

Friday, April 29, 2016

Melting

Joshua 2-3

They said to Joshua, "The LORD has surely given the whole land into our hands; all the people are melting in fear because of us." Joshua 2:24

There is a dramatic difference between the reports of these spies and the spies that went into the land the first time (Numbers 13:31). The miraculous signs that God did in rescuing His people from Egypt should have been enough for them to know that He would give them victory, but they were afraid of the opposition. It is interesting that one of the miracles that should have caused them to be brave is actually one of the miracles that has caused the enemy to be filled with fear. The crossing of the Red Sea was a pretty big miracle! It is causing people to melt in fear of the God that is with the Israelites. The first group of spies (with two exceptions) did not understand this, as they looked at the *possible* land. But this second group see the *promised* land and there is the difference! One saw the promise of God as revealed in the fear of the enemy, the other saw the possibility of God but was frozen in fear of the obstacles. I must remember that the enemy knows and fears God who is with me (James 2:19). He sees the miracles that God has already done in my life as He has given me victory over the sin in my life. He is melting in fear over the promises God has given me and His Church. I must move in the absolute assurance of victory over the enemies that would war against my soul—and the advancement of the Kingdom of God!

Dear God, help me remember that my enemy is melting in fear because of You. Amen.

Saturday, April 30, 2016

Worship

Joshua 4-5

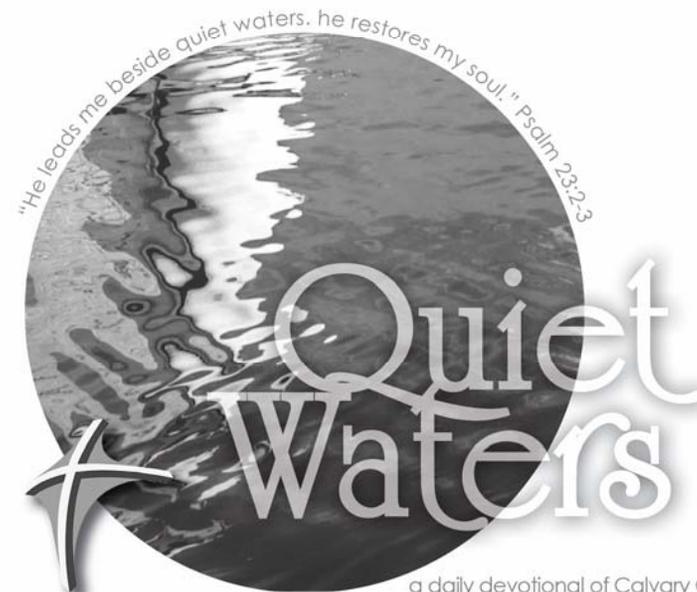
"He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful and so that you might always fear the LORD your God." Joshua 4:24

Worship involves remembering. It must. God reveals Himself and I worship as I remember the ways in which He has! As God leads His people into the land He has prepared and will secure for them, He instructs them to set up a remembrance, a place to come back and remember His greatness and His power. He stopped the Jordan River in flood season so that hundreds of thousands of people could cross. He is fulfilling the promise. He is God. He is the one true God. There is no other. People melt in fear at the mention of His name. Rivers stop. Seas part. Stones give water. Skies bring bread. Bushes burn. Mountains tremble. This all happens for two reasons, this verse tells us: so that people can know that God is powerful and so that those who know His power may revere His name—all that He is and all that He requires. I must place things in my life that will help me remember the power of God as it has been revealed in my life. I must worship from and in that memory and the assurance that God is all He says He is. Amazing God!

O Lord, help me remember You and all that You have done. Let the earth know that You are all powerful. Let me fear You in total submission and reverence. Amen


Pastor Chuck Cervenka

April 25-April 30, 2016



a daily devotional of Calvary Community Church

Monday, April 25, 2016

Revealed

Deuteronomy 28-29

“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.”

