

“Stay In The Basket”

By Mrs. Sojourner



Hot air balloons fascinate me. They seem like they are slow going, but at times, especially when they catch a good breeze, they can really move. They also have a certain beauty as they float over the landscape.

Notes:

Because of balloons' flying capabilities, the people inside the balloon's basket can observe many things but not be affected by them directly. As long as a balloon keeps above trees and mountain tops (recommended procedure anyway) the passengers can observe disasters such as earthquakes or floods, but not be harmed by either.

This reminds me of the promises in Psalm 91:

5 You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, 6 nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. 7 A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. 8 You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.

Psalm 91:5-8 NIV

Now, those riding in the balloon's basket have the ability to jump out into the swirl of circumstances below, but it

is usually not recommended. Likewise, we have the ability to jump out of the balloon basket of God's provision and protection, but choosing to do so is obviously not necessary or wise.

Depending upon the air movement, sometimes the balloon will move swiftly by, and other times it will seem to hang overhead as it creeps across the sky. Likewise, as we stay in the “basket” of God's balloon of protection, we will sometimes breeze by dangerous circumstances, and other times it may seem like we go by so slowly that there is no earthly way that we can not be attacked. No matter how close the danger seems, remember and trust God's promise. “[Danger] will not come near you.” Rejoice in God's grace and stay in the basket!

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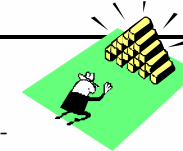
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...with The Sojourner

“Worship, Resurrected!” (Teaching Sketch)

Genesis 24:40-53 (KJV)



Notes:

[1]

People are creators and builders because they are made in the image and likeness of God, The Creator.

It is easy to see what mankind values by what is worshiped. What is worshiped can be determined by what is built by a people or a civilization. Those things which are built become objects representing what is worshiped.

Merriam-Webster Dictionary

[noun] Etymology: Middle English worshipe worthiness, respect, reverence paid to a divine being, from Old English **weorthscipe** worthiness, respect, from weorth worthy, worth + -scipe -ship

[verb] 1 : to honor or reverence as a divine being or supernatural power
2: to regard with great or extravagant respect, honor, or devotion <a celebrity *worshipped* by her

fans>

Intransitive verb : to perform or take part in worship or an act of worship

“Worth-ship”

The word worship then originally had the meaning of “worth” being carried out or shipped in behavior revering that which had worth.

Worship

The word Moses used for “worship” was:

וָרַחַשׁ

shā chā h

shaw-khaw'

A primitive root; to *depress*, that is, *prostrate* (especially reflexively in homage to royalty or God):—bow (self) down, crouch, fall down (flat), humbly beseech, do (make) obeisance, do reverence, make to stoop, worship.

Worship Resurrected

Scripture:

Genesis 24:40-53 (KJV)

⁴⁰And he said unto me, The LORD, before whom I walk, will send his angel with thee, and prosper thy way; and thou shalt take a wife for my son of my kindred, and of my father's house: ⁴¹Then shalt thou be clear from *this* my oath, when thou comest to my kindred; and if they give not thee *one*, thou shalt be clear from my oath. ⁴²And I came this day unto the well, and said, O LORD God of my master Abraham, if now thou do prosper my way which I go: ⁴³Behold, I stand by the well of water; and it shall come to pass, that when the virgin cometh forth to draw *water*, and I say to her, Give me, I pray thee, a little water of thy pitcher to drink; ⁴⁴And she say to me, Both drink thou, and I will also draw for thy camels: *let* the same *be* the woman whom the LORD hath appointed out for my master's son. ⁴⁵And before I had done speaking in mine heart, behold, Rebekah^[a] came forth with her pitcher on her shoulder; and she went down unto the well, and drew *water*: and I said unto her, Let me drink, I pray thee. ⁴⁶And she made haste, and let down her pitcher from her *shoulder*, and said, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: so I drank, and she made the cam-

Notes:

[a] Re-
bekah
*Flatter-
ing,
snare*

[b] Bethuel
*Filia-
tion
[child]
of God*

[c] Nahor
*Horse,
dry,
hot...
snoring*

[d] Milcah
queen

[e] Laban
*White,
shining,
brittle*

els drink also. ⁴⁷And I asked her, and said, Whose daughter *art* thou? And she said, The daughter of Bethuel,^[b] Nahor's^[c] son, whom Milcah^[d] bare unto him: and I put the earring upon her face, and the bracelets upon her hands. ⁴⁸And I bowed down my head, and worshipped the LORD, and blessed the LORD God of my master Abraham, which had led me in the right way to take my master's brother's daughter unto his son. ⁴⁹And now if ye will deal kindly and truly with my master, tell me: and if not, tell me; that I may turn to the right hand, or to the left. ⁵⁰Then Laban^[e] and Bethuel answered and said, The thing proceedeth from the LORD: we cannot speak unto thee bad or good. ⁵¹Behold, Rebekah *is* before thee, take *her*, and go, and let her be thy master's son's wife, as the LORD hath spoken. ⁵²And it came to pass, that, when Abraham's servant heard their words, he worshipped the LORD, *bowing himself* to the earth. ⁵³And the servant brought forth jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment, and gave *them* to Rebekah: he gave also to her brother and to her mother precious things.

“Worship, Resurrected!” (Teaching Sketch)

Genesis 24:40-53 (KJV)

Worship Resurrected is the attitude and action of giving God his due as God, with nothing else placed ahead of him. God is the head and not the tail in the life of a Believer.

Just knowing the correct relationship to the one worthy of a person's worship is not enough. Just as knowing the debts a person owes is not enough to satisfy the debt. Payment of the debt in full is how a debt is satisfied. While it is true a person may indeed worship in a Worship Service, if the worship is only done in a “worship box,” then worship has been relegated to an also-ran position with every other activity in which a person engages.

How can a person know what they worship? Simply by inventorying what it is which fills their thoughts and deeds. Even waiting on God may in fact be the purest form of worship. Not actively waiting for God to fulfill a promise is rebellion. Active waiting is not dormant, but doing all he has asked while waiting. Worship resurrected as the top priority will bring all the blessings of God!

Just so you'll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship**
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during “Praise & Worship” (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Comments & Questions**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

