

Monday, 11 April 2011

Psalm 68:32-35 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth, sing praise to the Lord, Selah to him who rides the ancient skies above, who thunders with mighty voice. Proclaim the power of God, whose majesty is over Israel, whose power is in the skies. You are awesome, O God, in your sanctuary; the God of Israel gives power and strength to his people. Praise be to God!

And now, Lord, Your people rise up in praise and thanksgiving as Your glory and might is displayed for all to see. If we do not, the very stones will cry out in praise. Great is Your name and the overwhelming might of Your love for Your people and for Your creation! You send us out to proclaim Your love and grace before all the nations; let our songs of praise continue forevermore. Praise You, LORD God Almighty.

Tuesday, 12 April 2011

Matthew 27:32-50 As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. (33) And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), (34) they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. (35) And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. (36) Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. (37) And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." (38) Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. (39) And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads (40) and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." (41) So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, (42) "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. (43) He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" (44) And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way. (45) Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. (46) And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (47) And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." (48) And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. (49) But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." (50) And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

The most mournful cry in all the universe, that the One who knew

Yahweh should be forsaken by Him. And so that I might know Yahweh and His son, Jesus the Christ whom He sent. Praise You, Lord Jesus, for You love me unto, through and beyond death. Praise You in the Highest, praise You to the children of men, praise You in all that I do and wherever I go. Let all my life be a hymn of praise.

Wednesday, 13 April 2011

Psalm 69:1-4 To the choirmaster: according to Lilies. Of David. Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck. I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold; I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me. I am weary with my crying out; my throat is parched. My eyes grow dim with waiting for my God. More in number than the hairs of my head are those who hate me without cause; mighty are those who would destroy me, those who attack me with lies. What I did not steal must I now restore?

Lord, I was lost, deep in sin and You came to me with open arms, an offer of grace and mercy, reaching out to pull me away from the self-destructive path. You set me free, You washed the filth, removed that stains and gave me Your Spirit as teacher and mentor. You are truly the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

Thursday, 14 April 2011

Psalm 69:5-12 O God, you know my folly; the wrongs I have done are not hidden from you. Let not those who hope in you be put to shame through me, O Lord GOD of hosts; let not those who seek you be brought to dishonor through me, O God of Israel. For it is for your sake that I have borne reproach, that dishonor has covered my face. I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my mother's sons. For zeal for your house has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me. When I wept and humbled my soul with fasting, it became my reproach. When I made sackcloth my clothing, I became a byword to them. I am the talk of those who sit in the gate, and the drunkards make songs about me.

You have lifted me out of the morass of sin and despair, filling me with hope, joy and peace in the Holy Spirit, guiding my footsteps along the King's Highway. You know my innermost sin and have cleansed me. You saw me in my filthy rags of self-righteousness and provided the robes of Your righteousness. You have set me at Your right hand and named me Ambassador of Reconciliation, an ambassador plenipotentiary. All through and by You, not of my own strength lest I should boast.

Praise You, Lord Jesus the Christ.

Friday, 15 April 2011

Psalm 69:13-18 But as for me, my prayer is to you, O LORD. At an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of your steadfast love answer me in your saving faithfulness. Deliver me from sinking in the mire; let me be delivered from my enemies and from the deep waters. Let not the flood sweep over me, or the deep swallow me up, or the pit close its mouth over me. Answer me, O LORD, for your steadfast love is good; according to your abundant mercy, turn to me. Hide not your face from your servant; for I am in distress; make haste to answer me. Draw near to my soul, redeem me; ransom me because of my enemies!

Lord, Your obedience was to death on the cross, mine is to Your word yet I am often unable to follow Your leading. How can I be obedient to the Word unless You deliver me from my own sin and self-will? Your steadfast love, Your abundant mercy, Your boundless grace, all must continue to be present to me or I fall into the sinking mire or drown in the deep waters. Draw near to me and give me refuge from my self.

Saturday, 16 April 2011

Psalm 69:19-21 You know my reproach, and my shame and my dishonor; my foes are all known to you. (20) Reproaches have broken my heart, so that I am in despair. I looked for pity, but there was none, and for comforters, but I found none. (21) They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink.

How can I lament my trials when I meditate on Your suffering for my sake? Bruised and beaten, scorned and scourged, afflicted and assaulted, denied and deserted, humiliated in the eyes of all who passed by Golgotha that fateful day. All to bear my sins, to take my willfulness upon Your self and present me as whole, pure and acceptable to God Almighty. Praise You, Lord.

Lord's Day, 17 April 2011

Psalm 119:151-152 But you are near, O LORD, and all your commandments are true. Long have I known from your testimonies that you have founded them forever.

Your commandments are true, and true forever. You have founded them and founded them forever. True yesterday, true today, true tomorrow, true forever. An immovable, unchangeable, inflexible, standard of righteousness and perfection.

VOICES TOGETHER
Daily Meditations from the Psalms

April 11-17, 2011

Voices Together is extracted from my daily meditations and is shared in the hopes that others will be encouraged to turn to the Psalms as a rich source of guidance for prayer and meditation.

John Nunnikhoven