

“Nutty Glory”

By Mrs. Sojourner



Today I reached for some nuts and was struck with the knowing that nuts were the topic for this article.

Some of you may wonder, “What spiritual significance is there in nuts?” Well, here is what the Lord showed me.

The following verse from Proverbs is one that I have heard many times.

2 It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings. Proverb 25:2 (NIV)

God brought this scripture to my mind and I saw how much a nut embodies this verse. Nuts grow in a high, and sometimes very difficult place to reach. They are firmly attached to their perch until they are ripe (their time has come to pass). When the time is right, they fall or they can easily be shaken from their branch. God has a timing for everything. There are pearls of wisdom he has for us to know, but the time has to be right for us to know them. It may be that we have to grow to a spiritual place to be able to handle

the truth inside this nut, or maybe circumstances need to be at a certain place before God wants us to find and use the treasure within the nut.

Notes:

Once we are able to get our hands on these nuts we find that God has concealed the meat within a hard shell. Some nuts can be shelled with relative ease, but others take time great effort to get the shell removed. Finally we can dig out the meat of the nut and not only enjoy it’s signature taste, but also be rewarded by the special nutrition it contains.

Let us search out the “nuts” that God has scattered in his Word. We may need to invest considerable time in the Bible and in prayer, but the reward of wisdom and spiritual “nutrition” is “the glory of kings.”

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...with The Sojourner

“Ability Living!” (Teaching Sketch)

Matthew 9:27-38



What a marvelous thing it is to have one’s body in good health! Good physical health brings with it the ability to do nearly anything the mind can conceive.

It is often the mind (soul) which limits a person to the point of disability living.

Disability Living

It is amazing the number of people, even believers, who live in the paralyzing grip of disability thinking! Disability thinking is the seed of disability living.

There are times when a person can be heard to exclaim, “I, finally got my disability! My first check will come next month!” If they have a legitimate physical or mental disability most people would be pleased for them, even though the check would be meager. At least they would have some financial income.

The type of disability we are talking about here is the self-imposed disability of “I can’t” thinking. Disability thinking can devastate the life of a person without them ever realizing

Notes:

[1]
Exodus
6:12

[2]
Judges
6:15

[3]
Definition of
sin in
Greek is
to “fall
short” or
“miss the
mark”

they have been devastated. Disability thinking is not limited to any one area of a person’s life. Disability thinking will paralyze and imprison a person without a medical check up or a jury trial. It is certainly true that if a person disabled by their own thinking were to have their life so controlled by someone else, they would rise up in indignation and fury!

When disability thinking is imposed by the person themselves, the limitations are simply seen as, “Of course I could never do that!” Then like, Moses^[1], Gideon^[2], and others mentioned in scripture, they will simply come up with a long list of why they are not suited for such greatness. Disability thinking will cause a person to be only a shadow of what God desires for them in his plan. The saddest of realities is this same individual will often use their own spirituality to justify falling short^[3] of God’s plan for their lives.

Ability Thinking

Ability thinking is the seed of ability living. It is the seed of fulfillment! The Apostle Paul

Please note: This is a teaching sketch only and not the complete teaching.

Scripture:

Matthew 9:27-38 (NIV) & (TMNT)

Jesus Heals the Blind and Mute

27 As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!"

28 When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?"

"Yes, Lord," they replied.

29 Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith^[a] will it be done to you"; 30 and their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, "See that no one knows about this." 31 But they went out and spread the news about him all over that region.

32 While they were going out, a man who was demon-possessed and could not talk was brought to Jesus. 33 And when the demon was driven out, the man who had been mute spoke. The crowd was amazed and said, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel."

34 But the Pharisees said, "It is by the prince of demons that he drives out demons." 35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Notes:

[a] pistis
pis'-tis
From: persuasion, that is, credence; moral conviction (of religious truth, or the truthfulness of God or a religious teacher), especially reliance upon Christ for salvation; abstractly constancy in such profession; by extension the system of religious (Gospel) truth itself:—assurance, belief, believe, faith, fidelity.

The Message New Testament

As Jesus left the house, he was followed by two blind men crying out, "Mercy, Son of David! Mercy on us!" When Jesus got home, the blind men went in with him. Jesus said to them, "Do you really believe I can do this?" They said, "Why, yes, Master!"

He touched their eyes and said, "Become what you believe." It happened. They saw. Then Jesus became very stern. "Don't let a soul know how this happened." But they were hardly out the door before they started blabbing it to everyone they met.

Right after that, as the blind men were leaving, a man who had been struck speechless by an evil spirit was brought to Jesus. As soon as Jesus threw the evil tormenting spirit out, the man talked away just as if he'd been talking all his life. The people were up on their feet applauding: "There's never been anything like this in Israel!"

The Pharisees were left sputtering, "Hocus pocus. It's nothing but hocus pocus. He's probably made a pact with the Devil." Then Jesus made a circuit of all the towns and villages. He taught in their meeting places, reported kingdom news, and healed their diseased bodies, healed their bruised and hurt lives. When he looked out over the crowds, his heart broke. So confused and aimless they were, like sheep with no shepherd. "What a huge harvest!" he said to his disciples. "How few workers! On your knees and pray for harvest hands!"

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tells us, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13) We are also told we, "have the mind of Christ." (1 Cor. 2:16) There is also the statement, "The same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwells in you" (believers, Rom. 8:11)

Why is it so many people do not live in God's Kingdom of ability, his ability moving through our belief he will do a thing? Many people are unwilling to take themselves off the throne of their lives, and cast their crown before the loving, empowering Christ. They want to do it themselves and in doing as they desire in their hearts live only a fraction of what God has planned for them. God has said, "For I know the plans I have for you to prosper you." (Jer. 29:11) God wants to prosper you just as he did the Children of Israel when he brought them out of bondage in Egypt! When they came out they had the monetary wealth of Egypt, all were in perfect health, and the presence of God was with them to protect and guide them.

Do As Jesus Did

Believers are to do as Jesus did. Matthew 9:35 says, "Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness."

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**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

