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Psalm 33:13

Op 'n vraag hoe die Heilige Gees se Stem klink, het 'n predikant onlangs hierdie ware verhaal vertel - 'n verhaal wat in sy eie lewe afgespeel het:

Dit was 'n Dinsdagaand, 19:00. Die ingenieurstudent, Sias, het net voor sy lessenaar ingeskuif om te begin studeer vir 'n toets. Skielik het 'n frons op sy gesig verskyn.

"Wat, Here? Wat sê U daar? Maar Here, ek het dan nou net klaar geëet?" Vir Sias het die opdrag wat die Heilige Gees pas op sy hart kom lê het, glad nie sin gemaak nie.

Tog het hy besluit om gehoorzaam te wees. Met sy beursie in sy hand het hy in sy kar geklim en na die winkel gery om 'n brood te gaan koop. 'n Vreemde opgewondenheid het in sy hart kom lê. Wat op aarde sou die Here tog met hierdie brood wou doen?

Nadat Sias die brood gekoop het, het hy vir 'n rukkie in sy kar voor die winkel gesit en wag. Dalk wou die Here 'n arm persoon oor sy pad stuur sodat hy die brood vir hom of haar kan gee? Daar het egter niemand gekom nie.

Na 'n paar minute, het hy maar weer sy kar aangeskakel en begin om na die koshuis terug te ry - stadig. Dalk wou die Here vir hom iemand langs die pad wys vir wie hy die brood moes gee. Weer was daar niemand nie.

Dit is toe Sias voor die koshuis

parkeer dat hy begin wonder het of hy homself dan verbeel het. Dalk het die Here nie met hom gepraat nie?

Sias was amper heel bo teen die trappe, op pad na sy kamer, toe een van die eerstejaarstudente van bo af by hom verbystap. "Dit is hy." Die Heilige Gees se Fluisterstem was duidelik. "Maar..." wou Sias protesteer. "Wat as..." Binne-in sy hart het hy egter instinktief geweet wat hy moes doen.

"Uh, skuus tog," het hy nou na die jonger man geroep wat reeds besig was om by die trappe af te draf. "Ja?" Daar was 'n vraag op die jong student se gesig wat nou na hom gedraai het. "Ek weet dit mag dalk vreemd wees, maar... uh... hier is vir jou 'n brood."

Die vraag wat oomblikke gelede op die jong student se gesig was, het nou na skok verander terwyl trane stadig oor sy wange begin vloei.

Daardie oggend het die jong student by God gepleit om aan hom 'n teken te gee dat Hy werklik bestaan. Die student was moedeloos en depressief oor al die uitdagings in sy lewe. Selfmoord was sy volgende stap. Dit was immers waarheen hy op pad was toe hy by die trappe afgestap het. (Daarom het hy daardie oggend besluit om vir die mees onwaarskynlike teken te vra. As God dan werklik bestaan en vir hom omgee, moet Hy asseblief vir hom iemand stuur wat vir hom 'n brood sou gee).



Daardie aand, 19:15 het die student sy brood gekry. Die Here het van hom geweet. Die Here het sy lewe kom red! Letterlik en figuurlik!

Ek wonder, voel jy dalk vandag soos een van hierdie twee mans? Dalk wonder jy ook of God enigsins vir jou en jou probleme omgee? Of dalk wonder jy of dit werklik die Heilige Gees is wat iets of iemand op jou hart kom lê het?

Vir beide groepe wil ek vandag sê: Die Here weet van jou. Hy weet van jou pyn, jou hartseer en van elke probleem of hindernis op jou pad.

Op hierdie oomblik is Hy besig om mense en dinge in plek te stel om daardie seer van jou beter te maak. Hoe weet ek dit? Ek glo wat Dawid in Psalm 33:13 geskryf het: *"Uit die hemel sien die Here al die mense raak, want Hy kyk van Sy troon af na al die aarde se inwoners"* (Die Lewende Bybel). Op hierdie oomblik hou

God jou dop - hier waar jy hierdie artikel sit en lees.

Kan ek jou dus aanmoedig om gehoorsaam aan God te wees as Hy jou vandag as Sy instrument wil gebruik? Wees gehoorsaam as die Heilige Gees iets op jou hart kom lê - selfs al is dit ook die vreemdste versoek. Hy het immers vir Sias met sy brood gebruik om 'n lewe te red! Sterkte!

Gebed: Vader God, dankie dat ek kan weet dat U my raaksien vandag. Dankie dat ek kan weet dat U arm nooit te kort is om te help en U oor nooit te doof om te hoor nie. Dankie dat ek kan weet dat U altyd gereed is om my te help. Help my asseblief vandag om nie moed te verloor nie, maar om my hoop in U te vind. Ek plaas my verwagting in U. Ek bid dit in die Naam van Jesus Christus. Amen.

- Benescke Botha, 'n vryskutskrywer vir verskeie geestelike en inspirasietydskrifte.

Oom Willie Die Klippieslyper

In my jonger dae het ek saam met 'n baie interessante Oom Willie gewerk, met ewe interessante stokperdjies. As afgetredene het hy bv. 'n studie gemaak van die inheemse boomsoorte van Suid-Afrika. Hy het van 'n dik stam of tak blokkies gesny waar jy die ringe van die boom kon sien. Sy motorhuis was vol hiervan, met die beskrywing van die boom sowel as die Latynse name daarby. Verder het hy ook vir hom 'n masjien gebou om gekleurde klippies mee te slyp. Alle soorte mooi gekleurde klippies, maar nog baie grof voor slyping.

Dié klippies het hy vanoor die hele land versamel, selfs van die spoel-delwerye. Ook het hy soms stukke van groter klippe versamel wat dan gebreek word in kleiner stukkies. Die slypmasjien word dan ingespan met slyppoeier of “grit”. Die drom van die masjien tuimel dan vir ongeveer 21 tot 28 dae om die klippies glad en blink te slyp. Daarmee het hy die pragtigste juwele gemaak waarop die dames versot was.

Net so werk God ook met ons, want ons begeer mos om eendag hemel toe te gaan! Daarom kom ons in Sy slypmasjien. Vir hulle wat wil, roep Hy nader na Hom, want Hy sê Hy sal vir ons 'n nuwe hart en 'n nuwe gees in ons binneste gee. Hy sal die hart van klip uit ons uitneem en ons 'n hart van vlees gee. 'n Hart wat soos Syne sal wees. Begeer jy dit ook? Lees dan biddend verder, sodat die Woord vir jou kan oopgaan.

In die Heidelbergse Kategismus **Sondag 1 Vraag 1** het ons reeds geleer: “*Wat is jou enigste troos in lewe en in sterwe?*” Dan kom die **Antwoord**: “*Dat ek met liggaam en siel in lewe en in sterwe(a) nie aan myself(b) nie, maar aan my getroue Verlosser, Jesus Christus behoort(c). Hy het met Sy kosbare bloed vir al my sondes ten volle betaal(d) en my uit alle heer-*

skappy van die duiwel verlos(e). Hy bewaar(f) my op so 'n wyse dat sonder die wil van my hemelse Vader, geen haar van my kop kan val nie(g). Alles moet inderdaad tot my saligheid dien(h).” Dan verder: “*Daarom verseker Hy my ook deur Sy Heilige Gees van die ewige lewe(i) en maak Hy my van harte gewillig en bereid om voortaan vir Hom te lewe(j).*” Dan verder: **Vraag 2:** *Hoeveel dinge moet jy weet om in hierdie troos salig te kan lewe en sterwe?* **Antwoord:** “*Drie dinge(a): Ten eerste, hoe groot my sonde en ellende is(b); ten tweede; hoe ek van al my sonde en ellende verlos word(c) en ten derde hoe ek God vir so 'n verlossing dankbaar moet wees(d).*”

