

Of Mites and Myrrh

Overflowing Thankfulness

Part 4 - March 24, 2007

In a previous letter we learned about funds from the world and funds from the Body. Let's take a look at this Body. Besides our missionary efforts in nearby West Virginia and in far off Tanzania, Promised Land's list of giving areas contains many major outreach programs sponsored by our little corner of the Body. In addition, there are several completely independent ministries that we help support. I guess God missed the email informing Him He can't do much with a handful of peculiar people.

We are just that, you know – a handful of God's peculiar people. And in all Creation, I don't believe there is anything I am more thankful for than being one of God's people.

Years ago we learned about two Hebrew words, cashah and calah. I am not a Hebrew scholar, but as I remember cashah means "a safe place" while calah means "diseased". My life in Christ is a cashah. I am chosen, protected, cherished. Outside of my cashah, everything is diseased. Instead of being chosen, my life has been stolen. In place of protection, I am abused and manipulated. Safe in my cashah, I am cherished. Outside my cashah, I shall perish.

Being one of God's peculiar people means I am in a cashah. I like being one of God's people. I like being chosen. Outside my safe place are millions upon millions of other people who are chosen but do not realize it. Their lives are diseased and they know no cure. The Father's Hand stretches out to these souls in despair, offering them kinship with Himself. One way He does this is through the offerings of those who are already safe in His Cashah. I want to be used in this way because then others can know the joy of being chosen.

This joy in being chosen wakens in me a spirit of thankfulness, and I bring a Thank offering to the Chosen One who has chosen me.

Where General offerings are simple and pure, I imagine Thank offerings to be splashy and extravagantly floral; striking magnolia flowers adorning a tree, gardenias overflowing with heavenly perfume, silky crushable textures like a carpet of rose petals, or brilliant colors like the joyous riot of spring blossoms breaking through snow covered earth.

So on a regular basis, bring your General offerings to the Lord. These simple, perfect offerings that speak of all things ancient and endearing will gently shower your Beloved with adoration and pledges of eternal allegiance.

Then, whenever your heart leaps in gratitude and joy over some amazing favor shown by God, when you must testify of His Lordship in your life lest you burst, when the heavens declare the Glory of the Lord and you cannot be silent, when the Love in your heart makes you "twirl", in these times bring a Thank offering as well. Your Father in heaven will surely smile and say, "You are welcome, my child. You are welcome."

