

June 19, 2023

So -- there is an issue I have with regard to sharing any sort of information, and it's that I am just a man, who has proven more times than he finds comfortable to admit that he has been wrong again and again.. Me being just a man desiring to share anything with anyone knows that every careless word I speak even to the rocks will be judged and I with fear and trembling recognize that nobody is adequate, least of all me, to share God's Gospel Truth -- and yet it is not upon myself that I rely, but Christ, and if any single word on this page be a key or a door or a road for anyone reading to alignment with Christ by His Holy Spirit, then that is enough. Apart from Him we can do nothing, even if we gain the whole world, and nothing is impossible in Him.

So my first issue is that it is highly subjective. I have my own opinions and my own filters and I have the same 24 hours as any other man, and I am relying on God to lead me to the proper revelations in their time and place, and I am relying on Him to bring to my remembrance anything useful and inevitably, whenever I communicate anything to anyone, I question whether I did a good job saying what I needed to say or listening when I needed to listen, having the correct heart posture, and executing my duty with craftsmanship and wit. Am I a faithful envoy to deliver the goods from the heavenly realms through treacherous waters, intact and usable for consumption at their ultimate end? God and the recipient be the judge of that. Most times after I've delivered the goods, on my way back I realize there's something else I wish I had included or omitted and sometimes this is reconcilable via follow up and sometimes the appropriate time has passed, and I have to live with that and pray to God to open up another opportunity for them to receive the package from me or someone else. With great fear and trembling, I must consider if I am bearing true witness or otherwise. And so must we all.

Anyways -- there's something about letters that makes me want to begin formally, and maybe this is for the best, but the preamble is starting to be seem like it will overwhelm the intended substance of the letter. So let's just jump right into it.

What is it really that God wants to deliver to the Body of Christ or to anyone who should stumble across these words whatsoever? What is it I've come across that I have marked and judged to be significant What are some things I think you should bear in mind and take action in and take to God in prayer? Let's go with that.

Outline:

The Strawberry Patch
The Difficulty of Trellising Established Tomato Plants
The Leader and Not The Follower
Clearing Out the Backlog. Get the House in Order.
News Item to take to prayer or at least be made aware.
Living and Active Word and Not A Stagnant Witness

I don't know if this will always be the context, as I myself am seeking to go from glory to glory, but for now I am in a season of a budding garden career. It's really my second to third year attempting to grow plants in my yard and it comes with a whole host of lessons that maybe I'll share someday -- but for now God is speaking to me in garden metaphors (parables), and I consider the lessons to be timeless to apply in any season.

At the same time, we are in this season as a nation as citizens of the earth and as individuals stewarding the current events as children of God, and we are tasked with applying God's Truth to real life situations in which there will be great consequence, for us and for many generations still living and generations still to come... even being tasked with reconciling unfinished business from ages past.

The Lord told me if we will believe Him He can restore all of the lost dreams of every prior generation in this one, and we undoubtedly can do this in our own bloodline. So let's keep that in mind.

The Strawberry Patch:

I planted some strawberries in the ground this year.. and it actually seemed to me quite odd because it makes a lot more sense to plant them in one of those multi-celled pots, so I could take advantage of space. My largest plot in my garden by volume is the prepared garden bed in the ground in a year of being terrorized by gophers caused me to replace most of my ground beds with raised garden beds so I could put wire in the bottom to protect the crops. But this particular plot I worked so hard on.. I was literally more than three feet into the ground and I removed so many rocks and moved them to the edge of my property and it took me weeks to do -- I decided to just line the whole hole with wire and use the ground. It strikes me as generally inefficient, and I may just eat the sunk cost and replace it eventually..

But anyways -- this is to explain my point. I planted strawberries in the ground and I notice right away that all of the fruit seems to be getting eaten immediately. This year we have rabbits as the new nemesis (gophers passed the baton) and various bugs and slugs and safe to say, I doubt I'll be able to eat any strawberries this year. I am busy building infrastructure in all of my beds -- trellises for the vine crops and insect netting over my PVC tunnels and prepping for the next winter so I can overwinter various crops after the fall..

It seems to be a theme: that I'm not harvesting much fruit, nor am I prevailing at producing more than I'm spending, but I have compulsion to keep investing in the infrastructure in the hopes I can have garden crops consistently producing in a world in which we do not know for sure that the grocery will be reliable moving forward -- if for no other reason that the QUALITY of produce has too many chemicals.

My strawberries, few fruits that they produce, have under my nose sprouted out into this grid-like pattern, and many of the new sprouts have rooted themselves into the ground and are essentially their own plant. In fact, if I want, I can pull them out of the ground and move them to other beds and pots and they will spread out some more..

So what's the long-winded lesson? That emphasis seems to be on the strawberry factory infrastructure than in the eating of the fruit. Yes, sooner or later I'll figure out how to deal with pests and I'll have all the preparations ready for weather changes and best farming practices -- but in the meantime, I must continue to do the work and let the plants establish roots and expect a harvest of fruit to come in the coming years and not necessarily this year.

