



RIPE AND READY STEWARDS

By Mary Mayko

1 Cor4:1-2 “Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is requires in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”

Are you a good Steward? A manager that is fully mature and able to handle the affairs God has appointed you over? The dictionary describes stewards as one who manages or supervises the money and property for someone else. If we are not taking proper care of our own personal property and affairs, how could we expect God to trust us to handle His work with maturity and diligently? If we lack growth and development in the ways of the Lord we will fail to accept responsibility for our mistakes and just make excuses to try to cover our immaturity!

What does it take to be a good mature steward of ministry, that is, God’s work? A mature person has the ability to stick to the job and see that it is done well. They always do more than is expected of them. An immature person often starts many things with zeal, but when the job gets difficult or is challenged in some way, will leave it unfinished. Their talk sounds good, but in reality, they are not reliable or trustworthy! A mature person will face frustrations, discomforts or battles without collapsing or complaints. (Most of the time!) They have the ability to meet these disappointments with poise and grace. They strive to be the very best they can be in whatever is required of them. It takes wisdom, planning, and determination to put the plan into action, and courage to see it through to the end!

A good steward is ripe and ready! They are realistic in the ways they observe people and situations or jobs that are assigned to them. They are conscious of what effects they have on the feelings and concerns of others. (Gal6:1-10)The Lord expects unity among us! Be ye perfect! How? Use our abilities effectively and without pride, knowing that God is in control! The mature Fruit reveals self-control, not panic. Faith in God brings peace in the midst of turmoil. (Gal 5:23 Phil 4:5-7) Prov.16:32 “He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that rules his spirit than he that takes a city.”

A good steward is able to make wise decisions because he has the mind of Christ! Rom 12:1-2, 1 Cor. 2:16 It is important for us to have a sound, healthy, mature mind! That enables us to take criticism or praise graciously. They do not expect everyone to be perfect or live up to some manmade standard. They see their own weaknesses and do not condemn themselves or others, but recognize each has a need for God's help. (Rom 14)

Matt 6:33 tells us to seek God first and His Righteousness, and all we have need of will be supplied. That helps us check our priorities in life and enables us to love others as Christ loves us. *Are we truly Ripe and Ready?* Are we good mature Stewards of the LORD? It takes time for this to develop, but each of us *should be on the road to maturity!*

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website: www.momentswithmary.org



“THE CROWN OF CREATION!”

By Mary Mayko 2002

Psalm 8:4-5 LB “I cannot understand how you can bother with mere puny man, to pay any attention to him! And yet you have made him only a little lower than the angels, and placed a crown of glory and honor on his head.”

Psalm 8 is a writing of David’s wonderment of God’s awesome Creation in Nature. As a young man, David spent much time outdoors tending to his sheep. He recalls in this Psalm the closeness he felt to God in the solitude of those long nights on the hillsides and fields as he watched his flock. The insight he gained in those early years helped to guide him through many dangers he faced when King Saul sought to destroy him! What impact would those years of standing in awe of God have as he faced the jealous rage of King Saul? One answer we see from the Psalms was David’s meditation on the powerful creative acts of God! When he considered how mighty God was, he was confident that any scheme of mere man against him would prevail! I am sure he must have praised the LORD for the many times when his life was in danger, yet the LORD gave him victory!

Nothing is greater than God, and the fact that we are created in His Image means we are the “*Crown of His Creation!*” We are His precious jewels! It is important that we realize that not only are we made in His Image, He has offered divine intelligence for our use! He has said we are to ask for the wisdom we need to function effectively. He has divine assignments for each of us and grants us the ability to accomplish them. We are to manage well the areas of responsibility He gives to us.

In Ps.8:6-8 The Word tells us we are to rule over the works of His hands! That can be a little scary, yet interesting! Are we good stewards? Today many people worship Nature, or God’s Creation, rather than the Creator! Clearly people are of more value than Nature, trees, rivers, etc, yet some who are obsessed with Nature have killed other people or caused much heartache over their love for land and/or animals! Nature was and is God’s provision for the needs of man. We are not to serve Nature, but take proper care of it so it will serve us! Although sin has interfered with the proper balance of dominion over the Earth, the role of humanity and dignity is still of utmost importance to God! How important it is for us to teach our young ones the Creation story from the Bible! How loved they are by God who created us in His Image! If they understood this, their sense of self worth would surely increase!

We have often heard this question! “Why was man created? What is my purpose in life? We are made to give glory and honor and praise to God, and our Maker returns it back to us by crowning us with His love! In the midst of our praise to God, He provides us with the proper tools to defeat the enemy! When we are faced with an overwhelming situation, do we stop and think of God’s Creative power and the awesome details He has available for us? Nothing man

or the Enemy can do will ever diminish God's strength and wisdom! Even little children can send the Devil running! Ps.8:1-2

Do you ever think of yourself as crowned with glory and honor? David often reflected on his relationship with God. That comes across quite clearly in his writings. He had an incredible understanding of how intricate and fragile man is, and yet we are created in the image of God. Amazing! God created us with a physical body, a soul (mind) and spirit. That spirit will live forever, either in torment or in divine glory! What effect does this knowledge about being created in God's own image have on your walk today? Is this a precious thought or one that seems to have no personal meaning to you! Ps.8: 3-5

We need to turn our thoughts often toward the LORD! It will make a difference in your life now and in Eternity!

