

TWO ENDS OF THE TELESCOPE...

Does anyone still remember that wonderful old musical, “Fiddler on the Roof”? In the opening song, the Jewish milkman, Tevye, and his entire village of Jewish neighbors sing about the importance of their traditions. “Without them”, explains Tevye, “our lives would be as shaky as a *Fiddler on the Roof*!”

I grew up in a Jewish home and extended family on the east side of Cleveland. Our traditions of culture, nationality and religion were like a 3-braided cord securing our emotional balance in a shaky world.

I understood the value and comfort of leaning on familiar ways of thinking and acting. But as a young adult, I began to wonder if looking at life through the lens of traditions wasn’t keeping me from seeing something even more beautiful...

Right about this time, someone confronted me with the most shocking challenge to my traditions I had ever encountered...they informed me that my own Jewish Messiah had already come to earth and his name was not Abraham or Tevye but Jesus, the god of the gentiles! I was offended! I was intrigued! *I was determined to find out more!*

I left college on a ten-speed Raleigh bike and pedaled in the direction of dawn, looking for more light. Over the next 18 months, I began to read the bible for the first time.

I compared the ancient Jewish prophecies

(such as Isaiah chap. 53) with the words and deeds of a Jewish carpenter and rabbi named Yeshua (Jesus) who declared himself to be the *Messiah of my people*; even the *Son of God!*

To my utter amazement and consternation, the life, death and resurrection of this person fulfilled every relevant prophecy of the Old Testament scriptures written hundreds of years before his appearance on earth!

Also, my numerous prayers for guidance were answered with *uncanny* signs, all confirming the new understanding I was receiving.

The honest conclusion was inescapable. After 18 months of careful study, prayers and “*divine appointments*”, I committed my life to God through His anointed savior, Yeshua HaMashiach, Jesus Christ!

Although that decision was made in October of 1972, I still remember clearly how it felt. For 21 years I had looked at life through the telescope of tradition, trying constantly to adjust the focus-ring so I might see life more clearly. No matter how I tried, the best things in life remained small and far-away to my view.

After placing my faith in the sacrifice of Yeshua “*the lamb of God*” as the New Testament calls Him, it seemed just as though someone had turned the telescope around the other way. Suddenly, the most beautiful things life

had to offer – love, joy and peace – were so large and clear they filled my eyes!

It was then that I realized that there *is* something even *more* beautiful than tradition - - ***TRUTH!*** In the book of St. John 8:32 Jesus said, “*You will know the truth and the truth will set you free!*” Truth set me free 35 years ago and I am still reaping its rewards to this day!

Dear friends, please let me close by asking you one question, is my story so much different from yours? You, too, have spent years looking at life through the lens of your own culture, custom, and religion, it may be comfortable... but is it ***real*** ?

If you are still looking at life through the telescope of tradition, you can twist the focus ring for years but the love of God and the God of Love will continue to seem distant and blurred.

If you have read this far, then you may be hungry for more light, just as I was. Ask God to turn your telescope around so that you can look through the lens of truth. Ask him to point you in His direction and let you see Jesus clearly as He is. The bible has a fascinating promise about Christ:

“For we know that when we shall see Him, Jesus, we shall become like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”
-1 John 3:2

Once you begin looking through the lens of truth you will be doing more than just seeing Jesus, you will begin to become like him in His peace and joy!

“...those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun!” -2 Corinthians 5:17

I pray that you will drop me a line if you want to ask a question or have me to pray for you. I would be so glad to respond to you with God’s love and not judgment. Thank you for taking time to read my story.

With Jesus’ Joy,

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You can read other personal stories of faith like this one by visiting the web-site of my church, Strongsville Bible Fellowship...

Click on the link labeled “Personal Stories”

www.strongsvillebiblefellowship.org