

New lamps vision

We Add this picture to all the others which we are gaining.

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. (Matthew 13:44

Yesterday, during our lamps intercession day, I had this vision.

I saw lamps - hundreds of them, all in a line, before the Lord. As each one came up to the Lord, we saw that he was holding a pearl in his hands. Each lamp was allowed to hold the pearl, but then we had to give it back to him.

I was sad, and said "Lord, I wanted to keep the pearl. It is so beautiful."

The Lord said "Look at your hands." I looked, and there in my palms was the impression of the Pearl - a beautiful pale impression of the Pearl. "Now" said Lord, "the Pearl will be with you always."

Each one of us - hundreds and hundreds, had the same experience. In our desire to intercede, we have touched something very precious, and the impression of what we have touched will change us forever.

What is it that makes this pearl so precious?

For me, what touched me was the desire to own the Pearl. I want it - I want it with all my heart, for the Pearl is the "Kingdom of heaven." (Gk: " basileia ton ouranon") "Basileia" is better translated "kingly rule." God's "kingdom" is the totally fulfilling oversight of all that is in the heart of Jesus for us. "Ouranos" (Heaven) is beautifully described in these rather old words from Strong's concordance:

"the seat of order of things eternal and consummately perfect where God dwells and other heavenly beings"

The kingdom of Heaven is that place where God's kingly rule can be exercised through and by Jesus, for the total blessing of his people. Or - the Pearl is Jesus himself.

I long to have all of him, to know all of him, to be absorbed into his beauty, to be the fulfilled person I was meant to be, to know my place in his place, to know my name is on the palm of his hand, that he is in me, and I am in him.

This is the engine that galvanises my life, and calls me on in my calling. Lamps must have the same longing - that deep desire to be where Jesus is, and the desire for Jesus to have his place among us. Marana Tha.

The price is high. The price of the Pearl was the precious blood of Jesus - the agony of rejection, the pain of separation, the darkness of death. These experiences were not Hollywood experiences. They were not manufactured by actors and CGI. They were real pain in a real body. Real agony in a real spirit, and forever beyond our ability to understand.

But I want to understand. I want to know more, and so I will do whatever it takes. I'm seeking the Pearl, and in that process, I can truly seek the heart of God for his world.

This is what makes the lamps a cause worth dying for. It is one of the deepest challenges we can ever take on. It will urge us to give everything, and in the process of that self-sacrifice, we will become truly men and women of God, mirrors of his love for his broken world, lights for those in darkness, and genuine hope for the hopeless situations into which we, his world, are moving.

I have the imprint on my hands. It is not enough. I want the pearl. I have set my face to seek the Lord. It's going to be hard. So be it.