

CYBER COLUMN by Jinny Henson: Wielding power like God

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By Jinny Henson

“Jesus knew that God had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with a towel that was wrapped around him” (John 12:3-5).

Absolute power. Absolutely uncorrupted. Here stands Jesus in the verge his own sacrificial death, having everything under his power. He could have opted out. He could have been an earthly king theoretically; he could have painted the sky chartreuse and flooded the world with boysenberry yogurt.

Jinny Henson

It was all under Jesus’ power. Do we really get that he could have turned the wheels of history in an opposite direction? Refused to follow through

and fulfill his destiny? Dodge the utter humiliation, pain and rejection waiting for him in a few, small hours.

We see, later in the garden, Jesus wrestling with these very questions. Jesus prays for the cup of death and sacrifice to pass when squarely he could have engineered it to pass or called angels to rescue him. Jesus resigned his all-powerful self to God's will in beautiful restraint.

How would you utilize such power? Would you spend to the last cent for your own fulfillment and manipulate each flake of power for your entertainment? I fear, like Bruce Almighty, that I would be totally enamored with such power to make my world the way I would like for it to be. There are many circumstances I would engineer, but mopping men's feet would not be one of them. Aware of all of the outs and options, the earthly exaltations and adoration, he instead chooses to humbly serve.

Let the powerless serve, isn't that the American way? Let the optionless be beholden and exploited by us. They've got no power; what is their reprise? We all understand how the upper hand works; the one with it can manipulate, the one without it has no recourse. Let the voiceless settle for their rightful place as we, through absolutely no merit of our own, enjoy our power. Who needs to pray when we can fix things ourselves? Well, the Son of God, for one.

It is clear from this passage that Christ was intentional with his power. I wish he wouldn't have been. It would give me an easy out toward hedonism. He revealed the father's completely inverted economy and instructed his followers to do the same. To use power for others, to refrain from the easy road when they could take it and to give the outcome of our lives to God when we have a life we could save and live for ourselves.

The religious leaders hated him, the common man sought vindication and validation by his earthly kingdom, which Christ vehemently turned down.

Then, after a meal, having all power, he funnels all of his options into a simple basin of water and does what only God would do.

He serves.

Jinny Henson travels the country as a Christian comedienne. John, Maggie Lee and Jack are an endless source of material for her. You can find out more about her at www.jinnyhenson.com

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