

feb 9

good morning to all those out cod fish being shipped. (you'll understand later in this message.) i hope things find you well today and anxious to get on about our Father's business. the business of saving those who are headed down the wrong path. and in the process, maybe we can remove that beam from our own eye.

i think we all tend to sometimes make snap judgments. and sometimes, maybe they need to be quick ones. we have to walk in this flesh and we tend to assess things in it also.

i was listening to a preacher the other day and he was talking about how we no longer know Jesus according to the flesh. "therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer." 2 cor 5:16

he talked about the various appearances of Jesus after His crucifixion. it seems no one recognized Him until their spirit actually did. an example: two of them traveled with Him all the way to emmaus and never recognized Him until the breaking of the bread. (symbolizing the breaking of His body)

thomas and the other disciples did not recognize Him when He visited them in john 20:26. (as if walking through closed doors wasn't enough) it was on that occasion that thomas declared, "my Lord and my God". (and i believe from the humblest position he could

assume.)

the point is, even as we now regard our Lord "no longer according to the flesh", paul said we should no longer regard anyone that way. the Spirit in us must discern the spirit in them. even though their actions may be rough and abrasive, is it really evil or is the spirit in them crying out for help? has their spirit been completely given over to evil and it's ways?

these are not things which our human spirit can know. unless the Holy Spirit is showing one different, we should always assume there is hope. i have heard of some of the most detestable and cruel people which have seen that light and sought for a way to climb into it. it would have been way too easy to know them only according to their flesh. but our Spirit would reach out a hand to help them in their climb.

ok, now to the cod. gleaned from the internet. i heard it from a different preacher telling it one day and i looked it up.

This is the story of the Cod fish. Years ago cod fish were placed in railcars, and shipped to the East coast. Shipped alone these fish would arrive with mushy skin, and bland flavor. The cod had a natural enemy, the catfish. So exporters started shipping catfish within the tanks. The catfish then chased the cod just as they would in their natural surroundings. When the cod arrived they were cooked, and found to be fresh and flaky. Thus the catfish, kept the cod, on their toes. You could say there are catfish, and cod fish, in life. You could say that they exist to keep us moving,

and make us aware. You could say we need the catfish. You could ask what is life is with out them. You could wonder who we become. You could ponder the creation of another life. You could do all these things, but first you have to define who you are. Would you rather chase or be chased?

so the catfish served to keep the cod always alert and active. if we are to be truly able to discern the spirit of others instead of their actions, we must stay alert and active. not the spirits which may be driving them, but their spirit. that means we have to be listening to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. i think i have told this little stanza before. it is from a poem i wrote years ago.

teach me not to judge my brother Lord
but lift him up to Thee.
and please don't let him stumble
from the fault he sees in me.

we all have been there. we all still have beams in our own eyes. so let us all go forth, offering the love and forgiveness He offered us. Lord, help us to walk in the Spirit, live in the Spirit, know in the Spirit. may we be that tiny spark of light to them, You were to us.

linda