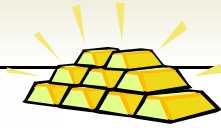


“How Do You See God?”

By Mrs. Sojourner



Recently I heard a minister call God “The Extravagant One.” The WORD tells us many names for God, and each one shows a different aspect of God. Actually going through the WORD and doing a study of the different names of God will really show how big and beyond human comprehension He is. Face it, when one being is called “Mighty One,” “Shepherd,” “Rock of Israel,” “the Almighty,”^[a] and those names are all in just two verses! “Most High”^[b] “the Lord our Righteousness”^[c] ...look into the scriptures yourself, you will find that the list of his names peppered throughout the chapters is overwhelming. Not just the number of different names, but that all of his names are the most or the best or the highest.

Just think for a moment, the God that is the biggest, best, and highest loves us and wants to be in a consistent and intimate relationship with us. Isn't it gloriously amazing that the Lord and Creator of the Universe wants to be involved in our

Notes:

[a]
Genesis
49:24-25
[b]
Psalm 91:1
[c]
Jer. 23:6

lives, despite the faults we have.

Back to “The Extravagant One.” Something I have seen so often is that many Believers in Jesus the Christ do not see God as extravagant because they do not think anyone that loves them could be so “over the top” so to say. These believers have not yet grasped who they are in Christ to the point that they understand that they are jewels—God created them that way and He sees their “jewelness” even if they do not. He loves them and wants to show them his love.

If you find yourself repelling or objecting to God showing his love to you in extravagant manners, please remember that God is never changing and extravagant—learn to deal with it and enjoy him as he is!

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Sojourning

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...with The Sojourner

“These Signs Shall” (Teaching Sketch)

Mark 16:9-20 (NIV)

Have you ever thought about signs? I don't mean street signs but the signs of how we spend our time—our life.



Jesus said these words to his disciples moments before he ascended,¹⁷ “And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues;¹⁸ they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.”

I will come back to this later.

Jesus First Appears

Jesus, “first appeared to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons.” Let's look at this event and the others in our scripture as signs. What was special about Mary Magdalene? Yes, she was devoted to Jesus, but why this devotion. I believe it was a sign of her gratitude for her

deliverance from seven demons. What then would then be the reason Jesus allowed her to be the first to see him and make the announcement to the others that he had risen?

Jesus' Mother was the first to announce his coming birth. God is mindful of women and their part in The Kingdom.

Interestingly, the disciples doubted her report. Could I even say testimony?

Jesus Appears To The Group

Later Jesus, himself, confirms her testimony by his appearing to the disciples. You see this sign followed her and confirmed the truth of what Mary Magdalene had said. Can you see a pattern here?

Group Think

The group used its judgment of what it understood to be possible, and commonly possible at that, to determine the truth of Mary's testimony. This was an error on the

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

Scripture:

Mark 16:9-20 (NIV)

⁹When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. ¹⁰She went and told those who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping.

¹¹When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe it.

¹²Afterward Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking in the country. ¹³These returned and reported it to the rest; but they did not believe them either.

¹⁴Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen.

¹⁵He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. ¹⁶Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt

Notes:

[a]

them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

¹⁹After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. ²⁰Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

A person with an experience is never at the mercy of a person with an argument.

Sojourners...
yield good
fruit and harvest
unto the Lord their
God.



"These Signs Shall" (Teaching Sketch)

Mark 16:9-20 (NIV)

group's part. Even today there are those who call themselves Believers who remain in the "group think" of the world system. They have adopted a philosophy called Christian without the person of Christ.

The disciples continued to doubt when two more of their number testified to seeing and being with Jesus. Note here that in scripture two is the number of adequate witness and three is the number of perfect witness. Therefore, with Mary's and the two others' testimony they had perfect witness but still did not believe. It was only with the miraculous sign of Jesus appearing would they believe. That is when they went from philosophy to faith and power.

Jesus Commissions

It was after this, "the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it."

We who believe are thus commissioned signs also follow us as well.

GO AND DO!

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**

