

Leave Your Nets and Follow Me

This is the first instruction given to all who have met Christ; or should I say it is the natural happening. The light of our Savior is so contrary to the dark world that His coming into your life causes things to happen. Turning and leaving your nets is a natural happening and is called repentance. And without daily repentance, one cannot see God.

What are the nets we are ensnared in that we are commanded to leave?

Well, let us start with our way of making a living. The disciples were fishermen. They walked away from their boats and never looked back.

Our relationship to our families; old family ties, traditions, obligations — “Oh, my father just died and I must go bury him.” And Jesus answered, “Let the dead bury the dead, follow me.” Does that sound hard and callous? Without such a commitment, you will never see God. Without such a commitment you will always be emoting, acting, emotional and sicko.

Recently I got a phone call from someone whose grandpa just died. He was 80 plus years old, a suffering, cantankerous old goat. Her half hearted commitment to

Christ caused a scene that would have given her an Oscar if she were playing Romeo and Juliet. The ringing of hands, the faking sorrow, the obligation of attending the burial, the trying to keep him from dying, the forcing the great grandkids to act as phony is a sickness that contaminates the soul.

The suffering in the world leads to death. However, the sufferings of Christ lead to life. The sufferings of Christ are as excruciating as giving birth, for the Christ (the last Adam) is birthed out of the first Adam, our old nature. No anesthetic will alleviate the suffering of the cross. So let us all as brave soldiers follow the example of our Savior and with faith “lose our lives to save it”, die, that others might live and count it all joy to suffer for the sake of the Kingdom. Paul’s words ring down through the ages, **“These light afflictions and misunderstandings are as nothing compared to the glory that is ours forever and forever once the new creation comes forth on the earth and in heaven bringing glory to God in the highest.”** Let the praises of God ring forth from our hearts as we see the injustice and evil increase. God’s love and mercy be with all of us in the ensuing days ahead.



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