

PRAYERS AT WORK, November 29 – December 3, 2010

Monday, November 29, 2010 - (Meditation: Colossians 3:17) God, the parable of the good Samaritan nags at my heart. It makes me feel guilty. But I don't believe the purpose of the parable is to use guilt to motivate compassion. So what could it be? Is it about what's in my heart?

Did the Samaritan identify with the man in the ditch because he, too, felt the wounds of being a nobody? If it is, God, use my own wounds and hurts to soften my heart, and to identify with those in other ditches. Teach me that caring for others doesn't deplete my soul -- it replenishes my soul. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Tuesday, November 30, 2010 - (Meditation: John 3:16) Heavenly Father, when earth-shaking events occur, I can always remember where I was when I heard the news. When Pearl Harbor was attacked, I remember being called by my parents to listen to the news on our wood-framed Philco radio. When WWII ended, I was at summer camp. We broke camp rules to run out onto the softball field and jump and shout together. When President Kennedy was shot, I was having my wisdom teeth removed. When the hijacked jetliners hit the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, I was having breakfast and watching the Today Show. One day, I hope to tell my great-grandchildren where I was on the days that changed our world. God, EVEN MORE, I hope and I pray that I will tell them where I was when I first believed that Your sacrifice on Calvary would change my life forever, and that it can change their lives, too. Amen.

Wednesday, December 1, 2010 - (Meditation: Matthew 5:5) God, Your Word teaches "blessed are the meek," but that lesson is refuted by our society. Only when we look to Jesus do we understand that meekness is not weakness. It is Jesus' very meekness that draws us to Him. God, I'm glad that meekness, the kind that comes from an unconditional submission to Your will, is a quality that will inherit the earth. Forgive my shallow, false pride, and give me the lasting, true meekness of Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Thursday, December 2, 2010 - (Meditation: Deuteronomy 10:12-13) God, when I try to run my life, I am just as much a slave as when I yield that authority to Christ. I am either a slave to selfishness, or a slave to Christ . . . a slave to being number one, or a slave to Christ . . . a slave to judging others, or a slave to Christ . . . a slave to having to prove myself, or a slave to Christ . . . a slave to pleasing other people, or a slave to Christ . . . a slave to my compulsions, or a slave to Christ . . . a slave to my possessions, or a slave to Christ. God, what shall I choose? Whom shall I serve?

Friday, December 3, 2010 - (Meditation: Philippians 4:6-7) God, as elderly people live much longer, and succumb much later in life to debilitating diseases, I pray not only for them, but also for their children who bear increased burdens. Their middle years are filled with stress -- earning a living, raising their own children, and still honoring their father and mother. God, grant them strength, patience, wisdom, and courage.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

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