



Poison in the Pot

January 9, 2017

Please read the following scripture prior to reading meditation: **2 KINGS 4:38-41**

If you look at the world closely, you will discover that the United States of America is indeed in trouble. It is quickly becoming an unfamiliar country to many of us, unraveling in warp speed! Nothing can mute the reality that we are a nation on the brink. Today, instead of the evolution of a nation, you and I are witnessing what is called the "Devilusion" of a nation. Our country is moving further and further from the principals we were raised with. We are getting further and further from God's instructions on how to live. Many of us were saved by grace, but think we are sanctified by works. Therefore, we believe that if we live morally well, we are fine in the sight of a God.

In the Bible, there were at least three schools of prophets similar to seminaries. One such school was at Gilgal where we pick up our story in **2 Kings 4:38**. Elisha, came to the college of the prophets, which comprised about a hundred brethren, and found they were in want as a result of a famine. While he was teaching the young men, he observed that they appeared in need of food. Discovering that there was no food available, Elisha ordered his servant (**GEHAZI**), to take the great pot, which generally stood upon long legs over the fire, and make a nourishing soup. In truth there was nothing to put in the pot, but Elisha believed that God would provide. It was for him to set the pot over the fire and it was for the Lord to fill the pot. One of the young men went out to gather something from the fields (**39**); for he brought home herbs and cucumbers, and cut them up, and threw them into the stew.

There is a species of melon, called Cucumis prophet-arum, which is common in the hill country, and which, when green, is sliced and boiled as a vegetable. But in the plains near Gilgal at that time there was a plant extremely similar in appearance, but very different in its qualities. It was known as the colocynthus, or squirting cucumber, commonly referred to as a "wild gourd." And, lo, the young men gathered and sliced down the vegetables and wild gourd into the large pot for stew. As they began to pour it out, it was bitter to the taste, gave them a terrible colic, and made them cry out to Elisha, "O thou man of God, there is death in the pot!" For some were sick with colic and even to the point of throwing up! And it could kill you.

What is today's point? We are suffering from a severe spiritual famine! Many suffering are actually in the church. Not being taught, without understanding and caught on traditions that are not biblical! It may sound good, it may look good, but it is not on God's menu! We must avoid our inclination to try and fix what is not broken. Each time a Christian tries to step in and fix God's work, there are always wild gourds that interfere, messing up how a man gets right with God. We are adding false religious substitutes for what God wants to do. Many are spiritually SICK!!!!

Some of us were saved by grace, but believe we are sanctified by works. Today brothers and sisters, the reason we are so spiritually hungry is because we have taken the "Truth of God" and mixed it with the gourds of religion. And we have come up with something other than what God is cooking. We assume our meddling is helping God out. Instead we have contaminated ourselves and it has resulted in a spiritual famine. And, the worst sickness in the world is to take religion as man's attempt to convince God of our own self-worth; to take religion in an attempt to earn God's favor by adding our human effort and mixing it in with Christ righteousness; to take religion and mix it up with what God has done through Jesus Christ... and, all of a sudden discover we do not have a clean bill of health. We are all are trying to do what Christ and only a relationship can do. You cannot mix law and grace and you cannot mix religion and righteousness.

SCRIPTURE READING: AMOS 8:11

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: If you don't make up your mind, your unmade mind will unmake you.