Het jy Jesus al jou eerste liefde gemaak? Of het jy dit slegs teoreties en met kopkennis geleer met een doel voor oë, en dit is, om in die kerk aangeneem te word? **Maak dit dan vandag 'n hartsding!** Pas bg. drie dinge toe in jou lewe! Gaan op jou knieë, vra God die Vader om aan jou te toon hoe groot jou sonde en ellende is; en dan hoe jy God daarvoor ewig dankbaar kan wees, omdat Hy jou ook al jou sondes sal vergewe. Neem Jesus aan as jou Persoonlike Saligmaker. Vra Hom om in jou hart te kom woon (Joh. 1:12). Aanvaar dat Hy nou die wedergeboorte in jou sal kom doen



(Joh. 3:3, 5). Dan is jy 'n kind van God! Jou naam het Hy in die Boek van die Lewe geskryf! Nou kan Hy begin om jou te slyp - lewenslank - met Sy Woord as grondslag en die Heilige Gees wat nou in jou woon, totdat jy 'n mooi blink geslypte klippie, 'n juweel in God se Koninkryk sal wees!

In Spreuke 27:17 lees ons, “*Yster slyp yster, so slyp die een mens die persoon van die ander.*” God gebruik ons in hierdie slypproses met mekaar. Sy Woord is Sy slypmasjien, want sien, die Beeld van God is in die mens geskend deur die sondeval. En nou maak ons baie foute! Maar Hy wil die eindproduk sien waar Sy Beeld in ons herstel word.

O ja, ons verskil almal van mekaar! Daar is temperamentsverskille, verskille in geaardheid, sterkpunte sowel as swakpunte in ons wat ook as gevolg van die sondeval geskend is, terwyl ons bedoel is om die kroon van God se skepping te wees.

Daar is na ons wedergeboorte nog sondige elemente en swakhede en gebreke in ons. Waar begin God om ons te vorm? Eers moet ons as individu in die regte verhouding met Hom kom staan. Dit is die eerste en die belangrikste. Die vraag is nou: Waar staan jy met Jesus Christus wat vir ons elkeen op die kruis gesterf het en waar Hy ons skuld gedra het? Ons bou nou ons lewe op die Woord van God. Hy verklaar: “*Broeders, as iemand ewenwel deur een of ander misdaad oorval word, moet julle wat geestelik is, so een reghelp met die gees van sagmoedigheid, terwyl jy op jouself let, dat jy ook nie versoek word nie. Dra mekaar se laste en vervul so die wet van Christus*” (Gal. 6:1-2).

En in die brief aan die Hebreërs staan daar: “*Daarom, rig die slap hande en die verlamde knieë weer op; en maak reguit paaie vir julle voete, sodat wat kreupel is, nie uit lit raak nie, maar liewer gesond gemaak word. Jaag die vrede na met almal, en die heiligmaking waarsonder niemand die Here sal sien nie...*” (Heb. 12:12-14). Ons moet mekaar reghelp, mekaar slyp, maar met **liefde**. Ons moet mekaar opbou. Ons moet God se Woord spreek tot mekaar, soos die Heilige Gees vir ons gee om te doen.

In 2 Tim. 3:16-17 lees ons, “*Die hele Skrif is deur God ingegee en is nuttig tot lering, tot weerlegging, tot teregwyding, tot onderwysing in die geregtigheid, sodat die mens van God volkome kan wees, vir elke goeie werk volkome toegerus.*” Ons is nou in God se slypmasjien. Sy slypmasjien is Sy Woord onder die leiding van die Heilige Gees.

Maak elke dag ruimte vir Jesus in jou lewe, en groei tot 'n volwasse kind van God. Word een van God se mooi juweeltjies in Sy koninkryk!
©Dr. J J Venter

Hy Vou Jou Toe in Sy Liefde

Psalm 46:2-4: “*God is vir ons 'n toevlug en 'n beskerming; Hy was nog altyd bereid om te help in nood. Daarom is ons nie bang nie, al gee die aarde pad, al skuif die berge tot in die dieptes van die see, al druis en skuim die waters van die see, al skud die berge deur sy onstuimigheid.*”

Lees verder verse 7-12: “*Nasies kan raas en koninkryke wankel, maar as God Sy stem laat hoor, smelt die aarde weg. Die Here, die Almagtige, is by ons, die God van Jakob is vir ons 'n beskutting. Kom kyk wat die Here gedoen het, watter ontsettende dinge Hy op die aarde tot stand bring: die oorloë oor die hele aarde laat Hy ophou, pyle en boë verbreek Hy, spiese slaan Hy stukkend, oorlogswaens verbrand Hy met vuur. Bedaar en erken dat Ek God is, hoog bo die nasies, hoog bo die aarde. Die Here, die Almagtige, is by ons, die God van Jakob is vir ons 'n beskutting.*”

Wat beteken Psalm 46 vandag vir my?

Dit beteken:

- *** Ek kan stil en rustig wees en weet dat die Here, die Almagtige, by my is.
- *** Dat Hy langs my is.
- *** Dat Hy my hand vashou.
- *** Dat Hy my troos en bemoedig.
- *** Dat Hy my beskerm en my veilig laat voel.
- *** Dat ek stil kan raak en weet dat Hy in beheer is.
- *** Dat Hy my hoop en my vertrouwe is.
- *** Dat Hy my sal lei en my sal dra, waar dit vir my te moeilik is om te loop.
- *** Dat ek stil en rustig kan raak, en alles in my lewe aan Hom kan oorgee.

Die Here, die Almagtige, is by my. Wees stil vandag en weet dat Hy jou toevou in Sy liefde.

Hulp in Benoudheid

In hierdie stresvolle tyd van 'n wêreldwye pandemie, van voedsel- en werkskaarsste, besoedeling, natuurrampe, verswakte ekonomieë en selfs oorlogteistering is baie mense neergeboë, uitgeput, radeloos en selfs vreesbevange. Hulle wonder waar hulle volgende maaltyd vandaan gaan kom, wie hulle sal help om hul skuld te delg, hoe en of hulle ooit weer gesond sal word, wie vir hulle omgee, wat die toekoms inhou... Mense word neerslagtig en sonder hoop, want hulle sien geen uitkoms nie - hulle kyk net vas in al die oorwelgende, negatiewe probleme.

Ken jy sulke mense? Is jy ook op moedverloor se vlakte? Lees onderstaande gedeelte en ervaar die ingryping van God in jou hopelose situasie. Roep Hom aan - Hy wil en sal vir jou ook uitkoms en redding bring!

En 'n sekere vrou uit die vroue van die profete-seuns het na Elisa geroep en gesê: U dienaar, my man, is dood, en u weet self dat u dienaar die HERE gevrees het;

nou het die skuldeiser gekom om my twee kinders vir hom as slawe te neem.

Toe sê Elisa vir haar: Wat kan ek vir jou doen? Gee my te kenne wat jy in die huis het. En sy antwoord: U dienaars het glad niks in die huis nie, behalwe 'n flessie met olie.

