

Monday, 23 May 2016

Matthew 6:2-4

"Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

This is like walking a tightrope in today's culture, balancing between requirement of often needing others to effectively provide support and an all true human tendency to impose legalism on my methods of giving.

Lord, guide me in avoiding the Scylla of any Little Tommy Tucker behavior and the Charybdis of any holier than thou legalism. Help me to insure that any response to a need is done so that You are glorified and I am diminished.

Tuesday, 24 May 2016

Matthew 6:5-6

"And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Same discussion as yesterday but with an added flip. When I tell a friend, "I'm praying for you in your situation," am I looking for recognition as John the Faithful Prayer Warrior? Or am I reaching out to comfort them with an assurance that a fellow believer is supporting them in prayer? It must be part of a 2 Corinthians 1:3-5 ministry as an expression of my Christ centered love for them or it is hypocrisy

personified.

Wednesday, 25 May 2016

Matthew 6:7-8

"And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Lord, let my prayers be short and sweet to Your ears. Teach me to not feel that I need to give You detailed instructions about how to resolve a situation. May my prayers always be fragrant incense to Your ears.

Thursday, 26 May 2016

Matthew 6:9

Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

How often have I wished that some preacher would follow my Lord's instruction. "Pray like this." More importantly, how often have those who had to listen to one of my prayers felt the same way?

How often have I recited this prayer without consciously letting these few precious phrases sink into my soul? Lord, forgive me!

May my life be unceasingly lived as a paean of praise and worship.

Friday, 27 May 2016

Matthew 6:10

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

The overarching purpose of my life while waiting Your return must be to advance the Kingdom realm. Every fiber of my being must be dedicated to this task. Lord, forgive my failures to glorify You and advance Your Kingdom. Guide me into a more faithful servanthood.

Saturday, 28 May 2016

Matthew 6:11

Give us this day our daily bread,

Lord, our daily bread--the resources needed to pursue the work You have called me to in Your vineyard. But the onus is on me, I must order my life according to the right priority--seeking first Your Kingdom and Your righteousness. Oh, and not getting all wrapped up worrying about tomorrow, focus on today's tasks..
(Matthew 6:33-34)

Lord's Day, 29 May 2016

Psalm 119:169-170

Let my cry come before you, O LORD; give me understanding according to your word! Let my plea come before you; deliver me according to your word.

I continue to cry out to You for guidance and instruction. Lord, help me to come closer to You in prayer throughout the day. I hunger for a life of prayer without ceasing, How do I achieve that? I know it is beyond my ability on my own, I need the Holy Spirit guiding and providing strength. Cover my mind and soul with a thirst for You that can only be satisfied with continuous prayer.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



May 23-29, 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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PO Box 8318
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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.