

One of my earliest VT inserts—There will be technical difficulties in uploading this next week. Our webmaster, Travis McShirley, is getting married and will be on his honeymoon. The online/e-mail version will continue in the normal progression.

Monday, 21 April 2014

Psalm 51:1-5 To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

It has been such a hard lesson, Lord, to realize and accept that all my sin(s) are against You only. It is so much easier to believe in my heart that an offense is against another individual, it is easy to convince myself that I don't have to apologize or even acknowledge the sin.

But You, but You, oh Lord, are the offended One. Yes, the harm to another individual must be acknowledged, repented and restitution made, but in all, I must come to You, seeking Your forgiveness in repentance. I must petition You for the tutelage of the Holy Spirit to reform and transform me.

Tuesday, 22 April 2014

Psalm 51:6-12

Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being, and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that You have broken rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

You have purged me with the blood of the Lamb. Freely offered and accepted. My sins and iniquities You remember no more.

But Lord, the consequences remain, those stains and brokenness need bleaching and repair. Therefore my cry is to create a clean, new heart within me, to cut out the spirit of the old man and replace it with your Spirit.

When I don't listen and obey, I do lose the joy of Your salvation. Forgive me, Lord and restore me to Your presence. Lead

me in the Way Everlasting.

Wednesday, 23 April 2014

Psalm 51:13-15

Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will return to You. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of Your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise.

An interesting word, Lord, blood-guiltiness. I've never murdered anyone and neither did David. But he did arrange for Uriah's murder and I certainly have murdered spirit and enthusiasm. His motivation was lust, mine is pride and elevation of self.

How can I teach transgressors when my own transgression is so before me? Deliver me, Lord, yes, I repent of my pride and idolization of self. Transform me so that I can teach, so that I can lead sinners to You. Transform me so that my lips are open and my mouth declares Your praises from sunrise to sunset.

Thursday, 24 April 2014

Psalm 51:16-19

For You will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; You will not be pleased with a burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise. Do good to Zion in Your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem; then will You delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on Your altar.

I come to You with the only thing I have to offer. I give You my will. Accept this sacrifice of obedience, let me be a faithful servant to You in all things. Build me up and strengthen my walls for I am Your holy temple. Make me complete in You.

Friday, 25 April 2014

Psalm 119:145-148

With my whole heart I cry; answer me, O LORD! I will keep Your statutes. I call to You; save me, that I may observe Your testimonies. I rise before dawn and cry for help; I hope in Your words. My eyes are awake before the watches of the night, that I may meditate on Your promise.

"With my whole heart I cry" Oh, that it would be so, Lord. I know that there are pockets of resistance, of self, in my heart. You have said that my heart is wick above all else and it is so. Those cancers need to be rooted out. The process of enabling me to walk in Your statutes, to observe Your testimonies in all of my life, needs

to continue.

Oh what joy it is when I do remember to consider Your promises during the night. Lord, lead me from grumbling that I am awake to a praising of You because of another opportunity to consider the riches of Your Word.

Saturday, 26 April 2014

Psalm 119:149-152

Hear my voice according to Your steadfast love; O LORD, according to Your justice give me life. They draw near who persecute me with evil purpose; they are far from Your law. 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.

The bulls of Bashan, guilt, greed, pride, lust, covetousness, idolatry all persecute and assault me; they seek my downfall. They despise You and all who declare fealty to Your Name.

But You are with me, Your commandments are true and reliable to lead me out of danger. I need only to turn to You in moments of attack and rely on the guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead me through the battlefield. Your Word, Your Law are both my armor and my weapons of defense and offense.

Lord's Day, 27 April 2014

Exodus 20:1-2, 4-6

And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ... You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments."

Where are those things that I have constructed to set ahead of you? What are they, Lord? Give me a searing fire in my conscience against anything which makes me seek you second.

My lack of faithfulness in prayer is one of those things. And it is not a thing; it is lots of little things, the little distractions that I allow to get between me and you.

So, Lord, let my conscience burn within me when I am not listening, meditating or praying as I should be. Help me to, through that burning conscience, to develop an addictive prayer habit.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Psalms



April 21-27, 2014

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

It is published daily on the website of the Fellowship of Ailbe, www.ailbe.org; along with material by other writers to encourage and assist in our walks as disciples of Jesus Christ.

These messages can also be received as daily emails or in a monthly printed version by sending a request to:

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