Deuteronomy 29:29

The covenant is being renewed. As I read these two chapters, I am overwhelmed with the contrast between the consequences of obedience and those of disobedience. God makes it clear that there are severe consequences that will await those who will disobey. It is a graphic depiction of the vile things that will occur to those who turn from God. God tells them to keep themselves clear from any other god. His heart is not to bring the curses rebellion will demand. His heart and passion is to bring blessing upon His chosen ones. He longs to shower them with all good things (see James 1:17). But His holiness will not allow Him to bless the unholy. His righteousness will require discipline. Future generations will reap the fulfillment of the curses. Even in what seems to be an exhaustive account of the curses and blessings, there are still secret things that belong to the LORD. His ways are higher than our ways (Isaiah 58:9). But—there are so many things that He has revealed about who He is and what He requires. The things He has revealed belong to them forever so that they can follow and avoid the curses. I see in this that the revealed things in Scripture belong to us. They are in many ways a gift for us to hold us and our children.

Dear LORD, thank You for the gift of the things revealed. Help me follow well. Amen

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Forsake

Deuteronomy 30-31

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Deuteronomy 31:6

And now Moses tells the Israelites that the time has come for there to be a new leader. Moses will not be leading any more. He is not able to lead them. God has determined that. In a living example, the Israelites see that disobedience has irrevocable consequences. Moses brings forth Joshua and the LORD commissions him as the new leader of the people of God. In the midst of this, Moses calms the hearts of the people by reminding them that, while he may be the one they saw as leading them, it was really God who had been with them, leading every step of the way. They do not need to be afraid, because God, who has been with them, will stay with them and will never leave them. But there is more said in this verse. It also says that He will not forsake them. This is harder to understand. In these chapters, it seems pretty clear that there will be curses—it is almost a guaranty that Israel will rebel. When they do, the curses will come. Moses is reminding them that, even in the cursing, God will not forsake them. That is, He will not abandon or renounce them as His own people—even when they repeatedly break His heart by rejecting Him and His perfect plan. What peace it brings me to know that because I am a child of God through the saving work of Jesus, He will never leave me nor forsake me, even when I break His heart.

Dear Father, how I love You. You are indeed my life. Keep me from being afraid of the tempest around me. Help me stand firm in my love for You. Amen.

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

Life

Deuteronomy 32-33

“They are not just idle words for you—they are your life. By them you will live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.”

Deuteronomy 32:47

I’m not sure any man understood the power of God’s words more than Moses. He had such a special relationship with the Father. He knew God in a way that was very special. He had unrestricted access into the immediate presence of God! In many ways, Moses was given the honor of knowing so much about the heart of God. I consider all the conversations that God and Moses had that are not recorded. I am sure that in the midst of all these conversations, Moses came to realize that the words of God were life-giving to him—so much so that they became life to him. He wanted those he loved and led to understand this as well. The words of God are not idle. I think about that sentence. How could I even begin to think that God would speak idle words? Which words of God do I think could not have a purpose? It is when I begin to remember that the Word of God is living and active that I get swept away with considering that these words are not just helpful or encouraging, they are my life. It is in the Word of God that I find all I need to sustain my life with Him.

Dear God, thank You for Your Word! How I love Your Word. Forgive me for the times that I have treated Your words as idle and without meaning. Forgive me for the times that I have neglected them. Forgive me for the times that I have tried to find life in other places. Pour out on me the power of the life that comes from Your words. Amen.

Thursday, April 28, 2016

Meditate

Deuteronomy 34– Joshua 1

“Do not let this book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.”

Joshua 1:8

Joshua is stepping into some big shoes. But God is with him, just as He was with Moses (1:5) and God has filled him with the spirit of wisdom (Deuteronomy 34:9). So Joshua is ready for this call on his life. But it is a big call. Joshua will be successful—if. Again, it all comes down to the Word of the LORD. He can be strong and courageous because he can be certain he will be successful—if he meditates on the Law day and night, careful to do all that is written in it. Meditation requires much more than a casual read. It involves hearing, reading, studying, memorizing, and then meditating. God is telling Joshua to spend time with Him in intimacy by spending time with His words. By meditating on the words, Joshua would be allowing the words to read him. This would allow him to know the Word of the LORD and, of course, it is much easier to follow the words of the LORD when you know what they are! I long to be successful in the mission I have received from the Lord. I know that He is with me (Matthew 28:20), and I know that He has given me His Spirit (Ephesians 1:13-14). So now, I need to be careful. I need to spend time with Him, meditating on His Word and then doing what it says.

Dear LORD, how I long to be successful in what You have called me to do for You. I long to live within the power of Your presence and the Spirit living within me. Help me be very careful to do all that You tell me as I meditate on Your Word day and night. Amen