

Through the Bible

JOHN-I

Zac Poonen



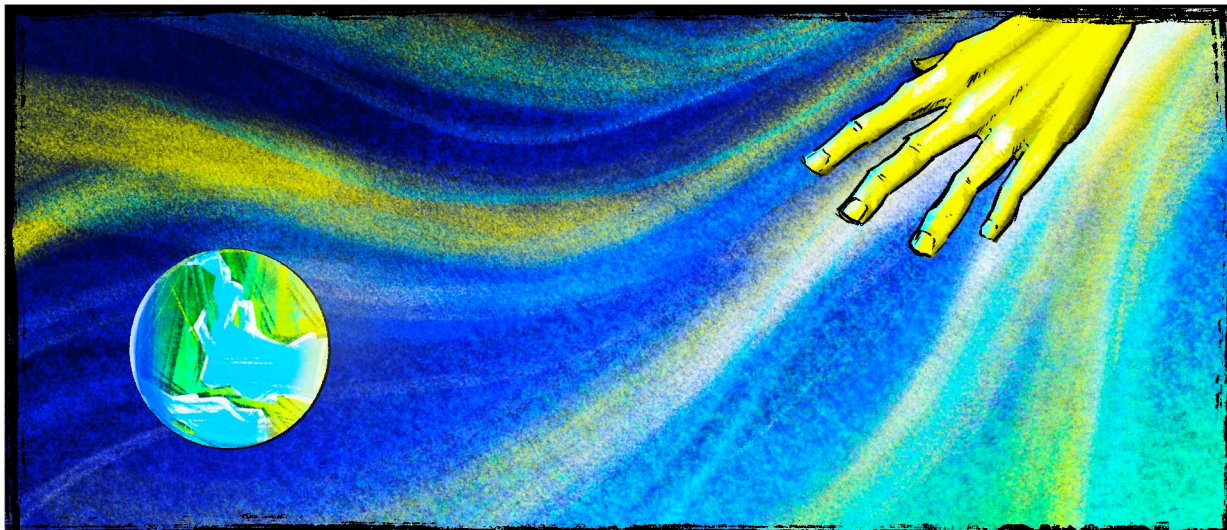
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CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

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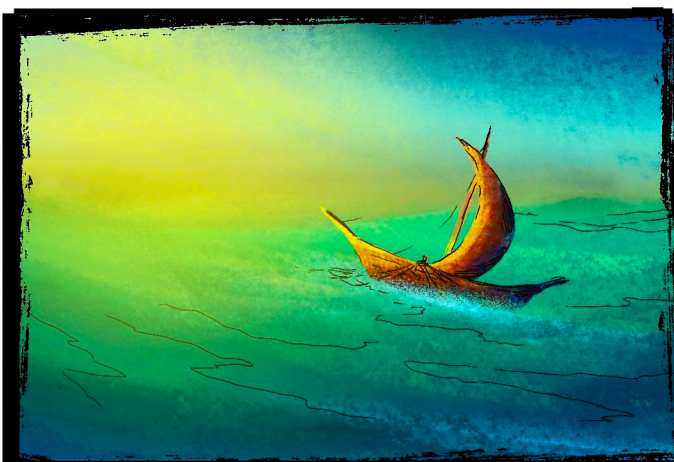
JOHN



JOHN 1:1 GOES BACK TO THE REAL "BEGINNING", BEFORE THE "BEGINNING" MENTIONED IN GENESIS 1:1. THE "WORD" REFERS TO JESUS CHRIST AND HE IS CALLED "GOD" HERE. JOHN EMPHASISES THE DEITY OF CHRIST. JESUS WAS GOD FROM ALL ETERNITY. ONE DAY, "THE WORD BECAME FLESH" (1:14). HE WAS GOD WHEN HE WALKED ON THIS EARTH IN OUR FLESH, AND HE IS GOD TODAY.



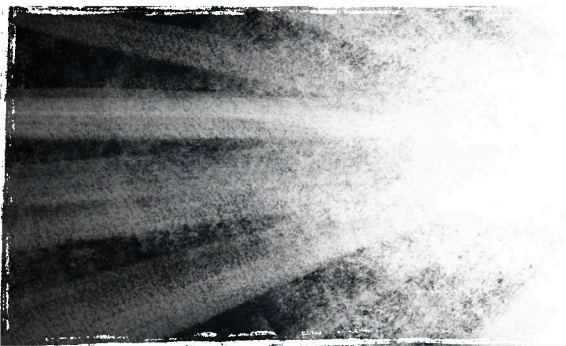
THAT IS WHY WE WORSHIP HIM AND PRAY TO HIM. JESUS HIMSELF SAID THAT "ONLY GOD CAN BE WORSHIPPED" (MATTHEW 4:10) -- AND WHEN PEOPLE WORSHIPPED HIM ON EARTH, HE ACCEPTED THEIR WORSHIP.



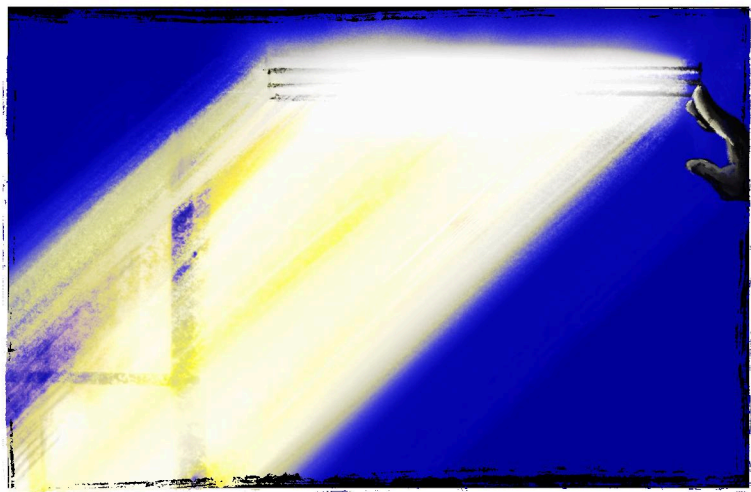
WHY IS HE CALLED "THE WORD"? THERE IS NOTHING PHILOSOPHICAL OR COMPLICATED ABOUT ITS MEANING. THE BIBLE IS A SIMPLE BOOK WHOSE MEANING HAS UNFORTUNATELY BEEN COMPLICATED BY SCHOLARS. JOHN, WHO WROTE THIS GOSPEL, WAS NOT AN EDUCATED PHILOSOPHER BUT AN UNEDUCATED FISHERMAN. TODAY PEOPLE GO TO BIBLE SEMINARIES AND WRITE LONG THESES ON WHAT THIS FISHERMAN WROTE AND GET A DOCTORATE IN THEOLOGY



