

Monday, 4 July 2016

Matthew 8:10-11

When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven,

"Many will come from east and west and recline...in the Kingdom of Heaven" As I read and reread this sentence, I find myself awed at the revelation of the openness and accessibility of the Kingdom. My Lord is declaring that not only is the Kingdom is at hand but that all can enter in. No longer is access limited to His Chosen people, but to every one who chooses to enter in.

Tuesday, 5 July 2016

Matthew 10:5-7

These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, "Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'

Is there a lesson in priority here? My Lord is not denying the accessibility of the Kingdom to the Gentile (cf. Romans 1:16) My calling should start with those those closest to me and continue out from there. It is those with whom I have a relationship not necessarily geographical proximity. Does my analysis of my personal mission field reflect that priority of relationship? Needs work!

Wednesday, 6 July 2016

Matthew 11:11

Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who

is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Incredible! The Lord Jesus is declaring that even I have a greater opportunity to advance the Kingdom of Heaven than John the Baptist. This is both an opportunity and a responsibility. I must be diligent to seek out chances to declare that the Kingdom of Heaven is available now and be gentle and respectful (1 Peter 3:15) as I do so.

Thursday, 7 July 2016

Matthew 11:12

From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force.

I am being urged to be tenacious, to be fervent, to be unabashed, to be outspoken, to be excited, to be joy-filled, to be eager, to be unashamed, to preach the availability of the Kingdom of Heaven to any and all.

Lord, forgive me for my testimony is often halfhearted and weak.

Friday, 8 July 2016

Matthew 13:3-9

And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear."

A sower went out to sow and didn't worry about where the seed fell. He sowed seed--that was his job. My job is to spread the Good News, not to worry and fuss that

no one is listening. I am called to buttonhole someone and ask the \$64 question, "Have you heard the joyful news, Jesus saves? Do you know Him as Lord and Savior? No, well let me tell you what you're missing."

Saturday, 9 July 2016

Matthew 13:10-11

Then the disciples came and said to him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" And he answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.

Was Jesus promising the coming of the Holy Spirit to reveal an understanding of the Kingdom of Heaven to His disciples? No doubt in my mind.

John 16:13-14 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Lord's Day, 10 July 2016

Psalm 119:48

I will lift up my hands toward your commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on your statutes.

To meditate and pray is to be. I have Your mind, it came with the infilling of the Holy Spirit, but it needs to be installed and initiated. It needs to be booted. That process is the one described in Galatians 5:15-26, Philippians 4:4-9, to learn to "think on these things."

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



July 4-10, 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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Realizing the presence, promise and power
of the Kingdom of God.

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