

Have My Cake and Eat It, Too!

At a small group meeting recently, a participant spoke of her disappointment that the Lord had not answered her prayers for healing. She went on to say that it would seem that praying to the Lord, fasting, praise – nothing seemed enough to move the Lord’s hand to heal her. She further attested that, in her desperation, she had tried “other paths” to healing, presumably Zen or some other forms of mysticism that are distinctively non-Christian. However, nothing, no one, it seemed, could or would heal this young woman.



It seems to me that “Janet” wanted to have her cake and eat it, too. She wanted to have her cake, in her case, good health. And she wanted to eat it too; in fact, she was using the health that she had to petition any deity, no matter who or what, to give her what she wanted. Her prayer centered on **her** wants. **Janet wanted to have her cake and eat it, too!**

I have lately been struck by the incredibly exclusive demands of the Lord in the Scriptures. When He burned the 10 commandments into a stone for Moses to share with all the people of Israel, the very first command was one of absolute, unyielding exclusivity.

“I am the Lord thy God; You shall have no other gods before Me.” Exodus 20: 3

“O Lord Almighty, God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. Isaiah 37:16

**Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol,
nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the
God of his salvation. Psalm 24:3-5**

Now let me tell you another story. My mother and father were graduates of the Great Depression of the 1930’s and 40’s. When she died, Mother still had one food ration book. My folks lived ever so frugally. My father retrieved every nail he ever dropped. He taught all of us kids to pick up every penny we saw and count ourselves blessed. I still do that today. Actually, pennies were indeed a blessing to us, because we could buy penny candy at Frank and Lula’s store down the path at the lake where we lived.

Mother could make the most fabulous meals out of so very little. I still remember that every Wednesday we had a surprise meal. She often called that meal “Goulash,” though in retrospect I think it might have more accurately been called “All the Leftovers smooshed together.” Beans, peas, meat (if there was any left), potatoes, corn, gravy. And of course salt. Salt flavored just about everything.

When I think about the young woman mentioned earlier who willingly tried every seeming source of power to effect what she wanted for her life, I think of “Goulash.” In the case of our family, it was food Mother fixed so as not to waste a scrap of food. But when it comes to seeking God, I believe He doesn’t “do” Goulash. God doesn’t mix with anyone or anything. What I mean is that God is above all. He is the Only One. He is the Holy One. He is God, and there is NOT another god on the scene.

He is absolutely unwilling to be a bean in a pot of goulash that we stir up looking to get something for ourselves. He is God alone.

I mentioned in the previous devotion that He is a jealous God. He indeed says that one of His names is Jealous. His jealousy means He is utterly unwilling to allow anyone to mess with the object of His love, namely you and me. So how does this all fit together? Simply this:

The Lord’s purpose, His heart, His will is to give all of Himself to you, without reserve, without regret, without reservation. His requires we do the same in return. May I be blunt in this? As shown so very clearly in the Song of Solomon and in the Book of Hosea, God is not interested in having “an affair” with you; He is not into a one-night stand; He is not drawn to a “give me this piece of cake (whatever you presently really think you just “have to have) and I’ll be satisfied” relationship.

He is into permanence. He is into sharing all of who He is and all He has with a Bride whose heart is raging with love for Him. He is into exclusivity in relationship with us. He is into pouring Himself into you and me so fully that we begin to look like Him and act like Him. He wants to give us SO MUCH MORE than our own immediate “wants.”

I think He is into a one course meal. I believe He wants to be our only Feast, not just another contribution of the leftovers from our spiritual icebox.

Where is God in your life? Is He a nice little addition to your existence, an appendage that makes your résumé look good? Is He a cute little 1 gigabyte thumb drive that you carry around in your pocket and plug into your hard drive whenever you need a little help? Is He a little prayer genie?



His call is for utter surrender! His invitation is to receive all of Him!
His demand is for humility! His invitation is for joy inexpressible and full of glory!
His desire is for friendship! His doorway is for us to worship Him as our only Hope!

Let's fast from spiritual junk food. Let's not even have spiritual pockets to try to squeeze Him into.

Let's make our heart a manger for the Lord of the universe, the King of the world, the Savior of all mankind and the Bridegroom of heaven!

I bow down and I worship You, Lord.