

Monday, 20 March 2017 Psalms 8:1

To the choirmaster: according to The Gittith. A Psalm of David. O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

"Nature" is what we see—The Hill—the Afternoon—
Squirrel—Eclipse— the Bumble bee—Nay—Nature is Heaven—
Nature is what we hear—The Bobolink—the Sea—Thunder—the
Cricket—
Nay—Nature is Harmony—Nature is what we know—
Yet have no art to say—So impotent Our Wisdom is
To her Simplicity. – Emily Dickinson
Romans 1:19-21 For what can be known about God is plain to
them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible
attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been
clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the
things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For
although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give
thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their
foolish hearts were darkened.

Tuesday, 21 March 2017 Matthew 9:27-29

And as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When he entered the house, the blind men came to him, and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you."

Jesus still asks that soul piercing question, "Do you believe?" but all too often our answer masks an element of doubt covered by a hope that He will be fooled. But He is not!

Jesus asks if I have committed my life to serving Him, will I love and honor Him above all others, will I love my neighbor as myself? Will I? And my answer is a weak and flabby, "I hope so."

These men left praising the Lord. How do I react when a prayer is answered?

Wednesday, 22 March 2017 Matthew 13:53-58

And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there, and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works? Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all

these things?" And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household." And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.

Is this a message and lesson to the Western Church? Stories circulate in respected publications and among reports from missionaries regarding miraculous works in the 10-40 window. Similar reports here in the West are met with arched eyebrows and poorly concealed skepticism. But He is willing and does heal. I know for I walk today; the result of a divine healing about 10 years ago. I'm trying to recall my attitude that Lord's Day morning, but not too sure. I know it was not skepticism, probably more of acceptance but by the end of the day, it was conviction and belief.

Thursday, 23 March 2017 Matthew 18:1-6

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

There are a couple of important lessons here regarding our examination of what it means to believe. The first is that simple faith of a child, especially towards an individual whom they have trusted in the past. A child's basic attitude is a desire to trust and believe; a child knows that they need stability in their life and looks to those adults in their life to provide it.

However that trustful attitude is quickly and permanently broken when the adult fails to provide the needed protection. This leads us to the second lesson; a child who has been disappointed in a major need has had a seed of bitterness implanted within; one which often leads to angry adult.

How much better it would have been if my life had been ended before I could cause damage that my LORD decrees deserves being cast into the sea with a millstone necklace?

Friday, 24 March 2017 Matthew 21:24-26

Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from

man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet."

When someone asks me about my beliefs, do I analyze the situation, weigh the consequences of possible answers and pick the one that I guess has the least serious consequences? If (When) I do, then I am not stating my beliefs but what I believe are the politically correct answers. Am I not denying Him? Matthew 10:33

Saturday, 25 March 2017 Matthew 21:28-32

"What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.

This passage hammers home the concept that to believe/have faith/trust/commit/obey is **not** lip service but is service. Belief is not talking about it so much as it is applying it. The two principles of the Great Commandment, honoring the LORD, God, the Almighty and loving my neighbor, require action, demand putting all my energy to the task of demonstrating that my faith has results.

What did the Pharisees see in the tax collectors and prostitutes, the scum of society, but transformed lives. But they were convinced that the arm of the LORD was too short, it was not possible for such disgusting lives to be healed. I wish they could meet some of my brothers and sisters in the prisons.

Lord's Day, 26 March 2017 Psalm 119:126

It is time for the LORD to act, for your law has been broken.

It is time to call our charge to account, to get her to understand that You expect obedience from her in all things, that she cannot continue to flaunt Your Law and expect that You will continue to bless her.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



March 27-April 2, 2017

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: Ephesians 1:15-17

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

LORD, God the Almighty, we come to You in thanksgiving for this Fellowship and the many ways that You are using us to bring the message of Your Kingdom to saints spread from deserts of the Mideast to prisons of America. Continue, LORD, to increase the working of Your Holy Spirit within us so that we can know You better and bring revelation to those ones You have given us to serve.

Amen

Creational Theology hint for the week--Think sun rises and sets: how they display the grandeur of the LORD, and His love of beauty. But most importantly, when was the last time you worried about whether there would be a sunrise in the morning?

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