

Rest For A Weary Soul Daily Devotional - Monday, December 8, 2008

Praise the Lord and Good Evening,

My maternal grandmother used to sing a verse of the song "I know it was the Blood" that went like this: "He didn't say a mumbling word/He didn't say a mumbling/He didn't say a mumbling word for me/one day when I was lost/Jesus died on the cross/and I know it was the blood for me."

Isn't it awesome that the Lord held His tongue when by right, He could have levied serious damage on those who criticized (no, that's too soft of a word)...outright, mocked who He was (and Is)? But He chose to remain silent and permitted them to place Him on a cross. He allowed His actions to speak. That was powerful!

We know what it is to give and be on the receiving end of the "silent treatment". You know, those times, when you heard what was said, but you reply by not replying. Adam and Eve knew that feeling. remember after eating the forbidden fruit and they heard the voice of God and they hid (the Bible doesn't say they were silent, but it's an easy leap to say if they were hiding, they were being quiet because they didn't want to be found). There's a huge difference in holding back because of anger and holding back because the Lord said, "Keep quiet." This past weekend, there was a few times when I was after silence. That's a tough lesson to learn. While we may not always understand the motives behind silence, God does and He can read "silence."

Jesus wasn't giving them the silent treatment out of anger. He wasn't trying to pull a fast one on anyone. He knew what His job was and He was determined to complete it. In recent weeks, I've been silent, even with writing the devotionals. It had nothing to do with lack of desire to write, nothing to say or anger....the Lord recognizes silence and sometimes it takes being silent to complete the job of making it through your season.

I thank the Lord for His silence on the cross. It didn't mean He was ignorant of the comments or had no power to counter the comments. He worked in spite of the silence. Jesus' presence on the cross was the culmination of His speaking before He reached the cross. Everything doesn't require discussion. Some things are accomplished while in the act of silence. I'm so glad He didn't say a mumbling word, but His actions spoke volumes.

What is the old saying about "actions speaking louder than words?" What is the Lord doing while seemingly silent in your life? He can "speak" through the silence by His actions.

And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. 9. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? (Genesis 3:8-9 KJV)

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. (Isaiah 53:7 KJV)

In the Master's Service,

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Rehoboth Apostolic Ministries, Inc.
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Matt 11:28-29 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls