

A rustic wooden barn with a gabled roof stands in a snowy field. The barn is dark brown and has a large open doorway. In the background, a hillside is covered in snow and dotted with evergreen trees. The sky is overcast.

Daily God Walk

December 2012

Another Day in Your
Journey of Faith

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All Scripture quotations are taken from the New International Version (NIV). All other translations used will be credited using these abbreviations:

(KJV) – King James Version

(NKJV) – New King James Version

(TLB) – The Living Bible

(TM) – The Message

Daily God Walk for 2012

This entire year we are looking at the promises in the word of God and the hope they give us in our daily walk.

When we look at the world around us we can easily see hopelessness on the rise. In the county where I live there is nearly 20 percent unemployment and 21 percent of the people are addicted to drugs, alcohol, or both.

There have been so many empty promises given by politicians that people no longer believe in them. The economy is in the tank. With the divorce rate hovering around 50 percent people have lost confidence in even the oldest institution mankind has known.

What does all of this mean? It means that if we don't find something to hope in mankind is doomed to a desperate existence living lonely, confused and hopeless lives.

That is why we are looking at the hope contained in the promises of God during this year. It is our hope that you will find something to live for and that you will discover God's plan for your life.

In Jeremiah 29:11 God says, "I know the plans I have for you. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

We pray that the devotions for this year will reveal God's faithfulness and give you hope for the future.

Daily God Walk for Saturday, December 1, 2012

Right Choices Build Faith

Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I am full of joy over you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil. - Romans 16:19

It is not always easy to make wise choices, and it is even more difficult to maintain innocence about what is evil, but when we do those things great faith is released in us. Great faith equates to great spiritual power.

Being wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil gives us confidence in our faith walk.

Paul points out two critical objectives in our walk. First, there is the quest for good. There are many good choices to make, but we must seek wisdom to make the right choice.

Then there is innocence concerning evil. The way we are innocent about evil is that we do not expose ourselves to it. We remain innocent because we do not “take a look just to see what it’s about.” We are not ignorant about evil being around us, but we are innocent in our personal knowledge of evil.

Some say, “It’s too late for me to be innocent; I lost my innocence long ago.” In answer to that I say, “*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness*” (1 John 1:9). What God has made pure is indeed innocent. Regardless of what we have done we are made innocent again by faith in the blood of Christ.

Prayer: Thank you Lord for restoring my purity. Give me the grace of wisdom about making right choices and an innocence about those things that are evil. In Jesus name, amen.

Daily God Walk for Sunday, December 2, 2012

Faith Crushes Satan's Influence

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.
The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you. - Romans 16:20

There is a time of ultimate defeat for Satan and at that time, according to Revelation, he is wrapped in chains and thrown into the bottomless pit. However, he is not there yet, but his influence has been destroyed by our faith in Christ.

In the devotion for yesterday we addressed the issue of being innocent toward evil when we had lost our innocence long ago. Our Lord has restored our innocence by the work of Christ and that is a crushing blow to the influence Satan used to have over us.

Notice Paul says, "The God of peace will soon crush Satan." We are sometimes confused about that because we talk so much about the "spiritual war" that we can't see the "peace" element in this effort. Notice he says God will crush Satan. It's not our battle it's his.

We have peace as we rest in faith that God has done the work of crushing Satan's influence in our lives. Our pursuit of good works, and our commitment to maintain innocence about evil, allows the peace of God to be upon us. When we are doing the right things in the right way we don't have to worry about Satan - God is taking care of business with him.

We can serve God in faith because we know that he has already defeated the enemy. The world may rage around us but because we rest in the peace of Christ we know that He protects us from evil.

Prayer: God of peace, thank you for crushing the influence Satan has had in my life. Grant me the grace to continue trusting you and to have the confidence that you will fight my battles. In Jesus name, amen.

Daily God Walk for Monday, December 3, 2012

Kingdom Secrets Release Abundance

The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance.

- Matthew 13:11-12

Secrets. We all have them. The purpose of a secret is to keep those who should not know something from knowing it. Jesus was telling his disciples that he had chosen them to know the secrets of the kingdom.

Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables so that only those who were spiritually alert would hear the message. Then he explained the parables to those who were to understand the secrets.

Understanding the secrets of the kingdom will release God's favor. If we can hear the message of the kingdom, and understand the purposes of the "secrets" that he is revealing, then we will be able to walk in the fullness of his intended abundance.

Knowing and understanding the principles of the kingdom unlocks the door to God's favor; diligence and obedience open the door to abundance. God is not only calling us to understand and believe but he is calling us to diligent obedience to the principles so that he can release his best to us.

Over the next few days we are going to explore some of the kingdom principles that Jesus called, "Secrets of the kingdom."

Prayer: Lord, I tend to use the understanding of men to accomplish the work of the kingdom. Grant me the ability to understand the message of the kingdom and the wisdom to live by those principles. In Jesus name, amen.

