



PEACE IN THE VALLEY: The Valley of Weakness

Luke 6:17-19

February 17-23, 2008

A great 'multitude' of people had come to hear Jesus and to be healed, both in body and in spirit. Everyone was trying to touch him, and he healed 'all of them'. People came out of need, out of their particular places of weakness, believing that healing was possible.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17: The Scriptural passage suggests that need and vulnerability are recognized by those who seek Jesus. God will meet us at our place of greatest need. Our physical needs are often obvious; our spiritual needs sometimes less so; and our temptations want to remain in darkness. Prayerfully consider those areas in which you recognize vulnerability and 'weakness'. Ask Christ to show you those places you cannot see. Bring all these to Christ.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18: People came to 'hear' Jesus. In order to hear we must make ourselves available to listen. Sitting quietly with Scripture, silencing our own voice, and making a place in which God may be heard will open both mind and heart to the healing that we seek. Read Luke 6:20-21. What does God say to you in these words?

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19: People 'reached out' to Jesus hoping to bring a personal petition to his attention; hoping to draw him toward a need which only he could address. It's difficult to reach and hide at the same time. Reaching for Jesus means opening to vulnerability, making plain before him that we need and desire forgiveness, cleansing, and restoration. How might you open yourself to Jesus this week?

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20: In Mark 5:25-34 a woman is healed as she 'touches the hem' of Jesus' garment. To come close enough to Jesus to touch him implies profound need, persistence and faith. Indeed, Jesus says that the woman's faith has healed her. In faith how might you seek to touch Jesus? How might Jesus respond to your touch?

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21: How much faith is needed in order that we might be touched and healed? In Mark 9:14-24 a desperate father has brought his son to be healed, approaching Jesus saying: "If you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." Although the father isn't certain what Jesus can or will do, he responds to Jesus by saying "I do believe, help my unbelief."

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22: Having discovered your own vulnerability, how might you turn toward the weak and the marginalized in our society, not only to bring the message of Christ, but to be the hands of Christ?

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23: Pray Hymn 301: "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"

Jesus, keep me near the cross:
There a precious fountain,
free to all, a healing stream
flows from Calvary's mountain.

In the Cross, in the Cross,
Be my glory ever,
Till my raptured soul shall find,
Rest beyond the river.