

# still waters

home church studies

## psalm 119.137-144

[Worship]

137 You are righteous, O LORD, and your judgments are right. 138 You have appointed your decrees in righteousness and in all faithfulness. 139 My zeal consumes me because my foes forget your words. 140 Your promise is well tried, and your servant loves it. 141 I am small and despised, yet I do not forget your precepts. 142 Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and your law is the truth. 143 Trouble and anguish have come upon me, but your commandments are my delight. 144 Your decrees are righteous forever; give me understanding that I may live.

### Consider:

*Prophets are funny people. They complain and warn. They are the ones who seem to always be on the wrong side of the mainstream. They are the unofficial people who disrupt the order of what is agreed upon by the official folks. They also are the ones who tell the most passionate story of prodigals returning home, and the Father's immeasurable love for those who are far off. They point the way to the heavenly kingdom, where justice is fulfilled.*

*These are unpopular stories, but they are God's heart and soul in wooing us back to himself from exile in this world, an exodus. Walking with him will change everything.*

*It would be far more comfortable to do this institutionally. After all, who wants to be different? Who wants to be the first to take a dangerous stand in this world that will crucify you for being different?*

[Think & Pray...]



*It is uncomfortable. However, as God's representatives (Christ's Body), this is where we are called, when we notice wrong doing in the "order of things," and even more so, in our suffering, a credibility emerges that points God-ward.*

*Individually we covenant with God in this way (that was His desire even from Jeremiah's time), and as a collective body, He shines forth as king, when this new covenant is expressed together. We are given strength to move forward as brave ones, risking to be God-like and different. We see a radical example and believe, making it okay for us to risk. A very Zacchaeus message indeed, and a mark of leadership.*

*The evidence of growth in us, is when we, individually, become Christ-like, in our love for each other—sacrificially. We would like to think that the smartest, most learned among us are those who lead. After all, they have the credentials. Not so in an upside-down world of the kingdom. What is valued here, is a steadfastness in sacrificial love, and a holy longing for God's justice to prevailed.*

*What we do for each other in, and for the world matters, and changes everything.*

[The Scripture] 2 thessalonians 1 .1-4, 11-12

1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.

4 Therefore we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith during all your persecutions and the afflictions that you are enduring. 11 To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfill by his power every good resolve and work of faith, 12 so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.