

The Old Servant

February 9, 2014

The Want Ad for the Ultimate “Jeeves”

Looking for an Old Servant to run the Barklay Estate in the Master’s absence. The sort of servant that is wise, gray headed, knows everything, and will stick strictly to *The Barklay Book of Proper Manners in All Household Operations* in managing and governing the property. Must have at least seventy years experience. Must be absolutely trustworthy. Willing to work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week without ever taking a vacation and without a single complaint. Must never vie for control or try and lure the other household servants to an agenda outside the owner’s clear prerogative. Must be willing to die to preserve the owner’s reputation and the safety of the other members of the household. Must accept that the unlimited access to all the benefits of the Barklay Estate and a deep familial bond with the Barklay family is his sole wage. Must be willing to forsake his own name and be known exclusively as “Barklay’s Steward” from the first day and ever onward.

The Holy Spirit

The Old Servant that labors daily as Jehovah’s Steward

Pneō - Pne'-ō (verb)

To blow, to breathe, to move as wind

Pneuma - Pnyü'-mä (neuter noun)

a movement of air, the breath of the nostrils, the vital principle by which the body is animated

Pneuma

That which is working but no one sees. That Servant that runs the house but stays hidden behind the scenes. That vital Person by which the Body is animated.

The Siege on the Holy Spirit

How He is known by many in the Church today

- The Strange and Bizarre
- The Despised and Rejected
- The Twisted and Abused

The Nature of the Holy Spirit's Operation

- To work silently
- To remain hidden
- To take the lowest seat at the table of the Godhead
- And as a result, to be oft-overlooked and oft-under-appreciated

The Overlooked and Under-appreciated One

But don't attempt to fix this by drawing the spotlight here. The Spirit you are attempting to make a Celebrity would be quenched by the very act of attempting to put Him at the center stage. It is His delight to labor behind-the-scenes. It is His joy to serve the Godhead in the way He does. His work is in perfect agreement with His nature - it is right for Him to serve the glory of the Son and the Father in this fashion. Just because you want the spotlight on you, don't for a moment think the One known as the Holy Spirit is like you. In fact, He is altogether unlike you. Which is why His work is so necessary.

The Work of the Old Servant

- To see that you adore His Master and cherish every facet of His Person, as He does
- To insure that you learn to wait upon His every Word and treat His every utterance as precious, as He does
- To make certain that your life is wholly lost in the pursuit of His glory and fame, as His is

The Work of the Old Servant

To Make You As He Is - a Love-driven Bondservant of the Father's Household

The Great Love Story of Isaac

A.K.A. - The Story of the Old Servant's Extraordinary Work

Introducing our Cast

1. **The Father** (Abraham - The Convinced)
2. **The Son** (Isaac - The Dependent)
3. **The Old Servant** (The Unknown Helper - The Convincer)
4. **The Bride** (Rebekah - The Wooed)

Now Abraham was old, well advanced in age; and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things. So Abraham said to **the oldest servant of his house**, who ruled over all that he had, "Please, put your hand under my thigh, "and I will make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell; "but you shall go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac."

Genesis 24:1-4

The Assignment

Go, my dear Old Servant, into a land you haven't seen for many years, and retrieve for my Son his bride. Woo her, convince her, call her, and bring her home. Impart to her a clear picture of my Son's virtue, that she may love him, serve him, and cherish his every facet of strength as you yourself do. Train her to treat Him in the same manner you treat Him. Do this, my dear Old Servant, and my joy and my Son's joy will be full.

Taking a Necessary Detour in our Story

Introducing the Great Convincer

The Holy Spirit

The Action and the Effect of the Holy Spirit

Plērophoreō (the verb) and Plērophoria (the noun)

Or, Another Way of Saying it . . .

He Plērophoreōs in order to Plērophoria

Plērophoreō - Plā-ro-fo-re'-ō (the verb)

- To bring completely to an end, without stopping short, but completing a long journey
- To fully show something, without any remaining hindrances to sight
- To fully convince someone, to make one certain, to persuade one to a right conclusion

And (Abraham) being **fully persuaded** (absolutely convinced, wholly certain) that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform.

Romans 4:21

Plērophoria - Plā-ro-fo-rē'-ä (the noun)

full assurance, most certain confidence, absolutely convinced, completely persuaded

For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and **in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance . . .**

1 Thessalonians 1:5

So, Back to the Story . . . Sort of

And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him . . . And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

Genesis 2:18,20

And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an *`ezer* for him . . . And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an *`ezer* for him.

Genesis 2:18,20

`Ezer - ā'zer (masculine noun)

a helper, one who helps, one who gives up their strength in order supply strength to another

The Great Rescue in the Potomac

The *`Ezer*

The Unknown Soldier

One willing to expend their own life strength lifting someone out of the waters into the helicopter, drowning without anyone ever having a name to associate with your noble act, then floating to the bottom of the river and never having your body found. Forever being known as “The Unknown Soldier.” The true *`Ezer* is one convinced that this sacrificial pattern is the highest form of employment, the noblest form of living, and the greatest expenditure of a life.

Introducing Eliezer

After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward. And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and **the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus?** And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir. And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

Genesis 15:1-6

What Do We Know About this Guy named Eliezer?

- He was born in the house of Abraham
- He was the steward of the house of Abraham
- He was mesheq to the House of Abraham

Mesheq meant the Son of the Possession, Possessor of the house, The Heir to Acquire, The One to Inherit, The One to Whom it Belongs, The Steward of the House.

- And after this verse, his name is never mentioned again

'*Eliy`ezer* - El·ē·eh'·zer -

El (God) + `ezer (a Helper)

- God is The Helper
- God is The Servant

And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever . . .

