

Stripping Away the Romance

Children are often amazed at the “Superhero” persona: The hero that swoops in to save the day; The Jedi Knight with abilities of mind control while fighting the “Dark Side,” or the tale of “The Book of Eli” depicting a man’s journey across a post-apocalyptic America as he battles to keep his book, the Bible, from falling into unscrupulous hands. Who would not love to be such a hero?!?!? Sadly, such romantic notions are not limited to children.

Stripping Away the Romance, i.e., “an emotional attraction or aura belonging to an especially heroic era, adventure, or activity” (Webster’s), who indeed would stand up, as did Isaiah, and say, “Here am I; send me” (Isaiah 6:8)?

As we sit in our palaces and get caught up in the romance of faithfulness, let us not forget that brethren of old, “were stoned, they were sawn asunder, they were tempted, they were slain with the sword: they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated (of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves, and the holes of the earth” (Heb. 11:37), and to them it was real!

Jesus said, concerning the parable of the sower, “those by the way side are they that have heard; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word from their heart, that they may not believe and be saved. And those on the rock are they who, when they have heard, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. And that which fell among the thorns, these are they that have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. And that in the good ground, these are such as in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, hold it fast, and bring forth fruit with patience” (Lk. 8:12-15).
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