

jan 26

and so we begin. i don't know about you, but my morning began with the Lord. He may have been in your room too, but He was definitely in mine. i hope i can do even the slightest justice to things He brought today. "Father, help me to try and put together the things You shared this morning; the things you brought to remembrance. let them read not with the hollow words i pen, but with the spirit within them. in my Lord Jesus' name. amen"

let me begin with a story about something i experienced many years ago. we were having communion at church and we were all knelt down close to the front. beside me was a young man who often frequented our church. for some reason unknown to me he seemed to always attach himself to me. on the other side was an older lady who was semi-childlike; what some would call slow. as communion had been issued and we were ready to partake, the woman accidentally dropped her communion cup and it spilled. the little cups could not contain over a tablespoon, if that much.

she picked up her cup and became panicky and disturbed as she stared at the empty cup. as i observed it, i reached over and poured half of my cup into hers. following my lead, the young man did the same. she now had more than both of us and was pleased again. then the communion began.

our Lord has commanded us to take communion in remembrance of Him; remembrance of the sacrifice He made. it doesn't matter if it's weekly or monthly or

whatever. i try to do it daily. not as a requirement, but a desire. i always say, "the communion is the union". it is not a bodily, but a spiritual joining in His sacrifice.

i relate this story for one reason. it is not always the big things that gratify our Lord. often it is those little acts of submission and obedience. it is the love and fellowship we experience in the body of believers. i don't know if i am an arm or a leg or one of those "unpresentable parts" paul speaks of in 1 cor 12. some might say i am the mouth, and a big one at that.

president kennedy was famous for his one line quote. "ask not what your country can do for you. ask what you can do for your country." i have modified that. "ask not what your Jesus can do for you. ask what you can do for your Jesus." He's already done His part. now it is our time. and even then it is nothing if attempted in our own strength. it is only when we submit and cry out, "here i am - send me", as isaiah did in chapter six and verse eight. not necessarily to the nations, but to whoever. for whatever.

i think of the apostle peter when he was told by Jesus, "most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish." john 21:18

peter did not have to go where he did not want. at any time he could have rebelled and said no. that's the

thing about free will. but he chose not the will and wants of the flesh. he chose instead the leading of his Lord. "the wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. so is everyone who is born of the Spirit." john 3:8

indeed he did stretch out his hands, in crucifixion. that wind led him to suffer the same fate as his Lord did. it was there he cried out to his executioners to crucify him upside down, because he was not even worthy to be slain as his Lord was. that, my friend, is walking in the Spirit.

none of us know where our path may lie. we do know our Lord's promise. "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." 2 cor 12:9 we also know this. "God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it." 1 cor 10:13

whether our fate is to escape or to bear it, He will be there and He will be enough. if our escape is to Him, so much the better. "that i may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death." phil 3:10

this is definitely not a religion we share. it is a relationship. He desires it to be a close, intimate one. not a casual one. He will give as much as you give. He will love as much as you love. He can fill every hope or fear if you let Him. embrace afresh the joining with Him. it will be joy unspeakable and full

of glory.

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