Daily God Walk for Tuesday, December 4, 2012

Scriptures Speak Of Kingdom Life

You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

- John 5:39

Kingdom life is found in understanding the Scriptures about Christ and his ministry. It is not enough to know the Scriptures - we must also understand how they reveal Christ and how we are called to respond to the principles revealed by that truth.

I once heard of a man who had memorized the entire Bible. He quote any verse of Scripture you asked for; but for all of that he was not converted. It was just a game with him. Jesus was addressing a group of people who were knowledgeable of their traditions of the kingdom, but ignorant of the meaning of the principles hidden in Scripture.

Those religious leaders had a form or religion but they did not have an understanding of the kingdom and therefore they did not have or understand the power of the kingdom of God.

When we practice kingdom principles we release the power of the kingdom. The power of God to deliver, heal, redeem, restore and grant eternal life all rest in the principles of the kingdom of God.

Do you understand what the Scriptures say about Christ and the kingdom of God? Look into it, you might be surprised at what you find.

Prayer: Lord, I desire to understand and practice the principles of the kingdom so that I can do my part in seeing your purposes fulfilled. Grant me faith and understanding of your will. In Jesus name, amen.

Daily God Walk for Wednesday, December 5, 2011

Born Into A Spirit Kingdom

No one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to Spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, "You must be born again." - John 3:5-7

When we come to Christ and are truly converted we are literally born again of the Spirit and are now citizens of a Spirit Kingdom - the Kingdom of God. That is what Jesus was trying to convey to the religious leader in this passage. Nicodemus, like many in religion, tried to understand through a belief system based in human reason and Jesus introduced a concept that didn't fit that matrix; "You must be born again."

Jesus was trying to move Nicodemus outside the box of humanistic traditions that had become the standard for Jewish religion.

Jesus consistently contrasted the belief and actions of those in the Kingdom of God with the belief and actions of those in the kingdoms of this world. People in the Kingdom of God believe differently, think differently and act differently because our values are different.

If our values are not different from the unconverted world around us then we may not have been born again. Nicodemus did not grasp the concept of being born again because his values were based in human reason. We must examine our values.

A sign of being born again is that our values are different from the world. If we are still influenced by the world system we need to examine our values.

Prayer: Lord, Grant me the grace to receive the word of God about the kingdom with understanding. I want to live you your values. In Jesus name, amen.

Daily God Walk for Thursday, December 6, 2012

Kingdom Value: Selfless Humility

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. - Matthew 5:3

Humility is a virtue that is often misunderstood. One person when asked to define humility said, "It is when one thinks little of oneself." The questioner responded, "It is more than that. It is when one does not think of oneself at all."

There are three words in Matthew 5:3-5 that give different aspects of humility. They are; poor in spirit, mourn, and meek. We are looking at "Poor in spirit" today.

One definition of poor in spirit is, "destitute of wealth, influence, position, honors; lowly, afflicted." This is an attitude of emptiness. What seems to be implied is that one has been emptied of self - there is nothing left of self to boast about or to even depend upon.

The apostle Paul described this concept well when he said, "You died, and your life is now hidden in Christ in God" (Colossians 3:3). Those who are poor in spirit have been emptied of self and are now living the life of Christ. It is not we who live but it is Christ who lives in us.

We are not directed by self will or ambition. We are guided by the Christ whose life we now live. Remember, humility is not thinking little of our self, it is not thinking of our self at all. Humility is realizing that we do not live in our self but rather we live in Christ.

Prayer: Lord, I know that I should live the Christ life, but it is so easy to fall back on my own understanding. Grant me the grace to consistently submit myself to the Christ in me and serve you as he directs. Help me to become empty of self and to be hidden in Christ. In Jesus name, amen.

Daily God Walk for Friday, December 7, 2012

Kingdom Value: Godly Mourning

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

- Matthew 5:4

The mourning Jesus referred to can be compared to what a person feels when he has been convicted of sin. There is deep sorrow which leads to repentance, and then to comfort.

Paul spoke of this sorrow in 2 Corinthians 7. He first mentions that he had written a letter that hurt them and caused sorrow (v8). Then he says that their sorrow led them to repentance (v9). He concludes that thought with this line; “Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret” (10).

When we look at this passage in this light we can see that Jesus was saying that those who feel sorrow for their sin, and respond to that sorrow with repentance, they will be comforted by the Holy Spirit.

I know there is also an application of this verse to those who sorrow over loss and it is true that the Holy Spirit will grant comfort to those also, but in the context of kingdom life it is easy to see that the primary message Jesus was trying to bring was that when we are sorry for a life that separated us from the him, he will grant us the comfort of forgiveness and repentance.

We are comforted by the spirit of repentance which comes from responding to the Holy Spirit. Godly sorrow produces repentance and repentance produces joy.