A SPOKEN OR WRITTEN **"WORD"** IS AN **AUDIBLE** (OR **VISIBLE**) **EXPRESSION** OF AN **INAUDIBLE** (OR **INVISIBLE**) **THOUGHT**. IT IS ONLY WHEN WE PUT OUR THOUGHTS INTO WORDS THAT OTHERS CAN **UNDERSTAND** US. IF GOD HAD REMAINED IN HEAVEN OR IF HE HAD COME TO EARTH ONLY AS A **SPIRIT**, WE WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN ABLE TO UNDERSTAND HIM. BUT HE CAME IN THE FORM OF **JESUS** -- AND SO WE CAN **UNDERSTAND** HIM. THAT IS WHY JESUS IS CALLED THE **WORD**. HE IS THE **VISIBLE** AND **AUDIBLE** **EXPRESSION** OF THE **INVISIBLE** GOD. NO-ONE BUT **HE** CAN HAVE THAT TITLE.



"IN HIM (**JESUS**) WAS **LIFE**, AND THE **LIFE** WAS THE **LIGHT** OF MEN" (1:4). **LIGHT** ALWAYS **DRIVES** AWAY THE **DARKNESS**. AND THAT IS WHAT THE **LIFE** OF **JESUS** DOES EVERYWHERE.

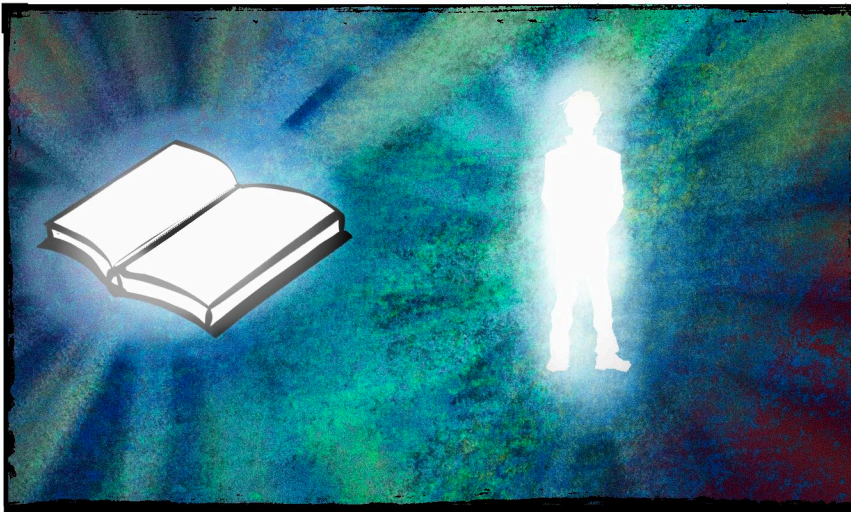


WHEN YOU LIVE IN A ROOM WITH ALL THE WINDOWS AND DOORS CLOSED, EVEN THOUGH THE SUNLIGHT IS BRIGHT **OUTSIDE**, THERE IS **DARKNESS** **INSIDE**. BUT IF YOU **OPEN** EVEN A **SMALL** VENTILATOR, THE **LIGHT** COMES IN **IMMEDIATELY**. EVEN IF THERE IS A LITTLE **CRACK** IN THE WINDOW, THE **LIGHT** WILL COME IN. **LIGHT** HAS A **LONGING** TO ENTER EVEN THROUGH THE SLIGHTEST **CRACK**. THAT'S HOW THE **LIFE** OF **JESUS** IS -- EAGERLY **WAITING** TO ENTER YOUR **HEART** AND FLOOD IT.

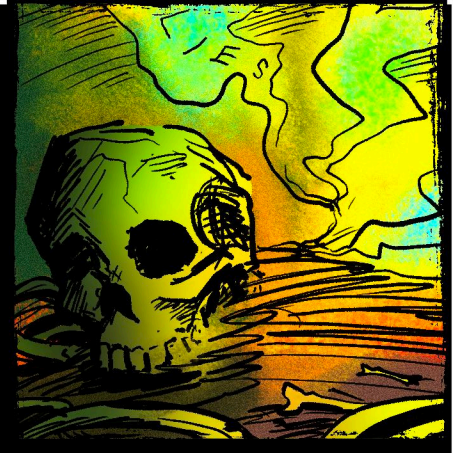


BUT HE STANDS AT THE DOOR AND **KNOCKS**. THE **MEASURE** IN WHICH YOU **OPEN** YOUR HEART WILL BE THE **MEASURE** IN WHICH HE **FLOODS** IT WITH HIS **LIFE**.





JESUS TOLD HIS **DISCIPLES** (AND **US**): "YOU ARE THE **LIGHT** OF THE **WORLD**" (MATTHEW 5:14). IN THE **OLD TESTAMENT**, GOD'S **WRITTEN WORD** WAS THE **LIGHT**. "THY WORD IS A **LAMP** UNTO MY **FEET** AND A **LIGHT** UNTO MY **PATH**" (PSALM 119:105), GOD'S **LAW** WAS THE ONLY **LIGHT** THEY HAD IN THOSE DAYS. BUT **TODAY**, GOD'S **LIGHT** IS NOT PRIMARILY THE **BIBLE**. IT IS THE **WORD** THAT HAS BECOME **FLESH**. **JESUS** IS THE **LIGHT**.



IF OUR **LIFE** IS NOT A **LIGHT**, THEN IF WE SPEAK **FANTASTIC TRUTHS**, WE ARE **HYPOCRITES** -- AND THAT **LEAVEN** WILL **DESTROY** US. EVERYTHING WE **TEACH** MUST BE **BACKED UP** BY OUR **LIFE**.



