

07/23/2023

Sisters and Brothers, let us put our confidence in Our Lord!

Covenant Life

- Our next Gathering is Today, **Sunday, July 23** at 3pm. Please join us!
- *Exciting news: We are restarting **Children's Ministry**. Cecilia Briseno has graciously offered to organize a ministry for our little ones during our Gatherings that will enable them to have some special time together during Word Gift time. Please help spread the word to all young families!*
- 50th Anniversary content is available on our [Jubilee web page](#); past prayer meeting audio is [here](#), Word Gift summaries are [here](#), and transcripts are [here](#).
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.

Continuing the theme of Freedom for this month of July, God's mercy puts an exclamation point on Freedom. For my deeds do not warrant freedom, nor do any of our deeds. Man's Justice just might be served much better if I were convicted rather than forgiven.

But Scripture promises otherwise. The book of Wisdom (12:13,16-19) today starts with who our God is: His "mastery over all things makes you lenient to all". He is "master of might", yet He "judge(s) with clemency". His deeds show us that there is good ground for hope, and that He will permit the forgiveness of our sins. This provides hope that my slavery to sin can be broken, and that God desires that I dwell in His Freedom. Psalm 86 reinforces this: "Lord, you are good and forgiving".

St. Paul provides even more encouragement in Romans 8: 26-27. We don't have to do all this ourselves, but rather, "the Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness", He "intercedes for the holy ones according to God's will".

Jesus Himself continues these themes in the Gospel of Matthew 13:24-43. His parables of the weeds and the wheat as well as the other parables the mustard seed and the parable of the yeast provides great fodder for us to put ourselves into Scripture, and to see reality in a new way. When seeming disaster strikes, like a carefully planted field overrun with weeds, God's wisdom and plan brings success. The parables of the mustard seed as well as the one of the yeast reinforces the promise from last week of fruit "a hundred, or sixty, or thirty fold". Our small efforts, transformed by the Spirit, produces unbelievable results.

These Scriptures give me hope that God's will, for me (and all of us) to be united to Him, can actually come to pass. It gives me hope that the slavery to sin can be broken, and that we can all live in the Freedom of God, the Master of all. It gives me hope that even creation itself can be made perfect as we embrace our God with the Love that He pours out on us. It gives me hope that God Himself desires this, and that His Son and His Holy Spirit are every bit as invested in this Plan as He is. It gives me hope that my small efforts, like simply saying yes, can cooperate in His will being achieved.

Blessings to all for dedicating themselves to this little Body whose sole aim is to live in God's Freedom, to experience it on this earth. David Jr. and Laurie are now back from Alaska refreshed and invigorated. Be sure to give them a welcome back hug today.

Bob Montgomery