Prayer: Father God, I thank you for the work of the Holy Spirit that convicts me of sin then comforts me with repentance. Grant me the grace to accept that work and to submit to your righteousness. In Jesus name, amen.

Daily God Walk for Saturday, December 8, 2012

Kingdom Value: Meek With Purpose

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

- Matthew 5:5

It is interesting that meekness has so often been associated with weakness. If we just go by the dictionary definition of meek we can easily come to that conclusion. It defines meek as, “enduring injury with patience and without resentment,” so far that sounds like godly character. Then it goes on to define meek in the terms that most think of first; “deficient in spirit and courage; not violent or strong.”

As a kingdom value there must be more to being meek than that. Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words explains it this way, “The concept of scriptural meekness projects a selfless commitment to the principles of God.”

The book of Numbers (12:3) records that Moses was meek (or humble) above anyone else on earth, yet he was no weakling. Moses was a strong leader who was not afraid of confrontation, but he was called meek because he was committed to the principles of God above his own ambition.

God had called Moses to lead Israel to the promised land - he could not have done that, and there would be no reward, if he was not meek. The blessings of God on earth are released upon those who are committed to the principles of the kingdom of God.

Meekness with purpose is a kingdom value.

Prayer: Lord, grant me the grace to accept the terms of the kingdom with joy and to commit myself to those principles with all humility and meekness. Help me to surrender my will to your purpose. In Jesus name, amen.

Daily God Walk for Sunday, December 9, 2012

Kingdom Value: A Hunger For God

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. - Matthew 5:6

There is an interesting contrast between the natural hunger one has and a spiritual hunger for God. When our physical hunger has been satisfied it is only for a few hours, then we are hungry again. When the soul desires God it desires a lasting solution to its eternal craving.

Jesus said to the woman at the well in John 4, "If you drink the water I give you, you will not thirst again." The soul of the one who hungers and thirsts for God is filled to capacity by his great grace and he will never be the same again.

This kind of hunger comes from being born again of the Spirit. It is not natural to desire the righteousness that comes from God. That desire is in contrast to what the flesh desires.

The grace of being filled to capacity with the righteousness of God is the result of born again people growing weary of this world's false hopes and false promises of fulfillment. When we have been born into the kingdom of God we cry out for the best that he has for us, his righteousness; and he fills us.

We can tell whether we are hungry for God by the environment we create for ourselves. Have you surrounded yourself with creature comforts or with evidences of a hunger for God? Think about it.

Hunger for God releases faith and hope in us.

Prayer: Lord, grant me a true hunger for you so that the longings I try to satisfy with the temporal will be filled by the eternal. In Jesus name, amen.

Daily God Walk for Monday, December 10, 2012

Kingdom Value: Blessed Merciful

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

- Matthew 5:7

Which comes first; receiving mercy or giving mercy? Jesus told a parable of a man who owed more than he would ever be able to repay, an amount that today would be in the millions. The one he owed the debt to forgave his debt knowing that he could never pay.

Then the forgiven one found a person who owed him what amounted to a few dollars and because that man could not pay he threw him into the debtors prison.

In the parable Jesus told, the original generous person heard about the unthankful servant. He then withdrew his forgiveness and had the unthankful servant thrown into the debtors prison.

In the context of that understanding, we who have received mercy from the one who has the power to hold us accountable to a debt we could not possibly pay, should have the same kind of mercy toward others.

Mercy often costs us more than we are comfortable giving, but the reward is that when we are merciful we gain favor with God. And besides that, our act of mercy may be the very thing which causes another to come to Christ.

“As God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with [tender mercies], kindness, humility, gentleness and patience” (Colossians 3:12 KJV). Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Prayer: Lord, I tend to require more of others than I am able to give myself. Grant me a merciful heart so that I will be forgiving of others just as I expect to be forgiven. In Jesus name, amen.

Daily God Walk for Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Kingdom Value: Pure In Heart

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

- Matthew 5:8

Well, that leaves most of us out. A pure heart? Isn't that just a little ridiculous? If a Christian sins a little every day, how does he ever have a pure heart?

The Scripture is consistently telling us that we don't have a pure heart. David wrote, "I was born in sin and shaped in iniquity." Isaiah said, "We have all gone astray." Paul wrote, "We have all sinned and come short of the glory of God." So where does this "pure heart" come from?

Jesus gives us an interesting analogy in John 15. He likens our relationship to him as to the vine, the vine dresser and the branches to the vine. In verse 2 he says his Father "prunes" branches that bear fruit. The word translated "prunes" literally means "cleanses" and is related to the "pure" of our verse in Matthew.

Then Jesus says, "You are already clean (same word as "pure") because of the word I have spoken to you.

