

still waters

home church studies

psalm 77.1-2, 11-20

[Worship]

1 | cry aloud to God, aloud to God, that he may hear me. 2 | In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord; in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying; my soul refuses to be comforted. 11 | I will call to mind the deeds of the LORD; I will remember your wonders of old. 12 | I will meditate on all your work, and muse on your mighty deeds. 13 | Your way, O God, is holy. What god is so great as our God? 14 | You are the God who works wonders; you have displayed your might among the peoples. 15 | With your strong arm you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph. Selah 16 | When the waters saw you, O God, when the waters saw you, they were afraid; the very deep trembled. 17 | The clouds poured out water; the skies thundered; your arrows flashed on every side. 18 | The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind; your lightnings lit up the world; the earth trembled and shook. 19 | Your way was through the sea, your path, through the mighty waters; yet your footprints were unseen. 20 | You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Consider:

To compound the distinction, Jesus, unlike Elijah, does not permit his followers to say goodbye or even to bury their dead, for "no one who looks to what was left behind is fit for the Kingdom of God." To follow Jesus is to do so wholeheartedly—there is no middle ground.

[Think & Pray...]

Paul reminds the Galatians community that they "were called for freedom," which is most fully expressed by the ability "to serve one another through love." He insists that this law is the highest way because it bears the true fruits of "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control" (Galatians 5:22-23).

James and John's suggestion to punish those who rejected them was a clear indication that they still lived by the flesh. We, too, can easily see where our loyalties lie by the fruits of our actions, especially those directed toward our enemies.

How can we possibly proclaim the good news if we ourselves have not left everything to live it?

Good questions - "What is the relationship between faith and the law?"

[The Scripture]

galatians 5.1, 13-25

1 For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. 13 For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. 14 For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 15 If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. 16 Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, 21 envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

