

Chapter 14: Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good Moons

Life Application Verses:

Genesis 1: 26-28. Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Made in the Image of God. Think about that for a moment. A Holy God making us in His image, according to His likeness. Me, just an ordinary person, someone who has struggled—and continues to struggle—with life’s issues, fallen down so many times that my knees look like pine knots and scarred beyond help—made in the image of God. More precisely, “Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over...” Speedbump!!! Rule over... subdue the earth ... rule over. Sounds like broken English, eh? Broken English is not what’s broken, but our image and our ‘rule over’ outcomes! God wants our image to reflect Him, to ‘walk in the shoes’ of Jesus (God, use this to Glorify You) so that we are a mirror of His image. While we are unique in fingerprints, pounds gained and lost in a year, the very hairs on our heads, and our quirks (yes, you know for a fact that we have quirks, Dear Christian friends), God desires that our walk with Him should be in His image. This includes our actions and how we perceive ourselves in comparison to others, neighbors, co-workers, family members, etc. IN other words, does our *personal* image make us think that maybe we don’t measure up? Surely this does not invade the territory of self-worth and human being value, does it? It might, but let’s focus on image.

What is an image? Is it how we see ourselves or how others see us? *Are we self-conscious about our image???* Let me preface this by saying that I’m not looking to highlight any ‘complex’ that we may have, but just asking a rhetorical question. Like, do you care what people see you do—in public, private, both or neither? There is an old saying about a tree falling in the forest. I retrieved this from the Internet; *Treehugger*: “It’s a riddle that’s been twisting brains for generations: If a tree falls in the woods and no one is around to hear it, does

it make a sound? The answer, at least according to a comprehensive study of nature's noises, is 'yes' -- but it may be drowned out by the hum of a motor vehicle." Now I'm not sure what the motor vehicle has to do with this idea, but let me tell you why I included this: "If a person does something when no one is looking, does it make it right if it is something that is wrong in the first place?" According to a Holy Comprehensive Study published in the Most Holy of all Books, The Bible, well, I think you get the point. Read the story that follows and then 'let's talk.'

Several years ago, a new preacher moved to Houston, Texas. Some weeks after he arrived, he had occasion to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area. When he sat down, he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change. As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, "You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it." Then he thought, "Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount? Anyway, the bus company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a 'gift from God' and keep quiet." When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here, you gave me too much change." The driver with a smile replied, "Aren't you the new preacher in town? I have been thinking lately about going to worship somewhere. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. I'll see you at church on Sunday." When the preacher stepped off of the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, held on, and said, "**Oh God, I almost sold your Son for a quarter.**" Our lives are the only Bible some people will ever read. This is a really scary example of how much people watch us as Christians and will put us to the test! Always be on guard and remember that you carry the name of Christ in your Heart, Mind, Body, and Spirit wherever you go in life. If you go to a movie, you carry the Name of Christ; when you drive, you carry the Name of Christ; and every place you and I go. If we are born-again, we are (or we should be) an image of Christ:

Watch your thoughts; they become words.
Watch your words; they become actions.
Watch your actions; they become habits.
Watch your habits; they become character.
Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.
Author Unknown

Are we not all passengers on this Bus? Do we not have a responsibility to act in the image of God at all times? Are we going to be successful? We are His witness 24x7, and whether we realize it or not—whether that tree makes any sound or not—when we fall, it makes a noise, and God hears it. When we stumble before others, we make a noise, and they ‘hear’ it with their eyes. Ever hear this: ‘What you do speaks so loudly, I can’t hear what you’re saying.’ Ever hear that truth before? If you recall, I titled this chapter, *Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good Moons*. You might be asking right about now, “Ken, sometimes you are like a whirlwind, you move here, then there, and you lose me!” Hey, no problema! I get lost myself sometimes too! Here’s a bit of “clarity” for you to cogitate over: God made us in His image, we live our Christian lives before others; therefore, we reflect God in Christ, making us Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good Moons. Now, what was hard about that? *Okay*, you did know the moon is not a celestial body with its own light source, right? ☺ Like, the sun shines, the moon reflects the light. As Christians, the Son Shines, the Christian reflects The Light. To put this all together, in God’s Image, we are made; we are saved by the Grace of God in Christ Jesus; we are to be Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good Moons to reflect all that God has for us as His Children so that The Light that is reflected from us is God’s Light to the world. We have NO LIGHT of our own!

