

HIND'S FEET ON HIGH PLACES

Chapter 10 Study Notes – Ascent of the Precipice Injury

Well here we are... half way through our journey already in our study. For some of us this study has been life changing, requiring us to walk beyond the words etched on a page. And who would have known? And I keep asking myself, if I would have known – would even I have said “yes” to going on this spiritual rollercoaster? It seems with each chapter we face, we come across trials that are increasingly similar to Much Afraid's. And like we learned last week... I am not so sure I even want Hind's Feet at times... but here we are and there's no going back, is there? We've learned, once we cling to Jesus when fearful, no one else satisfies us like Him – in essence, where would we even go should we turn back now? Who could we cling to in our time of need that could even match His embracing arms? No one can measure to His love and comfort and intervention in our lives.

This week's theme... Counting the cost. I mean truly make a decision to be one of Jesus's disciples wholeheartedly, in truth after much consideration and honesty. Am I willing to fully lay my life down accepting whatever the Lord weaves into my life in that I become... Holy, as He is Holy. That's the real question, isn't it? Everyone wants to wait to be made Holy it seems, when the process starts here, right now, the moment you give your heart to Jesus. He does a work within us that unfolds us being set apart from the world, no longer being our own – He is in charge now, changing and molding us through fires, stripes, discipline, etc... whatever it takes to get us surrender He shall do it, because He loves us and is very jealous about anything that may try to enter in and sever the union we have with Him. When this testing comes, it feels like you are on an emotional rollercoaster for a bit – thankfully He is on it with us! And even more thankfully – He never loses one of His own!

Today's Scriptures:

LUKE 14:28-30

For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not **sit down first and count the cost**, whether he has *enough* to finish it—lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish'?

Leaving everything behind in order to follow Jesus is the path way less traveled and many attempt to build a life around Him, only to fall away when it gets really difficult to imitate Him, follow in His footsteps, on His path and especially when we must drink of His cup of suffering. This scripture reveals to us why that is the case... most do not count the cost in advance of just what it looks like to be His disciple in this self-indulgent world. Do “we” have enough faith to endure all things like Jesus and remain in Him no matter what comes until our personal very end, in that we hear, well done good and faithful servant? This question is very, very serious because it requires us to lay down our lives not only for our friends, but our enemies too.

ISAIAH 26:3

You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.

Those who Jesus keeps in perfect peace... Have a mind that is constantly and consistently focused on Jesus and they trust Him no matter what comes their way. This is where peace resides, not as the world gives peace and a false sense of security – only peace Jesus offers when we do our part – keep Him foremost in our minds.

GALATIANS 6:9

And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

We all have moments where we begin to lose heart... but we always bounce right back to attention seeking the Lord's will and how He desires to use us as His child of light. Many hopeless people do lose heart because they do nothing for others – they seek what others can do for them, more than what they can do for others – and they get very weary. But those who have joy in serving, shall reap all they've done to the least of these or rather, those in need, as their brother's keeper.

EPHESIANS 6:16

...above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

ABOVE ALL ELSE... truly gets our attention! Faith in Jesus puts out the flames of residue from anything the wicked can throw at us. Thank You Lord, for being there when we call upon You and today we declare... WE BELIVE You shall come to our rescue, always.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:7

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

Some people find more comfort just seeing the plans ahead or where the path is going they are currently on. But those who follow Jesus do not get that luxury. We sometimes do not know what the next hour or day shall bring, where we will eat, rest or pay our bills from, etc... When we walk by faith, we just know – God will supply all our needs so He gets the glory. And trust me, He often shows up in the more elaborate, heart softening and miraculous ways through vessels just like each one of you. Walking by faith, we just know... that Jesus is Who He says He is and He will never abandon us while teaching us how to lean upon Him for every single need and desire.

MATHEW 11:28

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Bridging the gap between works and rest often takes a very long time, as does getting people who do not want to get out and serve Jesus, takes equally as long for some reason. Jesus, just like our Father the Creator, rested as an example to us the importance of rest. I have found people who are controlling are more inhibited to rest, because they do not trust Jesus to oversee everything should they step away and rest in Jesus – focusing only on Him for a bit. He tells us if you labor – He

will give you rest. If you are heavy laden (worn out) – He will give you rest. Rest is not shameful, its just as important for us to obey Him to rest as it is to work.

HEBREWS 13:5

Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Reading this backwards we see when we KNOW Jesus is with us always and will never leave us, we no longer are discontented with what we don't have, we are content because we have it all – we have Him. We also will no longer covet (have a strong desire for) those things not yet attained, but instead are grateful for all the Lord has given us.

1 PETER 1:15-16

...but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

Many church people do not like this verse at all... I am just going to let you wrestle with the Lord with it... I get complaints when I even read it and worse when I try to explain it. He will show you – why He instructs us to be Holy as He is, if you ask Him. All I will say is – Jesus does not place heavy burdens on people yet, He does require your behavior replicate Holy and pure because He called you to be obedient as His child.

1 PETER 2:9-10

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

God's mercy is not getting what we actually deserve – His punishment for our sinful and rebellious ways. Do not ever abuse this gift of mercy or take it for granted or use it for pleasure in unrighteous gratification. His compassion is not directed to those who do so. Mercy is for the ones set apart from the World, HIS OWN SPECIAL PEOPLE, just like we read in this scripture. He is merciful to us, because of Jesus's atonement and our love and appreciation for His Son. Mercy given to others (sowing into them love instead of sowing punishment) insures in return we shall reap that same mercy from our Father.

DEUTERONOMY 7:6

"For you are a ^aholy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.

