

## **Why Jesus Rose From the Dead**

Matthew 14:1-12

Pastor Peter Hiatt

May 2, 2004

[Move clip from History of the World Part I:]

KING: It's good to be the king.

KING'S ADVISOR: I've come on the most urgent of business. It is said that the people are revolting.

KING: You said it? They stink on ice.

KING'S ADVISOR: No, Your Majesty, this is a very serious problem. The peasants feel you have no regard for them.

KING: What? I have no regard for the peasants? They are my people. I am their Sovereign. I love them. Pull! [The king takes aim at a peasant who goes flying into the air in the distance.] Drifting to the left!

KING'S ADVISOR: Your Majesty, the situation is worsening. The peasants may grow violent.

KING: I hate violence. The one thing I detest is violence. I abhor it. Pull! [Another peasant goes flying.] Sunk like a stone. It's good to be the king.

Well, I sure don't recommend that movie for family viewing, or maybe any viewing at all, but one thing it does make clear is, if it's "good to be the king," King Louie isn't good.

In the Old Testament, it's very difficult or impossible to find a good king. Even David murders Uriah and seduces Bathsheba. In the New Testament, the first king we meet is Herod the not-so-great. In fear he kills all

the young boys in Bethlehem. His son Herod Antipas is the one who beheaded John the Baptist and mocked Jesus on Good Friday, covering Him in that purple robe. His nephew Herod Agrippa persecuted the early church and portrayed himself as God in Acts 12. An angel smote him, he was eaten by worms, and he died. You could preach for a year on the cycle of sin and madness in the Herods.

Matthew 14:1-12:

*At that time Herod the tetrarch [Herod Antipas] heard about the fame of Jesus; and he said to his servants, "This is John the Baptist, he has been raised from the dead; that is why these powers are at work in him." For Herod had seized John and bound him and put him in prison, for the sake of Herodi-as, his brother Philip's wife; because John said to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her." And though he wanted to put him to death, he feared the people, because they held him to be a prophet.*

*But when Herod's birthday came, the daughter of Herodi-as danced before the company, and pleased Herod, so that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she might ask. Prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me the head of John the Baptist here on a platter." And the king was sorry; but because of his oaths and his guests he commanded it to be given; he sent and had John beheaded in the prison, and his head*

*was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother. And his disciples came and took the body and buried it; and they went and told Jesus.*

Herod thinks it's "good to be the king," for the king is the law, the standard, the measure.

1. So first he betrays his brother by seducing his brother's wife. That's what kings do.
2. Second, he abandons his bride and commits adultery with his brother's wife, and it appears he commits adultery ("porneias" in Greek) in his heart with her daughter as she dances. But that's what kings do.
3. Third he swears an oath forming a covenant. Whenever we make an oath, we try to make ourselves the guarantee, surety, or testator of a covenant.

In Matthew 5 in the Sermon on the Mount, right after Jesus says, "Don't even insult your brother, don't even commit porneias in your heart," and right before He says, "Don't retaliate but turn the other cheek," He says, "Don't swear at all." That has nothing to do with vocabulary lists and everything to do with making oaths—new covenants.

People debate what constitutes an oath, but to even promise to do something is at least a lie, because we don't control the future. And as Christians, our hope does not lie in our ability to make promises or be promise keepers. (There's really only one Promise Keeper.) But Herod made an oath. That's what kings do—trust themselves.

4. So fourth, he retaliates, for his wife wants vengeance on John the Baptist. That's what kings and queens do. It's interesting that Herod does everything Jesus says *not* to do when He expounds the Law in Matthew 5 in the Sermon on the Mount.

So Herod murders the prophet. "The spirit of prophecy is the testimony of Jesus." Herod sins so he won't have to hear any more.

But what's the big deal with sins?

Why does God care about your sins?

You can understand why He cares about murdering prophets, but what about the sins only committed in your heart?

1. I mean, why would He care if you betrayed your brother just a little by insulting him when you're out to lunch with your best friend? It would never get back to your brother. And he really *is* a "fool." Yet Jesus says for that you're liable to the hell of fire.
2. And why would God care if you lusted after another's wife or her daughter? I mean, what does it matter if you indulge in a little porn? You're not murdering a prophet, are you, or silencing the testimony of Jesus?
3. And of all the silly things, why *not* make a promise here or an oath there? What's the harm in a little lie?
4. And if someone slaps you on the cheek and takes your coat, surely you should retaliate. Only a *slave* wouldn't

retaliate! And in the USA, *everyone* is king. So anyone can sue anyone for a coat or cloak, and do it with interest. That's what kings do.

