

Monday, 20 June 2016

Matthew 7:7-8

*"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.*

All too often, I read this and forget who is speaking. Jesus the Christ, the LORD, God the Almighty, the Incarnate Son, the One who can do no sin. Not Santa Claus. How often has some coveted object been the focus of my prayers and allowed only to disappoint? Each time there was a lesson to be learned--I needed to search my heart for those telltale stench of covetousness and repent.

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Tuesday, 21 June 2016

Matthew 7:9-11

*Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!*

Ah, but when my heart is aligned with His will, what a different outcome. When I ask for spiritual food or for something deemed needed to advance the Kingdom in the here and now, largesse sumptuously supplied to the very limit of my needs.

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Wednesday, 22 June 2016

Matthew 7:12

*"So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.*

Now here's a guideline---the Law and the Prophets. If I carefully examine my desires and motives against the template of the Law and the Prophets to determine how I would like to be treated, I will automatically know how to treat others. Lord, forgive me for those times

when there is a disconnect and transform me into Your image.

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Thursday, 23 June 2016

Matthew 7:13-14

*"Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.*

Another guideline? When the path looks easy and the gate is wide and inviting, it's time for a closer evaluation of the situation. Time to ask a key pair of questions. Is this advancing the Kingdom in the here and now or it taking me into deeper entanglement with the culture? If the latter, I need to run not walk back onto the King's Highway, make the Kingdom turn again.

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Friday, 24 June 2016

Matthew 7:15-16

*"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?"*

The first challenge is to be able to recognize fruit. I've gathered many plump, sweet and juicy blackberries and been roundly scratched for my efforts. I've also bitten into very appealing crab apples only to have my mouth pucker so hard I thought my eyes would cross. But parents, aunts and uncles taught me to distinguish fruit from non-fruit. So it is in the faith with those who have gone before, but I must sit and listen and absorb.

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Saturday, 25 June 2016

Matthew 7:17-20

*So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a*

*diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.*

How do I recognize a good orange vs. one that is not fit to eat? By its color, aroma, firmness and condition of the skin. How do I recognize the fruit of the Spirit? Humm, maybe by living according to Philippians 4:8 as I apply the template of Galatians 5:22? Maybe it would be a good idea to ask a brother or two to hold me accountable?

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*Lord's Day, 26 June 2016*

*Psalm 119:27*

*Make me understand the way of your precepts, and I will meditate on your wondrous works.*

Yes, Lord, help me to see Your wondrous works in all things today. Let me see You in every stranger, show me the works of Your hand is sustaining all things, bring me to a state of bubbling joy as I realize the depth and scope of Your creation and redemption.

# VOICES TOGETHER

*Daily Meditations from the Scriptures*



*June 20-26, 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](http://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](mailto:voices@ailbe.org)  
Realizing the presence, promise and power  
of the Kingdom of God.

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