

# still waters

home church studies

## Psalm 78.1-7

[Worship]

1 Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. 2 I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, 3 things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us. 4 We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. 5 He established a decree in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach to their children; 6 that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and rise up and tell them to their children, 7 so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.

### Consider:

[Think & Pray...]

Michaela Bruzzese

Again we see how very much God wants our decision to be in relationship to be a completely free choice, not one born of guilt, obligation, or half-interest. As Joshua makes clear, we are free to choose idols and false gods if we wish: "If it does not please you to serve the Lord, decide today whom you will serve, the gods your father served...or the gods of the Amorites in whose country you are dwelling" (Joshua 24:15). In the end, the Israelites do choose Yahweh, who liberated them from

slavery; the one who "has eyes for the just, and ears for their cry"; who is "close to the broken hearted; and saves those who are crushed in spirit" (Psalm 34:15-18).

Though this indeed is the God who saves, the call and the covenant are no easy matters or once-and-for-all decisions. Rather, our relationship is a lifelong process of give and take, of struggle and witness.



[Scripture]

## Matthew 25.1-13

1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' 7 Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' 10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. 11 Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' 12 But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' 13 Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.