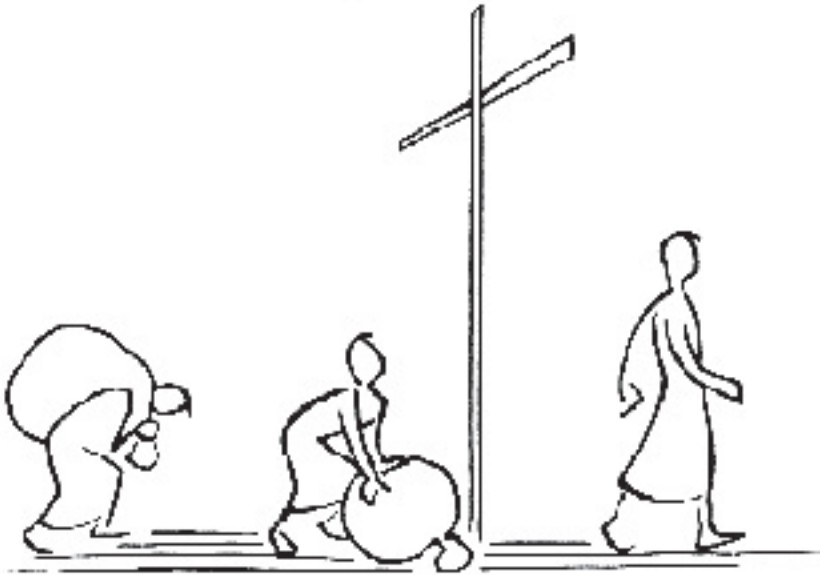
En hy sê: Gaan leen vir jou van buite af kanne, leë kanne van al jou bure; leen nie te min nie. Gaan dan in en sluit die deur agter jou en die seuns toe, en giet in al daardie kanne en sit weg wat vol is.

Sy het toe van hom af weggegaan en die deur agter haar en haar seuns toegesluit; en terwyl hulle vir haaraanbring, giet sy in.

Sodra die kanne vol was, sê sy aan haar seun: Bring vir my nog 'n kan aan; maar hy antwoord haar: Daar is geen kan meer nie. Toe gaan die olie staan.

Daarop kom sy om dit die man van God te kenne te gee; en hy sê: Gaan verkoop die olie en betaal jou skulde; van die orige kan jy en jou seuns dan lewe.

(2 Konings 4:1-7 OV).



Kom na My toe, almal wat vermoeid en belas is, en Ek sal julle rus gee (Matt. 11:28 OV).

Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy-laden and overburdened, and I will cause you to rest [I will ease and relieve and refresh your souls (AMPC).

Come to Me, all of you who are

tired from carrying your heavy loads, and I will give you rest (Good News for Modern Man).

Kommet her zu mir alle, die ihr mühselig und beladen seid; ich will euch erquicken (German LB).

Kom na My toe, almal wat uitgeput en oorlaai is, en Ek sal julle rus gee (NV).

DITSHUPO TSA NAKO YA BOKHUTLO (Signs of the End Times)



DITEMANA
“Ke tla dira dikgagamatso kwa legodimong le mo lefatsheng, e leng madi le molelo le dipinagare tsa musu. Letsatsi le tla fetoga lefifi, ngwedi o tla fetoga madi, go ise go tle letsatsi la Morena le legolo, le le boitshegang. Mme mongwe le mongwe yo o tla bitsang leina la Morena o tla pholosiwa (Joele 2:30-32).
Gonne Morena ka esi o tla fologa kwa legodimong ka mokgosi le ka lentswe la moengele yo mogolo le ka phala ya Modimo, mme baswi ba ba swetseng mo go Keresete ba tla tsoga pele. Morago ga moo rona ba re setseng re sa ntse re tshela re tla tsholelediwa kwa loaping ka maru mmogo le bone go ya go kgatlhantsha Morena. Mme jalo re tla nna le Morena ka gale. (1 Bathesalonika 4:16-17).
Ke lo bolelela bosaitsweng ke jo: Ga re nke re swa rotlhe, mme re tla fetolwa rotlhe ka nakonyana, ka ponyo ya leitlho, ka lonaka lwa bofelo; gonne lo tla kgelebetega,

mme baswi ba tla tsosiwa e le ba ba sa feleng, mme rona re tla fetolwa. Gonne tse di felang tse, di tshwanetse go apara bosafeleng; le tse di swang tse, di tshwanetse go apara bosasweng. E tla re tse di felang tse, di sena go apara bosafeleng, le tse di swang tse, di sena go apara bosasweng, ke gona go tla dirafalang lefoko le le kwadilweng le le reng: 'Loso lo meditswe ke phenyo.' (1 Bakorinthe 15:51-54).
Jesu a ba araba a re: “Itiseng gore go se nne ope yo o lo timetsang! Gonne ba bantsi ba tla tla ka leina la me, mongwe le mongwe a ipitsa a re: 'Ke nna Keresete.' Mme ba tla timetsa ba le bantsi. Lo tla utlwela dintwa le medumo ya dintwa. Itiseng, mme lo se ka lwa tshoga; gonne go tshwanetse go dirafala; mme e tla bo e ise e nne bokhutlo. Gonne setšhaba se tla tsogela setšhaba, le puso e tsogela puso; go bile go tla nna leuba le dithoromo tsa lefatshe kwa le kwa. Mme tsotlhe tse ke tshimologo ya mara-

lalo. Metlheng eo ba tla lo tsenya mo pitlaganong, ba lo bolaya; mme lo tla nna ba ba tlhoilweng ke ditšhaba tsotlhe ka ntlha ya leina la me. Metlheng eo ba bantsi ba tla kgotšwa, ba tshwaris-anya, ba tlhoana. Baporofeti ba bantsi ba kako ba tla tsoga, ba timetsa ba bantsi. Mme lorato lwa ba bantsi lo tla tsidifala ka ntlha ya go ntsifala ga tshiamololo. Mme yo o itshokelang go ya bokhutlong ke ene yo o tla pholosiwang. Mme Efangele e ya puso e tla rerwa mo lefatsheng lotlhe go nna tshupo mo merafeng yotlhe; ke gona bokhutlo bo tla tlang (Matheo 24:4-14).
A dipelo tsa lona di se huduege; dumelang mo Modimong, le nna, dumelang mo go nna! Mo ntlong ya ga Rre go na le maago a le mantsi. Go seng jalo, nka bo ke lo boleletse; gonne ke ya go lo baakanyetsa manno. Mme e tla re ke sena go ya le go lo baakanyetsa manno, ke boe, ke lo itseele gore kwa ke leng teng, le lona lo nne teng. Mme kwa ke yang teng, lo a go itse, le tsela lo a e itse (Johane 14:2).

DIKAKANYO

E rile Jesu a tlhatlhogela kwa legodimong o ne a bolelela barongwa ba gagwe gore o a tsamaya mme o ya go ba baakanyetsa manno. Mme a re gape: “Mme e tla re ke sena go ya le go lo baakanyetsa manno, ke boe, ke lo itseele gore

kwa ke leng teng, le lona lo nne teng.” Nako e ya go tla gape ga Jesu le go re tseela kwa a leng teng ga e itsiwe ke ope. Le mo Beibeleng go a rutiwa gore le baengele ba Modimo ga ba itse nako eo. Mo mo Beibeleng go buiwa thata ka ditshupo tsa nako ya bokhutlo. Dilo tse ke tse Jesu a buang ka tsone ke ditshupo tsa setlha sa go tla gape le setlha sa gore a tle go tsaya bana ba gago. Fa re lebelela ditshupo tsa nako tse di leng teng jaanong jaana ke simolola go itumelela tsone thata. Fa o amogetse Jesu go nna Mopholosi wa gago mme o dumela mo Lefokong le mo Efangeding ya Jesu Keresete o siame. Ditshupo tse ke ka ratang go go di bontsha ke tse di mo ditemaneng tse di fa godimo. Dithoromo tsa lefatshe di a oketsega. Di-vulcano di kgwa musu mme di dira dipinagare tsa musu.