How many quarters have we not returned to its rightful owner? Have you ever been through the ‘drive-thru’ at your bank and they gave you too much cash back? My wife and I have, and we returned it. When we are given too much change from a purchase, we give it back. On the other hand, if we are charged more than what was advertised or what was on the purchase ticket, we ensure that the entity charges us correctly or gives it back as it is right as well. What’s the point? As you read in the Life Application Verses, God made us in His image and likeness; He also gave us “...rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth” (underline mine). I don’t know about you, but God gave us a responsibility that is radical, heavy, and WOW! As his ‘primary’ creation, He gave us dominion over the Earth and we are to be Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good Moons. We should reflect what is Good, because God is Good in All Things. We should reflect the Saving Grace in Jesus Christ, because God gave us rule over every living thing—and that **INCLUDES ourselves**—whether we are lost, saved, confused, irrational, Democrat, Republican,

Independent, homeless, rich, middle-class, Black, White, Brown, educated, illiterate, American, Jewish, Arab, Scandinavian, a fast driver, a slow driver, a stranger, a friend, a family member, shoppers at Wal-Mart, shoppers at Saks Fifth Avenue, or just ordinary people like me. What is this ‘rule thing’ in the Life Application Verses?

First, as our God said, it includes all living things on the Earth. We are not only to rule over them, but to also be caretakers for them, as well. It seems like every day we hear of a species becoming extinct or soon to be extinct. Rule over them includes being good stewards of the resources of this Earth—living and otherwise. Secondly, rule over all living things surely includes those who are in Positions of Power. For example, Presidents, Kings, Congress, bosses, and so forth—do not these individuals also have the responsibility to rule over others, and provide responsible care for their well-being? I’m not talking about doing for them to make them subservient, but about helping them to become independent thinkers, achievers, and productive. It’s like the saying, “Give a person a fish and you will do so every day of their lives; teach them to fish, and you have given them freedom to do other things and care for themselves for the rest of their lives.” (The saying is actually, ‘Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.’) If these leaders are Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good Moons, how can our world not be a better place than it would have been otherwise? Today, as much of the Earth is not about caring for people but about domination over them, we Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good Moons need to shine that much brighter to the world around us. We may very well be the only Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good Moon they will ever see...

As I write these words, a news report just this minute announced that 12 people were killed at the Navy Yard in Washington¹. There is a present Syrian crisis in the world. ‘Yesterday’, it was Egypt. A few years ago, the Twin Towers fell in New York. The murder rate in the city of Montgomery where we live is at an all-time high, expected to break a record in 2013. Chicago has an epidemic of killings. I just read a news release from a wire service in which a mother lost her 5 children, 6-and-younger, in a fire. Iran and North Korea want nuclear capability so that they might rule more powerfully over their people and threaten other nations

¹ These references were compiled in 2013, reviewed in 2014-2015, and finalized in 2016.

(mainly, Israel and the U.S.). Drunk drivers killed several people since I started this particular chapter, and countless others since I began this book. How many abortions have been concluded between this moment (2016) and when God first moved me to write these words? (God knows every one of them by 'name.')

Hateful murders for any number of reasons grow almost exponentially in certain corners of the world. Christians are persecuted by the scores in nations that claim to be 'Nations of Peace.' And, to think, God created us in His image and gave us rule over every living thing? Are there enough Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good Moons to go around? Can we shine the Light bright enough so that this mixed-up, crazed world will ever be able to see? God Help Us! It seems that our world is beyond hope! But our Hope is in You, O Lord, through the Saving Grace of Christ Jesus!

My fellow Christians, I think that the Light from God is like a candle. If we hold up one candle, God's image will shine; if we hold up two, the Light shines brighter. If we hold up millions around the world, The Son of God is Glorified and Lifted Up as we Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good Moons bring Light to the world so that God's Image is manifested through us. One breeze does not a Hurricane make! But, you bundle many of them together and grant them rule over the winds, and a Hurricane is a MIGHTY FORCE. So are Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good Moons if they work in the Shadow of Almighty God to bring Light into the darkness of this world. For God is THE MIGHTY FORCE over all the Earth and none can stand before his Power and Might. His Light will shine over all, yet not all will see that Light. Some will cover their eyes because they choose to remain in the dark; others will fall away even before the rays become dim; yet, others will see His Light and hear His Voice and join the ranks of the Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good Moons to reflect God in His Glory through Jesus Christ!

Some people will say, "Oh, the world has always been this messed up." I say, "It's been messed up in spots, locations, and in hearts." I further believe that this world has NOT been so holistically anti-God as it is now, in Two Thousand Sixteen in the Year of Our Lord. The 'in-your-face' rhetoric of no God in schools, removing prayer, separation of Church and State, the undisputed hatred of one Religion over another that results in mass killings, the rampant destruction of the very fabric of 'right and wrong', and you could name a litany of other things that point to the total chaos across this nation and in our global society. We have distorted the

Image God has given us, and created an abuse of the rule he granted. We reflect a society that is hell-bent on “movie-star” lives and anti-God responsibilities. Do you see a need for Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good Moons? If not, why not? If not, let me point you to another Truth: “Eyes Open.” Simply put, this means, and with kindness and love I say this, “PAY ATTENTION!”