Here is where a pure heart comes from. We hear the word of faith (Romans 10) and respond to it. Then the Father cleanses us, or prunes away our sin, leaving us pure in his sight. Here is the conclusion to the matter; "The blood of Jesus, his son, purifies us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

Prayer: Lord, in my natural state of being my heart is not pure. There is so much of this world there that it is impossible by my own work to be pure. I thank God that the blood of Christ cleanses me and purifies me from all sin. Thank you Lord Jesus. Amen.

Daily God Walk for Wednesday, December 12, 2012

Kingdom Value: Make Peace

Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called sons of God. - Matthew 5:9

There are many ideas of what it means to make peace. To many people making peace means that they convince others that they are right. To others it may mean “anything goes, let’s just keep the peace.” Some will say, “let’s not be controversial.” The question is this; what does Jesus mean when he says, “Blessed are the peacemakers?”

A definition of a peacemaker is one who makes peace by reconciling those who are at variance. If lasting peace is the objective then the focus must not be on the individuals involved but the focus must be on the principles that are at play.

As long as we are trying to appease individuals we will run amuck with other individuals and there will be no peace. When we look beyond those involved to the principles that are to be considered then we have a basis for establishing lasting peace.

What this means to you and I is that we are given the answer to all of the conflicts in this world. It is the peace which comes from knowing Jesus Christ. We become peacemakers when we are reconciling people to God through faith in Christ.

Lasting peace can never be established through compromising principles or appeasing individuals. Lasting peace is only found through submitting to the divinely established principles of life. That can only be done through faith in Christ.

Prayer: Lord, I want to be a peacemaker. Grant me the grace of understanding truth and conveying that truth to others. In Jesus name, amen.

Daily God Walk for Thursday, December 13, 2012

Kingdom Value: Endure Persecution

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- Matthew 5:10

People aren't going to understand you because they live in a different world, a different kingdom. They live by the principles of temporal kingdoms which lead to death - you live by the principles of the eternal kingdom which lead to eternal life.

Far too many people have compromised the message of Christ and his righteousness to appease people who are only concerned with this life and what they can get out of life here and now. We do people an injustice when we don't bring to their attention that the life they live leads to death when they could embrace the truth and have eternal life.

I recently read an article where a Christian was writing to justify tolerance of behaviors that are the opposite of what God's word teaches to be true. His justification was that we live in a pluralistic society and that we should not expect others to live by our standards. Somehow I didn't get the idea that this person had truly given up the kingdoms of this world to pursue the kingdom of God.

Of course we can't force people to believe, or to act, according to Christian principles - but neither should we deny them exposure to the truth of God's word under the guise of tolerance.

You will be persecuted when you stand for righteousness - but your reward is the kingdom of God.

Prayer: Lord, put something in me that will not let me compromise the message of the righteousness of Christ to appease those who are dying in their sin. In Jesus name, amen.

Daily God Walk for Friday, December 14, 2012

Kingdom Value: Rejoice With Hope

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. - Matthew 5:11-12

It is difficult to rejoice when people, who don't understand you, are harassing you for what they think you are. Don't be amazed by this; as Jesus said, they did the same thing to the prophets.

I find it interesting that people, who are very liberal in what they allow, become very intolerant of those who do not agree with their liberalism. If you speak against a particular sin then you are speaking hatred. If you begin to speak about the judgments that God has placed upon sinful behaviors then you are judgmental and bigoted.

None of us want to be ill-thought of by our peers, but we can't let that concern be our guide. Jesus was clear when he spoke of the persecution that would come upon those who stand for the truth. When we stand for the truth in an environment that is hostile to any standard of truth that affects their life choices, then we must prepare ourselves to be judged by others and persecuted for our views.

In all of this Jesus tells us to look past the moment of frustration, rejection and persecution, and look to our eternal hope: Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven.

.Prayer: Lord, it never feels good to be rejected. Grant me the faith to look past the way I am treated by those who don't know the truth and look to the hope that is in you. In Jesus name, amen.

Daily God Walk for Saturday, December 15, 2012

Patience And Self-Control Are Twins

A patient man has great understanding, but a quick-tempered man displays folly. - Proverbs 14:29

Have you ever walked into a room and saw something that immediately made you angry and you showed your anger only to discover that you had totally misread the situation? Isn't That embarrassing?

Someone said, "Patience is a virtue - but anger is easier." The tendency to become angry at a moments notice is not a gift it is a liability. I like the way The Message reads on this passage: "Slowness to anger makes for deep understanding; a quick tempered person stockpiles stupidity." That about sums it up.

Patience and self-control are twins. When we find a person who is patient we have also found a person who has the kind of self-control which keeps his emotions and responses in check. A patient person will carefully evaluate the facts before responding to the situation.

The other side of that coin is the person who is quick to respond in anger. Anger and lack of self-control is also a twin. If you notice, a person who has a problem controlling his anger also has a problem with self-control in other areas.

