

Monday, 13 June 2011

Psalm 78:32-39

In spite of all this, they still sinned; despite his wonders, they did not believe. So he made their days vanish like a breath, and their years in terror. When he killed them, they sought him; they repented and sought God earnestly. They remembered that God was their rock, the Most High God their redeemer. But they flattered him with their mouths; they lied to him with their tongues. Their heart was not steadfast toward him; they were not faithful to his covenant. Yet he, being compassionate, atoned for their iniquity and did not destroy them; he restrained his anger often and did not stir up all his wrath. He remembered that they were but flesh, a wind that passes and comes not again.

The American church is shallow and self-satisfied; like the rich man, our barns are full and we are building more, this present economic situation is just a bump in the road to our continued prosperity. When will Your people realize that they need to repent of their love affair with the secular culture around them and turn to You. When will the Church respond to Your calls and seek repentance? When will we fall to our knees, acknowledge our guilt and turn to You? When will Your revival come to us, Your people?

Tuesday, 14 June 2011

Psalm 78:40-55

How often they rebelled against him in the wilderness and grieved him in the desert! They tested God again and again and provoked the Holy One of Israel. They did not remember his power or the day when he redeemed them from the foe, when he performed his signs in Egypt and his marvels in the fields of Zoan. He turned their rivers to blood, so that they could not drink of their streams. He sent among them swarms of flies, which devoured them, and frogs, which destroyed them. He gave their crops to the destroying locust and the fruit of their labor to the locust. He destroyed their vines with hail and their sycamores with frost. He gave over their cattle to the hail and their flocks to thunderbolts. He let loose on them his burning anger, wrath, indignation, and distress, a company of destroying angels. He made a path for his anger; he did not spare them from death, but gave their lives over to the plague. He struck down every firstborn in Egypt, the firstfruits of their strength in the tents of Ham. Then he led out his people like sheep and guided them in the wilderness like a flock. He led them in safety, so that they were not afraid, but the sea overwhelmed their enemies. And he brought them to his holy land, to the mountain which his right hand had won. He drove out nations before them; he apportioned them for a possession and settled the tribes of Israel in their tents.

Lord, when will we turn to the witness of that great cloud of those who have gone before and strive to follow their examples of faith? When will we see Your mighty hand in all creation? When will we instinctively acknowledge the working of Your grace in every aspect of our lives? When will we learn contentment in all things, recognizing that You provide the strength and resources to meet all challenges? Help Your

church, Lord, smash through our complacency. Revive us and let Your face shine upon us that we may be saved from our waywardness.

Wednesday, 15 June 2011

Psalm 78:56-64

Yet they tested and rebelled against the Most High God and did not keep his testimonies, but turned away and acted treacherously like their fathers; they twisted like a deceitful bow. For they provoked him to anger with their high places; they moved him to jealousy with their idols. When God heard, he was full of wrath, and he utterly rejected Israel. He forsook his dwelling at Shiloh, the tent where he dwelt among mankind, and delivered his power to captivity, his glory to the hand of the foe. He gave his people over to the sword and vented his wrath on his heritage. Fire devoured their young men, and their young women had no marriage song. Their priests fell by the sword, and their widows made no lamentation.

Lord, we run after the Baals of this world; we, Your people who should be remembering Your goodness, instead are striving to take on all the evils of the culture. We bow the knee to the god of choice; we worship the god of materialism; we honor the god of rationalism and reason; we sing the praise of the god tolerance; we promote the god of self; we are transparent to the world. We are cowardly and craven; we do not proclaim Your grace and mercy.

Lord, bring us to our knees in repentance. We have fallen short of Your glory.

Thursday, 16 June 2011

Psalm 78:65-72

Then the Lord awoke as from sleep, like a strong man shouting because of wine. And he put his adversaries to rout; he put them to everlasting shame. He rejected the tent of Joseph; he did not choose the tribe of Ephraim, but he chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion, which he loves. He built his sanctuary like the high heavens, like the earth, which he has founded forever. He chose David his servant and took him from the sheepfolds; from following the nursing ewes he brought him to shepherd Jacob his people, Israel his inheritance. With upright heart he shepherded them and guided them with his skillful hand.

Lord, I raise up all those whom You have truly called to be pastors and shepherds to Your Church. Fill their hearts for compassion for the flock, with burning desires to serve humbly before You. Teach them to be faithful stewards of the Word, neither adding to or subtracting from. Give them strength and single-mindedness of purpose. And send an *anamchara*, a soul friend to support and shepherd each one of them.

Friday, 17 June 2011

Revelation 3:15-19 "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot

nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.

Indifference, Lord, just indifference to Your word, lip service on Sunday morning and rejection at noon to turn to the blandishments of the world. Where is the fire that burns in the belly to carry the word of salvation and repentance? Where has our zeal gone? Where am I?

Saturday, 18 June 2011
Psalm 79:1-4

A Psalm of Asaph. O God, the nations have come into your inheritance; they have defiled your holy temple; they have laid Jerusalem in ruins. They have given the bodies of your servants to the birds of the heavens for food, the flesh of your faithful to the beasts of the earth. They have poured out their blood like water all around Jerusalem, and there was no one to bury them. We have become a taunt to our neighbors, mocked and derided by those around us.

Lord, there are several communities in which I participate to praise You and to advance Your Kingdom; all serving You in a variety of ways. Help me to discern where the Evil One is attacking; where He is slipping his invidious schemes slyly into our ways of being salt and light to the culture to blunt the effectiveness of our witness. And give me the wisdom to illuminate these schemes so that others may heed and avoid entrapment.

Lord's Day, 19 June 2011
Psalm 119:52

When I think of your rules from of old, I take comfort, O LORD.

Sometimes, Lord, it is the tried and true that are best, but in this instance it is not sometimes but always. Your law is proved through many generations to answer the questions of life and to provide direction to Your people. Thank You for the provision of the Holy Spirit to guide me into obedience. Thank You for Your sacrifice for me that cleansed me of the penalty for failure.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Psalms

June 13-19, 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