

JOSHUA'S NEW TURBAN



Joshua's Turban Lynn Samis

The world was in turmoil.

Things were shaky in Jerusalem.

The people were looking to Joshua, the High Priest to lead them through the bad times into something better.

But Joshua was too confused to lead the way.

One night, Zechariah, the prophet, had a vision:

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, O Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?" Now Joshua was standing before the angel, clothed with filthy garments. And the angel said to those who were standing before him, "Remove the filthy garments from him." And to him he said, "Behold, I have taken your iniquity away from you, and I will clothe you with rich apparel. "And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him with garments; and the angel of the LORD was standing by.



Zechariah 3:1-5

If Joshua is to lead the people forward, he himself needs to be cleaned up. Satan the Accuser is standing by, reminding the angels of Joshua's weakness and his many sins.

So the Angel of God rebukes Satan and orders Joshua to be clothed in clean garments---
the sign of a new nature, a new start.

But Zechariah the prophet points out that Joshua is still wearing a filthy turban.

Joshua needs a head fix---a new mind!

Only when Joshua has a new turban is he ready to lead Jerusalem out of his misery into the ways of God.

Many of us who claim to be followers of Jesus are walking around in new robes,
but we're still wearing that filthy old turban!

We aren't thinking straight.

We are allowing others to do our thinking for us.
And their turbans are as dirty as ours!

We need a head fix!

No wonder Zechariah looks at us and shakes his head!

“They need a clean turban!”

“They need to think with the mind of the Master.”

The Lord will certainly give us a clean turban.

But it's up to us to put it on!

To wear it!

To think!

When Jesus tells us to beware of false prophets, he expects us to use our minds.

To figure it out. To know them by their fruits!

When Jesus tells us to watch out for the leaven of the Pharisees, he expects us to check ourselves for hypocrisy.

To think!

Don't just stand there looking at that new turban.

Put it on!

"When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, 'A shower is coming'; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky; but why do you not know how to interpret the present time? And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right?"

Luke 12:54-57

Holy, gracious Lord, like Joshua we need help moving through these shaky times. Without your mercy, without your touch, we are vulnerable to Satan's accusations. Rescue us from the Accuser, pull us from the fire of condemnation. Thank you for clothing us, covering us in your righteousness. But we seek and need more Lord than just to be freed from condemnation. We want to stand before you, ready to do your bidding, but our minds stand in the way. Reveal our filthy turbans to us, our broken, twisted, hard and misled minds. Help us to recognize, abhor, and grieve when our minds wander from you, when they are cruel, bitter, envious, critical, hypocritical. Help us to think with your mind, our Master, fixing our minds on whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, and whatever is lovely. Help us to put on clean turbans and to keep wearing them so we may honor you even in dark, troubled times.

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THE LAMB
WHO WAS SLAIN
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN