

Prophetic Insights

Would Our Lord Jesus Neglect Others The Way You Do?

April 4, 2014

You've no doubt noticed how often our Lord Jesus uses real-life physical examples to illustrate spiritual truths in His parables. Well, we have one to share with you. Recently our dear friend Matt's English Springer Spaniel, Sam, experienced his first opportunity to mate with a female Spaniel. After the two dogs had spent "meaningful time" together we asked Matt if it had been successful. He reported that while Sam had mounted the female, he didn't think Sam had actually entered her.

As Matt was relating this, I (Mike) received a visual image and revelation from the Holy Spirit about this mating encounter, especially our Lord's perspective of the *listless unresponsiveness to His Lordship* by so many self-identified Christians throughout this nation.

Let's discuss this. A female Springer Spaniel comes into heat twice a year with just a brief window for impregnation. Either the dog is pregnant *or* she isn't. There's no in-between. And if the dog isn't pregnant, the owner needs to wait six months for another chance.

The Holy Spirit revealed to me that there are many within Christendom whose spiritual lives are like that of an unconsummated Spaniel. They've stopped short of entering into the fullness of the relationship our Lord Jesus offers His own—the *intimacy of spiritual union* through the entry of His Spirit into them when they are born from above. Without this union it doesn't matter if a person spends Sunday morning in a pew or listens to "Christian" music or even reads the Bible as an interesting text. They're *infertile*, unable to either hear and obey His guidance (*rhema*) or to live and walk empowered by His Spirit—because they *aren't in union with*

Him. In our Lord's sight these people parallel Sam the dog in mounting the female Spaniel but not experiencing the "oneness" of union which would then produce fruit.

All too many never get past learning more and more Bible facts—but just as *spiritual information*. Jesus catalogued for certain unbelieving Jews the testimonies that bore witness to His identity as the Son of God. He then pointed out how *faulty their response* was to the truth the Hebrew Bible had revealed about HIM: "***You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about ME, yet you refuse to come to ME to have life***" (John 5:39,40). Sorrow probably filled His voice as He pinned down the cause for their spiritual deafness and blindness: they had *no love of God* in their hearts (John 5:42) and therefore no desire to receive His praise (v. 44).

That element of *responsive love* is essential for a relationship of intimate union with our Lord Jesus by His Spirit! Like the aforementioned Jews, too many churchgoers are taught about the Bible or even spend time studying it themselves. BUT if they don't love our Father and His Son for the gracious gift of life that's offered by faith in Christ, then they're not going to press through to *consummate* in the Spirit* a relationship with the One of whom the Bible testifies, our Lord Jesus. Their lives CAN'T reflect the responsive relationship Jesus wants with His own, which is having **their motives and actions "impregnated" by His Lordship.**

*As we wrote in "*The Gospel of the Covenant is the Pilgrimage to Salvation*," the Covenant our Father offers us in Christ requires both *consummation* and *ratification*.

This intensity of responsive and loving purpose *because* you are in intimate union with Jesus by His Spirit is wonderfully captured by Paul:

*“But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and **straining toward** what is ahead, I **press on toward the goal** to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in **Christ Jesus**”* (Philippians 3:13,14).

Those who remain comfortable in “mounting” the Bible only to gain more knowledge remain impotent in their spiritual infertility. From our Lord’s perspective their hearts are choked by their sin nature-grounded rationale which persuades them to **“learn all you want, but don’t be transformed. There’s no need to put what you know into action.”**

Self-identified Christians who are deceived by rationalization create their own concept of the Father and His Word. They fashion Him into who they want him to be rather than Who the Bible reveals Him to be. Their conjured god doesn’t shackle them with righteous standards that call for holiness as Christ’s ambassadors. Rather, they warp the Gospel into a perversion of grace that allows them to pursue worldly goals and values and still think they’re “saved.” Seeking out a religious community that enables them to feel comfortable with their fabricated lie, they not only fail to consummate the *Covenant* relationship our Father offers. Their infertile lives fail to extend His Kingdom and bring Him glory—and their self-idolizing complacency testifies as judgment against them.

THE INDWELLING PRESENCE OF OUR LORD’S SPIRIT IS EVIDENT!

His Spirit prompts His own to take action and serve Him

What will your life look like IF you’re sharing spiritual intimacy with the Spirit of Christ within you? First, know that the very presence of the Spirit of our Lord compels you out of your comfort zone! In particular He guides and empowers you to purposely bless people who can’t return your kindness. This is why our Lord Jesus so specifically warns against a form of religion which takes no *loving action* to help others:

*“I tell you the truth, whatever you **did not do** for one of the least of these, you **did not do** for Me. Then you will go away to **eternal punishment**, but the righteous to eternal life”* (Matthew 25:45,46).

You may not want to believe our Lord’s criteria for your acceptance into heaven. But numerous denominations and religious leaders support your infertility by declaring you “saved” by what you *say* you believe even if your life is self-centered and barren. But belief without responsive actions that manifest Christ’s love are a false gospel (James 1:22). That’s like *mounting without consummation*, and in Father’s sight, your head knowledge alone is fruitless.

That kind of “relationship” with the Lord is like a man who tells his wife at their wedding that he loves her and figures that’s all he needs to do as a husband. But as with marriage, *loving responsiveness* authenticates the spiritual intimacy our Lord Jesus calls for in His own.

