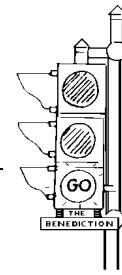


The Benediction

April 29, 2005



THORNS (Mark: 4:19)

it was so clear
and i meant to do it
but there were so many things on
my mind
pulling at me
vying for precious time and
attention

oh
if i could have just set aside the cares and
followed through on what
i knew, and i knew
but before i could act
it was choked out

Washed (Revelation 12:10)

As he sits surrounded by friends
and family Nick saddles up beside him and
points--another positive
ID. Once more a pleasant day interrupted by
a charge that could not stick. Of course he'd
done
it. That was not the point. Time after time
he'd been accused and Nick's minions had
swarmed around for the kill. And time after
time held plead the blood and been set free.

Wisdom (James 1)

When should I give? on what issues? at
what point do I
concede that I have not heard you correctly?
Is this Your plan? or mine? could it be
ours?
Having done all to stand, do I
stand in err?
At what point is
wavering?

SECURED

(John 11:44)
Loosed from sin and
free for the Master's rule,
for He would not handle another's property.

ROSE

My Rose is thorny
She pricks and bloodies my hands
As I hold her
With her turning, shifting,
pulsing to be free
Her labor to attain that which
is hers only to receive
Yet I hold her
And I hold her loosely
For she is free

BLOOMING Rose

She was once a beauty. But she is in need
of care.
Pruning has been delayed, the soil has not
been turned.
She no longer flowers.
I will prune, trim, till.
I will return her bloom.

James 5:7 ... Behold, the husbandman
waiteth for the
precious fruit of the earth, and hath long
patience for it, until
he receive the early and latter rain.

Satan Speaks

(Luke 22:31)
All this knowledge and no body with
which to use it. I shall invade an unguarded
body, willing
to give me rule.
And I will have dominion once again.

Meantime Decoy 3

(Luke 14: 16-24)
It is indeed a worthy calling.
And one day when I have time, when
I can put all these cares aside, I will.

Silent (Matthew 5:13)

The culprit was bagged and
thrown on the highway to keep cars from
skidding.

The Treadmill (1 Timothy 4.8)

Dressed for sport, running hard, going nowhere--and for goodness sakes, don't not miss a step.

prophecy

they say it is inevitable. they say everyone does it. they have said for so long that they have called what they say to be.

Contents of this issue were previously published November 8, 1993 as Issue 7 of *The Benediction*, a free quarterly poetry letter of the National Heritage Foundation, written from a Christian world view--it won't save you, but it will allow self-location so that a rescue party can be flagged down.

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