Mo Aforikaborwa batho ba tshuba ditaere mme di dira musu. Kwa Russia le kwa Ukraine go na le dintwa le medumo le dikakanyo tsa dintwa. China e akanya dintwa. Mafatshe a a sa rateng lseraele ba loga maano a go tlhasela lseraele. Lerato la batho le tsidifetse. Ubuntu e sule. Batho ga ba kgathalane. Ke peto ya basadibagolo. Ke peto ya bana ba bannye. Yo a nang le ditsebe a a utlwe. Yo a nang le matlho a a bone. A wena o siame gore fa Jesu a tla gone jaanong o se sale? Batho ba rata go re: Wa lala wa sala! Bakeresete tsogang! KE NAKO!

THAPELO

Morena bulang matlho a me. Morena bulang matlho a batho go lemoga gore go tla ga gago go gauifi! AMEN.
- Johan Zerwick, Sêlê ke 083 458 3837.

IT IS WHAT YOU SCATTER...

I was at the corner grocery store buying some early potatoes... I noticed a small boy, delicate of bone and feature, ragged but clean, hungrily appraising a basket of freshly-picked green peas.

I paid for my potatoes but was also drawn to the display of fresh green peas. I am a pushover for creamed peas and new potatoes.

Pondering the peas, I couldn't help overhearing the conversation between Mr Miller (the store owner) and the ragged boy next to me.

'Hello Barry, how are you today?'

'H'lo, Mr Miller. Fine, thank ya. Jus' admirin' them peas. They sure look good.'

'They are good, Barry. How's your Ma?' 'Fine. Gittin' stronger alla' time.'

'Good. Anything I can help you with?' 'No, Sir. Jus' admirin' them peas.'

'Would you like to take some home?' asked Mr Miller. 'No, Sir. Got nuthin' to pay for 'em with.'

'Well, what have you to trade me for some of those peas?' 'All I got's my prize marble here.'

'Is that right? Let me see it', said

Miller. 'Here 'tis. She's a dandy.'

'I can see that. Hmm, mmm, only thing is this one is blue and I sort of go for red. Do you have a red one like this at home?' the store owner asked. 'Not zackley but almost.'

'Tell you what. Take this sack of peas home with you and next trip this way let me look at that red marble', Mr Miller told the boy. 'Sure will. Thanks Mr Miller.'

Mrs Miller, who had been standing nearby, came over to help me. With a smile she said, 'There are two other boys like him in our community, all three are in very poor circumstances. Jim just loves to bargain with them for peas, apples, tomatoes, or whatever.'

When they come back with their red marbles, and they always do, he decides he doesn't like red after all and he sends them home with a bag of produce for a green marble or an orange one, when they come on their next trip to the store.'

I left the store smiling to myself, impressed with this man.

A short time later I moved to Colorado, but I never forgot the story of this man, the boys, and their bartering for marbles.

Several years went by, each more rapid than the previous one. Just recently I had occasion to visit some old friends in that Idaho community and while I was there I learned that Mr Miller had died. They were having his visitation that evening and knowing my friends wanted to go, I agreed to accompany them. Upon arrival at the mortuary we fell into line to meet the relatives of the deceased and to offer whatever words of comfort we could.

Ahead of us in line were three young men. One was in an army uniform and the other two had nice haircuts and wore dark suits and white shirts... all very professional-looking. They approached Mrs Miller, standing composed and smiling by her husband's casket.

Each of the young men hugged her, kissed her on the cheek, spoke briefly with her and moved on to the casket. Her misty light blue eyes followed them as, one by one, each young man stopped briefly and placed his own warm hand over the cold pale hand in the casket. Each left the mortuary awkwardly, wiping his eyes.

Our turn came to meet Mrs Miller. I told her who I was and reminded her of the story of those many years ago and what she had told me about her husband's bartering



for marbles. With her eyes glistening, she took my hand and led me to the casket.

'Those three young men who just left were the boys I told you about. They just told me how they appreciated the things Jim 'traded' them. Now, at last, when Jim could not change his mind about colour or size... they came to pay their debt.'

'We've never had a great deal of the wealth of this world,' she confided, 'but right now, Jim would consider himself the richest man in Idaho.' With loving gentleness she lifted the lifeless fingers of her deceased husband. Resting underneath were three exquisitely shiny red marbles!

We will not be remembered by our words, but by our kind deeds. IT'S NOT WHAT YOU GATHER, BUT WHAT YOU SCATTER THAT TELLS WHAT KIND OF LIFE YOU HAVE LIVED!

THE GOSPEL DEFINED

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16 (NKJV).

If God had a dictionary, how would He define "gospel"? In part, we have an answer. For although the Bible isn't written as a dictionary, it defines God's heart and mind on many things, including the gospel. And there's no clearer definition of the gospel than John 3:16! Let's examine it bit by bit.

"For God..." The gospel begins with God. He is the Initiator of it. Apart from God and His active, deliberate involvement, there would be no gospel whatsoever. It has the greatest authority as its source with the One who sits on heaven's throne and presides over all that exists.

"...so loved..." Not only is the gospel based upon the greatest

authority, but it is activated by the greatest motivation imaginable. **Is there anything more powerful than the love of God?** Even in our fallen condition, we do things out of love that we would not do otherwise. How much more powerful, then, is the pure and holy love of God?

"...the world..." What's the object of this love? Us! The very world that rebelled and rejected God and fell to sin and inherited eternal judgment is the very world that He has set His love upon. Notice, it's not a particular region or race of the world, but the whole world. **God loves everyone!**

"... that He gave His only begotten Son..." How did God's love express itself and become real? Through the act of giving: the Father giving His own Son with whom He'd been in perfect relationship from eternity past. This perfect union would now be sacrificed as Jesus would physically step into our world to be our



Sin-bearer on the cross.

"... that whoever believes in Him..." As the gospel flowed from God to us through His Son, a response is required: **belief**. We do not earn or work our way into God's gospel. We can only enter it by believing in Jesus. It is faith in what He's done, not favour based on what we do.

"... should not perish but have

everlasting life." Once believed, the gospel brings the dual blessing of being forgiven the wages of sin, which is to perish or die, and being given the greatest gift there is - **everlasting life in God's Presence!**

This is the gospel defined. May it forever define our lives! Share this **good news** with someone today!
-Pastor Dan Hickling

COMPLETE SURRENDER

Sometimes we sing a song “I surrender all to Jesus,” but do we really surrender **everything** to Christ? **What one thing would be the most difficult thing for you to give up for the rest of your life?** Do you think you can surrender *that* to Almighty God?

If a soldier at war is ambushed by the enemy who points his gun at him and asks him to surrender, the soldier will surrender as a captive and be at the mercy of his captor. We need to be in such a position when we surrender to Jesus... to be captured by His mercy and love, to be totally His!

Complete surrender to Christ means to submit to Him in **every** area of our lives, to let go of our own control and to trust God. It is an important process of killing our flesh. Gal. 2:20(a) states, *“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me...”* Absolute surrender to Christ allows Him to abide fully in us through the presence of the Holy Spirit to lead and control us.

We often struggle to surrender what we think is rightfully ours. We see it so clearly in the life of the rich young ruler who was mostly a good, religious person, and who tried his best to please God. But Jesus said there was only one thing he lacked, and that

one thing was the very object which he was unable to surrender. His problem was his wealth. He clung to this idol and depended on it. He just could not surrender and yield to Christ as his Lord and give his all to Him.

