KISSING THE FROG

My sense is that we have nearly lost the implications of Heb 5:8. What we are seeking in this outline is a clarification of the spiritual significance of embracing that difficulty which has been particularly assigned to us in the reality of Father’s purpose and care. My illustration comes from the fairy tale of the Princess that was required to ‘kiss the ugly frog’ for him to become the Prince for which she was seeking. Analogous is the kiss of the maiden in the Phantom of the Opera. She was required to kiss the antagonistic and sadistic Phantom for the purpose of saving her true love from certain death. For us, the scene was gut-wrenching.

1. The urgency is the ability to see into the ‘mystery’ of Father’s purpose with a ‘look through as contrasted to look at’ mentality. An attempt to see into the process, rather than try to explain it away.

2. A willing, knowing embrace of some personal suffering that has been designed by the Father is not religious works. When Father makes His will known in an area, we are, by reason of our love and commitment to God as a Father, expected to respond in as much eagerness and strength as we are capable. Willingness is an acceptable sacrifice.

3. Gethsemane is our case in point. When the Lord Jesus understood the deeper issue, His surrender was total and without reservation. He never questioned or departed from His acceptance. Apart from that insight and comprehension, His obedience would consist of asceticism or works of merit.
4. The full, enjoyable embrace of that will, is expressed in Heb 12:1-2. Irrespective of the personal cost, my reputation or my ‘ministry’, the indication is “I have come to do Thy Will, Oh God”.

John 6:37-46: 36 But [as] I told you, although you have seen Me, still you do not believe and trust and have faith.

37 All whom My Father gives (entrusts) to Me will come to Me; and the one who comes to Me I will most certainly not cast out [I will never, no never, reject one of them who comes to Me].

38 For (because) I have come down from heaven not to do My own will and purpose but to do the will and purpose of Him Who sent Me.

39 And this is the will of Him Who sent Me, that I should not lose any of all that He has given Me, but that I should give new life and raise [them all] up at the last day.

40 For this is My Father’s will and His purpose, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in and cleaves to and trusts in and relies on Him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up [from the dead] at the last day.

41 Now the Jews murmured and found fault with and grumbled about Jesus because He said, I am [Myself] the Bread that came down from heaven.

42 They kept asking, Is not this Jesus, the dSon of Joseph, Whose father and mother we know? How then can He say, I have come down from heaven?

43 So Jesus answered them, Stop grumbling and saying things against Me to one another.

44 No one is able to come to Me unless the Father Who sent Me attracts and draws him and gives him the desire to come to Me, and [then] I will raise him up [from the dead] at the last day.

45 It is written in [the book of] the Prophets, And they shall all be taught of God [have Him in person for their Teacher]. Everyone who has listened to and learned from the Father comes to Me—[Isa. 54:13.]

46 Which does not imply that anyone has seen the Father [not that anyone has ever seen Him] except He [Who was with the Father] Who comes from God; He [alone] has seen the Father.

5. Kissing the Frog: While teaching in San Quentin, my encounter with a young white male, serving a life term without parole, was designed to open my heart to the depth of Jesus’ own response and joy in the Father’s will and

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\d Capitalized because of what He is, the spotless Son of God, not what the speaker may have thought He was.

purpose. The young man asked me a question, one that I had never considered:

**Suppose Jesus does not like me?** He went on to say that he was sure of God’s love, because as God, he was forced to love him because He was God and was required to do so.

I was stunned, unable to answer. Not like you? Such a thought had never entered my mind. Was Jesus human? Did he, as a human have personal likes and dislikes? A more ultimate question is “Will God honor my personal preferences”? Is it then possible that Jesus could respond to a person with extremely difficult personality problems; twisted and distorted values and, ultimately some kind of a misanthrope; one who has taken on the identification of a ‘loner’; a pariah or some strange type of recluse? Don’t mess with me, for I am trouble.

Knowing that I was going to have to face him on the next visit, I sought the Lord in a very direct and urgent manner. My integrity would not allow me to use the religious ‘around the barn’ talk with this seeking and desperate youth.

