



~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”
Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



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Prayer

God Father; in Jesus' name I ask it, give each person Your wisdom, knowledge, intelligence and understanding, refresh in each person Your mercy and compassion and kindness. Give each one a day of ease and a stress free day. Give them peace my Lord. Bless them with favor and divine connections. Give them the will to study Your Word and meditate on it day and night. I ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture

3 Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

4 Nicodemus said to him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

5 Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. Titus 3:5; 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Rom 8:5; 7 Marvel not that I said to you, You must be born again. 8 The wind blows where it wants, and you hear the sound thereof, but can not tell from where it comes, and where it goes: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

9 Nicodemus answered and said to him, How can these things be? John 6:52;

10 Jesus answered and said to him, Are you a master of Israel, and know not these things? 11 Truly, truly, I say to you, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and you receive not our witness. John 7:16; John 8:28; John 12:49; John 14:24; John 3:32; 12 If I have told you earthly things, and you believe not, how shall you believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?

13 And no man has ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. John 6:62; Eph 4:9; 14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: Num 21:9; 2Kgs 18:4; John 8:28; John 12:32; 15 That whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:36; 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Rom 5:8; Rom 8:31; 1John 4:9; John 3:36; Luke 19:10; 1John 5:10; 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. Luke 9:56; John 9:39; John 12:47; 1John 4:14; 18 He that believes on him is not condemned: but he that believes not is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. John 5:24; John 6:40; John 6:47; John 20:31; John 3:3-18

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The cleansing of the Temple, and accompanying miracles, had made a deep impression on the cite, Nicodemus, a Pharisee and one of the Sanhedrin, influential, cautiously seeks a private interview with Jesus. He is interested, but desires to satisfy himself as to Jesus' claims. To what extent he believed we do not know. Two years later he took Jesus' part in the council. Later, he and Joseph, another member of the Council, buried Jesus. He was a secret disciple in the formative days of his faith, but later he was willing openly to share with Jesus the shame of his cross. His coming out of the shadows in the hour of Jesus' humiliation, when even the twelve had fled to cover, risking his own life in that tender final ministry, is one of the noblest incidents of Scripture. He surely atoned for his original inclination to secrecy, especially considering he was a member of the Sanhedrin, right in the very heart of the enemies' camp.

By all natural standards of salvation, Nicodemus had it made. He was a Jew, God's chosen people. He was a Pharisee, a man who spent his whole life endeavoring to keep the righteousness of the Law. He was a ruler among the Jews. In spite of these things he still needed to be born again.

"Born of water" refers to physical birth, as the protective liquid is brought forth from the mother's womb at birth. (Chuck Smith). The new birth Jesus spoke of was talking about is not merely a metaphor, but an actual reality, resulting from the impregnation of the human heart by the Spirit of God. Nicodemus, no doubt, shared the common notion that the Messiah's kingdom was to be a political kingdom in which his nation would be freed from Roman domination. Jesus tries to tell him of its personal spiritual nature, it was different from what was in Nicodemus' mind, so that Nicodemus did not know what Jesus was talking about. He just could not see how he, a good man, a genuine Pharisee, one of the rulers of the Messianic nation, would not be welcomed into the Messianic Kingdom with open arms, just as he was. He just could not take it in that, he would have to entirely re-construct his ideas and himself. At the opening of Jesus' ministry, He stated on more than one occasion that the cross would be His Messianic throne. Be lifted up, it is a reference to the brazen serpent to which those who had been bitten looked and lived, meaning that the new birth of which He had just been speaking, into eternal life, would come by virtue of His death. John 3:16. Bitten by the brazen serpent is a type of crucifixion. Moses took the symbol of sin (serpent) and the symbol of judgment (brass) and put it upon a pole. All who looked upon it were healed of the poisonous snake-bite. Those who didn't acknowledge it would die. We can be born again and escape the judgment of God by simply believing in Him. Jesus doesn't condemn us, man condemns. Jesus came to save us and He is praying to the Father on our behalf. We're condemned when we reject God's offer of salvation by not coming to the Light. John was content just to be a friend of the Bridegroom. The fullness of the Spirit was upon Christ.