"AS MANY AS **RECEIVED** HIM, TO THEM HE GAVE THE **RIGHT** TO BECOME **CHILDREN** OF GOD, EVEN TO THOSE WHO **BELIEVE** IN HIS NAME" (1:11, 12). WE BECOME GOD'S **CHILDREN** WHEN WE **RECEIVE** HIM AS OUR **LORD**. THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN **CHILDREN** AND **SONS**. WHEN YOU **RECEIVE JESUS** AS YOUR **SAVIOUR** YOU DON'T BECOME A **MATURE SON**, YOU BECOME A **BABY**. YOU HAVE TO **GROW UP** TO BECOME A **MATURE SON**.



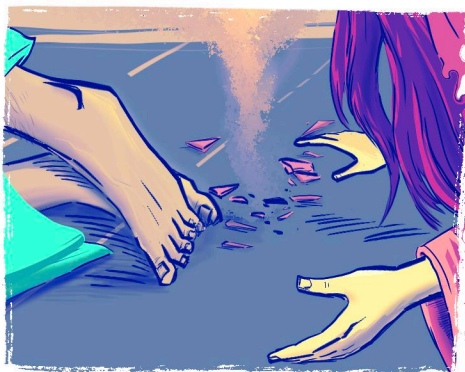
WHEN JESUS CAME AS THE **WORD** TO EARTH, THE **DISCIPLES** SAW THE **GLORY** OF **GOD** IN HIM "FULL OF **GRACE** AND **TRUTH**" (1:14). THERE WAS A **BALANCE** IN THE **GLORY** THAT CHRIST REVEALED -- THERE WAS **GRACE** AND THERE WAS ALSO **TRUTH**.



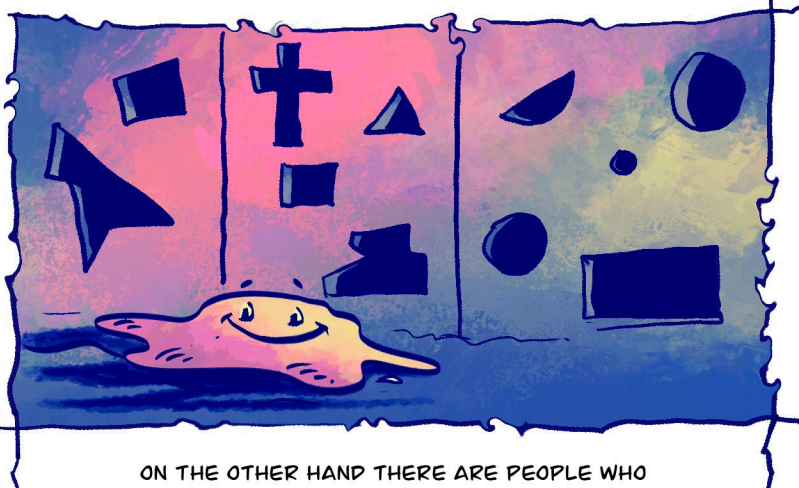
TRUTH SPEAKS OF **REALITY** AS WELL AS THE **TRUTH** PROCLAIMED IN **GOD'S WORD**. JESUS SAID "THY WORD IS **TRUTH**" (JOHN 17:17). WE FIND THE **WORD** "TRUTH", "TRUE" AND "TRULY" OCCURRING OVER **70** TIMES IN THIS **GOSPEL**.



BUT THOSE **BONES OF TRUTH** (CONSISTING OF **COMMANDMENTS, LAWS, AND PRINCIPLES**) MUST BE **COVERED** OVER WITH **GRACE**, IF IT IS TO BE **ATTRACTIVE** TO **PEOPLE**. IF YOU SAW A **BONY SKELETON** WALKING UP TO YOU ONE NIGHT, YOU WOULD **RUN**. THAT IS WHY PEOPLE **RAN AWAY** FROM THE **PHARISEES**. THEY HAD QUITE A BIT OF **TRUTH** BUT THEY HAD **NO GRACE**. SOME CHRISTIANS ARE SO **LEGALISTIC**, EMPHASISING **TRUTH** AND **RULES** AND **COMMANDMENTS** ALL THE TIME, THAT **PEOPLE** ARE **REPELLED**.



JESUS HAD **BONES** TOO, BUT THEY WERE **COVERED** OVER WITH **FLESH**. **TRUTH** WAS **COVERED** WITH **GRACE** IN HIM, AND SO EVEN THE **WORST** OF **SINNERS** WERE **DRAWN** TO HIM.



ON THE OTHER HAND THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO **OVEREMPHASISE GRACE**. HOW WOULD WE BE IF WE HAD **NO BONES** IN OUR BODIES? WE **WOULDN'T** BE ABLE TO **STAND**, BECAUSE WE WOULD BE LIKE **JELLYFISH** THAT HAVE **NO BONES**.



THERE ARE SOME **ADVANTAGES** HOWEVER IN HAVING **NO BONES**. WE CAN **SQUEEZE** THROUGH **ANY OPENING** -- OF **ANY SHAPE!!** SOME CHRISTIANS ARE LIKE THAT. THEY HAVE **NO CONVICTIONS** ON ANY **DOCTRINES**.

LIKE **CHAMELEONS** THEY CAN **CHANGE** THEIR **COLOUR** TO **SUIT** THEIR **SURROUNDINGS**.



NONE OF US CAN BE PERFECTLY **BALANCED** IN THIS AREA. AND THAT IS WHY **GOD** HAS GIVEN US THE **BODY OF CHRIST**. IF WE ARE STRONG ON **"TRUTH"**, **GOD** WILL GIVE US **BROTHERS** TO **WORK** WITH, WHO ARE **STRONG** ON **"GRACE"**. TOGETHER WE CAN **SHOW FORTH** **CHRIST** FULLY.



"THE **LAW** WAS GIVEN THROUGH **MOSES**, BUT **GRACE** AND **TRUTH** WERE REALIZED THROUGH **JESUS CHRIST**" (1:17). THAT VERSE TEACHES US THAT THERE WAS **NO GRACE** IN THE WORLD UNTIL **JESUS** CAME.



THEY HAD **MERCY** UNDER THE **OLD COVENANT**. THROUGH GOD'S **MERCY** THEY RECEIVED THE **FORGIVENESS** OF SINS (PSALM 103:3). BUT WITH **GRACE**, WE CAN GET **VICTORY** OVER SIN. **MERCY** DEALS WITH OUR **PAST** LIFE, THE **GUILT** OF OUR SIN. **GRACE** DEALS WITH OUR FUTURE, GIVING US **VICTORY** OVER SIN.



