

HIND'S FEET ON HIGH PLACES

Chapter 12 Study Notes – In the Mist

Today as I begin working on our next chapter of our book study... I cannot help but reflect on the correlation between the title – In the Mist and the fact Jamaica is being pressed with today's hurricane approach. Prayers have certainly been lifted up to the Lord for all those who are facing such an extreme storm today, which has passed by the time we fellowship together. I would be remiss if I didn't mention the fact that with each chapter of this book we move through... the Lord gives us a manifested display to watch for Him to perform His word and will. I find that simply incredible. It is like Jesus Himself is walking through the pages of this book with us, which He most certainly is. Please continue to pray for those in Jamaica who are suffering greatly. I believe soon we will start hearing of testimonies that glorify the Lord's intervention and divine hands upon them.

With each chapter that we walk through of our book, we are reminded how no matter how broken, feeble, bruised, confused, dirty and injured we are... Jesus comes to us in His mercy and comfort. He looks upon the weak with eyes of compassion, with a heart anxiously awaiting to embrace and the most purest form of love one can imagine and needs. The ways of Jesus displayed in this book are so heartfelt and precious to remind us how He loves us even at our darkest.

Today's Scriptures:

Psalm 119:114

You *are* my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your word.

Oh my goodness, I wish someone would have told me 25 years ago to feast daily upon the Lord's word, in that I do not lose hope during trials and tribulations. I sort of had to figure this one out on my own. Which is why I am always reminding people to read the Word for strength and pure truth. No one told me that, which would have saved me much heartache. The Words of the Lord strengthen us, setting a shield of protection around us and deliver us from all doubt. When we are hidden in Jesus, we are safe, secure and granted hope no matter what comes our way.

Mathew 8:23-27

Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him. And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. So the men marveled, saying, ^[a]"Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"

How often do we think Jesus isn't alert or attentive to the storms in our lives? Sometimes, I forget too and feel neglected by Jesus or like I do not matter to Him. This story gives us a glimpse into His ways and how our lack of faith in Him rebuking and calming events in our lives is more reflective of our questioning than His actual sovereignty. He arrives just in time in our lives when we are in distress and call out to Him for help. Lord we ask You to forgive us in times we too have little faith, faith in You especially to show up for us in our times of need. So let this be our reminder today to exercise faith instead of fear when the next storm arises in our lives.

2 Corinthians 5:7

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

I picked this scripture because it compliments the last one so very well. We are more settled and hopeful when we put all our trust in Jesus – having faith that He will show up for us, is protecting us and that not one hair on our heads will be harmed without His oversight. We always have a tendency to worst case scenario things due to our lack of faith, but when we walk our faith out, even when we cannot see the next steps to redemption – Jesus floods our hearts with reassurance He is there in the midst of the storm and in Him we are victorious, no matter what, we shall not perish.

2 Timothy 2:24-26

And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and *that* they may come to their senses *and* escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

Once we lay to heart our personal need to repent and are insured we are walking in love and mercy to all, including our enemies... we no longer oppose ourselves or others. We let go of being “right” having a desire all are saved by having a repentant heart towards the Lord in truth and surrendered to doing His will – not their own and certainly not the enemy’s. God is for us, He is granting repentance via the heart to so many each day, so they too walk in truth. When the Lord brings someone to their senses – He shakes them, even violently quite often, so they will listen to gentle instruction. If you are NOT gentle, void of quarreling, patient and loving others more than yourself... DO NOT CORRECT and/or instruct anyone, not ever. If you do... the Lord’s mighty hand of correction will fall down upon you, sometimes immediately, so all pride and vain desires is broken. We all deal with people who oppose themselves, due to an internal battle of good vs. evil – but we are not to be one of them, seeking to change the other person, neglecting our own sinful ways.

Mathew 5:11-12

Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

A prophet here is simply one who carries God’s Word/the Gospel within them... Just wanted to make sure we don’t stumble over that word and think this scripture doesn’t apply to us, because it does. Everyone who has the Word of God etched upon their hearts and has laid their lives down to serve Jesus are reviled, persecuted, spoken about in an evil way and falsely accused because they lift up the truthful name of Jesus. We are blessed to be a vessel of His, glad actually the enemy expectedly comes after us to accuse – because our reward is in heaven, not here. It is to be expected, it is actually uplifting when it happens and your pride is gone. Those who still have pride within them complain, His disciples rejoice!

Psalms 145:3

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; And His greatness is ^[a]unsearchable.

I just wanted to edify Him with us today... So I added this one in. The Lord is great and present in our lives – so much so man cannot count all the ways in which to praise Him. But we surely can try to thank Him for His wonderful ways and how He is so, so good to us. Thank You Lord – we honor and worship You today with our whole hearts, we give You glory!

1 Peter 2:9

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

I chose this one, as another reminder to us of who we actually are... as we think, so are we – therefore, we need to remind ourselves constantly – we are LIGHT not darkness. If we think it... we will more easily walk it out. You personally were chosen by the Lord as His own – He picked YOU as His own special one. He did this in that You shall proclaim to others praises about Him as Lord in your life. There was a time while walking in darkness, we never uttered a word of praise about Him – but now... having been called out from where darkness dwells, being filled with light, praising Jesus should be consistently on our lips. Glory to You Lord Jesus!

