

# Weaving the Word

## *Clothed On & In Christ*

June 2, 2019

*Welcome to where we're learning to take stock of what could be!*

**Do you see in yourself, what *is*, or what *could be*?**

Picturing what *could be* is better than fixating on what *is*.

Sadly, we tend to do *neither*. **We see in our self, what *isn't*.**



Earlier this week I took a photo of my closet. Then I took out everything I don't wear, won't wear, and haven't worn for over a year. Then, I took 'em and put 'em in a box and dated it.

I'm gonna give 'em *one more year*.



Silly me; I thought I'd only need the one box. **So, why do we keep the things we don't wear? Security. Comfort. Sentiment. Self-image. Intentions.** And, likely mostly, *fear*.



I thought of them as *my clothes* without wearing or even noticing them. Yet, **they get in my way, crowd me out, and hog my hangers!**

**Why don't we want to *face* what we *really* clothe ourselves in?**

I suppose **it gets us too close to facing what *actually is*.**



Yet, *it's the only way we can see* what *could actually be*.

**That's why we don't face the truth of what we use in God's Word.**



We like having it hang around for: security; comfort; sentiment; self-image; intentions; and probably mostly, *fear*.

**How would your *Bible* appear without the parts you don't wear?**



**So, do you tend to see in yourself, what *is*, or what *could be*?**

**Or, have you closed your eyes to the whole affair?**

I've really been struck lately by how **Jesus covered himself in our filth and sorrow and shame.**

He did this ultimately, on the cross, but previously, on himself, as He went into the lonely places, not to avoid but, to accommodate and embrace the leprous, the plagued, and the diseased.

They were forbidden from entering the towns.

We're told that He went from town to town and touched and healed *them all*. And, by weaving **Matthew, Mark, Luke, and Isaiah**, we can see exactly why He's doing what He's doing.

The people brought to Jesus *all who had various kinds of sickness, all the sick ... and laying his hands on each one, healed all the sick who had various diseases*. **This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:** He had no *beauty or majesty to attract us to him, [only His touching love, willing heart, and healing touch] nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. [Making Him the polar opposite of the self-righteous religious rulers who adored their beautiful, majestic, attractive robes with their desirable lengthened tassels (Mt 23:5)] He was *despised and rejected* by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces [*like the diseased*] he was *despised*, and we esteemed him not. **[We didn't understand the why behind what He was doing; but] Surely "he took up our infirmities and carried our diseases."** our sorrows, [He's embracing those with open sores, abscesses, infections, rashes, lesions, and pustules. If that ain't love, I don't know what is!] yet we *considered [imagined; judged] him stricken [touched; plagued] ...* – Mt 8:16-17; Mk 1:32-34; Lk 4:40; Isaiah 53:1-6 NIV*



**And yet, the only thing repulsive about Jesus was us ... on Him!**

I pictured His cloak looking like a civil war field surgeon after a long day's work. **The evidence of Isaiah's prophecy was right there for everyone to see.**



**Jesus literally took on our most wretched, pitiful, contagious filth, making His ongoing health a huge sign of His holiness and power.**

When the Twelve went out to preach and heal, they could only take *one garment*. Was that to make sure it got good and filthy?

Zechariah had a vision about the high priest, who happens to share Jesus' (OT) name:

Now Joshua [*lil Jesus*] was **clothed with filthy garments**, and was standing before the Angel. **[Who turns out to be Big Jesus]** Then He [*Big Jesus*] answered ... "Take away the *filthy garments* from him [*lil Jesus*] ... See, I [*Big Jesus*] have removed *your iniquity* from you, and **I will clothe you with rich robes.**" ... 'Hear, O Joshua, the **high priest**, you and your companions ... are a *wondrous sign*; for behold, I am bringing forth *My Servant* the Branch. – Zechariah 3:3-4, 8 NKJ

Do you think this could be why His disciples hinder the parents who want Him to touch their babies? They always tried to please Jesus. They were just very ill-equipped to read a situation. The diseased were pressing in, and He's touching every last one of 'em; so, they possibly thought the *little kids* probably most likely shouldn't go to Him.

