

Malcolm's Monday Musings : 29 June 2020

(i) Scripture.

When we came into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were afflicted in every way; without combats, within fears. But He who *encourages* those that are brought low, even God, *encouraged* us by the coming of Titus; and not by his coming only, but also through the *encouragement* with which he was *encouraged* as to you; relating to us your ardent desire, your mourning, your zeal for me; so that I the more rejoiced ...

If also I wrote to you, it was not for the sake of him that injured, nor for the sake of him that was injured, but for the sake of our diligent zeal for you being manifested to you before God. For this reason we have been *encouraged*. And we the rather rejoiced in our *encouragement* more abundantly by reason of the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all.

2 Corinthians 7. 5-13 (J. N. Darby's 'New Translation'.)

(ii) Food for thought.

Our Lord's two stoops (Phil. 2. 6-8).

'He who at the beginning of His earthly path *stooped* from the throne to the manger, at its end *stooped* from the experience proper to holy manhood down to the fathomless depths of Calvary's woe'.

(H. C. Hewlett, 'The Glories of Our Lord', page 43.)

His life and His death.

'Jesus lived *a life I could not live*, and died *the death I should've died*'.

(Lecrae Moore, from his testimony in the Billy Graham film, 'The Cross'.)

The cross and the shame.

'Looking unto Jesus ... who ... endured the cross, despising the shame' (Heb. 12. 2).

The Garden of Gethsemane proves that our Lord *did not despise the cross!* That He had to *endure*.

'My right hand'.

'The Lord ... is on my right hand' (Acts 2. 25); 'The Lord said ... "sit on my right hand"' (Acts 2. 34).

'On earth, God is at *Christ's right hand*, and the situation is reversed a few verses further on where we find Christ exalted to *the right hand of the Father* on High'.

(Jim Elliot, 'The Resurrection of Christ'.)

'Them that' in the Epistle to the Hebrews.

Believers are:

(i) 'them that obey Him' (Heb. 5. 9 - obedience);

(ii) 'them that come to God through Him' Heb. 7. 25 - access); and

(iii) 'them that look for Him' (Heb. 9. 28 - expectation).

'With all your heart'.

(i) 'Seek the Lord' (Deut. 4. 29).

(ii) 'Serve the Lord' (Deut. 10. 12).

(iii) 'Love the Lord' (Deut. 13. 3).

(iv) 'Obey the Lord' (Deut. 30. 2).

(v) 'Turn to the Lord' (Deut. 30. 10).

(vi) 'Walk before the Lord' (1 Kings 2. 4).

(vii) 'Follow the Lord' (1 Kings 14. 8).

(viii) 'Give thanks to the Lord' (Psa. 86. 12).

(ix) 'Trust in the Lord' (Prov. 3. 5).

Two Ethiopian eunuchs.

The Old Testament Ethiopian eunuch rescued the prophet out of the muddy cistern with 'no water' (Jer. 38. 6-13); the New Testament Ethiopian eunuch went down with the preacher 'into the water' (Acts 8. 27, 38).

Nicodemus.

Nicodemus is mentioned only in John's Gospel, and on all three occasions that he is, John draws attention to the fact that he 'came to Jesus by night' (John 3. 2; 7. 50; 19. 39).

Living in the felt presence of God.

'Do nothing you would not like God to see. Say nothing you would not like God to hear. Write nothing you would not like God to read. Go to no place where you would not like God to find you. Read no book of which you would not like God to say, "Show it me". Never spend your time in such a way that you would not like to have God say, "What art thou doing?"'

(J. C. Ryle, *Upper Room: Being a Few Truths for the Times*, Chapter XIX: Thoughts for young men).

Hope and holiness.

'Christian hope is more than the hope of deliverance from sorrow or crying or pain. It is first and most of all *the hope of deliverance from sin*, to be no more tempted to evil either from within or from without, to be like the Lord when we see Him as He is'.

(William Milligan, *The Resurrection of the Dead*, page 18.)

Now two brief missionary stories:

(i) 'God is faithful'.

'As T. Ernest Wilson was standing on the Belfast docks preparing to leave for Africa, a kind brother pressed two gold coins into his hand, saying, 'If you are ever down to your last penny, there is something to fall back on'. As a testament to God's faithfulness and provision, T. Ernest Wilson still had those two gold coins over seventy years later. God had fully met their needs during a life of service to Him'.

(Reproduced from *'T. E. Wilson Ministry'*, accessed at <http://ternestwilson.com/index.html>.)

