

HIND'S FEET ON HIGH PLACES

Chapter 13 Study Notes – In the Valley of Loss

I must admit I cringe at even the thought of this title... resembling Much Afraid of even one more loss in the myriad of many over the course of my life. Sometimes I am crippled by fear at even the thought of loss, which is inevitable on our journey here on Earth. Many of you all probably remember my struggles when Gracie died, I had such great faith He would save her because I knew in my heart He could, so I pleaded and totally ignored the fact, He may not. I am not sure if losing her broke me or the wake up call that I may have faith to believe in something and trust in Him to just give me this small request and yet... He chose not to. That is one of those rubber meets the road moments in your faith when you decide... even if... I will still believe, still follow and still... love Him. Honestly, for a week I wasn't sure. I know that is terrible to admit openly on a Christian broadcast, but I am just me – the little one who often has such little faith. It certainly wasn't one of my finest spiritual moments, but it surely is a transparent one should any of you all be facing something similar – I have mercy and understanding for you. Fortunately, those are times in which we can rely on the faith of others to come along beside us and see us through and even rely on Jesus for faith, when ours is vanishing before our very eyes. And that's exactly what I did, until the loss passed and the heart was restored from woundedness to wholeness, once again. I later found out when reading this chapter, I truly had nothing to fear from this respect... I quickly learned while reading, this wasn't about losing anyone, just myself... Which in almost every way is a good thing. This study ended up being extremely long... very similar to our own personal "valley of decision..." where we too must decide whether not we will endure following Jesus until the very end.

This chapter is shorter to read, but rich in oil and very deep concerning the reflection of the heart. Today, may take a little longer and if it gets too long, we can always break up into two broadcasts. We will just see how all this unfolds today, by the Lord's leading, of course.

Today's Scriptures:

John 10:1-30

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But **he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep**. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them. Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **I am the door of the sheep**. All who *ever* came ^{to} before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. 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. But a ^{to} hireling, *he who* is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know My *sheep*, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay

down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd. "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father." Therefore there was a division again among the Jews because of these sayings. And many of them said, "He has a demon and is ^[d]mad. Why do you listen to Him?" Others said, "These are not the words of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?" Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter. And Jesus walked in the temple, in Solomon's porch. Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, "How long do You keep us in ^[d]doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me. But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one."

So weird I never noticed this before... he who enters into the sheepfold by the door (Jesus) shepherds His sheep. Also, Jesus has many sheep who may not be of our own particular fold and He tells us He will bring them in as well when He calls them forward to enter in so that in the end... there is ONE FLOCK that belongs to Him – with He being the only Shepherd. Those who do not believe in Him are NOT one of His. His sheep hear His voice, He knows them and they know Him – and they are the only ones who actually do follow Him in truth, laying their lives down. NO ONE CAN SNATCH anyone out of His hands if they belong to Him. So if someone does fall away, then rest assured they were never His to begin with. May we rest and not panic in this truth. God is God, we are not and He alone saves assuredly His own. I find it comforting knowing I am His and if someone we love is His, they too will be drawn to Him and not pulled away at anytime.

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.

I love that the Lord guides us, no matter which way we turn He leads us, because we've all made wrong turns occasionally.

Ruth 1:16-17

"Entreat^[a] me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you and me."

Ruth speaking here... which is an expression of the Bride of Christ in our times.

John 6:26-40 ... *this was right after Jesus fed the five thousand, performed many signs to get them to believe, walked in open display on water in the sea, calmed the stormy sea and then the next day many were seeking for Him, trying to find Him... but as I read, see why they were wanting to find Jesus.*

Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you,** because God the Father has set His seal on Him." Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent." Therefore they said to Him, "What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do? ³¹ Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat. Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always." And Jesus said to them, "**I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.** But I said to you that **you have seen Me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will ³²by no means cast out.** For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that **of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.** And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that **everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.**"

Okay Jesus said it, we read it and therefore, we must obey... Do not labor for food which you eat for the body, but labor for the Word of God because it grants us everlasting life. Jesus is the bread of life, so our hunger and thirst should be sought after regarding Him. He tells us again in this chapter – those who belong to Him and believes in Jesus, will never be cast out. Most importantly – Why are we seeking Jesus? Is it just to be fed and fulfilled because we want something? Or is it out of love for Him? Otherwise, He is just one more sign the wicked seek. That's a question each one of us must answer in truth independently.

Philippians 4:11-13

Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned **in whatever state I am, to be content:** I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. **I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**

Are we content no matter what? If not, we should be filled with feasting on Jesus to the point in plenty and in want He has met our heart's desire because we have Him. If we truly love Jesus, we can do all things through His strength. Those who have reached this level of intimacy, have no complaints in their hearts or lips. Our contentment comes from knowing Jesus, the World has nothing to offer us or satisfy us any longer.

