

Monday, 5 December 2011 Psalm 107:4-9 Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to a city to dwell in; hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them. Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He led them by a straight way till they reached a city to dwell in. Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man! For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.

O Lord, there are those of my family and friends who are wandering in the desert wastelands, many without knowing that a better and richer land lies within their grasp. Their hunger and thirst, their discontent and distress, their restlessness and anxiety seem a natural state, just life the way it is. Give them a taste and a foresight of what can be, awaken a desire to draw near to You and to live in that land of milk and honey, the Kingdom of God. Fill them with thankfulness and praise, with longing and hope, with joy and peace, with Your presence.

Tuesday, 6 December 2011 Psalm 107:10-16 Some sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, prisoners in affliction and in irons, for they had rebelled against the words of God, and spurned the counsel of the Most High. So he bowed their hearts down with hard labor; they fell down, with none to help. Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and burst their bonds apart. Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man! For he shatters the doors of bronze and cuts in two the bars of iron.

Praise You, Lord, thank You, my Savior for You have lifted me out of darkness and the shadow of death, You have burst my bonds and brought me out into Your glorious presence. Life in the Kingdom is now my right and inheritance.

Lord, I pray for the same gift for family, friends and neighbors. I pray that Your power and love will use me to carry the message of hope to all.

Wednesday, 7 December 2011 Psalm 107:17-22 Some were fools through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities suffered affliction; they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death. Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction. Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man! And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving, and tell of his deeds in songs of joy!

Lord, are there still sins in my life that I treasure? Are there hidden idols that I turn to in times of trouble? Are there elements of self concealed by a facade of holiness?

Expose them to the cleansing light of Your Word, cauterize them by the fire of the Spirit, excise them and heal me according to Your mighty power and love.

Thursday, 8 December 2011 Psalm 107:23-32 Some went down to the sea in ships, doing business on the great waters; they saw the deeds of the LORD, his wondrous works in the deep. For he commanded and raised the stormy wind, which lifted up the waves of the sea. They mounted up to heaven; they went down to the depths; their courage melted away in their evil plight; they reeled and staggered like drunken men and were at their wits' end. Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed. Then they were glad that the waters were quiet, and he brought them to their desired haven. Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man! Let them extol him in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders.

Lord, You in Your mercy, still the waves of the storm of sinfulness caused by my self-will. You bring Shalom to turmoil and joy to remove anxiety. You pour the Oil of Gladness upon my fears and worries; You restore my soul and my cup runneth over. You are, indeed, the Good Shepherd, the Shepherd who watches over His flock.

Friday, 9 December 2011 Psalm 107:33-43 He turns rivers into a desert, springs of water into thirsty ground, a fruitful land into a salty waste, because of the evil of its inhabitants. He turns a desert into pools of water, a parched land into springs of water. And there he lets the hungry dwell, and they establish a city to live in; they sow fields and plant vineyards and get a fruitful yield. By his blessing they multiply greatly, and he does not let their livestock diminish. When they are diminished and brought low through oppression, evil, and sorrow, he pours contempt on princes and makes them wander in trackless wastes; but he raises up the needy out of affliction and makes their families like flocks. The upright see it and are glad, and all wickedness shuts its mouth. Whoever is wise, let him attend to these things; let them consider the steadfast love of the LORD.

How will You bring Your peace to those young people who are trapped in the deserts of drugs and alcohol, licentiousness, self-will, and sloth? They are discouraged and depressed by the

failure of their gods to provide hope and relief. When will You speak into their despondency? How will You use Betty and I to be Your messengers of Good News?

Saturday, 10 December 2011 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel. For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

Lord, to live and preach the gospel to all people, what a blessing that would be. My whole life, every aspect of it, a testimony to Your grace, love and mercy. Every word intended to draw people to you; to lift You up and glorify You. Every action a demonstration of Your love and mercy.

Help me, Lord.

Lord's Day, 11 December 2011 Psalm 119:76-77 *Let your steadfast love comfort me according to your promise to your servant. Let your mercy come to me, that I may live; for your law is my delight.*

Your steadfast love comforts me, Your mercy comes to me; what response can I give except to say that Your law is my delight? You gave Your all, Your life, You endured the cross, and all You ask is I prove my love and gratitude by being obedient to Your commandments. Yes, Lord, Yes, Lord, Yes, Yes Lord.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Psalms

December 5-11, 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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