And it's good to be the king,  
like it's good to be an American.

Well, Herod is really into the king thing, and his behavior is something of a shock in Matthew 14, because ever since Matthew 3 we've been reading about another kingdom. At the start of chapter fourteen, Herod receives a report about the kingdom of King Jesus. But it appears that Herod lives in a different kingdom: his own.

In Luke 23 on Good Friday, Pilate sends Jesus to Herod, and Herod wants to see a sign. But Jesus doesn't give a sign. He is *the* sign. He's the sign of Jonah, the slaughtered Lamb, the gift of God. But it's like Herod can't read the sign. The eyes of his heart are blind.

I noticed something fascinating this week. Matthew recounts the story of Herod's sins (betrayal, adultery, oath taking, and retaliation) all to explain Herod's perception of Jesus. After the preaching, the signs, and the parables of the kingdom, we read:

*At that time Herod the tetrarch heard about the fame of Jesus; and he said to his servants, "This is John the Baptist, he has been raised from the dead; that is why these powers are at work in him." For Herod had seized John and bound him and put him in prison, for the sake of Herodi-as, his brother Philip's wife . . . .*

I think Herod believed that Jesus was John risen from the dead all in order to kick his ass. And so if Jesus ever died and rose from the dead, Herod would believe it would be in order to kick his ass. Why do you believe Jesus rose from the dead? Why do you think He's coming again? . . . just to kick ass?

I'm sorry if that offends you, but it's not cursing, and it's not swearing. I prayed about it and felt like I needed to say it, because I'm afraid many of us have put our faith in a kick-ass Messiah who looks just like John Rambo, Clint Eastwood, or Mohamed . . . except He's just more kick-ass than they are. We think that's what holy means: more kick-ass than most.

Herod believed in that kind of holy. That's what all the Jews were looking for. I think that's why they killed Jesus. He wouldn't kick some Roman ass, and He ate with tax collectors and sinners. He wasn't kick-ass enough.

Well anyway, Herod believes Jesus is all about retaliation when, in fact, Jesus is all about *love*. So even the greatest sign—the sign of Jonah—the slaughtered Lamb—would be read by Herod as a ploy, a betrayal, a rape, and a retaliation. Why? Because that's what kings do. And Herod is king. Kings make themselves the standard. *Like us*.

On the Men's Retreat last weekend, Karl Wheeler pointed that out. He said:

You know, whenever someone passes you on the freeway, you think, "That guy's going too fast, the jerk." But whenever someone in front of you drives slower than you, you think, "They're going too slow. Where do these people get the nerve to just drive the speed limit?"

It's our nature to make ourselves the standard.

Some time ago a senior citizen was driving down the freeway when his cell phone rang. It was his wife. She urgently warned him, "Herman, I just heard on the news that there's a car going the wrong way on Interstate 280. Please be careful." Herman said, "Honey, it's not just *one* car; it's *hundreds* of them!"

We make ourselves the standard, trapping ourselves in our own, little, insane worlds.

Here's a deep thought (by Jack Handy): "As the light changed from red to green to yellow and back to red again, I sat there thinking about life. Was it nothing more than a bunch of honking and yelling? Sometimes it seemed that way."

Anthony DeMello writes:

We all have our positions, don't we? And we listen from those positions. "Henry, how you've changed! You were so tall and you've grown so short. You were so well built and you've grown so thin. You were so fair and you've become so dark. What happened to you, Henry?" Henry says, "I'm not Henry. I'm John." "Oh, you changed your name too!" How do you get people like that to listen?

You know, every time you sin, you make yourself your own standard. You choose blindness, insanity, and hell. And "how do you get people like that to listen?"

Jesus said, “The measure you give is the measure you get.” Maybe that’s because it’s the only measure you’ll believe, so it’s the only measure you’ll use.

This is one of my favorite quotes of all time. In The Fellowship of the Ring, Gandolph says:

[The Enemy] is very wise, and weighs all things to a nicety in the scales of his malice. But the only measure that he knows is desire, desire for power; and so he judges all hearts. Into his heart the thought will not enter . . . that having the Ring [of power] we may seek to destroy it.

John puts it this way: “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not comprehended it.” That is, evil cannot conceive of a king who would voluntarily lay down power for another. So if a king ever did empty Himself and lay down power and descend into doom, it would surely be a lie, a ploy, a trick!