I firmly believe people behave how they think of themselves. You will walk out holiness, if you see yourself washed clean by Jesus's life He laid down for our salvation. Just like you wouldn't trample with muddy feet on a brand-new white rug you bought... If you knew how Jesus purified you, you would not permit anything to enter in and taint you, making you dirty.

YOU, each one of you are CHOSEN, a special treasure ABOVE everyone else on Earth. And the devil is a liar, so if you believe anything else, you must stop listening to him. He wants to steal your joy found in freedom from sin, kill your soul and take as many souls to eternal hell with him as possible and destroy your faith in Jesus while walking as one of His own, Holy and pure, just as Jesus and the Father both are, in truth.

MATHEW 6:14-15

"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

We must forgive as a child of God. It's a command, not a suggestion. We must release the desire to repay with harm or vengeance everyone, of every single thing they have done to us that caused us pain. If we do not, we will not be forgiven by the Lord for our sinful ways. That is just how serious this is... Forgiveness does not mean entanglement with the person, it just means you place them in the Lord's hands for His perfect will to be done and you accept His will without question or complaint, void of you having a hand in their punishment.

COLOSSIANS 3:13

...bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*.

This is just another reminder... to put up with one another's shortcomings is bearing with one another – when someone else's flesh irritates your flesh – that's all it is... therefore, some people get on one another's nerves – but let it go, don't sweat the small stuff... don't complain either – just recognize it for what it is – their flesh irritates yours, big deal... I have many quirks that people do not like – I am probably on some people's nerves even right now. There are also parts of my flesh that get very irritated at times, but I am not grumpy about it. It just helps me know who I am and am not to cling to as family. And even family irritates one another – Shelby won't let me chew gum, Michael doesn't answer texts immediately and gets upset if I don't respond right away, Gabriel is always five minutes late, my brother says stuff and doesn't do it and the list of irritants are endless. But none of it should pull any of us apart when we are grounded in love. When we let the little things go; love, peace and joy is established in our hearts and re-established in all our relationships. Our homes are happy and things go much more smoothly in our personal lives. I am sure thankful Jesus, Who is perfect, doesn't complain about us... We also should not complain about others because not one of us is perfect either.

CHAPTER 11 – In the Forests of Danger and Tribulation

Key Takeaways From Today's Message:

- Please, please do not shy away from the directive from Jesus to be "Holy"... You've got this and it is possible to walk in holiness with Him, free of the chains of sin on your life. Many hear that verse and want to throw in the towel... but don't, please hear me... You are already doing this, you may not know it yet, but you are. To be Holy like Jesus is, means to choose good and what is pleasing in His sight, over sinful ways of disobedience. It is a choice, what you choose when presented with doing good or doing evil. So see? You make the holy choice quite often every single day and hopefully, as He purifies

us all the more... we begin to walk uprightly in holiness, bringing Him both pleasure and glory time and again. Those unholy things that we used to do are losing their grip on our lives and now we are more happy to do what is holy in His eyes through surrendered obedience. So be encouraged today! Don't run away from holiness, but instead press into it each time you are met with a decision - choose good, not evil and you shall walk in freedom, only doing what you see your Father in Heaven doing, just like Jesus did.

- I just want to share a quote with you all from Gabriel, something simple he said to me the other day... He said, "Tolerance of sin is the first step to oppression." Gabriel was speaking about America, but I knew the Lord was speaking through him to us. It is time to rise, to cast off those filthy garments of sin and put on the righteousness of Jesus, to grow into being a child of God, no longer walking as children of darkness we become the light for all to see, pointing to Jesus. When we decide to no longer tolerate sin working in each of our lives, oppression has nothing to lay hold to, so we are free to be who God called us to be.
- Each chapter of this book reminds us consistently to go to Jesus in our time of need so He can pour His comfort and peace into our hearts, that we may be settled in spirit, mind and body. It truly is His healing touch we need, completely, in every area of our lives. We often do not have this, because we do not ask of Him, but others to complete, deliver and heal us. So, the wholeness is delayed quite a long time in looking unto man to fulfill what only Jesus can. He desires for our souls to prosper and grow to replicate Him and His ways.
- Jesus is the word made flesh. His Word is spiritual food of substance for our weakened, failing souls. His Word sustains us and nourishes us so we do not grow weary and faint. I deal with so many people who are compromised and weak and yet, admittedly refuse to read His word for sustainment. Which is very sad to me and a good reminder for us to not ignore the longing and desire for the pure and sincere milk of the Word. You can lead a horse to water, but you cannot make them drink comes to mind. We can lead others to His word, but it is their choice of whether or not to partake of it.
- Our spiritual growth is not bound by our natural surroundings. Meaning, the Lord uses our surroundings and the people we interact with to decrease us, in that He increase within us. It is the iron sharpening iron we need, so that parts of Him being the author and finisher of our faith is revealed. May we press into this finishing process, instead of kicking against it, knowing it is all a part of His divine plan for us.
- One crucial mistake many make to initiate the falling away in their faith, is not counting the cost before committing to following Jesus as one of His disciples. They say the road to hell is paved with good intentions and this is why. Most intend to lay their lives down for Him, yet when the pressing comes, they turn back. We have to "bear" the cost of being His friend and like we learned today... Bearing the cost and forgiveness goes hand in hand with loving others as you love yourself. We must do it, not just proclaim it. Love without works is dead... so if you feel like you are slipping away from Jesus, look for divine appointments to be His hands and feet. Jesus's real servants serve, just like their Master, the Lord Jesus, they do not come to be served but to serve. Then miraculously... your joy is fully restored by Him.

CHAPTER 11 – In the Forests of Danger and Tribulation