(ii) 'Leave to thy God to order and provide'.

'Consider Eric Liddell, the famous Scottish Olympian celebrated in the film *Chariots of Fire*. Liddell became a missionary in China. For ten years he taught in a school, and then went farther inland to do frontline evangelism. The work was not only challenging but dangerous, not the least because the Japanese were making increasing inroads. Eventually he was interned with many other Westerners.

'In the squalid camp, Liddell was a shining light of service and good cheer, a lodestar for the many children there who had not seen their parents for years, a self-sacrificing leader. But a few months before they were released, Liddell died of a brain tumour. He was forty-three. In this life he never saw the youngest of his three daughters: his wife and children had returned to Canada before the Japanese sweep that rounded up the foreigners.

'Didn't the Lord withhold from him a long life, years of fruitful service, the joy of rearing his own children? Perhaps the best response lies in Liddell's favourite hymn:

Be still, my soul! the Lord is on thy side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Leave to thy God to order and provide;
In every change, He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul! thy best, thy heav'nly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end'.

(D. A. Carson, *'For the Love of God'*, 29 May.)

Some of our responsibilities to 'one another'.

- (i) 'Love one another' (John 13. 34, 35)..
- (ii) 'Be kindly affectionate to one another' (Rom. 12. 10).
- (iii) 'Greet one another' (Rom. 16. 16).
- (iv) 'Serve one another' (Gal. 5. 13).
- (v) 'Bear one another's burdens' (Gal. 6. 2).
- (vi) 'Be kind to one another' (Eph. 4. 32).
- (vii) 'Forgiving one another' (Eph. 4. 32; Col. 3. 13).
- (viii) Submitting to one another' (Eph. 5. 21).
- (ix) 'Bearing with one another' (Col. 3. 13).
- (x) 'Edify one another' (1 Thess. 5. 11).
- (xi) 'Exhort one another' (Heb. 3. 13; 10. 25).
- (xii) 'Consider one another' (Heb. 10. 24).
- (xiii) 'Pray for one another' (James 5. 16).
- (xiv) 'Having compassion for one another' (1 Pet. 3. 8).

(These references, together with others, are listed in the opening section of the attached document.)

Detailed notes. [See the attached Word document, 'Encourage one another'](#). Also see the attached 'Encourage one another' picture.

(iii) Go on, smile.

Three Scotsmen and three Englishmen were travelling by train to an international rugby match in Cardiff, Wales. At the railway station near the England/Scotland border, the three Englishmen each bought a ticket, and then watched perplexed as the three Scotsmen bought just one ticket for them all.

'How are the three of you going to travel with only one ticket?' queried one of the Englishmen. 'Och, laddie, yer'll need tae watch and learn', answered one of the Scotsmen.

They all boarded the train. The Englishmen took their respective seats but all three Scotsmen squeezed into a toilet and closed the door behind them. Shortly after the train left the station, the guard came around to collect the tickets. When he reached the closed toilet door, he knocked and called out, 'Ticket please'. The door opened a crack and an arm reached out holding a ticket in its hand. The guard took the ticket, and moved on. The Englishmen saw all that had happened, and agreed it was a clever ploy. They decided to copy the Scottish tactic on the return trip and to save themselves some money. And so, when they got to Cardiff rail station after the match, they bought just one ticket for the three of them. To their utter amazement, the Scotsmen didn't buy any ticket at all. 'How are the three of you going to travel without any ticket at all?' asked one of the perplexed Englishmen. 'Och, laddie, yer'll need tae watch and learn', answered one of the Scotsmen. When they boarded the train, the three Englishmen crammed into one toilet. Immediately after, the three Scotsmen squeezed themselves into a nearby toilet. Shortly after the train left Cardiff station, one of the Scotsmen left the second toilet and dashed quickly over to the toilet where the Englishmen were hiding. He knocked the door sharply, and *called out, 'Ticket please'*.

(The 'smile' above is a Revised Version of something which a good friend in India passed on to me several years ago.)

And just so any Irish readers don't feel deprived:

Paddy walked his dog through the village every day.
One day, Paddy was seen on his walk without his dog.
'Now, where's your dog, Paddy?' Mick enquired.
'Sure now', Paddy replied, 'I had to have him put down'.
'Was he mad?' asked Mick.
'Well now', Paddy replied, 'to be shure, *he wasn't best pleased about it*'.

And, finally, see the attached 'Profound warning' picture.

Sometimes, the person who's been there for everyone else needs someone to be there for them.

