

Monday, 15 February 2016

2 Samuel 24:11-12, 14

And when David arose in the morning, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying, "Go and say to David, 'Thus says the LORD, Three things I offer you. Choose one of them, that I may do it to you.'" ...Then David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Let us fall into the hand of the LORD, for his mercy is great; but let me not fall into the hand of man."

King David recognized that God's punishment for his sin and, as Matthew Henry points out, the sins of the people would be just, compassionate and appropriate. And that if man were to be the instrument of punishment, there was not the assurance that this would be the case.

A lesson for me here is that God is quick to forgive as I repent, but does not necessarily repair the damage I have done by my intemperament behavior. I am far better off throwing myself upon the mercy of the LORD, God the Almighty than letting the situation escalate.

Tuesday, 16 February 2016

Nehemiah 9:30-31

Many years you bore with them and warned them by your Spirit through your prophets. Yet they would not give ear. Therefore, you gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands. Nevertheless, in your great mercies, you did not make an end of them or forsake them, for you are a gracious and merciful God.

The LORD, God the Almighty uses His Word and His saints to warn me that I have set upon a path that is not in accordance with His Word. Then He uses consequences and then He withdraws, but He does not forsake me. His mercy is forever and always available when I turn back to Him.

Wednesday, 17 February 2016

Daniel 9:7-10

To you, O Lord, belongs righteousness, but to us open shame, as at this day, to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to all Israel, those who are near and those who are far away, in all the lands to which you have driven them, because of the

treachery that they have committed against you. To us, O LORD, belongs open shame, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against you. To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God by walking in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets.

The contrasts in this passage are striking. The LORD's righteousness, mercy and forgiveness vs our open shame as a result of our sin in the form of rebellion, treachery and disobedience. However, His compassion and mercy provided a way to satisfy His justice, and righteousness. The Lamb of God who bore the punishment for my intransigence. What an awesome God I serve.

Thursday, 18 February 2016

Luke 1:50-55

And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

The LORD, God the Almighty's mercy, like all other of His characteristics, is constant, consistent, coherent and continuous to those who fear Him. The God who fills the heavens with thunderbolts is the God who lavishes His love upon His children. Perfectly just yet perfectly merciful!

Friday, 19 February 2016

Nehemiah 9:30-31

Many years you bore with them and warned them by your Spirit through your prophets. Yet they would not give ear. Therefore, you gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands. Nevertheless, in your great mercies you did not make an end of them or forsake them, for you are a gracious and merciful God

Isn't it overwhelmingly amazing that as I endure the consequences of my sinful choices, God is patiently waiting for me to turn to Him in contrition and repentance? Is there

no end to His patience? Oh, the consequences ramp up in severity, just read the history of Israel, until finally into exile they went for a long 70 years. But the story told in Ezra and Nehemiah is one of a return to God's grace. This story gives me hope and trust in the faithful of the LORD, God the Almighty.

Saturday, 20 February 2016

1 Timothy 1:15-16

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

Paul claims the rank of chief sinner and I won't debate him, but his statement does give me great solace. I know the transformation worked in the Apostle Paul for I believe the record regarding who he was, I have read his writings and counsel to the Church. The conclusion is obvious--a miraculous transformation took place and that it was the result of the perfect patience of the Lord Jesus Christ.

What he did for Paul, He is doing in me.

Lord's Day, 21 February 2016

Psalm 119:62

At midnight I rise to praise you, because of your righteous rules.

Help me, Lord, to use these periods of wakefulness during the night as a call to worship and praise You; as a time to meditate on Your Word and Your Law, seeking understanding for my life.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



February 15-21, 2016

I was dealing with a very difficult and perplexing problem in the spring of 1989 and tackling it by trying to learn everything I could on the subject. One evening, as I continued my studies, God told me very clearly that the root of the problem was that I did not know Him. I put down the book I was reading and picked up a Bible figuring that was where I was going to find Him. That began what has been a 27-year search to know, really know in a John 17:3 way, the Lord, God the Almighty.*

Voices Together has and continues to be, a very important part of that search. It is extracted from my daily meditations and is shared in the hope that others will be encouraged to turn to the Scriptures as a rich source of guidance for prayer and meditation.

It 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.

These messages can also be received as daily emails or in a monthly printed version by sending a request to:

Pastor John Nunnikhoven
The Church at Prison, Inc.
PO Box 8318
Essex Junction, VT 05452

or at

The Fellowship of Ailbe, voices@ailbe.org
Realizing the presence, promise and power
of the Kingdom of God.

* LORD, God the Almighty always refers to the Trinitarian God.