

dec 26

good morning dear friends. aren't we glad He's still here, the day after. He's here the day before, the day of, and the day after. He's always here and always waiting. maybe waiting for us to let go of things that we still cling to in this world. maybe waiting for us to begin the journey that He has planned for our lives.

so today i am asking all of you to let go of the things still holding you to this world. this world is not our home. we are transients at best. i have often heard the saying that a person is too heavenly minded to be any earthly good. upon my own reflection of that saying, i do not really think that is possible. to be truly heavenly minded, one has to be seeking what the Father is seeking.

our Lord Jesus was heavenly minded; so much so that He was transfigured on the mount. His heart, His will, His entire purpose was to please the Father. He knew what He had left behind and He knew where He was headed back to. i for one, believe He couldn't wait to get there. ah, except for that brief moment He would have to bear the sins of the world. that would cause an interruption between Him and the Father. it was that which caused Him to sweat drops of blood; the anguish of separation was so great.

but that's why He came. He loved us so much that He'd rather die than live without us. and so He did. but still He does not come with a demand that we love Him back. He simply says, "here I am - this is what I offer - if you want this, come to me. I will in no

way cast you out".

i love to be around people that know Him better than i do and listen to them. Paula Rayburn, who started this ministry was one of those. she just carried the presence of Jesus with her. she was my friend. my good friend. i often remember back on many things when she was alive. there's so much that i wished i had asked her while she was here. the thing is, would she have even had the answers. would her answer to my questions have simply been, "it's all Jesus".

when she was on her deathbed, and still conscience, i visited her in the hospital and administered communion to her. it was, i suppose, the last time. on subsequent visits, she remain unconscience. all i could do was hold her hand and place my phone to her ear playing words of the glory she was headed to. the part we were viewing could not respond, but the spirit which kept her here certainly could.

i remember one time, many years previous, when she was going through a trial. she came over and we fellowshiped. after a while, i was prompted to get a pan of water and wash her feet. her feet were not dirty. she did need to know that her Lord was with her even then; was there through it all and would keep her through it all. she had never doubted that, but there are times when we need another to help us carry our cross. none of it was my doing. it was the Lord guiding it all and it was one of the most spiritual moments of my life. she was blessed and refreshed, but no more than i.

that's what i mean about being around people that know Him more. they have scaled those heights that i have yet to reach. it was not without a cost. it takes a crucifixion to get there. ah, but look at what's on the other side. a resurrection. not of us, but of Jesus. "i have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer i who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which i now live in the flesh i live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." gal 2:20

"but he who endures to the end shall be saved." matt 24:13 we must have endurance. there are many synonyms for that word; tenacity, determination, persistence, singleness of purpose - too many to list. we have to keep our purpose of mind. if you wouldn't mind a couple country sayings - like a dog with a bone - like a chicken on a june bug. if i will not let go of my Lord, He will not let go of me.

"finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing." 2 tim 4:8 do you love His appearing? Father, pour into me that i may pour out - faith, love, money. let me leave something that will outlive me.

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