

05/18/26

“Plainly”. Seldom have I been affected as quickly and as deeply by a single word in a single verse, and it went on for days. And I had the privilege to talk to folks about what I’d seen and heard yesterday morning. That verse is Jn 16:25. I’ve known it for a long time, and I’m confident that most of you could quote it too, but I never cease to be amazed at what the Spirit of God can do.

**“I have told you these things in proverbs, but the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in proverbs, for I will speak to you plainly about the Father.”** (MEV) Even being extremely familiar with the passage of scripture, the word “plainly” just lit up! Jesus, the Son of God, the only One actually born out from a union between God Himself and a woman, The Word from the beginning, said that He would speak “plainly”, openly declaring Truth about The Father!

The word translated “plainly” is *parresia*. It is a combination of *pas*, all, and *rheo*, a statement quoted with resolve. It is to speak openly, frankly, not holding back, with boldness. In a word, “literally”. Hold that thought...

Now the word translated “proverbs” is *paroimia*, which means “a figure of speech.” That is “to use language in a non-literal way to create effect”. That can be a metaphor or allegory like a parable or a proverb. So...

Jesus said up to that point He had spoken to them of The Kingdom of Heaven and The Father in figurative fashion. In other words, not literally. But moving forward that would change. His words concerning The Father should now be taken literally. Right?

Later that evening, in speaking to The Father, He said that He was not praying for just those in the room, but for **“those believing into Me through their word.”** (Jn 17:20) That would then include you and me! So we should expect that He will be, and is, talking to us straight up about The Father. And again, who knows The Father better than the Son, right?

Over the course of a few days, as I was pondering all of this, something began to emerge in my mind that even as I tried it was difficult to describe. What I was seeing was a vast expanse of “nothing”. But even as I was looking at “nothing” I was somehow aware that it contained everything in the cosmos! See what I mean? Now, get ready for this...

Simply put, it finally occurred to me that Jesus was doing what He said. He was showing me plainly of the Father, and I could hardly wait to share it because, I believe, it gives us a much clearer picture to look at as we consider our Father, The Creator of all things, The One Who was *before* the beginning. As he told Moses, “*ehyah aser ehayah*”, “I cause what I become”. (Ex 3:14)

We refer to God as “a being”, because that’s just how we know to express it, but He is not actually “a being”, God is “Existence” itself! He is everything before there was anything! Let that sink in for a minute....

Abraham and the early Hebrews knew Him as El Shaddai and El Elyone, The Almighty God, The Most High God. Moses and the Jews came to know Him as YHVH, The One Who Exists. Yet in both cases, He is pictured as *The* God as opposed to *a* god, and even that falls short. He is The Source of all matter. All things have come into being out from Him! So how do you describe that? And what is my point?

He is literally, not figuratively, Existence itself. And Jesus is literally His Son! And I truly believe that reflecting on these things will increase your knowledge of God and better empower you to reflect His dominion with constancy, enthusiasm, and joy! (Col 1:10-11)

Love never fails!