Isaiah 40:31

But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew *their* strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

When we REFUSE to wait upon the Lord's leading, desire, timing or will... we faint and grow weary because we are relying on what we want, walking in our own strength to the point we faint.

Mathew 9:36

But when He saw the multitudes, **He was moved with compassion for them**, because they were [Ⓜ]weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

Nothing moves Jesus to act like His compassion, especially to those who are weary and have been misplaced and scattered having no one to lead them.

Revelation 2:24-26

"Now to you I say, [Ⓜ]and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as **do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan**, as they say, **I [Ⓜ]will put on you no other burden**. But hold fast what you have till I come. And **he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—**

This speaks of reaping what we've sown... for those who live by the obeyed commands of Jesus they will receive no additional burden other than that – which is enough He says and we all know how difficult it is to maintain a level of holiness in such an unholy world, especially right now. This chapter shows us how fornication has crept into the church on Earth and yet only a few inside the church walls will not seek to know the deep secrets of satan by eating of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, being clean from all sinful desires of fornication and lusts of the flesh. In essence, they repented of their ways by being an overcomer of such temptations and choosing carefully what they partake of and who they commune with extremely seriously. POWER here means FREEWILL TO JUDGE RIGHTEOUSLY between what is Holy and unholy and NATIONS here means a MULTITUDE OF PEOPLE. Basically, if we keep the works of Jesus over flesh lusts... we shall be granted to stand in righteous judgment against humanity's evil ways. Not to pass sentence, but rather we stop calling evil good and good evil. We discern evil, having been delivered from it due to repentance on our parts. No mixture, it's either good or evil, with God, there is not gray area. And if we do not? They we are "tolerating" evil to operate, even to the point others in the church are being seduced. This rebellion is extremely serious to the Lord, I pray we feel the gravity of soberness in what is written here.

Chapter 13 – In the Valley of Loss

Key Takeaways:

- We too must come to that place in the valley in which we get to choose whether or not we are willing to lose potentially everything to gain it all. When we choose Jesus in the Valley of Decision – we switch from our own path of choice to strictly abiding on the path He chooses for us, whether we like it or not, its irrelevant.
- Much Afraid, like some of us, was afraid of the Valley of Decision itself. I don't think any of us really like the thought of having to entertain the thought of – am I all in with the Lord or not? In the valley we are forced to choose. Choosing one or the other is the only option in that place. It always reminds me of Egypt in the OT, when the Israelites were held captive there until Moses came to lead them out – BUT, they had to choose whether or not to be led out of Egypt, some stayed... We always face the unknown in uncertainty as nothing in this life is guaranteed. It is a guarantee we have to make choices though; however, the outcome is not a reality until it presents itself.
- In this valley – we may question at times if we are truly capable of being a follower of Jesus or if we should have ever even attempted to be one of His. In this testing we may feel numb at what we are facing because what the Lord is asking of us requires – and immense amount of strength, effort and dedication on our part and will take a long time. In this place of stopping a reset happens where all of you is depleted – its unique because that which you gleaned from past trials cannot be relied upon in this one. You lose all of you, in that Jesus may take up His abode within you.
- As we entertain that which is presented before us as a choice, we often question everything we've learned up to this point in our journey with Jesus. We may wonder why Jesus asks so much of us, or why He demands the impossible, while at the same time takes everything, we depend on but Him away from us – placing us into a position where we decide – Either to go with Him and never stray again or turn back altogether and fall away from your faith.
- Should we choose wholeheartedly to continue on this path with Jesus, the greatest of blessings are crowned upon us from that day forward. We come out on the other side a whole new being; changed by His design, transformed with a shaped heart molded by His hands that nothing outside of His will can “fit, fill or satisfy” us any longer but HIM and His perfect plan for our lives. We then begin the first steps of a heart set to obey only Him and begin to love Him in spite of ourselves because of Who He is.
- In this valley – we fall in love with Jesus for HIM, no longer seeking Him because He simply feeds us or because we want something outside of Him. In the valley – we stop stumbling, having come out on the other side where no enemy resides, healing streams flow and we permanently transformed.
- One of the most satisfying parts of coming out of the Valley of Decision and deciding to follow Jesus – we no longer look back or entertain another path. We are cleansed from all fear and with eyes wide open we can finally see Jesus, just as He is. From that day forward we learn to “rest” in Him and are totally content in plenty and in want because we have Him. As we rest in Jesus our vision changes and we see now just how our journey is purposed to place us finally at rest in Him. We go to Him for our refreshing, comfort, love, joy and peace... finally we are made whole, by Him and only Him.

Next Chapter 14 – The Place of Anointing