

Of Nites and Myrrh

Drenched

Part 6 - April 28, 2007

A recent devotional about recognizing your life’s calling referred to examining your “raw material” and then developing that material to the glory of God. Raw material would be the traits that God hard-wired into you when He created you, long fingers for example. Developing that raw material might include learning to use your long fingers as a concert pianist. As we go through life, we should always be mindful of our hard-wired raw material, how best to develop it, and how we may use it to glorify God.

Many puzzle pieces fit together to create a child of God; raw materials, cultivated talents, environmental factors, life experiences. Then for a splash of color, God sprinkles on some seemingly unrelated and unforeseeable ingredient. The Christian is then given an amazing opportunity to watch God work in his or her life.

In our study of the forgiving and for giving nature of God, we have touched on three of the four offerings listed on the white envelopes. The fourth is Hundred-fold Blessing. For an offering to qualify as a Hundred-fold Blessing the initial seed cannot be of your own “raw material.” It must be one of those completely unforeseen splashes of color that God sprinkles; it must be recognized as coming directly from the Lord for the express purpose of being sown.

Because the initial seed of a Hundred-fold Blessing comes from this unexpected direction, I think of this offering as exotic, a tiny glimpse of a place I have never been, a place I cannot imagine. Keeping with the idea of fragrances and flavors of offerings, to Hundred-fold Blessings I assign spices and herbs with their healing, preserving and comforting properties: Breathing the steam from a cup of spiced Christmas wassail, crunching into a homemade anise pizzelle, awakening taste buds with the sweet-spicy fusion of crystallized ginger, or dive-bombing them with the eye-watering kick of wasabi.

The miracle of Hundred-fold giving is in trusting God enough to eagerly give His 90% share, keeping just a morsel for your own needs. The blessing of a Hundred-fold offering is that God is so faithful in responding to your trust that you soon find yourself blessed even more -- some ten-fold, some twenty-fold, some a hundred-fold. The real-life factor of a Hundred-fold blessing is that it comes here, in this lifetime, but with persecutions. (*See Mark 10:28-30.*) Only you can decide whether a seed is from God. When you do make that decision, and invest it for Him, be faithful also in reinvesting God’s 90%, whether it is \$4.50 or \$36,450.

As you imagine the exotic fragrance of your Hundred-fold Blessing offering reaching upward, praise God for the gifts of frankincense and myrrh that were lavished upon The Babe on the day the angels sang. Praise Him for the alabaster jar of spikenard with which Mary anointed the feet of the Gospel. Praise Him even more for the spices that were never used because the women who took them to the Lord’s tomb found the stone rolled away. Then praise Him to the utmost for the persecution that shall surely come in the wake of the blessing, for He shall drench your hands and feet in spices and oil, anointing you to do greater works than the world has ever dreamed.

