

**Monday, 26 June 2017** John 11:38-40

*Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"*

To believe is to see the glory of God. That seeing takes many different forms. For Martha, it was to see her brother alive and well. For Ezekiel, it took the form of an indescribable view of the Throne Room of the Almighty, far surpassing his efforts to comprehend. Eze. 1:26-28. Note his struggles to find the correct words, he can't. He falls back upon simile upon simile as he attempts to pass it on to his readers.

**Tuesday, 27 June 2017** John 11:41-42

*So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me."*

A model prayer for us, Jesus affirmed His belief, trust, and understanding with thanksgiving. He then laid out the reason for His prayer, that the Father would be acknowledged as the One who had sent Him.

We need, frequently to approach the Father in the same fashion. Acknowledging His presence in our lives and requesting a demonstration of His power in our lives and those around us.

**Wednesday, 28 June 2017** John 11:43-45

*When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." (45) Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him,*

Demonstration! "Many who saw what He did, believed in Him." Jesus' actions demonstrated His power. Every aspect of my life must be a demonstration of His power likewise.

Another consideration is that once I announce that I am a follower of Christ, the world immediately begins to hold me to that standard or to what the world regards as that standard. Therefore any lapse on my part immediately brings shame and derision upon His Name.

**Thursday, 29 June 2017** John 11:47-48

*So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation."*

The chief priests and Pharisees got it. Whether or not the Romans were going to take away their position was a moot point. But the reality was that is the people believed in Jesus, their nice, cushy status quo was on shaky ground and they adopted a "the sky is falling defense."

When someone accepts Christ as Lord and Master, the world realizes that it has lost the power to control that person and needs to adopt a defensive strategy.

**Friday, 30 June 2017** John 12:36-37

*While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them. Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him,*

Why should I become upset when someone doubts the effectiveness of my transformation? My Lord moved on in similar circumstances. Sometimes I make the mistake of believing that it is my responsibility to have a 1.000 batting average. NO! My only responsibility is to lead a life that is characterized by faith/belief/trust/commitment/obedience and to be prepared at all times to explain the hope that lies within me with gentleness and respect. (1 Peter 3:15)

**Saturday, 1 July 2017** John 12:38-40

*so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?" Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said, "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand*

*with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them.”*

Yes, Lord, there will always be those who will not believe but that is not my choice. My responsibility and only responsibility is to “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20

*Lord's Day, 2 July 2017 Psalm 119:59-60*

*When I think on my ways, I turn my feet to your testimonies; I hasten and do not delay to keep your commandments.*

*Lord, my ways should drive me to Your Word but they do not always. It is only after I thrash about, seeking a solution in my own wisdom that I turn to You. Forgive me, Lord, I am weak and helpless in my own strength and foolish in my wisdom. Both are faux, cheap imitations of the real things, Your wisdom, and Your strength. Lord, change me, transform me into the Image of Your Son.*

## VOICES TOGETHER

*Daily Meditations from the Scriptures*



*June 26-July 2, 2017*

**Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3**

Thank You, LORD, for the [congregation]; for this band of saints drawn together by a mutual desire to advance Your Kingdom wherever You have placed us. Thank You for these tasks which You laid out for us as our way of life. Thank You for Your love that prompts us to respond in kind and is the source of the hope, the certain expectation of Your imminent return, that enables us to endure.

Amen

*Creational Theology hint for the week*—Rain today, thunder, lightening, and wind. God speaking in power throughout His creation. We have developed elaborate mathematical models to enable meteorologists to predict the weather with some accuracy. But I wonder as I watch the Weather Channel if they ever consider that they can only do what they do because we have a rational God, not a God of chaos.

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