



“THE MASTER’S WORK OF ART”

By Mary Mayko 2006

Eph.2:10 “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God ordained that we should walk in them.”

Whose Voice ARE we listening to! We are God’s Masterpiece, created BY GOD, to BE and DO His work!

A Masterpiece! A person’s most excellent production! The crowning glory of an Artists’ skills and efforts!

A highly valued possession that gives one a sense of great pride or accomplishment in what you have achieved!

We are so desirable to Him, worth so much to Him, The Father was willing to give *HIS* most cherished Treasure that our lives would reflect His Glory! This Treasure that we have in us, is God’s Son, Jesus Christ, is a deposit of His wealth and His power enables us to do all He calls us to be and do!

2 Cor.4:7 “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels (jars of clay!) that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us!”

Whatever we do for the LORD our Master should be done with excellence, not second rate or with a spirit of complacency!

Earthen or clay vessels were very brittle/ fragile which depicts the weakness of humanity, yet the power of the Most High abides within, and His reflection is what produces the beauty of His Masterpiece, His people! *God has taken a simple lump of clay and formed for Himself something precious!*

Most of us have a favorite TV program we like to watch. Mine is “Antique Road Show”. I have learned a good many things as a result! I have seen some items that do not look very good or valuable to me, yet the expert Appraiser examined it and declared it to be extremely valuable with the auction or insurance estimate to be in the 5 to 6 figure range! Sometimes I am astonished, as some pieces quite frankly look very unattractive to me!

***What makes the difference? The Artist who created it!* When he signed it, made it even more valuable! If it is dated, even more so!**

Isaiah 49:16 “Behold, I have graven (etched/cut) thee upon the palms of my hands, thy walls are continually before me.” *God has written my name on the palms of His hands! Praise His name!*

Ps. 139:14 “I will praise You; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works; and that my soul knows right well.” v.16a “Your eyes did see my substance, yet being imperfect; and in Your Book all my members were written.”

The Master has created us, written our names on His hands and our names in His record books in Heaven! *We are valuable to Him!* What a comfort to realize we are of value to Him! We look at some of God’s creations and think, *Hmmm, I could do a better job than they do!* I can sing better! I can preach better! I would handle that job better! *ETC!*

We take something that God is working on, a work in process, not realizing He is actually making that person into His Masterpiece that will bring glory to His Name!

We ourselves, are still a work in process, we are not finished yet! Why do we look at others like they are just an ugly piece of clay! They do not look much like Christ, or what we think they should, so we tend to look down our nose at them! Watch out! The Master Artist is at work! An art critic does not judge a work in the process, but waits until the piece is finished!

Be careful! For This Artist has signed His Name on us from the beginning, not at the end like the artists of the world does! If we look at each Believer correctly, we will see This Artist’ signature, created by the Lord God Almighty, written on them! Do we really see others as Christ sees them?

If you have visited an Art Gallery to enjoy all the skill and beauty of some artist’ work, and see a familiar face on a portrait of a lovely person, you come closer to examine it and to see who the artist is. As the light falls on the picture, it begins to reveal some of the character of the artist who created it! *You suddenly you realize this is a painting of you!* You say to yourself, “If only I really looked as good as this portrayal! Let me see who the artist is!” Signed on the bottom it reads, *“Created by God, The Lord Jesus Christ”!*

What are we doing to bring glory to our Master? We are not just someone that needs to look good, but someone He created to *do good!* In the Book of Ephesians, the first three chapters tell us who we are in Christ and the last three chapters tell us how to walk in ways that please Him! *Understanding who we really are in Christ* helps us to stand with conviction that we are valuable to Him, He has accepted us, loved us, and adopted us into His family! He paid that tremendous price for our ransom!

Remember the Antiques Road Show? *Think about what it cost the LORD* for us to come into the Kingdom of God! We are much more valuable to Him than any item you might see on the Show or in any Art gallery in the world! *A simple vessel made of clay yet His Masterpiece !* I recall the first time I read about Adam’s name, and learned that it means red clay!!! That red clay was not pretty, but GOD took it and made something beautiful of it! Sometimes we sing that song!

