



~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



Vol. 17 Issue 312

Dec. 06, 2011

Prayer

Lord, I thank You for loving me so much that You help me discover the genuine level of my faith before I get into a situation where I seriously need it. To realize my need for improvement now is so much better than to find out when a difficult situation arises that my faith isn't sufficient for the challenge. So I thank You for the tender, loving care You have shown me by placing me in this challenging situation that reveals the true level of my faith. Help me to press forward and to grow in this area of my life, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

Scripture

Genesis 28:

Genesis 28:1-22 (AMP)

1 SO ISAAC called Jacob and blessed him and commanded him, You shall not marry one of the women of Canaan. 2 Arise, go to Padan-aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother's father, and take from there as a wife one of the daughters of Laban your mother's brother. 3 May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you until you become a group of peoples. 4 May He give the blessing [He gave to] Abraham to you and your descendants with you, that you may inherit the land He gave to Abraham, in which you are a sojourner. 5 Thus Isaac sent Jacob away. He went to Padan-aram, to Laban son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, Jacob and Esau's mother. 6 Now Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him to Padan-aram to take him a wife from there, and that as he blessed him, he gave him a charge, saying, You shall not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan; 7 And that Jacob obeyed his father and his mother and had gone to Padan-aram. 8 Also Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan did not please Isaac his father. 9 So Esau went to Ishmael and took to be his wife, [in addition] to the wives he [already] had, Mahalath daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son, the sister of Nebaioth. 10 And Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. 11 And he came to a certain place and stayed there overnight, because the sun was set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down there to sleep. 12 And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! 13 And behold, the Lord stood over and beside him and said, I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father [forefather] and the God of Isaac; I will give to you and to your descendants the land on which you are lying. 14 And your offspring shall be as [countless as] the dust or sand of the ground, and you shall spread abroad to the west and the east and the north and the south; and by you and your Offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed and bless themselves. 15 And behold, I am with you and will keep (watch over you with care, take notice of) you wherever you may go, and I will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done all of which I have told you. 16 And Jacob awoke from his sleep and he said, Surely the Lord is in this place and I did not know it. 17 He was afraid and said, How to be feared and revered is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gateway to heaven! 18 And Jacob rose early in the morning and took the stone he had put under his head, and he set it up for a pillar (a monument to the vision in his dream), and he poured oil on its top [in dedication]. 19 And he named that place Bethel [the house of God]; but the name of that city was Luz at first. 20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go and will give me food to eat and clothing to wear, 21 So that I may come again to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God; 22 And this stone which I have set up as a pillar (monument) shall be God's house [a sacred place to me], and of all [the increase of possessions] that You give me I will give the tenth to You.

Worship Music

[I Give You My Heart-Hillsong](#)

[Healer-Hillsong](#)

[O The Blood Of Jesus-Kari Jobe](#)

[Singing Over Me-Kari Jobe](#)

[I Love Your Presence-Kim Walker](#)

Radio Stations

[KWVE ...Calvary Chapel](#)

[KLOV](#)

Bible Study Sites

[Chuck Smith Through The Bible](#)

[Bob Coy/Teachings](#)

[Mike MacIntosh](#)

[Jon Courson](#)

[Biblos.com](#)

[Billy Graham](#)

[Charles Stanley](#)

[David Wilkerson](#)

[Greg Laurie](#)

[Virtue for Women-Cathe Laurie](#)

Genesis 28. Jacob's Vision at Bethel

The transfer of the birthright from Esau to Jacob had been validated by Isaac. It is now validated in heaven. God Himself assures Jacob that from now on he is to be the recognized bearer of the promises. The ladder is a hint that the promises will culminate in something that would bridge heaven and earth. Jesus said that He was that Ladder (John 1:51) and the only Mediator between God and men (1 Timothy 2:5).

Jacob is thought to have been 77 years old at this time. He was 15 when Abraham died, 84 when he married, 90 when Joseph was born, 98 when he returned to Canaan, 120 when Isaac died, 130 when he went to Egypt, and 147 when he died.

His first 77 years were spent in Canaan, the next 20 in Haran, then 33 in Canaan, and the last 17 in Egypt.
(Halley's Bible Handbook; Henry Halley; 2000; Zondervan; Bible History & Commentaries; page 121)

Jacob Is Sent Away; V 11 Jacob was at Bethel, the same spot where the Lord had shown to Abraham all the land that He would give to him and to his seed. V 20-21 Jacob was such a scheming man that even his vow to God was basically a bargain with God rather than a loving consecration. (Old Testament Study Guide; The Word For Today; 2005; Chuck Smith; Commentaries; pages 15-16)

You Still Have Room for Improvement!

John 6:5, 6

When Jesus lifted up His eyes and saw the vast crowd coming toward Him on the mountainside, He turned to Philip and asked him a question that Philip may have perceived to be preposterous. Jesus asked him, "... Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" Let's talk about why this question could have seemed preposterous to Philip and to the rest of the disciples. In John 6:10, we find that there were five thousand men in the crowd that day. This word "men" is not a nonspecific term that includes men, women, and children; rather, it is the Greek word *andres*, which categorically means male individuals. Matthew 14:21 confirms that there were "... about five thousand men, beside women and children." Jewish tradition would have forbidden the women and children to sit down to eat with the men; thus, we can know that the women and children were seated separately from the men on the mountainside and were not included in the figure of five thousand.

