



“OUT OF THE VALLEY OF SORROWS”

By Mary Mayko 2009

Psalm 84:5-7 NLT “Happy are those who are strong in the LORD, who set their minds on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. When they walk through the Valley of Weeping, it will become a place of refreshing springs, where pools of blessing collect after the rains! They will continue to grow stronger, and each of them will appear before God in Jerusalem.”

“*Valley of Weeping!*” In the King James Bible it is called the Valley of Baca. It seems that as we journey toward Heaven, there are deep valleys of sorrows we must enter, but God does not want us to live in that valley! I am reminded of Psalm 23 which most of us memorized as a child! “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.” [Ps.23:4]

Often in the darkest nights, I have quoted this entire Psalm, and God has comforted me, restored my soul, and reassured me that He is always with me, providing protection and renewed strength regardless of *what valley I may be “passing through!”*

We lose a Loved One, and do not understand why God called them Home. They seemed so full of life and so gifted! Yet He brings His comfort in our valley of sorrows. Someone else suffers as they watch their beloved lose their history of a great life together to a dreaded disease. Their valley of grieving seems to go and go! Yet the LORD gives assurance that this too, shall pass and you will arrive at the mountain of the LORD, regardless of why you are now in a *Valley of Sorrows!*

Our faith is sorely tested and we must re-examine our walk with God. The enemy of our soul tries to convince us, that in some way, we have lost favor with God! These are crucial times for us, as our emotions are tender and we are weary, walking in this *Valley of Sorrows*. Satan will try to tell us, God is not going to bring His comfort and strength to us, and we are *on our own in this valley!* What a liar! God will turn our flood of tears into pools of blessings! How will He do that? Who can bring a full answer to that question?

I cannot tell you the *how*, but I can tell you the “*why*”. “*Because of His great love for us!*” In verses 11-12 of Psalm 84, it says this: “For the LORD GOD is our light and protector. He gives us grace and glory. No good thing will the LORD withhold from those who do what is right. O LORD Almighty, happy are those who trust in You!”

One day, you will truly walk out of the *Valley of Weeping* into the Light of His Presence and joy, as His Son shines once more in our hearts! He promises He is with us always, will never leave nor forsake us! [Hebrews 13:5b]

www.momentwithmary.org Mary Mayko 2009 [NLT- “New Living Translation]



“TAKE A SECOND LOOK!”

By Rev. J Kehl Golding

John 1:1-5 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word *was* God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him, was not any made that was made. In Him was life; and the life was light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended [Greek: could not put it out] it not.”

“It is impossible to register this car in the State without a Title.” The woman at the DMV snapped, and threw the paper work on the counter! “Here’s a number, start with them, perhaps they will be able to help you get a Title. Next please!” She raised her voice and looked beyond me. She was quite obviously done with me!

I moved aside, frustrated and bewildered, also a bit angry! The car had been paid for long ago, registered in my name for all the years since my husbands’ death, and here she is, giving me all this grief! Everything is so hard to do in this State!

As I drove home, I realized I had to think where a Title would be. I had not seen it, so my husband would have taken care of it. He took care of the car completely. I never even thought of it until he became ill. He even kept gas in it for me. What a shock when I started doing it! Gas, oil, tires, and inspection, the list was endless!

Now, I *knew* I had to finally open his brief case. I dreaded doing it, the last thing he had touched! In it were all his Ministerial papers, licenses, letters, weddings and funerals performed, and “his diary”! All his “who’s, when’s, and where’s of his many years in the Ministry!

That afternoon as I sat with it on my lap, I realized again what a strong man of faith he was! Quiet, [I never knew him to raise his voice] but firm in his walk with God. “If you don’t stand firm for something, you’ll fall for everything!” was a quote I heard many times.

In his diary were all the thoughts he'd written concerning our first meeting, [at a prayer meeting] and for the next three days, and when he knew the Lord told him he was to marry me. He asked me eight days after we met! All his loving thoughts, and what words were there, what a joy to revisit that September and October so many years ago!

And yes! There *was the Title!*

It had come and he put it in "his case". He may have mentioned it to me, but it would have meant little to me, as I was from a "man-title" State!! When we moved and bought the car, it was in a "Titled State", and as I said, I never thought about anything but the ignition!

I sat and reread the pages of his loving thoughts concerning me- I really took a "second look" at his love for me. Then I thought of how God had brought us together in a moment of time, and had spoke to each of us-"this is *the one!*"

This lead me to think of how, in a moment of time, we meet Jesus! The Holy Spirit tells us of His love for us and whispers "This is the way, walk ye in it!" The choice becomes ours. What will we do with the love that is being offered to us!

His love letter to us needs to be read often so we keep it fresh in our hearts and minds. This month, take a "Second Look" with me. God's love for us caused Him to send Christ [The Anointed One] to us. "For God so loved the world He sent His only Begotten Son" John 3:16a. Jesus said in John 6:38: "I came down from Heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of Him that sent me."

He came for one purpose only-TO DIE!!

He was to be the Atonement-Sacrifice for our sins. "For unto you is born this day in the City of David, a Savior which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11. "For the Son of Man is come to SEEK and to SAVE that which is lost." Luke 19:10

It was His Blood shed on the Cross that is to save us. Hear afresh what He says in Matthew 26:28 "For this is My Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the REMISSION of SINS." Look at Romans 5:9 "Much more then, being now justified by His Blood, we shall be SAVED from WRATH through Him."

