



‘HEART TREASURES’

By Mary Mayko 2003 [The Overflowing Cup]

Luke 2:19 KJV “But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.”

Luke weaves an interesting story about people who treasured up things in their hearts. He tells us of Jesus’ parents, Joseph and Mary who met others that had made an unexpected impact on their lives! The things that had been told to them touched them deeply, and they pondered or treasured these things that were to be a part of their future!

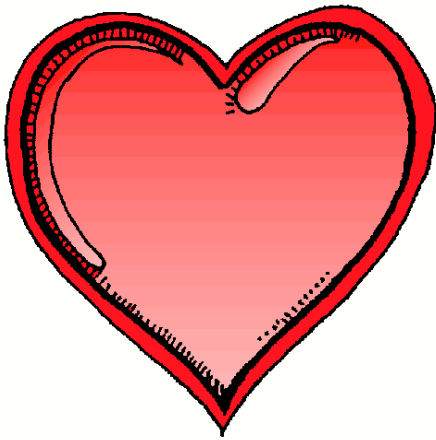
While we have not experienced the same things Joseph and Mary did, we are often challenged by unforeseen events that may change the course of our own lives! We usually have some sort of plans for our future, some elaborate, some simple! Are we willing to lay them aside or delay them when the unexpected comes knocking on our door? As responsible people we have to make quick decisions at times! These are not always welcome or easy, but necessary! How do we handle these pressures? Joseph and Mary simply obeyed God! Do we?

Joseph and Mary followed the Jewish Law that brought them to the Temple in Jerusalem for Jesus’ circumcision ceremony and dedication rites. In the midst of their well laid plans, a man named Simeon came into their lives. He was a godly man who was filled with the Holy Spirit. The Lord had promised Simeon he would not die until he had seen God’s Anointed King, the Messiah! Suddenly the Spirit of the Lord prompted Simeon to go to the Temple. Surely this was a man who had treasured God’s promises in his heart and wondered how and when it would all come to pass! His appearance at the temple revealed he was ready at any time for the Lord to reveal the Savior to him! How important it is for us to heed the leading of the Holy Spirit!

Some things are very tender to our hearts and we treasure or keep them silently in our minds. No matter how much time passes by, they never leave us! Sometimes they rise up suddenly like a morning sun that strikes us directly in the face! Then we ponder or think deeply as to what we will do or say. Is it the proper time to expose our inner thoughts? Perhaps yes or no, for some are like slow growing seeds. They have to remain hidden until just the right moment, for “in due time” they will be revealed! What has the Lord revealed to you? Are you actively looking for it to come to pass? As Mary pondered what Simeon said to her, I am sure many mingled thoughts of joy as well as concern filled her heart!

Anna was an old lady who spent much time in the Temple, probably sharing her heart’s desire to see the Messiah with whoever would stop and listen! The Temple represented the Presence of God and was the likely place for someone who was actively expecting to see Him some day! As she heard Simeon’s words to Joseph and Mary, how her treasured thoughts must have risen to the surface! Her heart was filled with such joy she just had to share the Good News with all she met! What about your heart? Do you treasure up thoughts of the One who will someday come to take us to be with Him forever? We are blessed if we look forward to His Coming with joy!

Phil. 2:13 LB “For God is at work within you, helping you want to obey Him, and then helping you do what He wants.” Let Him! Inspirational Ministries: www.momentswithmary.org



“NEED A HEART CHECK UP?”

By Mary Mayko 2007

Psalm 73: 26 KJV “My flesh and my heart faileth, but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever.”

How’s your heart? Need a check up? When the heart does not work properly, it seems everything in our life is affected! A few years back I had a serious heart problem! I could not walk up the stairs without getting down on my hands and knees! My energy had left me and I began to wonder if my life was coming to an end! One day as I started to black out, my husband took me to a Doctor. It didn’t take long for them to discover I needed some work done quickly! After the procedures, it was amazing how fast I began to recover!

I have often found that physical conditions parallel spiritual ones in many ways. When our heart is out of harmony with the Lord, it seems everything we try to accomplish takes twice as long or even ends in failure someday! When these things occur, we need a heart check up! Ps.26:2 KJV “Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins (mind) and my heart.” David was a man who failed many times, but always turned back to the LORD for help and forgiveness. His words in Ps.19:14 has often been my prayer, for I find my own failures upsetting to me! “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my Redeemer.”

As I prepared my mind and examined my heart to accept whatever was before me at the hospital, one thing I knew for sure! I wanted nothing going on in my spiritual life that would make me ashamed if I went to meet my Maker that day!