The world as it is presently exists, has become the global bully towards people, families, Christians, groups, and nations. When there is a very cloudy night during a full-moon, what do you see when you look out into the night? You see darkness! There is a ‘hint’ of light as the full moon is shining brightly above the clouds. Then when the clouds part or disperse, the full moon lights up the night sky almost as if there is a miniature sun in the Heavens. We Christians, the Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good Moons, must shine and Pray to our Heavenly Father to part the clouds so that His Light may reflect from us to a lost and dying world. Let us reflect the image of Christ in His Love and Grace to a lost world!

What if we were like lightning strikes all across the Earth? Sounds crazy, I know, but it can be done. Take a look at this magnificent bolt. Did you know that a lightning bolt, one of God’s creations, contains over five billion Joules of Energy, and can provide one household the energy needs of that home for a month? Imagine if Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good Moons were like those strikes? We strike at ‘intended random/continuous intervals’, we strike often, we strike brightly, and we reflect the Joules of God’s power—because we KNOW the source! What a concept!!! What a Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good Moon that would be!!!

If you notice the image of the bolt, you will see that it forms from Heaven to Earth, or if you prefer, from Earth to Heaven. In the Image of God, the power of this great source is always from Heaven to Earth. May we strike at the Heart of Darkness and remind this world that we are made in the Image of God—a God of Love, Mercy, Grace, and Forgiveness in Christ Jesus—who died for us and NOW LIVES!!!!



Question of Curiosity:

Between your actions and your words, to which do you think people pay the most attention? If I tell you that I never steal, yet you see me take a candy bar at the local WalMart, and you ask me if I took that candy bar, what will you do if I tell you I never lie after having just lied to you because I tell you I most certainly did not take a candy bar? Will my image be tarnished in your eyes? Will I disgrace my God who created me in His image? Am I a Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good Moon, or just an illusion of ‘say one thing and do another?’ Will my light shine brightly or not at all? We MUST be as our Heavenly Father in Christ taught us: BE FAITHFUL IN ALL THINGS! And you say...

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“Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”

~ John 8: 12 ~

“The next time you venture outside and the moon is visible, consider its Maker and how we as Christians should reflect the Glory of God just as the moon reflects the sun—also made by The Maker of All Things.” ~ DrK ~

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My Prayer For You:

Lord God, to be created in Your image is a MIGHTY thing that you have done for us. To give us rule over every living thing on the Earth is a MIGHTY thing. For us to fail to reflect Your Image in us is a MIGHTY and terrible thing. May we open our eyes and ears to see and hear You in the fullness of what we are to You. There are so many people in this world that are blind to the Truth, yet they desire to walk in the darkness that surrounds them. I pray that we might be ever mindful of whose image in which we are formed, so that we will reflect Your Love to the world around us. Teach us to act so loudly that what we say will Glorify You and point others to Christ Jesus. Like the stars in the Heavens, use us to Shine Your Love to a dark and hopeless world. For many who hear or see these words, may they understand the full intent of being Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good Moons before a world gone amuck. I am broken hearted at the recent tragedies that have fallen on this nation and in our world. I have a fear for my family, and I bring this fear before Your Throne of Mercy and Grace. Use me, O Lord, as a Light that reflects Who You are before the eyes, ears, and hearts of those who do not know You. Prepare their hearts long before I or Your chosen person meets them and speaks Truth to their Soul. Let our light so shine, that The Love of God is revealed to them in ways that they least expect it to arrive. And, Lord, protect Your people in these tragic times. Let Your Light confuse those who would willfully do harm to Your people and protect the innocent in these Last Days. I ask all these things in the Name of Christ Jesus, Amen.

Metaphorically Speaking....Spiritually Seeking.



Pondering...

DrK

Pondering once while looking up, the moon so bright and fair;
Pondering twice while looking still, perplexed how it floats in air.
Pondering thrice at its bright light, from whence does it derive;
Pondering four times still in awe, From God who tells no lies!
Pondering still, now five times, more, who made this cratered rock,
On Pondering six times, yes now six, from God's own Holy Stock.
My seventh Pondering, now deep of Soul, my eyes God's Hand I see,
Pondering one plus seven, yes, a Praise arose in me.
Pondering on the ninth time now, God's Voice is clear as day,
On Pondering ten times, yes now ten, listen closely to what I say:
The eleventh Pondering, my body did shake, God told me of His Son,
Twelve Ponderings now, His Creation He Said, "Look at what We've Done!"
Thirteen Ponderings, again the moon, it now Declares His Awe,
On fourteen Ponderings, I stand amazed, to face I now did fall.
Pondering fifteenth, yes I say, the Heavens my God did make,
Sixteen Ponderings from first till here, this moon is for *our* sake.
Pondering for the seventeenth time, Almighty God did shout:
During my eighteenth Pondering, "Does a moon give you such doubt?"
The nineteenth Pondering, I saw His Hand, as Creator of all Things Good,
The twentieth Pondering, my eyes now open, I see Where He once Stood.
Pondering last this twenty plus one, the moon exists as it should.