

The Trials of Life

April 17th, 2020



My dear family, I confess to you, I have not been the best example lately. We are moving into our hermitage which was just finished and I don't know anything that can be more challenging and sometimes nerve racking as moving. Just the sheer exhaustion of having to deal with taking things apart, packing, unpacking and putting them back up, over and over again can be an occasion of sin for an impatient person.

Yes, I am impatient. When people don't pick up on what needs to be done but just kind of stare off into space, I am not a very nice person. I may not show it but inside I am seething with impatience. Being incompetent and not managing well is another occasion of sin for me, as if I were competent and able to do all things better than others!

I know this is stinky dog excrement to the angels and saints, the great cloud of witnesses, and I must repent for this. Besides that, I have just judged in my heart, and planted a seed of bitterness. Do you know what happens when you are irritated by others?? A demon takes up residence in the form of a spirit of bitterness, in your heart. And of course, on each occasion that irritation arises, you are planting more seeds and watering them. Judgement, bitterness, anger, resentment, all of these are toxic weeds begin to flourish in my proud heart. They are like mustard seeds, they begin as tiny offences, sprout and then branch out into large trees that give the demons a place to perch.

After they have found a branch to perch on, they begin to feed off your negative feelings and throw up a toxic substance on you. Rick Joyner talks about this in his books. He has observed the demons dropping excrement all over Christians to cause them to forget brotherly love and embrace judgement of others.

I can get angry, although it takes quite a bit before I really get angry, but when I do my whole body suffers, energy is sucked right out of me, and harvested by demons who in turn repeat the cycle and spread it around. I used to justify my anger, "What is the matter with them? Why did they do that that way?" and if I had counseled them to do it another way, "I told them how to do it! Why didn't they listen? Now look at the mess I have to clean up!!!

Or I hold the anger in and fall into self-pity. "No one listens to me. I tried to help them but they wouldn't listen." That used to drop me right into a tarry bucket of self-pity, until I realized how full of my own excrement I was. In other words, I was judgmental and resentful that no one listened to me. Much has changed since those days, mainly because I recognized my own weaknesses in the wake of observing the good in others. At first, I didn't see the good, but as I got to know them I recognized they were much, much better than I.

The Lord pulled the mask away, showing me the true source of my anger. My dear ones, all of our human anger, unless it is over injustice in the extreme, all of our protesting, and critical observations come from Pride. I know better, do it my way. And very simply our anger is focused not on the incompetence of another, **but on God who allowed that** incompetence to happen. Nothing happens without God's permission. Why did He allow that foolishness in another? Could it be perhaps, to test me in brotherly love? I cannot think of anything that is quite as noxious to the angels, as pride. God arranges our day and knows the disposition of every soul. He knows their weaknesses and their strengths. He brings them before us to see whether we are going to judge their actions or love them as He has loved us in the error of our ways.

This week, I've been a bad example because I have become impatient with just about everyone around me. And these souls have left everything to come here and help establish a prayer community. They have given their lives to God because they believe He is guiding us. So am I to become the bitter critic that finds fault, storing up a laundry list of toxic judgements in my heart? Is this why I am here? Lord, change me, please help me to see what I am doing.

Jesus began, "My Beloved, in these situations you live your day to day life based on what is getting done, not on what I am doing in the souls of others. What I would prefer to see from My Bride is a mother who is more concerned about the welfare of others than she is about what gets done. I want you to look beyond your human interests, which are not as important as seeing the state of the soul. What is going on inside that soul, how can you reassure them, how can you encourage and bring them closer to Me?

There are many different ways to accomplish a task, and I see wisdom at work in you when you release it to competent hands to do it their way. But each soul has an exterior and interior layer. The inner man needs to be seen, his or her condition, what is going on inside of them, their insecurities and how you can comfort and love them the way I comfort and love you.

It is the blossoming and inner growth that is most important to a soul...you should know this because when you feel squeezed into a mold that doesn't fit you, you languish.

Self-interest, self-pity, selfishness, self, self, self, blinds a person as to what they are doing in My eyes. When they are so eaten up with self-interest, anything done in a way that doesn't agree with them becomes a criticism and weakens that soul whether they speak it out or hold it in. In community you will feel the burdens and sins of others, spoken and unspoken. You will feel the judgment behind your back, you will feel the rancor and self-preoccupation others have with their perceived injustices. As a mother, I want you to address these things very delicately. One of the reasons they are here is because they could not succeed in other areas of their lives. You are here, working with Me to make them whole.

They do not see their Pride and selfishness; they only see what others do wrong. They do not consider where that soul has come from, how much that soul has already overcome, and where I am taking them. All they see is that they need to be corrected and to do things the way they

are convinced they should be done.

They are drawing from a poisonous lake of Pride in their hearts, that has been fed into by their achievements. And that touches all their human relationships with judgment and rancor. They see themselves as the savior, rather than as the instrument of Satan's wrath and condemnation, that ultimately destroys tender souls.

What is the remedy for this? Are you disgusted because someone did something the wrong way? Look into your past dear one...when did you do something the wrong way...when did you mess up and cause more work for others. Oh, you found one occasion? Good, keep looking. If your memory is good, keep looking. You should find at least 3 times to 7 times that you have caused others inconvenience by your ignorance.

