

Make According to the Pattern

By R.T. Nusbaum

God instructed Moses to make all things according to the pattern he had seen in the heavenlies (see Ex. 25:40). I want you to notice in the scriptures the difference between the actual and real as opposed to the shadow and earthly image that was derived from the real.

"Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such a high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; a minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man. For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices; wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer. For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law, who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount. But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises." Hebrews 8:1-6

The contrasts in these scriptures are between that which is from above and that which was formed on the earth as a result of viewing what is above. Notice that Jesus is "in the heavens." He is a minister of the "true sanctuary." In contrasting what is above to the earthly, the scriptures say "if he were on earth..." Notice that Jesus' authority and power are connected to the true sanctuary and to that which is from above. Those who are ministers on the earth only serve the "example and shadow" of the heavenly things. Whatever was made on the earth was not the real thing. No matter how similar and exacting it is in the earth, it will always only be a shadow of the real. God's instruction to Moses was to make it according to the pattern he saw from above. The point being pressed by the writer of the Hebrew letter is that whatever may be established by God on the earth through men, had to be viewed from its origin in the actual reality by those men.

So many live for and after the earthly pattern because they see the tangible example and understand it as much as possible with their minds. They follow what was made in the earth while leaving Him and the thing from which the pattern was made. This they cannot help but do, for they have never gone up into the Mount of God and seen the heavenly pattern. You must see the pattern and not the example or shadow of the pattern. You can function in and be shuffled by the example while remaining ignorant of the true pattern from which it came. There are some who do not even know that there is a heavenly pattern. Their pattern is copying someone else's earthly pattern. Do we want to serve examples and shadows? Do we want to serve or see?

And yet to see will bring service in the form of declaring, making and guarding. Seeing does this because of what -- and Who -- we see. You will not just see Jesus or worship

Jesus but Christ and Him crucified. Those who do not see may have a desire for Jesus, but they do not want the Cross and its true meaning to their lives.

Most look in the scripture and instead of seeing the truth of the letter, they just see the letter. They miss the truth of every letter, every verse, and every chapter. They grab the letter and apply this scripture here and that one there, never allowing the truth of each to take control in their own lives.

I have heard many preachers say, "The book of Acts is our blueprint for living." While that may sound wonderful, it is Christ who should be our pattern for living. Those who are mentioned in the Book of Acts had no blueprint other than seeing the true pattern in the heavens on a daily basis. To look at the earth pattern, prayers, and order of other groups is not looking at Jesus. You can see everything and do all that is written in the book of Acts and still not see Jesus.

On the other hand, you can read any book of the Bible and see Jesus. You can also read any book and not see Jesus. The Pharisees knew the scriptures yet never saw Jesus, for He had to tell them to begin searching for Him (Jn. 5:39).

Why is it that we read about what Jesus did in the gospel and what He did for others in Acts and think that we have seen Jesus? It is ridiculous to read that they prayed daily in the temple and then try to apply this "pray daily" principle to our lives. This is not seeing Jesus. Jesus did not read somewhere that he should pray daily and then tried to apply that to His Life. You may say, "Well, He was the Son of God." But it is the same Life we have in us. If we truly see we are dead and He is our life, then we will pray when we are supposed to and minister in whatever manner His nature and Life dictate within us. You do not need to apply something to His Life in order to get it to function properly. You just need to see the Jesus that is above and He will make things applicable in our experience. We must learn to see past the ink in the scriptures into our position and life in Christ. ***