Isaiah 55:8-9

For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, Nor *are* your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

I don't mean to state the obvious... but how intentional is this scripture today! What was more hidden in the past, even 10 years ago reflects the outstanding line between dark and light. The Lord's thoughts and ways in stark contrast to man's. It is with great rejoicing, even through all the purifying trials and heartbreaks we can thank Him for delivering us early, knowing what was to come. He made sure to pull us out of darkness, before it got any darker than it already was. The purifying started early and intense for us, but aren't we grateful He did this for us sooner than later? Now in truth we can say... Not my will be done Lord, but Yours... in humbleness we know He is so much higher than us all the way around – in thinking and in His ways. None are good – only Him and it is through Him any redeeming qualities exist within us individually. Thank You Lord for redeeming us from the times we are to occupy until You come!

Chapter 12 – In the Mist

Key Takeaways:

- Once our souls are touched by Jesus, something within us responds with excited anticipation as trials, storms and tribulations arrive upon our borders or the lives of others because we know... the Lord is up to something and we or whoever in that moment is on the brink of victory, redemption and release when He arrives to take charge. Storm clouds can be very scary to the eyes, but we know the promise of the son arising in our hearts once we have weathered the storm. We evolve into being a witness for Him as an encouragement to others that Jesus has not forsaken them either and in Him their victory and safety is secure.
- There are times our complaints keep us continually going in circles for a bit or like Much Afraid discovered the option of... going round and around the mountain. Sometimes we can be our own worst enemy in those moments. But, I didn't really realize how even those moments are imperative on our journey. Going in circles while seeking Jesus's help does produce endurance, patience and strength, while we wait upon Him to act and at least we are not at a standstill, throwing in the towel altogether. Complaining always produces delays with our Lord, to our own fault. But, as long as we do not turn back and away from Him – He shall bring us the whole way through to surrender. We can go the easy way or the hard way, but if we belong to Him, we shall eventually submit.
- When we PRAISE HIM IN THE STORM, it drowns out all voices that rise up and speak to us which oppose the Lord Almighty. Praises overtake suggestions of "what-if's" and questioning Him and His showing up in our times of need. We were created to praise Him, so as long as we have breath, no matter what comes our way – we shall do just that... give Him glory, honor and praise, regardless of what approaches us by the natural eye.
- I find it amazing that when Jesus looks upon us, He sees a reflection of Himself – having been bought with a heavy price, we are no longer our own – washed clean from the inside out. Jesus sees all of us in totality, looking unto us, He sees His vision of work complete, whole, with nothing undone – a finished work. He truly is the author and finished of our faith. And since He knows the end from the beginning, He is much more patient with us than we are ourselves.
- May we never forget we have been granted freewill, to obey or not to obey. To choose light over darkness and good over evil. The devil didn't make us do anything; we chose it. Now thankfully, Jesus makes a way of escape, but still... we must own our part in falling away and rejecting the Lord's commands, choosing rebellion over life. Once we make this choice, our whole lives change as does our heart – we are gifted with a heart of repentance, over a heart of excuses.
- In order to trust Jesus fully, we must love Him first.
- Resentment resembles the mist Much Afraid was in... you cannot see spiritually that which is before you. In the evil order of things – pride breeds rebellion, which leads to resentment and then bitterness and vileness quickly follows after. What is inside, comes out as proof of who we really are. In those moments we leave our grateful heart, replacing it with a heart of complaints, in which the fruit produced openly in front of others is self-pity. We just witnessed this struggle in our book, didn't we? This temptation that comes, tries to get us to go back and turn away from the narrow path the Lord has chosen for us to journey on. We may slip, stumble, get injured and turn deaf when we cultivate these negative thoughts within ourselves. As a result, we become crabby, disagreeable, difficult to deal with and in danger of falling away from our faith and self-isolating ourselves from others due to our lashing out. People don't want to be around people who live in that realm, let's be honest. How you know someone is in this torment? They may apologize, but they do not change. Those who stay in this pit for too long, learn to manipulate others using empty words of apologies to get their way. You may hear

them angrily say “I said I was sorry” implying we get over it... and all we can do at that point is pray for them while asking Jesus to intervene.

- Nothing fills us with joy like serving Jesus by doing good unto others does. You do even a little good to someone in need and the joy you brought to them returns back to you multiplied. All created vessels of the Lord experience this established way of Him. If you haven’t received this sort of blessing before, I pray you will try it and find out how wonderful and full you feel inside with you extend an act of kindness to someone who is hurting and suffering. I am excited even thinking about it, when I get hopeless sometimes – just one act of kindness restores my joy in ways unimaginable.

Next Chapter 13 – In the Valley of Loss

Which even the title gives me pause with a little anxiety. Regardless, we do not have to walk this out alone, thankfully!