

June 26, 2011

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## **Monday**

Eph. 5:32 This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

Why did you get married (assuming you are)? Did you marry in order to demonstrate the faithful forgiveness of the Father? Did you consciously choose that your marriage would be a reflection of Jesus relationship with His Church? Don't beat yourself up too much if these were not your top priorities when you said "I do", but understand that they were at the top of God's plan for your marriage. We too easily reduce marriage to a matter of our happiness, our fulfillment, our contentment. But *God called you to marriage* as a plan to reveal Himself to the world: to reveal His love, forgiveness, patience, and grace. A disciple of Jesus must see his/her marriage as a means of representing God in the world.

## **Tuesday**

Mark 10:15 "Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all."

A disciple of Jesus must give up all pretensions of self-reliance. Instead, like a child trusting the voice of a loving parent, disciples are to hear and trust the words of the Lord. Salvation comes through such trusting. Paul writes, "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved." The key to a victorious and abundant Christian walk is the same. Simply trust in Jesus by obeying His word and you will be assured of eternal and abundant life. But don't be fooled to trust, really trust, is to obey.

## **Wednesday**

Mark 10:25 "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

IMPOSSIBLE! It is impossible for a man or woman to achieve a right relationship with God. It is impossible to be rich enough, smart enough, or good enough. This is the "Good News" of Jesus. How is that good news? 1) It places everyone on the same level before God. Preacher or priest has no better opportunity than farmer or physicist. The sober man no better than the drunkard. The wreck of a man no better than the self-righteous. 2) You do not have to be better. You only have to trust honestly. "With God all things are possible," Jesus said. He made your salvation possible through faith by His grace, if you will come to Jesus believing.

## **Thursday**

Mark 10:50 Throwing aside his cloak, he jumped up and came to Jesus.

So, it is true. To be a disciple of Jesus you have to give up a great deal. It is an exchange. You give up your life to gain His life. Yet, for those who understand what is gained, it is like giving up mere worthless coins for all gold in Fort Knox. What you give up is nothing compared to what you gain. So, like the blind man who leaps for joy at the thought of coming to Jesus, rejoice in what you gain. Relish what God is giving you in this life and in the one to come. Paul said, "I don't consider the sufferings of this world to be worthy of comparison to the glory that is to be revealed to us."

## **Friday**

Mark 10:29 Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake, but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life."

Those who walk with Jesus in discipleship learn quickly that they gain far more than they give up. Friends, real friends, understanding and knowledge, hope, and eternal life are all just the beginnings of God's gifts. Take time to thank Him.