

Year C #593
The Cross of Shame
050403-3

Hello! This is Dorothy -

In the Book of **Song of Solomon, chapter 5, verse 3** we read - **I have put off my coat; how shall I put it on? I have washed my feet; how shall I defile them?** The Cross must work so deeply in us, until we are content only with the portion that God has allotted for us. The Cross can be our spiritual shame as well as our glory. We might lose worldly recognition, acceptance and spiritual renown, and even consider God has rejected us as smitten by God. Then this kind of misunderstanding will teach our total being in a deep way, because it has to do with our relationship directly with God. In **Colossians 1:24**, we read the Apostle Paul says - **Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is lacking of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church.** Following our understanding and experience of the resurrection life of Jesus Christ, the call of the Cross often comes as unexpected. ***I have put off my coat . . .*** The problem is how to accept the loneliness and shame of the Cross and misunderstanding similar to: ***how shall I put it on?*** That is putting on a coat that has already been put off. People are going to question and I am somehow going to be misunderstood!

As believers, we might misunderstand the mark of suffering in Christ that comes from the Cross. ***I have washed my feet; how shall I defile them?*** Subconsciously, self has crept in with a contentment in one's self, failing to realize that we do not preserve our cleanliness by avoiding opening the door to the Lord, but by putting on a defilement by misunderstanding. It is not enough for a person to experience the Cross to the extent of being genuinely delivered from the old man. Spiritual ease prevents our conscience of being condemned of error. God's work and glory occupy a place that we are reluctant for the Lord's calling to interpret our present condition.

The bride in **Song of Solomon, chapter 5, verse 3**, is satisfied with ***washed feet***, while the Bridegroom's head is ***filled with dew, and his locks with the drops of the night***. *He is toiling for others; the Bride is preoccupied with the graces and perfections which she has in Christ through the Spirit.*

In **Galatians 5: 22, 23** -

22 **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,**

23 **Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.**

But it is a form of a mysticism now that is on her. She is unbalanced by the activities of the Christian warfare. Whereas the Cross has outwardly put off the old man with its deeds, she has

misunderstood what the Lord is asking of her; what should happen in her life.

She goes on to say -

4 My beloved put in his hand by the hole of the door . . . - *here she is lying on the bed- she is calling him - she is laying down - she doesn't want to get her feet dirty by getting out and then having to wash them again to go back to bed later. He is calling her and she is not responding. She knows Him but she is not responding. This is a calling; He is not chastising her. His nail-pierced hand represents His heart, revealing Himself to you. **His hand** comes in. She sees just the hand. She is out of the bed; she doesn't think of the defilement of her feet any more. It says . . . **and my bowels. . .** - that is, her whole being - . . . **were moved for him.***

5 I rose up to open to my beloved; and my hands dropped with myrrh, and my fingers with sweet smelling myrrh, upon the handles of the lock. *The bride rises to open the door, Her **hands** signify faith and obedience, speaking of the Lord's resurrection life within her. Her . . . **hands . . . are . . . upon the handles of the lock.** That means something is being unlocked in her will; she is willing to accept the Cross of shame. She is willing to go into what God is calling her into, just as previously she had been willing to accept the Cross of His power.*

Will your hands today be willing to open the door to Him? Will your

fingers respond as the bride of Christ to say, *I accept the Cross of shame. I understand that when I stand in Christ that I will be misunderstood. I understand that I will not necessarily be the popular person I like to be.*

Will you be willing to say, *I have understood that my defilement which I have been avoiding is not my feet getting dirty, but the defilement of misunderstanding? I want to be right. I want to make everything that I am doing right to the people about. I am not willing to accept the Cross of shame, but Lord, I thank You You have called me into this and as You call, You will be everything I need.*

In Jesus' precious Name. Amen.