LECTONARY 2025 6 29 Allan Gibson

 Miracles and working at it ourselves

2 Kings 2:1-14. Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20. Galatians 5:1,13-25. Luke 9:51-62.

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What value is there in an empty bowl?

Empty – no food or water – it is an expectation or a hope

 consider the reading -

2 KINGS 2:v19-23. Healing of the waters in Jericho – but not the soil –

maybe the clean water and hard work would heal the ground?

He cast the salt water into the ‘source’ of the water!

Application in our walk in Jesus:

 Elisha went to the ‘**source of the water**.’ Amazing what a revelation is in a small detail – the cleansing, healing, must start at the source of the affliction. Perhaps recognizing and forgiving in God the past and being honest about our ‘predisposing’ sin – the temptation that ‘tickles’ us - a warning light to be taken notice of and not do, go, think, but redirect in a different path. Listen to the ‘still, quit voice of God Presence in us. The alterative is ‘grieving the Holy Spirit of God.” (Ephesians 4:30)  “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” In this case the word grieve is used as a verb, an active doing, meaning: “to cause to feel grief or sorrow.” In other words, the Scripture is exhorting me not to cause the Holy Spirit to feel grief or sorrow as a result of my choices. I grieve the Holy Spirit by not allowing myself to be led by Him, but choosing my own way instead. I grieve the Holy Spirit by not obeying, not being led by Him.

What is the source of our living that overcomes, cleanses the bitterness in our lives?

 **“a new bowl”** – “behold I make all things new” (Revelations 21:5) – ‘I will take away your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh instead.” – (Ezekiel 36:25,26) “do not put new into old for both will tear and both lost” (Luke 5:36-39). A new bowl, a bowl of freedom and a renewed mind to be kept new each moment (“Renewing of the mind daily by the word of God. (Philippians 4:8.)

**“with salt in it”** – salt is cleansing, and is abrasive to scrub away the deep stains – it is also hygienic – all of these are part of the cleansing life force of Jesus that He passed into us at the cross. Jesus makes us clean and preserves us –

my experience is that the old guilt for harm caused to others, either by omission or actions and attitudes, comes back in regret and shame. If we look back – regard the past we will have opertunity to return!

“No one putting their hand to the plough and looking back is fit for the Kingdom of God.” (Luke 9:62) The rows ploughed become crooked – the diversion of attention taken away make the aim deviate from the straight line! The looking back may be in sorrow or desire to be back there.

This is a stunning wakeup call!

What do we do, how do we live, the past happened!

Let it go and concentrate on the present is the theory

but - pretending things did not happen is destructive is our lives and others – acknowledge each to God – God already knows – be honest with ourselves and be prepared for the Spirit of God, Gods Presence in us to gently (maybe bring us to tears) bring other aspects of the past to us as we find forgiveness and cleansing in Jesus’ life blood on the cross.

Making amends – we cannot change the past but can change the future that might have been. Notice that the water was purified but work had to be put into making the soil fertile!

Others have been hurt emotionally, spiritually by our attitudes -ask the Spirit to make opportunities to speak with them or be something good to them. I have been making opportunity – relying on God, and the ones that I cannot? It is in The Spirits place to bring it to happen -wait in quietness.

 God heals us – washes us, purifies us, in the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus – the absence or corruption of any one of the would negate our salvation. And the Father sent His Spirit to live in us.

* Birth – absence of the hereditory nature to want our own desires fulfilled – would have corrupted him. The first Adam had a clean start as did the second Adam – Jesus – one chooses his own path the other Gods. Remember what our Lord said which took it to the source of the bitterness -“the law says: do not kill but I say to you if you are angry with another without cause you are in danger of judgment.” (Matthew 21:37).
* **Jesus Life** – if he had once sinned (define ?) not honored God – the night before crucifixion Jesus prayer “Father if it be possible, let this cup pass from me BUT Your will not mine be done.” (Luke 22:42)
* Death – the cry from the cross – “It is finished” what was finished - “Jesus became sin for us that we might be the righteousness of God in Him” … “and Jesus yielded up his spirit.” ( Matthew 27:50)
* No one took Jesus life from Him he yielded it up himself. there are some who had been tortured to death and not revealed what the torturers wanted – others have suffered the agony that Jesus went through – but the inconceivable horror of Jesus – totally innocent – clean in every fiber of his being – having the torture of every sin, every horror perpetrated by every single human being – past and future- poured into him – the physical agony of death has been felt by humans, and as they die people may have sorrow for harm caused but Jesus, had taken into himself every hurt ever caused.  *We who come to Jesus, in faith and repentance are clean, we are in Jesus’ “the Lambs Book of Life.”*  (Revelations)
* There is space for us if we come.
* Resurrection – because he was sinless the devil could not hold him – our sins on him/in him gave the enemy the right to take him, but in his own purity he could not hold him. “if Jesus has not risen from the grave you are still in your sins and you are the most miserable of people!”  **(**1 Corinthians 15:14-20.)
* The water was corrupted – it was healed by God using –
* a faithful servant – a clean bowl and salt water
* The ground would take work and time and commitment

We are clean in trust in Jesus and growing in faith and in the image of Jesus will take effort, blisters, time and will be completed when we pass through death fully into Gods space .”Now we see through a glass darkly but THEN face to face” and “we will be like Him for we shall see Him as He is.”

Something to take home – we are Romans 8 people not Romans 7.