That's the word for the Body of Christ: Do not grow weary in well-doing for in due season you will reap IF YE FAINT NOT! See, who says King James isn't rad?

The Difficulty of Trellising Established Tomato Plants:

God told me He would use the garden to teach me about business and I've come to realizing that the Father always has business, so anything and everything in Christ has premeditated intent and a destiny to hope for.

For whatever reason, in the beginning of this year,, I was in a bit of a gardening funk, and I did what i could to at least physically plant produce so that most of my garden real estate was being utilized and not wasted. So what happened is I planted dozens of tomato plants and just forgot about them for several weeks.

And like an alarm clock, I've revived to interest in the garden and I'm going around, noticing every single day there are tasks needing to be done. In fact, many are overdue. Plants needed to be taken out, new ones put in. Seedlings need to be planted. The unfinished nursery tasks needed to be finished. An automatic watering system needs to be established before the scalding hot summer anticipated. And why is the dang faucet leaking?

Why are certain plants getting eaten and how do I protect them and which task needs to be done first and what is the urgency and how do I keep myself motivated, productive, and diligent without being hasty, without getting burnt out? These are the things on my mind.

So here's the idea -- my tomatoes have gotten very big and the parts where the tomatoes are touching the soil are getting diseased and the fruits are getting eaten by aphids and slugs and whatever else... caterpillars, roly polies.. And many so vines grew out of the base that it's essentially getting too dense and out of control.. so I'm spending many hours pruning and attempting to propagate so as not to completely waste the clippings (that's another thing, I need a compost system), and I'm finding that I'm expending too much time pruning and it's a nightmare building trellising infrastructure around established tomato plants and avoiding destroying the adjacent strawberry patch..

So TLDR: I didn't know at the beginning of the season or last season what needs to be done to care for tomatoes, and I'm realizing now that I need to premeditate the entire plant and prune it early and keep track of the variety planted so I know what to expect and in what time frame. It's a comparative nightmare to go back and try to fix a sloppy job than to simply do it right in the beginning with minimal maintenance.

But here's the kicker: I don't think I had the emotional capacity prior to putting out the fire to premeditate the appropriate plan. It's unfortunate, but I didn't desire to study best practices until in retrospect I have a bug problem and the tomato grew out of control. I didn't want to keep accurate records until I'm not remembering which plants are bushes vs. vines, which are determinate vs. indeterminate. I needed to go through the difficulty of struggling, knowing if I don't take action now, the harvest may be lost, and my work will be erased. And in so doing, I gained momentum in my work ethic and emotional confidence. Next season, I'll be much more prepared, and then I can focus my energies elsewhere.

So here's a valuable Scripture I return to often: If you cannot produce in your day of adversity, your strength is limited. I needed to develop the confidence to take action in this new craft being afraid I might kill my plants, but failing to respect that not acting at all, I could also kill them. Somewhere in between haste and inaction is diligence, and the hand of the diligent shall be made rich.

The season is less about immediate outer appearance breakthrough or reward and more about private inward victory (shout out to Stephen Covey). He who is faithful with little will be set over much. May I

suggest to you the prospect that life is simply not fair. You might be working harder than your neighbor and they appear to have money and marriage and admiration, but your call might simply be a longer game? More precious than gaining the whole world is to acquire Wisdom and to acquire the hand of the diligent. More important than eating eggs is the acquiring of the goose and developing a fleet of geese. A goose is a vessel, and vessels carry and they travel and they reproduce under wise stewardship.

The Leader and not the Follower:

And this leads me to the next point: that acquiring the diligent hand and getting some experience under your belt enables you to be a leader. God and the diligent hand will rule and the lazy will be made a slave. Consider Jacob: he was a schemer in the beginning, was he not? He wasn't a total loser or anything, but it sure seemed that while he maybe had a gift in his heart for recognizing God's inheritance, Esau was out there working in the field, doing his earthly toil, so that he could stand to take a wife, several even.

Jacob, the momma's boy, with unlimited potential, used unrighteous means to gain a side door access to Esau's birthright and his blessing. So what did it cost him? Well, you reap and you will sow. He was forced to flee for his life and then he fell under the authority of a much more wicked schemer in Laban. But a fool despises correction and Jacob was no fool. He worked with Laban despite being cheated in his wages and acquired diligence in those years. He stored up for himself treasure in Heaven, when it appeared Laban was getting the best fruit of all his years of labor.

Even as I write this, though I'm outdoors in my makeshift plant nursery, I long for toil in the sun, because being a man of tents with pen and paper is usually something I reserve for when good daylight isn't available. Maybe that's a revelation: glean value from being an Esau who toils diligently, and Jacob who sees it fit to be a ruler.

So this is the idea: we are called not to be the tail but the head. We are the lender and not the borrower. We are the employer and not merely the employee. It may be at this particular time in our life we are toiling heavily without outward recognition or immediate rewards -- we might be under the thumb of unrighteous leaders, but remember, God didn't have the Israelites take out every king all at once lest they be overcome by wild beasts. We don't war against flesh and blood, and as we are prepared for new territories and new blessings to be ruler and not follower, we must not despise humble beginnings. Our current situation is preparing us for future greater (best wine for last) situations.

