

# GRACE GAZETTE

Volume XXII

Issue 38

*Published occasionally for mourners in Zion*

*Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.* Hebrews 12:12-13

---

## OUR MEDITATION

*And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone. Matthew 14:23*

At the end of his Gospel record, John wrote these words: *"And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen."* (John 21:25) Just prior to that he had commented upon the fact that the LORD JESUS did many miracles that only HIS close disciples were witnesses to, but are not given unto us to know. *"And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."* (John 20:30-31)

Yet while we are left to wonder about these things we are also reminded by him that *"one thing is needful"*. (see Luke 10:42) Often times men seek out answers to questions they have which no one has the answer to, while they overlook the ONE TRUTH which is the answer to all needful questions. John says it plainly here. *"That ye might believe"* and that *"believing ye might have life through his name."*

It does not matter what secrets men may discover or what great theological knowledge they might obtain, if they miss this important TRUTH they are destitute. It is reported that John Newton, the author of the well known hymn, 'Amazing Grace'; was asked (as he lay upon his death bed) what great Bible truths gave him comfort in these final hours. The inquirer assumed that he would share some deep words of knowledge gained from his many years of Bible study and service to the brethren of his church. As he waited with bated breath, Newton told him that he could only remember two things: One, was what a great sinner he was and the other was what a great SAVIOR, CHRIST is.

That is the "one thing needful" for men to know. The man who is given eyes to behold this TRUTH and believe it, is privileged beyond measure, for he has been granted the gift of FAITH which cannot be overturned, forgotten, or taken from him. The LORD said, *"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."* (John 10:27-29) The comfort and lasting hope of the awakened sons of GOD is found in the SAVIOR's declaration; *"I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep."* (John 10:14-15)

The LORD JESUS CHRIST was a MAN of prayer. *"And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray."* (Luke 11:1) HIS disciples observed this throughout HIS short sojourn upon this Earth, and seeing HIS example; desired that HE instruct them in these matters. What follows is HIS model prayer which is often wrongly (in my opinion) called the "LORD's prayer". Actually, I believe that HIS entire life was one of prayer, and if we were to single out one prayer which would be called the "LORD's prayer", it would be found in the seventeenth chapter of John's gospel. It was this prayer which typified HIS devotion to HIS FATHER and HIS commitment to deliver HIS people from bondage. Herein we see HIS great love to both HIS FATHER and those which were given to HIM by HIS FATHER.

It would seem that HE prayed this prayer in the presence of HIS disciples, for immediately afterwards HE crossed the Brook Cedron going into the Garden of Gethsemane. (see John 18:1) There HE took Peter, James, and John a ways off from the rest and then removed HIMSELF even from them that HE might enter upon the greatest agony of soul that any man before or since has experienced. *"And he went a little further,*

and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." (Mat 26:39) HE was surely in the anteroom of hell as the sin of HIS people was pressed upon HIM and HE poured out HIS soul unto death. (see Isa.53:12) HIS experience here is described by the Psalmist. "I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death." (Psa 22:14-15)

The afflictions of Job are but a partial illustration of that which fully encompassed our LORD as HE grappled with the afflictions of HIS people which HE had made HIS own. "Terrors are turned upon me: they pursue my soul as the wind: and my welfare passeth away as a cloud. And now my soul is poured out upon me; the days of affliction have taken hold upon me. My bones are pierced in me in the night season: and my sinews take no rest. By the great force of my disease is my garment changed: it bindeth me about as the collar of my coat. He hath cast me into the mire, and I am become like dust and ashes." (Job 30:15-19) Is it any wonder that HE should cry out that this cup might be removed from HIM? Never once did HE desire to abandon HIS people for HIS own rest, but rather here demonstrates both the weakness of the flesh and the utter triumph of the GOD-MAN as HE commits HIMSELF again to the FATHER's will.

HIS greatest desire was to do HIS FATHER's will and walk in a manner which pleased HIM. Yet here HE is before HIM who will not look upon sin, covered in the filth of those whose SUBSTITUTE HE was. Never has such a dilemma been visited upon any man nor could any mere man have survived it. For now, HE was everything HIS FATHER despised and the only manner in which HE could please the FATHER was to be displeasing in HIS FATHER's sight. Oh, what wonder and amazement which sweeps over our mind as we behold the crushing weight of this burden and HIS absolute resolve to bear it for our sakes. "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." (Isa 53:3-5)

David was given the privilege of experiencing and writing down those heart meditations of our LORD as HE often went apart to pray, sometimes in a mountain, sometimes for an entire night. Yet HE declared the ONE in whom HE trusted. "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance. O my God, my soul is cast down within me: therefore will I remember thee from the land of Jordan, and of the Hermonites, from the hill Mizar. Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me. Yet the LORD will command his lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life. I will say unto God my rock, Why hast thou forgotten me? why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?" (Psa 42:5-9) Truly HE was compassed about with many enemies as Satan himself sought to destroy HIM, and the Jews plotted HIS demise daily as they went about to confound HIM with their reason and yet HE triumphed over them all.

We are greatly blessed as we are given the privilege from time to time, to meditate upon that which HE has undertaken for us. HE is indeed our "song in the night", our sweet MEDITATION. "Ye shall have a song, as in the night when a holy solemnity is kept; and gladness of heart, as when one goeth with a pipe to come into the mountain of the LORD, to the mighty One of Israel. And the LORD shall cause his glorious voice to be heard." (Isa 30:29-30) "I call to remembrance my song in the night: I commune with mine own heart: and my spirit made diligent search." (Psa 77:6) Though these meditations are often very fleeting they are nonetheless greatly satisfying, not because of our activity, but because of the ONE whose glory we are allowed to contemplate. "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation." (Isa 12:2-3)

"O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary. Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips: When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches. Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice." (Psa 63:1-7) As this is the prayer of our LORD, may it be ours as well. mam