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24-05-30-

A Visit With Father Cedric

Groggily awake Sunday morning May 26th 2024, my ceiling clock told me it was 6:AM but my spirit told me Father Cedric was on, so I dragged myself out of bed and tuned in TBN. Sure enough there was father Cedric, teaching about his personal relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

The main point he was making was that he'd discovered a closer intimacy with Jesus by understanding that the Aramaic word Jesus uses in the "Our Father" prayer is not the highly formal name for God, *Adonai*, but the term of endearment little children use addressing their fathers, *Abba*, which means *Papa* or *Daddy*.

Abba implies a far more intimate father-child relationship than the one apparent when we see Catholics, bowing their way up to the altar, or some charismatics crawling up to the altar like a naughty children fearful of getting a whipping. Have they considered the scripture that reads, "Come boldly to the throne of grace?"(Heb. 10:7)

As usual, Fr. Cedric's message was full of scriptures and the personal accounts that make his teaching so valuable. His speaking style combines meekness, sincerity, and passion, which truly draw in the listener.

He also spoke at length about the rewards awaiting those who set aside time every day in a place set apart, just to dwell in the presence of the Holy Spirit and share your cares with Him. I'm fairly sure Cedric's web site caches his teachings, although I'm not online. Google up Father Cedric. Com.

But there is more to this story than just my gaining more respect for Fr. Cedric. I looked down at my bare thigh, (I was in my shorts), and there was a little round black spot. At first I thought, "Oh no, melanoma?" But a closer look revealed a tiny tick, just prepping me to give blood.

I put the thing in a plastic bag to have it analyzed and bathed the micro wound with Iodine, antibiotic salve, and an even stronger anesthetic, I pleaded the blood of Jesus, over it. The Bible says "The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin." (1 Jn 1:7)

The bite left a red infected area about as big as the top of a pencil eraser, but by the next morning, it had almost completely vanished. Then I

asked the Holy Spirit in my mind, “Did we get it all?” He answered, “Yes, we got it; thanks for remembering Proverbs 3:6 and acknowledging me.”

All this showed me how much my Abba loves me; He woke me up for two things: first to enjoy Fr. Cedric’s message, and secondly, to save me from a possible Lyme disease infection.

After Fr. Cedric’s sermon they ran testimonies from viewers. One said hearing Cedric prompted him to join the Catholic church, which he had previously found too ritualistic and formal. I realized that if I had heard Fr. Cedric back when I was courting my first sweetheart, Mary, I might have changed my mind about Catholicism too.

But I sense that God is pouring out His Spirit today with renewed intensity. The world seems fraught with evil. “But where sin abounds, Grace does much more abound.”(See Romans ch 5).That makes it all the more important to trust in the Lord’s ambassador, the Holy Spirit. Learning to hear His “still small voice” can deliver you from a world of hurt.

Gene Pinkney 24-05-30- for the Daily News