

CONNECTING THE DOTS

LESSON #1: THE AMAZING BRIDE PRIZE

In the rich, yet almost neglected, historical soil of the nation of Zambia is buried much treasure worth an incalculable price. Soils saturated with much historical facts having practical application in our days and of a direct bearing on each soul's salvation need not be abandoned. If it happens that we choose to forget our past we risk losing not only our cultural heritage but our perception of the present and coming future concerning present day society too. Thus these soils must be mined!

Among the many treasures hid beneath the historical soils of present day Zambia, formerly called Northern Rhodesia, is a story of an amazing practice performed by one of the Northern Tribes. It is a story narrated by an old man who lived in the days past. It is about the "Axe", that common work tool, and how precious it was in those days.

The Northern Tribes seemingly regarded various gifts as bride prizes but more precious was the "AXE". A Bemba family regarded the axe a treasure and the man that presented it for a bride prize as a "real man", a man worth taking their daughter for a wife because of an "axe".

Why was it so? You may ask. The reason specifically centered on the function of the axe but more also because it was a rare tool. The Axe was used to make shelter both for the family and animals. The axe was used for fire wood which in turn had various uses such as cooking and lighting. For this reason the axe was very precious and a man that presented this for a bride prize found no difficulties in winning a wife. The family of the woman was willing to give out their daughter wholly without any opposition to the man because of the value of an axe. The results brought about by the axe as a working tool were what mattered most.

Now to connect the dots, we discover in a similar manner God gave us an axe too. The death of His only beloved son on mount Calvary is a gift so precious to compel every one of us to give Him not just our "all" but our "best" without any delay or opposition. But often times when God reminds us of how much He paid for our salvation we treat Him with a cold shoulder. The salvation of every being begins with recognizing one's nothingness and secondly, God's ability to supply all the desires of the soul. The results brought about by God's "AXE", that rare axe, are immeasurable. *"And this is the promise that He has promised us - eternal life." - 1 John 2:25*

We will appreciate the Gift of God's Salvation when we will have well calculated the value of God's Axe paid as a Bride Prize to win our hand in Marriage to Christ Jesus His only dear Son.

THE B.E.R.E.A.N.S