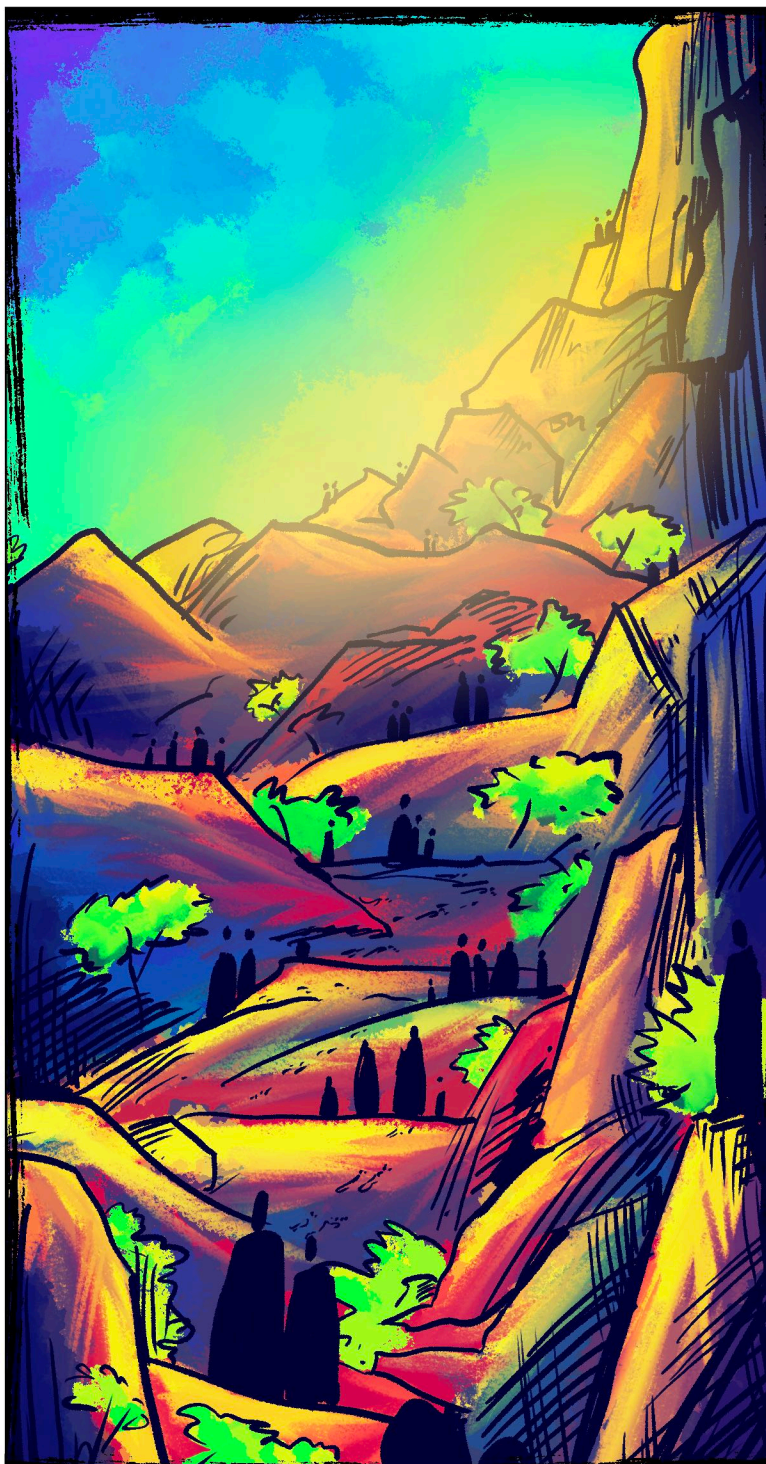
AS IN ALL THE OTHER GOSPELS, JOHN ALSO BEGINS WITH THE PROMISE THAT JESUS WILL **BAPTISE (IMMERSE)** PEOPLE IN THE **HOLY SPIRIT** (1:33). THERE ARE **TWO** WAYS TO BE IMMersed -- ONE BY BEING IMMersed IN A **RIVER** OR A **TANK** AND THE OTHER IS BY STANDING UNDER A **WATERFALL**. BAPTISM IN WATER IS DONE IN A **TANK** OR A **RIVER**. TO BE **BAPTISED** IN THE **HOLY SPIRIT** IS TO BE IMMersed BY THIS **WATERFALL** OF THE RIVER OF GOD WHICH HAS BEEN FLOWING FROM HIS **THRONE** TO EARTH EVER SINCE THE DAY OF **PENTECOST**.



THE WATERFALL FALLS IN A **PLACE** CALLED "**HUMILITY**". IF WE **REMAIN** IN **HUMILITY** ALL THE DAYS OF OUR LIFE, THIS RIVER WILL **KEEP FALLING** ON US AND **IMMERSED** US AND **FLOWING** THROUGH US TO OTHERS.



WHEN TWO DISCIPLES OF JOHN THE BAPTIST ASKED JESUS, "WHERE DO YOU LIVE?" HE SAID, "**COME AND SEE**" (1:39). THE **OLD COVENANT** SERVANT OF GOD WOULD SAY, "**COME AND HEAR**." BUT THE **NEW COVENANT** SERVANT OF GOD SAYS, "**COME AND SEE**." MAN COULD ONLY GET **WORDS** FROM GOD. BUT THEN THE **WORD** BECAME **FLESH**, AND NOW WE CAN **EXPERIENCE** THAT **ETERNAL LIFE**. IF A DOCTRINE IS REALLY THE **TRUTH**, IT SHOULD PRODUCE **TRUTH (REALITY)** IN **LIFE** AS WELL.



