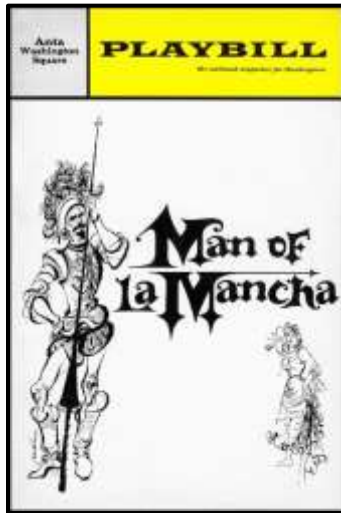


GOD WANTS TO MAKE YOU NEW

A very popular Broadway show in the 1960s was *The Man of La Mancha*. The main character is an idealist whose name is Don Quixote.



Don Quixote meets a woman with low morals and a lower self-image named Aldonza. He tells her, “You will be my lady,” and then gives her a new name, Dulcinea. She laughs scornfully at Don Quixote, but he keeps affirming her and declaring her to be what he wants her to be. When she appears on stage later, hysterical and disheveled after having been raped, she again hears the voice of Quixote saying, “My Lady.”

“Don’t call me your lady,” she says. “I was born in a ditch by a mother who left me there naked and cold and too hungry to cry. I never blamed her. I’m sure she left hoping I’d have the good sense to die. Oh, don’t call me a lady,” she screams. “I’m only a strumpet men use and forget. Don’t call me a lady; I’m only Aldonza. I am nothing at all.”

As she runs off into the night, Don Quixote calls after her, “But you are my Lady Dulcinea!”

At the end of the play, a much older Don Quixote is dying, scorned, laughed at, rejected. Suddenly, to his side comes what appears to be a Spanish queen. She is beautiful and proud.

When the old man asks, “Who are you?” she responds, “Don’t you remember? You called me your lady. You gave me a new name. My name is Dulcinea.”

On Broadway, Don Quixote’s life is summed up in the wonderful song *To Dream the Impossible Dream*. We sometimes forget that the first impossible dreamer was God when He created humanity. God does dare to dream the impossible dream – for us!

The affirmation Don Quixote gave to Dulcinea is the affirmation God gives to us. We are that important to him. As someone once put it, “If you and I were the only persons in this world, Christ would still have given His life on our behalf.”

One of the greatest gifts we can receive is the ability to step back and look at our lives realistically. It is so tempting to be defeated by those inner voices telling us what we can’t do. It is so common to exaggerate the difficulties that confront us. How often we say or feel, “This is the worst thing that has ever happened to me,” when an objective view of the matter will reveal it to be only a minor and temporary setback.

(more)

This is one of the most blessed benefits of prayer. Spending time alone with God helps us to develop a new perspective – a perspective that allows us to reflect rather than simply react.

R.L. Middleton, in his book *My Cup Runneth Over*, told about an Englishman who had a beautiful estate on the Yorkshire coast from which one could see a great distance in every direction. One day, the man and his daughter climbed to a summit on the estate, and the man said, intending to teach his little daughter a lesson: “Look up.” Then he said, “Look down.” And then, “Look out. Now turn and look behind you.”

After that, he added, “Dorothy, just so high, so deep, so wide, and so broad is the love of God for you.”

The daughter learned a lesson she would never forget, but she also taught her father one he never forgot. “Daddy,” she said, “If God’s love is so high, so wide, so deep, and so broad, then we are living in the middle of it!”

What difference would it make in your life if you really believed that you are living in the middle of God’s love? God loves you and wants to do a new thing in your life. How does God make all things new? He does it by giving us three things – a new confidence, a new perspective and a new dream.

God told the Apostle John:

Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful” (Revelation 21:5 NKJV).

As you turn the page on the calendar from 2020 to 2021, resolve to allow God to do a new thing in you. That’s His desire. Make it yours.

– Beecher Hunter