

**MORNING PRAYER
TWENTH FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
11.14.21**

***"And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts,
in that day when I make up my jewels; "***

What a marvelous expression!

Every monarchy has crown jewels. Precious stones glint and shine from the crowns, from the scepters, on the clothing and the furniture, everywhere one looks in the presence of royalty.

In the Revelation of St. John, in the Prophet Ezekiel, and elsewhere in sacred writings, we find jewels presented as prominent in heaven, in every place where God is found, a testimony to His majesty and to His love of beauty.

And now Malachi gives us another view. When our God makes up His jewels, when He ornaments His royal crown, when He decorated the Throne of Heaven, when He fills his Heavenly City with diamonds and rubies and emeralds and pearls, where does He get those jewels?

What are they really?

***"... they that feared the LORD spake often one to another:
and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of
remembrance was written before him for them that feared
the LORD, and that thought upon his name. And they shall
be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up
my jewels; and I will spare them,"***

His jewels are not dug out of the earth. They are not those things valued by this world. They are the souls He has received to Himself. It is not the proud and the powerful that He calls. It is not the splendid and notable that ornament His reign, but those that allow Him to lead them in holiness. Malachi says, speaking of what people value:

***"... we call the proud happy;
yea, they that work wickedness are set up."***

Isn't it true that we tend to look up to celebrities? Don't we stand in awe before billionaires? Doesn't human power make us tremble?

Sports stars, actors, successful businessmen, the lifestyles of the rich and famous, musicians, politicians, superstar preachers -- all of these get their praise and admiration, but are they His jewels?

Do they have treasure that will last?

***"... behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven;
and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be
stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up,
saith the LORD of hosts, ..."***

Our Lord sent out seventy to represent Him.

As they spoke His Word they saw wonders happen, and they returned, excited, feeling powerful, saying:

"Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. "

Ah, yes, there is power in the Name of Jesus. He promised to fill His Church with power when the Holy Ghost had come. And on the day of Pentecost, He came, and they were filled.

Ah yes, the preaching of the Word of God has changed the world, and continues to do so.

We have His Truth.

We have His presence.

We are His Church.

We can trust that He will be with us in His power. Does that make us jewels?

Remember what He is portrayed as saying at the final judgment to some that worked miracles in His Name ...

"I never knew you!"

As He said to the returning seventy:

"Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven."

When our God makes up His jewels, when He decorates his throne room with things that are valuable to Him, it will be with the beauty of transformed Christians, of those who have come to Him in repentance, in prayer, in seeking His Face, in receiving the sacraments, in showing forth a changed life, and a new way of thinking.

Is that you? It can be. He wants it to be.

Let us pray:

Thanks be to thee, our Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits which thou hast given us, for all the pains and insults which thou hast borne for us. Most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother, may we know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, day by day.

AMEN

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