

Touring the Castle

Monologue

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In the book of Revelation, the Apostle John was blessed with a picture of the Holy City – the New Jerusalem coming down from God. He explains that the city is adorned or prepared like a bride for her husband. This city has the glory of God like brilliant diamonds. High walls sparkle with diamonds. Twelve gates are always open and each one is made of a single, gigantic pearl. The twelve foundation layers are all manner of precious jewels. There is also a river of pure water that runs through the Holy City containing the water of life – clear as crystal running out from the very throne of the Lamb of God. There is a street beside this river wherein the tree of life is continually bearing fruit and healing the nations.¹

For children of the King – this is the castle we, as joint heirs with Jesus, will one day inherit. Until then, we can tour an earthly castle and find out what might lie within.

Approaching the castle, high walls rise up majestically. These walls are not to keep anyone out, but to keep those that live inside safe from the wicked and evil that lies outside the refuge of the battlements. As we get closer, we see that the only way into the castle is across the drawbridge. The drawbridge is ugly and humble – it is made of rough, heavy wood. To cross the drawbridge – we must accept the very job the drawbridge has – to reconcile anyone who would enter the castle with the King of the kingdom. But upon approaching we quickly we find that the King accepts all that come to Him – you see no one is ever turned away.

After making the decision to enter the castle, and walking across the drawbridge – we see the armory. Remember the walls and the battlements that surround the castle? Warfare is continually waged against the King and all those that live in the castle. The King gently urges everyone to be prepared for battle. He provides every piece of armor that is needed for the battle. He first wants us to wear precious undergarments of truth. And then we can put on the breastplate of righteousness. Our feet wear the gospel of peace – so that our walk is of the King. We are to take the shield of faith so that fiery darts do not wound us. We are also to put on the helmet of salvation. But the King gives two weapons – the sword

¹ Revelation 21:12-21; 22:1-2

of the Spirit - which is the very Word of God. This sword is sharper than a sword with two edges. The other weapon is that of prayer - which goes up - a sweet incense in the Holy Place.²

After we don our armor and leave the armory, we find a closet. To open the door is to look upon the skeletons that all closets have. Perhaps we should just pass by and move on to the more beautiful aspects of the castle. But to truly understand the castle - surely every door must be opened. As the knob is turned - horrifying apprehension of past failures fills us with dread. But then staring inside we see that the closet is EMPTY - you see once you have a relationship with the King there is nothing that can harm you. We can all rejoice that everything is forgiven and forgotten!

There is no better place to rejoice than a banquet hall. Spiritual fruit is served daily in abundance with extra helpings of love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance.³

Following the feast we must freshen up so that we can be presented to the King. Next we find the royal dressing room. We are given garments that speak of our station as a child of the King. Our clothing is strength and honor. Wisdom comes from our mouth. Our tongue is kindness. We look to our household yet never eat of idleness. Our families call us blessed. Children of the King excel far above all others.⁴

Finally, we are ready! We see the center of the castle is the throne room - the Presence of the King!

The castle contains many wonderful and fearful things. But the presence of the King is the grandest of all - the throne room is spectacular! The King supplies all the needs of everyone in the castle. No one is ever thirsty or hungry - no one ever even sheds a tear. Everyone loves to serve and worship the King.⁵

The castle indeed is very special! If you do not have a relationship with Jesus Christ - you cannot gain entrance into this castle. First you must recognize that you need a Savior - you are lost and dying because of sin. Next, pray and ask

² Ephesians 6:11-18 and Revelation 8:3-4

³ Galatians 5:22-23

⁴ Proverbs 31:25-31

⁵ Revelation 7:15-17

believing that Jesus will cleanse your sin and make you whole giving you the garments of righteousness and salvation and cleaning up the secret places of your life. You must also remember that as you serve the King of Kings – everyone fails. We must utilize the sacred armor to aid us against the advances of evil forces. But we must remain gentle, kind, and longsuffering of others.

Perhaps we can consider the castle as we grow in being children of the King!

The end.