

ONE in the word

“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me (Jesus).” (John 5:39)

January 21 - Reflection

Men of ONE:

As we began our week together in the word of God, we were confronted with Jacob’s appraisal of himself before an Almighty God. Jacob’s statement might remind us of Isaiah’s response we find in Isaiah 6:5, “Then said I, Woe *is* me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.” In studying the Bible, we find that when God reveals Himself to men, they see themselves in the light of His glory, causing a true reality of man’s worthiness. Oftentimes, throughout “Christianity”, it seems we might find ourselves actually believing that we deserve the gift that God provided through His Son, Jesus Christ. In reading the scripture and comparing ourselves to the stories at hand, let us never lose sight of our “unworthiness” and be thankful that He is worthy of all glory, honour, and praise.

The Bible, in providing its account of Joseph, reveals the reality of how truly magnificent this Book really is. Through the Bible’s depiction of Joseph, we are able to get a sneak peek into the life of our Lord Jesus Christ. Joseph provides the greatest picture of our Saviour throughout the history of the Bible. By way of examination, or contemplation, keep in mind the very providence of God throughout Joseph’s life, and furthermore Joseph’s faith in God’s overall plan. Perhaps all of us could take away this attribute from Joseph by trusting God, no matter what difficult scenario, or situation, we are facing. Again, Joseph provided living proof of the truths revealed in Romans 5:3-5, “And not only *so*, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”

In beginning our study through Exodus, God reveals Himself in possibly the most incredible way He could. We find in Exodus 3:14 “And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.” As Moses is preparing to present himself before Pharaoh, he asks God, “Behold, *when* I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, **What *is* his name? what shall I say unto them?**” (Exodus 3:13). God’s reply was simply, “I AM THAT I AM”. Wow! What an incredible statement our God makes in relation to Himself. When the people of Israel were in need, God provided. When they were lost, He was their direction. Praise God that even on this day God is still “I AM”. He is God, He

never changes (Malachi 3:6) however, He is all that we need whenever we need it. Let us be confident in the very fact that God is sufficient for all we need.

To further understand this thought, we could go to the Book of Revelation. In the first few chapters, there are letters written to seven different churches. As God authors each individual letter, we find that he presents Himself differently to each church, depending on their current situation and what is found is that through each situation these people faced, God appeared to them exactly as they needed at that time. Suffice to say God is truly "I AM". May we never find ourselves looking to another for satisfaction for we serve a God that was and will always be, "I AM".

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION:

Genesis 32:10 "I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands."

Genesis 41:38 "And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find *such a one* as this *is*, a man in whom the Spirit of God *is*?"

Genesis 45:4 "Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life."

Genesis 47:23 "Then Joseph said unto the people, Behold, I **have bought you this day and your land** for Pharaoh: lo, *here is* seed for you, and ye shall sow the land."

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