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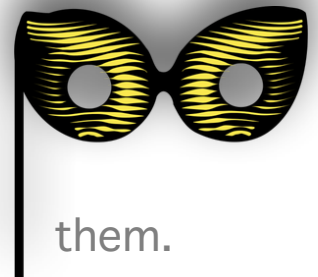


And no creature is hidden from His sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. Hebrews 4:13 (English Standard Version)

Thought for today...

If you had asked me as recent as 2 years ago what I thought the world would look like in the future, my response would not have been that I envisaged people would be required to don a mask in order to interact with each other. On deeper reflection, I consider that many of us have been wearing invisible masks for longer than we care to remember.

In the Bible we read of young men, who choosing to unmask themselves to their jealous siblings and receive an immediate reward of hatred, looked beyond that moment and into the future that God had destined for



them.

In Genesis 37:5-8 (NKJV) we read that Joseph had a dream, which he shared with his brothers: ‘... “Please hear this dream which I have dreamed: There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf.” And his brothers said to him, “Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?” So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.’ The future revealed Joseph’s brothers bowing to him as he had dreamt.

In another account, we read how David unmasked himself to his brothers, King Saul and all others within ear shot, as he pitted himself against the fiercest Philistine warrior, who happened also to be a giant.

David asked, ‘... “What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?”... Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab’s anger was aroused against David... Then David said to Saul, “Let no man’s heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.” 1 Samuel 17:26, 28, 32 (NKJV).

Just as the Lord used Joseph to save the people of Egypt and Canaan throughout a time of famine, and David to deliver the Israelites from the Philistines, we too need to recognise that if we are willing, God is able to use us to accomplish great things. The question is, will we continue to wear a mask that hides the greatness that God has placed within us, for fear of how others will react? King David, much advanced in years since slaying the giant, remains unmasked and boldly declares: **“You shall increase my greatness, and comfort me on every side.”** Psalm 71:21 (New King James Version).

Sadly, there are those around us who would prefer that we remain masked and with our God given identity hidden. Perhaps some of us have chosen not to unmask ourselves because we feel inferior, or don’t yet realise who we are. We can ask the Lord to reveal to us through His Word and other means, just who He has created us to be. Although ridicule, jealousy and hatred may be your immediate reward, will you dare to remove your mask, and by faith, look to the future that God has ordained for you?



The world is waiting for us to remove our masks! I remove mine now, and decide that I will no longer make myself small in order to fit my surroundings.

Like David, I will instead look to the Lord to increase my greatness.