

To Be Dazzling White – A Modern Day Parable

Inspired by Mark 9:2-10

Jessica took her parents, Patricia and Jason, and her new husband, Josh, and led them up the hill behind the church so they could be by themselves, apart from the wedding guests.

They had been married only a few hours, and most of their 250 guests were still enjoying the reception. There was plenty of champagne and wine flowing, and great dance music playing so that no one noticed when the four of them stepped outside. This was a long-awaited chapter of the town's favorite couple so everyone turned out to celebrate them. It was quite an affair, filled with much joy and excitement. The happy couple were so grateful.

But, Jessica had realized that over these past several months she had gotten so caught up in the planning and trying to ensure every detail was done just right, that she hadn't taken much time for quiet conversation with these three very important people in her life. This was the day she had prayed for her whole life. Now, she wanted to offer sincere prayers of thanksgiving with her husband and parents.

The four held hands and looked out over the valley. The sun was beginning to fade and give way to the moon. Just as Jessica's old life on one side was fading and giving way to her new life on the other. The sky glowed with cascading hues of soft peaches, pinks, and purples. They stood in awe of the beauty and quiet of this moment. A gentle breeze softly lifted Jessica's hair and veil. She closed her eyes and took in a deep breath of the peace and love which overflowed.

Her dress was dazzling white with tiny crystals sewn in to reflect the light ever so gently. She looked more beautiful than any other bride her family had ever seen here on the hilltop and conversing about married life and wonderful family memories.

Then Josh said to Jessica, "My love, it is good that we are here! I would like to make our home here. I just never want to leave this feeling behind." He hardly knew what to say, there were all so overwhelmed with emotion.

Suddenly, the sound of laughter and music came from the reception down below and began to fill the air up the hill; from behind a voice called out, "This is your day. We are all here to celebrate with you. Listen to the laughter." Looking around, they saw that they were no longer alone. The best man and maid of honor were with them. Jessica wiped a delicate tear that had sprung, and beamed her beautiful smile at them.

As they were all coming down the hill, she turned to Josh and challenged him to never forget what this time has meant. Whenever our days get busy and our life gets noisy, let us take a moment to pull away to the quiet to pray and breathe in the peace and love of our hearts that it may once again overflow like today.

So the two keep the tradition of climbing that hill to reconnect and recall God's blessings that they could humbly serve their house and others with great love.

