut 6:4-5

17

4 "Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! **5** "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

What Moses is telling the Israelites here is that nothing less than everything they are in commitment, their heart, everything they have, their lives, their souls, and everything they know, their minds, must be given to God in faithful obedience. This is the answer Christ gives to the lawyer in Luke 10 when the lawyer asks what he must do to inherit eternal life. To inherit eternal life one must give everything they are to God through Christ and faithful obedience.

2 Cor 8:3-5

18

3 For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord, **4** begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints, **5** and this, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.

What is it that renews the zeal and passion of the believer? Note what Peter has to say in...

2 Peter 1:1-3

19

1 Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: **2** Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; **3** seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

Here he says that faith is received through the "True Knowledge" of God who called us through Christ. He then goes on to tell us how we are to use the Word to add to our faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love, everything that God gives that pertains to life and Godliness. Now note Peter's conclusion in...

2 Peter 1:10-11

20

10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; **11** for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

Isn't this the same answer Jesus gave to the lawyer in Luke 10? The price of eternal life is everything. Heart, soul, and mind. The application of that statement is to be found in how the life of faith is lived. What does the faithful servant of God do, what does he say, what does he practice? Therein is our last point, the...

21 ***“Clear shining after the rain”***

22 3) In the Ministry of the Word

There is a very sad truth that needs to be recognized, nowadays, people will listen to anybody, provided that they are a clever enough preacher. I am astonished at what we sometimes see in congregations where for so many years they continued in the sound doctrine of God's Word only to be led away by some deception into practicing something, anything, other than the sound doctrine of the Word of Truth. If the truth doesn't shine forth in our worship, in our lives, and in our efforts to help teach others, then our efforts are for naught.

There is a legend concerning King George the Third in his latter days. He is reputed to be have been a believer, though I am certain that his belief would be in the context of the Church of England. After listening to the chaplains of the court in services would come out and say...

23 ***"It will not do; nothing to feed a soul on."***

I don't know if that legend has any truth to it, but so often we hear that very complaint concerning what people too often hear in the world's religious services, there is nothing to feed on.

John 21:15-17

24

15 So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My lambs."

In the KJV Jesus here tells Peter to feed His followers. Three times He exhorts him to "Feed His flock." In 1 Peter, in his encouragement to the Elders, Peter says...

1 Peter 5:2

25

2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;

Again in the KJV, the word is translated feed. The idea is to give the followers of God the sound Word of truth so that they might be nourished, fed, and grow in the strength of the Lord. That is what is meant by...

26 ***“The Clear Shining After the Rain”***