

A Bundle of Myrrh (The Difference of Relationship)

By RT Nusbaum

Instructor or Father

I was looking at these scriptures, “For though you have ten thousand instructors in Christ, you have not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel” (I Cor. 4:15). I thought of that instruction being compared to a father, and the difference of relationship. With one there is just God who instructs us. With the other relationship there is a Father Who has taken us in and covers us. He shares His heart with us and not just the business of His heart.

Information or Essence?

I was also thinking of the scriptures in Song of Solomon where it says, “A bundle of myrrh is my well beloved unto me. He shall lie all night between my breasts.” In the Amplified it says, “My beloved is to like a bundle of myrrh that lies inside my bosom.” I was thinking of the difference of the relationship with the Lord that is seen there. There is the difference of relationship between Jesus being an instructor as opposed to this verse in Song of Solomon. Here the relationship is one of essence where, “My Beloved is to me like a bundle of myrrh that is inside of my bosom.” In this relationship there is a constant fragrance of Him that fills you and not just a knowledge of Him in your mind.

What Are We Spreading?

In II Corinthians it says, “But thanks be to God Who in Christ always leads us in triumph, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of God.” What is it that we are spreading? Our desire is not to spread knowledge, but the fragrance of the knowledge. The fruit of Christ’s triumph is that the Saviour of His Life can spread through those Who know Him in a relationship that is beyond knowledge. “But thanks be to God Who in Christ always leads us in triumph in Christ AND makes manifest the fragrance of His knowledge by us in every place” (II Cor. 2:14).

According to this verse we are not just triumphing in Christ in some academic way, but finding ourselves bearing by His essence the results of that triumph – “For you are a sweet fragrance of Christ unto God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the latter is an aroma of death unto death, a fatal odor, a smell of doom. For the former it is an aroma of life to life. A vital fragrance, living and fresh” (II Cor. 2:15-16).

I am moved by the difference of relationship. Is God simply our instructor? Is He simply instructing us in informational truths? Is He simply lining out the truth the right way by

sharing with us right thinking as He lays out the right plan? Or is God trying to impart Christ in an essence to His Body, to the Bride? Is Christ simply understood as right information in her head, or is He a bundle of myrrh inside of her bosom? The bride in Song of Solomon declared, "My well beloved is a bundle of myrrh inside my bosom."

"A bundle of myrrh is my well-beloved unto me; he shall lie all night in my bosom" (Song of Songs 1:13)

II Corinthians talks of His fragrance spreading out of us, but none of that going to spread out of us until He is that in us as we lay with darkness all around. We are to lay in the darkness swallowed up, not by the knowledge of the information, but by the fragrance and essence that is Christ in us. Christ should become that which has surrounded and filled us. The scripture in Second Corinthians speak of the fragrance of the knowledge; yet to truly experience a fragrance it must become breathed in on the inside. Christ must move beyond information in our head to a bundle of myrrh inside of our bosom that is able to sustain and fill us through our darkest night.

How Do You Teach an Essence?

How do you describe a taste to someone who has never tasted of fresh strawberries? How do you describe that taste to them? And if you were able to instruct someone who has never tasted a fresh strawberry, they would still not have tasted it. They would still not have tasted and seen that the Lord is good. This seeing is by essence, a seeing that occurs by entering in, a seeing that is caused by influence. Many have understood only by description and instruction. They may have had ten thousand instructors, but lack the intimate knowing that a father can bring. I think that the Holy Spirit is loosed to crush up the incense so that the sweet fragrance of Christ can go forth. To crush up the preconceived, lined-out, controlled understandings to bring forth and release Christ in His essence. We can know Him so clearly in understanding and not have any fragrance of Him that others detect. We can know Him so as to explain Him clearly to others, and be correct in our explanation. But in the Song of Solomon the Bride is finally sought out as someone who can release the true fragrance concerning who Jesus really is. "What is thy beloved?" they say to her, "that would put in you in such a frantic way,.. weeping, caring, and longing for Him. We already know Him but what is this of Him that you are emanating?" And she begins to describe not knowledge, not facts such as, "Well, He's five foot two and He has got this and that." Rather, she begins to describe the bundle of myrrh that is bound up in her heart, and they are drawn. (Song of Songs 5: 6-16)

Our Prayer

Holy Spirit, do not instruct us with information. Do not make clear the plan but the Man. Reveal Christ in us that we may spread everywhere and make known His fragrance. And let the fragrance of it, Father, have the effect of turning away as a sour odor those who have no heart for Him. May the fragrance of it draw those who long after Him. Let it be a vital, living, fresh fragrance to them that draws them out of their halls of learning into the bed chambers with You.

Spirit, break our conceptualized way of learning. Break us from the classroom comprehension into the King's chamber. Let it be a fragrance of Life unto Life, not learning unto learning. You are to us, Lord Jesus, a vital fragrance. You are fresh. My well beloved is unto me a bundle of myrrh. You are MORE than a great instructor. Thank you that You as a great instructor said, "I must go away." Thank you that the Holy Spirit will bring an essence of the Son and we will be His incense burners in the earth, first spreading, not to the world but before the mercy seat, where we are a sweet fragrance of Christ unto God.

Lord, we repent of making you only our instructor. We repent of our academic view of Jesus, your Son and His precious Bride, and we ask You to forgive us. We ask you to open what we cannot open. Draw us and we will run. We ask You to give us a taste of something that we have never tasted before. Give us no explanations, simply the reality of Christ. Not into our heads, but into bosoms. We are crying out for you Jesus. We are longing after you, to see you and to seek you beyond information.

Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit -- hear our desire. Just as incense is solid, once it is burned then it satisfies God, so change the form in which we try to please you. Lord help us to stop trying to make solid what You are trying to make essence. Forgive us for holding onto teachings and information that you are trying to reveal in us as the very Life of Your Son.

In Jesus name we pray, Amen.