

Hidden Treasures 203

"Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7

JESUS, OUR MASTER

We can find many places in the gospels where people call Jesus "Master": "Master, we have toiled all the night and have taken nothing", they said. Luke 5:5. "Good Master, what good thing shall I do. . .?" Matthew 19:16. "Master, which is the greatest commandment in the law?" Matthew 22:36. He was a master at helping and had heartfelt concern for all their needs.

What He desired most was to teach them and train them in that in which He, Himself, was a master, so that they could become masters, as well. Therefore He said: "Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you." John 13:13-15.

He didn't want to be the only one that was able to live like that, but instead He gave Himself as

an example; we are to imitate Him. He was a master in humility and meekness. He was able to point to that fact from the time his life began with His parents, on up to the end of His life when He stood in front of His judges and murderers. This is how He prayed for them: "Father, forgive them ..." Luke 23:34.

He could say: "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart. . ." Matthew 11:29. And before that He said: "Come unto me". It is an invitation, to come to Him and to begin an apprenticeship, to become a pupil, a disciple of Jesus. We are to learn to speak the truth, to live righteously, to practice loving, to keep God's Word, and to commit no sin. In every area we have in Him, as the Master, an example and a model which is both a valid and binding goal and guideline.

"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously. . ." 1 Peter 2:21-23. That is how the Master was, and that is how His disciples will become! And because He became a Master in every way while He lived here on earth as a human being, therefore, He is able to teach all of this to the people who become His pupils.

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called." Romans 8:29+30. How great it is to sense such a calling within your heart! "I have been predestined, appointed for this long ago."

"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love. . ." Ephesians 1:4. In His love He predestined us for this.

In the future world, Jesus wants to share His glory, His reign, and His throne with us. For such a task, wisdom, understanding, virtues, and discernment are mandatory. Precisely that which He, himself, came to is what we are going to need in order to assist Him in His reign. That is why the words "like Him", or "like me" are used when the topic concerns how we ought to be. "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am sat down with my Father in his throne." Revelation 3:21.

"Beloved, now are we the children of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And everyone that hath this hope in him purifies himself, just as He is pure." 1 John 3:2-3.

"Himself" means the pupil, and "He" means the Master.

"He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also to walk even as He walked." 1 John 2:6.

How expressive is this word "even as". How few of the ones who were with Him at that time had such an attitude of heart - and how few are there even today of those who bear His name. They want to be blessed, but they are unable to bless. They want to receive, but have not learned how to give. They have received patience and goodness from God, but they are not able to act the same way towards other people.

When they come to the end of their lives, such people have almost nothing to point to which is of any value, or of any eternal significance. Just like someone who, during his time of schooling, did not learn his profession very well is nearly useless, so also these people cannot receive their inheritance, because it wasn't possible to make them capable of receiving it.

Paul was a diligent pupil who was rich in the virtues of His Master, and was so much like Him. "But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings, by pureness, by knowledge, by long-suffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned. By the word

of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left. By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report as deceivers and yet true." 2 Corinthians 6:4-8.

He had learned a lot and therefore he was able to do a lot. He writes: "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." Philippians 4:11. What good instruction! What good subject matter - to learn to be content!

If one has not learned it, then one cannot do it - cannot be patient, cannot be friendly, cannot be good, cannot forgive, and cannot be quiet, cannot live a chaste and pure life.

Oh how poor a person actually is, and how difficult life becomes if he cannot be patient with his family and children, cannot be good and loving to his marriage partner, cannot just simply bear evil and unrighteousness, without becoming evil and unrighteous himself. Many people don't even have this desire and even if they desired it, they could not come to such a life because they never learned how to live it. And they are not even now in the process of learning it.

Dear brothers, sisters, and friends, perhaps you cannot even bear one awkward word from the person who is dearest to you. If one can't do the smallest things, how much less the greatest, for example, to bear everything! Love bears all

things. And "all things" means a very great amount.

On the other hand, we hear from Paul: "I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Philippians 4:12+13.

The same Master, the best specialist there is, is available for us, as well. And when He finds the same kind of pupils, then there are the same kind of results - people who can do all things. Amen.

Our tracts and literature can either be downloaded directly from the internet or ordered at the following address:

Mission "*Alte Schule*" e.V.
Stegäcker 1
D - 71522 Backnang
Germany

eMail: mission@alte-schule.de
<http://www.alte-schule.de>

© "Skjulte Skatter", Box 73, N-4098 Tananger, Norway