



“COMPASSION FOR SHARING”

By Mary Mayko

Acts 2:44-45 LB “And all the believers met together constantly and shared everything with each other, selling their possessions and dividing with those in need.”

Acts 4:36-37 LB “There was Joseph (the one the apostles nicknamed (“*Barney the Preacher!*”)) He was of the tribe of Levi, from the island of Cyprus. He was one of those who sold a field he owned and brought the money to the apostles for distribution to those in need.”

Many people with a compassion for sharing or giving keep a low profile. They simply want to do something that helps others in a significant way. They don’t need to “*toot their own horn*” or draw attention to themselves. When Barnabas sold some property and gave the proceeds to the apostles to assist other believers, he most likely never dreamed that for the next 2000 years, people would use his compassion as an example of a generous spirit! Do we examine our motives for giving to the Lord’s work?

Not only did Barnabas share his material blessings with others, he became known as an encourager and consoler. He was also courageous,

for when other disciples feared Saul/Paul, only Barnabas spoke out for him! Saul's reputation had followed him even after his conversion! Barnabus discerned that Saul had truly met the LORD as his life had changed! We see the Lord used Barnabas to give the early church an opportunity to hear and use Saul's gifts.

Acts.11: 22-26 Barnabas was sent to Antioch to evaluate the growth and encourage the believers. After evaluating the needs there, he sent for Saul to join him. We see a man so confident in the areas of ministry God had called him, he did not feel threatened by the gifted Saul! He recognized they needed the talents of both to support other believers for effective ministry in Antioch. When news of a special need in Jerusalem came to their attention, a collection was taken up and sent by Saul and Barnabas for the people. These were well respected and trustworthy men! What a gift he was to the early church!

Although they had a disagreement later over John Mark, it was not a permanent split! Paul spoke well of both men in his writings. The Bible often shows us the human side of people and even though we may not agree on some subjects, we don't have to damage their reputations! Barnabas had multiple gifts, compassion, encouragement, discernment among them! We see his influence in the writings of John Mark as well as Luke and Paul. He is still an excellent role model for both church leaders and lay people!

How about you? What kind of influence do you have on others? Do you share your God given abilities and money with compassion and without the need of public acclaim?

Gal. 6:4 LB "Let everyone be sure that he is doing his very best, for then he will have the personal satisfaction of work well done, and won't need to compare himself with someone else.

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A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER!

Mary Mayko 2004

Rom. 12:2 LB “Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but be a new and different person with a fresh newness in all you do and think. Then you will learn from your own experience how His ways will really satisfy you.”

Ephesians 4:23-24 LB “Now your attitudes and thoughts must all be constantly changing for the better. Yes, you must be a new and different person, holy and good. Clothe yourself with this new nature.”

Many say they want to go to heaven, but fail to make the changes needed to get there! We must be Born Again, just as Jesus told Nicodemus in **John 3:3 LB “Jesus replied, ‘With all earnestness I possess I tell you this: Unless you are Born Again, you can never get into the Kingdom of God.’** How *can* you be Born Again? John 3:15 tells us the answer! **“So if anyone believes in Me will have Eternal Life!”** What a change for the better!

We do go through constant changes in our lives, although at times it *seems* nothing is really happening! Our minds definitely need daily renewal and growth to live a full and peaceful life. Originally, we were made to live forever, but sin entered in and now our bodies grow old and eventually we will die. We may become injured, get a disease, or have troubles that dull our zest for life. Our thoughts often are reflected in our emotions and allow our feelings to control our way of life. What can we do when all those negatives come in like a flood against us?

Many people resist any kind of change with great determination, yet feel degraded or less effective as a result of their resistance! Some believe changes are a detriment rather than an asset! Have you considered the recycling process? Often it includes bleaching, crushing, soaking, pounding and or cutting to make something new out of an old product! God has a recycling plan for each of us with an end result in mind! He often *puts us through the mill* so to speak in order to change us into His likeness!

He knows our minds need to be renewed, our emotions can stand a good soothing, and our spirits must be restored each day. One day our bodies will die, but that is not the end of us, for God will recycle them on Resurrection Day! (1Cor 15:51-52) We will be changed in the twinkling of an eye! What an exciting promise! When Christ rose from the grave, He became the First Fruits of all the rest of us who will rise on that Glorious Day!

When we get disgusted with the way our bodies are hurting us, take time to praise the LORD for the new ones we will have in Glory! Changes in our lives are in harmony with God's plan for us and are to be accepted without complaint! How often do we fail to live up to this principle! He also works on certain areas of our lives that need to change now, so they will line up with His Word! He will not allow us to be comfortable with needed changes until we submit them into His hands! *Let the LORD recycle you!*

“Dear LORD, help us to accept the changes You have for our lives! Your love for us will not allow us to become stagnant in our walk with You without being challenged! Thank You for the Holy Spirit who works mightily in us to make us more like You! Amen!” mm

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“REVIEWED BLESSNGS!”

By Rev. J. Kehl Golding

“And it came to pass”.....

The May flowers are here!!

Recently we talked about all those April showers, dark, dreary days and rain that spoiled our “parade”. They have all “come to pass”.