HE LOVES YOU! That is so hard to comprehend and believe. But, read again John 15:9 "As the Father hath loved me, so have I LOVED YOU: continue ye in My love." Love so freely given! It is no wonder He's called the Man of Sorrows, when man rejects such love and sacrifice!

Isaiah saw it nearly 700 years before His birth: "He is despised and rejected of men, a *man of sorrows*, and acquainted with grief; and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed Him not." Isaiah 53:3

Our flesh, past experiences, hard times, even abuse by someone, and the Devil himself makes it hard for us to believe. Jesus knew that, and clearly addressed this fact in John 10:10 “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I AM COME that they may have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

Beloved, I encourage you to stay close to the Word of God. It is our food, our weapon, and our power and peace, as well as our love letter from Heaven! God Bless you as you take a “Second Look!”

Rev. J. Kehl Golding. 2009 www.momentswithmary.org



**ONCE UPON A TIME
[A TALE OF TWO KINGS]**

By Mary Mayko 2009

SAUL 1 Sam. 10:1b [CEV] “Samuel took a small jar of olive oil and poured it on Saul’s head. Then he kissed Saul and told him, ‘The LORD has chosen you to be the leader and ruler of His people.’”
1 Sam. 15:23b “You refused to do what God told you, so God has decided that you can’t be king!”

DAVID 1 Sam 16:13 “Samuel poured the oil on David’s head while his brothers watched. At that moment, the Spirit of the LORD took control of David and stayed with him from then on.”
[CEV – Contemporary English Version]]

The people of God demanded a king like all the other Nations around them, although God had been more than a King for them. He had led them out of bondage and into the Promised Land. As long as they obeyed Him, they were successful and at peace. Now, that just wasn’t good enough and they wanted to follow the ways of their neighbors! Of course, when they insisted on their own way, it became like Pandora’s Box! They found themselves facing many unwanted troubles!

1 Samuel 9:1 “Give us a king!” Although Saul was an attractive man, a head taller than others and a humble spirit in the beginning, he let jealousy and fears ruin his life! Man looks at the outer appearance, but God looks on the heart! Just because someone looks and sounds great, who he really is, will eventually be exposed for all to see. Saul’s heart became wicked!

1 Sam.16:7 NIV “But the Lord said to Samuel, do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart.”

God chose David to replace Saul, and although it took years and many dangers before David took the throne, he waited on God’s timing. Do we sometimes try to *help God* and get in a hurry for His Promises?

“Once Upon a Time!” When some of us, especially those who are now considered “mature”, were young, we heard many stories that started with these words! Later we read tales or stories for ourselves. It seems to me as I recall most of those fables or tales, each seemed to have a certain

aspects in them. There was a good person and a bad person, and a moral to the story that was to teach us the consequences of good or evil. I believe that most of us grew up with a concrete sense of good and evil! “Once Upon a Time” was a teaching tool along with Proverbs that was to be a positive influence on our young lives!

Now it appears those lines are so blurry or dim, we hear of more and more people who do not believe integrity and kindness are part of a successful business life! Since integrity is no big deal, why worry! Until, of course, their behavior is exposed on the Evening News! Some show absolutely no signs of regret, even when they have been caught stealing from investors or retirement funds and using them for a luxurious lifestyle without any qualms whatsoever! Didn't they ever hear “Once Upon a Time?”

Others mistreat people, show disrespect for them or their property without thinking twice! “I see it, you've got it, I want it, give it to me or I will hurt you or kill you.” They are rude, mean spirited, without a sense of right or wrong. They have an attitude of entitlement without effort or earning for themselves. It seems almost like a mental or emotional disease, but it is sin! They pursue entitlements with a passion! Weren't they taught the “Once Upon a Time” Principle?

Did they ever hear Proverbs 21:2-6 NIV “All a man's ways seem right to him, but the LORD weighs the heart. To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice. Haughty eyes and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, are sin! The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty. A fortune made by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor and a deadly snare.”

Thank God not all people fall into that category! Multitudes of people are hard workers, fair-minded, respect others and their property! They are kind and generous and helping others whenever and wherever they can! They grew up knowing right from wrong. They understood the consequences of disobeying and the rewards of doing right.

Does the News Media report a well balanced society along with the minority of offenders who get full page coverage? If you watch the Late News, the report contains four murders in the City, two hit and run accidents, three robberies, one rape, three serious auto accidents, and forty people killed by a couple of suicide bombers somewhere in the Middle East! Then the weather forecast! Severe storm warnings and a flash flood watch! With all that visual imagery splashed across your mind, do you toss and turn and have bad dreams all night?

The Psalmist and other Bible Writers found a more peaceful way to relax at bedtime! They meditated on God's protection and love and sweet peace and sleep covered them like a warm blanket! Ps.4:8 NLT “*I will lie down in peace and sleep, for You alone, O LORD, will keep me safe.*” Saul had troubled dreams because he lost his integrity and allowed jealousy and fear to control his mind! He tried to devise ways to kill David to prevent him from being God's chosen king! Saul's mind tormented him because he failed to obey the LORD! David meditated on God's Goodness and his sleep was sweet! “Once Upon a Time”! David often recalled and related ways God had enabled him to accomplish something great or protected his life!

Once Upon a Time there were Two Kings! Both had opportunity to serve the LORD with all their heart. Saul looked good at first, but over time, his true character was exposed. David gave God credit

for victories and celebrated the LORD with praises and dancing before Him! One pleased God with his ways, and the other displeased the LORD! What about you and me? Do we please God in all our ways? *Ps. 1:1-2 NLT “Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with scoffers. But they delight in doing everything the LORD wants; day and night they think about His law.”*

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