

Monday, 18 June 2018 2 Samuel 9:6-7

And Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and paid homage. And David said, "Mephibosheth!" And he answered, "Behold, I am your servant." And David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan, and I will restore to you all the land of Saul your father, and you shall eat at my table always."

I see this as an example of the depth and power of the soul friendship that existed between David and Jonathan. David deliberately searched for someone to whom he could show honor for the sake of his friend. He was not required to do so by the terms of his covenant, but was driven by love for his friend.

Soul friendship is deep, abiding and an expression of the fear of the LORD. It is evidence of the love of the LORD, God, the Almighty's for His people in the Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now.

Tuesday, 19 June 2018 2 Samuel 12:18-23

On the seventh day the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they said, "Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spoke to him, and he did not listen to us. How then can we say to him the child is dead? He may do himself some harm." But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, David understood that the child was dead. And David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" They said, "He is dead." Then David arose from the earth and washed and anointed himself and changed his clothes. And he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped. He then went to his own house. And when he asked, they set food before him, and he ate. Then his servants said to him, "What is this thing that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while he was alive; but when the child died, you arose and ate food." He said, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept, for I said, 'Who knows whether the LORD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me."

Look at this passage as an example of guidance during a season of difficulty. As the sickness of his child progressed, David humbled himself before the LORD, trusting in His ultimate goodness, but praying for a different outcome.

When the child died, his first act was to prepare himself for worship and go to the house of the LORD. He went in acceptance of the LORD's will, acknowledging the authority of the LORD, God, the Almighty.

Wednesday, 20 June 2018 2 Samuel 23:1-5

Now these are the last words of David: The oracle of David, the son of Jesse, the oracle of the man who was raised on high, the anointed of the

God of Jacob, the sweet psalmist of Israel: "The Spirit of the LORD speaks by me; his word is on my tongue. The God of Israel has spoken; the Rock of Israel has said to me: When one rules justly over men, ruling in the fear of God, he dawns on them like the morning light, like the sun shining forth on a cloudless morning, like rain that makes grass to sprout from the earth. "For does not my house stand so with God? For he has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure. For will he not cause to prosper all my help and my desire?"

David ruled, administered, governed his kingdom in the fear of the LORD. God, the Almighty. His reign was characterized by justice for all. Look at the resultant similies: the dawning of the morning light, the brilliant sunlight of a cloudless day, and the nourishing rain that causes food to spring from the earth.

The fear of the LORD is an everlasting covenant, not one leading to wealth and fame, but one leading to the righteousness, peace, and joy of life in the Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now. It is the promise, practice, and power of the Kingdom.

Thursday, 21 June 2018 1 Kings 8:41-43

"Likewise, when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a far country for your name's sake (for they shall hear of your great name and your mighty hand, and of your outstretched arm), when he comes and prays toward this house, hear in heaven your dwelling place and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to you, in order that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and that they may know that this house that I have built is called by your name.

1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

I am the temple of the living God; I am directed to live in the fear of the LORD so that all peoples and nations on the earth may know His name and fear Him. It is my calling to demonstrate and explain the hope that lies within me so that all may desire and hunger for that peace. I am empowered by the Holy Spirit for that mission.

Friday, 22 June 2018 1 Kings 18:3-4 *And Ahab called Obadiah, who was over the household. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly, and when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the LORD, Obadiah took a hundred prophets and hid them by fifties in a cave and fed them with bread and water.)*

Many of us work in Ahabish environments where we are continuously faced with the tension between opposing worldviews. Are we Obadias in our personal mission fields, assiduously searching for opportunities to bring the fear of the LORD to bear in every aspects of our lives?

Do you ever wonder about other opportunities for Obadiah to act

as an intermediary? I suspect that there were many but the Spirit caused this one to be recorded as an encouragement to me.

Saturday, 23 June 2018 1 Kings 18:11-12, 15-16

And now you say, 'Go, tell your lord, "Behold, Elijah is here." And as soon as I have gone from you, the Spirit of the LORD will carry you I know not where. And so, when I come and tell Ahab and he cannot find you, he will kill me, although I your servant have feared the LORD from my youth. ... And Elijah said, "As the LORD of hosts lives, before whom I stand, I will surely show myself to him today." So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him. And Ahab went to meet Elijah.

It's easy to sympathize with Obadiah. Did the Holy Spirit really tell me to ...? Maybe it is my desire to be recognized as a good and helpful person? Or maybe I want the congregation with whom I worship to see me as a dedicated servant of the LORD? Frequently it is the devil's ploys to dissuade me from obeying my LORD and Master, but the Spirit tells me again as I search the Scriptures and pray for guidance. Or He sends a trusted brother to reinforce His direction.

Lord's Day, 24 June 2018 Psalm 119:18

Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Your law.

This is certainly a time when I need to have my eyes opened, Lord. A time when I need to see those wondrous things that come out of Your law. And not only to see, but to act upon them, to follow them, to be obedient to You through them.

Lord, it is fact that I have Your mind in me, but it is also fact that I am but a babe in knowing the power and proper use of Your mind. Guide me, teach me, stop me from harming others in willful actions and statements. Lord, this can only be if it is You acting and speaking through me, not me speaking and acting through me.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



June 18-24, 2018

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: 1 Timothy 1:12

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service.

Thank you, Christ Jesus our Lord, that You have given us the strength, that You have considered us faithful, that You have appointed us to our personal mission fields

Guide us in all ways that we may never lose our focus on our appointed mission; to proclaim the Gospel, to carry the message of repentance and restoration to all people, nations and tribes, and to lead all to a life in the Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now. 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.

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