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The Life Within

This morning I am going to look at several scriptures that for me has peeled away layers of my own ideas, to simply reveal Himself and point my heart upward where LIFE IS.

The Seed that Christ came from

The first verse I want to look at is Matthew 1:18-25

*¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child **of the Holy Spirit**. ¹⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. ²⁰ But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is **of the Holy Spirit**. ²¹ And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."*

*²² So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "**God with us**."*

²⁴ Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, ²⁵ and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son.^[a] And he called His name JESUS.

Several weeks ago as I was surrounded by Christmas stuff, I started to read Matthew 1, about Christ's birth. I read these verses and immediately I was struck with the reality of "she was found with child of the Holy Spirit." I know this is not new and you are probably beginning to wonder where I have been for the last 30 plus years. But, suddenly I realized that although Christ was born with a physical body, the life within Him was out from the Holy Spirit and not from the seed of Adam. When I saw this suddenly, this empathy that I thought the Lord had for my flesh was removed (honestly, I did not even realize it existed).

Because he was not created out from the seed of Adam, the only thing He and man shared was an earthen vessel. (Let the reality of what an earthen vessel is, really sink in).

Where is Life found

Immediately, I was reminded that Life is not found on this earth, it never was. Even when Christ walked on the earth, He did not find Life here. As I read further through chapter 1 and into 2, 3 & 4 the Truth of that statement was further entrenched in my heart. The division became clear and changed from a grey line, to a black line.

Matthew chapter 3:

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.

¹⁴ And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"

¹⁵ But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.

When I read this, I saw again this false idea I had, of empathy Christ had for man and the earth. I saw John, knowing who Jesus was, knowing the prophecies, desiring Christ, but still holding on to his earthen vessel to be cleansed and think that was Life. But Christ came to fulfill those prophecies and present himself. Having Jesus perform a physical act of Baptism was not what John needed.

As I read those verses I was reminded of Matthew 16:21-23

²¹ From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

²² Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!"

²³ But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

Again, I saw myself/adamic nature wanting to hold onto the flesh, wanting Christ to give Life in the earth. But, we are reminded yet again in Matthew 10:34.

"Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came NOT to send peace, but a sword."

The Fulfillment: Matthew 3:16-17

¹⁶ When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He^[a] saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. ¹⁷ And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

This section of scripture caught my eye because when I read this, I realized again, that Christ was not looking for Life from anything on the earth, even though he was walking on it. He came to John, not so he could be baptized by "John," but to present Himself before the Lord. In doing so the Lord presented Himself in His Son. He put away the first and established the second.

The life of Christ is not meant for this world

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. ³ Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

⁴ But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"^[a]

⁵ Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written:

'He shall give His angels charge over you,'

and,

'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'"^[b]

⁷ Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'"^[c]

⁸ Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."

¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you,^[d] Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'^[e]

¹¹ Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

I never realized how significant these 4 chapters were in Matthew until recently. I say that because, I never saw clearly that Christ's time on earth, with an earthen vessel as you and I have, had nothing to do with understanding what it is like to live on earth.

That may seem really small, but I realized in my own heart, I still have my eyes fixed on things of the earth. With that view, I never saw the reality of where Christ's Life was even as he walked on earth with an earthen vessel.

While I struggle so often, thinking it is impossible to be "in the earth, but not of the earth." Seeing these verses clearly, has shown me that Christ did not have some super power that I just don't have because I am Me. Christ NEVER LOOKED to the earth for Life. He only looked to His Father. He was "in the world, but not of the world" when he walked on the earth as you and I are. The difference is, I keep believing the Lie and try and make Christ's life work in the earth for my betterment. That is like trying to grow tropical plants in your backyard in Ohio in the middle of winter. It is pure Foolishness.

The Salvation, that He brought us into, is that very same reality. Being conceived of the Holy Spirit, meant that His soul bore the Life of the Father. When Mary brought forth the Child of God, she was not bringing forth man with God's favor. She brought forth an earthen vessel that contained the Life of the Father. (John 17: 20-26)

Life is seated in the heavenlies, because that is where The Father and Son, dwell. The confusion comes in when I try and bring Life into this world. We are called out of this world, we are foreigners. What makes us foreigners? His Life in our soul. Our earthen vessel/tent has us in the world, we are in it based on where our tent is, but Life is found within and within our tent is Christ, when we have received Salvation.

