

## At the Judgment Seat of Christ

When I stand at the judgment seat of Christ,  
    And He shows me His plan for me,  
The plan of my life as it might have been  
    Had He had His way; and I see  
How I blocked Him there, and I checked Him here,  
    And I would not yield my will.  
Will there be grief in my Savior's eyes,  
    Grief, though He loves me still?

He would have me rich, and I stand there poor,  
    Stripped of all but His grace,  
While memory runs like a hunted thing  
    Down the path I cannot retrace.  
Then my desolate heart will well-nigh break  
    With the tears I cannot shed.  
I will cover my face with my empty hands,  
    I will bow my uncrowned head.  
Oh Lord of the years that are left to me,  
    I give them to Thy hand;  
Take me, and break me, mold me to  
    The pattern that Thou hast planned.

—Selected

# ThanksGiving

It seems that in this society, we have been so ingrained that we have rights, and people owe us something, saying 'thank you' has gone by the wayside somewhat. Why would a child, who is convinced that he is owed something, care to give thanks when something is given to them?

Being thankful is much more than just saying 'thank you'. It is an attitude of recognizing how little we deserve, and how wonderful it is to receive something from someone else. This attitude of thankfulness comes from inside, and the true thankful attitude comes from the life of Christ in us.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:18 we are told to give thanks in everything. We are instructed to be a thankful people. If we are yielding to the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives, he will give us an attitude of thanksgiving. We can even give thanks for things that we don't particularly like, because we know that God is working in all things.

Our attitude of thankfulness, should be shown towards other people, as well as towards God. We are exhorted to treat others as we would like to be treated, and to think of others above ourselves. Society teaches us to think about ourselves first, but this is contrary to God's Word.

Paul gives thanks many times for other believers. Ephesians 1:16; Phillipians 1:3; 1 Thessalonians 1:2. We also should be thankful for other believers. Not just for what they do for us, but just for them being believers.

However, our thankfulness really must start with God. We must be thankful for what God did for us, and what He is doing for us, and what He will do for us. No one has done for any of us what God has. Truly an undeserved favor, since we were God's enemies, Romans 5:10, and yet He still sent His Son for us.

In 2 Corinthians 9:15, we are exhorted to give thanks to God for His unspeakable gift. What could be greater than God giving His Son for us. How could we be ungrateful in the light of this gift? There are many things in this life for which we are grateful, but none of them can even compare to God's gift.

So, what about those times when it seems that God has left us? Those times when we are in trials? Those times when nothing seems to go our way? Even there, we can be thankful. We are told in 1 Corinthians 10:13 that there is nothing that come our way, but what God has already provided a way out, and He never lets anything overtake that is beyond what He provides for. Remember the three young men in the middle of the fire in Daniel? The Lord was right there with them.

So, as we set around our bountiful tables, and try to think about the things for which we are thankful, let us remember first God's great gift of His Son. Then, let us remember to be thankful for God's people. Then, let us remember to be thankful for the trials. After all, all the material things we have are simply a bounty from God. The most important thing we have is Jesus in our lives.

Gordon Crook

# **The Book of Mark**

## **Chapter 6:45-56**

After feeding the multitude Jesus directed His disciples to cross the lake. He did not go with them. For He went up into a mountain to commune with His Father in prayer.

Vs. 45-48, “And straightway he constrained his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people. And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray. And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and he alone on the land. And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them.”

They were under His watchful eye and His heart was concerned about them. The wind was contrary to them. The same Greek word translated “toiling” here, is translated “vexed” in II Pet. 2:8. It implies more than tense muscular activity. The disciples were in real mental distress and anxiety. They feared their boat might be swamped and they would drown in the raging sea.

Is this not the state we find ourselves at times? This is a striking picture of believers in their conflicts with world circumstances and the Lord Jesus interceding for them above. Rom. 8:34 - “...It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.” Heb. 7:25 - “Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make

intercession for them.” How little the disciples realized as they struggled that all the time the eye of the Lord was upon them and He was concerned about them. We also easily forget as we wrestle with circumstances that our great High Priest is looking down on us and continually making intercession for us.

