

The heart that pleads

March 27, 2006

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Micah 6:2 Hear ye, O mountains, the LORD'S controversy, and ye strong foundations of the earth: for the LORD hath a controversy with his people, and he will plead with Israel.

When I wish upon a star I do so with hope. I sometimes wonder how we as a Christian people have learned to toss out hope and take hope and bind it so its value to us is nought. I heard many speak to me of faith, as if faith is the get all of life and its entire value is in faith yet speak against me because I say "I hope so..."

Hope is key to the battle we fight. There is no greater battle then the one of hope for without hope faith and love shrivel upon the vine and the grapes are carried away by time. Hope is the battle key and with hope our faith begins to exist. Faith is the stirring up of hope within us. If I have hope and cling to hope and rest my hope with God he will make sure that hope rises up to become a seed of faith. And if the seed of faith is planted in the ground then I know something marvelous has to happen.

Its called the death of that faith seed. Now you won't hear many, if any, talk about the death of our faith. In fact we speak of faith as undying but in many ways we must understand the very beginnings of things.

For example Christ came as a seed, a small seed of faith, but grew into a great wonder. But to show us the path he died on the cross so that he might come forth with life.

Now I know there are some who say I stretch the point but I want to bring it forth so we can understand what happens with us. A seed has to die in order that it might bring forth life. Thus if faith is as a seed of mustard then it must be planted in the ground where the seed dies and is reborn from that of a seed into that of a plant.

I think of faith as the key that will bring us to love. Love is of God but we are the hands of love. We have to decide if we will grow deeper into love or allow our love to be thwarted.

When we speak of nations we speak of things that began in the heart of a man or woman. That desire grew, as hope, until it became a reality. Today Israel has been restored to their land but they share it with a people who wish to tear down the mustard plant and burn it. Their desire is not to see Israel grow but to see her destroyed. And if we who are Christian refuse to support the growth and value of that Mustard Plant that is planted there then do we have a part in the fruit that is produced? In the future of that plant?

For every tree in the field there is one who plants. Now it may be that nature plants by chance but in reality all things are centered and planted. If we who are children of God can understand this mystery we will see there is more to

nature than any of us can understand. We will see that our eyes begin to open to the things God has created and made from the mountains to the valleys, from the earth to the sky. Each thing God has made stands as a silent witness to his wonder and his grace. There is beauty and truth to be seen and hope to be gained by all of these things.

Yet there is more for those with eyes to see but it takes time to understand. When we put God first in our lives we grow and are rooted in the things, like his creation, that come about by faith. Faith is the key to understanding how God created things by faith. God speaks of the strong foundations of the earth. These strong foundations were founded beforetime on the principles of truth and faith. But earth was made not just for its own value but for its purpose. As each herb of the field was meant for food so it is with the mustard plant. Now if the mustard plant can grow to great sizes is it not true that God can take that simple seed and make something from the smallness of it?

We think of the saying that faith like that of a mustard seed can move mountains. In one way it doesn't make sense. How can faith that small move mountains. Are we even understanding it? Can we even comprehend what faith is? As I have grown I have begun to learn the complexity and simplicity of faith. That it always begins with desire, with hope. And that hope is brought to God so that he might see it and approve of it. Then he asks us to give him the hope so that he might take it and make something of it. That hope begins to grow and it grows and it grows until it becomes manifested as faith. That is the spiritual side of the equation.

But just as in the spiritual so there must be a natural side to the equation. And that is where the spiritual hope becomes spiritual faith and then the spiritual faith returns to us as natural fruit. Now in that process we can expect testing of our hope and our faith so that the trying of it produces patience. No gardener grows a fruit or nut tree without realizing that it takes years for it to become an established tree well rooted and well grounded in the earth.

That rooting in the earth is to create a strong foundation, just as God did with the earth itself, so that it might become established and spread upon the earth. Without that deep foundation, sometimes built on suffering and pain, people forget their roots and they leave them behind. And in the leaving behind chaff and weeds grow up to choke out those things. And Satan is notorious as one who chinks and paws at the ground trying to find a way to the base of the root so that it might lose its founding. He wants people to forget the suffering and pain so they might forget their groundings. He also wants them to forget their heritage in God so that the strength of their faith is forgotten.

Just as Israel went through centuries of grounding in the earth so now they have a strong foundation which the enemy still tries to destroy.

Every gardener knows the value of time and the patience of time. Israel has finally been established in the earth but already we can see how the enemy has planted someone in their midst set upon destroying her. They need to understand that God sees and knows their value and they, like the mustard seed, are the small nation that shall move mountains. No matter how big the

'bad guy' is they can rest assured that God has not forgotten them nor tossed them aside. They have been brought back to the Promised land for there they were placed by God so they might prosper and live. And in life they will have hope and from that hope they will grow into something wonderful the entire earth will rejoice in. For from the founding of the sea to the going down of the sun the name of the Lord shall be praised. And not one jot or tittle of the word of God shall be forgotten and not one word shall be ignored and not one word shall be tossed aside. For out of the valley of decision shall grow a vine which shall be called the vine of choice. And choice shall restore Israel to her place among the nations of the earth. For she shall become a fruitful place and a fruitful store house for all nations. And she shall be called the little vine of the earth but the little vine shall give forth great fruit and it shall prosper her for she will be restored to her place among the valley of Kidron. And Kidron shall be a land of hope and she will be a part of the little peoples land for she will be restored from the going down of the sun to its rising in the earth.

See Jeremiah 31:38-40