6. In what I believe to be Father’s own insight into the complexity of this situation, I was led to re-examine the text which we have read together:

   a. It struck me, like a hammer between the eyes: *He that comes to me, I will not reject, for (because) I came to do the Father’s will and not my own.*

   b. Jesus does, indeed, have personal choice. There are people that He, personally, would not prefer to be with or, particularly choose to be within His own inner circle. He chose Mary and Lazarus as His friends; He refused the religious crowd.
c. Vocational response knows that my personal choice and personal preference is not the final issue. What does my Father desire? To what has He assigned me?

d. Now, we are looking at Kingdom and all that the term implies. How urgent that such a truth be proclaimed and received in the larger Body of Christ.

7. When I attempted to convey the truth and reality of the scripture, explaining why Jesus would not reject him, *even if He did not like him*; he broke into a million pieces. Sobbing, he said: I *know* that Father has drawn me. However, I find myself unable, rebellious or simply incapable of responding to all that is going on. I am one who is into ‘cutting’ and self-flagellation; self-hate, etc. I am more than persuaded that no one likes me and my consolation is knowing that, here in San Quentin, I cannot hurt anyone else.

8. My evangelism changed from the ‘four spiritual laws’ to the simple, Agape filled request, ‘Would you allow Jesus to Kiss you, the ugly frog and change you into a Living and loving Prince in His sight?’ He did; I did and we are in the process at this moment.

**Present application of the lessons learned in Kissing the Frog.**

1. The question that Father is asking us now, at this moment, is not simple or easy to answer. How are you treating the ‘Frogs’ that I have placed in your life? Do you or are you able to Kiss that Frog and turn him/her into the Prince or Princess of my intention? If my assignment is clear, would you give yourself, without qualification, to bring him/her to me?
2. The premise for Father asking that question is not too complicated:

   a. Did Father ‘draw this frog to Himself’? Are there evidences that they are, in fact, seeking to find the way out of the darkness in which they are trapped? We are not allowed to assign ourselves some frog or Judas. The origin and purpose must be in the Father, Himself.

   b. Did Father place this Frog in your life; sovereignly place him/her in your path?

   c. In the case of Judas, who was Jesus’ own Frog, Jesus knew that Father had given him to disciple and bring him to the Father. He was one of the 12; same privilege and opportunity. Judas was ‘drawn to Christ by the Father’. He functioned with the other eleven in ministry.

3. Clear, epistemological evidence should be present indicating that Father has drawn this Frog to me; assigned me to take him to the Father. Whether he/she comes or not is not the final criteria. Your assignment is more than and other than ‘success’ as defined in the present climate.

4. Kissing the frog, then comes under the category of Father using ‘All things’ to bring me to Himself.

   a. Failure, refusal or rebellion toward the Frog/Judas is tantamount to my refusing, ignoring or playing dumb rather than responding to Father’s request.

   b. Make the application on the same principle as Gethsemane. The ultimate issue: Not my will, but your will be done.
5. If we carefully extrude this text and clarify the principle, we could then ‘see’ Father’s own eternal purpose in allowing Judas to be selected in the group of 12. Judas was designed a Sovereign purpose that challenges us all.

6. Our Kingdom principle, based on Father’s Own DNA says:

   a. What you are experiencing is not a *Stone*. It is bread! It may not taste like bread; what we know is Father gives ‘good gifts’ and He is kind.

      • The betrayal you have known is not a *Serpent*. It is a Fish. I know, both the serpent and the fish are both cold, have scales and wiggle. Father said: *this is a fish, even when it looks like and acts like a serpent*. It is, I guarantee you, a good and needed gift. Can you receive that?

7. How to respond to our own Judas or frog, as it were? This may prove to be a needed and urgent Kingdom insight as the pressures of our society increase and the need for relational insight becomes a matter of life and death. God, as a Father, must give us answers for the more complicated persons.

