

Dear Friend,

I love how Jesus would teach in simple ways that made it easy for us to understand how the kingdom of God actually works. Jesus said,

Luke 6:40 NKJV A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.

We all understand this process. If you want to learn karate, you find a master. If you want to learn how to play the piano, you find a teacher. If you want to learn how to do anything new, you need to go to someone who knows how to do it. In the kingdom of God, Jesus is the Master and we are the disciples. Disciple simply means ... a disciplined follower. Our Master has said, if we become fully trained disciples, we will be able to do the same things He does.

John 14:12 KJV Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

Pretend with me that we have enrolled in the Jesus School Of Ministry. We ask, "Jesus, I have become your disciple. Teach me how to do the same works you do." We would expect him to begin showing us how He does what He does, in much the same as would happen in a karate class, or in piano lessons. But the first thing Jesus would say to us is, *"I can't teach you how I do it because it is not Me doing it. It is the Father in Me. He is the One doing the works."*

John 14:10 KJ21 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of Myself; but the Father that dwelleth in Me, He doeth the works.

We would say, "But Jesus, we have read about your meetings in the four gospels. You cast out devils and healed the sick. You opened the eyes of the blind and you raised the dead."

John 5:19 KJV Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

Then our Master would reveal to us "how" the works were being done through Him. It was by Jesus humbling himself completely ... COMPLETELY ... to the will of the Father ... so the Father could do the work through Him. What does humbling ourselves like that really mean? Jesus told us when He said,

Luke 14:26-27,33 KJV If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. [27] And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. [33] So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

1. You must love God more than your family.
 - a. Jesus' earthly family thought he had gone crazy.
2. You must love God more than your own earthly life.
 - a. The only purpose of a cross is death.

- b. Witness = Martyr = no fear of death.
- 3. You must love God more than any earthly possessions.
 - a. We brought nothing into this world and we will carry nothing out.
 - b. The only thing you take with you is what you did for the kingdom.

For many years the Lord has often said to me, "*Gary, humble yourself. Humble yourself. Humble yourself. And when you think you can't humble yourself anymore, then humble yourself some more.*"

During Jesus' lifetime physically on earth, the Father was the Vine and He was the Branch ... because He was the one with a physical body on earth. But Jesus knew that would change after His resurrection. Just a few hours before the cross, He told the disciples about the change that was coming. Jesus would now be the Vine, and the disciples would be the branches ... because their bodies would become His body on earth. The life of Christ would flow through them.

John 15:1-5 KJV I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. [2] Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. [3] Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. [4] Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. [5] I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

Jesus completely humbled Himself so the Father could work through Him. A branch is simply a conduit through which the life of the vine flows. The fruit is produced on the branch, not on the vine itself. Jesus completely humbled Himself so the Father could work through Him. We must completely humble ourselves so Christ can work through us.

John 17:22-23 KJV And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: [23] I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

You are the temple of God. Christ, the Messiah, the Anointed One lives in you! The Father lives in Him. It is the Father doing the work through Christ in us! Let us all humble ourselves in full surrender to our Lord Jesus Christ so the Father's will can be done on earth, just as it is in heaven.

I would like to close this letter by quoting a statement made by the great healing evangelist of the early 1900's named John G. Lake. He was not only used mightily of the Lord in evangelism and healing the sick, but he also trained thousands of ordinary Christians to do the same.

"The gospel of Jesus is as simple as can be. As God lived in the body and operated through the man Jesus, so the man on the throne, Jesus, operates through His body, the church, in the world. Even as Jesus Himself was the representative of God the Father, so also the church is the representative of Christ. As Jesus yielded Himself unto all righteousness, so the church should yield herself to do all the will of Christ." - John G. Lake

Your fellow-servant for Christ,

GARY