

P e p p o & J a n e B i s c a r i n i

Lord, why this pain...?

UPDATE: On March 1, we had the pleasure of having Mr. and Mrs. Coors at one of our outreaches in Palm Beach, FL. If you have not heard it, Mr. Coors offers a compelling testimony of a performance driven life shattered by tragedies. The ending is a rewarding one as the Lord took hold of Coors' life and gave him not only the power to forgive the man who murdered his father, but to ask for forgiveness from the same man for the hatred he harbored towards him.

This week, one of our Jewish seekers, who has been coming faithfully to the men's study for a year, showed up with a huge green on his face. He told me "Peppo, today I am ready, I am finally ready to receive the Lord. Now I will be a completed Jew!" I am



Adolph Coors V smiling after the event

sharing this just as a reminder not to give up on prayer for your lost friends: 2 Peter 3:9
"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance".

-REFLECTIONS-

Most of us have seen the "Passion of the Christ" by now and I used the occasion as an intro to my lecture for last week. There are a couple of thoughts I would like to pass on to you. At the end of the movie there were 4 people groups I could identify: **those who mocked Him** (Jews, Romans, and a criminal), **those who saw the light** (Centurion and a second criminal), **those looking at a distance** (acquaintances and women according to Luke's gospel), and finally **those at the foot of the cross** (Mary and John). I could not help to think: "Where would I have been at that hour?" Making a deal oblivious to the occurrence? Busy with my friends? Along the via dolorosa? Watching from a safe distance or at the foot of the cross? Ask yourself the same question. How is His "passion" for you impacting your life? His Word was not given to us to increase our knowledge, but to change our lives and this is the difference between head knowledge and heart felt conviction. Have you been changing? Where are you now? Are you near the cross, or the surrounding pressures and distractions have taken you away from it? It is my desire that the Passion would not just be His own, but it would be ours; that it would be a launching pad for a change of hearts on our part. Let us not reduce Christianity to a code of ethics, but let us display Christ living in us no matter the circumstances. I am lecturing to myself since I have been battling with consistent back pain after surgery on Jan 20th. My struggle was looking at pain vs. looking at plans, God's plans. In one of my last e-mails I mentioned how the Lord has used this "unfortunate circumstance" to bring two individuals to Himself who housed me; thus even the infirmity is well worth the pain. I want to encourage all of us struggling in a difficult situation, to look for His

hand in the midst of the trial instead of our feet which can quickly sink into the sea of the "poor me/why me attitude". Corrie Tan Boom once said: *"If you look at world you'll be distressed, if you look at self you'll be depressed, if you look at Christ you'll be at rest."*

As I looked more at Him and less at me, I am overwhelmed by the fact that He knows my situation, but I need to TRUST that He knows and lets it happen. This should suffice though I do not yet know the reason for the circumstances. As I relinquished self and embraced the pain I started to notice that there was still some Egypt left in me...self. This led me to fall victim of Malachi 1:6-8 *"A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?" says the LORD Almighty. "It is you, O priests, who show contempt for my name. "But you ask, 'How have we shown contempt for your name?' "You place defiled food on my altar. "But you ask, 'How have we defiled you?' "By saying that the LORD's table is contemptible. When you bring blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice crippled or diseased animals, is that not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you?" says the LORD Almighty.*

How many of us sacrifice precious time of prayer and scripture reading for the sake of activities/priorities?

It is important to realize that Jesus said our hearts will follow where our treasure is, not the other way around. It is easy to claim that God is our first priority, but our actions show what is really most important to us. Where we invest our time, abilities, energy and money demonstrates our true priorities. The investment is an act of the will; our emotional involvement will follow. Most of us honor God with our lips and despise him with our actions. Then inner qualities are tested revealing our true nature.... Why? Because the Lord is not only interested in getting His people out of Egypt, He also wants to get Egypt out of His people. Isn't that the nature of the wilderness experience? Mine has been tested in the past 5

months, but I am glad to say John 16:33 is becoming more clear every day: *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

What is the purpose for your wilderness?

Please take note of the changes in our accounts (see enclosed envelope) we have transferred to GEM : 800 436-4488 Info@GEMission.com

Praises:

Marco is getting serious about swimming. Two weeks ago he qualified for the Junior Olympics in the 50 yds butterfly...following his dad's footsteps (and Lord willing even exceeding them!).

The Lord has provided us with a potential family with 3 kids and a single gal, fluent in Italian, to join us in Italy. Pray as they go through the approval process at GEM.



Marco (3rd from right) starting his 50 fly at the J.O's!

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