



Touchstones of the Heart

I Missed It

Have you ever looked back over your life and realized God was trying to show you something, but for some reason you missed it? I had this experience recently while taking a look at where I have come from over the last few years to where I am now. It struck me how everything God is doing in me and through me right now had been laid at my feet a few years ago, but I missed it. At the time I was in charge of the men's ministry at a church in a small rural town in south Alabama. Every year the men held a wild game supper for the church. Most of the men at this church were hunters, so they gathered the wild game they had killed during the previous hunting season and cooked it on open grills behind the church. Since it was an annual event and the men were accustomed to organizing it there was very little for me to do, but observe. I remember seeing men there that I had never seen in our meetings, let alone in church on Sunday and thinking that we needed to concentrate on getting these guys saved and into church instead of standing around these grills talking about hunting and football. The problem was I didn't understand the power that ritual can have in men's lives to actually lead them to God. So, there I stood around

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Ministry Updates

Rescued Heart is in a season of waiting on God at this time. He has met us here in North Carolina and continues to amaze us in the way He is speaking and putting people in our path that we need to meet. The spring retreat had to be cancelled and we are seeking God as to the right time for us to reschedule between now and October. As I am being schooled in hearing God's voice there are bound to be times that I mistake my own timing for His. Please lift us up in prayer that we will be able to hear Him clearly in these matters and use the gifts He has provided

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"Watercolor Fish"
Digital Image
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Newsletter Spotlight

The "religious" person cannot see how these rituals help men in their spiritual growth and development, because to them they are just non-religious things that men do. What we need to see is that there is no separation between the natural and the spiritual; every act of the man (or woman) who is committed to serving God becomes an act of consecrated worship.

Tidbits for Living: The Battle Field For Your Heart



Battle Field For The Heart
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Hearing God's voice. I'm sure many of you would like me to give a 3-step process or formula that helps us do this. I don't have either. The bible gives us some clues to hearing God speak, but to the uninitiated they often seem cryptic. This is how it was for me. Jesus said in John, "God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship him in spirit and in truth." It is by our spirits that we hear God and it is through His Spirit that He speaks. A tuning fork can be used to tune multiple instruments to the exact same note and when they are all tuned to that note they will play together in unison. Too often we try to tune ourselves to our own note and actually refuse to be tuned by God to His note. I find this is especially true with American Christians. We have taken on the tune of our culture and are living for ourselves instead of being totally surrendered to God. We go out to do things for God asking Him to bless it without considering whether we should first ask Him what He would have us do and then, after hearing Him speak, do what He says.

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Touchstones of the Heart

I Missed It (Continued)

the grills behind the church that night a supposed leader of men (but really just a poser) thinking, “What does this have to do with church?” and missing an opportunity to help men interpret the power of this annual event and how God wants to speak to them through their stories of hunting, fishing and yes, even sports. For you see, little did I know at the time that a year later I would go through a crisis which would take me to the depths of despair only to be led by God down a path of initiation into a deeper relationship with Him. God used the power of ritual and a community of men to bring me to the place I am now. So I’m not misunderstood let me tell you what I’m not talking about when I use the word “ritual”. I’m not talking about religious rituals such as those observed in church. What I am talking about are things men do such as hunting, fishing, working on a car or building something together. When men do these things it demonstrates the power of a community of men bonding in a deep way that is hard to put into words. The “religious” person cannot see how these rituals help men in their spiritual growth and development, because to them they are just non-religious things that men do. What we need to see is that there is no separation between the natural and the spiritual; every act of the man (or woman) who is committed to serving God becomes an act of consecrated worship. That night at the wild game supper there were men who did not go to church; who were not striving like the rest of us to be “good men” and yet they may have been closer to God than the rest of us, because they were not putting on religion like a pair of jeans that don’t fit. They were able to admit their place before God and perhaps would have even smote their breast like the tax collector in Jesus’ parable and said, “God, have mercy on me, a sinner!” So if you want to be a leader of men, don’t give them another religious exercise designed to kill their hearts, instead release them to be dangerous for the Kingdom of God teaching them what Paul said, “And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus...” As for me, when God gives me opportunity, I do not want to miss it again!

Ministry Updates (Continued)

wisely. Theresa and I have submitted applications to work in the prison ministry here in this area. We will be participating in an established work sponsored through the local church we are attending at this time. David will be doing a study on men’s issues to help those who will be leaving prison to adapt to life outside and Theresa will help wherever she can. Theresa is also exploring opportunities to start the Women’s ministry arm of Rescued Heart called, “Kingdom Princess” and will do some local things before we launch this into conferences and retreats. We are open to whatever the Spirit of God leads us to do as we receive our orders daily from Him to keep ourselves in His will.

Tidbits for Living: The Battle Field For Your Heart (Continued)

It is easier to find some good work, put either our resources or our time into it and then ask God to bless it than to actually wait on him and not move until we hear from Him. One minister friend of mine told me how he went out to knock on doors to witness for Christ a few years ago only to have God ask him what He was doing. When he answered that he was witnessing for Him, God asked him, “Did I tell you to do this?” His answer was no, so God told him to go home so he did. Some may say, “The great commission tells us to go, so he should have just did it.” The question I would ask is this, had the Spirit of God prepared the field for harvest? How would he know if he had not first asked God and then waited to hear the Spirit speak and say, “Go!” I promise you if you will do this, God will speak and don’t be surprised if he not only tells you to knock on doors, but to “go, sell everything you have and give to the poor.”

May I give one more small piece of advice? Don’t do these things because you “ought to”, but do them because you understand without them you will die on the battle field for your heart!