



The Mar Thoma Church Diocese of North America & Europe Christian Education Forum

Lenten Meditations

TRANSFORMATION FROM ISOLATION TO IDENTITY

“Repent and believe in the Gospel”

Mark 1:15b

Mark 1: 1 -20

According to many Biblical scholars, Mark is the Gospel that prompts us to put our faith in Jesus into creativity. This gospel depicts the picture of Christ as a man of action, committed to being about his Father’s business. I remember once, a young American Pastor talking to a youth group suggesting to look at the first chapter of Mark: John the Baptist’s life style - the clothes and the food - and stating that it is NOT what a man wear or eat, but what he is entrusted to do helps gaining acceptance. We know that Gandhi was quoted on various occasions, for the same principle.

As prescribed in the Gospel, John the Baptist was one who announced the forthcoming of the Master – Jesus Christ, who will baptize the people, not with water but with Holy Spirit (Mark 1: 7). The heavenly voice that followed Jesus’ Baptism was in fact the formal and universal declaration that Jesus is the ‘son of God’. John the Baptist was instrumental in exposing this one and only savior to this world. A clear case of ‘from unknown to known’! A transformation blessed by the heavens!

When studying the Bible, we can clearly see that in all aspects of Holy Spirit, discipleship, Gospel Propagation, and comforting the needy, there is NO fee involved except self-sacrifice and acceptance of the Holy Spirit. In human economic terms, what is given free is of less demand. That may be why Jesus stated once that the way to heaven is narrow with fewer crowds? But as a true Christen, one must accept this freely given endowments- to be fruitful and that is a metamorphosis.

In Luke chapter 15, we see the sincere repentance of a son who has once ran away from all the comforts, hoping to seek a *better* life. The same life that he wished to be better turned out to be so much *bitter* and hence the turnaround. This is the story of a crucial transformation through life events. Self-choices that led to isolation made this son realize that he is not worthy of anything. But, through the hardships, he recognizes the strength and value of the loving father. The choices that we make determine our paths of life. A choice made in consultation with the master can make a great difference.

Shall we pray: Lord, we realize our distances from you and the Father’s house and help us to start our journey back to the father who is waiting with open arms!

Dr. Eapen Daniel