

Saturday, June 13

2 Corinthians 13:1-14 *Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?* (v.5a)

For twenty years I made my living as an actor in Hollywood in T.V. and film. I learned the craft of putting on a mask and playing a role to perform in a film. It was never real, but our job was to make you think it was real.

It reminds me of what I did with God. I grew up in the Church and jumped through all the hoops. I said the prayers and boldly sang the songs. I thought Youth Group was fun and I listened to Sunday school stories, but didn't relate to this man named Jesus.

It was addiction, fifteen years ago, that brought me to the Cross. Before that, I was an actor in church. I knew *of* Christ, but I did not know him as my Savior. I had to let go of a lot of pride to humbly ask him to live in my heart, to start the transformation. God asks, "Where are you?" Are you just an actor on Sunday morning, or does Christ live in your heart when you walk out that church door?

2 Chronicles 31:2-10, 20-21; Psalms 75, 76; Luke 20:1-8

by S. M. Ford

Used with permission from the BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP
P. O. Box 380, Winter Park, FL 32790
www.biblereading.org

Good News Daily

Volume IX

June 7-13, 2009

Number 23

Sunday, June 7

Matthew 15:29-39 *Now Jesus called His disciples to Himself and said "I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with me three days and have nothing to eat." (v.32a NKJV)*

It must have been unbelievable to follow Jesus for three days and see the lame, blind, and mute healed. But after three days of medical miracles it still got down to the basics of hungry people who needed to be fed.

I know I was so grateful and amazed when 15 years ago Christ saved me from my alcoholism. That was a big miracle. To be honest, I can get lazy and complacent at times because he has blessed me with a good job, insurance, good health, and plenty of food.

That is when he needs me to reach out and be his hands to help feed others, who don't have what I have been blessed with. I've served in Africa several times and have seen real hunger. If Christ is living in me then I need to see the fruit of his transformation. Does my heart have the compassion like his to feed the hungry?

Deuteronomy 29:16-29; Psalms 24, 29; Revelation 12:1-12

Monday, June 8

Psalms 56 *Be merciful to me, O God, for man would swallow me up; Fighting all day he oppresses me.* (v.1)

I remember years ago when I took that moment to clear the altar in my heart and finally ask Christ to be my savior. Shortly after that a friend explained that, from that moment forward, God would actively orchestrate all the comings and goings of my life. His hand would be on my daily life like never before, with a plan. I just needed to listen for His voice.

Accepting Christ is not a lottery ticket to no more sickness, heart ache, or financial troubles here on earth. But it does come with a sense of rest, since now your Father walks right along side of you. I find comfort today knowing God is helping write the script and not me alone. Still, God wants me to cry out daily like the Psalmist for His help. Today I know with certainty He has already jumped through the biggest hoop, which is eternity with Him in heaven.

Deuteronomy 30:1-10; Psalms 57, 58; 2 Corinthians 10:1-18; Luke 18:31-43

Tuesday, June 9

Psalm 62 *If riches increase, Do not set your heart on them.* (v.10b)

Several years ago I walked away from a very successful 20-year T.V. and film career to serve God. I wanted to wait on His plan. During three years of waiting I matured while working for the *Jesus Film* in places like Africa and Mexico. It still seemed like a long wait, since I was ready to get back to work.

Recently, the Lord has blessed me with a brand new career. His hand was so evident in the writing of the script for my new career. I have been shocked and humbled at the success. I did my part, but God multiplied my effort.

Here is where the potential problems arise. The enemy, and my own flawed human nature, slowly tries to put me to sleep when the bank account gets full. I can get lazy and take all the credit, forgetting God was the author of my success. As the psalmist writes, don't set your heart on riches. Our hearts need to be set on Christ.

Deuteronomy 30:11-20; Psalm 61; 2 Corinthians 11:1-21a; Luke 19:1-10

Wednesday, June 10

Deuteronomy 31:30—32:14 *Let my teaching drop as the rain, my speech distill as the dew, as raindrops on the tender herb, and as showers on the grass.* (v.2)

This verse is from a song God gave Moses to teach to the children, so future generations would not forget God's kindness and promise. God also knew the people would turn away from Him to other idols and suffer a dry period.

The song reminds me that God approaches me tenderly, trying to invite me into relationship. But daily, He gives me a choice to turn my back and go it alone or allow Him to walk beside me. There beside me, He waits to nourish my heart and mind like drops of rain to a tender plant.

I live on a ranch and depend heavily on a good rainy season to replenish my water well and soak the new tender shoots of grass. One of my most comforting sights is a long slow steady rain washing over the new grass. The slow, steady rain goes deep into the soil to draw the roots deep. Deep roots provide nourishment during the dry periods. Are you turning towards the Lord and letting Him water you deeply?

Psalm 72; 2 Corinthians 11:21b-33; Luke 19:11-27

Thursday, June 11

2 Corinthians 12:1-10 *Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.* (v.10)

This is where the writer, Paul, and I are true brothers. Paul begs God to remove a thorn from his flesh, and God refuses. Fifteen years ago, I almost lost everything to my alcoholism. When I finally got sick and tired of being sick and tired, I bowed down before Christ and accepted him as my savior. God used the darkest moment of my life to draw me to Him. Together, today we have fifteen years of sobriety.

I still plead with God to remove thorns from my flesh as we walk out His plan daily; thorns of impatience with a friend or spouse, thorns of a quick temper or laziness with personal finances. Maybe your lack of compassion or not listening to your wife is dragging your marriage down.

I find today that my weaknesses keep me closer to God, because I can't do it in my own strength.

I still find days where I am weak and tempted with alcohol, but I run to Him. This is the relationship He always wanted from the beginning.

2 Chronicles 6:18-31; Psalms 70, 71; Luke 19:28-40

Friday, June 12

Luke 19:41-48 *Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace!"* (vv.41-42a)

I now understand how Jesus weeps for all the people who make a choice to not have a relationship with him. It touches my heart deeply that years ago, when I wandered alone in my poor choices that lead to my alcoholism, he wept for me. Christ didn't point a finger or shout at me. He wept for me; a father crying for his runaway son.

Does your vision of God turn you away because you see Him as a tough taskmaster like your own father? A father never satisfied or who never took the time to just love on you? I once heard a speaker describe how some people have a mislead vision of God as a customs officer with a nightstick, going through their moral suitcase.

Christ waits on our first step towards him to have a relationship, to carry our burdens and walk alongside of us. He weeps to be our savior if we will just invite him into our heart.

2 Chronicles 26:1-22; Psalm 69; 2 Corinthians 12:11-21