

Proclaiming the Gospel

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (*1 Cor. 1.18*).

Edifying the Body of Christ (*Eph. 4.10-16*)

December, 2010

The Wise Still Seek Him

Vol. II.12

Message
of
Jesus Christ

Hungry? Then Feast!

Do you feel a lack in your relationship with Jesus? Do you hunger for more of Him? Jesus said, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled" (Mt 5.6). It is a promise; they shall be filled. He satisfies that hunger to the extent that we dwell in His presence feasting on Him, coming to know His nature.

There are many times in our lives when the Lord takes us into new territory with Him. He often stirs us with an empty feeling inside, dissatisfaction with where we are in the Lord; we hunger for Him. As the carnal human beings that we are, our first response often is to look for satisfaction in natural things: new clothes, fun vacations – but God desires to fill us with more of Himself. It is time to move on into a place closer to Jesus with the Holy Spirit functioning more fully in our lives.

Jesus instructs us, "Abide in me, and I in you..." He was not referring to an occasional "high;" abiding is a constant awareness of His presence and a total surrender of oneself to Him. This is a position beyond the initial acceptance of Jesus as Savior; it is an ongoing relationship with Him in which He is leading us step by step toward a "promised land," an inheritance which He made available to all who know Jesus as Lord.

The Psalmist speaks of dwelling in the secret place of the Most High (Ps 91.1). There is a place in Christ Jesus in which we are privileged to dwell. It is a "promised land" available to us if we will keep our eyes on Jesus and follow Him through that Jordan River as did the Israelites.

Our promised land is the Lord, Himself. Let us cry with the Psalmist, Whom have I in heaven [*but thee*]? and [*there is*] none upon earth [*that*] I desire beside thee.
My flesh and my heart faileth: [*but*] God [*is*] the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever. (Ps 73.25-26)

David also says "The LORD [*is*] the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot" (Ps 16.5).

Brothers and Sisters, it is worth every struggle, every heartache, every cut to our hearts, every loss of family and friends; it is worth all that is necessary to come into Christ Jesus, to abide in Him and He in us.

He is with us in all the battles. He has even prepared a table for us in the presence of our enemies (Ps 23.5). He fights our battles for us; He prepares the way before we get there; He will never leave us nor forsake us. When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him (Isa 59.19) – all because He loves us and has called us to a high calling in Christ Jesus (Phil 3.14). We can follow Him without fear. We can trust Jesus.

If you are hungry, feast on Him. Love Him. Seek Him. Serve Him. Trust Him. You are blessed; you hunger and thirst after righteousness, and you shall be filled.

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Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

As you seek the Lord in your life, as you hunger and thirst after His righteousness, consider the following Scriptures and God's promise to satisfy you:

For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness (Ps 107.9).

With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments *[are]* in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness. (Isa 26.9)

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Wherefore do ye spend money for *[that which is]* not bread? and your labour for *[that which]* satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye *[that which is]* good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness (Isa 55.1, 2)

Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: (Isa 55.6)

Jesus told the woman at the well, "But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life" (Jn 4.14). Again, Jesus cried to His followers, "...If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink" (Jn 7.37). Hear John 6.52-58, especially verse 56: "He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him."

Let us not be satisfied with less than that Promised Land that He has reserved for us – the Lord Himself – that fullness of which the Apostle Paul writes to the Ephesians (Eph 3.16-19). Let us say with the Psalmist, "As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness" (Ps 17.15). And let us determine to surrender to Jesus until we awake in His likeness.

God brought the Children of Israel into their Promised Land; however, they could not sit down and say, "That's it; we've arrived" – and do nothing. They crossed the Jordan River right at Jericho, their first battle. Neither will we reach a place in Christ where we can sit and do nothing. Occupying our inheritance means conquering the enemy and driving him out.

If we have allowed God to lead us from victory to victory in the wilderness, we will find ourselves prepared and strengthened to face the enemies that have to be driven out of the territory that God gives us.

When Israel arrived across the Jordan, the first thing God had instructed them to do was to set up twelve stones in Gilgal (also in the river) as a reminder of the miracle power of God on their behalf. We need to remember and encourage ourselves with the past victories in our lives.

Secondly, God renewed His covenant with His people through circumcision. These were His people, and He promised to live among them

and accomplish His purpose in them. Fellow believers in Jesus Christ, we have been chosen by the Lord to show forth His glory to a sin-sick world, to function as His Body in the land; and, lest we fail Him, that purpose and our covenant with Him has to be renewed often by a circumcision of our hearts. As we press on in Him and as we enter the Promised Land, there is of necessity a certain cutting away of all things in our hearts that could possibly breed sin. NO SIN can live in Christ Jesus.

Father, help us to surrender to your purifying knife. May we through surrender hear your words to us, "This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt (the bondage of sin) from off you" (Jos 5.9).

After the cleansing came the Passover, a time of re-living God's salvation, a Holy Communion with the Lord – sitting in His presence feasting on the Lamb of God, Jesus. To face the tasks ahead of us in these last days, we must have the strength gained through feasting on the Bread of Life.

Again, there was feasting to be done on a daily basis as the Israelites partook of the "old corn of the land" – that which was already growing in Canaan, already prepared for them (Jos 5.11).

As they began to eat of the fruit of the land, they no longer needed to be "hand fed" by the Lord. The manna ceased. Manna had been the food necessary while they were wandering up and down, in circles, in the wilderness where food and water were scarce. It was during a time of doubts, fears, and complaining. Now they were in a place conducive to growing their own food. There comes a time in our walk with Jesus when we are capable of and responsible for seeking God and studying His Word on our own. Yes, we need the Word and encouragement from others in the Body of Christ and accountability to the ministry; however, we have strength to fight the enemy as we feast on the Bread of Life.

As Joshua stood near Jericho, the site of his first battle in Canaan, he saw the Captain of the host of the Lord. Joshua was knowledgeable in the ways of God. He knew the voice of the Lord; he had had many experiences to remember and from which to receive strength; yet, God, in His love and mercy, sent special encouragement to him. The task Joshua faced was tremendous with heavy responsibility, **but**

HE STOOD IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD.

His first response to God's presence was worship. "...And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant?" (Jos 5.14b). When we find ourselves standing in the presence of the Lord, as before the Mercy Seat, the only thing we can do is fall on our face and worship. Then we will hear His words, "...Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest *[is]* holy..." (Jos 5.15).