Are others slow on the uptake...kind of gazing off into the distance, not knowing what to do next? Think back, how many times where you placed in an unfamiliar environment and you stood there looking stupid until someone told you what to do. How many times like that, in your life did you do that while others were busy at work? Three times? Look deeper.

Do this exercise with every fault you find in your brother and sister. It should bring about your cure very quickly. Every time you get frustrated with someone, dig deep, think of the times you did the very same thing."

I want to add that some people come to the refuge thinking they are going to improve things with their superior knowledge and expertise. They are usually very, very bright and have achieved many things in the world, but also have a trail of broken relationships. They find it difficult to live in a community setting because they are so aware of all the faults of those around them and they want to help others. But in fact, it only ends in alienation, because people don't need to be told what's wrong with them, they need to be loved.

When I come to the Lord in the morning, He does not present me with a laundry list of things I've done wrong. He just wants to greet me, hold me, and listen to me worshipping Him and pouring out my supplications.

I already know how many things are wrong with me...of course not all things, but a lot of things. In fact so many things that I shy away from the Lord, tuck my head and feel very un-lovable. I have already rejected myself for all my faults. Do I really need a brother or sister to tell me again how frail and weak I am? Do I really need the Lord to tell me His laundry list of my faults? How I could improve doing this or that better?

He knows very well that I need healing from my own brutal assessment of myself. Some things I can help, others I am too weak to conquer. So, I am deeply ashamed of these things. Do I need the Lord to tell me all about them? Or do I need to be loved, comforted, encouraged and given more graces to help me get up again. Because when He restores my confidence, my heart becomes more open to the whispers of Holy Spirit. Whereas before I was tucking my head and

covering my ears, He has restored my confidence, that I can do it better next time.

Heart Dwellers are a particularly different group of believers. We dwell in God's Heart which is love, unconditional love and encouragement. We know full well our faults but we cast them at His feet and pray for healing. So, do I need someone in the community to come and tell me all about these so he/or she can fix them for me?

No, I do not. Their judgment on me is even more devastating. They don't know how I've lived my life, what I have had to overcome to be where I am now, what things in myself are insurmountable. All they see is that they can do it better and they want to show me how. Dear ones, this is God's job not mine. When a new soul comes into the community, I am there for them. I may share something about my struggles with them because I see they are struggling in that same area.

Usually they give me a quick answer insuring that they already know that. But isn't it interesting, those souls are cups brimming over with their own solutions...so I can offer nothing? They already have conquered their faults and now they are out to conquer mine. I have to laugh at that. Why?? Cause I have so many even God can't fix them!!! And here is a little mortal trying to do God's job??? We have had a few souls here who truly believed they were superior in every way and fully qualified to fix us. I have to laugh...if God's qualifications can't make the change, do you think you can???

The truth is, God is working on all of us, all the time. He has put us together in a bit of a boiling pot till the dross comes to the surface...the challenge is to ignore the dross and impurities and love the soul. If you just can't help yourself...the right action is not to brood over their faults, but to pray and sincerely recall the last time you were just as stupid. The truth is, the fault you see in your brother may be only one of three faults, yet you may have 20 faults you have not yet conquered, let alone the faults that would cause your collapse if God revealed them to you. Most assuredly PRIDE is the biggest one and sticks out like a sore thumb. So pray for their fault, but pray harder for yours because PRIDE was the sin of Satan, and it ruins everything a soul tries to do.

Pride dissembles, divides, alienates, demands its rights, falls into self-pity, knows better than others and is not teachable. Whereas the poor soul that has these faults may be very teachable and never think of downgrading others because they might fail in an area. In fact, dear ones, here is the bottom line:

See all people as better than yourself. Convince yourself of this FACT and you will reach the very height of sanctity.

The contemporary churches teach us to be successful in the world, hold your head high over your accomplishments, scrutinize the faults of others and pass judgement on them in their hearts.

Jesus teaches us to love one another as we love ourselves. To recognize that others are indeed

better than we...even with all our accolades. He wants us to be teachable, holding forth an empty cup for others to pour into...you may come to a place where God has established a leader, but if your cup is full and overflowing, you will learn nothing, and soon grow tired of that place, walking away in a worse state than you came in. I have seen this so many times, the Lord gives us the medicine but the soul will not open their mouths and swallow it. They believe they've already conquered themselves under God's direction.

It is inconceivable to them that perhaps they are missing something He is trying to show them in a light they have never seen quite that way before. I have learned a great deal from those who come here, but it is usually the quiet little wallflowers that teach me the most. Having come from a successful photography career in the world I learned all the ways I don't want to be. So, when a truly meek and humble soul comes, one who is teachable and peaceable, never giving a thought to their brother's faults, when they come, I hunger and thirst to discover their secret. And what I see is the gospel alive in all their dealings.

⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. They do not flaunt their portion and ownership.

⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. They do not see themselves as righteous because of all the good they've done for others.

⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

They do not find fault with others but see only God's mercy.

⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

They are not corrupted with desires for the world's goods.

⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

They do not judge and raise objections, find fault and long to fix the problems of others, they accept them even with their faults knowing that their own sins blind them to the virtues of the others.

Children, love one another, as I loved you. If you come to the refuge, do not come with the habits of fixing others, come with the agenda to love others as the Lord has loved you.

Pray for me that I can be the mother the Lord has called me to be.