

The Gospel of Laurel AND Yanny

In the last week there has been a question that has been burning in the souls of millions of people all over the world and the question is this: **do you hear laurel or yanny?** For those of you who do not know what I am referring to, there is an audio clip that is traveling all over the social media world that just repeats the same audio over and over again, but to some people they hear laurel whereas to others they hear yanny. Neuroscientists have explained that those who can hear the higher frequencies can hear the word yanny whereas those who can hear the lower frequencies tend to hear laurel. The most interesting thing though is that for those who have highly trained ears, it is possible to hear both at the same time!

Although this media clip has just been around for about a week, the Logos, the Word of God has been uttered from all eternity from the mouth of the Father, and *in the Gospel today he is proclaiming a message of truth but—depending on the type of frequency you can hear—we can misinterpret it.*

If we want to understand the **mindset** of the apostles arguing with one another, we need to go back to the beginning of chapter 9 of Mark where Jesus says:

Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with POWER (Mk 9:1)

Power. When the disciples hear that, they think of power in the worldly sense, of being GREATER than others, of having OTHERS SERVE THEM. When they hear the word POWER, their HIGH opinion of themselves causes them to hear the HIGH FREQUENCIES of GREATNESS.

“What were you arguing about on the way?” But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the GREATEST (Mk 9:33-34).

Yet if the disciples had ears to hear, they would have focussed on the LOW FREQUENCIES of HUMILITY in Jesus’ message. When Jesus speaks of POWER, this is what he intends for us to hear:

*No one takes [my life] from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have POWER **to lay it down**, and I have POWER to take it again (Jn 10:18)*

In other words, when Jesus is speaking of POWER, he is talking about his POWER as the Son of Man to be betrayed into human hands, to be killed and after three days rise again (cf. Mk 9:31).

This POWER of Jesus laying down his life is essentially the POWER of SERVICE:

For the Son of man also came not to BE SERVED but to SERVE, and to give his life as a ransom for many (Mk 10:45).

In fact, SERVICE in the EARS of Jesus is not contradictory at all to GREATNESS. True GREATNESS manifests itself through service.

Whoever wants to be FIRST/[GREATEST] must be last of all and SERVANT of all (Mk 9:35).

Jesus flips our category of GREATNESS on its head because when we think of GREATNESS, we think of OTHERS SERVING us but Jesus reveals in fact that TRUE GREATNESS consists in SERVING OTHERS. I call this one of the Gospel laws because in the Kingdom of Heaven, those who are the greatest in heaven are the greatest servants.

Why is Mary Queen of Heaven?

*My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has regarded the low estate of his SERVANT (Lk 1:47-48)*

Why is Jesus King of King and Lord of Lords?

Though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a SERVANT (Phil 2:6-7).

Therefore, James reminds us, “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you” (Jas 4:10). So when we hear the AUDIO CLIP of POWER, what frequencies should we focus on in Jesus’ message? Are we supposed to hear GREATNESS or SERVICE?

Matthew 23:11

He who is GREATEST among you shall be your SERVANT.