



Meditation #9

Fill It Up

Experiencing the Fullness of God in Every Way!

Where Honor is Due

“...thou anointest my head with oil;”

Psalm 23: 5

There is a misery experienced by many in American society which goes largely unnoticed. Daily across America, including right here in our city, persons in our society discover they are unable to continue coping with the pressures, stresses, or pains of living. They “snap” under the weight of the pressure and make decisions that within different circumstances they would not make. The stories of some persons who are standing trial, convicted of crimes, or committed to mental wards helps one to see that not all individuals who perform deviant acts are naturally inclined to do so. Often there exists within individuals a misery, a frustration, a cynicism, hopelessness, a deep and unresolved pain that renders them unable to function within accepted ethical norms. They commit crimes against persons or engage in other deviant behavior often because they themselves have been the victims of some aggression which stunted, traumatized or caused them dysfunction.

In our community there seems to be an ever-growing number of persons who daily experience the severities of rejection, denial, and abandonment. Many people live everyday under the weight of being cursed, labeled, exploited, manipulated, used, abused, forgotten, or neglected. As a result there is a frightening rage within the souls of many. While personal responsibility is **the** prime individual ethic each person must embrace in a civil society, it is also true that we as a society must bare some responsibility for our familial, economic, educational, and political systems which produce such uncivilized conditions for people to exist within.

Well, where does it all begin? How does one overcome such adversities without being overwhelmed in the process? What can keep us from snapping? I believe the answer is in the oil. In Hebrew culture there were four distinct acts hosts would take in receiving a guest. There was the embrace or kiss which was the sign of mutual peace. There was the washing of the feet for the refreshing of the guest. There was the preparation of bread for nourishment of the guest. And, there was the anointing of the head to honor the guest. When David celebrates God's oil upon his head, he is acknowledging a deep and meaningful action God has taken in choosing David and thereby honoring David. Honor is an extreme respect or reverence extended toward a person or thing. Those that grant honor must necessarily hold the honoree in high esteem. In our text of focus David celebrates the honor that has been bestowed upon him by God. He is fulfilled with such. He has the extreme respect and reverence of God. So if men withhold it, he yet lacks nothing.

From the cradle, we must expose our children to the value and virtue of honor. It must be impressed that they have the responsibility to give it, no matter how they have been crossed. And we must teach that also they are no less than worthy to receive it. I bestow upon you today the honor God so earnestly desires that you receive. I may not know you, but like David, you are God's elect. So I give honor to where honor is due!

Pray this:

Lord, help me to know and see that you have chosen and honored me!

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