If we add to that number of five thousand men all the women and children who accompanied them, we find that this easily could have been a crowd of thirty thousand or more. Just add five thousand husbands, five thousand wives, and approximately five children for each family, and you'll reach a sum of thirty thousand people.

Remember, the people of Israel believed that children were a blessing from the Lord and tried to have as many children as possible. Therefore, it is very likely that the number of children present in that crowd may have been even higher than this estimate of five per family. This makes the figure of thirty thousand people a very reasonable estimate. In fact, it is most likely an underestimation! The point, however, is this: This was not just a large crowd; a very large multitude of people had walked up that mountainside to see Jesus.

Now do you see why Jesus' question must have seemed so preposterous to Philip and the other disciples? Not one of them was prepared to throw a banquet for so many thousands of people. To make matters worse, they were out in the wilderness on top of a mountain, far from stores where massive amounts of food could be purchased. In fact, Matthew 14:15, 16 tells us the disciples were so concerned about feeding the multitude that they told Jesus, "... This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals. But Jesus said unto them, They need not depart; give ye them to eat."

Jesus put the challenge to His disciples to quickly find food to feed this massive multitude. John 6:6 tells us that Jesus did this for the explicit purpose to "prove" them. The word "prove" is the Greek word *peiradzo*, a Greek word that was usually used to denote a test to reveal the quality of a material substance.

For instance, the word *peiradzo* was used to depict the process of testing metal to discover whether its quality was superb or inferior. As the metal was put through multiple degrees of intense fires, the fire caused the impurities in the metal that were hidden to the natural eye to rise to the surface. If no impurities surfaced, the metal was free of defects. But if impurities rose to the surface, the metal still needed future fires to make it pure and strong. Therefore, this testing by fire was a calculated, premeditated investigation, deliberately designed to expose any deficiency in the metal that would later cause it to fracture or fail.

This positively means that Jesus was deliberately testing the disciples, putting this challenge before them to expose the true level and quality of their faith. As a result, the disciples would discover whether or not they still had room for improvement in the faith realm.

As Jesus looked out at the crowd, John 6:6 tells us that He already knew exactly what He was going to do. He really didn't need His disciples' help; He just wanted them to recognize the true level of their own faith. Thus, Jesus asked them this question in order to "prove" them. He knew that there is just something about a new problem that exposes any deficiency in a person's faith and accentuates any weak area that remains in his life.

In verses 7 through 9, Andrew and Philip began to frantically search high and low through the crowd, rummaging around for whatever food they could find. In other words, they were seeking to solve this problem through natural means rather than to say, "Jesus, I know You can do all things. Speak the word, and this multitude will be fed."

Finally, Andrew found five loaves of bread and two fish—a tiny portion of food that was certainly not sufficient to feed a crowd of thirty thousand or more! But in this moment, Jesus revealed Himself as the Lord of Multiplication. Taking those five loaves of bread and two fish, Jesus showed His disciples that He was Lord even over impossible situations like this one.

Don't make the same mistake Philip did when a new problem or challenge arises in your life. Instead of fretting and failing to believe, stop to remember all the supernatural things you've already seen Jesus do in your life. Could the solution to this new dilemma possibly be any more difficult than any of the miracles you've already seen Him perform on your behalf?

And if the situation you're facing has exposed the fact that your faith level isn't what it should be, aren't you thankful this happened so you could see the true condition of your faith walk? Now you know that your faith still has room for improvement. It is a demonstration of God's mercy that He lets you find this out now rather than later in a critical moment when your faith might fracture or fail in a moment of great need. Is it possible that God is trying to help by showing you that your faith life still has room for improvement?

QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

What past challenge comes to mind that exposed the true level of your faith and revealed that your faith still had room for improvement?

Are you facing a situation right now in your life, ministry, or business that is demanding more of your faith than you've ever experienced before?

What steps can you take to develop a daily plan to increase the capacity and strength of your faith?

Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

Psalm 23:1-6 (AMP)

1 THE LORD is my Shepherd [to feed, guide, and shield me], I shall not lack.

2 He makes me lie down in [fresh, tender] green pastures; He leads me beside the still and restful waters.

3 He refreshes and restores my life (my self); He leads me in the paths of righteousness [uprightness and right standing with Him—not for my earning it, but] for His name's sake.

4 Yes, though I walk through the [deep, sunless] valley of the shadow of death, I will fear or dread no evil, for You are with me; Your rod [to protect] and Your staff [to guide], they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my [brimming] cup runs over.

6 Surely or only goodness, mercy, and unfailing love shall follow me all the days of my life, and through the length of my days the house of the Lord [and His presence] shall be my dwelling place.

(Word 9 Bible Software: Bible Software, multiple translations, dictionary, atlas, sermons of the past saints, concordance, 2005)
(The Everyday Life Bible; Amplified, 2005, Joyce Meyers, Scripture, Commentaries, page 48-49)