



“DINNER ON THE GROUND”

By Mary Mayko

Matt. 14:15-20 NIV “As evening approached, the disciples came to Him and said, “This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.” Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.” “We have here only five loaves and two fish,” they answered. “Bring them here to Me,” He said. And He directed the people to sit down on the grass. Asking the five loaves and two fish and looking up to heaven, He gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then He gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.”

Dinner on the ground! An evening picnic with Jesus, using a little boys’ supper to feed many thousands of people! When Jesus does something, it is always so much more than we have asked for!

When I was a child, our church would sometimes schedule what they called “**dinner on the ground**”. All the ladies would cook up their special dishes and off we would all go to a little country Schoolhouse grounds where the Central Bible Institute Students held services on Sunday afternoons. [Springfield Mo] The men would set up tables and chairs out on the grounds, while the children chased each other in a game of Tag or some

other activity! What great fun! The grownups would catch up on the latest news in their families while everyone enjoyed all that good food!

Later, someone drove a pickup in with a piano in the back and seats for guitar players and the fiddlers and maybe an accordion. Then everyone enjoyed a good old Gospel sing along! After the music, the students would preach and teach and pray. This special outreach from the Bible School was a blessing to everyone!

Wouldn't it make you feel special if Jesus came and suddenly multiplied a small lunch with plenty left over? What joy those folks who had, when they came to hear Jesus teach and **then was invited to a dinner on the ground with Him!** The Bible tells us of Jesus going to someone's home and eating with them. Would you have invited Him to your house if you had lived in His day? Today, we would probably say, "Of course!" but He was not welcomed everywhere He went! Think about that!

In John 21, we read about Jesus being with His disciples and eating with them after His Resurrection! It was early morning that day, when Peter and some of the others decided to go fishing. They had not caught any fish, but heard a Voice calling out to them. V.5 "**Friends, haven't you any fish?**" "No" they answered. He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." Interesting! As they obeyed, they caught so many in the net they couldn't haul them all in!

Peter yelled, "It's the LORD!" Well, Jesus already had a fire going with bread and fish baking on the coals and invited them to "**Come and have some breakfast!**" A meal on the ground again! The LORD is always ready to meet us in unexpected places! Will we come and dine with Him? He knows we need the physical food for our bodies, but many are spiritually starved! **Are you hungry for what the LORD wants to give to you?** Will you open the door for Him to come in and eat with you?

Rev. 3:20 NIV "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me."

Mt. 5:6 "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."

Excerpt from "The Overflowing Cup" by Mary Mayko

“MY FATHER’S LOVE”

By Mary Mayko



Ps.31:15a LB “But I am trusting you, O Lord. I said. “You alone are my God; my times are in your hands.”

Our God is a loving God! His Word reveals that fact to us over and over again! Our loving Father cares so much He has made provision for us to be with Him forever! John 3:16 is a verse many of us memorized as a child, but often not really understood until we are much older! In my own life, my early training and teaching were to be obeyed, whether I understood all the “whys” or not! I now see

my discipline when I was a child was already essentially teaching me to walk in faith, trusting that *my parents really knew best and had reasons for requiring my obedience that would bring future benefits!*

We all go through times in our lives when it seems our Heavenly Father is neglecting us, not really protecting us or understanding us! Think back to your childhood! A loving father often required much from us we thought was rather unfair at the time! Did you ever think at those particular moments that he was uncaring or unable to see your viewpoint clearly? How many times have people felt that way about our Heavenly Father! People sometimes felt God would not or could not help us because of some failure, real or imagined, on our part! *Careful!* That attitude can cause a root of bitterness to take hold of our mind and heart!

Perhaps your earthly father was kindhearted and always there for you. He was available to help you through hard times in your childhood. If so, you are extremely blessed, as many fathers today neglect the spiritual training and discipline of their children! If your dad was demanding and harsh, that may give you a wrong picture of our Heavenly Loving Father! The Bible assures us that God keeps His promises! *Even though He may lead us through difficult times and situations that will never negate His love for us!* Some of our most important lessons are gained during these times!

He has a definite plan for our lives! He knows exactly how long we have on earth and encourages us to trust Him in our daily walk with Him. Deut 30:20a LB “Choose to love the LORD your God and to obey Him and cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days.”

As we read His promises, we gain assurance of His control of our lives and His love for us. Psalm 16:11 KJV “Thou will show me the path of life: In Thy Presence is fullness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures forever more,” His hand will guide us along the right pathways of life! Sometimes we question if we are on the right path, but when we stray off it, the Lord will bring us back to it! The very fact that He promises to always be with us is a reason for great joy! His right hand indicates a place of His favor that brings pleasure both for Him and for us!

What about the times we really need a hiding place? We seek a place of safety in the face of danger! There are many enemies of our soul, whether it is people, circumstances or Satanic Forces and we need a place to run to for protection! What better place than the shadow of His hands! Isaiah 51:16a LB “I have put my words in your mouth and hidden you safe within my hand.” When we are weak and helpless, let Him cover us under the shadow of His hand!

How could our loving Father ever forget us? He has us carved or inscribed on the palms of His hands! Isaiah 49:16a KJV “Behold, I have graven (carved) thee upon the palms of My hands,” He loves us dearly and holds us close! When He raises His hand to touch His heart, we are there with Him! We are so much more precious to Him than we can ever imagine! Do we visualize His loving hands upon us even though we do not always understand His ways? It will help us through many a dark valley when we know we cannot be separated from His hands, His heart and His knowledge of us! How we need to trust Him!

When we feel faint and fearful and overwhelmed by the unknown, God’s hand is there to strengthen us. We know then, He will enable us to accomplish whatever tasks lies ahead of us. When we are strengthened spiritually, we are encouraged to go forth with His blessing!

