

Monday, 10 April 2017 Luke 1:16-17

And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

One aspect of John the Baptist's calling was to turn the disobedient to the obedient; to turn many of the children of Israel from the wisdom of man to the wisdom of the just God. Isn't this a succinct summary of our calling today to bring our families and friends, our Personal Mission Field, into the Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now.

Tuesday, 11 April 2017 Luke 1:20

And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.”

Poor Zechariah. He had gotten the wonderful news that he and Elizabeth were to give birth to a son; that this son would be instrument of the return of his nation to the worship of the LORD, God, the Almighty. And he could not tell anyone because of his skepticism.

Unbelief is a powerful destroyer of the hope that lies before us. Some things have not changed over history.

Wednesday, 12 April 2017 Luke 1:45

And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

Look at Mary's final words to Gabriel in Luke 1:38 *And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.*

My constant prayer should be the same, “I am Your servant; let it be to me according to Your Word.” No, I all too often fall in with a long line of doubters, Sara through Zechariah, and continuing to this day. Those of us who respond to a promise from the LORD with “You've got to be kidding, how will You pull that off?” Maybe I need to be given a dose of Zechariah's medicine.

Thursday, 13 April 2017 Luke 8:11-15

Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.

How often do we find someone who accepts the LORD as his savior and professes to trust and obey? Sometimes all it takes is for a friend to make a mocking joke of the newfound peace and joy; sometimes, the choking of the Spirit happens over time as the fleshpots of the world begin to tempt and beg for a return engagement. But there is hope (See tomorrow)

Friday, 14 April 2017 Luke 8:11-15

Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.

The connection that strikes me here is the contrast between unbelief and obedience as evidence of belief. Removal of the Word from the heart results in complete and total loss. Holding and the Word in my heart brings transformation. I will in the LORD's time bear fruit, much fruit, sweet and lucious.

And that good soil is analgous to the loving discipling of the ones who have gone before. It is a man or woman of God

who comes along the new believer and nurtures the faith, lovingly tending so that the fruit matures into something beautiful to behold and marvelous to experience.

Saturday, 15 April 2017 Luke 8:24-25

And they went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm. He said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?"

"Where is your faith?" What an awful and damning question. Yes, I need to turn to the LORD in prayer at the first hint of an attack by the Evil One but my response should not be terror of the elements or circumstances. It should be filled with joy, praise and thanksgiving that the LORD is giving me this opportunity to demonstrate the strength He has supplied.

Should be! But rarely if ever is. My constant prayer should be for the strength and trust to be with me to always resist the Devil at the first sign of a problem. Help me, LORD..

Lord's Day, 16 April 2017 Psalm 119:147

I rise before dawn and cry for help; I hope in your words.

Rising before dawn is a challenge for the major part of the year but it has its benefits no matter when. It is a time without distractions from the outside, there is nothing that can be seen and all is quiet before the bustle of the day begins. But soon, slowly the world will begin to be revealed and I will need to be ready for it. The opening, the revealing of Your creation each morning is a story in itself, a story of how You come to us and show Yourself as the loving, Creator God, coming to draw us unto Yourself and provide for Your people. Praise You, my Lord and Master.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



April 10-16, 2017

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: Ephesians 3:13-16

So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory. For this reason, I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.

LORD, we come before You in thanksgiving and praise, for we have been grafted into Your family. We are no longer sinful scum, but are called into a glorious ministry of reconciliation so that Your Kingdom will be advanced in the here and now.

In recognition of that calling, we are called by Your Name, Your glorious and powerful Name.

Amen

Creational Theology hint for the week—Last week's snowstorm was one of the largest of the season, beautiful. As I lay in bed early that morning, I was trying to estimate the total number of snowflakes that fell on Vermont that day. And then realized that the LORD, the I AM created each one of those 10 (followed by a very large number of zeros) snowflakes, each specifically and uniquely designed by Him to express His love of beauty and creativity.

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