

## #27 THE DREAM.....

The following dream came several years after the previous one but deals somewhat with the same subject so will be placed here.

*I am lying on my chest on a wooden bridge which crosses a stream. As I look down into the waters, two keys fall out of my front shirt pocket and drop below into the creek. One key is gold and the other is silver. I begin to think to myself that I must retrieve these keys before the muddy sediment covers them. The water is very calm at present but I know it will soon be stirred up so I must act quickly.*

I perceive immediately that the two keys symbolize to me the keys of trust and self-denial. They appear gold and silver to remind me that these qualities are to be valued as precious and priceless to our spiritual walk. My lying down on the bridge reveals my spiritual state of laziness. In this state we are apt to allow our spiritual growth and advancement to be hindered. The enemy of our souls will take advantage of this to rob us and cause further defeat. We must learn to quickly regain lost ground and thus not allow ourselves to drift downwards.

Those keys are easier to retrieve lying on the surface of the mud just under the water. Later, as the mud covers them they will be more difficult to find. So it is in spiritual matters. If sin is confessed and repented quickly we will not lose much ground. If not, however, we will regress spiritually and may also have to be dealt with by our Lord in a grievous manner. This action on His part will not be pleasant and could have been avoided if we had judged ourselves promptly.

Let us look at the prophet Jonah--we all know the story of this disobedient prophet. It made no difference to the Lord that Jonah did not want to preach and prophesy to Nineveh (for whatever personal reasons). We must learn the same as we mature in spiritual duties. The Lord is the Boss and we are to obey. Now Jonah decided to run away from his mission and refused to obey his Master. The prophet's sins were rebellion, complaining, stubbornness and an unloving attitude. My friends, God does not run a democracy! We do not find his will for us and then vote on whether to obey it. This is the reason many Christians can not discover God's will for their lives at a given time.

Let me say here, we may fall short and not succeed in some works the Lord gives us. Then He will either let us miss His best and give us something lesser to do, or He will require that thing to be done at all costs. The option is His, not ours as to what choice He makes in the matter. In Jonah's case the Lord would not take "no" for an answer. He could have called another prophet to do the job but Jonah needed to learn obedience. Thus Jonah goes to "hell and back" in the belly of a fish at the bottom of the sea. He repented and confessed his sins, and cried out for God's mercy and received it.

God is mainly concerned with Jonah's sin of rebellion. After being vomited up on the coast Jonah did proceed to carry out his mission, yet his unloving attitude had changed very little. We are left with Jonah pouting under a tree wishing he were dead. Nevertheless, he was obedient--we hope that sometime in the future he became right in his attitude with the Lord, but we are not informed of this.

Look at what God said to Jonah after he came out of the fish's belly, "Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time" (Jonah 3:1). Poor Jonah, he hears the same word again and, though still not liking the mission, is determined to obey this time. Hard lessons of reproof and discipline should not have to be repeated--they should be remembered well. I was then reminded to take up again the keys of trust and self-denial and to move on with the Lord--not delaying His purposes or plans for me.