I am going to read an excerpt from Rabon Byrd's Book, "The Life Which is Above."

"Only ABOVE (in Christ) is the true definition realized because the true definition is The I AM. And The I AM is in you. ".....I am in you, and you are in me." (John 14.20) And that's security beyond anything we could ever imagine. You want to talk about Eternal security? There is is, and guess what? It's not based upon me; me it Eternal in the heavens. (1 Peter 1:4) Salvation - Eternal in the heavens: not BENEATH."

As the reality of this statement "The Life of Christ is not meant for this world" sunk in, I had this picture come to mind of what we do when we try and bring Christ to earth for its betterment.

It is like being stuck in quicksand and crying out to the Lord and when He lifts you out of it and brings you into His kingdom you turn and say, Oh, no what I really wanted was for you to pave over the quicksand so I can stand in that spot and build a neighborhood and gardens and make it a happy place for people to live. By the way Lord, I will do all that in your name (can you see yourself vainly glowing with pride thinking, the Lord is just so pleased with you). When I saw this in my own heart, the things I do that I think will please the Lord, I realized me offering my "good ideas" or "best efforts" on earth is like Satan offering Christ an earthly Kingdom, if he would bow down to him in Matthew Chapter 4.

Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, ^[d] Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"^[e]

Christ KNEW where HIS LIFE was found and He saw the world for what it was. He was not looking to make a home there, he knew that he was a foreigner in this land. Through His salvation he has made us foreigners as well.

The reality of the Cross made known

As the Lord has been making all these things known to my heart, He of course brought it full circle and showed me the reality of the Cross. Seeing Christ's birth also requires us to see His death. Matthew 27:39-44

³⁹ And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, "You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross."

⁴¹ Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, ^[a] said, ⁴² "He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, ^[b] let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. ^[c] ⁴³ He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.'"

⁴⁴ Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing.

When I read this, I saw one last ditch effort by Satan, to try and enslave Christ. This was no different than when Satan tempted Christ in the dessert. Christ did not come to prove himself to the earth. Christ came to judge it. Man likes to prove himself on the earth, to hide the reality of who he is to himself.

⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. ⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"^[a]

⁴⁷ Some of those who stood there, when they heard that, said, "This Man is calling for Elijah!" ⁴⁸ Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink.

⁴⁹ The rest said, "Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him."

*⁵⁰ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, **and yielded up His spirit.***

⁵¹ Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,

When I read this section of scripture, verse 50 really hit me, "and Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. This had to happen in order for Him to take on the adamic nature so that it could be judged once and for all. This was the end of Satan's bondage over man's soul.

When Christ judged it, he buried it and left His earthen vessel and the one article of the earth that still remained on Him (clothing) and returned to the Father.

Through His resurrection, the Holy Spirit came and offered the seed of Life to man's soul. And with that seed of Life, we Live in Him. Jesus's prayer to The Father in John 17.

²⁰ "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will^[a] believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

²⁴ "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent

Me. ²⁶ And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

That right there needs to bring each of us to our knees daily so that we may humble ourselves before the Lord.

Lastly, I wanted to just look at Ecclesiastes 1. When Jason Wyse shared from this section of scripture a few weeks ago, I have found myself going back to it, to remind myself of what Solomon, the wisest of all, who had accumulated more wealth than any King before him came to see of the earth.

1 The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

*2 "Vanity^[a] of vanities," says the Preacher;
"Vanity of vanities, all is vanity."*

*3 What profit has a man from all his labor
In which he toils under the sun?*

*4 One generation passes away, and another generation comes;
But the earth abides forever.*

*5 The sun also rises, and the sun goes down,
And hastens to the place where it arose.*

*6 The wind goes toward the south,
And turns around to the north;
The wind whirls about continually,
And comes again on its circuit.*

*7 All the rivers run into the sea,
Yet the sea is not full;
To the place from which the rivers come,
There they return again.*

*8 All things are full of labor;
Man cannot express it.
The eye is not satisfied with seeing,
Nor the ear filled with hearing.*

*9 That which has been is what will be,
That which is done is what will be done,
And there is nothing new under the sun.*

*10 Is there anything of which it may be said,
"See, this is new"?*
It has already been in ancient times before us.

*11 There is no remembrance of former things,
Nor will there be any remembrance of things that are to come
By those who will come after.*