John 14:16

Okay, Now We Are Really Back to our Story

The Tale of the Unknown Soldier

And Abraham was old, and well stricken in age: and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things. And Abraham said unto his eldest servant of his house, that ruled over all that he had . . . thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac . . . And the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and swore to him concerning that matter. And the servant took ten camels of the camels of his master, and departed; for all the goods of his master were in his hand: and he arose, and went to Mesopotamia, unto the city of Nahor. And he made his camels to kneel down without the city by a well of water at the time of the evening, even the time that women go out to draw water. And he said, O LORD God of my master Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day, and show kindness unto my master Abraham. Behold, I stand here by the well of water; and the daughters of the men of the city come out to draw water: And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: let the same be she that thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast showed kindness unto my master. And it came to pass, before he had done speaking, that, behold, Rebekah came out, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, with her pitcher upon her shoulder. And the damsel was very fair to look upon, a virgin, neither had any man known her: and she went down to the well, and filled her pitcher, and came up. And the servant ran to meet her, and said, Let me, I pray thee, drink a little water of thy pitcher. And she said,

Drink, my lord: and she hastened, and let down her pitcher upon her hand, and gave him drink. And when she had done giving him drink, she said, I will draw water for thy camels also, until they have done drinking. And she hastened, and emptied her pitcher into the trough, and ran again unto the well to draw water, and drew for all his camels. And the man wondering at her held his peace, to wit whether the LORD had made his journey prosperous or not. And it came to pass, as the camels had done drinking, that the man took a golden earring of half a shekel weight, and two bracelets for her hands of ten shekels weight of gold; And said, Whose daughter art thou? tell me, I pray thee: is there room in thy father's house for us to lodge in? And she said unto him, I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, which she bare unto Nahor. She said moreover unto him, We have both straw and provender enough, and room to lodge in. And the man bowed down his head, and worshipped the LORD. And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham, who hath not left destitute my master of his mercy and his truth: I being in the way, the LORD led me to the house of my master's brethren . . . And the man came into the house: and he ungirded his camels, and gave straw and provender for the camels, and water to wash his feet, and the men's feet that were with him. And there was set meat before him to eat: but he said, I will not eat, until I have told mine errand. And he said, Speak on. And he said, I [am] Abraham's servant. And the LORD hath blessed my master greatly; and he is become great: and he hath given him flocks, and herds, and silver, and gold, and menservants, and maidservants, and camels, and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bare a son to my master when she was old: and unto him hath he given all that he hath. And my master made me swear, saying, Thou shalt not take a wife to my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I dwell: But thou shalt go unto my father's house, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son. ... And now if ye will deal kindly and truly with my master, tell me: and if not, tell me; that I may turn to the right hand, or to the left. Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, The thing proceeds from the LORD: we cannot speak unto thee bad or good. Behold, Rebekah is before thee, take her, and go, and let her be thy master's son's wife, as the LORD hath spoken. And it came to pass, that, when Abraham's servant heard their words, he worshipped the LORD, bowing himself to the earth. And the servant brought forth jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment, and gave

them to Rebekah: he gave also to her brother and to her mother precious things. And they did eat and drink, he and the men that were with him, and tarried all night; and they rose up in the morning, and he said, Send me away unto my master. And her brother and her mother said, Let the damsel abide with us a few days, at the least ten; after that she shall go. And he said unto them, Hinder me not, seeing the LORD hath prospered my way; send me away that I may go to my master. And they said, We will call the damsel, and enquire at her mouth. And they called Rebekah, and said unto her, Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go. And they sent away Rebekah their sister, and her nurse, and Abraham's servant, and his men . . . And Rebekah arose, and her damsels, and they rode upon the camels, and followed the man: and the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. And Isaac came from the way of the well Lahairoi; for he dwelt in the south country. And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide: and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels were coming. And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lighted off the camel. For she had said unto the servant, What man is this that walketh in the field to meet us? And the servant had said, It is my master: therefore she took a vail, and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all things that he had done. And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her: and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Genesis 24

Becoming Servants

Restrained unto the Glory, Success, and Benefit of Another

- **The Jesus Model** - For the Glory of the Father - saying only what the Father says, and doing only what the Father is doing
- **The Spirit Model** - For the Glory of Jesus Christ - saying only what Jesus, the Word of God, is saying, and doing only that which Jesus, the Word of God, is doing
- **The Bride** - For the Glory of Jesus Christ - wholly given to the Old Servant - saying only what the Spirit is saying and doing only that which the Spirit is doing. And in doing so, we will be

brought to Jesus. And in seeing Jesus in all His glory, we will be seeing the glory of the Father and truly know Him.

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit . . .

Matthew 18:19

Go Therefore and Plērophoreō!

- To bring completely to an end, without stopping short, but completing a long journey
- To fully show something, without any remaining hindrances to sight
- To fully convince someone, to make one certain, to persuade one to a right conclusion

Plērophoreō!

Heed the Old Servant, and do what He does, speak what He speaks, and work exactly as He works. For the Son's Bride must hear of His Virtue, of His Excellence, of His Ability to Save. Go! Go and Plērophoreō! Do as the Old Servant does and be single-minded in bringing everyone you meet at the watering hole to Jesus Christ.

And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that **He may abide with you forever**-- the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for **He dwells with you and will be in you**. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you . . . These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. But the *Helper*, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you** . . . I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, **He will guide you into all truth: for He shall**

not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will show you things to come. He shall glorify Me: for He shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that He shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you.

John 14:16-18, 25-26; 16:12-15