

The Lion, the Witch, the Wardrobe and You!
Simply Soul Teaching Notes for December 2005
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True Confessions.....

What I love and what I hate about Christmas? Longing and Disappointment Hope and Despair all wrapped up tidily into when Holiday.

Christmas illustration....party

Why did she act that way?

Cycle that we are all familiar with

DESIRE....blocked.....DISAPPOINTMENT.....unhealthy response.....DESPAIR

What is our response to disappointment...take many forms. pictures lost, cancer, death, \$\$\$, timing of something. We don't all react the same way.

Cycle

Desire....What do we desire

intimacy, children, relationships, security, beauty, success, fulfillment

Desire/longing BLOCKED...

.unanswered prayers, unrealized dreams, dead ends, stomped on

Disappointed...why, angry, frustrated, impatient, disbelief

Despair-stuck in disappointment, pit

We are all familiar with the cycle. And so are our hearts. So what do we do with our longings/desire as a result of this endless cycle? **What happens to our hearts?**

Responses we have to Disappointment

Shut off the faucet...lock up my heart. No longings equal no disappointment.

Feel numb

Roller coaster---up and down, high expectations, high disappointment

Angry

Pessimist....

Optimist...things will be better, work out, be okay

Thinking about this has led me to ask a question.

What do I do with my desire so that it doesn't lead to disappointment? All of the above options....leave me feeling empty, dry, bitter, angry or numb.

Answer is found in our perspective. What lense do we use to view our world, our circumstances and most importantly our God?

Narnia...specifically *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe* by CS Lewis gives us a good framework to uncover this perspective.

What do we know about Narnia? List On board

Describe adjectives....curses..... ASLAN's NARNIA -WINTER WITCH NARNIA

What do we know about the ruler of these two worlds...contrast Aslan and White Witch

Parallel scripture...Now and Not Yet Time Line Where are we?

Biblical Timeline

Eden...Fall.....Annoucement.....It is finished.....He is coming again.

What should our perspective be while we live here? Winter...but there are glimpses that the thaw is coming.

Our assumption is that we are living in Narnia the wonderful land where Aslan rules and.....

As it is now, we assume we are living in **Aslan's Narnia** and expect everything to be the way it should be...including the expectation that I should be happy, comfortable. Relationships should work, etc, etc. Every once in a while we stumble on a block of ice, or slip on a frozen puddle and we are surprised, angry, bitter about why these bad things happen. So we go through life disappointed that things are not as they should be and we are not truly happy.

The reality is that we are living in **White Winter's Narnia** where the wicked white witch rules and all is frozen and achingly cold.

Satan's goal during this winter has one main purpose to ACCUSE and DISCONNECT

To disconnect us from our hearts.....ultimately our longings will lead us to God. Our hearts were made with an emptiness and restlessness that only God can fill. Satan wants to prevent us from being satisfied with God. So he accomplishes this by distorting our perspective.

How he distorts our perspective

Make sure we don't know who we truly are...and what we were made for...living the life of a cellar maid instead of a princess...Edmund helping the witch accomplish her reign

Turns god into the enemy....

Keeping us busy...religious

This is all there is.."If for all practical purposes we believe that this life is our best shot at happiness, if this is as good as it gets, we will live as desperate, demanding, and eventually despairing men and women. We will place on this world a burden it was never intended to bear."

This is where I think we get stuck....these lies are what end up controlling us. We buy into this warped perspective and find ourselves endlessly battling disappointment and the cycle of despair.

So what's the answer....John 1: 14 The word became flesh and dwelt among us...we have seen his glory.....full of Grace and Truth.

He is Grace and He is Truth...here are a few truths that we need to believe that will adjust our perspectives.

1. **Adjust my expectation.** We are not living in the garden. We are living in winter narnia under a curse. Everything is broken. It's not supposed to be easy it's not supposed to work.

When I stumble on disappointment, pain, heartache...old responses need to be adjusted. I'm not in the Garden. This is not aslan's narnia yet.

2. **Aslan is coming...this is not all there is. He will return. It will be made right.**

Hope is a True Hope...anchored in who God is and not my circumstances

Extremem Home Makeover.....

p. 177 knowing the end of the story takes away the fear and allows you to enjoy the drama.

3. **Meanwhile,** as I wait I will continue to see glimpses of his presence his grace and his goodness. I will see his redemptive hand working to restore this world, my life and the lives of those around me. REJOICE....Ransom captive Israel, behold a glorious light has dawned for allthose who live in the shadows....

4. **It's His Kingdom...Not mine.** The purpose of his kingdom is His Glory and My Redemption! What is the chief end of man to glorify God and Enjoy him forever. It's really not about me is it?

Christ has brought in his rule and reign it is not complete yet but it is here and we are living in it. The purpose of his rule is to bring himself glory and restore all things to their intended created order...the garden where his glory is perfectly reflected in his creation.

5. **He created me to be apart of it! I'm not only a Daughter of Eve but a daughter of the King.....**

4 thrones, ruled over Narnia in Aslan's absence. It was in good hands. We are his Princesses his ambassadors.

As his children living in his kingdom he has commissioned us to be his ambassadors...to reflect his glory....bring him glory by restoring and rebuilding that which is broken. That is our purpose. Our only purpose. That is our mission.

If we operated with the understanding that we lived in old narnia then whenever we saw glimpses of the true narnia coming.....melting snow, thawing ice, green grass sneaking through the melting snow we would be ecstatic. We would be living with the constant reminders that one day we will be living in Narnia where there will be no more winter....one day it will all be made right. Not only that, but we would see ourselves as princes and princesses, children, who can work to restore Narnia and bring in the rule of Aslan . We are empowered to be part of the process of restoring Narnia and bringing in the great eternal thaw

Review:

Where we are....not in narnia - refreshing perspective

Why I am here....to bring him glory, restore and rebuild the kingdom

I get distracted...think I'm here for myself...pleasure Turkish Delight and Edmond News Flash ..it's not about me!

What can I hope for...for God to be true to who he is faithful, loving, forgiving,

I will ALWAYS BE DISAPPOINTED IF I PUT MY HOPE IN A CIRCUMSTANCE OR A PERSON TO SATISFY MY LONGINGS. It will be like Turkish delight.;

Who is in control...the God who loves me. Don't assume you have some other problem other than you don't know he loves you.

He isn't safe but he is good.