Do you and I also have objects, schemes, desires, or persons we struggle to surrender to Jesus? Jesus said in Luke 4:33, *“Any one of you who does not renounce ALL that he has cannot be my disciple.”* He also stated in Matt. 10:37, *“Whoever loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.”*

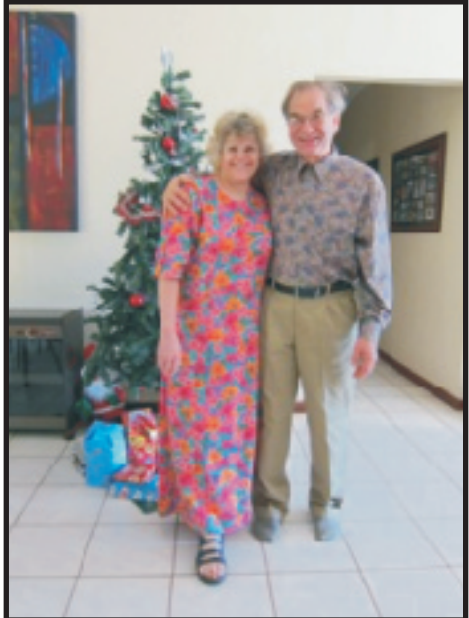
When we surrender to Christ, we are not surrendering our God-given identity and uniqueness. We surrender, in hope that the One to Whom we surrender has a better life for us. And that hope doesn't disappoint us.

Prayer: Precious heavenly Father, please give me the courage to allow You to search my heart and to surrender entirely to You even those things I am not willing to give up. Help me to realize that You know best what is best for me and that in surrendering everything to You, I gain so much more than I can ever understand. You give Life, Light, Joy, and Peace in

abundance when You control every area of my life. I desire to love and cherish You above all else. Amen.
- Gillian Myrtle Grimmi-Turunen (Finland)

---oooOOooo---

More about Myrtle:
I was born in a semi-desert region in South Africa, in Salt Lake, Northern Cape, close to Douglas and Kimberley, on 25 August 1948. After I matriculated, I attended Grahamstown Teacher's Training College (PTC and IST). I taught in quite a few South African Government schools and married a German engineer in Kimberley, where our eldest son was born. Later we moved to Natal where our daughter was born and where we got involved in missionary work. Unfortunately, my husband died, but as a widow, I continued working for 14 years as a missionary teacher, while also assisting to establish two big mission schools in KwaZulu-Natal and lecturing teachers in training at a Christian Teacher's Training College. Afterwards, I moved to George where I helped our church establish care centres for street kids, and where we fed, clothed, and evangelized them. Once my kids were independent, I longed to return to missionary work, so I joined NICS [Network of



International Christian Schools] whose head office is in Southaven, Mississippi. I have travelled worldwide as a missionary teacher. I later met and married my Finnish husband who is also passionate about Jesus and spreading the Gospel. Together we reach out to immigrants and preach and teach the Word in various churches in Finland.

If you dream of moving mountains tomorrow, you must start by lifting small stones today. [Mauritania proverb]

The richest person is the one who fills his coffers with love. [North-African proverb]

"Excuse me, are you Jesus?"

As you read this, think about what you would have done! A few years ago a group of salesmen went to a Regional Sales Convention in Chicago. They had assured their wives that they would be home in plenty of time for the Friday night's dinner.

In their rush to board the plane - with tickets and briefcases in their hands - one of these salesmen inadvertently kicked over a table which held a display of apples.

Apples flew everywhere! Without stopping or looking back, they all managed to reach the plane in time for their nearly-missed boarding.

ALL BUT ONE! He paused, took a deep breath, got in touch with his feelings, and experienced a twinge of compassion for the girl whose apple-stand had been overturned. He told his buddies to go on without him and waved goodbye. He told one of them that he would call his wife and explain

to her his taking a later flight. Then he returned to the terminal where the apples were scattered all over the floor. He was glad he did!

The 16 year old girl was totally blind! She was softly crying, tears running down her cheeks in frustration, and at the same time helplessly groping for her spilled produce as the crowd swirled about her, no one stopping and no one to care for her plight.

The salesman knelt on the floor with her, gathered up the apples, put them back on the table and helped organize her display. As he did this, he noticed that many of them had become battered and bruised. These he set aside in another basket.

When he had finished, he pulled out his wallet and said to the girl, "Here, please take this \$40 for the damage we did. Are you okay?" She nodded through her tears. He continued, "I hope we didn't spoil

your day too much."

As the salesman started to walk away, the bewildered blind girl called out to him, "Mister...." He paused and turned to look back into those blind eyes. She continued, **"Are you Jesus?"**

He stopped in mid-stride, and wondered. Then slowly he made his way to catch the later flight with that question burning and bouncing in his soul: "Are you Jesus?"

Do people mistake you for Jesus? That's our destiny, is it not? To be so much like Jesus that people cannot tell the difference as we live and interact with a world that is blind to His love, life and grace.

If we claim to know Him, we should live, walk and act as He would. **Knowing Him is more than simply quoting Scripture and going to church. It's actually living the Word as life unfolds day to day.**



YOU ARE THE APPLE OF HIS EYE, EVEN THOUGH WE TOO HAVE BEEN BRUISED BY A FALL. HE STOPPED WHAT HE WAS DOING AND PICKED YOU AND ME UP ON A HILL CALLED CALVARY AND PAID IN FULL FOR OUR DAMAGED FRUIT!

"Some Kind of Lightning Shooting from the Sky": Divine Intervention from the Ukrainian Battlefield

Many Ukrainians are reporting "supernatural intervention" happening on the Battlefield

Are Ukrainians receiving some heavenly help in the fight against their Russian invaders? Stories of Divine intervention are being told, including a pillar of fire at night and confused Russian troops.

In this week's episode of *CBN News: The Global Lane*, *CBN* Ukraine Director Kostyantine Lytvynenko explains that although his fellow countrymen are showing incredible strength and resiliency in the war with Russia, they're also experiencing some Divine intervention.

Lytvynenko said one man shared with him a story of his son who is serving in the Ukrainian army. He said that the man told him on one dark night, the soldiers were holding their positions and discovered that there were a lot of Russian Federation tanks and other mobile units coming directly at them.

It appeared that the soldiers would have trouble defending themselves. The son picked up his phone and called his father. "He said, 'Dad, you have to pray right now. We're in a situation,'" Lytvynenko said. So the father called other members of their church and asked them to start praying.

Later, the son called his father back. "He said, 'There's some miracle that happened. It looked like an attack on the Russians from a spaceship! There was some kind of lightning shooting from the sky,'" Lytvynenko told *CBN News*. "And sparks were spreading everywhere."

In the morning, the Ukrainian troops discovered that the Russian tanks and other mobile units had been destroyed!

"Those soldiers may have thought that it was done by some kind of a weapon we didn't know about," Lytvynenko said. "But I believe that it was God's intervention."

Lytvynenko also related another incident he had heard from a friend. He said that the friend told him, "We were praying that the Russians would start resisting each other; that the enemy would resist the enemy." Lytvynenko explained that there were several incidents like this in the Bible.

"Another part of the Russian army occupied one little town. They removed flags from the town's government buildings and attached those flags to their tanks," he said. "And they started driving. Eventually, in the evening they met the first group of the other Russian tanks." Lytvynenko said that both groups of tanks were confused and thought they were looking at the enemy. "They started shooting at each other," he said.

CBN News asked Lytvynenko how people should pray for his family, other *CBN* workers there, and the people of Ukraine. "Please pray that we could hear God in this time," he said. "The most deficit thing in our country now is the peace in our hearts. Pray that our God, Who is the Prince of Peace would grant the peace in our hearts. And in this condition of peace, we could find ways to build the kingdom in times of war. That we could be the light, and the warmth and the love, and the Hand of God to other people in need."

"Pray that we would be active members of the body of Christ at this time," Lytvynenko added. "That we would not just sit and be afraid and fear for our lives. That we would be productive in building the kingdom."

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I Know...

