

## *A View from The Inside*

Have you ever gone to an open house of a home for sale, and been totally surprised by what you saw? On the outside it's beautifully adorned, meticulously landscaped, and everything from the windows to the driveway is well maintained; however, when you step inside the house, it's a completely different story. From all appearances on the outside, you would think that the interior of the home is totally immaculate and beautifully designed. The owner had done such an excellent job of maintaining the exterior, that you would think he or she bared no expense to make the interior equally as grand, but once you've taken a look, you find that the inside is in need of a complete makeover.

A lot of us are this way. We put on the most expensive apparel, drive expensive cars, live in expensive homes, and we look like a million bucks on the outside, but on the inside we're fragmented and depleted; with souls that are in dire need of some restoration work. The interesting thing about this predicament is that often times we don't even realize that our souls need some attention until something goes terribly wrong. Then we run to the Father for a quick fix. He is always there to rescue us, but often He will require us to take a view from the inside out. He will lead us to inward to get really honest with ourselves and come clean about what we see.

When we deal with ourselves honestly, no matter the situation, whether we are praying to God for a spouse, a house, spiritual elevation, or anything else, He will help us with the internal work that needs to be done. And yes, this work comes before the blessing. It's a process, and it's useless to waste time becoming disillusioned or impatient. Often this is our response, but this only highlights our immaturity. We have to be willing to look in the mirror and see our own faults and shortcomings, because God deals with the truth. He has no part in a lie. This is why it is so incredibly important for you to take a 'diagnostic evaluation' of the person you've groomed yourself to be.

Jesus taught his disciples through a very plain and poignant parable in Luke 8:5-10 (The Message)

*"A farmer went out to sow his seed. Some of it fell on the road; it was tramped down and the birds ate it. Other seed fell in the gravel; it sprouted, but withered because it didn't have good roots. Other seed fell in the weeds; the weeds grew with it and strangled it. Other seed fell in rich earth and produced a bumper crop.*

*"Are you listening to this? Really listening?"*

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*9His disciples asked, "Why did you tell this story?"*

*10He said, "You've been given insight into God's kingdom—you know how it works. There are others who need stories. But even with stories some of them aren't going to get it:*

*Their eyes are open but don't see a thing,  
Their ears are open but don't hear a thing.*

Jesus Christ taught the disciples this parable and then asked, "Are you really paying attention to what I'm saying here?" He asked them this question because the buck stops with them, just as the buck stops with us. If you don't get real with yourself, how can you expect anyone else to be real with you. God has given us His Word in order that we might grow spiritually and prosper, but some of us are still at an infant stage of believing. We are easily offended, easy to catch an attitude, and we put on airs as if we have it all together. We are not fooling God, and we're not fooling others either. The holes in our armor will eventually be exposed, and our outside will eventually become a mirror image of the inside.

Sometimes we allow the lie to live inside us too long. Just like the person with an immaculate home on the outside, and a disorderly home on the inside, we are more concerned about appearances than we are about the trouble in our souls. We need to hear what God is saying through our circumstances. He is calling us to turn our attention to Him, and to understand that He is preparing us for the work that we all must do.

In verse 14 of Luke 8, Jesus explained the parable by saying:

*14"And the seed that fell in the weeds—well, these are the ones who hear, but then the seed is crowded out and nothing comes of it as they go about their lives worrying about tomorrow, making money, and having fun.*

There is freedom in the love of Jesus Christ. By accepting Him as our Lord and Savior we have the privilege to live our lives in truth, and the truth shall always make us free. But so many of us choose to live in bondage and fear, because we worry and obsess about the wrong things. We don't have time for this anymore. It's time for us to hear what God is telling us, and see what He is showing us through His love. Unclogging our hearts and souls so that we can hear His directives clearly ought to be the central focus and desire in our lives.

Understand Dear Sisters, that certain truths will need to be revealed in you before the blessing. Now is the time to set about a course to line yourself up in the right direction. While there is still time before the harvest, plant seeds of love, and nurture your soul with His Word. Be patient as the Lord teaches you how to present a meticulously maintained body of faith, one where you have confidence that your seeds are growing and will not be over crowded by the weeds of apathy and worldliness. Line up with the Word, pray that your eyes and ears are open, and be patient as the Father helps you keep yourself in check.●

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