

Monday, 13 June 2016

Matthew 6:31-32

Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.

The joy of Kingdom living cannot coexist in a heart that is anxious [very large period]. Anxiety corrodes and corrupts joy. It destroys Kingdom peace. And a life that is characterized by a lack of joy and peace is a life that is characterized by an unrighteous spirit. Bingo, I might as well fall back on legalistic dependency upon eating and drinking. (cf. Romans 14:17)

So, I find that I have come full circle, right back to the central issue. Do I, will I have faith (believe/trust/commit/obey) that the Lord is true to His word and will provide?

Tuesday, 14 June 2016

Matthew 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

What things will be added to me? Superficially--food, clothing, shelter, ...a nice new laptop with all the latest whiz-bangs? Whoa, John. There you go again, confusing needs and wants. The instruction here is to seek the Kingdom and the righteousness that characterizes it. Result is a life that is filled with the peace and joy of the Kingdom. So what if my jeans are a tad tattered if I'm living with the joy of the Lord in my heart.

Wednesday, 15 June 2016

Matthew 6:34

"Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own

trouble.

It is so much easier (satisfying?) to worry about tomorrow than to do something about today's challenges. I can scheme and plot and manipulate and..., knowing that when tomorrow becomes today, I will have a new slate of concerns to be anxious about. Wow, and the list just keeps multiplying because I have never sought the Lord's guidance about the resolution of the work He laid before me for today.

Thursday, 16 June 2016

Matthew 7:1-2

"Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.

In spite of all rhetoric to the contrary, I am not banned from discerning right from wrong. My problem is that I forget that I need to be willing to be judged by the same standard that I use. When will I learn that the overriding principle is to love my neighbor? When will I learn to come to my neighbor in love rather than condemnation? Long ways to go, Johnny boy.

Friday, 17 June 2016

Matthew 7:3-5

Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly

Pretty clear isn't it? Sometimes I have to chuckle as I cringe, thinking about all the damage that log in my eye does as I swing it about, creating a world that is according to John. The stories are endless; oh how awful it is going to be when I am called to account before that judgment seat.

Saturday, 18 June 2016

Matthew 7:6

"Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.

I think the Lord's message here is to make my approach to the gospel fit the audience. In line with Chuck Colson's frequent advice to use winsome arguments, there is nothing to be gained by elaborate and learned discussions of the finer points of theology, but much to gain by getting my audience to understand that there is a better way. The LORD, God the Almighty loves them and sent His Son to die for them.

Lord's Day, 19 June 2016

Psalm 119:18

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

This is a good time to see those wondrous things; a good time to open my eyes to the promises that You have for my children. But as I saw in Deuteronomy this morning, I have a responsibility to give the Law to my children and I have not! Help me, Lord.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



June 13-19, 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 or LORD, God the Almighty always refers to the Trinitarian God.