

“Stay In The Basket”

By Mrs. Sojourner



Notes:

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.

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.

[a]

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!

6-13

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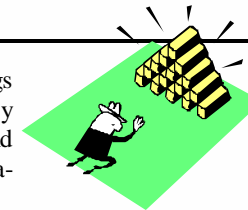
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...with The Sojourner

“Worship Resurrected!” (Teaching Sketch)

Genesis 24:40-53 (NIV)

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



Notes:

It is easy to see where mankind places value by what is worshiped. Interestingly it is relatively easy to see what is worshiped by a society by observing what is built by a people or a civilization. Those things which are built often become objects representing what is worshiped. Let's look at the English definition of worship in a dictionary:

[1]

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.

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

6-13

Worship

The word Moses used for “worship” was:

וָרַחַשׁ
sha cha h
shaw-khaw'

A primitive root; to depress, that is, prostrate (especially reflexively in homage to royalty or God):—bow (self) down, crouch, fall

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

Scripture: Genesis 24:40-53 (NIV)

(NIV is employed here to allow English speakers around the world equal understanding of the words used)

⁴⁰ "He replied, 'The LORD, before whom I have walked, will send his angel with you and make your journey a success, so that you can get a wife for my son from my own clan and from my father's family.' ⁴¹ Then, when you go to my clan, you will be released from my oath even if they refuse to give her to you—you will be released from my oath.'

⁴² "When I came to the spring today, I said, 'O LORD, God of my master Abraham, if you will, please grant success to the journey on which I have come.' ⁴³ See, I am standing beside this spring; if a maiden

Notes: comes out to draw water and I say to her, "Please let me drink a little water from your jar," ⁴⁴ and if she says to me, "Drink, and I'll draw water for your camels too," let her be the one the LORD has chosen for my master's son.'

[a]
Or languages;
also in
verse 11

[b]
Or sweet
wine
with God

⁴⁵ "Before I finished praying in my heart, Rebekah came out, with her jar on her shoulder. She went down to the spring and drew water, and I said to her, 'Please give me a drink.'

⁴⁶ "She quickly lowered her jar from her shoulder and said, 'Drink, and I'll water your camels too.' So I drank, and she watered the camels

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** (Offerings are placed in the basket at this time)
- **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**

"Worship Resurrected!" (Teaching Sketch)

Genesis 24:40-53 (NIV)



down (flat), humbly beseech, do (make) obeisance, do reverence, make to stoop, worship.

Worship Resurrected

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.

Scripture Cont.

also.

⁴⁷ "I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?'

"She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel son of Nahor, whom Milcah bore to him.'

"Then I put the ring in her nose and the bracelets on her arms,

⁴⁸ and I bowed down and worshiped the LORD. I praised the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me on the right road to get the granddaughter of my master's brother for his son. ⁴⁹ Now if you will show kindness and faithfulness to my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so I may know which way to turn."

⁵⁰ Laban and Bethuel answered, "This is from the LORD; we can say nothing to you one way or the other. ⁵¹ Here is Rebekah; take her and go, and let her become the wife of your master's son, as the LORD has directed."

⁵² When Abraham's servant heard what they said, he bowed down to the ground before the LORD. ⁵³ Then the servant brought out gold and silver jewelry and articles of clothing and gave them to Rebekah; he also gave costly gifts to her brother and to her mother.

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!