

Responsive Reading

Ps. 25:7; 27:13; Php 4:19; Lu 19:10; Jn 10:10b; Ps. 16:11

Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O LORD.

I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

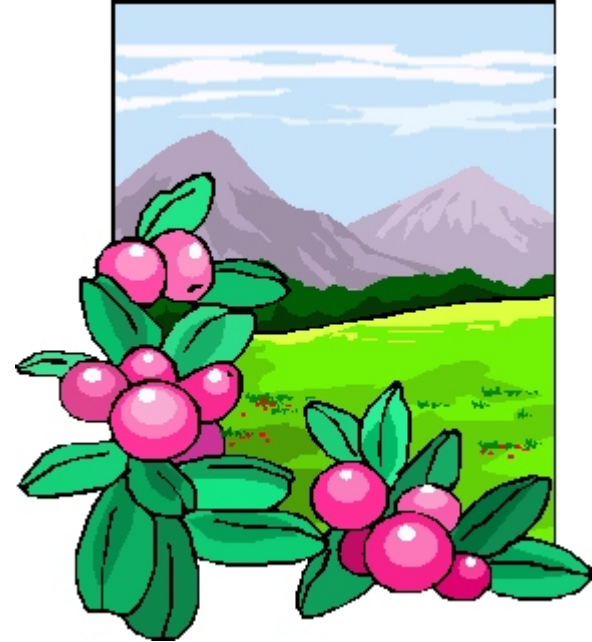
My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost:

That they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

Worship Service



The King and the Poor Lady

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Closing Prayer

All Who Truly Know Thee

By Jerry Johnson

Your joys bubble in the heart
Like stars sparkling in the sky;
Your peace gently rolls o’er us
Like white clouds billowing by;

Your hope gives strength in weakness
Like the sun gives light to day;
Your life quickens our spirit
Like mother’s milk to her stray;

Your precious presence comforts
Like fire on a frozen night;
Your gentleness astounds us
Like the blind receiving sight;

Your love revives our parched soul
Like rain to drought stricken tree:
These are heavenly riches
To all who truly know Thee.

“The King and the Poor Lady”

Opening Prayer: Lord Jesus, come and join us here today as we have gathered in Your name. We love you. We need you. Amen.

Devotion:

Ps. 16:11 “Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.”

This is a parable: There is a great king. His kingdom is vast, with many beautiful forests and fields and rivers and mountains and valleys and hills and farms and orchards. Anywhere you go in the kingdom of the great king it is wonderful and peaceful. His people love him and he loves them. His laws are just and his policies are wise and merciful.

One day the king was discussing his kingdom with his assistants. One of them mentioned the little pauper lady living in the dump by the city gate. She had made a hovel from cardboard and ate of the scraps she found in the trash.

The king was horrified upon hearing this news. He sat thinking for a minute and then he called, “Bring the king’s artist here!” When the great, skillful artist stood before the king, the king said to him: “You know that beautiful place in my kingdom where you and I have traveled and you said you would love to paint the landscape there?”

The artist nodded, “Yes, your Majesty.”

“Well, go and paint it exactly as it is with the mountains full of gold, the hills alive with deer and rabbits and birds, the fertile fields full of flowers and food and fruit trees, the river flowing with fresh, clean, clear water brimming with fish, and that lovely farm house in the meadow there.” The artist bowed and left immediately to begin his work.

A few days later the artist returned to the king with his masterpiece. The

king took the painting and with his artist and his ministers and his assistants they marched out of the castle, through the streets of the king’s city, out the gate and straight to the poor pauper lady’s hovel in the dump. The king knocked loudly on the door. The pauper lady slowly opened it with amazement and fear as she bowed before her Majesty.

“Rise! Fear not!” the king said. “I have brought you a gift. Look, see this perfect painting of the gift I give you. Tear down this shack. Come with me to find this land of blessing and plenty. I will take you there. You can use this painting of my priceless, free endowment to you for encouragement as we journey. I will tell you all about the wonders that await you. We will be friends and I will visit you there.”

Now, the pauper lady could do three things: 1) laugh in the king’s face and declare she did not want it. 2) thank the king gracefully, take the picture, hang it over her threadbare couch and brag about what the king gave her - and never leave to claim it. Or, 3) She could shout out with gratitude, wipe tears of joy from her eyes, kick down that cardboard hut and leave immediately with the king to seek out her inheritance!

Jesus Christ, the King of Heaven, has offered you a gift. A gift of salvation, a gift of abundant living, a gift of eternal life, a gift of grace, a gift of faith, and hope, and love, the gift of a personal relationship with Him! He has recorded that gift in the Bible and put in there an invitation to you to receive it, freely. Maybe you have rejected His free gift in the past. Maybe you have thanked Him and put your Bible on your night stand, but have never really gotten to know Him! No, let us refresh our devotion to our King. Let us take His hand as He leads us to His Promised Land, for He always keeps His promises!

Closing Prayer: May God Almighty grant to each of us the strength and wisdom to accept His offer of salvation, turn our backs on sin, fear, and doubt and pursue with all our hearts a relationship with Him! Amen.