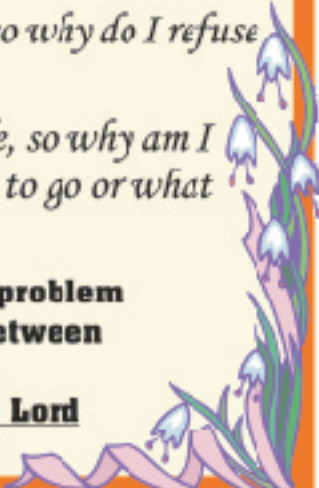
Let us all face every day of this year knowing Who God is and what He can do for all of us.

- I know He is the Beginning and the End, so why do I worry so much about tomorrow?
- I know that He has forgiven me, so why can't I forgive myself and others?
- I know that He is the Healer, so why do I speak of illness so often?
- I know He can do all things, so why do I say I am not able to do anything?
- I know He will protect me, so why do I fear?
- I know He will supply all my needs, so why don't I wait on Him and trust Him to do so?
- I know He is my strength and salvation, so why do I feel so weak?
- I know He is the Way, so why do I tend to walk the wrong way?
- I know He is the Light, so why do I often choose to walk in darkness?
- I know that GOD is a merciful God Who gives His grace freely, so why am I so scared to ask?
- I know that the truth shall make me free, so why do I continue to lie?
- I know that He gives us revelation, knowledge and understanding, so why do I lean on my own understanding?
- I know that I should walk in the Spirit, so why do I choose to walk in the flesh?
- I know that all praise is due to Him, so why do I refuse to praise Him?
- I know that He has a plan for my life, so why am I rushing to and fro not knowing where to go or what to do?

The shortest distance between a problem and a solution is the distance between your knees and the floor.

The one who kneels before the Lord can stand up to anything!

There is peril all around us in these tumultuous days, but we as the people of God can draw inspiration from the Apostle Paul who was well acquainted with the perils of this life. In 2 Corinthians 11:26-27, he wrote of the many troubles he endured in his lifetime as he endeavoured to share the Gospel with the world. These verses read, "In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness." Despite these ordeals, Paul understood that nothing could separate him from the love of God. It is for this reason he wrote in Rom. 8:35-39, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.' Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."



He knows my name

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you are Mine.
Isaiah 43:1

He sees my every move

Where can I go from Your Spirit?
Where can I flee from Your presence?
Psalm 139:7

He thinks about me

How amazing are your thoughts concerning me.
How vast is the sum of them!
Psalm 139:17

He is with me

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and
courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be
discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with
you wherever you go.
Joshua 1:9

He will fight for me

The Lord will fight for you;
you need only to be still.
Exodus 14:1-4

LORD,
Let my lips
shape beautiful words...
And help me to be a poet
who tries to write and sing praises
about Your magnitude.

Help me to keep on
spreading the good news
of Your marvellous love.
Let me explode in praise
of how You spread a banquet
for every needy soul!

Make me a God-seeker
who fills myself
with Your wonderful Word...

No one who sits at Your feet
will ever be disappointed,
but will drink deeply
of God's pure kindness!
© Huegene Venter

Bid Gedurig

Ek het 'n luukse in my lewe.
En as ek iets vir elke mens
op aarde kon wens, dan
sou dit hierdie luukse wees. Ek
het 'n vriendin wat bid. Ja, ons
almal het vriendinne wat bid,
maar ek het 'n vriendin wat bid as
almal anders se bid opgeraak het.

Almal van ons het swakpunte wat
ook goeie punte kan wees. Ek het.
En as ek nie meer weet nie, dan
doen ek meer. Ek sal doen tot ek
omval, want dit is my oplossing
vir alles, doen net nog meer. My
Ouma het my geleer: "bid alleen
help nie, jy moet iets doen ook."
So ek doen en ek bid.

Die waarheid is: soms kan jy niks
doen nie. **Bid is nie die laaste
uitweg nie. Bid is waar mens moet**

begin, vóór jy begin doen.

Gelukkig verstaan God ons
aanmekeer-gesit-wees. Hy het
ons immers so aanmekeer
geweef in die moederskoot. En
daarom voorsien Hy in al ons
behoefte. So toe gee God vir my
'n vriendin wat ek kan SMS en vra,
"Asb. bid." En sy bid, op die
naam, spesifiek, eerlik en getrou.
Wat 'n gawe en wat 'n geskenk?!

Eksel het nie ophou bid nie;
intendeel. Ek bid nou meer as
ooit! Dit is die enigste plek in my
lewe waar ek lysies maak. Ek
skryf neer vir wie of wat ek bid
met die probleem en die datum of
die dankbaarheid. Maar 'n vriendin
wat bid, en namens jou bid en
vir jou bid, gee 'n mens vlerke!

Eintlik is dit nie 'n luukse nie, dit is
'n noodsaaklikheid. Want soms
wurg die lewe ons bid se asem uit.
Die hartseer kom staan die bid
toe. Vrees stol die woorde in jou
keel. Gelukkig-wees laat jou van
bid vergeet. Maar 'n vriend wat bid
laat jǒu ook aanhou bid.

Paulus skryf keer op keer vir die
gemeentes, "*Ek hou nie op om vir
julle te bid nie.*" Saambid maak nie
beloftes van beter uitkomst nie.
Saambid maak ons sterker, gee
ons moed om aan te hou.

Gebed is 'n geskenk van God aan
ons. Ek en jy het gebed nodig.
Gebed kom skaaf aan my hart en
my menswees, die skerp hoeke
van my bestaan, die blindekolle in
my dag-tot-dag lewe.

Dalk is die grootste waarheid dat
ons nooit moet ophou om vir
mekaar te bid nie. Ons moet weet
dat die gebed van 'n gelowige 'n
kragtige uitwerking het. Gebed is
nie net 'n hulplyn nie, maar dié
lewenslyn. As jy sê jy bid, bid dan.
En as jy dit nodig het, vra dat
ander vir jou sal bid. Maak 'n
vaste afspraak met God, en kom
dit stiptelik na. **Want jy kan net
aanhou doen en meer doen, as jy
aanhou bid en meer bid.**
"*Bid gedurig*" (1 Thess. 5:17).

GEBED: Dankie, Hemelse Vader
vir gebed en gebedsvriende.
Dankie dat ons vir mekaar kan
bid. Dankie Here dat U altyd
beskikbaar is om na ons gebede
te luister. Amen.
- Hettie Wessels



Hendrik van Graan
Susana van Graan
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No One Beyond Redemption

SIN runs rampant in society - daily headlines and overflowing prisons bear dramatic witness to this fact. With child abuse, pornography, serial killings, terrorism, anarchy, and ruthless dictatorships, the world seems to be filled to overflowing with violence, hatred and corruption.

Reading, hearing, and perhaps even experiencing these tragedies, we begin to understand the necessity of God's judgment. We may even find ourselves wishing for vengeance by any means upon the violent perpetrators.

Surely they are beyond redemption! But suppose that in the midst of such thoughts, God tells you to take the Gospel to the worst of these offenders - how would you respond?

Jonah was given such a task. Assyria - a great, but evil empire - was Israel's most dreaded enemy. The Assyrians flaunted their power before God and the world through numerous acts of heartless cruelty. So when Jonah

heard God tell him to go to Assyria and call the people to repentance, he ran in the opposite direction!

The book of Jonah tells the story of this prophet's flight and how God stopped him and turned him around. But it is much more than a story of a man and a great fish - **Jonah's story is a profound illustration of God's mercy and grace.**

No one deserved God's favour less than the people of Nineveh, Assyria's capital. Jonah knew this. But he knew that God would forgive and bless them if they turned from their sin and worshipped Him. He also knew the power of God's message, that even through his weak preaching, they would respond and be spared God's judgment. But Jonah hated the Assyrians, and he wanted vengeance, not mercy, and so he ran.

