

Chiselled by the Cross

Sorry for my long delay . I should write more often. One of my major problems is procrastinating. Hope to write more regularly.

This was the message I meditated in a Good Friday Service. As the tradition goes, seven people spoke about the seven words of Jesus hanging on the Cross. The Pastor then asked me to conclude the whole session. This is the message.

Somehow I remembered a story which I read long ago. It is about a Christian out on a journey to heaven. He had his own cross. Only that he was grumbling all the way. He said, God had given him too much of a burden. He pitied himself too much so that one day he set out to correct his burden. He took an axe and cut away a considerable length of the Cross and started walking again. After sometime he still felt it was too heavy so he chiselled the Cross breadthwise. It became lighter and shorter. At last he went on satisfied.

Suddenly all around him people with their own crosses were cheering, because the City of God was seen now. They were all rushing towards the City of God. But there was one problem. There was a wide chasm between them and the Celestial City. Everyone without hesitation took their Cross from their shoulder and made it a bridge, stepped on it and crossed over to the Other Side, to the City of God.

Our grumbling Christian, comes and puts his Cross as the bridge and lo the Cross is too short to bridge the big abyss. He moves to another place where the gap is narrower. In that place his Cross

bridged the gap, but as he stepped on it, the Cross cracked under his weight. Remember on the way, he had chiselled the Cross! Grumbling he sat there watching others reach.

The day we are born, God has ordained a special Cross custom made for me. That is why Jesus makes it very clear when He says to everyone around Him,

Luke 9:23 (NASB) ²³And He was saying to *them* all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

To be a Christian is to be like Christ. That is why God chose us, so that we could be confirmed to the image of Christ.

Romans 8:29 (NASB) ²⁹For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

If we truly want to be followers of Jesus we have to take up that Cross, which God has prepared for each of us. The great saints had their own personal Crosses. Joseph carried his Cross, his imprisonment, till that moment when God saw Joseph fit enough to take on as the second regent of Egypt. The Cross of Joseph was chiselling him.

Psalms 105:17-19 (NASB) ¹⁷ He sent a man before them,
Joseph, *who* was sold as a slave.

¹⁸ They afflicted his feet with fetters,
He himself was laid in irons;

¹⁹ Until the time that his word came to pass,
The word of the LORD tested him.

Joseph knew pretty well that his slavery, imprisonment was part of his Cross, so that God could lift him up. That is why when after Jacob's death, all the brothers came to apologize to Joseph once again, he could assuredly say, " God meant it for good." Genesis 50,20

The crucial question today is do I know what my Cross is?

Am I allowing the Cross to chisel me so that I can be confirmed to the image of Christ?

Or am I chiselling the Cross to suit my comfort?

God will never be finished with you, till He sees the reflection of Christ in your face.

It is this resemblance which will allow you go through the gates of heaven and not your impressive ministry portfolios.

This is what Jesus said, "Some will say Lord we healed in your name, we drove out demons in your name...."

Jesus will search for family resemblance. When there is nothing, then Jesus draws a blank says, " I don't know you, " bang, the door is shut.

Take up your Cross. No matter how painful it is, one day when we see Jesus it will be worth it all.

The Lord will never put on our shoulders what we cannot carry. He knows us.

My dear friend, if you are crying so hard that the burden is unbearable, remember your loving God, knows that you can bear it.

There is no Crown, without the Cross.

Jesus walked through the Way of the Cross, to the grave and to His Glorious Resurrection. He has gone up to make room for us too.

Endure your Cross in the name of the Lord.

Allow the Cross to chisel you. Do not chisel your Cross.

One day you will wear the Crown, you will see the Resurrection and be seated in the heavenlies.

God bless.

1 Peter 2:21 (NASB) ²¹For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,