Lifting Up Others Higher Than Yourself

I want to share a story with you that gives hope. Around 1978 when we lived in Austin, Texas, I walked over to a window in the living room of our home and simply stared out of it. That was undoubtedly the only time I ever did so at that window, because the neighbor’s house was a mere imposing ten feet or so away from us, and there was absolutely nothing to see—other than the blank exterior of a house. But as I stood there, staring at it, the Father clearly spoke to me. He said: “When you seek to lift up others higher than yourself, then I will lift you up.” And it was during that time that I was sovereignly called into the ministry, and we moved to Dallas as clearly instructed by Yahweh. And eventually, that call resulted in the building of a six thousand square foot home for women and children.

But I never forgot that moment and what He said to me at that window, and was clearly imbedded in my mind and in my heart. And today with the Africa work, I see its clear application all the more. I seek to lift them up while I am not even there. I support them, encourage them, and by Yahweh’s grace and the provision from others, financially provide for them so that they can do their work. I am conscious that I am indeed seeking to lift them up higher than myself. The Bride grows in Africa, while I remain in my home in America. And it is with this attitude, accompanied with action, that we receive the favor of Yahweh God. I am not there in Africa, but by His grace they are doing the work and making great progress, despite the great challenges and sometime severe difficulties there.
Having said all of this, let me now share with you something related to it that just happened. In the early morning, I walked into my bedroom and over to the window that faces east. It is a beautiful view, as you can see in this photo. In fact, the photo doesn’t even do it justice.

You can see my immediate yard, and then a beautiful area with massive oak trees and mowed grass that forms a lush carpet of green. Following that is my pasture, and beyond that is a beautiful valley below, framed in more lush green trees, and from all of it rises the sun—which you can see in this photo. The view is a most pleasant site to take in, especially in the morning. So there I stood, taking in this tranquil and beautiful sight. And at that moment, in an instant, Yahweh showed me something—something I was not even thinking about. Let me put it into words.

First, when I looked out the window of our home in Austin where all I could see was a close-up of the exterior of my neighbor’s house, it was in fact a first-bird promise with a clear message: “When you seek to lift up others higher than yourself, then I will lift you up.” Shortly after that we left that house and moved to Dallas where I eventually built a home for women and children! But that beautiful home had to die! It was all a first-bird promise that would be fulfilled years later. How much later? All the way to the Africa work, and beyond. Many times, especially of late, I have taken refuge in that message Yahweh spoke to me, and have served the brothers in Africa, lifting them up with the God-given finances and support and encouragement. And frankly, with this message from looking out of these two windows, the first in Austin and the second just now in a home I did indeed build/completely restored, I do hope and believe that that promise is soon to be fulfilled. “When you seek to lift up others higher than yourself, then I will lift you up.”

I pray that Yahweh might use a man to His glory and for the wellbeing or all men, and towards the deliverance of the black man of Africa—a sad and often tragic type of the church and cursed man. May Yahweh have mercy on man and bind Satan and cast him into the abyss. And may He call out a bride and raise her up into heaven and transform her into His Son’s likeness so that we may be with Him forever, serving all mankind to His glory. Amen!

Thus, once again, now through these two views out of two completely different settings, we see the way of Yahweh: the two birds of Leviticus 14, the first dying and the second ascending alive. In truth, the first secures the promise, and the second fulfills it. The first was to lift up others higher than myself, and the second is to be lifted up. The latter we leave in the hands of the Father with hope. I pray that this will soon be fulfilled for the sake of all mankind to the glory of Yahweh God. Amen. It is in His hands.

Now, allow me to tell you yet another story. Saturday, I was servicing my riding lawn mower and a most unusual thing happened. The mower that I have is an older Walker mower, Model B with a side discharge. This is actually a commercial mower, which is nice to have since I have almost two acres that have to be mowed. What is unique about this mower is that the cutting deck is located out front, and your feet are actually resting on the deck. And before I mowed, I needed to perform some maintenance and add grease in the grease zerks. So I parked the mower on the grass and proceeded to first grease the deck. But, I knew there was another zerk underneath the mower body, and the only way to get to it was at the rear of the mower and lie down on the grass to
access it. But when I got to the back of the mower, something else was occupying that space—a Missouri black snake, as seen here.

They are not poisonous, so I wasn’t worried about it; but what was unique and even strange was that it was actually crawling into the rear cavity of the mower. I could not see its head, and the rest of its four-foot body was slinked out on the ground in a circuitous pattern. I had a rag in my right hand so I reached down with my left hand and grabbed the snake by the end of its tail and started trying to pull it out. Finally, I dislodged it and reached down with the rag in my right hand to secure its head. But the varmint saw my hand and quickly recoiled and struck my right hand, instantly bringing out blood. Even so, with my second effort with the rag I was successful and proceeded to take the snake to my pasture and tossed it out in the tall grass. Walking back to the mower I used the rag to try to stop the bleeding, finished servicing the mower, and mowed my lawn. But it was a most strange thing that that snake had suddenly appeared in my work area.

I did not think anything else about this until around noon the next day, when suddenly, out of the blue, I realized that I had picked up the serpent by the tail, by the end, just as did Moses. Of course, literally, that snake could not turn into a staff. But was Yahweh using that most unique experience to evidence that what happened to Moses was indeed going to be fulfilled—that the office of the Elijah that went from first-Remnant Judas; to the serpent, Satan; was now returning back to a man—the fulfilling Elijah? I sincerely hope so, and this was indeed a most unusual and remarkably relevant evidence of this. Yahshua said Himself, “Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven” (Mathew 18:18). So was this earthly experience, which I had no control over, a testimony of that which occurred in the heavenly? I indeed hope so.

And I hope that when I return to Africa, the land of the black man, and even by its very name is the “snake kingdom,” that though Satan may strike me on the right hand, by the grace of God I will take that serpent and cast him away and he lose his office and it
return to a man. I displaced the serpent from its place of refuge, from something that belonged to me, having paid the full price for it, and Yahweh will do the same with Satan today—not by my might, but according to the will and work of Yahweh. Amen!

Gary