

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

February 13, 2023 – God's Creative Power For Today – Linda Cruz

On the Road to Damascus by Francis Frangipane

As it is written, "God [sees] not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart" (1 Sam 16:7). Even at this moment, our Father, who sees in secret, is looking at the inner man of your heart.

A Christ Encounter

Paul is speaking of these two aspects of our identity when he writes, "though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day" (2 Cor 4:16). Again, he tells us that he joyfully concurs "with the law of God in the inner man" (Rom 7:22). Finally, he prays that God would grant us "to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man" (Eph 3:16).

If we do not suffer the death of the outer person, its husk nature becomes a mask that hides the corruption and selfish motives of our hearts. Without personal, firsthand contact with our spiritual need of the Savior, we become Pharisaic in nature: trusting in ourselves that we are righteous while viewing others with contempt (see Lk 18:9). We may not wear the robes of a Pharisee, but we possess the attitude of one. To save us, Christ must confront us.

I'm thinking of Paul. Here was a man who was a "Pharisee of Pharisees," a man who was self-righteous, a persecutor of the church. Paul hid his true character behind the religious mask of a Pharisee. But when the Lord met him on the road to Damascus, Paul not only saw God's glory, he saw his personal corruption in Christ's light. His self-righteous opinion of himself was crushed; his outer man, broken. Likewise, we too are on a journey. We cannot help but come to God as we are. Yet, beloved, there will be a time when we meet Jesus in a new way. It will not be goose bumps and chills; it will be devastating and liberating at the same time. The Lord's goal will be to remove the falseness of our outer man to awaken love in the inner. He meets us on the road to "De-mask us."

Yes, dear friend, our opinion of ourselves will be crushed; we will be more passionately humble. Our need of a Savior will no longer be just a doctrine; it will become a desperate fact of our lives, as we meet Christ on the road to De-mask us.

Prayer:

Father help us to walk in Holy Spirit clothing. Help us yield to Him as our Helper. That in all our ways we acknowledge you. That it is now time for us to desire a daily encounter as we walk life daily. In Jesus Name, thank you for sending Holy Spirit to us to lead us to our daily encounter with Jesus on our Damascus Road towards daily change from glory to glory!