Someone once said, “The chief punishment of the liar is not that he isn’t believed but that he can no longer believe.”

So Herod couldn’t believe this love talk, but only that Jesus was John the Baptist risen from the dead to kick his tail. That’s what *he* would have done if *he* were Jesus. And he was measuring Jesus with himself.

Well, Jesus *did* rise from the dead. And why did He rise?

Five chapters ago in Matthew 9:4, Jesus tells a paralytic that his sins are forgiven. The religious leaders say that He’s lying, blaspheming. They can’t believe.

But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he then said to the paralytic—“Rise, take up your bed and go home.” And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid . . . .

Well, maybe Jesus rose from the dead so we might know our sins are forgiven and no longer be paralyzed.

When Jesus rose, He said stuff like, “Peace be with you.” Why didn’t He march down to the praetorian and punch Pilate in the face? Why didn’t He hunt down Herod and kick his bottom?

Now, I know what some of you are thinking:

You just wait, Peter, because one day *He will*.

- The first time He came in love; the second time He will come in vengeance.
- The first time He rode a donkey; the second time He’ll ride a war horse.
- The first time He came as a lamb; the second time He’ll come as a lion.

He’s the kick-ass Messiah. And if you read the book of Revelation, you’d know that, Peter.

Actually, I *have* read the book of Revelation. I wrote a book on it. I earnestly believe the Revelation. Check out what it says in chapter five. John hears, “The Lion of Judah has conquered.” It’s finished. John looks and sees a Lamb on the throne “as if it had been slain.” He’s worthy to open the seals, and when He opens the sixth seal:

Behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale; the sky vanished like a scroll that is rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the generals and the rich and the strong, and every one, slave and free, hid in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand before it?”

Did you get that? They’re not running and hiding from the lion; they’re running and hiding from the *Lamb*. The lion is the Lamb, like, all the time, for God doesn’t change His nature. But now they’re hiding, for they see the slain Lamb standing on the throne.

The Lamb is not kicking them, attacking them, or biting them. But they want the rocks to fall on them, to just hide them from the presence of the slain Lamb.

Why is He slain?

He's slain for the sins of the world.

And why is He risen on the throne?

He opens the seals.

He gives meaning—logos—word—to all things.

And what is His meaning?

“That God so loved the world.”

He is the love of God poured out. The slaughtered Lamb is the Word, the meaning of all reality. He is the deepest revelation of God from the bosom of the Father.

So . . .

- they see the sacrificial lamb
- they see Jesus risen from the dead
- they see our hope, the greatest sign of God's love
- they see forgiveness in the flesh

. . . but all they can read is wrath. So they hide. They think He's gonna kick their ass. (And in a sense He will, but not in the way they think He will.)

You know, whenever we hear the Gospel of grace, somewhere in the depths of our hearts we ask, “What's the catch?” But maybe there is absolutely, truly, and forever *no catch*. And that's the catch. That's there's absolutely no catch. For that means God is not like us. He is absolute love. So in His unabated presence, we must die to ourselves, for our selves are truly not the measure. Love is

the measure. Love is king. The slaughtered Lamb is on the throne.

So the kings hide themselves, for they won't die to themselves. One of those kings must be Herod. Perhaps this is 33 A.D. somehow. Somehow this is still the sixth seal, and the last trumpet hasn't sounded. They're hiding from what they call the wrath of the Lamb, for they say, "His wrath has come." Perhaps it's already here somehow.

Well, Jesus is the Lamb, and the Lamb is slain, for Jesus offered Himself as the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

- At the cross, He became sin for us, cursed for us.
- At the cross, God's wrath is revealed.
- At the cross, God's forgiveness is revealed.

Perhaps what the kings call the wrath of the Lamb is the forgiveness of God. But Herod can't see it and won't see it. He won't believe it, for he measures all things by himself. So he hides himself from the Lamb on the throne.

Perhaps the wrath of God is the unmitigated vision of His love: that is, slaughtered Lamb, Christ crucified, the body broken and blood shed. Speaking of His crucifixion, Jesus did say, "Now is the judgment of this world." He died for the sins of the whole world, crying, "It is finished."

So perhaps the wrath of God is the love of God revealed to those who hate Him. And how could it be anything else but love?

"God is one" (Deuteronomy 6:4).

"God is a consuming fire" (Hebrews 12:29).

"God is love" (I John 4:8).

God isn't *part* love and *part* fire but *all* love and *all* fire. His love is a consuming fire.

