

HIND'S FEET ON HIGH PLACES

Chapter 7 Study Notes – On the Shores of Loneliness

So we've been on this little detour... the amazing thing about a detour is... it may cause a delay but you end up at the same place you were planning on from the get go! When on a detour – it takes trust to walk a path you have not walked before, which can be daunting at times. It also is exhausting because it usually is the long way around to your designed destination. But here we are, back on track, thank You Lord for equipping us for delays, trajectory changes and obstacles along the way.

Speaking of obstacles and detours... go figure, all my notes disappeared and for some reason did not back up to the cloud, sigh... So I had to totally start over on our teaching notes for chapter 7. After a timely searching and trying to secure what was lost, I just let it all go, trying to forget the hours of time spent in writing this week's study erased like the wind... So now, we are starting from scratch – a do over so to speak. Regardless, may the Lord's will be done, not mine and may we not grow weary in doing good when our efforts vanish in the process. For the life of me I cannot figure out why the autosave turned off on it's own... Only the Lord knows the answers to our messes, right?

We have several Scriptures this time and since I lost all of them... I am on a detour all by myself today, kicking myself for throwing notes away too soon after typing them all up for you all. It made me really sad, because I had beautiful scriptures the Lord spoke to me to share over the course of a couple weeks. Oh well, all things are purposed and there is only one way to go and that is forward, no more looking back...

Well that was before, this is now... and guess what? Last night as I was answering emails, guess what appeared as a recovered document? Yep... the original notes from Chapter 7, which is crazy... So now, we have a double portion of scriptures today as I had only replicated three I had initially been led to share. Only the Lord knows the meaning behind all this... it is funny, not funny and reveals how easily I can get frustrated and run in circles. I will try to go through these quickly, since we have so many!

Today's Scriptures ~

2 Corinthians 10:3-6

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare *are* not ^[a]carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

Bringing every thought into captivity is a requirement to walking in obedience to the Lord, which is how we fight the enemy and in turn no longer argue with others or even oppose ourselves at times. Did you notice we disobedience is punished/destroyed when we fulfil the command to be obedient? Wow!

Proverbs 14:29

He who is slow to wrath has great understanding, But he who is ^[a]impulsive exalts folly.

The Lord instructs us to not be a child who targets others with wrath and to not be impulsive in our actions. Which is very foolish. But as we mature and grow spiritually, we are no longer a child of wrath, but instead a child of God, walking surrendered to Him – less reactive, more grounded.

Philippians 4:5-7

Let your ^{1a}gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

I loved this one, it is such a good command for us to strive for... let us be and remain gentle in dealing with others, so we are anxious about nothing, praying and giving all our concerns to Jesus. The best part of this word is: MAKE YOUR REQUEST KNOWN TO GOD... it's a request – not a dictate to Him what we would have Him to do for us or others or even how He must do what we want the way we want it... Once we request something of Him, we wait, being filled with understanding He is God and in complete control – that is how we guard our hearts and minds by being just like Jesus in a precious way.

Psalm 37:23

The steps of a good man are ^{1a}ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way.

Just knowing He directs our steps is a great relief – our part is to accept how He is directing us and not murmur and complain, it brings Him delight – which comes back to us.

John 10:26-28

But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, ^{1a}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."

Again... if we personally follow Jesus as our Shepherd... we can rest assured we will hear His voice constantly guiding us on the paths we take in this life. Hearing His voice and following Him, promises to bring us eternal life and the most important thing of all – NOTHING or NOONE CAN SNATCH US OUT OF HIS HANDS.

John 14:15

If you love Me, ^{1a}keep My commandments.

Jesus only did what He saw His Father in Heaven doing... And if we seek to imitate Him, then we will do just that – imitate Him through obedience... Obedience is often, not doing what you want to do, but doing what is upright in the sight of the Lord. Obedience is a choice most are not willing to make, especially these days, sadly.

Psalm 30:5

For His anger is *but for* a moment, His favor is *for* life; Weeping may endure for a night,
But ^{1a}joy comes in the morning.

We've all cried... but have you noticed for some reason the loneliness and tears seem more desperate at night? That has certainly been the case for me anyway... It is like our hearts pour out to Him in a more humble real way on our pillows – but He gives us the promise of joy in the morning and I can almost guarantee we've all experienced this promise at different times in our lives.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, *he* is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Our old ways vanish, when we are made new in Jesus – being born again as a new creature, the old one dies... We just need to make sure we do not resurrect that old person through our thoughts, responses and actions. He makes everything new, including us and at times we are required to let go of the old engagements and influences that ties us to the past. In essence we are not losing anything, but gaining it all in Jesus.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who* is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body ^[a]and in your spirit, which are God's.

We really are not our own... unless we want to be. When we become the temple in which the Lord Himself dwells, it is easy to glorify Him in what we do and don't do from that time forward, in order we do not defile the temple (us) with things that are not Holy and do not glorify Him.

Isaiah 60:22

.... I, the LORD, will hasten it in its time."

