

LaRue Selman's Funeral Remarks

Bishop Cameron Ford, May 18, 2019

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life”(John 3:16). So said the one that would Himself pay such a terrible price at the end of His mortal life for all the pre-existent sons and daughters of God that would enter mortality and learn what lessons they were willing to learn. How precious each life must be for such an enormous price to have been paid.

Such were the thoughts that filled my mind as our Bishopric visited sister Selman a few days before she passed away. Since that visit and the news of her passing, my mind has dwelled not only on how precious life is, but on how relatively rare a life is like the one lived by sister Selman. This sweet, faithful, gentle sister was truly the salt of the earth. In her life choices, in her words, and in her actions, she demonstrated that she was a disciple of Jesus Christ. In a world that has always been obsessed with itself and its own selfish desires, such individuals are a rare pearl of great price, truly to be celebrated.

In the teachings of the Savior, He spoke about a strait gate and narrow way that leads to a fullness of joy, and about a wide gate and broad way that lead to eventual unhappiness and ultimate dissatisfaction (Matt 7:13-14). The “strait gate” is a life following the example of the Savior and heeding His counsels. The broad gate is everything else. Of such choices, the poet Robert Frost said it a little differently; he wrote:

“Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.”

As we contemplate the life of this sweet sister in the coming weeks, months, and years, I pray that each of us, by our words and actions, will continually choose to join sister Selman on the “road less traveled by”.

I testify that Jesus has made all of this possible: the beautiful life of sister Selman, the life each of *us* live, as well as the life we each will eventually experience when it is our turn to cross the veil. I testify that Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. And I do so in His sacred name, Jesus Christ. Amen.