

“My Lord and my God...”

I am sure there was a time in my life when I boldly proclaimed to others, “I told you so!” I am sure there was a time in my life when others boldly proclaimed to me, “I told you so!” Those occasions never did any real good but at the time and depending on which side of the fence you were standing, it made you either feel good because you knew you were right or it made you feel bad because you were wrong and someone reminded you. I think and I hope I have grown away from that type of attitude. Bottom line.....it does feel good to be right and it does feel bad to be wrong. It is just how we handle those situations that really counts.

I like old sayings / proverbs that we hear people speak. For example, “Seeing is believing.” I grew up watching and enjoying the Superman series on television. They were great and what I saw inspired me one day to put on a cape, and thinking I could fly I jumped off the back porch and landed flat on the ground. I saw the series on TV, I believed I could fly and after my mother whipped me for that stunt, I knew that was never going to happen again and I knew I could not fly. That brings me to another proverb. I often try to imagine what the neighbors might have thought when they saw me jump off that porch with a cape on. (It was a high porch too.) I hope it was not, “You can’t tell a book by its cover.” If it was I am sure they thought I needed help for doing such a dumb thing. And if they had expressed their feelings by saying “I told you so!” I am sure I would have felt horrible. But my neighbors were very nice. They saw mother whip me and knew that was enough for the day. No words had to be spoken by them and they did not offer any but I do believe I did see a smile on their face.

I would like to think that we all operate, at one time or another in our lives, in a way that as we mature we look back and can only say, thank you Lord. Why that question? Personally, I am grateful I did not break anything when I jumped off the porch and did not have anything broken when I received the consequence of my stupid action. I am also very thankful that I did not hurt anyone for driving too fast later in life or inconvenience someone when I did not keep my word. I am very grateful for that which did not happen because of poor decisions on my part. I am also fortunate for those who decided to forgive me as opposed to condemn me.

I remember a story I read a long time ago. I liked that story so much that I have re-read it many times. One of the persons in the story was a man named Thomas. Yes, the same Thomas you read about. He was one of the followers of Jesus. He traveled with him daily, saw many miraculous signs performed by Jesus and knew him as well as anyone could know another. He had intimate knowledge of Jesus and what was to happen. He also had the blessed assurance that through Jesus death on the cross that he would live with his Lord for eternity. Thomas was a man who understood this divine mission of Jesus. After the resurrection Jesus appeared and ate with ten of his disciples. Thomas was not with the ten at that time and was later told by the ten ...

“We have seen the Lord!”

(John 20:25...NIV)

And the response of Thomas was:

“Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” (John 20:25...NIV)

At least Thomas was honest. He believed but he wanted to see the evidence. He might have thought as I do sometimes.....Seeing is believing. All we have to do is at least be honest. And so Thomas was. Eight days later Jesus appeared again in the same location with the disciples and Thomas was there. Jesus spoke:

“Peace be with you!” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” (John 20: 26-27...NIV)

And why do I like this story so much? Having the perfect situation to speak to Thomas our Jesus did not say “I told you so.” The second appearance of Jesus to his disciples and his disciples did not say to Thomas, “I told you so.” I might have said that, you might have said that but our JesusOk Thomas. Seeing is believing. Here I am. Come on over and touch. Jesus knew Thomas loved him. Jesus knew Thomas believed. Jesus knew Thomas would do anything for him and all Jesus wanted was for Thomas to continue in his belief and made him an offer he could not refuse. Now a great part of this story for me is right now.....Thomas refused the offer but responded to Jesus:

“My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28...NIV)

Thomas and his perfect response. He saw and that was enough. I am sure he was elated to see his Lord as the others had days before. The evidence was standing and talking to him. But the best part of this story for me speaks directly to me:

Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” (John 20:29...NIV)

And you?

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