THAT'S WHY PAUL SAID, "FOLLOW **ME** AS I FOLLOW **CHRIST**" (1 CORINTHIANS II:1). WHEN WE ASK OTHERS TO FOLLOW US AS WE FOLLOW CHRIST, WE ARE **NOT** CLAIMING TO HAVE **BECOME** LIKE CHRIST. NO. WE **HAVEN'T** REACHED THE **TOP** OF THAT **MOUNTAIN** YET. THAT WILL HAPPEN ONLY WHEN **CHRIST** COMES AGAIN. BUT WE ARE **NOT SITTING** AT THE **BOTTOM** OF THE MOUNTAIN **EITHER**. WE ARE SAYING THAT THE GOSPEL HAS **BEGUN** TO **CHANGE** OUR **WAY OF LIFE**, OUR **THOUGHT-PATTERNS**, OUR MANNER OF **SPEECH**, THE WAY WE HANDLE **MONEY**, AND THE WAY WE **BEHAVE** IN GENERAL. AND WE ARE ASKING OTHERS TO CLIMB THIS MOUNTAIN OF TOTAL **TRANSFORMATION** INTO THE **LIKENESS OF CHRIST**, ALONG WITH US.

I HEARD OF A **BROTHER** FROM THE **WEST** WHO WAS **VISITING INDIA** WHO BOUGHT A FIRST CLASS **TRAIN-TICKET** AND GOT INTO THE TRAIN. HE SAW THAT SOMEONE WAS SITTING IN HIS SEAT, WHO SEEMED TO BE **RELUCTANT TO GET UP**.



INSTEAD OF FIGHTING WITH HIM, HE SPREAD A NEWSPAPER ON THE **FLOOR** NEAR THE **TOILET** AND **SAT** THERE.

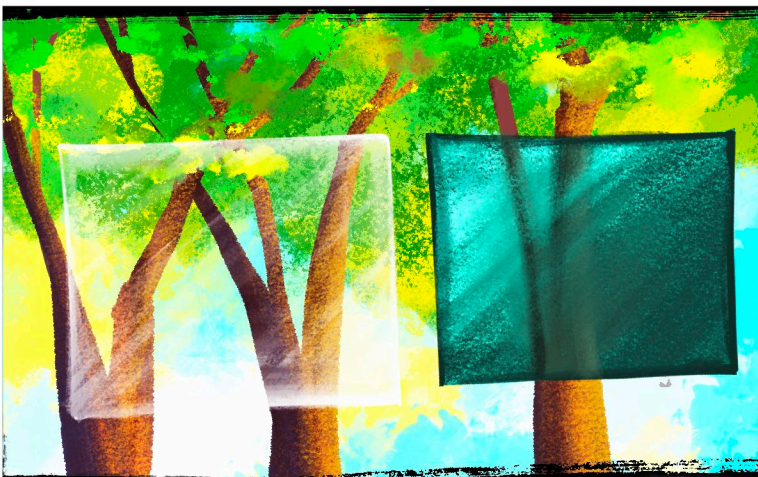


WHEN THE TICKET-INSPECTOR CAME ALONG, HE ASKED THIS BROTHER **WHY** HE WAS SITTING ON THE FLOOR. HE REPLIED, "BECAUSE SOMEONE **ELSE** IS SITTING ON MY SEAT. I AM A **CHRISTIAN**, I **DON'T** **FIGHT** WITH PEOPLE."

THE TICKET COLLECTOR GOT **CONVERTED!** DID THAT MAN GET CONVERTED THROUGH LISTENING TO A **POWERFUL SERMON**? **NO**. HE **SAW** A **POWERFUL SERMON** IN THAT BROTHER'S CONDUCT. THAT IS WHAT IT MEANS TO BE THE **LIGHT** OF THE WORLD.



IN 1:47, WE SEE JESUS SAYING ABOUT **NATHANIEL**, "BEHOLD A MAN IN WHOM THERE IS **NO GUILF**." WHAT A **WONDERFUL TESTIMONY** TO RECEIVE FROM THE LORD. HE DID **NOT** SAY THAT NATHANIEL WAS **SINLESS** OR **PERFECT** -- BECAUSE NATHANIEL WAS NEITHER SINLESS NOR PERFECT, AND THE LORD DOES NOT TELL LIES.



JESUS ONLY SAID THAT THE MAN WAS **HONEST** AND **TRANSPARENT** LIKE **CLEAR GLASS**! MANY CHRISTIANS ARE LIKE **FROSTED GLASS** -- THEY ARE **NOT** TRANSPARENT. THERE ARE MANY THINGS THEY **HIDE** ON THE **OTHER SIDE** OF THE **OPAQUE GLASS**. ON THE **FRONT SIDE** THEY LOOK VERY **HOLY**. BUT **BEHIND** THE **FROSTED GLASS** THEY LIVE **ANOTHER** LIFE. TO HAVE **NO GUILF** IS TO BE LIKE **CLEAR GLASS** WHERE WE HAVE **NOTHING** IN OUR INNER LIFE OR PRIVATE LIFE THAT WE WANT TO **HIDE**. WE MAY STILL BE **DEFEATED** BY ANGER ETC., BUT WE ARE **HONEST** ABOUT IT. WE **DON'T PRETEND**.



IN REVELATION 21, WE ARE TOLD THAT THE **NEW JERUSALEM** (THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST) IS LIKE **CLEAR GLASS**. THAT'S HOW OUR **LIFE MUST BE** IF WE WANT TO BE IN THAT CHURCH.

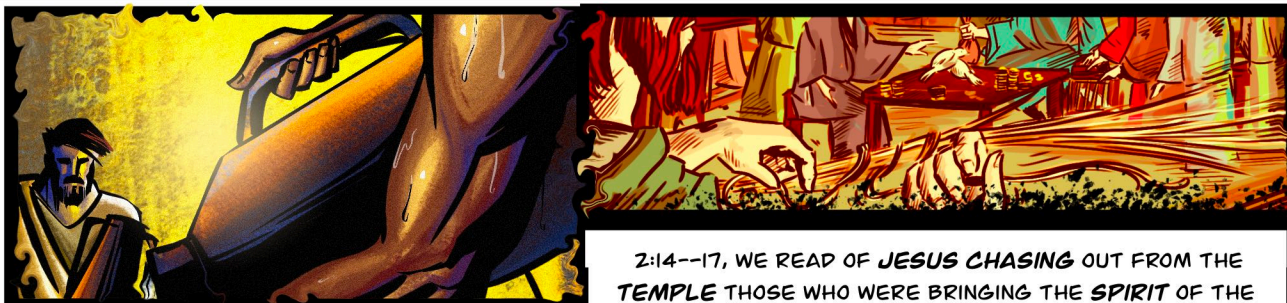
IN CHAPTER 2, WE READ ABOUT A MARRIAGE IN **CANA** THAT **JESUS** AND HIS **DISCIPLES** ATTENDED. IN 2:11, WE READ THAT "THIS BEGINNING OF HIS **SIGNS** **JESUS** DID IN **CANA** IN **GALILEE**." JOHN CALLS **JESUS'** MIRACLES AS **SIGNS**. THAT MEANS THAT EVERY MIRACLE WAS A **PARABLE** TOO. IT HAD A **SPIRITUAL** MESSAGE.



