

Monday, 16 May 2011 Psalm 73:21-24 When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart, I was brutish and ignorant; I was like a beast toward you. Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory.

I have sinned against You and against You only have I sinned. In my prideful actions yesterday, I made fun of another individual and demeaned him before his friends and peers. It was arrogance and it was mean. Forgive me, Lord. Change my heart, O God, make it ever true. I know that Your Holy Spirit was warning me but I refused to listen; break that headstrong spirit within me that refuses to obey. Thank You, for accepting my repentance. Praise You for transforming me into Your likeness. One more step along the King's Highway. Now I must apologize to my brother and to the brothers.

Tuesday, 17 May 2011 Psalm 73:25-28 Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you. But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.

It is good to rest in You; it is good that You are my refuge, may my response always be to tell of all Your mighty works in my life. Let Your praise pour from my lips, this day and every day.

Wednesday, 18 May 2011 Romans 12:1-2 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Lord, I have always read the "Do not be conformed" as an instruction but more than that, it is a warning to not allow myself to be conformed to the ways of the world. This is a condition that I need to intentionally guard against, be vigilant in not allowing myself to be lured in by the world's siren call. I need to test continuously to discern Your good and perfect will.

Thursday, 19 May 2011 Psalm 74:1-8 A Maskil of Asaph. O God, why do you cast us off forever? Why does your anger smoke against the sheep of

your pasture? Remember your congregation, which you have purchased of old, which you have redeemed to be the tribe of your heritage! Remember Mount Zion, where you have dwelt. Direct your steps to the perpetual ruins; the enemy has destroyed everything in the sanctuary! Your foes have roared in the midst of your meeting place; they set up their own signs for signs. They were like those who swing axes in a forest of trees. And all its carved wood they broke down with hatchets and hammers. They set your sanctuary on fire; they profaned the dwelling place of your name, bringing it down to the ground. They said to themselves, "We will utterly subdue them"; they burned all the meeting places of God in the land.

Lord, as I think of the church gathered in the prison and the conditions of turmoil and temptations that the men live, I am overwhelmed by the burden of temptation. Continue to guide and strengthen them in their witness; give Betty and I wisdom to encourage and exhort. Bless all of us as we come together to refresh our hearts and prepare for battle.

Friday, 20 May 2011 Psalm 74:9-23 We do not see our signs; there is no longer any prophet, and there is none among us who knows how long. How long, O God, is the foe to scoff? Is the enemy to revile your name forever? Why do you hold back your hand, your right hand? Take it from the fold of your garment and destroy them! Yet God my King is from of old, working salvation in the midst of the earth. You divided the sea by your might; you broke the heads of the sea monsters on the waters. You crushed the heads of Leviathan; you gave him as food for the creatures of the wilderness. You split open springs and brooks; you dried up ever-flowing streams. Yours is the day, yours also the night; you have established the heavenly lights and the sun. You have fixed all the boundaries of the earth; you have made summer and winter. Remember this, O LORD, how the enemy scoffs, and a foolish people reviles your name. Do not deliver the soul of your dove to the wild beasts; do not forget the life of your poor forever. Have regard for the covenant, for the dark places of the land are full of the habitations of violence. Let not the downtrodden turn back in shame; let the poor and needy praise your name. Arise, O God, defend your cause; remember how the foolish scoff at you all the day! Do not forget the clamor of your foes, the uproar of those who rise against you, which goes up continually!

Lord, that small faithful band of men in the prison, struggling day to day against the wiles and temptations of the Evil One, fighting to overcome the ravages of sin, seeking to draw near to You, a small, insignificant church by Christendom's standards, but precious in Your eyes. Strengthen them, Lord, build them up. Transform them into shining jewels reflecting Your glory, examples of Your transforming grace, messengers of Your love.

Equip Betty, Bill and I to be faithful pastors and teachers, serving the needs of this flock.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Psalms

Saturday, 21 May 2011 Revelation 22:6-17 And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place." **"And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."** I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God." And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy." **"Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay everyone for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."** Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. **"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."** The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

Lord, I look forward to Your coming again but do I live in eager expectation? Is this part or all of the problem in sensing Your immanent presence? That I do not live minute by minute, hour by hour, day by day anticipating that this will be the instant of Your return? Is my conversation salted with reference to the Shout and the Trumpet?

No, none of the above, I do not live eschatologically, I live for myself.

Help me, Lord.

Lord's Day, 22 May 2011 Psalm 119:9 *How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.*

Here's the key to avoiding false hopes and goals. To guard my heart according to Your word.

May 16-22, 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.

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