

jan 31

today i want to talk about the beloved apostle john. one could almost speculate that he loved Jesus the most. there is no doubt they all loved Jesus deeply and gave their all to show it. we all know how exuberant and bold Peter was in his actions towards Jesus.

john was the youngest of the disciples. it was he who laid his head on Jesus breast at the last supper, the one "whom Jesus loved". all the other disciples suffered a martyrs death. even though the apostle paul's death is not given, he spoke of being "poured out" and was likely beheaded by the romans. john alone died at a ripe old age, possibly even of old age. perhaps even sorrowing in his heart that he was separated from his Lord. tradition does say they tried to boil him in oil and it did not work. as a result he was exiled to the isle of patmos where he was delivered the book of revelation; an insight into the end times.

he wrote most of the new testament next to paul. although most speculate the book of hebrews was written by paul, might it also have been written by john? of course the whole bible was really inspired by the Holy Spirit and the hands that penned it remain less important.

i think maybe john was a lot like the sisters mary and martha. while martha was distracted with much serving, mary sought to sit at the Lord's feet and drink it all in. when martha complained to Jesus He said, "martha,

martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. but one thing is needed, and mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." luke 10:41-42

there were times when i felt i too needed to do the menial things. once while several of us were visiting at the home where a loved one had been lost, i felt called to wash dishes and tend to other things. i was still young in the Lord and others were more qualified to speak those words of comfort than i was. so i was doing what i felt enabled to do. but that place with Jesus, being Him to someone in need, is always the most desirous place.

i think john drank in every word our Lord uttered. he penned that magnificent revelation. "in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. all things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. in Him was life, and the life was the light of men. and the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it." john 1:1-5

he was chosen to witness our Lord on the mount of transfiguration where moises and elijah bore witness to His glory before His crucifixion. it was even thought among many believers that john too would not taste death, a sentiment even john denied.

he wrote many of his gospels in his later life, exhibiting again that the love and fervor for his Lord has not diminished. we know this because he spoke in his gospels as a father figure to his little children.

and, of course, revelation we know was in his later years.

why all this talk about john. i want the fervent love that filled his life to fill mine also. i want that for all of us. yes, i too believe that love is the greatest force in this world; but not worldly love. let me quote this from the internet.

"it is often said that love conquers all, that love is the greatest force in the universe. it is the force that gives healing and life, binds souls together, and whispers to us that all will be well. we can see throughout the Bible that love conquers fear, evil, and sins.

but the power of love comes from its source. it is not a thing in and of itself. this is the mistake the world often makes. when love becomes the force we honor or worship, its power vaporizes. but if we let the radiance of love beckon us back to its source, we find the true reason as to why love conquers all. we find there is a Lover behind love, and that Lover is committed to conquering all that is not love and all that is not lovely.

that Lover is God Himself, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, whose life together is always one of mutual love. love conquers all because God is love and God has already won."

may that love fill us all and may we all recognize the source of that love. yes, may we become "prisoners" of that love and content to be so.

linda