Joseph needed Potiphar's House and the Prison to prepare him for the Palace. Moses needed forty years in exile before he walked out his ultimate call.

My goodness: may I admit to you that handwriting a long letter is more time consuming than I remember? Future newsletters full disclosure will probably be shorter.. or maybe I'll shoot them on the computer instead of writing and transcribing.

I'd say the top news items are:

- Crisis at the Border -- child trafficking
- Sexual perversion and pedophilia in our institutions, even our own White House
- RFK Jr. running for president and his recent interview describing Inflation.
- Ukraine (we assume) flooding their own dam and the implementation of feudalism
- Trump indictment and appearance of betrayal

I think I will take advantage of the remaining daylight actually and finish this up later [and also edit the letter to be a bit clearer.. maybe].

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It's late but I wanted to finish and upload the letter as soon as I can. What I'll do is add a news addendum as I can just dictate the letter and send it out.

Let's talk about the last issue and call it a letter (minus the addendum).

One idea I've had is a surefire way to determine if our theology is bad: we repeatedly and only talk about one single thing all of the time. I know people who claim to preach the gospel, but every message is man is fallen and their heart is desperately wicked. It's the shame ministry with a hint of Jesus. Heavy on cherry-picked Scriptures. Very much despising correction. Does not enjoy sharpening iron. Scripture is not subject to reproof. In fact, entire denominations can sometimes do this.

There are the follow-around-certain-preachers-and-accuse-them type of ministries. There is a minister who always and only talks about one idea: that the Bible is not literally true and therefore nobody can go to hell because a loving God wouldn't do that. His default reaction to Scripture is to quote post-Scripture intellectuals -- stereotypical straw man tactics.

In fact, if you talk to any liberal and even many Republicans -- you'll find the same argument tactic: repeat themselves over and over and over again. You can't be correct because the truth is [insert single argument here]. You need to do your research [insult -- in the Body of Christ they mask this insult with fake kindness] and you will find [insert same argument]. Trust me [confidence game], I have a degree in this subject [argument from authority], definitely [insert same argument]. If you refute them they will eventually devolve into nastiness, but usually for two or three exchanges, they pretend to be quite polite..

But the fact remains -- their word is not living and active, it does not divide true from false, it is not patient or kind, it is often boastful, it often fails, it does not endure, it does not believe the best, it keeps record of wrongs..

And it isn't only debate topics. Often it's the same excuse we give ourselves to not admit a heavy truth. I know someone who I pleaded with not to get the vaccine and they said, "God will give me a placebo," but really it's because they didn't want to rock the boat. And then they pretend it helps them have immunity when it's convenient to attack the unvaccinated. Double minded type of thing. People often respond to the "you need to quit porn" suggestion with, "Nobody's perfect, don't judge me," retort. And people claim they are on the road to recovery from addiction but they don't realize we've had the exact same conversation every time we've hung out for years, and I've distanced myself from them.

The quick and dirty is this: God gives us fresh meat and fresh bread. In fact, He prepares us a feast. It is sweet. It is filling. It never ends. It is greater than we can imagine. It carries substance. It restores strength. It makes us new.. not quite as quick and dirty as I thought.. but the REAL quick and dirty: if the SAME words in the same sequence come out of our mouths over and over for months and years -- chances are, we are stuck and need to repent.

The Word is a passage. We come to a gate and we seek passage to the other side and if we cannot cross over, we are in a prison. We need passage or we are a slave. The Truth will give us freedom. Clearly if we've been at the same juncture for too long, we don't have the Word of Life to get through.

A simple way is to pray the "create within me a clean heart" prayer. Oh boy, be careful when you pray that one. See, I used to be a seminar junkie. Still am at heart. I'd go from seminar to seminar, and I'd

hoard up all kinds of good motivational mumbo jumbo and I'd try and stoke up emotions.. but I didn't follow through and I stayed stuck for years. Why didn't I follow through? Quite frankly because it would have cost me my idols.

See, my whole idea with these letters is to help someone find passage and to help them get unstuck. Yes, I intend to include knowledge and lessons as best I am able, but what good is the Gospel if there is no repentance? I actually believe the quickest road to a hard heart is to keep asking God to reveal the truth to us and in the moment of truth, we procrastinate which really is a rejection of his correction. It's a dangerous place, to quote Scripture but have no authority. Maybe a hardened heart is a type of mercy -- to protect us from sever judgment. There's a reason God gives us small things before large things.. the cost is more manageable.

But even the hardest hearts are not without opportunity.. they just have to wait for the train to come back around again. It might come with their descendants in the bloodline, but surely it will come again.

See, we are in a season where the testing is separating rulers from slaves, and those who requisition their own freedom to be diligent and repent quickly shall rule, but those who keep kicking the can down the road will be led into being ruled over -- for their own good. Israel needed 40 in the desert and sometimes people need forty in corporate America. Moses incurred his second forty-year training season and was promoted to office.. but most die not long after retirement -- perhaps a mercy.

In any case, I'm rambling now and it's time to end. Until next time dudes.

Ryan