8. What of my own frog; my own Judas. How have I responded to him/her?

   a. Many times I have counseled couples that ‘simply could not stand to be around one of their own children’. Wracked with guilt and unable to think, let alone respond or get help. Secretly: I hate that child.

   b. Marriages are suffering from ‘offence’; the one mate simply offended and refusing to reconcile. Too much. One man, in deep pain, said: I
will do anything you ask; one thing I will not do, I will not go back into that marriage.

c. Particular physical brother or sister. One that seems to inflame me just at the mention of their name. Family injuries of this kind are far more common than we can know. A brother offended...

d. One of your own parents (God forbid it be both) are categorized by you as a Judas in your life. I cannot, I will not...

e. Betrayal in ministry and relationships. Judas, if you remember, betrayed Jesus with a Kiss.

f. We cannot take this now to spiritual offense and harbor these very feeling against God, Christ, Church or even the Holy Spirit. Know that they are there and very real.

9. **Our first lesson**: Judas was an unexpected and very necessary gift. Suppose Jesus would disciple 12 and did not lose any? Where would that leave us? His loss, shows, that in the presence of Pure Agape, men and women can express a will and intention which is most frightening.

10. **Our Second lesson**: however obtuse and mysterious, we must reach for lesson two. *Agape covers*. In the life of Jesus, Judas was so covered and loved, that when the question was asked, “Is it me?” No one had the slightest inkling that it was Judas. Can I, will I, is it possible for me to cover my Judas/frog in my own life in a manner that is so total, no one could know...Too much? What about getting help? All of these are significant and necessary questions. But only after the primary lesson is gained!

11. Christ loved His Own, even to the uttermost (telios) John 13:1 He loved Judas up to the moment of his own hurt. Knowing it was coming, Agape covered; never wavered and fully abiding, Agape triumphs in the betrayal.
12. This is the clearest I have ever seen a ‘Mouth full of Splinters’. It is not complicated: Father says: “I am asking you to cover this frog; this Judas until my purpose is fulfilled”. I am required to do that to my own injury; often at my own expense, and do so without complaint and murmuring.

13. Here are the steps, as I presently understand them:

   a. The Father gave me this challenge; as contrasted to bringing it upon myself. This I now understand and will respond accordingly.

   b. My answer to the question: Suppose Christ does not like me? Now comes out of existential reality. We can give an answer, but at great personal cost. You will not be rejected, because...

   c. He will not; He does not ‘cast you out’. Reason: He did not come to do his own will; governed and controlled by Agape, He does the Father’s will at His own personal expense...

   d. Thus, we are now in context that is similar to Gethsemane, but in an entirely different context. The reality and necessity of a daily cross becomes clear.

14. We must now grasp the existential Kingdom reality of Agape as covenantal. Faithfulness, however expensive, (unless it is misdirected in the form of human loyalty), serves Father’s eternal and complex purpose. Christ is giving Judas full, unencumbered opportunity to:

   a. Sell everything and buy the field; to trade his pearl and know the beauty of that which Father was now revealing in this Christ.

   b. Repeated occasions to ‘see’ that Kingdom in living color and watch the Christ do ‘signs and wonders’ to confirm that Kingdom.

   c. Yet, Judas holds a personal agenda, one that he refuses to surrender, even when the other 11 begin to soften; beginning to perceive that the original agenda for which they signed up is now in the process of
changing. It is not a natural, national Kingdom that Jesus is birthing. Acts 1:6-8. This cannot be.

d. Now, the moment of Judas ‘forcing Jesus to do what Judas insists must happen’ comes and the betrayal is acted out. He must ‘be right’ and holds his agenda even into the act of betrayal and death.

e. Judas, it is recorded, walked out of the supper, into the darkness!

15. What is a ‘sin unto death’. 1 John 5:16?

16. If we carefully exegete the Greek text that we have examined, we will discover the serious, biblical basis for Paul’s understanding of 1 Cor 3:15; 2 Cor 5:5. Judas, as many others, has been stripped and burned to the foundations of his life; even in death, Father is covenantal and faithful to this man who had full opportunity. Father does, what He asked Jesus to do: Cover him.

17. Compare the Rich, Young ruler. He asks Jesus to be “Perfect”. All of the rules he has kept. What do I lack? Jesus knows exactly what to address to reveal the inadequacy of this approach. The remarkable and telling comment is: Behold, how Jesus loved him!