Ezra 7:28 KJV “I was strengthened as the hand of the LORD was upon me.”

“IN HIS HANDS”
By Mary Mayko

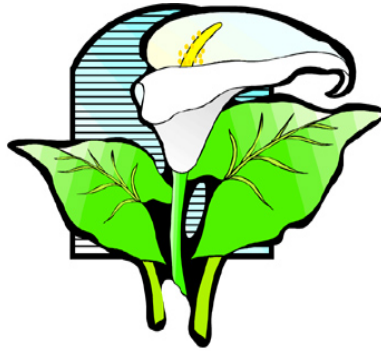
Even before my birth, God saw and planned my life.
He knew when I would have joy, as well as times of strife.
So in Him, I have fully placed all my trust,
Knowing it rains on the both the just and unjust!

I cried out in my troubles, but could not hear His voice!
All of these heartaches are *surely not my choice!*
He desires I release all my burdens into His hands,
Then my life will be at peace as He fulfills His plans!

I may never know the reasons for all my pain,
But surely the LORD has provided for my gain.
My spiritual health grows according to His plans,
And as for my life, I know I am safe in His hands!

Excerpt from: “The Overflowing Cup” By Mary Mayko Copyright 2004

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“Planted AND Blooming!!

Rev. J Kehl Golding

Galatians 6:9 “...Let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”

In the small town where I live, Main Street runs East to West. Traffic is kept at a slow speed by one red light. Main Street at the center of town is at a very low level down near the creek.

It is intersected at the light by a well traveled road going North to South and eventually main highways at either end. On the North side, a block or so in, the road goes quickly up a hill with a soft turn NNE. At the turn on the incline there is a divider in the middle of the road. It is a slab of concrete about three feet wide, and six to eight feet long. It has a tall pole at the South end stating highway information.

On one side, at this point, the road side drops down to the creek, on the other side is a steep incline. This hill is covered in wild lilies and other smaller flowers. But, the outstanding flowers are the lilies in color and in number. It is a magnificent sight in the summer, all those long slender green leaves with the various tones of orange amid them.

A few years ago I noticed one tiny lily trying to grow by the pole in that slab of concrete. I thought, “The poor thing, it doesn’t stand a chance!” However, the next year, it not only “came back”, but, it increased in circumference!

It has returned each year, and last year it bloomed. I went by it recently, and with all the rain we’ve had, it is a lovely Spring green, and it has several rods that will be in bloom by the time you read this.

I have no idea how this one plant crossed the road, as it has a bulbous root system! Did the wind blow a piece of bulb, or a bird drop something that caused it to catch in that little bit of dirt around the pole? I only know, when you start up the hill, your eyes go immediately to that blaze of orange and green in the middle of all that dark ugly asphalt!

What a world it lives in! Smelly car fumes all about it. It's only companion is a steel pole, hot in the summer and cold in the winter. No other friends [lilies] around it. Due to the traffic, it rarely has a visitor, like a bird or cat or dog. Very few people walk in this area, to stop and praise it for its beauty. No one waters it, or cares for its needs in any way- EXCEPT GOD - yet it blooms where it is planted!

All these thoughts spoke to my heart, as I am sure the Holy Spirit is causing them to speak to you right now. We witness for Jesus year after year to friends and loved ones, and in some cases it seems to fall on deaf ears. We can get distressed or discouraged, or wonder if it will ever reach their heart. In Mark 4:3 there is an account given by the LORD Himself, we need to keep in mind:

“Hearken; Behold there went out a sower to sow [4] and it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the wayside, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up, [5] and some fell on stony ground, where it had no much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth [6] But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away. [7] and some fell among thorns, and thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit. [8] And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; And brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.”

We must keep “blooming” where we are planted, so those about can witness the beauty of Christ. We must grow in Christ, and persevere in the trials that occur, so they can see the strength and peace He provides! In the lonely times it is important to remember we are NEVER ALONE. He is always with us. The Psalmist said I can't really escape Him: “If I ascend up into Heaven, thou art there, if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.”

Psalm 139:8

The writer of Hebrews puts it another way: “Let your conversation [lifestyle] be without covetousness: and be content [not greedy] with such things as ye have: for He hath said, I WILL NEVER LEAVE THEE, NOR FORSAKE

THEE.” **Heb.13:5** Going back to the LORD’S words in Mark, we must remember there are many reasons why a person does not respond immediately to our witness.

It may be they have not really heard it before, and need time to think it out, or “digest” it. While they are doing that, there are outside interferences, and Satan himself goes to work to hinder them.

The witness may fall on a heart with lots of past problems, stones, thorns, and thistles to hinder its taking root. Time is needed to address and take care of these on an individual basis. Just as we remove one stone at a time, or pull up one weed at a time in our garden, that is why prayer is so important, for the Holy Spirit can do a work in them so much greater and faster than we can. He knows all about them, and what will touch their heart.

Be honest, one of the biggest problems is, we get weary and discouraged. Paul addresses this fact in **Galatians 6:9** “Let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season, we will reap if we faint not.”

That little lily has a hard time, crossing the road, landing in a tiny bit of soil, all alone, no human caring for it, only God tending to its needs. It took several years before it became what it was created to be: a beautiful large green plant with lovely long stemmed orange blossoms!

In 1912, Billy Sunday’s Music director, Rody, introduced a piece of music he had written- “Brighten the Corner Where You Are”. The chorus of that hymn “caught on” and we sang it with great joy for years in our churches.

It goes like this:

“Brighten the corner where you are,
Brighten the corner where you are.
Someone far from harbor,
You may guide across the bar.
Brighten the corner, where you are!”

Brighten the corner where YOU are, just where He planted you!

Rev. J. Kehl Golding