In the Revelation, the lake of "fire and brimstone" can also be translated the lake of "fire and divinity" or "the fire that is divinity." Perhaps in the end we must all be exposed naked to God who is love. And if you hate Him, you will be consumed by fire. But if you love Him, you will live in ecstasy forever.

And who is He? The slaughtered Lamb has made Him known.

Herod hides from the Lamb who sounds like a lion.

In The Chronicles of Narnia, Aslan the lion (who is Jesus the Lamb) sings Narnia into existence giving meaning to all things. Uncle Andrew the magician doesn't like the song. So he convinces himself the lion's song is only a roar. And Aslan says to the children:

I cannot [speak] to this old sinner, and I cannot comfort him either; he has made himself unable to hear my voice. If I spoke to him, he would hear only growlings and roarings. Oh Adam's sons, how cleverly you defend yourselves against all that might do you good!

The kings of the earth see the risen Christ, God's song of love, the Lamb on the throne, and they only hear growling and roaring. They're afraid and long to hide from the Lamb.

Last week I was in Columbia for three days and three nights. It's a country torn apart by guerillas,

paramilitary groups, cocaine trafficking, social injustices, and Satanism. Among many others, I met a young man named Alex. He said, “Without forgiveness it’s impossible to be a Christian.” Then he shared his story.

As a young believer, terrorist guerillas came and killed his father. They would threaten his mother with machetes. He shared about his struggle with faith in the midst of sufferings. He wondered about God and His strange gifts until he realized that He—Jesus—the slaughtered Lamb—is the gift.

Alex worked on a banana plantation during this time. One day a paramilitary group stopped the bus that the workers rode to the fields. Gunmen boarded and made everyone lie face down. They began shooting everyone in the head. A bullet passed behind Alex’s eyes blowing out one eye and damaging the other. As he lay there, he believed he was going to die, and then he remembered he hadn’t told the gunmen about Jesus’ love.

Alex told us, “To love the Lord is everything, and there is nothing else.” So he shared that he started to yell, “Jesus loves you! Jesus loves you!” as he lay in the bus. The gunmen were beheading their victims with machetes. One man came to Alex and said, “Shut up” and swung his machete to cut off his head. But the machete wouldn’t go through Alex’s neck. He tried again, but it wouldn’t go through. Alex said it was the power of God. The gunmen fled leaving him tied to twenty-five headless corpses.

So Alex stood in front of us with machete scars on his body, a patch over his eye, his cane in his hand, weeping and telling his story. He looked like a lamb standing as if it had been slain.

Do you want to run to Him or run *from* Him? When you saw the movie The Passion, did you want to run *to* Him or *away* from Him?

Years later Alex went to seminary and began working in a prison ministry. One day in the prison, he met the man who tried to kill him. He shared with us that he forgave him. My friend Rich, who was translating, said, “Alex, tell them the man’s reaction when you forgave him.” Alex said, “He was afraid.” Afraid of the Lamb. He wanted to hide from the Lamb.

The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom, but it’s not the end, for “perfect love casts out fear.” Perhaps He burns it away.

Perfect love is the slaughtered Lamb.

Well, Paul wrote, “To the pure all things are pure, but to the corrupt and unbelieving nothing is pure; their very minds and consciences are corrupted.” So to them, God’s perfect love must burn like fire, and God’s forgiveness must feel like wrath. So they hide their naked selves, like Adam and Eve hid in the Garden. They don’t confess and don’t believe.

Do you see why God hates it when we sin, even in our hearts—especially in our hearts? For then the eyes of our hearts are blinded.

When we sin (betray, lust, lie, and retaliate), in the depths of our heart we believe in betrayal, lust, lies, and retaliation. So we can’t believe in God, for “God is love.” And not believing in God is not just *a* sin but *the* sin.

So I’m convinced your deepest problem is not the cigarettes you smoke or the alcohol you drink in secret. It’s not the slander you speak and the gossip you cherish. It’s

not the pornography you pleasure yourself with when no one's looking. It's not the baby you aborted; it's not that you betrayed your brother, cheated on your bride, lied about the whole thing, and retaliated with murder. It's not even that you slaughtered the Lamb and killed the Messiah. Your deepest problem is that somewhere deep down inside, you believe Jesus the Messiah rose from the dead just to *kick your ass*, when, in fact, He rose from the dead so you would believe all is forgiven. It is finished! Justice is accomplished. And the Father is pleading, "Come home, come home, come home!"