Excerpt from: "The Overflowing Cup" by Mary Mayko copyrighted
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“THE LORD OF BREAKING THROUGH”

by Rev. J. K. Golding

2 Samuel 5:24 KJV “And let it be, when thou hearest the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt bestir thyself, for then shall the LORD go out before thee, to smite the host of the Philistines.”

So many times when I write for COMFORT CORNER, the message is directed to the questioning person, or the one “on the fence”, as to his faith in God. Not so this month, the burden is for the established believer that is overwhelmed with problems.

As I travel about and listen to God’s children, the message I heard most often is, “I feel like all of hell has broken loose in my family”, or “the devil is working in my life, like *there is no one else* to work on!” They may be right! The Word tells us in 1 Peter 5:8 “He’s out to devour” anyone he can! It is *you, beloved*, I want to talk to!

Our friend King David was very familiar with enemies, and not just king Saul! In today’s lesson we have the Philistines seeking his life. As you read 2 Sam. 5: 17-25, you will find the Philistines angry that he was anointed King and went out to attack him. They spread out all before him in the valley of Rephaim. As David surveyed the situation he did not panic, or give up! He simply asked the Lord, “Shall I fight this battle in your Name? According to your Word? Your way? Will you deliver me?” The Lord told him to go and do battle and He would defeat his enemies.

David went and did battle the Lord’s way. He was so victorious he named the place Baelperazin, “The place of the Lord breaking forth.” Defeated, the Philistines left their idols as they fled, and David burned them. But they were not content with the defeat, they returned to attack again! Doesn’t that sound like *your* enemy? Over and over he attacks, thinking you are tired and this time *he* will win!

But David does not despair, he simply asks the Lord, “Shall I go up as before and do battle?” This time the Lord says, “No, you wait, go ‘round behind then and over under those mulberry trees, and wait until you hear a stirring in the very tops of them, and when you hear the sound, then go out, for the Lord is before thee to deliver the enemy into your hands.”

Now picture this, these soldiers are fresh from the previous victory, lots of battle gear, anxious to go and savor another victory! Their leader says, “No, we are going to go quietly up behind them, hide in those mulberry trees, no noise, no talking, no laughter, no fires for food, we are going to sit quietly until the tops of the trees move!”

“How long will that be?” “I don’t know, we will just stand still and wait ‘til the Lord moves!” Exo.14:13 Ephesians 6:14

From our text, read again verse 25. “And David did as the Lord had commanded him, and smote the Philistines.”

Why did God tell him to wait? Or, go a different way? I don’t know, but I do know 1 Sam.15:22 b- 23a “Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.”

What has all this to do with *your* battle? Jesus told His Called Ones in John 20:22 “Receive ye the Holy Ghost.” Yet right before His ascension, He tells them not to leave Jerusalem until they received the Promise of the Father. Acts 1:4. They were to wait until they received the power that Baptism of the Holy Ghost would bring to their life. Acts 1:8

They did as He instructed, and we find in Acts 2:4 “And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

Spirit in the Greek is Pneuma, meaning a current of air, i.e. breath. In John 3:7-8 Jesus told Nicodemas, “Marvel not that I said unto thee, ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh and whither it goeth, so is everyone that is born of the Spirit.”

It is essential that we listen for the Spirit in our daily walk with the Lord, that we are led by His Sweet Holy Spirit to carry out His work for the Kingdom. We need the operation of the gifts of the Spirit in our life to do battle in these last days, to live victoriously in the devil’s territory.

Read again 1 Cor. chapters 12 through 15. See what 1 Cor.14:22-25 says very clearly. “Tongues are a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not”, because the Spirit in operation “reveals the secrets of the heart”, and shows that God indeed is in you and in operation. Why? Because His Spirit is working in you, will cause you to know just how to do battle, just the words to say, or how to pray, just the moment to extend your hand, or hold it back, and wait for God! It will be evident that a power greater than yourself is at work in your life.

We are in grave danger of loosing the moving of the Holy Spirit in our life and in our churches. Bureaucracy, denominations and organizations many times “pigeonhole” God, put Him in a box and say, “It must be done this way”, or “that is the correct way”.

I say to you, read again, very carefully, Paul's words in 1 Thess.5: 16-24 KJV "Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing, everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesying. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I *pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."

I challenge you to alertness by His Spirit, even as Paul challenged these believers in his day!

Rev. J K Golding

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