

Monday, 25 July 2016

Matthew 16:15-16,19

*He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."... I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."*

Peter got the central point of the Gospel and was given the keys of the Kingdom as a symbol of his correct understanding and the authority to apply and teach that understanding. Later Jesus extended that authority to all His disciples (Matt 28:18-20) and even to me. But I must stick to the point--Jesus is Lord, the Son of the living God.

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Tuesday, 26 July 2016

Matthew 18:1

*At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"*

Things haven't changed much in 2000 years, have they? Still a constant battle to tell someone that they need to respect my opinion because I have been appointed as the Grand Poobah of First Avenue. (The most pretentiously named and most insignificant street in the village; a street where both ends of the street are the other side of the tracks).

Lord, transform my haughty spirit that frequently masks the transformation that Your Spirit is working in me.

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Wednesday, 27 July 2016

Matthew 18:3

*and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."*

I'm having trouble with this verse; my brothers and sisters were a quarrelsome lot, just not following the excellent example of their older brother. Or maybe they did. Isn't the underlying message here that all need the

regeneration of the Holy Spirit? Any childlike innocence that I had was thoroughly tarnished as I progressed towards adulthood.

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Thursday, 28 July 2016

Matthew 18:4

*Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.*

Humility--a constant battle. Why, I'm very proud of my efforts to do justice and to show kindness, let me tell you about them, but walking humbly before my God? Isn't two out of Micah 6:8's three pretty good? Or do I need to understand that the living sacrifice of Romans 12:1 is the broken spirit of Psalm 51:17? Two out of three is not good enough, not unless they emanate from a broken and contrite heart.

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Friday, 29 July 2016

Matthew 18:23-24, 27-28, 32-34

*"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ... And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe .... Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt."*

Proof of the pudding. Without transformation, there is no salvation. Belief is strictly a head knowledge, it has not changed my heart.

Lord, that Your grace, mercy and love would flow through me into all whom I touch. Would that I would

be able to extend the forgiveness that I have received to all whom I serve?

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*Saturday, 30 July 2016*

*Matthew 19:12b*

*there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it."*

I understand that the one referred to here is someone who has voluntarily forsworn the pleasures and distractions of the world. Is there a distinction between those activities that reveal the goodness of the LORD, God the Almighty and those that appeal to the old man? I am called to pursue the former and shun the latter.

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*Lord's Day, 31 July 2016*

*Psalm 119:71*

*It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes.*

It continues, Lord, that I need discipline to bring me closer to You, to shape me into the form of one of Your disciples, to make me a useful Ambassador of Reconciliation. The only Tool that works.

# VOICES TOGETHER

*Daily Meditations from the Scriptures*



*July 25-31, 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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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.