

Into the Wilderness - Unwanted Attention

Jaysee remembered that everywhere Lucky went he stirred up trouble, usually in an attempt to call attention to himself by as many innocent bystanders as possible. It was his nature to have people notice, and even admire, him to the exclusion of everything else. Jaysee's nature ran in the opposite direction, to stay in the background and let others have the limelight. He instinctively knew that Lucky's solitary appearance out here in the middle of nowhere would soon become a self-serving circus, but he wasn't quite sure what to expect. Obviously, the unexpected. Lucky seemed to have a knack for guessing what was on a person's mind, almost as if he were clairvoyant, or more likely, had planted those very ideas himself. He was a student of human nature, and had become adept at subtle influence, blatant manipulation, and bald-faced deception. This Jaysee knew, and he also knew that his own inner make-up and total reliance upon God was a complete mystery to Lucky; something he could not understand or relate to at all. To understate the case, it would be a very interesting day or two out on the backside of the desert.

At Lucky's invitation, Jaysee kicked his Knucklehead to life and followed the black rider down the dirt trail toward the distant mountains. The sun was beginning to bake the ground, causing the heat waves to distort the horizon, playing optical tricks on the human brain. As they approached the nearest foothills, Jaysee noticed that the mirage was not retreating into the distance with their advance, but was looming larger as they approached - an open portal yawning before them. Jaysee was convinced that this was a doorway into another world - a spiritual dimension which he knew existed beyond that which humans could normally see or experience. They passed through the shimmering waves and emerged in the same world, but in a place not subject to time and space. In fact, they had moved some hundred miles to the north, and were approaching Las Vegas, Nevada, at the northern border of the Mojave desert. What was it that Lucky had up his sleeve?

To ride up South Las Vegas Boulevard - the "Strip" - was quite a sight at anytime, but it was especially busy on this day. Jaysee realized that it was no longer 2008, but was about 40 years earlier. There was a massive crowd gathered at one of the casinos that lined the "Strip," obviously waiting for some big event to take place. As Lucky led the way, the two riders melted into the crowd and miraculously joined a third rider atop a ramp overlooking the fountains at Caesar's Palace.

As time stood still, Jaysee heard Lucky's challenge, "If you



really want to be somebody in the "biker world", you take this jump instead of him. Everyone will see this fantastic feat and you will be famous. Your God will not let you fail and will provide angels to protect you from harm. If you don't take his place, this guy is going to become more famous than you'll ever be, even though he will come close to killing himself."

Jaysee realized that this was one way he could accomplish his goals in short order. By completing this jump he could command the attention of the world. He would be famous, and unique among bikers the world over. He also knew that this was not the way God intended to do things. In fact, he had an idea that Lucky had already figured out how to sabotage the attempt, or take credit for a successful jump. He replied, "I won't put God's protection to the test, nor will I try to accomplish God's will by following your suggestions. You can't take shortcuts with God's plans."

God is not impressed by our shortcuts, but by our adherence to His Word. "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. (1 Samuel 15:22) Sometimes we think that calling attention to ourselves, or making some great show of our bravery, or commitment, or . . . something, will accomplish what we need in 20life. Actually, God is interested in whether or not we will follow Him completely, rather than the words we say to impress, or a show we put on for others. God knows what's in your heart. Are you ready to stand before Him without hypocrisy? How about that commitment to do God's will . . . God's way?!"

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