

Let God Walk with You and Lead

‘At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam’s ribs. Later in the week, his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and she said, “Johnny, what is the matter?” Little Johnny responded, “I have pain in my side. I think I’m going to have a wife”.’

Now, in Little Johnny’s mind, does he mean it’s painful for men to get wives? Or does it mean that after getting a wife, men find it painful? Or both? Well, the Scripture mentions nothing about Eve’s creation being painful for Adam. God caused Adam to go into a deep sleep. It also says nothing of any recuperation or healing after the procedure. The only thing we read there is of the immense joy, the elation, that welled up in Adam’s soul, and overflowed in ecstatic praise and thanksgiving to Father God for creating a companion that was just like him. As much as adore our “fur babies”, or any of the other creatures that Father God has put on this earth, they can never replace others of our own kind. The problem we too often run into is that the others of our own kind that we frequently run into, work with, or live with, can sometimes or more often, rub us the wrong way. Some families expe-

rience such discord that the only joy some people have is from the unconditional love they feel from their pets.

This is absolutely not the way it is supposed to be. We should know for certain that our Father never intended for any one of us to be alone, isolated, abandoned, forgotten. And that is why He put us into families. The connections, blood ties, are supposed to always keep us connected to each other, so that none of us are ever alone, and that we will always have someone close to turn to when the need arises. Furthermore, God Himself, in Christ Jesus, designed us from the very beginning to forever be in gracious, loving friendship with Himself. And indeed, without Him in our hearts, constantly guiding and advising us in our day to day lives and everyday relationships, those same human associations will be incomplete, imperfect and insufficient to meet our needs to live contentedly and abundantly in this earthly life. Our Creator Father God is the essential Person that we must first have uninterrupted, intimate relationship and connection to, which then actually enables us to have the best, most complete and satisfying life with both our dear loved ones, as well as all the other people we bump into during our lives. It follows that the more conflict there is between people, societies, nations, there is less and less knowledge and friendship with God. The less any people knows, loves and obeys God, the greater the discord, conflict and ongoing breakdown of society.

We all can easily see just how acrimonious our country has

become. We all can remember how years gone by times were so much more peaceable and civil, neighborly and harmonious. The cause and effect of America's gradual distancing itself from God and His ways has resulted in today's disunity such that the unthinkable threat of actual civil war has become a real possibility. And not just domestically, but on the global stage as well. As America's Godly influence has waned, the devil's has strengthened. Earth is now dangerously close to a third world war. The rule of God's law that makes freedom possible, has been breaking down over the decades as more and more people ignore God and His desires. As a result, the explosion of lawlessness.

Among the most fundamental of God's commands is to live truthfully. Nowadays, it seems that nearly all the people who run government, education, commerce and industry, entertainment and even religious observances, are pathological liars. And they seemingly all live as if there is no God at all, no one to whom they will ever be held accountable. We who try to live righteously, in their minds, serve only to enrich and empower them. We are persons, "deplorables", "unwashed masses", "rightwing extremists", "election deniers", and worse. If we ever question our unrighteous "overlords", they seek to put us down, back into our places of subservience and "slavery" to their rule. The Constitution is meaningless, as to them, there is equality "under" the law only for them, the important people. As the late Leona Helmsley, billionaire hotel magnate and "Queen of Mean" so famously said, "Only

the little people pay taxes”, she did get her comeuppance when she was found guilty of financial crimes. Sentenced to 16 years in prison, she only served 19 months, later dying, aged 87 in 2007, in her historic, palatial mansion in Greenwich, Connecticut.

Helmsley did give hundreds of millions of dollars to various charities in her later years. The one-time owner of the Empire State Building, willed the bulk of her \$4 billion estate to a trust, but \$12 million was given to her Maltese dog, “Trouble”, who died at age 12, three years later. A court reduced that amount to \$2 million; only a fraction of it was used, the remainder reverting back to the trust. She specified that her dog be buried next to her, but New York law forbids animal burial in human cemeteries, so Trouble was cremated. Despite her charitable giving, she was not generous with the people close to her. It seems that she was closest of all to her fur baby. And that is a shame, since her husbands and only son preceded her in death, she did not will nearly so much to her own grandchildren, cutting some out entirely.

It seems pretty clear that, unless in her dying breaths she accepted the Lord, she did not go to Heaven. Her relationships with ordinary people became the stuff of infamous legends. It seems that most “decent” Americans rejoiced at her imprisonment. For better or worse, we can cite her life as how not to live God’s way. For she literally had everything this world could offer, but died, still filthy rich and despised by most. Even the love of her dog failed to point her to the love of God, made perfectly man-

ifest in Christ Jesus. I wonder how much comfort she ever experienced in life from other human beings, with the one exception of her beloved husband, Harry Helmsley, who once spent \$100,000 to light up their Empire State Building on July 4, 1976, in red, white and blue in honor of her birthday. “Less than the cost of a necklace”, he said.

The last nearly 20 years of Harry’s life were plagued with illness. Leona stood by him, the human love of her life. But it was easier for her than for most of us. She had massive wealth and an army of servants to help her. We “little people” do not have such luxuries. Such “luxuries” might be considered blessings by some, but great wealth often, as the Bible says, is a snare that usually prevents people from ever finding the Lord Who created and loves them, such that they never inherit the eternal life of unending peace and joy with God. For true wealth is found in gratitude to God for all things. Our Scripture lessons today teach us about the unimaginable greatness and goodness of God.

As we give thanks to God, we are inexplicably drawn ever closer to Him, to His presence, to His life-giving life! Though we can often find ourselves in seemingly impossible and unsolvable situations, we must always remember that what we can see, think and understand, is necessarily limited to our humanness. For we are only human, and can’t see our lives from beginning to end, let alone all the people whose lives intersect ours at one point and those whose lives run many years alongside our own. As much

as we think we know others, even beloved life-long spouses, we do not and may never know all the things they experienced, all the feelings they felt, all the things they suffered, all their joys and sorrows. It is absolutely only our love for them that transcends our lack of understanding. As God Himself has said in I Peter 4:8, in the Message translation, “Most of all, love each other as if your life depended on it. Love makes up for practically anything”.

When Lord Jesus was preaching in the regions of Galilee, where He headquartered His ministry, a man with leprosy tracked Him down. He approached the Lord, bowing before in humble worship. He called out to the Lord, respectfully asking to be healed of his horrendous condition, but leaving it all up to the Lord’s discretion. The leper put no conditions on the Lord, faithfully throwing himself totally on Christ’s mercy. In the face of such unassuming faith, the Lord joyfully jumped to heal the man. The Lord actually reached out and touched the man. Imagine that! Lord Jesus physically touched an infected, infectious man. What was He thinking? Why the Lord could Himself be infected with leprosy! But no. Such a thought never entered Lord Jesus’ mind. But even more than the healing itself, this man was touched. How he had longed for a human touch for all the years of his affliction! And it was the Lord’s touch that made all the difference. So, if you truly desire the Lord’s touch, enough to let Him walk with you and then steer you in the ways and things you should do, pray. Earnestly. And see all your relationships prosper!

