

## The Muddied Pool

A muddied pool does not become less muddy, by continually putting a stick into the water and stirring it about. No, you would never see it come clear that way. You would have to just leave it alone, and eventually the sediment would drop to the bottom and the water become clear automatically, without any help on your part to clear it.

Sounds obvious doesn't it. yet this is how we go about our lives, and this is how we try to deal with and overcome the problems and the obstacles that seem to so easily beset us. After all, if I do nothing, nothing will happen right? Surely the pool will not clear itself, surely I need to help by dipping the stick into the water to try and 'swirl' away the debris.

What I find interesting in this little picture, is the fact that the clear water does not rise from the bottom to the top, thus becoming clear, no not at all. The clear water was there all the time, it was merely a matter of waiting for the 'dirt' to submerge to the bottom of the pool, so that the clear water that *was* there all the time could be recognised. Also conversely, that the 'dirt' could also be recognised, once the separation occurs. Sin, error, dirt, whatever you wish to call it, is difficult to recognise in our lives, when it is all mixed up together with the clear water, but once the separation has taken place, the sin, error, dirt, can be seen for what it is, and it has sunk to the bottom, to the pit, which is where it belongs.

Let's give ourselves a bit of a break here. After all, we have grown up from childhood believing that I am a self, and therefore as such, it would be obvious that should problems, obstacles and troubles arise, this self must deal with it, for if we don't who else will? It would seem totally irresponsible to just let it ride, and do nothing right? Yet it seems to be this very act of 'dealing' with it that muddies the water. Why do we seem to get over one hurdle, to be confronted by another one, or even more than one? Could it be that we are 'stirring it'. Interfering, trying to help out where help is not required? Trying to put right, what appears to be wrong. After all, the pool is full of clear water, just because it appears muddied, doesn't mean we need to do anything to clear it, for it will, if left alone clear itself.

Be 'still' and know that I AM God.

God's eyes we are told, are too pure to behold evil. He cannot see the mud, he can only see the clear water. He says after completing His creation, "It is good, it is very good". He does not say, "it is good, but it could become muddied". If all was created good, then the seeming problems, obstacles and troubles, can only have come from us, trying to put right that which was and has, eternally been good, even very good. But who will be brave enough to let go, to take the stick out of the water in the hope that it will clear? "Leave all and follow me", is a direct command to do just that. To leave all the concerns, all the appearances, all the 'yea buts and what ifs', to turn away from the appearance, to find it come right, by God's hand, without our help. Let go and let God, is as true today as it ever was. Not that God

has to clear anything, or even do anything, for there is nothing to do, the water was always clear. You are made in His image and likeness, you have always been 'clear', the sin that besets us, is that we have believed we were independent of God, and that we could act without Him, and that if we did nothing, nothing would happen, but at the end of the day, we find God is quite capable of running His creation without our help.

Total reliance on God, is all that is asked of you. Jesus knew how to do that. So much so, that he was able to say, " Oh it's not me. I can do nothing of myself (except muddy the water), no, it's my Father working here. He works and I work, but of course I work, because it is He working, not me of myself. For I and my Father are One Person. One Spirit. One being. One life. One Pool. You call me good teacher, well, as only God is good, if you are seeing me as good, then you must be seeing Him who is the only good".

So you see, you're not really muddy. You never were. Be still, and let The Life live you.

Then, it will all become 'clear'. For He shall lead you beside still, (clear) waters. Waters that are still, are clear, 'tis only troubled waters that are muddied. Be not troubled, for I have overcome the world. There are no muddy waters in the Kingdom of Heaven.

If you are brave enough to do this, do not be put off, if at first the pool seems to grow even muddier. This is a good sign that you are on the right track. Storms may come and muddy the pool further, but this is a wonderful opportunity to stand, and having done all to stand, still stand. Let faith have her perfect way, be patient and call the clear water forth, and watch the storm subside and the debris sink away to the bottom. To be seen no more.

God IS in His Heaven and all IS well. Not will be, one day, but IS - NOW.