Patience and self-control are gifts from God for which we should diligently seek. As we gain patience and self-control we are able to measure the way we respond to difficult situations and avoid embarrassing ourselves.

Prayer: Lord, give me patience - right now! Grant me the ability to trust you and to be able to wait patiently for your answer. Give me the gift of patience, not only to wait upon you but to be careful in how I respond to others. In Jesus name, amen.

Daily God Walk for Sunday, December 16, 2012

Where Do You Keep Your Light?

I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.

- Acts 26:18

There have been many times that I have shared the gospel of Christ with people who looked at me like I was from another planet. They were completely blinded to the truth and to the power of God.

The apostle Paul was sent to just such people. From the day of his conversion he was called and sent to people who lived in darkness under the control of Satan and his kingdom. We are given the same responsibility today.

We have a responsibility to take this gospel light to those who do not have it. That doesn't mean we have to pack up and go to a foreign country; there are millions of people right here in our own land who walk in darkness.

In 2 Corinthians 4:4 Paul tells us that we are given the light of the gospel so that we might share it with those who are in darkness. Jesus said that we are light to the world. He also said that when you have a light you don't put in a basket.

You are the light of the world - where do you keep your light? Remember this: Showing people the light of the gospel frees them from the power of Satan.

People in darkness need more than words - they need a light. Are you the light they need?

Prayer: Lord, I tend to keep my faith private, but I know that you have called me to let my faith light shine for the world to see. Grant me the faith to be a light to those around me who are in darkness. In Jesus name, amen.

Daily God Walk for Monday, December 17, 2012

The Crusher Is Coming

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head and you will strike his heal. - Genesis 3:15

The first offense to God on earth was generated by the tempter who sowed seeds of doubt in the mind of the first couple of the garden God had created. Since that time the offenses against God have been too numerous to count, but this one offense set in motion a chain of events that led to an all out war in the spirit realm.

The word of the Lord to the one who challenged his authority at the beginning of this war of the ages was this, "He (the promised seed of the woman) will crush your head." Since that day Satan, the father of all that is evil and dark, has been under the sentence of destruction; but he hasn't accepted that judgment. Today he is still doing his best to sow doubt and tear down the faith of those who walk in the light.

There are times when this war in the spirit realm is raging so intensely around us, and the temptation to sin against God by following our own desires is so great, that we wonder if we are going to make it.

Remember this: God said, "I will crush his head." The crushing blow to the head of Satan occurred at the resurrection of Christ. Since that time we have been given power over the enemy of our soul. Walk in confidence because you know the end of the story.

The crusher has come. Our enemy has been defeated. The head, or power, of Satan has been destroyed.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for the promise of redemption and the hope in knowing that you have already dealt the crushing blow to our enemy. Amen.

Daily God Walk for Tuesday, December 18, 2012

The Blessing One Is Coming

I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you. - Genesis 12:3

God's plan of blessing those who bless and cursing those who curse was put into motion thousands of years before Abram received this promise. It began in the Garden of Eden when Satan challenged the authority of God and released rebellion upon the human race through the disobedience of Adam and Eve.

Since that time God had been ordering the universe to prepare a people who would be the ones to carry the seed of redemption. When this promise was given to Abram he had no idea of the magnitude of its impact upon the human race, but we who now live many thousands of years later know that this prophecy was about the Christ who would come.

The Lord said to Abram, "All peoples on earth will be blessed through you." This is the hope that mankind was given in the birth of the Christ on that night more than 2000 years ago.

We have cause to rejoice, not only that the promise was given but that it was fulfilled in Christ. Now we who know him are blessed beyond measure. The curse that came upon the earth and mankind is now dealt with because God is faithful to his promise.

Thank God that He had a plan from the beginning, and that through faith in Christ we are redeemed.

Prayer: Father, you are not only just but you are merciful. Your justice demanded the judgment for the fall of man, and your mercy provided Christ, the blessing to all nations. Thank You. Amen.

Daily God Walk for Wednesday, December 19, 2012

The Prophet Is Coming

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him.

- Deuteronomy 18:15

Israel had seen the fire of God and they were afraid to see him face to face or to hear from him directly. They said to Moses at Horeb, "Let us not hear the voice of the Lord our God nor see this great fire anymore" (v16).

The Lord told Moses, "What they say is good. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him" (v17-18).

Peter quotes this passage in reference to Christ in Acts 3:22. He is preaching to the crowd who gathered when the beggar was healed at the gate to the temple. The message he was preaching was that Jesus was the Christ sent by God with the message of life and they must listen to everything that is taught about him.

When Jesus spoke to the people of his generation he was not just preaching to them but he was opening the door of understanding to the principles of his eternal kingdom.

We should rejoice today because we have heard the word of the Lord through his Christ and those he has anointed to speak his truth.

The promise was that a prophet would come. He came. And now the same spirit of the prophet is in those who proclaim the name of Christ and his message of hope.