Look around you! The world is full of clay vessels that God has made or in the process of creating into His valuable master piece!

What are some of the benefits of being a master piece of God’s Art?

- 1. *Family Invitation! We are invited to be one of Gods’ own children!* A Family is to rally around each other for support. Some do not have their natural family here with them, yet God’s family has become an important part of their life!**
- 2. Intimate relationship with the Father. “*Dear Father, Our Father,*” Available to Believers! Some did not/ do not have a fine father image in their life, but through Christ, Our Father has provided that “*missing link*” they need!**
- 3. Unlimited Resources! The LORD has more than enough to supply our every need!**
- 4. Wisdom and understanding as you read, study, pray and seek your Father’s face! He will grant you discernment to make right decisions!**
- 5. Inheritance! Beyond our description! We cannot imagine all God has prepared for us and the portion we will have as Christ shares His Riches with us!**
- 6. Stand firm using the Weapons of your Warfare that God has provided! We are in a fierce spiritual battle! Jesus said “It is written!” We overcome by using the same methods! Warriors are sometimes winning, support them! Sometimes they are wounded! Are you a *spiritual medic* God can use? Gal 6:2**

Our hearts should be eager to be involved with good works as a result of being His Masterpiece! The Holy Spirit will enable us to do all He has called us to do! Only God knows what He can accomplish through you!

***We need to do our very best with an excellent spirit!* Remember the old song, “Give of your Best to the Master?” We are called to do excellent work with a *humble spirit!* We must reflect His glory, *not how great we are*, nor a spirit of false pride that says, “*How could God ever use me!*”**

Col.3:17 “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

2 Tim 2:21 “If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the master’s use, and prepared unto every good work.”

Eph 2:10 NLT “We are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things He planned for us long ago!”

“A MOTHER’S HOPE”

Prov.20:23 “My son, pay attention to what I say. Listen closely to my words. Do not let them out of your sight. Keep them within your heart, for they are life to those who find them and health to a man’s whole body. Above all else, guard your heart for it is the wellspring of life.”

A mother’s normal desire is for her children to be healthy and happy! A wise mother will place her hope in the Lord for the guidance she needs to bring it to pass. A child will reflect the attitude they observe in the home, so it is vital that a mother seek the Lord’s help to be a good influence for the children. The Book of Proverbs is full of great advice!

Prov.16:24 “Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.”

There is an old saying, “You catch more flies with honey than with vinegar.”

The moral of that saying is pretty easy to see! A sweet and gentle spirit accomplishes so much more than a critical and harsh approach when dealing with the children.

When a child falls and hurts himself, he really does not need to hear his mom scolding him! A quiet voice and a little hug will give him comfort, even though the cut is still bleeding and hurting! Most children do not intentionally hurt themselves! While it isn’t always easy for Mother to keep the irritations out of her voice, it is important she keeps her voice low and steady! Often this is the only thing

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**needed to calm what would otherwise be a “trauma” for the child!
(Remember! We are the grownups!)**

Prov.17:22 “A cheerful heart is good medicine but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.”

Think how often you have heard a parent say something like, “Why don’t you be more careful!” To a child, that isn’t a question, it is a statement that says the child is clumsy on purpose or too dumb to watch where he is going! A young child is like a tender tree. He can be shaped into someone that will cause himself and others, (including his mom!) heartaches, or grow up confident and ready for the challenges he will surely face in life! Don’t crush his spirit, but work to help shape him into a well adjusted person.

Prov.10:1a “The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life.”

Sweet memories takes time to build, don’t be impatient! Your child is a work in progress! Use every opportunity God brings your way to teach them of how wonderful life can be! What joy it would bring to a mothers’ heart should she hear her children praising her!

Pro.31:28 “Her children arise and call her blessed: her husband also, and he praises her.”

A special blessing to all the Mothers out there! May the Lord fill you with His peace and hope as you work with the child/children He has given to you!

WHERE ARE YOU STANDING?