WHEN YOUR **EARTHLY** WINE RUNS DRY, BE **HONEST** ABOUT IT AND GO AND **TELL** THE LORD -- JUST LIKE MARY DID. THAT'S ALL THAT YOU HAVE TO DO. YOU **DON'T** HAVE TO GO TO THE **VINEYARD** AND COLLECT GRAPES, CRUSH THEM AND **MAKE** WINE. NO. JUST GO TO **JESUS** AND SAY, "LORD, I HAVE NO JOY OR PEACE OR VICTORY IN MY LIFE. I AM UNABLE TO '**REJOICE** IN THE LORD ALWAYS'... THE LORD WILL GIVE YOU HIS **NEW WINE** -- HIS **LIFE**."

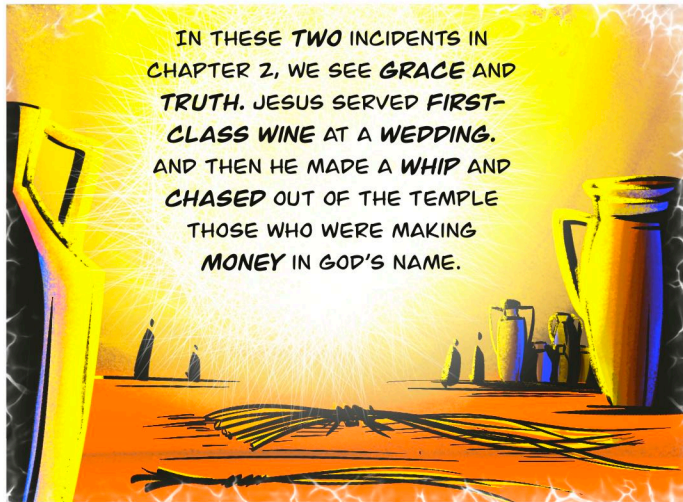


JESUS COULD HAVE CREATED **WINE** FROM **NOTHING** IN THOSE **EMPTY** POTS. BUT HE **DIDN'T** DO THAT. HE CALLED THE **SERVANTS** IN THE HOUSE TO **WORK WITH** HIM. THE LORD USES **LOWLY** PEOPLE EVEN TODAY AS HIS **CO-WORKERS**. HAVE THE **SPIRIT** OF A **SERVANT** -- AND THE LORD WILL DO **MIRACLES** THROUGH YOU. THE **SERVANTS** HERE FILLED THE **POTS** WITH **WATER**. **JESUS** TURNED IT INTO **WINE**. WE HAVE TO DO ONLY THE **EASY** PART AND THE **LORD** DOES THE **DIFFICULT** PART. THE LORD WANTS YOU TO BE A **PARTNER** WITH HIM IN HIS WORK.



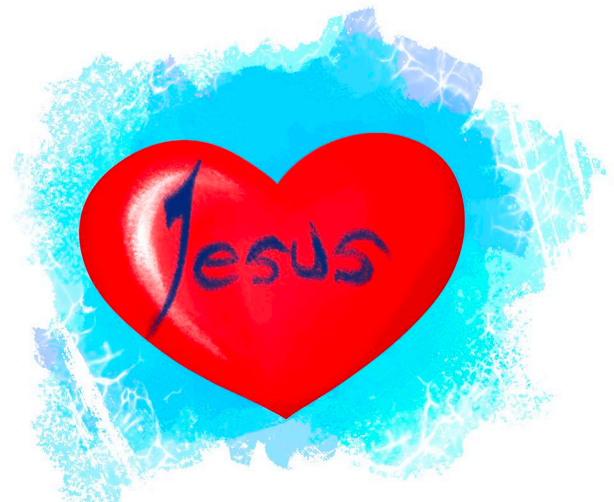
THERE IS **NO** PLACE FOR **LAZINESS** HERE. IT WAS **HARD** WORK TO FILL THOSE POTS WITH **600** LITRES OF **WATER** (2:6). GOD **NEVER** DOES HIS **WORK** THROUGH **LAZY** PEOPLE.

2:14--17, WE READ OF **JESUS** CHASING OUT FROM THE **TEMPLE** THOSE WHO WERE BRINGING THE **SPIRIT** OF THE **MARKET-PLACE** INTO THE HOUSE OF **PRAYER**. HE MADE A **SCOURGE** OF **CORDS** FIRST. CAN YOU SEE THIS **PICTURE** IN YOUR MIND: **JESUS** SITTING IN A **CORNER** AND COLLECTING VARIOUS BITS OF **STRING** AND **TWISTING** THEM INTO A **ROPE**.

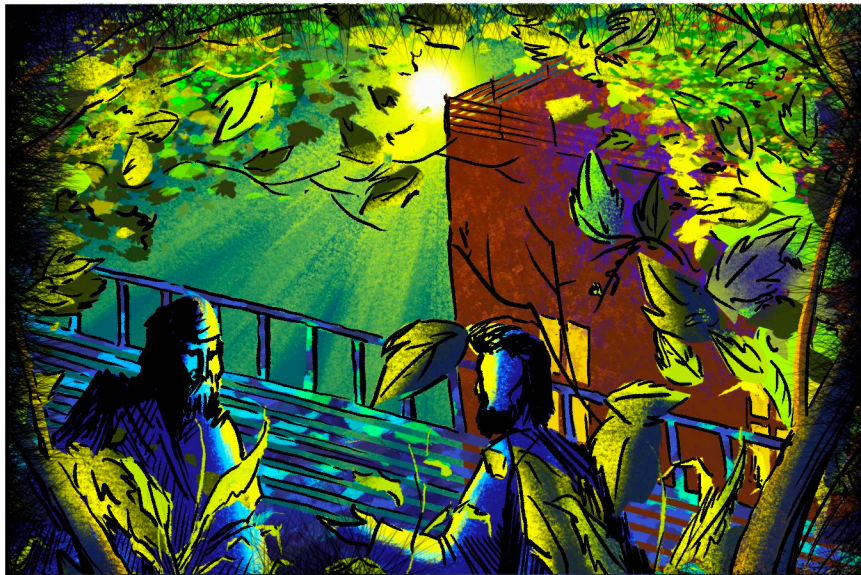


IN THESE **TWO** INCIDENTS IN CHAPTER 2, WE SEE **GRACE** AND **TRUTH**. JESUS SERVED **FIRST-CLASS WINE** AT A **WEDDING**. AND THEN HE MADE A **WHIP** AND **CHASED OUT** OF THE **TEMPLE** THOSE WHO WERE MAKING **MONEY** IN **GOD'S** NAME.

