

Monday, 9 December 2019 Psalm 79:1-4

A Psalm of Asaph. O God, the nations have come into your inheritance; they have defiled your holy temple; they have laid Jerusalem in ruins. They have given the bodies of your servants to the birds of the heavens for food, the flesh of your faithful to the beasts of the earth. They have poured out their blood like water all around Jerusalem, and there was no one to bury them. We have become a taunt to our neighbors, mocked and derided by those around us.

And we, Your people, have allowed it, this invasion and have acquiesced to the lies of the culture around us.

I, Lord, have embraced the lies of the age, accepted the promises, made the priorities of the age, my priorities. I have not kept Your Word ever before me to seek You and Your righteousness first.

I repent, Lord, for I have forgotten/ignored/not followed Your righteous Law and call to be an ambassador of reconciliation to the age. Help me to keep that before me today -- that I am the bearer of the Good News -- not the beneficiary of the wares of the age.

Tuesday, 10 December 2019 Psalm 79:5-7

How long, O LORD? Will you be angry forever? Will your jealousy burn like fire? Pour out your anger on the nations that do not know you, and on the kingdoms that do not call upon your name! For they have devoured Jacob and laid waste his habitation.

Lord, restore Your Church, bring her again into that place of witness to You. Give her a hunger and a thirst for Your presence, restore her as Your Bride shining in the reflection of Your glory. Let Your mercy and grace pour over her as she once again steps into her rightful place as Your people on earth.

Wednesday, 11 December 2019 Psalm 79:8-10

Do not remember against us our former iniquities; let your compassion come speedily to meet us, for we are brought very low. Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us, and atone for our sins, for your name's sake! Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?" Let the avenging of the outpoured blood of your servants be known among the

nations before our eyes!

Our sins are legion; we have not confronted the culture; we have allowed the self-driven mores of the society around us to seep into our lives as we accept the standards of greed, lust, sexual iniquity, covetousness, slander, gossip, murder that are rampant. Bring us to our knees, LORD God Almighty, in repentance and seeking Your forgiveness.

Thursday, 12 December 2019 Psalm 79:11-13 *Let the groans of the prisoners come before you; according to your great power, preserve those doomed to die! Return sevenfold into the lap of our neighbors the taunts with which they have taunted you, O Lord! But we your people, the sheep of your pasture, will give thanks to you forever; from generation to generation we will recount your praise.*

Lord, I lift up the Persecuted Church, both here and abroad. Here we duck and bob and weave, avoiding any semblance of criticism or censure. Give us the backbone to face the world and challenge the Lie. Be with our brothers and sisters who face daily threats to their lives; thank You for their willingness to be called to account for Your name and to be faithful to Your Word.

Friday, 13 December 2019 Psalm 119:113

I hate the double-minded, but I love Your law.

I hate the double-mindedness that You reveal in me, Lord. Transform me into a single-minded follower after Your law; a man of fixed determination to walk in Your ways always and in every aspect of my life; that Your word would be permanently stored in my heart so that I would not sin against You.

Saturday, 14 December 2019 Psalm 119:116

Uphold me according to Your promise, that I may live, and let me not be put to shame in my hope!

Lord, so often I fear the ridicule of my family, friends, and neighbors that it would appear that You have not

answered a prayer and my faith has been misplaced. it is the ridicule that I fear, not the results of the apparent lack of answer. Uphold me Lord, to be firm in my faith and to testify that You do answer in Your time and in Your way.

Lord's Day, 15 December 2019 Exodus 20:1-2, 14
And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ... You shall not commit adultery."

Faithful in relationships, in all relationships, modeling your faithfulness to all whom I have contact with. It does not matter what their relationship is with You, I am to reflect You to them. A part of being a man of Your word, my yea is to be yea, my nay, nay.

Voices Together is available as two annual volumes of meditations based on Psalm 1 through 75 and Psalm 76 through 150. A companion book, *The Love Story*, is a 22 week series of meditations based on Psalm 119. They are available through the Fellowship of Ailbe book store at www.ailbe.org/bookstore/christian-discipline

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



December 9-15, 2019

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in:1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

May the LORD, God the Almighty, the God who signifies peace, grace, mercy and joy, cleanse us and bring us into a state of complete sanctification as we wait on the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Praise You, LORD, for You are faithful and will do this. *Amen*

To fear or not to fear, that is the question.

The fear of the Lord, an expression that occurs many times in Scripture, 142 in the ESV in various forms, is not well understood in the Church today. For many, the phrase represents a weak and flabby description of an overly saccharine spiritual being of some sort. It certainly does not include the concept of the LORD, God the Almighty who spoke all things into being and who controls all things.

Join with me in examining the fear of the LORD and seeking an understanding of life in the Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now as guided by that fear.

Voices Together is published daily on the website of the Fellowship of Ailbe, www.ailbe.org; along with material by other writers to encourage and assist in our walks as disciples of Jesus Christ. All Scripture is from the ESV unless otherwise noted. These messages can also be received as daily emails or in a monthly printed version by sending a request to:

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