



Trumpet & Torch

Setting the World on Fire for Christ - One Heart at a Time!
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***"Who may ascend the hill of the LORD?
Who may stand in His holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart."
(Psalm 24:3-4)***

***"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth."
(Matthew 5:5)***

Dear Friend,

Here we are nearing the end of a wonderful journey with our Lord (sounds a little all too familiar as we think back to Sunday when we ended our 40-day journey). Hopefully, you are realizing that the end of one journey you find the beginning of another (even more wonderful) journey with our Lord. Each time we begin anew, the journey is all the more sweeter because we find ourselves better prepared, more aware, and equipped with greater zeal to continue!

***"On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread,
the disciples came to Jesus and asked,
'Where do you want us to make preparations
for you to eat the Passover?' "
(Matthew 26:17)***

As we near the end of our Lord's earthly journey we find His disciples turning to Him to ask for directions. When they began their walk with the Lord there were times they tried to figure things out in their own human understanding, not knowing fully yet, that the answer was with them all the time (see the *Feeding of the Five Thousand* in Matthew 14:13:21). How many times have we found ourselves walking in their shoes? Forgetting the One who *"daily bears our burdens"* (Psalm 68:19) and *"meets all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 4:19), only to find ourselves consumed with unnecessary worry and needless concern.

After walking with the Lord, watching the Lord in action, listening to His teachings, and witnessing His miracles and healings, and experiencing His provision, the disciples had come to fully depend on Him and realized they had no need for any other source. This is the essence of meekness: *"those who humbly acknowledge their dependence on the goodness and grace of God"* (NIV text note). They had learned to depend on Him for everything and when the time had come for a decision to be made they were disciplined to immediately turn to the Lord for the answer, before making a single step. While we may not journey with the Lord, physically, on the roads between Bethany and Jerusalem we can learn just as much as the disciples did (if not more!) by meditating on His very words, studying His every step, and following the path He's already prepared for us:

***"Stand at the crossroads and look;
ask for the ancient paths,
ask where the good way is, and walk in it,
and you will find rest for your souls."
(Jeremiah 6:16)***

Remember, in part one of our journey this week, we talked about the *ancient paths*. That path is an already beaten down path that is tried, tested and found true. The path of righteousness! It is the only path that will bring us peace and rest. Why? Because it is the path of God. He is our *"our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble"* (Psalm 46:1) and no other path will provide us the assurance we need to walk peaceably in this life.

It is the meek, those that acknowledge their humble dependence on God, that inherit the earth. What does this mean? Why would we want to inherit this present earth? The inheritance isn't a parcel of soil - the inheritance is peace and rest! When we recognize our absolute dependence on Holy God we turn to Him for everything *"with prayer and petition and with thanksgiving"* our resulting blessing becomes, *"the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 4: 6,7). Our peace and assurance comes from Christ alone.

*"They sought God eagerly, and He was found by them.
So the LORD gave them rest on every side."
(2 Chronicles 15:15)*

Rest is part of God's blessing for obedience. We've learned that *"When the righteous rule, the people rejoice"* (Proverbs 29:2). A study of 2nd Chronicles details the victories of the righteous kings. It is when we pursue God that He doesn't allow our enemies to pursue us. In fact, in the Old Testament, many nations turned from their wickedness and pursued the God of Israel because of the power He displayed on behalf of Israel's obedience.

*"This cup is the new covenant in my blood;
do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."
(1 Corinthians 11:25)*

We've recognized our need for dependence on Christ and now we join the Lord in the upper room as the preparations have been made to partake of the Passover meal. As we meditate on our recent discussion of the rest we receive when we depend on and obey our Lord we can't help but recognize the importance of this particular meal and reflect on the symbolism of that fateful night when the Lord *"passed over"* and saved those who had obediently followed His instructions. Their obedience was a matter of life or death (Exodus 12).

It was during the observance of the Passover meal that a new meal was instituted: The Lord's Supper. The former meal was observed as a reminder of the Israelites past deliverance from Egypt and their future deliverance through their Messiah. The latter meal was to be a remembrance of the deliverance through the Lord's sacrificial death and His future return in Glory. By observing the Lord's Supper we take part in the obedience of our Lord as He surrendered to the plan of the Father and laid down His life for the sheep (John 10:14-18). When we partake of this meal we have much to reflect on (1 Corinthians 11:28).

*"I am the living bread that came down from heaven.
If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever.
The bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."
(John 6:51)*

Our peace, our rest, and our very life comes from Christ: *"I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you"* (John 6:53). It is within the bonds of the deep, intimate, and abiding relationship we have experienced with our Lord that we enjoy the fullness of the life He has for us. May we never forget what He has done and all that He continues to do.

Before we leave the upper room, to begin the journey to the Garden of Gethsemane, let us first join John as he recounts a very humble act the Lord performed for His beloved disciples:

*"Having loved His own who were in the world,
He now showed them the full extent of His love...
He got up from the meal, took off His outer clothing,
and wrapped a towel around His waist.
After that, He poured water into a basin
and began to wash the disciples' feet,
drying them with the towel that was wrapped around Him."
(John 13:1,3-5)*

This is one of my favorite Scripture readings. Ever the humble servant, our Savior, knowing full well what laid before Him just hours away, asked nothing of Himself, and instead, took His last few moments with those He loved to prepare them for the path they were to walk.

We've learned that peace comes from dependence and obedience in Christ. In our reliance upon Christ we become ambassadors of peace. The Lord knew full well the difficult and challenging path His disciples would journey once He was gone from this earth. He took this last teaching time to prepare them, for what was to come, by washing their feet. In doing so He fit them *"with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace"* (Ephesians 6:15). He showed them through His humility that when faced with the trials of this life they would be called to be *"peacemakers"* (Matthew 5:9).

*"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news,
who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation,
who say to Zion, 'Your God Reigns!' "*
(Isaiah 52:7)

Dear saints, these past 40 days the Lord has lovingly set you before Him and washed your feet. He has been preparing you to walk in peace and confidence in a land filled with challenges and opposition. As you look back at where He has taken you keep your eyes focused on where He is leading. Take time to remember what He has done, but look forward to what He is about to do. His glory is returning to this earth and it is His desire that you bring glory to His Holy name while you wait *expectantly!*

We have another journey to make and this one will be most difficult. The disciples had grown so much to depend upon their Lord and now they had to face that He was leaving them. Tomorrow we join the disciples as they spend the last few hours with the Lord in the Garden of Gethsemane. As they headed out they sang hymns from Psalm 115-118. Take time to read, meditate, reflect, and pray!

*"You will go out in joy and be lead forth in peace;
the mountains and the hills will burst into song before you,
and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.
Instead of the thornbush will grow the pine tree,
and instead of briers the myrtle will grow.
This will be for the Lord's renown,
for an everlasting sign,
which will not be destroyed."*
(Isaiah 55:12-13)

Peace to all of you who are in Christ,

The Servants of Trumpet and Torch Ministries

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