

MAY THE WORDS OF MY LIPS AND THE MEDITATION OF ALL OUR HEARTS BE ALWAYS ACCEPTABLE TO YOU O LORD OUR STRENGTH AND REDEEMER. AMEN

THANKS BE TO GOD FOR ANSWERING OUR PRAYERS AND BRINGING MUCH NEEDED RAIN THIS PAST WEEK. WE ARE NOW ACTUALLY SEEING A GREENISH TINGE IN OUR BROWN LAWN NOW. WE HOPE MORE RAIN WILL COME THIS WEEKEND TO HELP FILL WELLS, PONDS AND LAKES AND HELP EXTINGUISH ALL THE FOREST FIRES.

JESUS MINISTRY LASTED 3 SHORT YEARS AND THE 12 APOSTLES WERE VERY OFTEN WITH HIM BUT THEY JUST DID NOT SEEM TO BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND HIS TEACHINGS AND MIRACLES.

I HAVE BEEN CONTINUING TO WATCH THE TV SERIES "THE CHOSEN", WHICH IS THE STORY OF JESUS AND THE APOSTLES. IT SHOWS THE DISCIPLES WITH JESUS BUT NOT ALL THE TIME, AS THEY HAD FAMILIES AND OTHER DUTIES. IT IS A WONDERFUL SERIES AND PRESENTS JESUS AND THE DISCIPLES AND THE OTHER PEOPLE AROUND JESUS AS NORMAL EVERY DAY PEOPLE, WITH THEIR CONCERNS AND PROBLEMS. BUT IT IS A VERY MOVING AND INSPIRING SERIES.

OUR GOSPEL READING TODAY IS FROM LUKE --- OUR INTRODUCTION TO MARTHA AND MARY. THEY HAD A BROTHER NAMED LAZARUS WHOM JESUS HAD RAISED FROM THE DEAD, ANOTHER VERY DEEP AND TOUCHING EVENT. BUT HE IS NOT MENTIONED AT THIS TIME.

MARTHA AND MARY

LUKE 10:39 SHE HAD A SISTER NAMED MARY, WHO SAT DOWN AT THE FEET OF THE LORD AND LISTENED TO HIS TEACHING.

LUKE 10:40 MARTHA WAS UPSET OVER ALL THE WORK SHE HAD TO DO, SO SHE CAME AND SAID, "LORD, DON'T YOU CARE THAT MY SISTER HAS LEFT ME TO DO ALL THE WORK BY MYSELF ? TELL HER TO COME AND HELP ME!"

LUKE 10:41 THE LORD ANSWERED HER, "MARTHA, MARTHA! YOU ARE WORRIED AND TROUBLED OVER SO MANY THINGS,

LUKE 10:42 BUT JUST ONE IS NEEDED. MARY HAS CHOSEN THE RIGHT THING, AND IT WILL NOT BE TAKEN AWAY FROM HER."

SO WE SEE TWO DIFFERENT SITUATIONS MARTHA WAS THE GREAT HOST BUSY PREPARING A MEAL FOR JESUS AND THE APOSTLES. SHE WAS PERHAPS TOO BUSY, SHE COULD HAVE ASKED MARY TO HELP OR EVEN SPENT TIME LISTENING TO JESUS, WHILE WORKING.

I THINK IN THIS WORLD WE WILL ALWAYS HAVE PEOPLE GIVING EXCUSES FOR NOT LISTENING TO JESUS – CLAIMING THEY ARE TOO BUSY.

BUT THIS STORY RELATES TO PUTTING JESUS FIRST BEFORE ALL THINGS. HE GIVES US ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH GOD THE FATHER.

NOW MARY WHO DECIDED TO SIT AT JESUS' FEET AND LISTEN TO HIS TEACHING, MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE. MARTHA WAS TOO CONCERNED ABOUT OTHER THINGS TO LISTEN TO JESUS.