Last week Larry Crabb told my friend Bill that he believes every day Jesus asks His Father, "Can I go get him? Can I go today and get Larry, Bill, Mary, Peter?" You know that's why Jesus told His disciples He was coming back: to take them home. So maybe each day He asks the Father, "Can I go today?" and the Father says, "Just a little longer. They're still hiding, and Jesus, if they saw you as you truly are, they'd have a heart attack."

People ask me, "When is Jesus coming back?" Well, He came back last month. He got my dad and took him home. Dad is no longer hiding at all. He has no fear at all.

But here's a sobering thought: It's not only the kings of the earth who hide themselves from the Lamb on the throne. We all do. "Every one, slave and free" hides in Revelation 6.

See, I think we're all kings of our own kingdoms, hiding from the King of love. That hiding place becomes the outer darkness and hell.

Who can speak to us there?  
 Who can find us there?  
 What can we do?

Well, it's not what *we* can do but what Jesus has done. You see, God is holy. Holy means different. He is so holy that He is the opposite of every earthly king. He "emptied Himself" and "descended into hell," our hell.

1. Instead of betraying His brothers, He allowed His enemies to betray Him, to make them brothers.
2. Instead of consuming His bride for His pleasure, He allowed His bride to nail Him to a cross.
3. Instead of making oaths and breaking oaths, Jesus is God's oath—God's covenant—new and eternal. Jesus is God's swear word. God is swearing, "I love you, and I've been God-damned to show I love you. I became the curse to give you my blessing, to covenant to you myself and my kingdom."
4. "And although you slaughtered me with your sins, I did not retaliate. I am holy. I am love. You thought that I was one like yourself! But I am the King, and I am the good. I am love."

He descended into hell and preached to every captive in prison. He is the Word, and He may have descended into your hell even as I preached. The Word rides asses like me, yet the Word always rides a warhorse. For the slaughtered Lamb is King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Right now the Word battles unbelief, evil, and lies in you.  
Right now He's calling you to His table by His Spirit.

You see, you bunch of sinners, this cross is your punishment. This is your medicine. This is what He calls you to.

- He calls you to the fire, the love, the light, the Holy One—Himself.
- He calls you to His cross; He calls you to His table.
- He calls you to the Lamb that is slain, to eat His body and drink His blood until His fiery love burns away all unbelief, until you finally confess from the deepest, darkest corners of your soul:

God is love, and I am forgiven.  
And it is so very good *not* to be the king,  
for then I can be loved by the King forever.

So on that night when He was betrayed by all His brothers, the night before His bride nailed Him to the cross, He took bread and having blessed it He broke it saying, "This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And in the same way after supper, He took the cup and said, "This is the cup of the new covenant in my blood shed for the forgiveness of sins. Drink of it, all of you, in remembrance of me."

Worship Him. Surrender to Him. For He has offered Himself and His entire kingdom for you. In His name, amen.

\*\*\*\*\*

If you came to the table in faith—maybe even just a little faith, in the name of Jesus and under the authority of His blood, you're forgiven. And God is calling to you, Adam and Eve, saying:

Come out! Come out of those trees! You don't have to hide in those trees any more. You don't have to hide in pornography and alcohol and betrayal. You don't have to bind yourself up with your own oaths. You don't have to hide in lies. Come out! Don't you understand that I clothe you? Look! I have a Lamb's skin. And don't let that scare you. You see, it's my pleasure. And when you get dirty, don't run back into the trees. For I have blood—Lamb's blood!—and I want to cleanse you. I want your heart. It's what I wanted all along.

In Jesus' name, believe the Gospel. The King is good! Amen.

Relevant Texts and Quotations (from bulletin)

At that time Herod the tetrarch heard about the fame of Jesus; and he said to his servants, “This is John the Baptist, he has been raised from the dead; that is why these powers are at work in him.” For Herod had seized John and bound him and put him in prison, for the sake of Herodi-as, his brother Philip’s wife; because John said to him, “It is not lawful for you to have her.” And though he wanted to put him to death, he feared the people, because they held him to be a prophet. But when Herod’s birthday came, the daughter of Herodi-as danced before the company, and pleased Herod, so that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she might ask. Prompted by her mother, she said, “Give me the head of John the Baptist here on a platter.” And the king was sorry; but because of his oaths and his guests he commanded it to be given; he sent and had John beheaded in the prison, and his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother. And his disciples came and took the body and buried it; and they went and told Jesus.