This is a big one for me... I have to constantly remind myself that IN HIS TIME, HE SHALL MAKE that thing HAPPEN IN MY LIFE... Whatever "that" is that I am praying for and believing Him for... He shall do it and although it looks like a delay from my perspective, He is always right on time. Our job is to WAIT FOR HIM TO MOVE, His job is to work all things out together for our good. And He always does!

Romans 5:3-5

And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces ^[b]perseverance; and perseverance, ^[c]character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

We need more patience to wait upon the Lord, we need more patience with those we love and not put expectations on Him and people. He shall be glorified... not us. Quite often there is a delay to insure only He is glorified when the storm passes. Humans like to take credit for things to show people they matter, which will cause a delay to the manifestation of a solution often. So tribulation comes knocking, the fruit of it is perseverance. It is in persevering no matter the cost we develop into the character of Jesus and it is in HIM we find hope... in His love we rest, grateful for all He gives unto us.

Aren't these just amazing scriptures? I am so very grateful for the Word which nourishes and encourages us. I will just quickly go over the initial scriptures I had down for us today:

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.

MATHEW 15:8 – should we choose... our hearts are never far from Jesus

‘These people ^{la}draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with *their* lips, But their heart is far from Me.

ROMANS 10:13

For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”

DEUTERONOMY 28:1

“Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth.

PSALM 84:11

For the LORD God *is* a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory; No good *thing* will He withhold From those who walk uprightly.

LUKE 9:62

But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

PSALM 30:5

For His anger *is but for* a moment, His favor *is for* life; Weeping may endure for a night, But ^{la}joy *comes* in the morning.

Chapter 7 ~ On the Shores of Loneliness

I really loved this chapter... By now hopefully, you are feeling some strength in the faithfulness of Jesus growing with each chapter... Like Much-Afraid, we are not so unstable in our ways and panicky... As we learn to trust... In His time, He shows up, comforts, delivers and gives us a reset... We are beginning to see HE IS ALWAYS FAITHFUL, we are the ones who falter at times in belief, but He never changes and is always there when we need Him and call out to Him.

Some key points from this chapter:

- One beautiful correction the Lord gave me in this chapter is how prideful it is to demand things of Him or try and tell Him how I want things done or the outcome He must produce according to my heart's desire. He showed me how important it is we **MAKE OUR REQUESTS KNOWN TO HIM** and then respectfully thank Him, honor Him and let Him take over without our constant pleading, impatience, fit-throwing, questioning, etc... Just because we make a request, doesn't mean it shall be fulfilled according to any of our desires really. He only gives us the desires of our hearts, when they are aligned with His perfect will.
- Loneliness opens the door to the spirits of resentment, bitterness and self-pity – which are actually “familiar” spirits which speak into our minds when they are not fixated on Jesus and renewed. Those thoughts we entertain that mock us, if not put in check will sometimes use people to mock others or even the Lord Himself. And all that is born out of “loneliness” if you can believe it? In this chapter we saw how Much-Afraid believed those voices and permitted them to override the still small voice of Jesus. When we listen to them... we will self accuse and if we don't do that enough, we will falsely accuse others – becoming very sick in the mind – saying things like: “you are foolish” “you are an idiot for doing such and such” “Jesus has abandoned you” “you are alone” “nobody wants you” etc... We can either believe the lie or cling to the truth – the choice is ours, so choose wisely which voice you heed to because with each whispered lie we believe – resentment and bitterness grows within us.
- A big lie we often believe when we are questioning everything and questioning God is: Jesus demands everything of us and gives nothing back in return except – sorrow, suffering and shame. Words like: Why do I allow Him to treat me this way? Temptation to stand up and fight or demanding He fulfil His promises to us... will threaten to break the covenant relationship we have with Jesus. We become very unfaithful in these moments – demanding, that if He loves us He would do as we say, manifesting the outcome we want, not even considering if it is His will to do so. I've actually heard people say, God if You are real, You will (fill in the blank)... Lord forbids such things, forgive us Lord for times we rise up against You, seeking to be equal to You over surrendered.
- One of the greatest curses found within the church body today is “self-pity” and it is growing like a wild fire... because we are weak and we are spoiled. Self-pity will make us weak all over to the point we prefer to lie on a bed of death over walking our way into His healing hands. I cannot stand this lying spirit – I totally stand against it, as does the Lord. It prevents so many souls from being restored and used by Jesus... those under it's influence have a problem for every solution and every word spoken in complaint is but, me, me, me... Listen we all have sob stories, big deal, mine is terrible, Michael's is worse – but so what? We are not here to be in competition with one another about who's life story is worse... these spirits have come at me so many times, that if it weren't for Jesus allowing me that time to look inwardly, seek Him and repent I would be truly doomed eternally. These dark things have almost quoted word for word to me the same things they've said to Much-Afraid. Like: “You are good hearted and devoted to Jesus so you do not deserve to be so abandoned and abused and treated this way...” If it were not for the compassionate mercy and grace of Jesus, how lost and spiraling downward would we be.

I didn't write any study questions this time, as I feel like we sort of covered all of that already throughout our teaching.

I am just so very grateful for our study and for our fellowship with one another and Jesus!

CHAPTER 8 ~ On the Old Sea Wall