

Monday, 18 July 2016

Matthew 13:33

*He told them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened."*

Yeast has to be taken out of its packaging, activated and then mixed intimately with the flour before it can do anything.

If I am to be the yeast of the Kingdom, I needed to be pried out of any packaging that insulates me from the world, activated by my grounding in the Scriptures and get involved in the world around me.

If I am going to be used by my Lord to advance the Kingdom of Heaven, bring others to make that Kingdom turn, I need to be a participant in their lives; I need to be active in my personal mission field. I cannot bring that thirst for new life unless I am in a close relationship with those I minister to.

---

Tuesday, 19 July 2016

Matthew 13:44

*"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."*

The Kingdom of Heaven is a treasure that I stumbled upon early one morning as the result of a joke. Absolutely no thought in my mind as I went to visit a Benedictine monastery that I was about to enter into the beginning of an unfolding of the most sumptuous treasure of all.

No, I did not sell all that I had so that I could purchase that field, I have had to learn to be willing to abandon self in order to fully enter into possession of the treasure--life in the Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now.

---

Wednesday, 20 July 2016

Matthew 13:45-46

*"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, (46) who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it."*

The other half of the story. Jesus Christ, the Son of the

Living God, Emmanuel-God with us, deliberately searched for pearls, pearls with that unique luster that only a very fine pearl possesses. And He chose me, sin encrusted me, as an object of His love and effort. He left the Father's side to lift me out of the muck and mire, bringing me into the Family of God as a fully accredited son. (1 John 3:1)

Yes, He sees me as a pearl of great value.

---

Thursday, 21 July 2016

Matthew 13:47-50

*"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

Sometimes it is hard, so very hard to remember that I am called to present the Good News to all, not just the individuals I like. It is hard, so very hard to remember that the separation of the evil from the righteous will be at the end of the age, not now. It is hard, so very hard to remember that I am not called to make the separation but specially designated angel will be.

---

Friday, 22 July 2016

Matthew 13:51

*"Have you understood all these things?" They said to him, "Yes." Maybe I'm seeing this through the cynicism of 21st century eyes rather than the conviction of 1st century. I do wonder as I read this passage, "Did they really understand all the implications regarding life in the Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now?"*

I am finding as I pursue this study that I am gaining in my comprehension of what it means to live in the Kingdom now. My prayer is that each of my readers will profit equally.

---

Saturday, 23 July 2016

*Matthew 13:52*

*And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."*

I need to train for the ministry to which I have been called. That does not mean standing in front of a group of individuals and preaching but is a directive to be a responsible witness to all my personal mission field. I need to be able to recognize and employ those treasures to instruct those that I serve. I need to be able to relate the convergence between all parts of the Word of God in a way that is understandable and relevant to the mission field.

---

*Lord's Day, 24 July 2016*

*Psalm 119:61*

Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me, I do not forget your law.

Love your neighbor as yourself! O, so difficult when the neighbor is determined to be unlovable. Help me to remember Your Law!

# *VOICES TOGETHER*

*Daily Meditations from the Scriptures*



*July 18-24, 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:

Pastor John Nunnikhoven  
The Church at Prison, Inc.  
PO Box 8318  
Essex Junction, VT 05452

or at  
The Fellowship of Ailbe, [voices@ailbe.org](mailto: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.