

**Monday, 5 June 2017** John 7:1-5

*After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He would not go about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill him. Now the Jews' Feast of Booths was at hand. So his brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, that your disciples also may see the works you are doing. For no one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, show yourself to the world." For not even his brothers believed in him.*

Isn't this a warning that those who know us best are the most cynical about the reality of our transformation. We would not be surprised when we get a "Yah, sure!" reaction from close friends and family.

Our Lord did and He did not have to demonstrate transformation for He is without sin.

**Tuesday, 6 June 2017** John 7:28-31

*So Jesus proclaimed, as he taught in the temple, "You know me, and you know where I come from. But I have not come of my own accord. He who sent me is true, and him you do not know. I know him, for I come from him, and he sent me." So they were seeking to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come. Yet many of the people believed in him. They said, "When the Christ appears, will he do more signs than this man has done?"*

Jesus lived His testimony in all ways, at all times, in all places. He taught His disciples as they moved about through Galilee and Judea. He preached the Good News, "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand" He healed the sick; He raised the dead; He calmed the storm and transformed water into wine.

Those who refused to believe were family and religious authorities. Did the first suffer from contempt generated by familiarity and the latter suffered from the fear of loss of their comfortable status quo?

Do I suffer from a complacency resulting from my upbringing in a 'proper' Christian family? Or from a satisfaction that results from an active prison ministry?

**Wednesday, 7 June 2017** John 7:37-38

*On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever*

*believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"*

Isn't a natural reaction to thirst to seek a drink? Shouldn't a natural reaction to a spiritual thirst be to seek a spiritual drink of life? And as a natural reaction to the slaking of a physical thirst is to offer that panacea to others so we find it compelling to offer others a share of that spiritual slaking.

**Thursday, 8 June 2017** John 7:39

*Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

He has been glorified and His promised gift of the Comforter has been fulfilled. The Holy Spirit is within me as promised. I can allow Him to lead and guide me, to remind me of all the Lord said while here on earth or I can choose to ignore His leading and advice. My call!

**Friday, 9 June 2017** John 7:45-49

*The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" The officers answered, "No one ever spoke like this man!" The Pharisees answered them, "Have you also been deceived? Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed."*

Evidence of clashing of worldviews. The officers could not explain it but had sensed that there was something different about this man. Something otherworldly. The Pharisees' response was based upon a stale and legalistic interpretation of the law. A letter rather than spirit application of the Law of God.

Faith/belief/trust/commitment/obedience depends upon the recognition of the otherworldliness of the Law of God. An understanding of His mission to make all things new. (Revelation 21:5)

**Saturday, 10 June 2017** John 8:21-27

*So he said to them again, "I am going away, and you will seek me, and you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come." So the Jews said, "Will he kill himself, since he says, 'Where I am*

going, you cannot come'?" He said to them, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins." So they said to him, "Who are you?" Jesus said to them, "Just what I have been telling you from the beginning. I have much to say about you and much to judge, but he who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him." They did not understand that he had been speaking to them about the Father.

"Unless you believe" or "do not understand" are two contradictory statements. You either believe and understand or you do not believe and misunderstand. It is not an understanding of how but an understanding of faith/belief/trust/commitment/obedience. I accept and base every facet of my life upon an understanding that He is who He says He is.

Again we find ourselves coming back to that precious statement in John 17:3 as we seek to come into a personal and total relationship with the one true God and His Son, Jesus Christ, whom He sent.

**Lord's Day, 11 June 2017 Psalm 119:37**

*Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways.*

It is not only looking at worthless things but also doing worthless things. Time wasters, time killers, escapism. Ways of avoiding Your call on my time and energy. Change my heart, O, God, make it ever new.

# VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



June 5-11, 2017

**Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: Colossians 1:3-8**

*We always thank God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints—the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth. You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.*

LORD, thank You for the {congregation} and the calling you have given to us to be beacons of hope through the word of truth. Continue to use us so that the Gospel will bear fruit throughout the world. We pray for each of our brothers and sisters who serve You in hostile environments, whether in foreign lands or in the secular culture around us.

We pray for our leaders and shepherds, the ones who have been so faithful in encouraging us to understand Your grace in all its truth and to carry that understanding into our Personal Mission Fields. Continue to provide for them and their families. *Amen*

**Creational Theology hint for the week—Rain, rain and lots of rain.** It nourishes the plants and cleanses the air, rinses the dust and grime off all it touches, it refills our water-tables and reservoirs. Not to far amiss to refer to it as the dew of God's love. Yet is one of the simplest of chemical compounds—the joining of two gases that produce a liquid at room temperature. But do not ignore the importance of water in its two non-liquid states. Steam and ice are equally important in God's economy.

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