Prayer: Thank you Lord for the Christ, the truth he revealed and those he has anointed to preach that truth to us. Grant me a heart to not only hear his truth but to apply it to my life. In Jesus name, amen.

Daily God Walk for Thursday, December 20, 2012

A Baby Is Coming

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. -Isaiah 7:14

God gave the world a sign of his divine gift to the world when he gave the Christ through the womb of a woman who had not known a man.

Even though man was blinded by the darkness of the fall God was still moving him closer to the day of redemption when light would come to the world. As God prepared for that day he had a very special plan.

It was through the woman that sin first entered into the human race and mankind became defiled - it would be through a pure and innocent woman that man would receive the gift of redemption.

Some have doubted the virgin birth, but do not be deceived by human reason. God was revealing a kingdom principle. It was the woman who had introduced disobedience and it was through the woman that God would introduce restoration. God uses broken things to fix and restore broken things.

When the Christ child was born it was the very God himself bringing the kingdom message to mankind. Only God could cause the womb of a woman who had not known a man to be with child; and that child would himself be God made flesh.

Jesus spoke the words of God because he was the Word of God made flesh. Hallelujah!

Prayer: Thank you for the child that was born into a sinful world yet who knew no sin that he might be the sacrifice for our sins. Amen.

Daily God Walk for Friday, December 21, 2012

The Prince Of Peace Is Coming

To us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. - Isaiah 9:6

From the time that God promised a deliverer would come a hope began to grow in the heart of God's people. Bit by bit and piece by piece God was revealing the anointed one who would come to bring redemption to Israel and to all of mankind.

Isaiah gives us many pictures of the one who was to come. In chapter seven He speaks of a virgin who would bear a son called Immanuel, God with us. In chapter 53 he spoke of the suffering Christ whose sacrifice would bring healing, salvation and deliverance to all who would believe.

In this verse Isaiah gives a more full revelation of who this blessed one would be than anywhere else. Isaiah declares him to be a Wonderful Counselor; one who's wisdom and care bring comfort to the troubled. Isaiah calls him the Mighty God; indeed, he is the very God of the universe made flesh. He then calls him the Everlasting Father; one who will never forsake his sons. And finally, the Prince of Peace; those who know him know peace.

About 700 years before Christ was born Isaiah was telling us that Christ would be all that we would need: Our God, our counselor, our Father, our Peace. He is all that... and more. Hallelujah!

Prayer: Lord, thank you for coming to earth as a child to become Mighty God to us. Thank you for the peace that is in your name. In Jesus name, amen.

Daily God Walk for Saturday, December 22, 2012

The Forerunner Is Coming

A voice of one calling: In the desert prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God... And the glory of the Lord will be revealed and all mankind together will see it. - Isaiah 40:3-5

The biblical history of man is that he continually wanders from the path that God has laid out for him to follow. The way of man is a path that leads from life to destruction - To know life man must find the highway of hope.

John the Baptist was the voice crying out in the desert calling for people to repent. Their path had been very religious, but not very spiritual. The religious leaders of that day were very much like some leaders today. They rigidly hold to their understanding of the word of God, but they have very little understanding of the love-purpose that drove God to give us his words of life.

God wanted to show his glory to the world, but the way had to be prepared. Paul wrote to the church at Galatia, "When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman," (Galatians 4:4).

John, the forerunner, was preparing the way for God to bring redemption to mankind through Jesus the Christ.

John declared that repentance prepared the way of the Lord and that is true today. When we come to God truly repentant and willing to change, his glory is revealed to us and in us. The Christ has come and now he dwells in us. Hallelujah

Prayer: Thank you Lord for sending the one who would prepare the way for the Christ. And I thank you for the hope that is in me because my heart has been prepared to receive the Christ and his glory. Amen.

Daily God Walk for Sunday, December 23, 2012

Blessed Women Of Promise

A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ... Perez, whose mother was *Tamar*... Boaz, whose mother was *Rahab*... Obed, whose mother was *Ruth*... Solomon, whose mother had been *Uriah's wife*... Joseph, the husband of *Mary*, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ. - Matthew 1

God has revealed himself to be the God of second chances. That truth is nowhere more evident than in this first chapter of the gospel of Matthew. In this genealogy of Jesus there are five women mentioned. The fact that women would be mentioned in a Jewish genealogy is peculiar enough, but the particular women mentioned is really odd.

Tamar was a woman who became pregnant with Perez when she posed as a prostitute; Rahab was a prostitute in Jericho; Ruth was a Moabite, she was not born in the line of promise; Solomon's mother, mentioned here only as "Uriah's Wife" committed adultery with David and David had her husband killed.

What do all of these women have in common? All of them were terribly flawed, and some, by our standards, would not even be allowed in the church, much less in the lineage of Christ; but God chose them for the most incredible job of being used to be a part of the blood line that brought Christ to the world.

