SOUND THE TRUMPET IN PRAYER

**And if you go to war in your land against the enemy that opresseth you, then ye shall blow an alarm with the trumpets; and ye shall be remembered before the Lord your God, and ye shall be saved from your enemies (Numbers 10:9).**

How Much More?

It is written, “If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small”. Many are the adverse situations we will face in life, and these cannot be avoided. What can be avoided is facing them alone. God is an ever present help in time of need to those who trust in Him for answers. Often we seek other solutions created by our own hand for help; making us no different than God’s people who demanded that Aaron make them a golden calf to lead them. Unfortunately, we are like the children of Israel. We may have thought, when reading accounts of their travels through the wilderness that they had no faith considering all God did for them. While this is true, we are no better. We also doubt God, and prove it when we fail to take our problems to God who has the ability to create a solution or give us peace and strength to walk through a desert place. Israel continually wanted to take matters into their own hands, and even wanted to stone their leaders when things got rough. They complained even though they were free. They desired to go back to the bondage of Egypt, which is a type of this world, rather than move forward and trust God.

Scripture uses many “types and shadows”, as it were, to give spiritual applications to the natural in Old and New Testaments. Presuming it is understood by the reader that the Law was the schoolmaster for Christ (see Galatians 3:24-25), we understand that Moses spoke of Christ because it was in the Mind of God to manifest Himself in the flesh from the foundation of the world. Jesus let us know this when He spoke to Israel’s leaders (see John 5:46). Therefore, if any think that moral laws in the Old Testament do not apply to “New Testament” believers they are mistaken. And this may be the mindset that is the cause of many problems. If we want to delve into the reasons why people do what they do, and do not seek God, we must come to the conclusion that there is a lack of faith involved. Lack of faith or love, and these words can be used interchangeably; will result in rebellion or a turning away from God. This in turn leads to sin. The reasons for someone to be fear lead, instead of faith lead, is most often a result of one’s negative life experiences because God gives all men a measure of faith at birth (see Romans 12:3). Jesus tells us in Luke 18 that men should always pray, and not faint, but also asks if, upon His return; will He find faith in the earth?

Oftentimes, it is hard for people to walk away from all they have ever known, even if it is not good. Such was the case of the children of Israel. God knew this about them, and this is why He did not take them on a direct route to the Promised Land, but made them walk a long way from Egypt so when they saw war it would not be easy for them to go back (see Exodus 13:17). This really was another attempt by God to make a way for His people even though they didn’t see it that way. If God makes it hard for us to backslide by taking us in another direction because He doesn’t want to destroy us; is He not good?

The truth is God has made a way for us whatever or wherever our wilderness is, and everyone’s is different. Jesus spoke some words to the Jews and His disciples that they could not understand saying, **“I am that bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eats of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world” (John 6:48-51).** Jesus was letting them know of His impending death and sacrifice for sin. But in making an analogy between Himself and the manna sent to sustain the people in the wilderness He was also letting us know through His words to them that He is truth, the way, and the life. It is He who can and will sustain us through any wilderness we walk through, but we must turn to Him, and not make drugs, a lust for things, or even people our sustenance. In doing so, we become idol worshipers.

There is an account Jesus gave, not a parable, because names of certain people are used, that can be found in Luke 16. Jesus tells us of a beggar named Lazarus who may have been a leper because he had sores, which dogs came and licked. Lazarus laid waiting at the gate hoping only to get some crumbs, which might fall from the rich man’s table. No doubt, the crumbs were of no value to the rich man; nor did he even notice Lazarus until they both died. Upon his death, the beggar was carried by angels into Abraham’s bosom, which is said to be a type of heaven to the Jews. The rich man was buried, but could see Lazarus resting in Abraham’s bosom while he was in torment in flames.

The rich man begged for father Abraham to send Lazarus to bring him water to cool his tongue, but was told that a great gulf prevented the live from reaching the dead. The rich man was also told that as he had good things in his life, but Lazarus had evil; now he had evil, and Lazarus was comforted. This should give those who don’t have all they think they need in this life encouragement. There are those who are first who shall be last, and those who are last shall be… The rich man then asked that his brethren be warned so they would be saved; but was told they have Moses and the prophets, let them hear them. The rich man said no, if one was sent to them from the dead, they would repent. Jesus finished the story by giving father Abraham’s response, which is really God’s. But in speaking to the Jews, He spoke in a way that they could receive, saying; **“If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead”** **(Luke 16:31).** In telling this story, Jesus was sending a message, not only to the Jewish leaders of the day, but to those of us who read His written word. We have the law and the prophets, but not only that we have the Holy Ghost to teach us all things, and do the things we cannot do on our own. It is up to us to take that “now word” and put it to use in our lives. In His day, the people always wanted to see another sign, wanted more proof. It may be that Jesus feels He has done enough. How much more can we expect? BMLR

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Inmates, family members, and those who are interested can now access the monthly newsletter. Please visit **http://www.inspirationalwordsforinmatesandtheirfamilies.yolasite.com/** .The site is still under construction, and will soon have all copies of the newsletter since the column **Words from Behind the Wall** was started in 2007.