Jesus' Ministry in the lower Jordan was in the same region where He had been baptized, but in the mean time, John had moved further up the Jordan, about 40 miles, to a place called Aenon. Both of the men were preaching the same thing. The kingdom of Heaven is at hand. Jesus had a wider following than John, because of His Miracles, and because He was the Messiah whom John proclaimed, and had a more commanding personality. About 8 months later John was imprisoned, the rulers at Jerusalem were taking notice, ti began to look as if it might be dangerous for Jesus to continue in that region, and He might be cut off prematurely, before His work was completed, He withdrew to Galilee. That this period was 8 months is indicated thus; it began about Passover time (April, John 2:13; 3:22); it closed four months to harvest (December, John 4:35). (Halley's Bible Handbook; 1965; commentary; pages 535-536)

We cannot have unrealistic expectations of people it sets us up to be disappointed. We should expect the best out of people, but at the same time we must remember they are human beings with imperfections. All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. We must strive to remember that we were unsaved at one time also, and that God forgave us, and we are to forgive as God forgave us. When Jesus' disciples disappointed Him, He was not devastated He already knew and fully understood human nature. We all tend to look for the perfect spouse, the perfect friend, the perfect job, the perfect family and it does exist. As long as we have our earthly bodies, we will manifest imperfection. God gave us instructions in His Word on how to handle people who irritate us or disappoint us. No person is perfect, and for us to think anyone is flawless is frustrating for everyone involved. We must be generous with mercy and compassion and sow seeds of mercy so that we can reap mercy. Be realistic and realize that we all have to deal with things that are unpleasant and with people who are disagreeable. Our attitude in these trying situations affects our enjoyment of life. Be realistic, walk in truth and still have a positive attitude as we deal with our own imperfections and those of the people around us. (Amplified Bible; Commentaries)

30 He must increase, but I must decrease. 31 He that comes from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaks of the earth: he that comes from heaven is above all. John 8:23; 32 And what he has seen and heard, that he testifies; and no man receives his testimony. John 5:30; John 8:26; John 12:49; John 14:10; 33 He that has received his testimony has set to his seal that God is true. Rom 3:4; 34 For he whom God has sent speaks the words of God: for God gives not the Spirit by measure to him. Eph 4:7; 35 The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into his hand. Matt 11:27; Matt 28:18; Luke 10:22; John 5:22; John 17:2; Heb 2:8; 36 He that believes on the Son has everlasting life: and he that believes not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God stays on him. John 3:16; John 6:47; 1John 5:10; John 3: 30-36

Isaiah 9

1 Nevertheless the dimness shall not be such as was in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict her by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations. Matt 4:15; 2 The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, on them has the light shined. Matt 4:15-16; Eph 5:14;

3 You have multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before you according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. 4 For you have broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian. Judg 7:22; Isa 10:26; 5 For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire.

6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given: and the government shall be on his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Isa 22:22; Luke 2:10-11; John 4:10; Isa 11:2; Jer 23:6; 7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, on the throne of David, and on his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from now on even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. 2Kgs 19:31; Isa 37:32;

8 The Lord sent a word into Jacob, and it has lighted on Israel. 9 And all the people shall know, even Ephraim and the inhabitant of Samaria, that say in the pride and stoutness of heart, 10 The bricks are fallen down, but we will build with hewn stones: the sycamores are cut down, but we will change them into cedars. 11 Therefore the LORD shall set up the adversaries of Rezin against him, and join his enemies together; 12 The Syrians before, and the Philistines behind; and they shall devour Israel with open mouth. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still. Isa 5:25; Isa 10:4;

13 For the people turns not to him that smites them, neither do they seek the LORD of hosts. 14 Therefore the LORD will cut off from Israel head and tail, branch and rush, in one day. 15 The ancient and honorable, he is the head; and the prophet that teaches lies, he is the tail. 16 For the leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed. 17 Therefore the LORD shall have no joy in their young men, neither shall have mercy on their fatherless and widows: for every one is an hypocrite and an evildoer, and every mouth speaks folly. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still. Isa 10:6;

18 For wickedness burns as the fire: it shall devour the briars and thorns, and shall kindle in the thickets of the forest, and they shall mount up like the lifting up of smoke. Isa 5:24; Isa 24:6; 19 Through the wrath of the LORD of hosts is the land darkened, and the people shall be as the fuel of the fire: no man shall spare his brother. 20 And he shall snatch on the right hand, and be hungry; and he shall eat on the left hand, and they shall not be satisfied: they shall eat every man the flesh of his own arm: 21 Manasseh, Ephraim; and Ephraim, Manasseh: and they together shall be against Judah. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

Psa 119:105

**Thy word [is] a lamp unto
my feet, and a light unto my path.**



Chapel Flock; "Thought For The Day"

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The Nativity Story

(about one hour video)

New Year's Eve Service Times

Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa (video player; live cast)

**New Year's Eve service on Friday, December 31st,
from 9:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Communion will be served at the New Year's Eve service**

New Year's EveWest Coast; 9:00 pm ; Central Time; 11:00 pm

East Coast; 12:00 pm (midnight)