

SLEEPING IN MY CAR (Part 3)

So I had successfully made it to my destination – Navy Pier in Chicago. But then I had the thought, now what? So I spent the next hour praying for further guidance. But when I did not hear anything, I decided to go exploring. The first place I came to was a restaurant called Riva Crab House. I wondered what “Riva” meant, so I googled it. According to the Collins English dictionary, it means “**A CLEFT IN ROCK**”. Now that was interesting. Didn’t the Lord place Moses in a “cleft in the rock” as He passed by? And wasn’t the bride in Song of Songs hidden away in a cleft in the rock?

I grabbed some dinner then went back to my car to consider my options. Because I had lost my credit card and had only limited cash on me, I knew I couldn’t afford a motel that night. A few times I had the thought to just drive out of here and go home. But every time I would try to open the car door or turn on the motor, my car would honk at me in panic mode. So, lacking any other options, I slept in my car in the parking garage at Navy Pier that night. The temperature was in the 20’s but fortunately I had brought an extra coat and blankets, so I was warm enough. The most challenging part was that I had to sleep all scrunched up like a pretzel to conform to the driver’s seat of my tiny Honda Civic. I wondered whatever happened to bench seats, which would have come in very handy on this trip.

During the night I thought about how Chicago had a reputation for nightly shootings and got myself into a royal fright. At one point I peeked out the window and saw some dude driving around my car over and over at a high rate of speed. I had deliberately parked right in the center of the garage thinking it was better to be in the most well-lit and conspicuous area. You know the hide in plain sight strategy. Eventually he drove off and I drifted off to sleep.

That night (**1/25/2020**) the Lord gave me a vision. I saw a woman making hand gestures like a flight attendant does to indicate “**STRAIGHT AHEAD**”. When I woke up, the parking lot was almost completely empty except for a blue van parked directly in front of me. A sign on the back of the van said “Chicago Children’s Museum”. Next to the words was the right hand print of a child. It looked like a child had dipped his hand in paint and then pressed it onto paper. The blank spot in the center of the handprint made it look like a nail scarred hand. Whoa! Below the hand print were various stickers... “I love to play”, “Where play and learning connect”, etc. Here is a photo I took of the blue van:



Picture of the Van.jpg

Suddenly I flashed back to some Words the Lord gave me on **8/16/18**. I heard the Holy Spirit say “**SMALL IN STATURE**”, “**LITTLE CHILDREN**”, “**INHERITANCE**”, and “**A LITTLE CHILD WILL LEAD THEM**”. I remembered that Jesus said that we all

must become as little children in order to inherit the kingdom of God. He wants us to trust Him for everything with child-like faith and dependency. Suddenly I knew that the Children's Museum would be my next place to visit.

On the way to the museum, I saw a sign saying that parking rates were \$53 per day. Now that's what I call highway robbery. I certainly didn't have that kind of money on me, only enough to eat sparingly and to buy gas for my return trip. Basically I was locked inside the garage, since it was the type with garage doors that only open up when you pay. So how would I ever get out of this place?

When I got to the Children's Museum, I noticed that the word Children was highlighted on the sign. I looked up and saw an enclosed garden with gigantic palm trees on the second floor of the mall. So I went upstairs to get a closer look. Crystal Gardens had not only palm trees but also fountains and actual birds flying in the rafters. I remembered that Solomon described his bride as a "garden enclosed" in Song of Songs. And didn't he say that her stature was like a palm tree? Then I remembered that palm branches were what the little children were holding when they sang Hosanna to Jesus when he came to Jerusalem riding on a donkey. I found a wooden bench and took a nap, which felt like heaven after sleeping in my car.

When I awoke the first thing I saw was a gigantic Ferris wheel directly outside of the garden. It was the same one that I saw from Lake Shore Drive. As I was examining the Ferris wheel, it suddenly hit me that it was just like Jacob's ladder! When you are at the bottom of the Ferris wheel moving upward towards the apex, it is like the angels ascending into heaven on Jacob's ladder. And when you are moving from the apex of the Ferris wheel to the bottom, it is just like the angels descending from heaven on Jacob's ladder. Mind blowing! I was starting to feel like I was walking through the Bible. And I just knew that all these things were not coincidences, but God-orchestrated events.

At one point I started thinking about the possibility of having to sleep in my car again. Suddenly I had a full blown panic attack in the mall restroom. So I went back to my car to pray. I asked the Lord why He didn't just give me all the details upfront, instead of just a little at a time. I explained that this whole trip would have been a lot less stressful for me if I had known that Navy Pier was my destination from the get-go.

His answer came quickly in a vision **(1/26/20)**. Suddenly I saw a muffin being cut into many pieces and then slowly distributed one tiny piece at a time. **End of vision.** At first I didn't understand what the Lord was saying, but suddenly I got it. When we walk by faith, He does not give us all the information we need all at once. He distributes it, one piece at a time. He gives us just enough to get to the next step in the journey and no more. It's like how the manna was distributed to the Israelites in the wilderness. They got just enough for that day and no more. If He gave it to us all at once, then no faith would be required. He wants us to keep coming back to Him for guidance, for the next step in the journey. That is how our faith muscle is built over time and how we learn to depend on Him alone. Amazing!

To be continued....

SCRIPTURES

SONG OF SONGS 2:14 O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the cliff, let me see your face, let me hear your voice; for sweet is your voice, and your countenance is lovely. Catch us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes.

EXODUS 33:20 20And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live. 21And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: 22And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cleft of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: 23And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.

JOHN 12:12 On the next day many people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, 13Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that comes in the name of the Lord. 14And Jesus, when he had found a young donkey, sat thereon; as it is written, 15Fear not, daughter of Zion: behold, your King comes, sitting on a donkey's colt.

MATTHEW 18:2 Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, 3and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. 4Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me.

SONG OF SONGS 4:12 A garden enclosed is my sister, my spouse; a spring shut up, a fountain sealed.

SONG OF SONGS 7:6 How fair and how pleasant are you, O love, for your delights! 7This your stature is like to a palm tree, and your breasts to its clusters. 8I said, I will go up to the palm tree, I will take hold of its branches: may also your breasts be as clusters of the vine, and the fragrance of your breath like apples; 9And the roof of your mouth like the best wine for my beloved, that goes down sweetly, flowing gently over lips and teeth.

GENESIS 28:10 Now Jacob went out from Beersheba and went toward Haran. 11So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. 12Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

EXODUS 16:4 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not. 5And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily."