

HIND'S FEET ON HIGH PLACES

Chapter 11 Study Notes – In the Forests of Danger and Tribulation

It is incredibly ironic to me I was sent to walk through the forest in Southern Indiana just as we entered into chapter 11 of our book study. And then with storms as well... it is truly amazing how Jesus can teach us, some along beside us and in turn give us a natural experience to His Word in order to perform it before our very eyes. This morning I woke up with Psalm 119:105 on my heart... which says, Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. And my heart was just full. It was like the final blessing I needed for today as a reminder of how important it is to be familiar with the Word of God and what a blessing it is to us have the opportunity to read scripture for spiritual guidance and nourishment to strengthen us no matter what the day brings. We often hunger and thirst for the Word of God purposely so we partake of it. His Word is a gift, not cumbersome or force fed to others, but sustains us each day to endure all that comes our way. As we lay His word to heart, we grow and fall deeper in love with the Lord having our eyes opened to the truth of just how precious He is.

May we seek Him with our whole hearts, because when we do... We find Him and once we find Him, He reveals more and more about Himself to us. The more you learn about Jesus, the deeper in love with Him we fall.

Today's Scriptures:

Psalm 147:3

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Countless times, too many to keep track of... the Lord Jesus has come to our aid when we are lonely, betrayed, suffering, hopeless and broken hearted and yet – here we are, still looking unto and clinging to Him, especially when our hearts are hurting. I can kind of see why He does allow our hearts to be broken into pieces at times, in that we look unto Him for our comfort and inner healing. He heals us and turns our woundedness into a healed scar as a testimony to what His love can do. Scars are just a healed expression of His touch that once was a gaping wound, tender to the touch. He makes us whole, restored by His love.

Mathew 9:35

And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.

Healing EVERY disease and EVERY affliction... Just think about that... When Jesus shows up – EVERYONE is healed of what ails them. This promise is for us too! Jesus is still Healer. And Teacher too! When healing is delayed it isn't because Jesus is not there in the moment, but rather He is working all things out for our own good – in that we may praise Him and only Him for the final outcome of healed deliverance. Can you imagine being in that day? When He was present in the flesh walking among the masses within a village and EVERY SINGLE disease and affliction was instantly healed? That's simply incredible... imagine the witnesses being sent out following such a miraculous event – going out, proclaiming the Gospel boldly in worship and celebration.

John 8:12

I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

Because of Jesus, we can follow imitating Him, being delivered having once walking as a child in darkness then He brings us into His marvelous light and we are forever changed with an inward expression of Him dwelling within us, shining as

a beacon of light and hope to an unbelieving world. We have the blessed opportunity, should we choose it... to never, ever walk in darkness again because of Jesus.

Hebrews 6:18

God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged.

We have such hope in our precious Lord, knowing He never lies or deceives and all the promises contained within His word is true for those who desire to be His authentic child and obey Him because we love Him. Jesus is the Hope set before us, we may endure conflict for a night but the promises of all the fruits of His Holy Spirit is gifted internally within us, just as it is written. So may we too, be greatly encouraged today and always, assured He cannot lie and all truth resides and remains within Him and His word.

1 John 5:18

We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the One who was born of God keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot harm them.

A beautiful promise... that quenches the twisted truth of mixture and second guessing spoken into us by whispers of the enemy – which we should be resisting by now... We are a born again follower of Jesus, we do receive what is written and we believe by following Him we will no longer be ruled over by our flesh nature and live a sinful lifestyle. Having been risen from the dead, brought into a new and glorious life that reflects the holiness of Jesus we know beyond a shadow of doubt the Lord keeps us safe and we are no longer tempted by evil or brought to harm by his desire to kill, steal and destroy us. It is now in Jesus we live and have our being and because we died, He lives eternally within us, we are not our own having been bought with a price, He covers our sins with His love, washing us clean, purified from all blemishes that taint the fleshly garment our souls dwell within.

Isaiah 43:2

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

It may look disastrous at times – storms may surround us, fires threaten our wellbeing and we may feel as if we shall be consumed by one or both. But God... He is with us through it all. And because He promises to never leave or forsake us, no matter what we are facing we shall not drown in the misery brought upon us, nor will we be consumed by anything sent to cause us harm. We are just simply brought through each one, so that it is no longer "I" who live, but Jesus rising up within each one of us to live. It is by Him, we move, live and have our being. May we each give Him glory for our day to day deliverance no matter what comes our way, He is there.

Psalms 91:4-7

He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler. You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, Nor of the arrow that flies by day, Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday. A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; But it shall not come near you.

You are special, a chosen vessel in which Jesus dwells and He hasn't lost a battle yet, nor is He afraid... We may witness others falling away when faced with terrors, attacks, pestilence, darkness and destruction... but not us. We instead are granted a divine protection through His covering. We run to Jesus as our refuge, clinging to His truth and love which casts out all fear. We gravitate to and lay hold of His promises that no threats shall come near to us to destroy us or remove us from His capable hands.

Mathew 7:13-14

Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow *is* the gate and [b]difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

There are so, so many humans on Earth and sadly the majority are on a self-chosen wide path that leads them to destruction. Again, this is by choice and even worse... Many who proclaim to be a Christian are by their own choosing blending into this same destructive path instead of choosing the narrow way that leads on to life by laying their lives down and following Jesus. This gate is so narrow because Jesus is the only way in which to enter through and seek walking holy as He is holy in such a sinful self-indulgent world – few, a very few find it... it was way less appealing than their vain lifestyle which feeds the lust of the flesh and unrighteous pleasures. People willingly and knowingly make the choice – to walk the difficult way which leads to life eternal or the broad way that leads to destruction. One day all will be without excuse for choosing the wrong way, but those who chose the narrow way will be welcomed in as a good and faithful servant unto Jesus. That day is quickly approaching, faster than most think, lying to themselves they have plenty of time to choose to enter in the narrow way, sadly.

Isaiah 30:21

Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This *is* the way, walk in it,” Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left.

For those who have chosen the narrow way... they love, love hearing Jesus’s instructive words on how to walk to bring self to a close and a life laid down for Him to the forefront. We never have to guess what steps we take when we are listening to His righteous leading. His Word guides us always into all truth, so we carelessly walk by faith and not by sight or rebellion. May He always be our guiding force and may our ears continually be open to Jesus’s leading.

Luke 17:33

Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.

I could talk an hour on this one... but am focusing on just one aspect the Lord laid on my heart for us today. The more people, who claim to be believers, eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil at an alarmingly increasing rate – the more they seek to save their own lives. When instead as His own, we are called to eat of One Tree, granted access to it – Jesus, only Jesus – Who is the word made flesh. The church all over the world is anemic and weak for not eating only of the commanded tree in midst of the garden – the Tree of Life – spiritually speaking, the Word of God found solely in the Bible can and does correct our thinking – weeding out the tares of questions, fear mongering, the perceived need of storing up treasures here on Earth to survive the next assumed disaster. Etc... As a reminder – the Lord on high, can and does sustain us, tending to every single little need we may have – just as He sent manna from Heaven daily to the Israelites and they complained they did not have enough to “store up” for the next day – people are doing so in these latter days. We need to repent from this, as a matter of fact we must repent and turn back to the ways of the Lord in that we do not end up losing our lives over grains, paper products and the like. In God’s Kingdom... only spiritual preparation matters and a little goes a long way, even if we have only enough for today – the Lord shall provide. Amen. We need to ask ourselves continually – What have we done with the treasures the Lord has granted us this day? Did we bury it for another day? Did we use it responsibly to show we are good stewards with little in that He may give us much? All we have been given is for our needs and the caring of others – not for storing up should the Lord present us with a life saving choice. The safest place to be in all calamity is in obedience to Him. When we obey Him, our lives are preserved from all harm that may otherwise destroy us eternally and temporal.

John 10:9-11

I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

Jesus died for us, what a precious act of mercy. He is the only door by which humanity can enter into the Kingdom of God. When we die to self and dwell in Him right now, this moment... the thief may come towards us to steal, kill and destroy our souls – but he cannot do one thing unless we permit his control over us. Jesus gave us life, eternally and here on earth and He is abundant in His nature to give us only good things, by salvation and rest in His pasture of love. So what are we choosing to believe today? The promises of Jesus spoken over us which is truth or the whispering lies of the enemy who wants us destroyed? Jesus the Shepherd keeps careful watch over His flock. May we never stray away from Him, losing our placement of rest and peace.

Chapter 11 – In the Forests of Danger and Tribulation

Key Takeaways:

- Nothing is able to harm us or do permanent damage to us when we are following the path of Jesus’s will for our lives. The enemy tries to get us to condemn ourselves by the impurities he offers to us to partake of... then we stumble, then we fall away... from truth, love and can no longer hear Jesus’s still small voice leading us on the narrow path to life.
- When facing dreadful situations – when we look unto Jesus in truth through His eyes and we have divine understanding that our current situation we are facing in fear are quite different than we imagined with our carnal minds. If we let fear rule over us, everything that attempts to pull us off course, is filtered through the lens of fear, but keeping our eyes on Jesus and believing in faith our victory is secured in Him... fear must flee by His love dwelling within our beings. Jesus hasn’t lost a battle yet, so as we let go and let God, we too will walk as Jesus did, in victory.
- It is imperative we take captive our thoughts, especially the ones which rise up against the truth established by Jesus. When we take captive thoughts that oppose the truth we are able to quickly discern the truth from a lie, so fear flees from us. Discernment means not coming into agreement with fear, by clinging only to that which is good, the truth, while relying on and believing in the promises of God.
- When setting our minds on Jesus and things above in Heavenly places, we accept that storms may come and go but we KNOW where our help comes from... Him ALONE, so that we freely glorify Jesus and declare His wondrous works manifesting in our lives.
- Jesus is our shelter in the storm, our hiding place and safety. Looking outwardly for rescue and protection is temporary, but with Jesus going before us – He prevents many attacks before they even manifest before us and then... even if moments are granted to us so we see He is always in the midst of the trial with us, working it all out for our good and His glory.

Chapter 12 – In the Mist

We only have seven more chapters to go!