



DEVOTIONAL

THERE'S STILL ROOM

14 - 20 June 2010

gracepoint

www.gracepoint.co.za

Monday 14 June 2010

An invitation from the King

Scripture readings:

Luke 14 vs 13-23

John 3 vs 16-17

Revelation 3 vs 20

Jesus' life – His ministry, His death, His victorious resurrection – exists as an invitation to each person; to every priceless and beloved child of God Whom He seeks to reconcile with Himself. The Almighty God of the universe issues a personal invitation to each of us... an invitation to friendship, to love and to life. Jesus does not just invite the “worthy” and the “deserving”. In fact, His invitation is a free gift that cannot be earned and He extends it to the least likely guests – the broken, the sinful, the hurting, the outcast and the lost. He extends His invitation to you, no matter who you are or where you have come from.

May you hear and experience Jesus knocking on the door of your heart today and inviting you into abundant life. His invitation is not a once-off call to follow and love Him; it is a call, day by day and moment by moment, to live in the fullness of all He has for you – to celebrate with Him, to seek Him, to serve Him and to love Him like He has never been loved before. May you take hold of His outstretched hand and know that nothing can separate you from His love and that He delights in you... that you are welcomed to His banqueting table, and into His Kingdom, with open arms.

Song of Songs 2 vs 4:

“You led me to your banquet room and showered me with love.”

Tuesday 15 June 2010

What does Jesus' invitation mean for me?

Scripture readings:

Isaiah 55 vs 1-3

John 10 vs 10

Matthew 28 vs 18-20

Jesus seeks out each one of us personally to invite us into His Kingdom and into the life He has for us. He lovingly invites us along on a journey to who we were destined to be and to an eternal life we cannot even begin to imagine. When you choose to accept the invitation of Jesus you become a citizen of His kingdom, a child of God, a friend of the Holy One and a coheir with Christ. When we take the outstretched hand of Jesus, He gives us life... now and in eternity.

When we receive this gift, we gain more than we can possibly comprehend, but we are also, at that moment, given a great responsibility. When we become citizens of God's Kingdom, we automatically become workers in His vineyard. Those who have received the invitation of Christ are commanded to extend it to others. Those who have feasted at Christ's banqueting table are compelled to invite the starving and desperate to come and eat at it too. Those who have met with Jesus know that there is still room at the table of the Lord and that He is waiting with great anticipation to bring every beloved person He created home.

"If your Gospel isn't touching others, it hasn't touched you!"

- Curry R. Blake

Distractions & excuses

Scripture readings:

Luke 14 vs 16-24

In the parable Jesus tells in Luke 14, those who are originally invited to the banquet find that when the time to attend comes, they are distracted and busy and they end up making excuses and backing out. Jesus invites all of us to accept His offer of salvation and of abundant life in the here and now, but we need to make sure that we don't allow ourselves to become distracted or preoccupied so that we are held back from actually taking Him up on His offer. What is it that is keeping you from living the life God intends for you to live and to be the person He created you to be? What is preventing you from accepting His invitation to go deeper, to seek Him and to live in the fullness of life He has for you?

In the parable, there are three different things that keep the guests from accepting the invitation issued them: possessions, pastimes and people. Is materialism and worry keeping you from really walking with Jesus? Is your schedule so full that you simply don't have time for God? Are the people in your life pulling you further and further from the road you should be following? Make a commitment today, right now, that you will not let anything keep you from God and from living up to your full potential in Him. Deal with your distractions and excuses and don't let anyone or anything keep you from accepting God's invitation wholeheartedly and devoting your whole life and existence into what really matters.

Thursday 17 June 2010

Inviting the outcast and the lost

Scripture readings:

Luke 14 vs 13-14

1 Corinthians 9 vs 19-23

Micah 4 vs 6-7

Jesus spent a significant amount of His time on earth with those who were considered outcasts and outsiders. He met real people, in the real places of their broken lives and He gave them what they needed most – His love and salvation. He was called a friend of sinners because He sought out and loved those who needed His love the most. He left no one out, excluded nobody...the adulteress, the tax-collector, the sinner, the prostitute, the Pharisee, the murderer, the soldier, the fisherman, the betrayer, the child, the blind man, the thief, the friend, the leper, the ruler, the enemy... Jesus loved them all and died for all.

Sometimes we tend to move in comfortable circles and create insular pictures about who should be welcome at the table of God. Sometimes we reach out to those who are close... those who are easier to love and relate to, and we forget that we too were just outcasts and nobodies until we received and accepted the invitation of Jesus. Are you willing to go out and to offer the love of Christ to those who need it most? Are you willing to get your hands dirty for the sake of the message you bear? Are you willing to embrace the unlovable, to welcome the outcast and to bring outsider in?

Living an inviting life

Scripture readings:

Isaiah 52 vs 7

1 Timothy 1 vs 16

1 John 3 vs 18

“What we practice, not (save at rare intervals) what we preach, is usually our great contribution to the conversion of others.” – C.S. Lewis

If we have been commissioned and commanded (as we have) to extend God’s invitation of love and salvation to others; if we are the bearers of the Good News and if our lives are living messages, should we not pause and consider just how inviting our lives really are. When those who do not know Jesus encounter us, do our decisions, our thoughts, our actions and our behaviour invite them to draw near to God or do they push them away from Him?

We can, and must, tell people about Jesus with our words and our stories, but our message does not end with our words. Our daily lives – our actions, reactions, and relationships – speak volumes about the true conviction of our hearts and about the tangible power of God’s work in us. Are we just speaking about the love of God, or are we living it out for those who need it? Are we just talking about the invitation of Christ or are we actually sharing it? Are we just discussing the hope Jesus brings or are we taking it to the hopeless? Are we just discussing the light Jesus gives, or are we being it?

Saturday 19 June 2010

Our work is not done!

Scripture readings:

Matthew 9 vs 37-38

Do you really believe that Jesus is the answer to the suffering and brokenness of the world? Do you really believe that He can make the difference that matters in someone's life? Do you truly trust that He is all we need?

Jesus sent out a handful of disciples two thousand years ago to go and make disciples in all the earth. They took Him at His word... they really believed that He is the answer, the beginning and the end, and they spread His Word throughout the known world, but the task is far from over. The command of Jesus is for you today, as it was for them then. Go... and make disciples.

Henry Blackaby says, "You cannot stay where you are and go with God." The mission requires sacrifice and dedication. The harvest is plenty, but the workers are few and God has no backup plan... YOU are the plan. You are vessel He has chosen to use to deliver His message and to bring hope and healing to this world. So, will you go?

"While women weep, as they do now, I'll fight; while children go hungry, as they do now I'll fight; while men go to prison, in and out, in and out, as they do now, I'll fight; while there is a drunkard left, while there is a poor lost girl upon the streets, while there remains one dark soul without the light of God, I'll fight-I'll fight to the very end!" --William Booth