

PRESENT TRUTH

A Teaching Letter from Lifestream Teaching Ministries

Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. (2 Peter 1:12 KJV)

Volume 5, Issue 2

February 2007

Chocolate Cake Jesus

Art Nelson

I want to share with you a dream that I had a few weeks ago that I believe was a dream from the Lord. Most of my dreams arise from the chili or pizza that I ate for supper, but, occasionally, I receive a spiritual dream. They are rare enough that I can count them on one hand and have fingers left over. After awakening from this dream, I pondered on it for several days, asking the Lord for the meaning.

In the dream I was ministering in a large crowd along with someone else. I don't know who the other person was, just that he was with me and helping with the ministry. We were serving the crowd communion. We had a large tray that we were carrying between us about chest high and we were moving with it through the crowd of people. The tray was large and flat with the upper body of Jesus laid back on it with his arms outstretched to the sides. I was on one side of the tray and the other person was on the other side. We were breaking off pieces of Jesus and serving Him to the people. The people were being touched powerfully by the Holy Spirit.

While I knew and recognized that it was Jesus on the tray, when I looked at Him, His appearance was odd. It was like someone had painted him with a color by number set and used very thick paint. This time I watched as I broke off a piece of His arm to serve to the next person that was to receive ministry. When I did this, I realized that Jesus' form was made of chocolate cake and His appearance was odd because of the colored icing that was used to cover the form. I continued to hand the piece that I had broken off to the person who was receiving communion, but, I thought to myself, "this is not doing any good, it's not really Jesus, it's chocolate cake".

It was at that point that I woke up. As I sat on the side of the bed, I vividly remembered the dream and thought immediately of one of Bill Cosby's comedy routines that I had seen in the 80's. In the comedy skit, Cosby's wife was ill and he had to get breakfast for the kids, which was something that he did not normally do. He asked the kids what they wanted for breakfast and they said chocolate cake. So, he removed the cover from the cake plate and gave them each a slice of chocolate cake. They sang a little song for him, "Dad is great! He gives us chocolate cake!", and Cosby just beams with their adoration. As I thought about the chocolate cake, I asked the Lord what He was trying to say to me and continued to hold this before the Lord for a

couple of weeks before speaking of the dream to anyone else. I received a number of impressions in my spirit from the Lord about this. I will express this to you in words, but understand that they were spiritual impressions that I interpreted.

The first thing that struck me was the contrast between Jesus as the Bread of Life and Jesus as Chocolate Cake. We call bread the staff of life, but cake is only a dessert. Bread will provide sustenance and will sustain life; whereas cake will not, it is full of empty calories—it only makes you fat. However, chocolate cake tastes better than bread. It is sweeter, more desirable, and much more palatable.

The next thing that struck me related to the ministry—we were serving chocolate cake to the people in a form that looked like Jesus. We were serving that which tasted good, which the people wanted, but, which was really only a dessert. And, we were representing it as Jesus. Not maliciously but ignorantly, deceived ourselves as to the nature of what we were doing. I say “we” because, in my dream, at first I thought I was serving Jesus to the people too. When I was looking at the people to serve them, I was not looking at the Jesus on the tray and did not see it as it was. Only when I no longer looked at the people but watched myself break off a piece of Jesus did I realize it was chocolate cake.

The impression that I received in my spirit was that I was seeing a picture of the condition of ministry in America. The bread of life has been turned into chocolate cake. There are two reasons for this. 1) People are eager to hear what makes them feel good—a non-confrontational, success-oriented, no-problem, no worries, God bless me gospel. 2) Those who minister are measured for success by growing numbers, increasing programs, and bigger buildings. This is done through a “sweetened gospel” with an appeal to those seeking for a more successful, purpose driven life without barriers or problems.

Have we forgotten the words of Paul and Barnabas to the disciples in Acts 14:22 when they were “strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, “Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.””

Or, have we forgotten the words of Jesus:

Matthew 7:13-14 NASB

- (13) "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.
- (14) "For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

This doesn't sound like a “sweetened gospel” does it? It is certainly not a chocolate cake Jesus.

The Scriptures present the contrasts of the “two ways” in various words but always very clearly. The Children of Israel were told that God had set before them “blessing and cursing”, “life and death” and they were to choose. Jeremiah told them the same thing in a time of judgment.

Jeremiah 21:8 NASB

- (8) "You shall also say to this people, 'Thus says the LORD, "Behold, I set before you the way of life and the way of death.

Later, Jesus made it clear that the way of life is narrow, but the way of death is broad.

Have we used a “chocolate cake Jesus” to open the gate to the broad way instead of using the bread of life Jesus to open the narrow way? Are we guilty of making the word of the Lord too sweet? Are we guilty of filling our churches with Christians who are fat in the flesh but lean in the soul?

I suspect that we are guilty of all of these things. I, for one, have repented and asked the Lord to help me to never again serve to His people a chocolate cake Jesus. I have also repented from seeking and being satisfied with a chocolate cake Jesus—those who minister to me will serve the bread of life and not chocolate cake.

© 2003-2007 by Art Nelson and [Lifestream Teaching Ministries](http://www.lifestreamteaching.com)

Previous issues of Present Truth are on the website: www.lifestreamteaching.com

For comments or questions contact Art Nelson at this address:

artnelson@lifestreamteaching.com

You have permission to copy and distribute these materials provided:

1) no changes are made to the content, and, 2) they are not sold.

Removal instructions:

This is a free newsletter, without cost or obligation. If you have received this newsletter in error or if you desire not to receive "Present Truth" teaching newsletter please reply with "remove" in the subject area.