OUR MINISTRY MUST HAVE **BOTH** THE **WINE** AND THE **WHIP** IN IT -- 'WINE' TO THE **NEEDY** AND A 'WHIP' TO SO CALLED "CHRISTIAN" **RACKETEERS**.



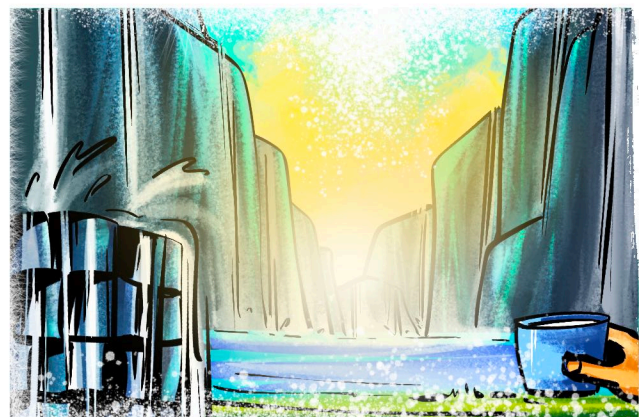
IN 2:24, 25, WE READ THAT "JESUS DID **NOT** COMMIT HIMSELF TO EVERYONE." MANY PEOPLE **BELIEVED** IN HIM, BUT HE DID **NOT** BELIEVE IN **EVERYONE** -- BECAUSE HE **KNEW** WHAT WAS IN EACH MAN'S **HEART**. IT IS ONLY IF WE ARE **TOTALLY COMMITTED** TO THE **LORD** THAT HE WILL BE **TOTALLY COMMITTED** TO **US**.



IN CHAPTER 3, WE READ ABOUT **NICODEMUS** COMING TO JESUS BY **NIGHT**. JESUS CHRIST WAS THE MOST **IMPORTANT** PERSON THAT EVER **WALKED** ON THE FACE OF THIS EARTH. YET **NICODEMUS** COULD COME TO HIS HOUSE, EVEN **LATE** AT NIGHT, **WITHOUT FIXING** AN **APPOINTMENT**. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT WAS **MIDNIGHT**, BUT **JESUS** TOOK **TIME** TO TALK TO HIM. IF YOU **SERVE** THE **LORD**, YOU MUST BE WILLING TO BE **INCONVENIENCED**.



JESUS SPOKE HERE ABOUT BEING BORN OF WATER AND THE **SPIRIT** (3:5). **WATER** IS A SYMBOL OF THE **HOLY SPIRIT**. **FIRE** IS ANOTHER SYMBOL.



WHEN WE ARE **BORN AGAIN** (BORN OF **WATER**), WE HAVE A **CUP** OF WATER ("THE **CUP** OF **SALVATION**" -- PSALM 116:13). THIS **CUP** OF WATER MUST THEN BECOME A "**WELL** OF WATER" (JOHN 4:14), AND FINALLY, "**RIVERS** OF WATER" (JOHN 7:38).



WHEN WE ARE BORN OF WATER, THE **HOLY SPIRIT** COMES IN AND PRODUCES A **NEW LIFE** IN US. THEN THE LORD LEADS US ON TO HAVE A **WELL OF WATER**. IF YOU HAVE A **WELL** IN YOUR HOUSE, YOU **WON'T** BE DEPENDENT ON ANY **OUTSIDE SOURCE** FOR YOUR WATER -- OUR **JOY AND PEACE AND VICTORY** WILL NOT BE DEPENDENT ON **CIRCUMSTANCES** OR HOW PEOPLE **TREAT** US. THEN THE LORD LEADS US TO A **THIRD STAGE**, WHERE THIS WATER **FLOWS OUT** LIKE **RIVERS** IN **MANY DIRECTIONS** TO **BLESS MANY PEOPLE**. WE SHOULD **NOT** BE **SATISFIED** UNTIL WE HAVE **REACHED** THE **THIRD STAGE**.



IN 3:17, WE READ, "GOD DID **NOT** SEND HIS SON INTO THE WORLD TO **CONDEMN** THE WORLD, BUT THAT THE WORLD THROUGH HIM MIGHT BE **SAVED**." WE CAN LEARN THREE THINGS FROM THAT VERSE.



FIRST OF ALL, ANY VOICE OF **CONDEMNATION** THAT WE HEAR IN OUR HEARTS IS **ALWAYS** FROM **SATAN**. THE **HOLY SPIRIT** **CONVICTS** US OF SPECIFIC SINS, BUT HE **NEVER** **CONDEMNS** US SAYING THAT THERE IS **NO HOPE** FOR US, ETC.



SECONDLY, WE MUST **NEVER PREACH** GOD'S **WORD** IN SUCH A WAY THAT PEOPLE FEEL **CONDEMNED** AFTER THEY HAVE **HEARD** US. THEY MUST ALWAYS FEEL **ENCOURAGED** AND **BELIEVE** THAT THERE IS **HOPE** EVEN FOR THE **WORST** OF THEM.



THIRDLY, WHEN WE **WITNESS** TO **NON-CHRISTIANS**, IT MUST **NOT** BE TO **CONDEMN** THEM BUT TO **SAVE** THEM. IN MY YOUNGER DAYS I USED TO GIVE OUT TRACTS. BUT EACH TIME I GAVE A TRACT, I WAS (SILENTLY) SAYING, "NOW I HAVE GIVEN YOU A **TRACT**. YOUR **BLOOD** IS **NOT** ON MY HANDS." IT WAS TO **EASE** MY **CONSCIENCE**, NOT **SAVE** THEM.



