

09-13-19

Here's Hope
By Rev. Jerry Rea

Jelly Side Down

What is that French philosophy? Things are against us. If you take a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and drop it repeatedly, it will land with the jelly side down equally to jelly side up on a linoleum floor. But, if you drop it on a fine Persian rug, it will land jelly side down every time. Have you ever felt that way? Things are against you? Probably, they are not... you just feel that way. Possibly, you've lost hope. Possibly, you're angry. Maybe, you're depressed. Sometimes anger just lays there until it sours inside us. That's what we call bitterness. And, if we don't heal, (inside) that place will become a dark spot, collecting all manner of evil. And that will color everything in our lives.

So, here's the point. Hope and bitterness don't live well together. Across the years, if you're not careful, you can collect hurts. I mean, you missed something you should've had. Like, your parents were not there for you. Or, maybe, your kids have been a supreme disappointment to you. Or, you go through a harsh divorce, so you lose trust in the opposite sex, or even in people in general. Perhaps your health went south, so you resent everyone else who has good health. Do you see how easy it is to collect hurts and bitterness?

So, what is the solution? Identify the problem, first. The problem is not that life has treated you terribly... all of us have troubles (admittedly some more than others). The problem is inside you, not outside you. Some folk have a natural ability to carry burdens, others do not. And, if you are able to say... "yes, I have some issues." Then you can begin to work on them. Pray about them. Think, muse about them, but don't let them take over your heart. Pray about them, asking God to help, but asking Him to remove the poison. Allow time to heal...the greater the hurt, the greater the time. The greater time you have been "poisoned" the longer it will take to get well. In all this believe. Your faith will see you through. Have faith, that though you can't see how this will work, that though it looks impossible, God will work it out. God will see you through. When you can't do anything... that's when God often shows up. Can you believe that God will make it all work? Can you believe that though YOU are stuck, He never is?

Here's hope - life can still taste good, even when it lands all wrong!

Love You,
Jerry Rea