

INSPIRED WORD

July 29, 2015

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 3: 5 – 6: Trust the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 17: 5 – 8: Thus says the Lord: Cursed is the man who trusts in human beings, who seeks his strength in flesh, whose heart turns away from the Lord. He is like a barren bush in the desert that enjoys no change of season, but stands in a lava waste, a salt and empty earth. Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose hope is the Lord. He is like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream. It fears not the heat when it comes, its leaves stay green; in the year of drought it shows no distress, but still bears fruit.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 11: 28 – 30: Come to Me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For My yoke is easy, and My burden light.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we come to You with everything that we are and with everything that we have. If we are carrying something within us today, Lord, that is not of You – be it fears, worries, burdens, doubts, or uncertainties – we ask You to come right now, in Your most holy Name, and touch us. Lord, open up our ears and our hearts so that we will hear what You are saying to us tonight. Give us the grace and strength to lay down all of the things within us, Lord, that are not of You – to lay them down at the foot of the cross. We ask this in Your most holy Name, Lord Jesus Christ!

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 73: 1 – 5, 11 – 14, 16 – 17, 21 – 26: “Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. They are free from the burdens common to man.” It continues in this long description and then it says: “They say, ‘How can God know? Does the Most High have knowledge?’ This is what the wicked are like – always carefree, they increase in wealth. Surely in vain have I kept my heart pure; in vain have I washed my hands in innocence. All day long I have been plagued; I have been punished every morning. When I tried to understand all this, it was oppressive to me until I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.” Then later on it says, “When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered, I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before You. Yet, Lord, I am always with You; You hold me by my right hand. You guide me with Your counsel, and afterward You will take me into glory. Whom have I in heaven but You? And earth has nothing I desire besides

You. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”

IMAGE

I had this image of a fishing boat, which is my life, and a light, which is the world. My husband’s family is in Minnesota and when we visit them, we go fishing a lot. But sometimes when we are fishing and the anchor is down in the water, the boat will drift in the water. But other times when the anchor is down in the water, the boat stays in place, but just sways back and forth in the water. So I was thinking that God is the anchor of my soul, and the anchor is the weight. So we have to think about this: Do we give God enough **weight** in our lives, so that He can hold us, or, do we just kind of drift away?

SHARING

When Denise spoke about the anchor and about the weight, the word that came to my mind was: ‘**wait**’. Do we give God enough ‘wait’ time?

SHARING

When Mel spoke of the anchor and the wait, what came to my mind was this: Sometimes I am trying to lug the anchor around in my search for Jesus. I should just let Jesus move it around to where He wants me to be in my life.

SHARING / EXHORTATION

I was challenged by the image of the boat and the anchor. The part that was challenging to me was that it is not enough just to throw the anchor in the water, but that you trust in Jesus and give Him your life. I have my anchor in the Lord. But if the anchor is not doing the job, it means you haven’t put the anchor down deep enough. Jesus is asking for more; He wants more chain so that the anchor will reach down to the bottom which is the place where He can really reach and touch you.