Let’s be clear. The actions you take especially to bless those who can’t return your kindness won’t get you saved. Rather, your actions *because* of the love of Christ by His Spirit in you assure you of salvation at the final Judgment. And your loving actions make clear that the Spirit is also guiding and empowering you as Jesus is Lord of your life.

“For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that One died for all, and therefore all died. And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again”
(2Corinthians 5:14,15).

In a consummated relationship with our Lord we no longer live to serve our sin nature. Certain biblical indicators reveal a way of life in which Jesus is LORD. Please, don’t treat these questions lightly. Your answers may reveal to you that Jesus truly is your Lord. Or, you may find you’re a self-identified “Christian” but the Spirit of our Lord isn’t abiding within you.

“Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others” (1Corinthians 10:24).

- As Jesus did, can you unselfishly bless others without needing to benefit yourself too?
- Can you bless others without needing gratitude or recognition? When you do an act of kindness or give to help someone, do you tell others about what you did (Matthew 6:3)?

“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves” (Romans 12:10).

- When you think about those you encounter each day, including your spouse or children, how do you see your role in their lives?
- Do you see yourself above them, or undergirding them as one who serves (Luke 22:26,27)?

“Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited” (Romans 12:16).

“Then Jesus said to His host, ‘When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be

repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous” (Luke 14:12-14).

- Do you go outside your close relationships to associate with people of a lower economic or social status?
- Are you comfortable with them? Do you invite them into your home or to share activities?

“Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn” (Romans 12:15).

“Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering” (Hebrews 13:3).

- In this entertainment-enamored nation, do you have the love of Jesus that prompts you to seek out the suffering and encourage them?
- Do you seek out prisoners, especially those imprisoned for their faith in our Lord, to comfort them in some way (Matthew 25:43)?

Keep in mind that Luke 14:12-14, Romans 12:15, and Hebrews 13:3, above, are specific directions that require action of you. These aren’t optional suggestions based on whether you feel like it or not. They’re in the imperative sense: DO IT! In our e-mails and on the home page of our website we’ve encouraged you to go to Prisoneralert.com and write letters to those held captive around the world for their faith in our Lord Jesus. These are our Lord’s brothers and sisters (Matthew 12:48-50), and therefore they are yours as well.

If you’re in union with the Spirit of our Lord, He’ll prompt you to remember them in prayer and to write as if they were you. The whole process of copying a pre-translated letter doesn’t take more

than a few minutes, and costs you \$1.15 in postage. (After we print out a weekly letter to a prisoner, we cut out the translated portion and paste it to a pretty greeting card to send.)

Are You Concerned Enough To Do Something About It?

Recently a 76-year-old friend told me (Mike) how he shed 60 pounds. It took a mini-stroke and the need for his carotid artery to be reamed to finally cause him to take his health seriously. But he isn't any different than most people. The human tendency rationalizes in denial that "it won't happen to me." This deceived framework is what keeps people smoking, overeating, texting and talking on phones while driving, and excusing any other behavior which can endanger yourself and especially others.

Yet we who claim we belong to our Lord can't afford to be deceived when it comes to eternal matters. There will be no "mini-stroke" to warn us. Now is the time to fervently ask our Lord Jesus how He would have you live.

His Spirit wouldn't stir us to write this Prophetic Insight if several of you reading this weren't deceiving yourselves that your compromised living is acceptable to our Father. He's the same Spirit of our Lord who breathed this into James:

"In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead... As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead" (James 2:17,26).

Being self-satisfied in attending religious services isn't the "faith-in-action" our Lord's Spirit is calling for. While this may gratify your complacency, our Lord expects you to be stretched outside your comfort zone. That means being His loving agent to others—specifically to others who can't return your loving action.

"Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment"

(John 7:24)

In the 1980s we had the privilege to meet and pray with Howard Pittman, a man our Father had sent back from the dead. We first heard of Pittman when a brother in Jesus from Mike's days in the Navy sent us his book, *Placebo*, in 1982. The book recounts Pittman's out-of-body experience in which he learned of the spiritual placebo of lethargy into which Satan had seduced Christendom. You can read this revelation by going to:

<http://www.divinerevelations.info/dreams_and_visions/placebo_howard_pittman.htm>.

Pittman also penned a sequel to *Placebo* entitled *Demons: An Eyewitness Account*, in which he discusses in depth the angelic and demonic forces in the unseen world which operate all around us. You can read this revelation by going to: <ubm1.org/demons-pittman.pdf>.

We're encouraging you to read both of these brief books to help you get past your awareness of only the physical world and your earthly existence. While these are what you can see, our Father also perceives the *unseen* world which impacts your life in so many ways. Through eyes of love He longs to have you with Him for eternity. If these two points don't matter to you, then Pittman's books may open your heart that our Lord grieves when you give way to spiritual adultery.

NOW is the time for a fully consummated relationship with your heavenly Father by His Spirit and living with Jesus as Lord of your life. It's imperative that you discern the spiritual forces that want to keep you impotent (2Corinthians 2:11). And if your life isn't blessing those who can't reciprocate, then humbly cry out to our Lord for His love that takes action.