By Rev. J. Kehl Golding

As you are reading this selection of Moments With Mary, you are once again being given the opportunity to believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and follow Him. Once again, you are being urged to draw closer to Him. Perhaps you are one of those still trying to decide His real importance in the scheme of life. Whichever group you are in, know for a fact, it *could* be the last time God deals with you, because each of us is one heart beat away from Eternity, and standing before The Almighty God!

Nahum 1:3a “The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked.”

V. 7 “The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and He knows them that trust in Him.”

The name “Nahum” means “Comforter”. This holy man of God preached a strong message concerning sin, but one of great comfort for the repentant soul. Look at verses 7-11 in Nahum Chapter 1. The wrath of God does not fall on those who trust Him, but is reserved for His enemies. Jesus made it clear if we were not with Him we were against Him. (Luke 11:23)

The Book of Nahum portrays the whole concept of the prophet’s burden in his great caring for the City of Nineveh, knowing its’ inhabitants have gone back into their ways of sin. Approximately 100 years before, Jonah had preached to these people concerning their destruction by God unless they repented. Jonah 3:5-8 tells us, indeed they *did repent* from the king to the least of them. A Proclamation from the king decreed not even the animals were to eat or drink water, as they fasted and prayed for God to forgive them. God *did forgive them* and spared that great city and nation!

Many believe God is one of anger, and vengeance, even unjust! The Bible tells us Jehovah is a jealous and an avenging God. (Exo.20:5, Deut. 4:24, Josh 24:17) But He is *slow* to anger, great in power and waits patiently for us to show the fruits of real repentance, before punishing. He is long suffering and full of tender mercy, but He cannot treat the guilty as if they are innocent! (See Nahum 1:3a above)

Nahum lived in era of political turmoil, sometime between the Fall of Thebes (No-Amon) 668-664 BC as seen in Nahum 3:8-10 and the Fall of Nineveh in 612 BC. He ministered during the Reign of Hezekiah along with Isaiah and Micah. Nineveh was the Capitol of the great and proud Empire of Assyria. It had been famous since its’ founding by Nimrod centuries earlier. (Gen.10:8-11) It was nine miles in circumference with walls 100 feet high and wide enough for three chariots to drive abreast atop these walls! It had 1200 defense towers and a moat outside the walls 140 feet wide and 60 feet deep!

Assurbanipal was the great enemy, as Assyria upon his death, Nabopolassar became king of Babylon. Egypt rose against its former conqueror and Babylon revolted allowing the Medes to become a powerful monarchy which prepared the way for an attack on Nineveh.

Nabopolassar positioned himself for the war by joining forces with the Persians and Scythians. They lay siege to the city. It was shut up for two years as they valiantly defended themselves, but finally lost. An unusually heavy and long continued flood of the Tigris River carried away a large section of the great rampart that surrounded the city. (Nahum 2:6)

Through this gap the enemy came and captured the city! Rather than fall into the hands of his enemy, the king gathered his wives and treasures into the palace and set it on fire! They all perished, it and the city were sacked and destroyed by the fire. The city was sacked and destroyed by the fire, all inhabitants were massacred! (Nahum 2:6-12)

The Blood-washed, Born Again Christians of today have a burden for unbelievers. Not only do we live in a day of political turmoil and the Nuclear Age, but also in the Day of the Rapture! The time when Jesus Christ will call His saints Home and the Tribulation will begin! The Events that follow will usher in the End of the Ages!

The Word of God is clear! The Believer goes Home in the twinkling of an eye! (1Cor 15:52) Not even a blink, just a *twinkle! So fast, no time for repentance!*

Nahum's message is one of comfort for the believing Child of God, therefore, a *comforting message* for the Believer today because He is Governor and judge of the world He has created! He is actually in control of world affairs, nations, political situations, as well as natural forces! *ALL* are under His hand to accomplish His purposes!

Beloved! *“Where do you stand” in this picture?* The scriptures tell us clearly, over and over, He is a Holy God and sin cannot stand in His Presence, therefore it must be dealt with!

The message of Jesus Christ's Death is that it deals with our sin. Have you dealt with that message?

Where do you stand on it?

Nahum's message is adapted for “Moments With Mary” website by its' Author Rev. J Kehl Golding's book titled *“Echoes for Today's Listening”*.