

But He Has Nothing On Wednesday Word: October 12, 2016

There is a old children's tale about an emperor who loved the finest cloths more than anything. The story goes that two swindlers (hustlers in today's terminology) came to town and persuaded the emperor that they had the best of the best in fine designs to make a new suit for the emperor. They also said that the material was so fine that only the unfit and unintelligent would not be able to see it. Counselor after counselor was sent by the emperor to view it because the emperor trusted their opinion. Each one of them went to view the garments being weaved on the loom. Though they could not see anything they feared not being worthy of the high positions they held that they said nothing about it. The emperor himself fell to this same thinking. Off the emperor went, parading around the town in this fake non-existent suit. In other words, he was naked; he had nothing on. It took a child in the crowd to speak the truth that this emperor was not wearing anything at all. Only then did the townspeople who were previously gasping and chatting about the beautiful designs and the bright colors of this fake garment, speak the truth though they always knew it. As the story goes, the emperor, probably out of shame of being humiliated and suckered, continued with the charade as did those who were holding up the fake train of the garment.

Why am I bringing up this story? How many times do we see and know the truth about a situation but keep silent for fear that we may lose our position, title, or respect from others? This is one of the things that the Word warns against yet we continue to fall victim to this.

Romans 16:17-18 - Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. 18 For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.

Jude 14-16 - Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, 15 to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him." 16 These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their

own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage.

Right now there is a warning. Be very careful to seek your own heart before having someone else in your mind regarding this message. In the past few months I have seen the Lord use those I used to consider under dogs to carry out His will and I have seen those whom I thought were spiritual giants act against God's Word. (This is my conviction of not seeing people how God sees them but through my own fleshly filters.) Though there are those held to a higher standard due to the position the Lord has placed them in, none of us are so above another that we are not held to the Word of God in its entirety. If you see something (through the leading of Holy Spirit), say something (through the leading of Holy Spirit).

[Note: Matthew 18 tells us how to do this.] If you can't or decide not to say something, pray about what you are seeing.

I can only write from my personal experiences. On a national level, global level, personal level, and corporate church level, I have seen so much division. A lot of it is because people choose to remain in their pride instead of seeking the Lord to search what is inside their own heart. God is a forgiving God but we must allow Him to work within us so we can continue to grow and work in love towards one another. If someone is not clothed/parading around naked spiritually, it is our job to help cover them by the Holy Spirit and the blood of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 3:17-18 - Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked— 18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

Galatians 6:1-2 - Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

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