IN 3:30, WE READ JOHN THE BAPTIST'S LIFE-MOTTO: "HE (CHRIST) MUST **INCREASE** BUT I MUST **DECREASE**." WE DO WELL TO MAKE THAT OUR **LIFE'S MOTTO** AS WELL.



IN CHAPTER 4, WE READ OF JESUS' VISIT TO SAMARIA. **JESUS** AND HIS **DISCIPLES** WERE **WALKING** AND CAME TO **SAMARIA** AND THEY WERE ALL **HUNGRY**. HERE WE SEE JESUS FEELING A **PROMPTING** FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT TO STAY THERE BY THE WAYSIDE AND NOT TO GO TO THE **RESTAURANT**.

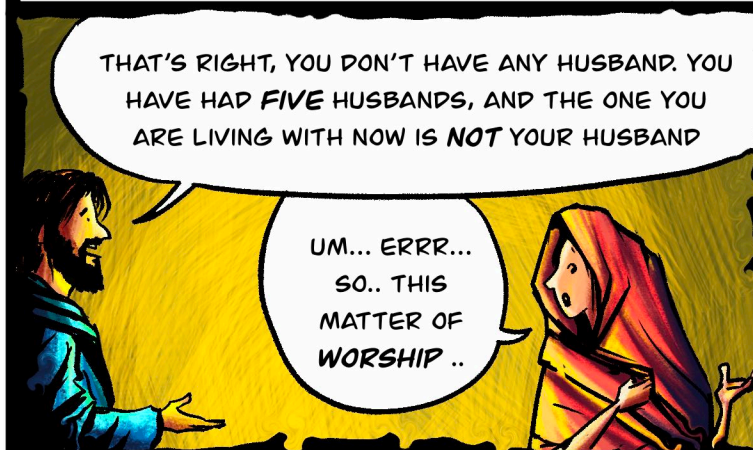


WHILE HE WAS WAITING THERE A **WOMAN** CAME, AND THROUGH HER THE **WHOLE CITY** CAME TO HEAR ABOUT **JESUS**. **JESUS LISTENED** TO THE **PROMPTINGS** OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.



SO DID THE **APOSTLES**. **PHILIP** WAS TOLD TO **LEAVE** A REVIVAL IN SAMARIA AND TO GO TO THE **DESERT**. WHEN HE OBEYED, HE MET AN **ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH** WHO GOT **CONVERTED** AND TOOK THE GOSPEL TO ETHIOPIA WHERE THOUSANDS GOT CONVERTED.

JESUS ASKED THE WOMAN TO CALL HER **HUSBAND** (4:16). THE WOMAN SAID SHE **DIDN'T** HAVE ONE. JESUS REPLIED.



HE SENSED HER **EMBARRASSMENT** AND **CHANGED** THE **SUBJECT** HIMSELF. HE WAS FULL OF **GRACE** AND **TRUTH**.



IT IS AMAZING THAT JESUS SPOKE THE **ELEMENTARY** TRUTHS OF SALVATION TO A **BISHOP** (JOHN 3) AND THE MOST **PROFOUND** TRUTHS ON **WORSHIP** TO A 5-TIMES DIVORCED **SINFUL** WOMAN (CHAPTER 4). OBVIOUSLY JESUS SAW MORE **HUNGER** IN HER FOR THE **TRUTH** THAN IN THE BISHOP.



THE **FATHER** IN HEAVEN IS SEEKING **ALL** OVER THE WORLD FOR **TRUE** WORSHIPPERS "WHO WILL WORSHIP IN **SPIRIT** AND IN **TRUTH (REALITY)**".



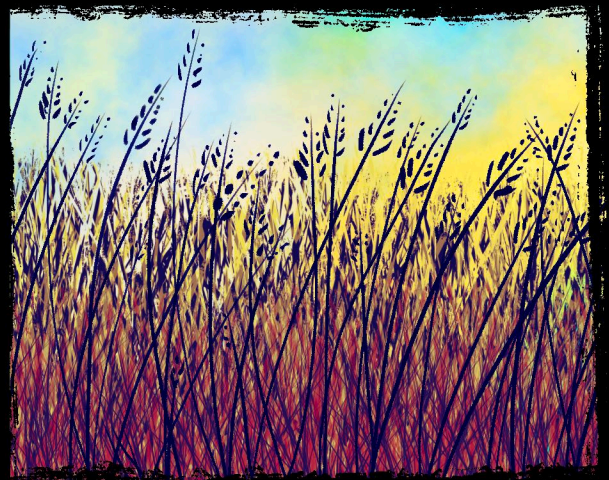
UNDER THE **OLD COVENANT**, PEOPLE COULD WORSHIP **ONLY** IN THEIR **BODY** AND **SOUL** -- WITH HAND-CLAPPING AND **EMOTIONS** ETC. MANY WORSHIP GOD **ONLY** LIKE THAT EVEN **TODAY**.



BUT JESUS SAID THAT THE TIME WAS COMING WHEN THE **REAL** WORSHIPPERS WOULD **WORSHIP** IN THEIR **SPIRIT** AS WELL. THIS TIME HAS NOW COME **AFTER JESUS' DEATH** WHEN THE **VEIL** IN **FRONT** OF THE **MOST HOLY** PLACE WAS **RENT** AND MAN COULD GO **RIGHT** INTO **GOD'S** PRESENCE AND OFFER HIS **BODY** AS A **LIVING SACRIFICE** WHICH WOULD RESULT IN "**WORSHIP** IN THE **SPIRIT**" (ROMANS 12:1 - NASB).



JESUS THEN TOLD HIS DISCIPLES TWO THINGS. FIRST: "MY **FOOD** IS TO DO THE **WILL** OF HIM WHO SENT ME AND TO FINISH **HIS WORK**" (4:34). HIS **FOOD** WAS **NOT** TO **RUN AROUND** AND DO "**SOMETHING** FOR GOD", BUT TO DO EXACTLY WHAT HIS **FATHER** WANTED HIM TO DO.



SECONDLY, HE TOLD HIS DISCIPLES TO LIFT UP THEIR EYES AND LOOK AT THE **HARVEST** THAT WAS **READY** FOR **REAPING** (VERSE 35).