

Monday, 6 May 2019 Job 31:33-35

if I have concealed my transgressions as others do by hiding my iniquity in my heart, because I stood in great fear of the multitude, and the contempt of families terrified me, so that I kept silence, and did not go out of doors—Oh, that I had one to hear me! (Here is my signature! Let the Almighty answer me!) Oh, that I had the indictment written by my adversary!

Job protests that he did not let the fear of multitudes keep him from testifying against evil and injustice.

Oh, that I would have as courageous a testimony? The boldness to declare that actions proposed will lead to a condition that is not in line with the Word of God and will result in great injustice

Tuesday, 7 May 2019 Job 32:1-9

So these three men ceased to answer Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes. Then Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, burned with anger. He burned with anger at Job because he justified himself rather than God. He burned with anger also at Job's three friends because they had found no answer, although they had declared Job to be in the wrong. Now Elihu had waited to speak to Job because they were older than he. And when Elihu saw that there was no answer in the mouth of these three men, he burned with anger. And Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite answered and said: "I am young in years, and you are aged; therefore I was timid and afraid to declare my opinion to you." I said, 'Let days speak, and many years teach wisdom.' But it is the spirit in man, the breath of the Almighty, that makes him understand. It is not the old who are wise, nor the aged who understand what is right.

Elihu, a young man, was observant, yet appropriately respectful in allowing the three elder friends to present their arguments regarding Job's estate. He penetrated all the torrent of words which were addressed towards Job's unrighteousness rather than accept the LORD's statement that Job was a righteous man (Job 1:1). But likewise, he saw that Job was determined to justify himself rather than God.

I need to properly allow others to speak and not demand a measure of respect due to my age.

Wednesday, 8 May 2019 Job 33:4-7

The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life. Answer me, if you can; set your words in order before me; take your stand. Behold, I am toward God as you are; I too was pinched off from a piece of clay. Behold, no fear of me need terrify you; my pressure will not be heavy upon you.

Elihu makes an essential point that we are all the work of the Hand of the LORD, God, the Almighty and we must keep that in mind as we deal with each other. He makes an allusion to the hand of the potter who manipulates the clay to form each of us. We need have no fear of another brother or sister who comes from the same clay and shaped by the same potter.

Thursday, 9 May 2019 Job 37:21-24

"And now no one looks on the light when it is bright in the skies, when the wind has passed and cleared them. Out of the north comes golden splendor; God is clothed with awesome majesty. The Almighty—we cannot find him; he is great in power; justice and abundant righteousness he will not violate. Therefore men fear him; he does not regard any who are wise in their own conceit."

Elihu concludes his discourse with a concise summary of the attributes of the LORD, God, the Almighty which inspire, or should inspire, awesome fear. He could not, nor can I fully comprehend the awesome majesty that is the LORD. I can understand it no more than I can comprehend the majesty of the sun by staring into it.

I am beginning to understand that it is the reality of the incomplete comprehension of the awesomeness of the LORD, God, the Almighty that is the Fear of the LORD.

Friday, 10 May 2019 Psalms 2:10-12

Now, therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

While this passage is addressed to kings and rulers, it behooves me to remember that the LORD has assigned a specific portion of His creation, my Personal Mission Field, as an area in which I am to serve him in fear and trembling. My kingdom may be insignificant in the eyes of the world, but in the eyes of the LORD, God, the Almighty, it is of supreme importance. It is the place where I am called to advance His Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

Saturday, 11 May 2019 Psalms 3:1-8

A Psalm of David, when he fled from Absalom, his son. O LORD, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; many are saying of my soul, "There is no salvation for him in God." Selah But you, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. I cried aloud to the LORD, and he answered me from his holy hill. Selah I lay down

and slept; I woke again, for the LORD sustained me. I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around. Arise, O LORD! Save me, O my God! For you strike all my enemies on the cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked. Salvation belongs to the LORD; your blessing be on your people! Selah

This short Psalm begins on a note of total despair and ends on a note of triumph. The fulcrum is a paean of rejoicing in the Fear of the LORD. It is the bulwark between David and those who seek to destroy him. It must be mine as I stand against the failing mores of the culture.

Lord's Day, 12 May 2019 Psalm 119:165

Great peace have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble.

Indeed there is peace even in the face of trouble and turmoil. Knowing that the Law is complete and consistent is a great blessing. It provides a cocoon of peace and serenity in the storms of life lived amid evil.

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



May 6-12, 2019

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: 2 Timothy 4:22
The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

As Paul prayed for Timothy that the Lord be with his spirit and that the grace of God would fill him, so let us pray for each other this week. Let us covenant to raise up each member and their personal ministry by praying through our congregational directory. 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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