Eventually, Jonah obeyed and preached in the streets of Nineveh and the people repented and were delivered from judg-

ment. Then Jonah sulked and complained to God, *"I knew you were a gracious God, merciful, slow to get angry, and full of kindness; I knew how easily You could cancel Your plans for destroying these people"* (Jonah 4:2).

In the end, God confronted Jonah about his self-centered values and lack of compassion, saying, *"Why shouldn't I feel sorry for a great city like Nineveh with its 120 000 people in utter spiritual darkness?"* (Jonah 4:11).

As you read Jonah, see the full picture of God's love and compassion, and realize that no one is beyond redemption. The Gospel is for all who will repent and believe. Begin to pray for those who seem to be farthest from God's Kingdom, and look for ways to tell them about God. Learn from this story of the reluctant prophet and **determine to obey God, doing whatever, and going wherever He leads!**

Rather than running from God, **trust** Him with your past, present,

and future. Saying "no" to God quickly leads to disaster. **Saying "yes" brings new understanding of God and His purpose in the world.**

God wants His people to proclaim His love in words and actions to the whole world. He wants us to be His missionaries wherever we are, wherever He sends us. He wants the sincere devotion of each person. It is not enough to share the privileges of Christianity; we must also ask God to forgive us and to remove our sin. Refusing to repent is the same as loving our sin.

God loves each one of us, even when we fail Him. But He also loves other people, including those not of our group, background, race or denomination. When we accept His love, we must also learn to accept all those whom He loves. **We will find it much easier to love others when we truly love God!**

[Life Application Bible, 1988, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, USA].

With my whole heart...

With my whole heart, with my whole life, and with my innermost being, I bow in wonder and love before you, the holy God!

Yahweh, you are my soul's celebration. How could I ever forget the miracles of kindness you've done for me? You kissed my heart with forgiveness, in spite of all I've done. You've healed me inside and out from every disease. You've rescued me from hell and saved my life. You've crowned me with love and mercy.

You satisfy my every desire with good things. You've supercharged my life so that I soar again like a flying eagle in the sky! You're a God Who makes things right, giving justice to the defenseless. You unveiled to Moses your plans and showed Israel's sons what you could do.

Lord, you're so kind and tenderhearted and so patient

with people who fail you! Your love is like a flooding river overflowing its banks with kindness. You may discipline us for our many sins, but never as much as we really deserve. Nor do you get even with us for what we've done. Higher than the highest heavens - that's how high your tender mercy extends! Greater than the grandeur of heaven above is the greatness of your loyal love, towering over all who fear you and bow down before you! Farther than from a sunrise to a sunset - that's how far you've removed our guilt from us.

The same way a loving father feels toward his children - that's but a sample of Your tender feelings toward us, Your beloved children, who live in awe of you. You know all about us, inside and out. You are mindful that we're made from dust. Our days are so few, and our momentary beauty so swiftly fades away! Then all of a sudden we're gone, like grass clippings blown away in a gust of wind, taken away to our



appointment with death, leaving nothing to show that we were here.

But Lord, Your endless love stretches from one eternity to the other, unbroken and unrelenting toward those who fear You and those who bow facedown in awe before You. Your faithfulness to keep every gracious promise You've made passes from parents, to children, to grandchildren, and beyond.

You are faithful to all those who follow Your ways and keep

Your Word. Yahweh has established His throne in heaven; His kingdom rules the entire universe. So bless the Lord, all His messengers of power, for you are His mighty heroes who listen intently to the voice of His Word to do it. Bless and praise the Lord, you mighty warriors, ministers who serve Him well and fulfil His desires. I will bless and praise the Lord with my whole heart! Let all His works throughout the earth, wherever His dominion stretches - let everything bless the Lord! (Psalm 103:1-8, 10-22 TPT).

Oomblikke van Lewensuiwering

As 'n mens in die engtes van die lewe beland, is jy die mees ontvanklike leerling. Jy ken dit uit die praktyk van die lewe.

Toe jy vreesbevange was vir die toets wat jy op skool moes skryf, het jy die werk wat jy moes leer, die gouste onder die knie gekry.

Toe jy as vrou bang was vir kritiek wat jou baksel kon ontlok, het jy die resep wat jy getoets het, die gouste laat slaag.

Toe jy as man 'n nuweling was in jou betrekking met die gevaar dat jy jou werk kan verloor, het jy jou opgelegde taak die gouste bemeester.

Ons ken almal daardie hol kol op die maag, die sweet wat in ons hande uitslaan, daardie bewerige lamheid in die bene, daardie speekselloosheid van die tong.

Ons was almal al bang, vreesbevange, tot die dood toe benoud. En ek weet dat dit in daardie oomblikke was dat my ontvanklikheid die beste en my brein in die hoogste rat was.

Dit is ook 'n predikant se ondervinding. Die man wat na geen raad wou luister nie, staan met ontvanklike gemoed voor jou as sy vrou hom wil verlaat. Sy wat in eiewysheid haar eie kop gevolg het, aanvaar elke stukkie advies as haar kinders in lewensverwilderings begin verdwaal.

Die mens wat in onafhanklikheid geleef het, drink trooswoorde op sy siekbed in soos sand water absorbeer.

Daarom is die engtes van die lewe dikwels die bergpaadjies wat ons lei na die kruin vanwaar ons 'n uitsig oor die oop valleie en breë velde kan kry...

Beproewing is dikwels die leerskool waar ons onderrig ontvang om die suksesvolle en voorspoedige dae met dankbaarheid te ontvang. **Hartseer en smart is dikwels die bril wat ons in staat stel om weer die gawes van vreugde en blydschap te sien.**

Dit is wat die Psalmidigter by ons wil tuisbring wanneer hy in Ps. 119:71 sê: *"Dit is goed vir my dat ek verdruk was, sodat ek U inset-*

tinge sou leer."

In sy verdrukking het hy geleer, vinniger en beter as wat hy onder normale omstandighede sou leer. In sy beproewing het hy genade ondervind, suiwerder en mooier as wat hy dit in enige ander situasie sou ondervind.

Deur sy trane heen het hy God raakgesien, duideliker en nader as wat hy Hom ooit gesien het toe hy van vreugde gelag het. Hoe moeilik dit ook al vir ons as gelowiges is om lewensbeproevinge so te ervaar, is dit inderdaad wat die Woord van God vir ons wil leer.

Beproewing **is** vir ons wat glo, oomblikke van lewensuiwering.

Beproewing **is** vir ons wat glo, geleentheid tot aktiewe belewenis van God se genade.

Beproewing **is** vir ons wat glo, die kans wat ons kry om ons **verleentheid** vir God aan te bied as 'n **geleentheid** tot groei.

Beproewing skep vir my die moontlikheid om myself te ver-

loën, afstand te doen van my kaart en transport, boedel oor te gee, afskeid te neem van my eie ek, die wit vlag op te steek en deur God geannekseer, beset en verower te word.

Eers ná die blindheid wat Paulus op die pad na Damaskus ervaar het, was hy in staat om te vra: *"Here, wat wil U hê moet ek doen?"*

Eers nadat Petrus in die nag bitterlik geweene het oor sy verloëning van Christus, was hy in staat om by die see van Tibérias te sê: *"Here, U weet dat ek U liefhet."*

Eers nadat ons deur beproewing kaal gestroop is van alle valse gerustheid, selfversekerdheid, hoogheidswaan en opstandigheid, sal ons werklik in staat wees om die lote van die Wynstok, die bruid van die Bruidegom, die diensknegte van die Koning, die boustene van die Fondament en die Christenvolgelinge van Christus te wees!
[Reëls van die Lewenspel, GJ Hugo, Daan Retief Uitgewers, 1981].

