

Psalms 133:1-3

13/7/2015

(1) A Song of degrees of David. Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!
(2) It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;
(3) As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

Just last night, I was looking up images on the computer of dew drop reflections because a friend who has taken some great photos of dew drops got me interested. They are amazingly beautiful! This morning as I read Psalm 133, I found that unity is compared to the dew of Hermon and Mount Zion.

If you get a spare minute, look up dew drop images and see how beautiful unity is.

I must always make sure I have made things right with others so that I can dwell in unity and reflect God's beauty.

Proverbs 16:20-21

(20) He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy is he.
(21) The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning.

It was the first day back at school today after 3 weeks break for us. Mondays are always a difficult day as the children are usually tired from the weekend. The Lord showed me these verses earlier in the year. They remind me to trust the Lord for wisdom and keep my lips sweet. When I make a point of keeping my teaching 'sweet', it works. The children do respond better. I just need to remember to consistently put God's Word into practise (In my busyness, it is very easy to forget). Our days can be filled with happy learning if we follow God's methods and trust Him. God's ways work!

Matthew 5:14-16

(14) Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

(15) Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

(16) Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. I used these verses in my Sunday School lesson at Ipswich last weekend. They 'just so happened' to pop up again in my Bible reading this morning. I think the Lord wants me to ponder on them a bit more.

Why does the Lord liken us to a light? A light is not something we buy and hide away so no one will see it. Its purpose is to shine brightly in the darkness and be a help to others.

The Lord expects me to shine brightly in the dark world about me. I am not to hide away. I need to live a life that pleases the Lord and do good always even to those who do not do good to me. Matthew 5:44 ...do good to them that hate you...

People need to know why my works are good. They need to know the Source of my light. Some may ask me, but many will not. For this reason, I should to be quick to mention the Lord in my conversations, so that when men see my good works, they will glorify my Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 6:31-33

(31) Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

(32) (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

(33) But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

We ran out of water last week for a couple of days. I had a load of washing in the machine that had stopped mid cycle and was starting to smell. We were getting by with drinking water from the church and could get bucket loads from another tank. Right at that time I was up to Matthew 6 in my Bible reading. These verses at the end of the chapter suddenly stood out to me. (Isn't it amazing how God speaks to us through his word). In our country of plenty, we hardly ever have to take thought of what we will eat, drink or wear.

Our thoughts are usually, 'Which one will we choose out of the variety before us?' However, here I was now wondering where our next lot of water would come from. These verses were a timely reminder to me that God always does provide for us and always will. Of course, the Lord did provide. Thanks to the Koplicks for bringing over their very long hose, the men were able to pump the last bits of water from our other tanks. With the rain we received on Friday night, we were then up to half a tank. Praise the Lord!

Psalms 119:75-77

(75) I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.

(76) Let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to thy word unto thy servant.

(77) Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live: for thy law is my delight.

During the time of my miscarriage a few months ago, the Lord showed me these verses which were a great comfort to me. He was reminding me that I can trust Him even through affliction. He is always faithful and His ways are right and best. He is full of tender mercies and kindness when I don't deserve any of it. These verses were indeed 'my delight'.

Matthew 18:4-6

(4) Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

(5) And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.

(6) But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

I'm very thankful for Christians who go out of their way to not be an offense or stumbling block to little ones. I remember years ago, a Christian teenager had a skull on his push bike. One of our kids showed their dislike for it, so the teenager promptly painted his bike to get rid of it. Another time, one of our kids pointed out a picture of a mermaid on their Sunday School teacher's pencil case. She was quick to agree that it was wrong and got rid of her pencil case. Often, we as adults overlook many things.

I need to make sure that my attitudes, actions, past times or possessions are not going to offend little ones and give them an excuse not to follow Christ.

Matthew 19:13-15

(13) Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them.

(14) But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

(15) And he laid his hands on them, and departed thence.

21/8/2015

I've been reading through the books of 1st and 2nd Chronicles with the children in our morning Bible time and have been quite impressed by the importance God gives to music and singing in the worship of Him. I was surprised at how often it was mentioned in Chronicles. I thought I would share some of these interesting insights with you. May my music always be in line with God's word and glorify Him. May I give Him my best.

And these are the singers, chief of the fathers of the Levites, who remaining in the chambers were free: for they were employed in that work day and night. (1 Chr. 9:33)

And David spake to the chief of the Levites to appoint their brethren to be the singers with instruments of musick, psalteries and harps and cymbals, sounding, by lifting up the voice with joy. (1 Chr. 15:16)

.... with harps on the Sheminith to excel. And Chenaniah, chief of the Levites, was for song: he instructed about the song, because he was skilful. (1 Chr. 15:21,22) Read 1 Chr. 15:16-28 for more detail.

....who prophesied with a harp, to give thanks and to praise the LORD. (1 Chr. 25:3b)

So the number of them, with their brethren that were instructed in the songs of the LORD, even all that were cunning, was two hundred fourscore and eight. (1 Chr. 25:7) Read 1 Chr. 25:1-7 for more detail.

It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD; (2 Chr. 5:13)

And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever. And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten. (2 Chr. 20:21-22)

And he set the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, with psalteries, and with harps, according to the commandment of David, and of Gad the king's seer, and Nathan the prophet: for so was the commandment of the LORD by his prophets. (2 Chr. 29:25)

And all the congregation worshipped, and the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded: and all this continued until the burnt offering was finished. (2 Chr. 29:28)

Moreover Hezekiah the king and the princes commanded the Levites to sing praise unto the LORD with the words of David, and of Asaph the seer. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshipped. (2 Chr. 29:30)

Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

(Matthew 27:3-5)

Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done. And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers, Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept. And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you. So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

(Matthew 28:11-15)

Judas and the soldiers both had something in common. They were motivated by money and the result was evil. I wonder how much money it took to stop the soldiers from making known what happened to them. I think it would have been a hard thing to keep quiet about. (See Matt. 28:1-10)

I pray that I would not be motivated by money (no matter how much it is), but that I will always follow the Lord and give Him first place.

And it came to pass in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, that wine was before him: and I took up the wine, and gave it unto the king. Now I had not been beforetime sad in his presence. Wherefore the king said unto me, Why is thy countenance sad, seeing thou art not sick? this is nothing else but sorrow of heart. Then I was very sore afraid, And said unto the king, Let the king live for ever: why should not my countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' sepulchres, lieth waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire? Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven. And I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favour in thy sight, that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers' sepulchres, that I may build it. And the king said unto me, (the queen also sitting by him,) For how long shall thy journey be? and when wilt thou return? So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time. ... And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me. (Nehemiah 2:1-6,8b)

The king asked Nehemiah a question and Nehemiah found the time to pray to God before he answered. It doesn't sound like he would have spent long in prayer, but the fact that he did pray was undoubtedly the key to his success. God wants to liberally give us wisdom when we ask Him for it. The trouble with me is I often forget to ask. I hope this little reminder will help me to form the habit to pray first, then act.