Now are the lovely flowers- pink, yellows, white, and lavender. Soft breezes carrying nose tingling aromas and warm sunshine to bask in.

All this too, will “come to pass.” It will give way to hazy, hot, and humid days, when you can hardly get your breath, and sleepless nights without air conditioning. The May flowers will perish in the hot sun and drought.

But, all this will pass, and along comes autumn with cool, crisp days. Blue skies without a cloud, but, as the hot sun of summer gave us tomatoes, corn

and all those other tasty vegetables, autumn will bring us apples, pumpkins, and spectacular foliage to enjoy.

The beautiful strong gladiolus will give way to big lush chrysanthemums. All will “come to pass” for winter to move in.

If I’ve done my survey correctly, “And it came to pass”, it *will* “come to pass”, and “when it comes to pass” appears five hundred and fifty six times in the Scriptures!!

I believe God really wants to get a message across to us. *Everything* “Comes to pass.!

We all live a life with events, circumstances and people “coming to pass” in it! Sometimes as we get older, we look back at certain events, and say to ourselves, “that must have been someone else! I could never have experienced that!”

If ever there was an individual that could say that, it was Joseph of Genesis! His life was colorful, diverse, and unbelievable! It was a life like a fairy tale or novel, something a person with a vivid imagination dreamed up!

Joseph was born into a wealthy family with a doting father. God spoke early in his life, allowing him to know his life would be special, and his work like none other! In his immaturity and perhaps youthful pride, he mistakenly shared this knowledge with his father and brothers.

His brothers, already jealous of this “Baby Brother”, who was the love of his father’s life, had more than they could take! They decided to take action! When the opportunity arose they conspired to kill him. [Gen.37:18] but Reuben said; “No. Put him in this pit.” He silently wanted to return him to his father. **Some events take more than silent action to be effective!**

So they cast him [Joseph] into the pit, after removing his precious coat prized by Joseph and his father. Then they **quietly sat down to eat!!** As they did so, a caravan of Ishmaelites came along, headed for Egypt with spices.

So Judah said; “There’s no profit in killing him- **he’s our BROTHER**, we don’t want his blood on our hands, we’ll sell him to these Ishmaelites.” They sold him into slavery for twenty pieces of silver.

So Joseph was sold to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh in Egypt. [Gen 39:1] **But** the Word says; *“The Lord was with him.”* **Do you think Joseph had a hard time believing that?** When everything is adverse do we have a hard time believing “the Lord is with us?”

But Joseph prospered in all that he did, and his honorable behavior caused him to find grace in the eyes of his master. He was finally made overseer over the house. The Lord so prospered his work and actions, it flowed over into the Egyptians house, and he too, was greatly blessed. [Gen 39:6]

But, it “all come to pass” [Gen 39:7] for the master’s wife had set her lustful eyes upon Joseph, and she desperately wanted him! So, she devised a scheme to get him. [vs 7-18]

When he would not yield to her, in anger she “went after him”!!! She lied “big time” to her husband and he believed her! Joseph lands in prison!

He has gone from **WEALTH TO SLAVERY, BACK TO WEALTH, THEN TO PRISON, AND FROM PRISON TO TOTAL RESTORATION, INCLUDING HIS FAMILY AND AMAZING WEALTH! ---AND THE LORD IS WITH HIM!!!**

Please take note that God was with Joseph (and us!) in both the hard and the good times!

In prison, through a series of events, he becomes known for being able to interpret dreams. [Gen 40] **Two years** later, Pharaoh has a dream. None of his wise men can interpret it. A former prisoner remembers Joseph, and his ability to interpret dreams.

We know he was treated as any prisoner, and in rough shape, for the Word tells us, when he was called to see Pharaoh, he shaved himself, washed, and put on different clothing. [Gen 41:14] When Pharaoh meets Joseph, he explains this troubling dream that he is sure has a meaning. He wants some answers!

After all he has been through, notice Joseph’s humility and answer; “It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace.” Then Pharaoh repeats

the dream of the seven kine [cows], and the seven ears of corn to Joseph. [Gen 41:17-28]

We went through this event to point out that Joseph assured Pharaoh because the dream was **doubled** to him, given twice, **REPEATED**, God really wanted him to **LISTEN UP AND PAY ATTENTION!**

If that is true about something repeated twice, how much more, when God repeats something over **five hundred times!** He wants us to understand, the good and the bad, the health and the illness, the “fat” times and the “lean” times, ~~ they “**ALL COME TO PASS.**”

In your devotional time finish the story of this amazing life. See God working daily in his life to bring about His perfect will, for him, his family, the nation, and even the known world! God indeed brought those childhood dreams [Gen 37:5-11] to pass and was certainly with him. But the road he traveled was not of his choosing, nor would most of us have chosen it!

Today may be warm, sunny, bright and lovely. **ENJOY!** For “it has come to pass”, and tomorrow may be rainy, dark and cold, but it has “**come to pass!**”

Above all else, remember “The Lord is with us!”

Enjoy your walk with Him!

Rev.J Kehl Golding