I memorized Ps. 73: 25-26 the night before my heart catheterization. As I was wheeled into the OR, I began quoting those verses and felt a perfect peace envelope me. It did not matter then, if I should live or die, for part of the verse said “my heart faileth!” I love the way the LORD put a “but” in there, which reminds me of the LORD’S “nevertheless”! To me, it means in spite of the way things look sometimes, He has a different plan! That verse also tells me God is the “strength” of my heart! He is my portion, or takes my part whenever I need Him!

Sometimes God needs to take us into His Spiritual operating room and work our hearts over! I find some of that “plaque” (those thoughts and attitudes) needs a rotor rooter job! If we don’t “eat” healthily on the Word, we will get sluggish from consuming the wrong things! Just as we need to take care in what we put in our tummy, we surely need to pass up harmful reading or looking! If we dwell on harmful thoughts instead of meditating on the Lord, it doesn’t take long to become spiritually sick! Need a heart check up? Christ is Jehovah Rapha, our Healer is on “stand by”! Psalm 51:10 KJV “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit with me.”

Your spiritual strength will be renewed! Your joy will increase! God’s peace will flood your heart and mind!

Excerpt from “The Overflowing Cup” by Mary Mayko
Inspirational Ministries: www.momentwithmary.org



“STONES OF EMPTINESS”

Rev. J.K.Golding

Zeph.2:14 KJV “But the cormorant (pelican) and the bittern (a nocturnal member of the heron family) dwells among ruins and sings in desolate windows.” Isaiah 34:11 “But the cormorant and the bittern shall possess it; the owl also and the raven shall dwell in it: and he shall stretch out upon it the line of confusion and the stones of emptiness”

February is the month of hearts, flowers, and “I love you”. Everything is warm and wonderful, but *your world isn't!*

The love of your life has betrayed you in having an affair. Your precious child has been taken from you in death. That job that was “*so secure*” has collapsed in events beyond your control! Illness has robbed you of your dearly beloved spouse. The list that causes ones' life to become desolate seems almost endless!

Just when you think it's as bad as it can get, something else happens to darken your world! Your cry is: “God! *Where are you?*” If you read carefully in Isaiah 34:1 through Isaiah 35:6, the context of our above verse, you will find the LORD is right there in all this ruin, hurt, and destruction!

The sins of these nations has caused His wrath! Sin is the cause of our pain. The original sin of Adam and Eve brought about death, illness and the curse upon this world that is all about us. All this is beyond our control but He has made a way!

In our study of Isaiah 34, when you get to verse 11, the picture of total desolation is before you and so established the Word tells us unclean birds are dwelling in the midst of it! On top of that, we are told *He allows confusion and places 'stones of emptiness'!*

God is allowing man to know he is helpless and in a hopeless state without Him! *But, He, God Himself*, has placed stones of emptiness in the picture! These stones in the Hebrew are the kind used for building, made of material and ready to be used for building. The very root meaning of the word “stone” is “*building*”, like a seed waiting for its' environment to produce. The word “*emptiness*” is void, empty space, so much so, it lacks intelligence!

God has allowed man to get to the “end of his rope” so he will see his need. Then He, the loving Father can move in and work in his life! Read what He will do! Isaiah 35 v1”The wilderness and solitary place shall be glad” v.2 “It shall blossom abundantly” v.3 “weak hands and feeble knees will be strengthened” v.4 “The fearful heart shall be made strong” “God will come to save you.” v.5 “the eyes of the blind shall be opened and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped” v.6 “The lame shall walk and there will be streams in the desert.”

What hinders you from turning to God? What prevents you from asking Jesus to be Lord of your life? Oh, you blame it on numerous circumstances and people, but let's be honest! *It's your own heart* that prevents it! The Word tells us: “The heart is deceitful above all things. And

desperately wicked, who can know it?" Jer.17:9 That word "heart" has a root meaning a "knoll", a swelling, a mound, fraudulent, crooked, deceitful, or polluted! You see, it consists of the fallen nature of man, and it's the seat of our emotions. We really can't trust it, but rather must trust, believe and react to the Word of the Living God!

Allow Him to gather you unto Himself. Read what he promises you in Ezekiel 11: 19-20 "And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh; and give them a heart of flesh: That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be My people, and I will be their God."

A recent survey tells us the worst day in the year to be alone is Valentine's Day, the second worst is Christmas, then New Year's Eve. In less than two months, we have all three! Don't do this Valentine's Day alone! Allow Jesus to be with you this February 14th and forever after!

Rev. J.K. Golding

Excerpt from "Echoes for Today's Listening" by Rev. J.K. Golding

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