HOWEVER CHRISTIANITY IS ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS, OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND WITH OUR NEIGHBOURS, WE NEED TO ALWAYS REACH OUT TO HELP WHEREVER AND WHENEVER POSSIBLE JESUS BROUGHT ALL PEOPLE TOGETHER BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, PEOPLE FROM ALL PLACES AND LANGUAGES.

HIS GREAT COMMISSION TO THE APOSTLES WAS TO GO TO ALL NATIONS TO PREACH THE GOSPEL AND BRING THEM TO GOD.

IN OUR WORLD TODAY SOME COUNTRIES SEEM TO BE TURNING INWARD AND NO ONE SEEMS TO BE LEADING THE CHARGE TO HELP IN ALL THE DESPERATE AREAS OF THE WORLD.

I KNOW HOWEVER THERE ARE MANY CHARITIES WORKING TO HELP PEOPLE IN NEED, THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

BUT THESE ARE THE TIMES WHEN WE NEED TO TURN TO GOD THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS AND OUR CHURCH FAMILY.

WITH EVERYTHING HAPPENING IN THE WORLD JUST NOW, I AM SURE MANY PEOPLE ARE CONCERNED AND PERHAPS DEPRESSED WITH THE TRUMP TARIFF WARS, UKRAINE/RUSSIA AND ISRAEL/HAMAS/GAZA.

THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, FAMILY WORRIES AND PROBLEMS. AS WELL AS FOREST FIRES AND CLIMATE CHANGE, ALL CAUSE SERIOUS CONCERN TO FAMILIES.

ALTHOUGH THINGS SEEM BAD AT THE MOMENT, THE TIMES WERE DARK IN JESUS DAY AS THEY ARE TODAY WITH ALL THE PROBLEMS IN THE WORLD, BUT JESUS GIVES US LIGHT, HOPE AND CONFIDENCE THAT THERE IS MORE TO REALITY THAN WHAT WE SEE.

PAUL TELLS US TO HOLD FAST TO THE CONFESSION OF HOPE WITHOUT WAVERING, FOR GOD IS FAITHFUL. AND HE ALSO TELLS US TO HELP AND ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER.

IN GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE AND WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR GOD'S CONTINUING GUIDANCE AND PROTECTION AS WE GO FORWARD INTO AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE.

THIS IS AN EXCITING TIME. WE DO NOT KNOW HOW GOD WILL STIR THINGS UP – BUT WE DO KNOW THAT GOD'S WORK ALWAYS COMES TO GOOD. WE NEED TO BE LIGHT TO THE WORLD AND TO BE THE SALT THAT PRESERVES AND HEALS IN THE WORLD. GOD MOVES DIFFERENTLY THAN WHAT WE EXPECT. HE LEADS US TO NEW MINISTRIES AND ADVENTURES. AND HELPS US UNDERSTAND WHERE WE ARE AND WHERE WE ARE HEADED IN OUR FAITH JOURNEY.

AND AS WE SAY AFTER COMMUNION : GLORY TO GOD WHOSE POWER WORKING IN US CAN DO  
INFINITELY MORE THAN WE CAN ASK OR IMAGINE. JESUS WALKS WITH US DAILY AND KNOWS OUR  
PROBLEMS AND NEEDS, MAY HIS BLESSING FLOW DOWN ON US ALL  
ALWAYS AND MAY WE BE THE PRESENCE OF JESUS EACH DAY AS WE WALK IN THE WORLD.

LET US PRAY

AS WE GO BACK INTO THE WORLD, BE THE SALT OF THE EARTH, AND THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD, SO  
THAT OTHERS MAY SEE YOUR COMPASSION AND BE INSPIRED TO DO THE SAME. AND NOW MAY THE  
LOVE OF GOD, THE GRACE OF OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST, AND THE COMMUNION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,  
WALK BEFORE YOU AND BESIDE YOU AND BEHIND YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY. AMEN.