About the fourth watch of the night (3 to 6 AM), Jesus came down from the mount and came walking upon the sea. The waves and wind speak of those things that come upon us in this life that could take us down. Christ has dominion and power over these things. He walks on the waves. He appeared to be passing on by because they thought Him to be a disembodied spirit. They cried out in alarm.

Vs. 49-52, “But when they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out: For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid. And he went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered. For they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened.”

He revealed Himself to them, telling them to be of good cheer that it was He and to not be afraid. When they received Him into the ship immediately the wind ceased. Other details given in Matthew 14 are omitted here, so that our attention would be focused on the fact that His coming to them brought an end to the storm. So will it be when Jesus returns for His own.

They were amazed at what had taken place, forgetting His power to multiply the loaves and fishes. When a new difficult situation arises in our lives, we also often forget how He has delivered us in the past.

Vs. 53-56. “And when they had passed over, they came into the land of Gennesaret, and drew to the shore...were come out of the ship, straightway they knew him, And ran through that whole region round about, and began to carry about in beds those that were sick, where they heard he was. And whithersoever he entered, into villages, or cities, or country, they laid the sick in the streets, and besought him that they might touch if it were but the border of his garment: and as many as touched him were made whole.”

The God Man walked in the midst of the people relieving their suffering and yet, the leaders failed to be convinced He was the Messiah.

Earlene Davis

*Moment by Moment*

*Never a trial that He is not there;  
Never a burden that He does not bear;  
Never a sorrow that He does not share,  
Moment by moment I'm under His care.*

*Never a heartache, and never a groan,  
Never a tear-drop, and never a moan,  
Never a danger but there, on the throne,  
Moment by moment, He thinks of His own.*

*Never a weakness that He does not feel'  
Never a sickness that He cannot heal,  
Moment by moment, in woe or in weal,  
Jesus my Savior, abides with me still.*

—Selected

# EAGLES AND STORMS

Did you know that an eagle knows when a storm is approaching long before it breaks? The eagle will fly to some high spot and wait for the winds to come.

When the storm hits, it sets its wings so that the wind will pick it up and lift it above the storm. While the storm rages below, the eagle is soaring above it. The eagle does not escape the storm. It simply uses the storm to lift it higher. It rises on the winds that bring the storm.

When the storms of life come upon us - and all of us will experience them - we can rise above them by setting our minds and our confidence towards God. Let not the storms overcome us but allow God's power to lift us above them.

Remember, it is not the burdens of life that weigh us down; it is how we handle them.

## Isaiah 40:28-31

“Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that **wait upon the LORD** shall renew their strength; they **shall mount up with wings as eagles**; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

## PSALM 23

**The Lord is my Shepherd** - that's relationship!

**I shall not want** - that's supply!

**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures** -  
that's rest!

**He leadeth me beside the still waters** - that's  
refreshment!

**He restoreth my soul** - that's healing!

**He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness** -  
that's guidance!

**For His name sake** - that's purpose!

**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the  
shadow of death** - that's testing!

**I will fear no evil** - that's protection!

**For Thou art with me** - that's faithfulness!

**Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me** - that's  
discipline!

**Thou preparest a table before me in the  
presence of my enemies** - that's hope!

**Thou anointest my head with oil** - that's  
consecration!

**My cup runneth over** - that's abundance!

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all  
the days of my life** - that's blessing!

**And I will dwell in the house of the Lord** - that's  
security!

**Forever** - that's eternity!

# Seek and Find

Find the underlined words in the puzzle block.

## Christ the Door

**John 10:7** - “Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.”

**John 10:9** - “I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.”

**John 14:6** - “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

**Romans 5:2** - “By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

**Eph. 2:18** - “For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.”

**Eph. 3:12** - “In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.”

**Hebrews 9:8** - “The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing.”

**Hebrews 10:19-20** - “Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh.”

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