

Sunday School Opening

April 24, 2022

Painted Pillow Talk

Jon L Hardinger

Songs and Choruses

- #111 “His Love Is The Joy Of My Heart”
- #113 “His Voice, It Thrills My Soul To Hear”
- #240 “Read Your Bible”

Painted Pillow Talk

- We have pillows in our upstairs reading room and I was kneeling by my chair to pray, and one of the pillows leaned up against the wall was right in front as I lifted my eyes: it was of a Japanese print that featured a normal day in a Japanese plot of land, their home. Let me show this to you and explain why I chose it for my Sunday School opening today. But here are some features that come to mind. The person is by themselves but hardly alone, surrounded by shelter, a bridge, a place to catch food, a song bird, and mostly catching my eye a scarlet tree for every pagoda, bending its branches back to the ground.

Bridge

Willow Tree

Man fishing

Pagoda

Brook

Rice Fields

Mountains



Properties of Japanese
Woodblock prints
Abstractions
Representations
Perspective
Depth of field
Solid, Chosen Colors
Black, Scarlet, Tan,
White,
Like a child might draw

Influenced
Impressionist
Movement

So you know where I am going with this.

- What I am talking about today are the spiritual/biblical impression
- The Solitary Bridge in the print being the Way of Christ
- The Scarlet/Red color of the willow tree and branches bending down being the Work of Christ
- The Man by the brook, fishing, seated, in his color by the bridge and his knowing the Person of Christ.
- The Pagoda's are being in community.

The Bridge (I learned in my study that the word bridge is not used in the Bible)

- This meant access to the other side without having to swim, get in boat, walk around to the land bridge far away and cross in safety. (1 Timothy 2:5)
- This morning in my meditations, I was happy to see this picture of access to the other side, I could see the other side, I had been there before and yearned for my daily crossing-over to find, not my Lord physically, but remembrances of His word in the things left by Him for me to listen as a disciple. (Isaiah 50:4)
- There have been times when I was lukewarm, fearful and ashamed to go to the bridge, knowing I was not worthy, and felt like I did not belong there. (Luke 18:33)

Bridge to fellowship with His word

- My natural mind says, never mind this high standard, let it be rationalized, let it be sour grapes, (Ezekiel 18:2) and get to like myself just the way I already am. (1 Corinthians 2:14)
- “This bridge is not for good, but bad, I fearfully say, it will let in things I fear, what ever or who ever is over this bridge will find my faults.”
These doubts and fear bring with them deep sighs and being signs of distress I say, “It is enough!”(2 Corinthians 7:5)
- The testimony of the scriptures say, that my sins, lusts, impurity, selfishness, and falling short of my own standards were tried by many before me and that this broad road led them to destruction.
(Matthew 7:13)

Actually crossing that bridge with a Capital B.

- But, enter the light of God's word, and it calls me to see the long term of being myself without His guidance and help and the effect of that purposed ignorance on myself and others really is a dark path to walk in. I call it a sophisticated dark. But, God's word is pure, holy, impartial, loving without strings, revealing the other side as better than myself. And can it be? Should I do it? Should I seek it? Yes it is for me to not just an idea that I should do, and hope, try, and seek to do, but actually crossing that capital B bridge. Was I willing just to know about this, no I was all-in and accepted my own sins and believed God's revealed, paid-for remedy. (Ephesians 1:13)

The Scarlet Tree

- Romans 3:25 “in His blood through faith”
- Romans 5:9 “having now been justified by His blood”
- 1 Corinthians 11:25 “This cup is the New covenant in My blood”
- Ephesians 1:7 “Redemption through His blood”
- Ephesians 2:13 “Brought near by the blood of Christ”
- Colossians 1:20 “made peace through the blood of His cross”

The hanging branches

- “With a mighty arm and outstretched hand”
- From mighty roots this tree reaches out.
- “humbled Himself”
- This tree reaches (hangs) down
- The red jacket of the fisherman has taken covering in the same colors of the tree.
- The red building structure has is taken it support in colors from the tree.

Invite you to your own pillow talk

- Be careful with your soul. (Luke 12:19-20)
- Confess your sins. (Matthew 3:6)
- Store up treasure in heaven. (Luke 12:33)
- Build on the rock not the sand. (Matthew 7:24)
- Delight in the surrounding settings. (Song of Solomon 2:3)
- Occupy, till the land, fish the streams, build your gardens. (Ezekiel 36:20)
- Remember the covenant in His blood. (1 Corinthians 11)

Pagodas

- Abstractions, and imperfections are not an eyesore.
- Notice each pagoda has a willow, rice field, brook, and marked by the colors.
- Romans 16, Paul calls out to individuals of faith that he knows.

Pillow talk summary

- The abstractions represent a picture of a solitary man, overcoming the fears, obstacles, and satisfied in himself, is now complete with access to his domain including his place with God, knowing fellowship with God's word and having crossed over, sat with his fishing pole expecting good things to happen to him. Lastly, there is community, being a member of the church.

