

Monday, 2 November 2015

Psalm 119:11

*I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.*

A very important discipline. Think about our Lord's examples in Luke 4:1-12 and 16-22. He stored up the Word in His heart and used it to combat Satan's temptations and to accept the prophecy in Isaiah 61.

What is my discipline whose goal is to store the Word in my heart? Whether it is a practice of memorizing a verse-a-day, or following a Bible-in-a-Year plan, or following one of the many plans available online or devising a reading plan that suits my habits and learning style is not the primary consideration. It is that I set a discipline of reading the Scriptures allowing them soak into my soul. And follow it!

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Tuesday, 3 November 2015

Romans 10:17

*So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*

A few weeks ago I heard the final movement of Franz Liszt's Piano Sonata in E Minor, a piece that I had heard, I'm sure, many times in the past, but this time I listened and began to absorb the magnificent complexities of that work. I heard it, I really listened and I need to get a CD so I can hear the entire work. Over and over!

Many years ago, a beautiful spring morning, up before anyone else, the house was very quiet and I was reading John 13 as part of my daily devotionals. It was certainly not the first time I had read that chapter, but this time I read it and the Spirit opened the magnificent truths of that chapter to me and I reread it. And I read 14 and 15 and 16 and 17, and I read them all again. Still today, 20+ years later, as my daily devotionals take me to those chapters, my spirit flashes back to that morning when I first began to absorb those truths.

True hearing!

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Wednesday, 4 November 2015

Mark 4:20

*But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who **hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.***"

As you read through Jesus' explanation of this parable, vv 14-20, note that everyone heard the Word, but only one group heard and accepted. That was the group that bore fruit. That was the group whose hearing led to lives of faith, lives characterized by belief/trust/commit/obey. This was the group that strove to understand the Word.

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Thursday, 5 November 2015

Luke 8:21

*But he answered them, "**My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.**"*

Here's an unexpected benefit that comes from a hearing for understanding. It leads to relationships. As we began to understand, we find common ground among other searchers and begin to build a family structure. Hmm, might even call it the Family of the Children of God.

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Friday, 6 November 2015

Luke 11:28

*But he said, "**Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!**"*

*Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and **guard** it* is an alternate translation. But how do I guard the word? Obviously it starts with me. I need to guard how I use the Word and be careful to be obedient. Secondly, I need to guard how the world interprets the word and make sure I am not sucked into a false application. I need to hold up the Word of God as the supreme authority in all aspects of my life and ensure that all other authority claims are consistent

with the Word. In other words, I need to be a Berean and test everything against the Word.

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*Saturday, 7 November 2015*

*Acts 13:44*

*The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord.*

*Acts 15:7*

*And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should **hear the word of the gospel and believe.***

These verses demonstrate the responsibility we have to bring our hearers to the state of understanding that leads to a life of characterized by faith/trust/commit/obey. We are not called to impress those who come to hear us with the elegance of our doctrinal analysis; with the command of the language of theology that enables us to use 17 syllable words to tell them that Jesus loves and died for them. No, we need to lead them step by step into a relationship with the Lord. Gently and respectfully open the Scriptures to them. Listening to their stories and lovingly helping them to see the righteousness, peace and joy of life in the Kingdom.

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*Lord's Day, 8 November 2015*

*Psalms 119:113*

*I hate the double-minded, but I love your law.*

Help me to see through the deceptions thrown up by Satan and his minions so that I can serve You in Spirit and truth. Give me clear sight, the sight of Brendan, without distraction.

# *VOICES TOGETHER*

*Daily Meditations from the Psalms*



*November 2-8, 2015*

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](http://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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