God chooses to fix broken things and to use them to fix other broken things. What a concept - using renewed broken things to heal other broken things.

He is the God of second chances. Hallelujah!

Prayer: Thank you Lord that you don't stop loving us just because we are flawed. Thank you for your healing, redeeming love. In Jesus name, amen.

Daily God Walk for Monday, December 24, 2012

Peace On Earth

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.” - Luke 2:13-14

It seems that for my entire life our nation has either been in war or there has been the threat of war. And it is not our nation alone but it is the same around the world. Nations and peoples guided by greed and the lust for power have kept the world in turmoil since the beginning of time.

When Christ was born things were not much different than today, they just didn't have the technology we have. Rome ruled the known world with a rod of iron and allegiance to that empire was expected of all. Any who rebelled were quickly subdued.

In the middle of all of that a child was born in a manger in an obscure town of Judea called Bethlehem. On that night all the host of heaven assembled to declare, “Peace to men on whom his favor rests.” The one who was to be called “Prince of Peace” has been born. Though nations, and even the world would be divided over him, those who would believe would receive favor, and peace, from God.

The peace of God will only be known world-wide in the eternal kingdom, but the Prince of Peace offers his peace to all who will come. One by one we enter his peace through the portal of Grace.

His grace has allowed his peace to rest in us.

Prayer: Father, you have been so good to me, much better than I could ever deserve. Thank you for your grace so abundant and free and the peace that comes from knowing you. In Jesus name, amen.

Daily God Walk for Tuesday, December 25, 2012

The King Is Born In Simplicity

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. - Luke 2:6-7

Men look in palaces for their king, but God chooses humble surroundings in which to reveal himself. Kings would come to honor him, but it was angels and shepherds who first came to see the king born in a manger.

Throughout the history of God revealing himself to man he showed a preference for people of humble position to be the message bearers. Abraham was vagabond, Moses was desert nomad, David was a shepherd boy, and Christ was born in a stable where only animals had been born before.

One of the reasons people miss him is that they are looking for something grand and spectacular, and he does not come that way. He chooses to reveal himself to the broken and needy of this world. He comes as a friend offering a room or a meal. He comes as a healer, a doctor or a minister to heal our diseases. He comes as a counselor to restore our heart and give us hope.

Those who need him can still find him in a humble, manger like, place. Those who look past the manger to a cathedral may just look too far.

God has said, "I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit." Don't miss him by looking in the wrong places.

Prayer: Lord, You seek men and women who are willing to look for you in a stable, a hospital, or wherever they are in need. Help me Lord to humbly seek you right where I am. In Jesus name, amen.

Daily God Walk for Wednesday, December 26, 2012

Wise Men Honor Him

After Jesus was born... Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." - Matthew 2:1-2

Who were those wise men (Magi) anyway? Some think they were kings and others think they were astrologers who study the stars and predict the future. Whoever they were they were men who were sensitive to the times and who were seeking wisdom. In their searching they found Him - the king born in a manger.

God is still trying to lead those who are sensitive to the times and wise in their choices, to follow the star to the manger. The Magi put such a high value on what they perceived to be an act of God that they abandoned their daily routine to follow a star. They knew that something momentous had happened and they didn't want to miss it.

God calls those who are more concerned with what they find than in where they find it. It is interesting that most people are looking for peace, joy, and happiness; yet they refuse to look in the one place where it is sure to be found. All too often mankind looks to wealth, acceptance, and power to bring them happiness and they miss it because they are looking in the wrong places.

God is still trying to lead those who are sensitive to the times and wise in their choices. By meditating upon God's word and hearing his voice we can discern the times and make wise choices.

Prayer: God, I seek you, but sometimes I look in the wrong places to find you. Grant me the wisdom and humility to accept you where I find you. In Jesus name, amen.

Daily God Walk for Thursday, December 27, 2012

Kings Fear Him

An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." - Matthew 2:13

It is interesting that wise men from the east came to honor the Christ, but the local king sought to kill him. Those from afar honored him, but those close by felt threatened by him.

It isn't much different today. In a broad sense the world accepts Jesus, as long as we don't make him too personal. From a distance Christ looks good. He was a good teacher and had many good things to say. It is only when He gets up close and personal that people become concerned.

King Herod was a vile and wicked man. He was also very paranoid about his position as king. Anyone he considered a threat to his throne he had killed, including members of his own family. He even killed the babies in Bethlehem.

I see the same spirit at work in the world today. Not that the ungodly are quite as radical, but it is easy to see the same spirit at work. All of us have a king on the throne of our life and his name is Ego.

Ego will do whatever he can to stay on the throne. He will deny the Christ. He will declare that there are no moral certainties and that everyone must find his own way. He will believe that all religious people are hypocrites. It seems he will believe anything to stay on his throne.