WORDS FROM BEHIND THE WALL

MY REFUGE IN TIMES OF TROUBLE

When I was in deep trouble, the Lord became my refuge. As I grew to know Him, I let go more and more to Him. Now I can look back and tell the point of my transformation was when I believed (Psalm 9:9-10). Jesus helps out those who seek Him during times of trouble. He took care of a woman with a flow of blood, which continued for twelve years. This woman reached out for His garment, and Jesus told her that her faith had made her well (Matthew 9:18-22). A centurion pleaded with Jesus to heal his servant; knowing that the Lord was powerful enough to speak healing only over his servant (Mathew 8:5-13). The Gentile woman whose daughter was possessed by a demon submitted herself to have faith because she knew He was the only way (Matthew 15:21-28).  **William Moctezuma**

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WHERE DID I GO WRONG?

Inspirational Words

Today I thought about my sisters who stay far away, wondering if they were still living in the same house where we used to play. Thoughts about my mother, who hasn’t written in some time, got me wondering if she is doing okay and is fine. I sometimes look out my cell wishing I was free, seeing others go home to their loved ones, wishing that was me. And now there is no one to blame for my downfall, but me. I put myself in this place because of what I was not doing, and that’s getting right with God. So He has placed me back in this place so that I will see that all my shortcomings are on me. I sometimes wonder if I am wrong for wanting something better out of life. The Bible says, “What good is it to gain the whole world, and lose your soul?” I am I wrong? No! Because I don’t want the whole world, I just want what God wants to give me to be happy because God doesn’t’ want us to go without. He says ask, and it shall be given to you, seek and you shall find. I Timothy 5:8 says, if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially those of his household; he has denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever. I know God will see in my heart the good that I have done, and see I am ready for the world again. I am ready to do it the right way because God has given me peace and joy. He will provide for all my needs because He is the best of all providers. He is my rock that I will stand on every day of my life.

 **Jamie Alexandar**

OTHER GODS THAN GOD

The writings in I Corinthians 8:5-6 teach us that as we may understand that there are other gods who are in the earth or heaven, when you come to believe in Him, you must accept that there is no longer other gods or Lords, but One and that’s Him, Jesus Christ, who we now call the father of all things. Remember we do become sons of God once we’ve confessed, and become doers of God’s laws, which are His word. As we look to Ezekiel 8:9-15, God shows us that His people had gone astray with idols, which they call Gods and Lords, and even honored kings more at that time, even though God had said this was an abomination.

 **Patrick Douglas**

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GOD HONORS FAITHFULNESS

“An angel...rolled the stone away.” Matthew 28:3 NCV

When the two Mary’s went to the tomb that first Easter morning, the last thing they expected was to find it empty. After all, they had just witnessed Jesus crucified, along with most of their dreams. Now, duty bound, they came to prepare His body for burial. That day, they didn’t come to receive, they came to give. And there is no nobler human aspiration. Service prompted by duty is the hallmark of true discipleship. That’s why God calls us to love, expecting nothing in return; to forgive those who refuse to reciprocate. As God watched those two women climbing the mountain on that morning, He had a surprise in store for them. The Bible says that angel who, “went to the tomb, and rolled the stone away,” said, “Come…see the place where His body was” (vs. 6.) The angel didn’t’ move the stone so that Jesus could get out. The one who conquered death can certainly move a rock! No, he moved it so that the women could look in and rejoice. Why? Because God honors faithfulness! (A) When she was long past childbearing, Sarah believed God, and became the mother of nations. (B) When his failure was overwhelming and public; David repented, and was pardoned and restored. (C) When the road was the darkest for the two Mary’s, and angel showed up, and resurrected their hopes. Today if your road is long and dark, much like mine; don’t get discouraged, and don’t quit. The answer is on the way. God honors faithfulness. And when necessary, He even sends angels! **Brandy Holmes**

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**Inmates, please submit your inspirational thoughts for Words from Behind the Wall to Beth Marie Rexford, C/O International Christian Fellowship, 9146 Lincoln Ave, Brookfield IL 60513. Office Phone: 708-387-9009. Thank you.**