

familiar friday - the pursuit of God

"when gideon came to the jordan, he and the three hundred men who were with him crossed over, exhausted but still in pursuit." judges 14:14

i had a dear friend write me the other day. she is a fairly recent friend but one that has entered my heart with the warmest of welcomes. she wrote me the other day about one of the dailies i had written. it was just a short note commenting about it's content.

since i am relaying her message anonymously, i feel safe in repeating it here. "beautiful, linda. always, just beautiful. how could anyone every read these tributes and not want to know the Jesus YOU KNOW????"

i do not repeat this in any way to try to lift up myself. i only want all of you to know, "this is indeed my mission ... to make you want to know the Jesus I KNOW". He has at last become the greatest desire of my heart. for years i wandered around in the dark. for years i ignored His gentle tugs at my heart and sought to find happiness in things transient and unfulfilling.

but He was always there, waiting to greet me as the Father did the prodigal son. not just waiting, but rushing out to greet him and celebrate his return. yes, he was returning; returning from the filth and squalor the world had finally driven him to. it is the only outcome that can be in a heart that has not prepared a place for our Lord.

"the thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." john 10:10
he will entice you with pleasures, fame and fortune.
he may grant you these for awhile. he offered our Lord the kingdoms of the world if He would just bow down to Him. it would truly be a foolish heart to give what he could never lose for that which he could never keep.

i love the book "the pursuit of God" by aw tozer. we are all in the pursuit of God. our God has set it up this way. "truly You are God, who hide Yourself, o God of israel, the savior!" isa 45:15

it is like the verse from a poem i know. "take heart and let the thought of God allure you further on." our pursuit of knowing Him can be a most fulfilling task in itself. ah, but the finding. shall we ever know the finding of all that He is? eternity will not be long enough for such a task. all the goodness, all the holiness, all the love, all the many perfect things that make Him God. the pursuit - yes it is worth it; worth it a thousand times over to me. "there you will seek the Lord your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul." deut 4:29

if you've never felt the release of all the shame and guilt and hopelessness, it is there waiting for you. often it is at the rock bottom. we often have to reach the end of ourselves. from the bottom there is no place to look but up and up is where He is. "a broken and a contrite heart - these, o God, You will not despise." psa 51:17

do i want you to know this God i love and serve also? with all my heart. would that my heart extended to the lengths the apostle paul's did, but it does not. "for i could wish that i myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh." yes, i love you but i am in the pursuit of my God and i will not let go. follow not me. follow Him!

i leave you with this invitation and warning from the word of God. "know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. if you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever." 1 chron 28:9

i pray you will begin your pursuit today. if you already have, intensify it. seeking and finding will be one's reward over and over again. try as we might, we can't never out give God.