Is your ego threatened by the Christ? Think about it.

Prayer: Lord, my ego doesn't want anyone else on the throne of my life, but I know that only you can guide me in truth and righteousness. Grant me the grace to put Christ on the throne of my life. In Jesus name I pray, amen.

Daily God Walk for Friday, December 28, 2012

The Purpose Of His Kingdom

The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. - Luke 4:18-19

The Jews were looking for a deliverer who would rule with a rod of iron. They were looking for one who would be anointed to overthrow the Roman occupiers and set the people free from outside influence.

But that was not why Jesus came and that was not the purpose of the kingdom he preached. He clearly declared that he came to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim freedom to those in prison, recovery of sight to the blind, release for those who were oppressed and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

Jesus never preached the overthrow of Roman domination, and he never called for rebellion against the political leaders of the day. In fact he called for the people to "render unto Caesar what is Caesar's" when asked about paying taxes.

How was Jesus going to free the prisoners and the oppressed? His plan was unique, yet simple. He would set people free on the inside and once they were free on the inside there would be no prison on earth, or no oppressive force, which could keep them from being free.

Freedom is not where we are physically but where we are in our mind and our heart. Jesus came preaching healing and restoration for the spirit in man. He was concerned for the eternal state of man more than the temporal.

Prayer: I thank you Lord the Jesus came to set us free on the inside so that I might be free indeed. Amen.

Daily God Walk for Saturday, December 29, 2012

Forceful Men In His Kingdom

From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it. - Matthew 11:12

Jesus reminds the people of the ministry of John the Baptist then poses two things. The first is the kingdom of heaven is forcefully advancing. The second is that forceful men grasp it. Jesus presents the kingdom as a radical change from the status quo and entering it requires great commitment.

The kingdom of heaven is not for the weak willed. Jesus speaks of a kingdom advancing forcefully that is led by forceful men. This seems to imply that that a share in the heavenly kingdom is sought for with the most ardent zeal and the most intense exertion (Thayer's Greek English Lexicon). This concept seems to go against the approach of reciting a magic formula and praying the right words as a way of getting into the kingdom.

Jesus mentions that John the Baptist was the greatest in the kingdom and was undoubtedly referring to his forceful nature. Then he said, "Yet, he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

God is calling men and women to greatness in the kingdom. How does one become great in the kingdom? By boldly declaring the kingdom and doing the works of the kingdom.

Prayer: Father, I realize that you are calling men and women to make a commitment to the kingdom that requires taking positive action. Grant me the grace to press my way in to take hold of the kingdom and declare it boldly. In Jesus name, amen.

Daily God Walk for Sunday, December 30, 2012

Power In His Kingdom

Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to do miraculous signs and wonders. - Acts 14:3

There is a little known secret in the kingdom. It is this: Where there is great need there is great power to answer that need. I discovered this principle in Sacramento, California a few years ago.

The Lord had placed us in an area that locals called “The Strip.” It was an area where prostitutes, drug dealers and more sinister people lived and made their living in crime.

As we ministered to these people we saw miracle after miracle, almost on a daily basis. In fact it became a sort of joke that our people would come up to us and ask, “What’s the miracle today pastor?”

The interesting thing about this time is that we were no more consecrated than we had been in the past, yet power seemed to flow from us to save, heal and deliver people. Why was that so? The Lord revealed to us that it was because we were where the need was and where the need is there is great power to answer the need.

Do you have great power? Do you want great power? Then go out to where there is great need. Miracles in the early church happened as those who ministering went out among those who had need.

Prayer: Lord, I desire to have spiritual power, but I have been reluctant to go to others who have need of healing and deliverance. Grant me the grace to go to people I wouldn’t normally serve to see them affected by your power. In Jesus name, amen.

Daily God Walk for Monday, December 31, 2012

Living In His Kingdom

The kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men. - Romans 14:17-18

In some Christian circles today the test of a persons' spirituality is how successful they are in achieving prosperity. After all, the good soil produces 30, 60 and 100 fold, therefore, if you are good soil you will be producing great prosperity. That is an inspiring idea, but it doesn't measure up to the greater body of Scripture.

Paul was saying here that the kingdom is not about what you have to eat or drink. Jesus said, "Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes" (Luke 12:23). The point seems to be that we are not to get caught up in the affairs of this world like those around us do, but we are to have a growing trust and faith in God's provision.

Paul gives us a revealing test of being in the kingdom. He said, "The kingdom of God is... righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." Being successful in the kingdom is more than what the world calls success. It is living out the righteousness of Christ and it is the peace that comes from trusting the Lord and the joy that comes with the presence and working of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer: Lord, I tend to measure success by the world's standard and I fall way short. Help me to understand that you have an entirely different way of looking at things. Grant me the grace of peace, joy and righteousness in you. In Jesus name, amen.