

THE ACORN AND THE OAK TREE

Mat 5:48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Jesus didn't mess about did He! He just cut straight to the chase; He got straight to the point. Unfortunately, we, hearing with our human ears take his words and hear what we think He said, instead of hearing with our spiritual ear, and hearing what He really said.

Because we are so aligned in our minds to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, we hear a word like 'perfect', and immediately relate it to 'behaviour'. To be good is wonderful, but to be perfect is, well.... Perfect. So we set out to try and be the best we can, to do all the right things, and set the rudder of our ship to steer towards this perfection. Of course there are those wise ones who say, 'nobody's perfect'. It is often said when one makes a mistake of some kind, "well be fair, come on, I'm not perfect, we all make mistakes".

But, supposing the 'perfection' that Jesus speaks of here is not so much a 'behavioural' perfect, but a wholeness perfection. To be whole, to be complete is to be perfectly finished. If I paint a picture on a canvas, when I put the final touches to it, and then start to clean my brushes out, for I have finished the picture I can say, "It is done, it is complete, it is whole, it is just how I wanted to paint it, it is perfect".

So, supposing we put the horse back before the cart again, regarding Mat 5:48, and work backwards. Let's by faith, believe that we are already perfect (complete), as Jesus said, "It is finished". The word 'It' in this instance is 'YOU'. This is why Jesus' words "judge not by appearances", is so very important here, because He knew we would judge by appearances, believe what we see, and thereby operate negative faith, by agreeing with the appearances, by saying something negative about ourselves, thereby bringing out and manifesting the imperfection seen. After all, in the tongue, is the power of life and death.

Let me paint a scene where you are having a conversation with a 600-foot English Oak tree. (Silly I know we don't talk to trees, but please bear with me). I believe they have been recorded as growing over a thousand feet, but we'll settle for our mature 600 foot Oak.



You. “Oak Tree let me ask you something. How do you manage to be such a magnificent tree”?

Tree. Laughs, “Because I AM an Oak tree. What kind of a stupid question is that”?

You. “But how did you manage to grow so tall and so strong”?

Tree. Laughs again, “Because I AM an Oak Tree and this is what I AM”.

Now we change the scene where you are now talking to an Acorn.



You. “Little acorn let me ask you something. Look at that 600 foot oak tree, how on earth are you ever going to be like that”?

Acorn. “Oh thanks a bunch. I was quite happy until you asked me that”

You walk away from the scene and leave the little acorn lying in the grass. The acorn is now forlorn and concerned. The more he looks toward the 600-foot oak tree the more he upsets himself. “I can never be like that”, he mumbles to himself, “look at that huge trunk, and all those sturdy limbs. All those wonderful branches and beautiful leaves” It’s not even worth me trying to aspire to such ‘perfection’, to such ‘wholeness’.

As he lies in the grass mumbling to himself, he hears a soft thud, and another acorn drops down next to him into the grass from the tree. “What’s wrong with you”, asks the other acorn, “what are so upset about”?

“Have you seen that oak tree there”, replies the first acorn. “I am forlorn, for I cannot in my wildest imagination see how I could ever attain to such a stature, for I’m just a mere acorn”.

The second acorn burst out laughing.

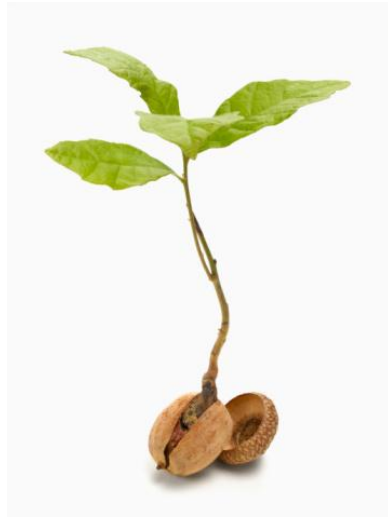
“Don’t laugh”, said the first acorn, “it isn’t funny, this is serious. How can I live with myself, knowing that I could never be like that”.

The second acorn replied, “But you are like that”.

“Don’t be silly”, said the first acorn, “I am nothing like that, I am no more than one inch high, that tree is 600 feet high. I am just a little seed. I have no trunk, limbs or branches and leaves. No, I am nothing like that tree”.

The second acorn then set out to explain. “My dear brother, you are not recognising certain truths here. The first thing is; this tree you admire so, is your Father; you came out of Him. He gave you your life. The second thing is you hold within yourself a 600-foot tree. You may appear to be a tiny acorn, but the truth is you are a 600 foot oak tree. Take your eyes away from seeing your self as a mere acorn, and see yourself as you truly are a

600-foot oak tree, and you will find that as you relate more and more to your 'perfection' and more and more to your completeness, so will you become more and more like your Father, a 600-foot oak tree.



Do you not know little brother, that unless an acorn fall in to the ground and die, it cannot bring forth an oak tree, and you will not really die, you will be changed into the very thing you long to become; the tree. So fear not. All is well with thee.