People were bringing *little children* to Jesus to *place his hands on them* and pray for them. People were also bringing *babies* [*brepheos: unborn and newborn*] ... to have him *touch them*. When the disciples saw *this*, they *rebuked* [*restrained*] them. But *When Jesus saw this, he was indignant*. Jesus *called the children* ... He said “*Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these* [*who receive without reluctance or reservation*].” And he *took the children in his arms*, put his *hands on them* and blessed them. – Mt 19:13-14; Mk 10:13-16; Lk 18:15-16 NIV

**Do you receive from Him without reluctance or reservation?** Malachi prophesied: “The sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings.” (Mal 4:2) **The wings of Jesus’ cloak weren’t spreading disease; He was spreading healing!**

Right before He went back home to Nazareth, Jesus said, “the lepers are cleansed ... And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.” (Mt 11:5-6)

[*But*] They *took offense at him* [CEV: *were repulsed by*; NIV: *ashamed of and turned away from*]. He could not do any miracles there, except *lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them*. And he was *amazed at their lack of faith*. – Mark 6:5-6 NIV

**His power and holiness and willingness weren’t limited.** They recoiled from receiving from Him, *His way*. **Are you receiving His healing His way; or, do you shy away from putting Him on?**



**The Gospel of Christ is not simply good advice. The Gospel is Good News about new life.** And, it’s all about doing *without*: life without anxiety and regret, hopelessness, despair, and futility, guilt and shame, and overwhelming grief.

We have to be willing to give up all *that*.

We are *afflicted* in every way, but not *crushed*; *perplexed*, but not driven to *despair*; *persecuted*, but not *forsaken*; *struck down*, but not *destroyed*; **always carrying in the body the death of Jesus**, [This is *our body* right here (in this room); and, that’s *His death*, right there (on the wall)]. And, within this body, we each have our own body. And, just as He carried our sin and sickness and sorrow to the cross, we must carry our cross, to recall His death on our behalf, and follow. *Why?* It goes on] **so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies**. [His death and resurrection are inseparable; two parts of one immeasurable promise] For we who *live* [down here] **are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake**, [it provides the much needed motivation to draw us in] **so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh**. [As well as our heavenly, eternal, “bodies”] So [let’s face it without fear] **death is at work in us**, [down here] **but life in you**. [The real you, *up there*, if you’re in Christ down here] ... So we do not *lose heart*. Though our **outer nature is wasting away**, our **inner nature is being renewed day by day**. [And if we want victory over fear and death, we must see ourselves as slowly dying, so we can stop seeing ourselves as slowly dying, so we can see ourselves as slowly blooming] For this *slight momentary affliction is preparing* for us an *eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison*, as we *look not* to the things that are *seen* but to the things that are *unseen*. For the things that are *seen* are *transient*, but the things that are *unseen* are *eternal*. – 2 Corinthians 4:8-18 ESV

## Why are we here? What's our purpose?

It's written right there: "this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen"

### But, we often don't even look to the things that are seen.

We must first strip away the deceptive things that are not, in order to see the things that actually are as they seem, so we can then, by God's grace and power, begin to see all the unseen things that truly could be; for the soul purpose of being renewed day by day. Even as we're wasting away, putting on Christ (crucified and raised) as a new way of life, and removing anything and everything that's just taking up space, crowding us out, getting in our way, and killing time and opportunity.

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make *no provision* [or closet space] for the flesh, to gratify *its desires*. – Romans 13:14 ESV

You know, like: **false security, fleeting comfort, sad sentimentality, shallow self-image, insincere intentions, and likely mostly, fear.** Fear of the unknown and the uncertain; fear of unavoidable pain and inevitable loss; fear of failure, judgement, and disapproval – self-loathing, strife, hostility, struggle, conflict, and likely mostly, fear of fear, and fear of death.

### So, don't settle for everything you've never wanted.

### It's time to empty the closet of your heart.

### Take an honest look at what you wear; and go from there.

What's it profit even to gain this whole world down here?

Therefore, as God's chosen people, *holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with **compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness** and **patience. Bear with each other** and **forgive** whatever grievances you may have against one another. [Because, all of these things are displayed in Christ on the cross; so, take up *your cross* and daily honor *His* death, and follow] **Forgive** as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues **put on love**, which binds them all together in perfect unity. **Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, [He wants to give it; but, you must allow it]** since as members of one body you were called to peace. And **be thankful.** [Look fearlessly at what is; and then, boldly at what can be; which means you must] Let the *word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish* one another with *all wisdom* [not just a few selections] ... – Colossians 3:12-17 NIV*

We're fading fast.

### What are you hanging onto?

### And what's hanging onto you?

### Make sure it'll be there to meet you on the other side.