

21-DAY FAST AND PRAY JANUARY 11, 2019

1 Peter 3: 3-4, NKJV

"Do not let your adornment be merely outward arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel— rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God."

Albert Einstein said this of Jesus.

"I am a Jew, but I am enthralled by the luminous figure of the Nazarene.... No one can read the Gospels without feeling the actual presence of Jesus."

There was something compelling about Jesus. Something that attracted others to him – something that was intangible. Peter urges women – but the same principle applies to us all, *"Do not let your adornment be merely outward ... rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God"*

The high priest wore garments for 'glory and beauty.'

The Scripture speaks of the 'beauty of holiness' – of purity and innocence, of wholeness and unspoiled integrity.

It is attractive.

Gospel language alone, without a gospel life – is ineffective as a witness.

Francis of Assisi instructed his co-workers in the Gospel that simply.

"All the Friars ... should preach by their deeds."

The gospel is news. It demands that the gospel's truth be grasped and believed. However, the best evangelism is the good news of God's grace being shared by a transformed person who imparts hope of change.

So let's start again with personal confession. (acknowledge and repent of sins)

21-DAY FAST AND PRAY JANUARY 11, 2019

We spend so much of our time during this first week together in confession, because it's an unlikely prayer to pray without being compelled. We have been hiding our sin since the beginning. One of the first things Adam and Eve did after they sinned was to hide.

To separate, make excuses and blame.

Shame flows in the wake of our sin, and if we isolate ourselves, we will mask it and pretend no grievance has occurred. Silence can protect our self-image or pride for a time, but it also leaves us with our shame intact and kills our personal witness.

Ask God to reveal to you anything in your life that might hinder others from choosing to follow Him. Ask Him to enable you to put on *“the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God”*

Ask Him to enable you to live in such a way that others will want what they see in you.

Ask God what He wants you to do today to apply what He has revealed. What actions will you take?