

Monday, 9 May 2016

Matthew 5:25-26

Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

Guilty as charged? Innocent of charges? Does not love my neighbor rule in either case? Am I not called to demonstrate that the transforming power of the Cross brings me to a point where I must not be concerned about my 'rights' but to bring about a settlement where God is glorified. That will always require a state of repentance and prayerful contrition as I seek the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Tuesday, 10 May 2016

Matthew 5:27-28

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? (KJV)

To walk in today's culture and avoid lust in my own strength is analogous to attempting to walk down a steep ice covered slope that ends in a precipitous drop. But the Holy Spirit provides access to well-fitting crampons and a sturdy ice ax. If I am willing to avail myself of these tools, I must be willing to turn immediately to the Counselor for guidance and strength.

Wednesday, 11 May 2016

Matthew 5:29-30

If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right-hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

Is there anything in this fallen world that I would not give up? Sometimes I am not willing to acknowledge that this is the choice I am making? I am convinced that I cannot lose my salvation but I must not/cannot use that as an excuse for

allowing sin in my life.

Thursday, 12 May 2016

Matthew 5:31-32

"It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Malachi 2:16 *"For I hate divorce," says the LORD, God of Israel. (NLT)*

And I think that the Church should treat something that the LORD, God the Almighty hates with a casual closing of our eyes? Is it any wonder that we are no longer considered to be counter-cultural?

Friday, 13 May 2016

Matthew 5:33-37

"Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.' But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

"Say what you mean and do what you say." I am to be a man of my word, one whose demeanor, actions and words are consistent. Furthermore, the LORD, God the Almighty is not honored and glorified when my words and actions are inconsistent. I must carefully choose my words to reflect what I truly intend to say and can be expected to perform. Anything less is Sin.

Saturday, 14 May 2016

Matthew 5:38-42

"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your

cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

The Apostle Paul nails this passage precisely in Romans 12:17-21 *Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

In short--never miss an opportunity to repay an enemy with a blessing.

Lord's Day, 15 May 2016

Psalm 119:159

Consider how I love your precepts! Give me life according to your steadfast love.

Ah, Lord, You do consider how I love Your precepts, but You give life according to Your measure of love. How thankful I am that my life in You is based on the constancy of Your love, not the vagaries of mine.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



May 9-15, 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:

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or at

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

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