

Hebrews 5.12

Needing Milk...

When the writer states "you have come to need milk", we are seeing his conclusion. He is referencing a change in how he perceives the church in Jerusalem. That change is either only in his perception or it is in fact a transformation in them...

EITHER -

I thought you were one thing but upon closer examination, you are really something else altogether -
OR

You are not what you used to be, but have become something different,

AND

in either case that thing is not good...

I. CLEARER UNDERSTANDING

a. I thought you would be more than you are since you have had all of the teaching of the apostles and are the cradle of the faith...

- b. But when I examine the stuff of your life, you have not really improved upon the blessings you were given.
 - i. Have not understood more truth
 - ii. Have not been faithful to that which you DID understand
 - iii. Have not been faithful to what has been entrusted to you
- c. Your pretense did not hold up under scrutiny
- d. Your hypocrisy is known to all
- e. You need to be brought again to the first things of the faith so that you might repent

II. ACTUAL CHANGE

- a. They have, through negligence of the spiritual gifts they have received, actually regressed in maturity, power and beauty.

- b. They have decayed from something beautiful into something hideous... outwardly grown people who are actually only babes who need to be cared for in the most basic manner.
- c. They have been willing participants in this travesty
 - i. Inattentiveness
 - ii. Forgetfulness
 - iii. Carelessness
 - iv. Laziness
 - v. Worldly-minded
- d. They have lost what knowledge and understanding that they once possessed. This is the judgment of God and the natural outcome of their own bent for evil.

III. WE ALL NEED MILK

- a. Not all is negative in this. The whole word of God is compared in some places to milk for it is pure

and complete providing all that we need for growth. It is to be our one desired nutrition –

1 Peter 2.1-2

James 1.21

- b. There are some parts of the need that are common to us all. And we should always seek for nourishment that is appropriate to our need.
 - i. Nourishing our souls
 - ii. Strengthening ourselves in faith, love and obedience
 - iii. Delight in that which is on the shelf you can reach. It will sustain you and cause you to grow so that you might reach other shelves.
 - iv. It is easy to take, easy to apply, easy to convert into strength available for all who will simply open wide their mouths...

Psalm 81.10-16

- c. This is why babies feed only on milk for the first months of life. They need something which weak

and undeveloped systems can readily take in and which will provide fast, reliable growth. But milk alone will not sustain for long...

- d. Clearly, contextually this is what the writer is stating. This need for milk is not a natural, expected thing. It is something out of the ordinary, surprising and disturbing; those who he expected to find as strong men in their prime and with their full strength, were instead, babies in need of diapering and burping, and who need, can only take in, Milk.

Cf: 1 Corinthians 3.1-2

- e. This is NOT what Jesus was talking about when we said that we must be like little children to enter the kingdom.

Luke 18.15-17

- f. This is a grief and a burden to him. For he has a desire, as do all who teach from scripture honestly, to see those under his care to thrive.

Ephesians 4.12-13

- i. When we fail at this by our own negligence to fulfill our calling, it is a terrible condemnation...

Ezekiel 34.1-10

- ii. When we have been faithful and the expected harvest does not come it is harder yet; for while we have labored in truth and done our best, we have not seen our loved ones prosper in the word.

IV. NOTHING STRONGER

- a. The need of their souls was not for the deeper things, the stronger meat. In fact, to place it before them would be detrimental to them. They would have to be re-grown out of their stupid and stubborn ignorance.
- b. They could not digest these deeper things, these meatier truths of God...

- i. The sacrifice and priesthood of Jesus
 - ii. The eternal nature of that office and its offering
 - iii. The connection between Christ and Melchizedek
 - iv. The consequence of His atonement in regards to the law...
- c. The tragic reality of this fact is that these things which he wanted to share with them were such as they SHOULD have already be familiar and conversant with.
- i. They should have been able to engage with one another for mutual edification and comfort
 - ii. They should have been able to draw near to Christ in worship for these things
 - iii. They should have had their love for Him increased and made abundantly evident to all
 - iv. This love should be making much of Christ so that all who encounter these Christians are drawn to Jesus

John 12.30-32

- d. When you find yourself in this situation be careful to take in the Word of God in such a manner as to feed yourself what you actually need. Instead of seeking to understand the mysteries that are difficult, focus your attention on that which is appropriate to your need and trust God to both make it beneficial, AND to restore what the locusts have eaten...

Joel 2.21-27