

Discovering True Riches in Christ

Day One – Read Psalm 139:7-12; Isaiah 45:3; John 8:12.

When have you experienced “dark times” in your life? Maybe you’re in one of those times now. Have you discovered the “treasure of his presence” in the dark times? How has Jesus become more real to you in these times?

Pray and thank God for the presence of Christ and provisions of his grace in the dark times of life. Ask for an awareness of his presence today.

Day Two – Read Genesis 39:6b-9; 1 Kings 17:12-14.

How did Joseph prepare for his “dark times” by deciding who his Lord was? What could have become “idols” for the widow of Zarephath?

Pray and thank God for his power at work in your life. Ask him to strengthen you for the days ahead. Whatever comes, with Christ you can overcome!

Day Three – Read Daniel 1:8; 6:3-4, 10; Matthew 6:6.

How was Daniel prepared for the dark times in Babylon by becoming a man of prayer? What happens to us in “the secret place” with Jesus? How are we changed to better face the trials and temptations of the the dark times?

Pray and thank Jesus for his promise to meet you in the “secret place.” Ask for greater hunger for time spent with him in that “secret place.”

New Life Lessons

August 15th & 16th, 2015

Pastor Ron Salsbury

“Hope in the Darkness”

True Riches #6

Psalm 139:7-12; Isaiah 45:3; John 8:12

Psalm 139:7-12 (NIV) ⁷ Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? ⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. ⁹ If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, ¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. ¹¹ If I say, “**Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,**” ¹² **even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.**

Isaiah 45:3 (NIV) ³ I will give you **the treasures of darkness**, riches stored in **secret places**, so **that you may know that I am the LORD**, the God of Israel, **who summons you by name.**

John 8:12 (NIV) ¹² Jesus said, “**I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.**”

The Dark Times in Life

- ***The Struggle of Pain and Suffering***
- ***The Fear of Scarcity and Lack***
- ***The Uncertainty of the Future***

Finding Hope in the Darkness

1. Decide Who is Your Lord !

Genesis 39:6b-9 (NIV) ^{6b} Joseph was well-built and handsome, ⁷ and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!" ⁸ But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. ⁹ No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" Genesis 50:18-20

Luke 9:23 (NLT) ²³ Then he said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross daily, and follow me.

John 8:12 (MSG) ¹² Jesus once again addressed them: "I am the world's Light. No one who follows me stumbles around in the darkness. I provide plenty of light to live in."

Psalms 23:1-6 (NLT) ¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need. ² He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. ³ He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name. ⁴ Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings. ⁶ Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever.

2. Discern What is Your Idol !

1 Kings 17:12-14 (NIV) ¹² "As surely as the LORD your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread--only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it--and die."

¹³ Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴ For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD gives rain on the land.'"

Matthew 6:31-33 (NIV) ³¹ Do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Jeremiah 2:5; 9:23-24; 1 John 5:21

3. Develop Healthy Spiritual Practices !

Daniel 1:8 (NIV) ⁸ But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.

Daniel 6:3-4 (NIV) ³ Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. ⁴ At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent.

Daniel 6:10 (NIV) ¹⁰ Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

Worship Prayer The Word Fellowship

Matthew 6:6 (NKJV) ⁶ When you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.