Matthew 14:1-12

But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he then said to the paralytic—“Rise, take up your bed and go home.” And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid . . . .

Matthew 9:4-8a

And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. . . . I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great

men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Revelation 5:6-7, 6:12-17

And the longer and more beautifully the Lion sang, the harder Uncle Andrew tried to make himself believe that he could hear nothing but roaring. Now the trouble about trying to make yourself stupider than you really are is that you very often succeed. Uncle Andrew did. He soon did hear nothing but roaring in Aslan's song. Soon he couldn't have heard anything else even if he had wanted to. And when at last the Lion spoke and said, "Narnia awake," he didn't hear any words: he heard only a snarl. And when the Beasts spoke in answer, he heard only barkings, growlings, bayings and howlings. And when they laughed—well, you can imagine. . . .

"He thinks great folly, child," said Aslan. "This world is bursting with life for these few days because the song with which I called it into life still hangs in the air and rumbles in the ground. It will not be so for long. But I cannot tell that to this old sinner, and I cannot comfort him either; he has made himself unable to hear my voice. If I spoke to him, he would hear only growlings and roarings. Oh Adam's sons, how cleverly you defend yourselves against all that might do you good!"

C. S. Lewis, The Magicians Nephew

To the pure all things are pure, but to the corrupt and unbelieving nothing is pure; their very minds and consciences are corrupted.

Titus 1:15

You frequently interpret everything that's being said in terms of your hypnotic state or your conditioning or your programming. Like this girl who's listening to a lecture on agriculture and says, "Excuse me, sir, you know I agree with you completely that the best manure is aged horse manure. Would you tell us how old the horse should optimally be?" See where she's coming from? We all have our positions, don't we? And we listen from those positions. "Henry, how you've changed! You were so tall and you've grown so short. You were so well built and

you've grown so thin. You were so fair and you've become so dark. What happened to you, Henry?" Henry says, "I'm not Henry. I'm John." "Oh, you changed your name too!" How do you get people like that to listen?

Anthony DeMello, Awareness

I cry out to God  
Seeking only his decision  
Gabriel stands and confirms  
I've created my own prison

Creed, "My Own Prison"

"You see," said Aslan. "They will not let us help them. They have chosen cunning instead of belief. Their prison is only in their own minds, yet they are in that prison; and so afraid of being taken in that they cannot be taken out."

C. S. Lewis, The Last Battle

The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. . . . Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.

Revelation 21:23-27, 22:14-15

And the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of extortion and wickedness. You fools! Did not he who made the outside make the inside also? But give for alms those things which are within; and behold, everything is clean for you."

Luke 11:39-41

“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get.”

Matthew 7:1-2

“Well, let folly be our cloak, a veil before the eyes of the Enemy! For he is very wise, and weighs all things to a nicety in the scales of his malice. But the only measure that he knows is desire, desire for power; and so he judges all hearts. Into his heart the thought will not enter that any will refuse it, that having the Ring we may seek to destroy it. If we seek this, we shall put him out of reckoning.”

J. R. R. Tolkien, The Fellowship of the Ring

These things you have done and I have been silent; you thought that I was one like yourself.

Psalm 50:21a

And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

John 1:5

“God is One” – Deuteronomy 6:4

“God is holy” – Psalm 99:9

“God is a consuming fire” – Hebrews 12:29

“God is light” – 1 John 1:5

“God is love” – 1 John 4:8

“A damned soul is nearly nothing: it is shrunk, shut up in itself. Good beats upon the damned incessantly as sound waves beat on the ears of the deaf, but they cannot receive it. Their fists are clenched, their teeth are clenched, their eyes fast shut. First they will not, in the end they cannot, open their hands for gifts, or their mouths for food, or their eyes to see.”

“Then no one can ever reach them?”

“Only the Greatest of all can make Himself small enough to enter Hell. For the higher a thing is, the lower it can descend—a man can sympathise with a horse but a horse cannot sympathise with a rat. Only One has descended into Hell.”

“And will He ever do so again?”

“It was not once long ago that He did it. Time does not work that way when once we have left the Earth. All moments that have been or shall be were, or are, present in the moment of His descending. There is no spirit in prison to whom He did not preach.”

C. S. Lewis, The Great Divorce

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:5-11

© 2004 Peter Hiatt

**Lookout Mountain Community Church**

534 Commons Drive, Golden CO 80401

Phone: 303-526-9287 Fax: 303-526-9361

E-mail: [info@lomcc.org](mailto:info@lomcc.org)