

Baptism Dream

I would like to share a beautiful dream with you. Sometimes, when God wants to explain something to you, He will do it in a dream. When we are asleep, we do not have the filters of light, sound, touch, smell that we have when we are awake. God can share something without us interrupting to question the reason, context; without us filtering out sensations that do not make sense.

In this dream I was a man in a muddy river, and there was a queue of people waiting quietly in single file to be baptised in the river. It was in the middle of the day and quite a lot of people had already been baptised.

A man came before me, and as my arm lowered towards his head, it was like a curtain of light followed my hand down. Below my hand was the mundane world, and above my hand was the light and song of heaven. As my hand touched this man's head the whole world went white.

It was whiter than anything you can imagine. It is like comparing the white on a sheet of paper to that from a welding arc. Now imagine being immersed in that much whiteness and that much again, imagine hearing that much whiteness.

I internally reeled. What the? Then I realised. It was the Messiah. There before me in the water was the Messiah. He was here, in the flesh.

I was so, so happy. And I looked up to acknowledge the Messiah to the waiting people. The world was still in the mundane, the people still waiting quietly in queue. Dudes who had heard that it was pretty cool to get baptised and had decided to try it out for themselves. It was like "Hey, I heard this is pretty cool, I wonder how much longer until it is my turn?"

I went to speak to gain their attention. And as I opened my mouth, I felt a hand firmly grip my forearm. The man spoke quietly. "They can not see what you see. Be still and continue in your work. For it is good. All will be revealed as and when it should be."

The dream shifted at this point, and I was given a sense of the essence of the remainder of this man's life.

We talk of John the Baptist baptising Jesus. What this dream made clear is that John the Baptist was sanctified by God. From this point forward John walked in the world but was no longer of the world. He had been given the briefest of direct contact with God, and the things of the mundane occurred around him never ever shook his internal core ever again.

When he spoke, he spoke for the benefit of those around him; he no longer had needed to speak for his own desires. Even the deception and imprisonment at the end never shook his internal core. He spoke to give witness to his faith and that his spirit abided in God. It was for the benefit of others that he had spoken.

Like Jesus, John the Baptist had renounced violence. They knew from first hand experience that God is gentle, wise, timeless, and eternal. The challenge was to bring others to this understanding.

Jesus' life is a testament to God's peaceful, gentle character. The bible talks of how people from villages came out to meet him. He did not filter the villagers, nor bring plague, drought, pestilence, violence nor discrimination.

Anyone of any background, gender, age, race, circumstance was accepted by Jesus. All you had to do was believe in Him and have faith that all would be as it should be.

Some of Jesus most ardent critics were learned people of books. They sought to debate and use the letter of the bible to discredit Jesus. There is a tendency in the Old Testament for there to be stories of violence, about how some dude did okay 'cos God took his side in the fight. This was an ongoing theme that Jesus wanted to refute. An eye for an eye begets a tooth for a tooth and costs a soul for a soul.

The scene of Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane was Jesus agonising that would the many people really not listen unless there was violence? Did there really need to be violence for them to accept that he was the Messiah, the person who was to lead them to salvation? If so, then it could not be through Jesus being violent – because that was the antithesis of God's mission for Jesus. And so, if there must be violence, let it be that those of violent inflicting the violence. For Jesus was of peace and faith.

As was witnessed in the garden of Gethsemane and his subsequent crucifixion, Jesus adhered to his vow of peace, forgiveness and redemption. He epitomised that the only way forward is through peace; that the only way forward is through God, and the faith in God that all will be as it should be.

At this point this dream ended. To this day, I still hold it close to my heart, as a child would cuddle a teddy bear; I cuddle this dream in my darkest hours.

I have been asked to share this dream with you. To tell you to have faith, that God knows of your suffering and fear and is preparing the way home for you. Do not be frightened by things of this world, be peaceful, be faithful, be quiet; gentle ambassadors for God and Jesus. All will be as it should be in God's own time. Have faith. Persevere. Pray. Abide in God.