

Monday, March 1, 2010

Written by Dave Sletner

Scripture: Luke 8: 4-15

Luke, the beloved physician, in Paul's traveling companion and is strongly influenced by Paul's ministry. In this parable, Luke describes that God's word (seeds) are scattered about widely.

The reaction of people to God's word varies considerably. Some who might believe are quickly attached by the devil, and lose their way. Others start out believing, but worldly joys and pleasures soon eclipse their belief. Still others hear the word (seeds) and are receptive to it. They have good and honest heart, keep the work and with patience bring forth fruit one hundred fold.

Prayer: Lord God, we hear your word. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and companionship of Jesus, let each one of us bring forth that hundred fold crop. Amen.

Tuesday, March 02, 2010

Written by Joyce Monem

Scripture: Luke 8: 16-18

To be honest with you, I struggle with parables. Apparently, back in the day they were supposed to make the subject matter easier to understand and remember. Well I seem to have a hard time finding the meaning in today's terms. Such was the case with these verses. I thought, 'This is easy'. I had an understanding of the verse and then read the next and I no longer had it. So I reached out to a friend who interpreted these verses as being related to an all-knowing God who is aware of our deepest, darkest secrets and the dreaded eventuality of his light bringing those secrets to the forefront. That didn't quite work for me either so I turned to my next best friends, books and articles that I have read and loved. And then I hit on it in the following quote that was actually used in a portion of Nelson Mandela's inaugural speech. God's light is in each of us and it is our responsibility to let that light shine; not in a passive, private or hidden way but in an active, vibrant and public way. God's light does reveal our secrets but it is in the revelation and embodiment and sharing of those secret talents and gifts.

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you *not* to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others."

Prayer: Lord, Who are we not to be all that you intended us to be? Free us from the fear that keeps us in the dark. Let the light of your love shine in us and through us and let us rejoice like children in that light. Amen.

This quote by Marianne Williamson is from her book, [*A Return To Love: Reflections on the Principles of A Course in Miracles*](#), Harper Collins, 1992. From Chapter 7, Section 3 (Pg. 190-191).

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Written by Dave Sletner

Scripture: Luke 8: 22-25

Luke tells of the time when Jesus and his disciples were crossing a lake in a boat. Jesus fell asleep and the winds and water roiled, putting all in the boat in danger.

The alarmed disciples woke Jesus and told him of their peril. Jesus rebuked the wind and water and they obeyed. Christ then pointedly asked them "Where is your faith?" The disciples wondered amongst themselves what type of man could do these things?

Prayer: Lord God, we understand that faith can be so wondrously powerful. Help us to use it to fight the ills and inequalities that beset our world today. Let us speak and act with conviction to destroy them in our name, thus building your kingdom here on earth now and forever. Amen.

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Written by Ben Breton

Scripture: Luke 8:26-39

This passage tells much about man's relation to God. For God seeks to heal our afflictions and make us whole. Too often, however, we backslide, and though we have been healed we recreate the conditions that lead to our downfall. Others of us, having been healed, cling to the otherworldly while neglecting our duties to this world. The afflicted man, once freed of the demons who had been controlling him, naturally sought to follow Jesus. But Jesus commanded him to return to the world, and work as his messenger. Thus, rather than simply do what came natural, the man was beckoned to perform the supernatural. The natural mind, having been healed by God, has an inclination to backslide. The natural mind, too often motivated by fear, produces hate, anger, depression, greed, is the progenitor of most of the world's maladies. It is only by putting God's will before our own, and thus thinking with the supernatural mind, that we can truly be healed and heal the world.

Prayer

Holy God, please transform your children so that we may act selflessly and righteously, especially in times such as these which call for more love, charity, and courage. Help us not to close our eyes to the sufferings of our brothers and sisters around the world, but instead to spread the light of your love to all who sit in darkness, realizing that we ourselves would still be in darkness were it not for the ultimate sacrifice which was made for all mankind. And, most importantly, allow love to guide our actions, since your love "is a supernatural thing." Amen.

Friday, March 5, 2010

Written by Judi Eaves

Scripture: Luke 8: 40-56

This story of the dying girl and the sick woman reminds me how my faith in God can help me overcome adversity. Jesus teaches us not to give up on faith and to keep believing, even when it seems all hope is gone. In this story, Jairus asked for Jesus' help even after he heard that his daughter had just died. He did not give up on his faith. He continued to ask Jesus to help his daughter, and she was saved! The sick woman, living her entire life "unclean" with a bleeding disorder, touched Jesus' cloak, and was healed. It was her *faith* in Jesus, and not His clothes, that healed her.

Like the sick woman, I have also lived with a chronic bleeding illness. My health and my quality of life deteriorated to the point that having major surgery could make me well again, but would permanently change what I considered a "normal" way of living. I prayed every day and night for a cure, to be healed, to be free from the pain. What I didn't realize was that Jesus *was* there, providing me with knowledgeable physicians, a loving, supportive and caring family, and His constant grace to help me make this difficult decision. I was so scared! I had the surgery, and am on my way to recovery. Having faith in Jesus, and trusting He would help me through, I realized that the answer was there: the way I was living was not "normal", but *not* bleeding and living pain free *is!*

There may have been times in your life when you have felt all hope was gone. Do not give up hope! It is amazing what miracles can happen if we have faith in Jesus.

Prayer: Lord, please place your cloak before us and let us reach out and experience your healing grace. Remind us of your eternal love and strengthen our faith when it seems all hope is gone. Amen.

Saturday, March 6, 2010

Written by Sarah Buell

Scripture: Luke 9: 10-17

When Jesus talked about feeding the multitude of people, and had five loaves and two fishes – then after feeding them there were twelve baskets of broken pieces left it left no doubt in my mind that he was the son of God.

Prayer: Dear Jesus remind me to be thankful for every crust of bread I eat and to share what I have with others. Amen

Sunday, March 7, 2010

Written by Jennifer Whipple

Scripture: Luke 9:21-27

It must have been confusing to hang around with Jesus. One minute he is turning 5 loaves and fish into enough food to feed 5000 people and the next he is telling his disciples not to tell anyone about his work or who he is. What?!?! Here Peter must have been thinking that he finally had the right answer to Jesus' question, and the next thing he knows he is told to be silent. It's like when someone tells you they don't want a gift for Valentine's Day or a big birthday party, and the next thing you know they are upset because you fulfilled their wishes. Geez! Maybe way back in biblical times was when the phrase "darned if you do and darned if you don't" was invented. Then, as if to add insult to injury or confusion to more confusion Jesus starts telling the disciples all about his impending death. What do you mean you're going to suffer and die...and leave us alone? And Jesus' response to what I can imagine must have been quizzical looks around the circle that day was basically, "Stand your ground. Hold firm to what I have taught you...to what you have been working for these years. Good things are coming."

When I read this passage I am reminded that there are parts in faith (and in life in general) that are confusing. We all make mistakes and have those moments when we wish we could take our words back – or at the very least open mouth and insert foot. We sometimes don't follow directions quite like we should – or maybe we do and get into some kind of trouble for it anyway. The best we can do is the BEST we can do. In our humanity we are broken and in need of healing, but we are blessed because in his divinity that is what Jesus offers. He tells us, as if speaking to his own disciples years ago, to stand our ground...to hold firm to what we have been taught. To love God and others with all we have to give. And that in doing these things we can be reminded that good things are coming.

Prayer: Jesus, forgive me when I don't listen or act quite as well as I should. Remind me that you, not the things of this world, are the source of healing and wholeness. Help me to keep my eye, even in the toughest times, on the good things that are sure to come. Amen.