Later...

'n Roerende boodskap om oor na te dink...

LATER... Wanneer is dit ?

Skaars het die dag begin, dan is dit al sesuur saans. Skaars breek Maandag aan, dan is dit weer Vrydag en die maand is verby... en die jaar is verby... en so is 30, 40, 50, 60 jare van ons lewens eensklaps verby! Skielik besef ons hoeveel mense ons al verloor het. Ouers, familie, vriende en kennisse. En hulle kom nooit weer terug nie!

Laat ons die tyd geniet wat ons nog oorhet. Laat ons nie ophou om tyd só te gebruik dat dit ons gelukkig maak nie. Laat ons kleur voeg by ons gryse dae! Laat ons glimlag oor dinge wat ons harte streel.

Ons moet die tyd wat ons oorhet, met rustigheid en vertroue geniet; die woord "later" uitskakel.

Ek doen dit later... Ek sê dit later... Ek sal later daaroor

dink... Ons los alles altyd vir LATER! Later is dalk te laat! Want, wat ons nie verstaan nie is - later is die koffie koud en later het prioriteite verander. Later het die sjarme verdwyn en later is die gesondheid verby. Later is die kinders groot en later is ons ouers oud. Later word gesprekke vergeet en later verander dag na nag. Later eindig die lewe... EN DAN IS DIT TE LAAT!

So asseblief, moet niks uitstel tot later nie, want intussen kan ons die beste oomblikke verloor - die beste ondervindinge, die beste familie, die beste vriende!

Vandag is die dag, die oomblik is nou! Ons is nie meer jonk genoeg om dinge wat vandag gedoen kan word, tot môre te verskuif nie. Kom ons wees vandag net dankbaar vir diegene wat deel is van ons lewens en deel dit met diegene om ons.

Of gaan ons dit ook los.... vir LATER?

Keep Persevering

"Let us run the race that is before us and never give up" (Hebrews 12:1 NCV).

It's in the hard times that our character develops and our faith grows. James wrote, *"God will bless you, if you don't give up when your faith is being tested. He will reward you with a glorious life"* (James 1:12 CEV).

How often do we think about giving up rather than persevering? Endurance develops something in us that nothing else can. We're told that *"suffering helps us to endure. And endurance builds character, which gives us a hope"* (Romans 5:3-4 CEV).

We're encouraged to *"run the race that is before us and never give up... Let us look only to Jesus, the one who began our faith and who makes it perfect... So do not get tired and stop trying"*

(Hebrews 12:1-3 NCV).

Nobody knew more about endurance than Jesus. Not only did He endure torture and the crucifixion, He also endured the mocking of others, and betrayal and abandonment from His friends. When we feel like giving up, let's look to Jesus for courage.

God has a great, joyful future for us, with promises waiting to be fulfilled for our time on Earth. Yes, we have eternal life waiting for us, but for **today** let's keep our eyes on Jesus. If we do that and persevere in the tough times, we'll be amazed how He can lift us up and bring us through tough times.

So what now? Choose one harder task you have to do today and keep going with it until it's finished. As you persevere, ask God to help you do the same in all areas of your life, to His glory!

Die Lappiesmous

Voor dagbreek een Vrydag sien ek 'n jongman, aantreklik en sterk, deur die agterstrate van ons stad loop. Hy trek 'n karretjie waarop 'n spul lappe lê. Hulle lyk pragtig skoon, nuut en helderkleurig.

“Lappe! Lappe! Lappe! Nuwe lappe vir oues!” roep die jongman. “Ek neem jou stukkende lappe! Kom ruil dit om vir nuwes.”

‘Merkwaardig,’ sê ek vir myself. Dit lyk na so 'n gawe, sterk jongman. Sou hy dan nie 'n beter werk kon kry nie? Waarom nou met lappe smous?

My nuuskierigheid was so geprikkel dat ek hom gevolg het.

En ek was nie teleurgestel nie. By die eerste huis waar die lappiesmous verbygaan, sit 'n vrou op die stoep en huil. Haar sakdoek was sopnat en haar skouers het geruk van die snikke. Dit was duidelik: haar hart was stukkend!

Die lappiesmous het sy karretjie gestop en na die vrou gestap. “Mevrou, gee jou lap vir my,” het hy saggies gesê. “Ek sal vir jou 'n nuwe lap gee.”

Toe neem hy die sakdoek en plaas 'n nuwe lapsakdoek in haar handpalm.

Toe begin hy weer sy karretjie trek terwyl hy met sy ander hand 'n snaakse ding doen. Hy sit die vrou se nat sakdoek teen sy oë en begin self huil. Die vrou se trane het intussen opgedroog.

“Dis 'n wonder!” het ek uitgeroep, en die huilende lappiesmous verder gevolg.

“Lappe! Lappe! Nuwe lappe vir oues!” roep hy.

Kort daarna kom die lappiesmous op 'n jongmeisie af. 'n Erg bebloede verband was rondom 'n yslike wond aan haar kop gedraai. Haar oë was dof en leeg. Toe haal die lappiesmous 'n vrolike geel laphoed uit sy karretjie. “Kom, gee my jou lap en ek sal jou myne gee!” bied hy aan.

Die meisie het hom net aangestaar. Toe gaan hy nader en haal met 'n teer gebaar die bebloede verband van haar kop af en draai dit om sy eie kop. Skielik het sy begin glimlag...

Ek het na my asem gesnak, want saam met die verband het die wond gekom. Die bloed het nou oor sy gesig gestroom, en haar wond was genees.

“Lappe! Lappe! Ek ruil ou lappe vir nuwes!” roep die sterk, huilende, bloeiende lappiesmous.

Toe hy 'n man met net een arm raaksien, vra hy: “Het jy werk, Meneer?”

“Is jy laf?” antwoord die afarmman bitter. “Wie sal my kan gebruik?”

“Gee my jou baadjie, dan gee ek jou myne,” antwoord die lappiesmous met gesag.

Toe die ruiltransaksie voltooi is, kon ek my oë nie glo nie. Die man het nou twee volmaakte arms gehad en die lappiesmous neteen!

“Gaan werk nou!” was die lappiesmous se vriendelike bevel.

So het die lappiesmous aangestap: huilend, bloeiend, gebreklik, oud en siek. Met sy enigste arm het hy sy karretjie getrek.

My hart wou breek toe ek die droewige verandering in die mooi, sterk man se voorkoms



sien. Toe hy by die vullisdepot op die heuwel buite die stad kom, het hy daar inmekaargesak en gesterf!

Ek het my seker aan die slaap gehuil - en later agtergekom dat ek dwarsdeur die res van daardie Vrydag en die Saterdag daar gelê en slaap het.

Die Sondagoggend vroeg is ek wakker geskok deur 'n verblindende lig wat rondom my skyn. Toe my oë daaraan gewoond raak, was ek die getuie van die wonder van alle wonders: Voor my het die lappiesmous gestaan. Hy was weer jonk en mooi en lewend! En al die lappe wat hy langs die pad by stukkende mense gekry het, was silwerskoon.

Ek stap toe na Hom toe en vra: “Trek my asseblief ook nuut aan.” Toe verruil my Here my vodde vir pragtige nuwe klere, en sê: “Gaan vertel vir jou vriende: As julle mekaar liefhet, sal almal weet julle is My lappiesmouse vir die wêreld.”

- Oorgeneem

Jer. 20:11

★★★ **B&B** *Vit die Hand*

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v a n d i e H E E R

AGS BAILLIE PARK

KERK IN BEWEGING
Dienste @ 09:30 elke Sondag

PREDIKER: PAST. JOHAN NORTJE
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