

mar 13

Jesus is passing today

"now as Jesus passed by ..." john 9:1

Jesus has been passing by now for almost two thousand years. (He's a slow walker, thank goodness.) He's has called out some but there are those He would walk past if they have not made a persistent effort to get His attention. why is that? i think it is because He, "had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man." john 2:25 He knows what is in each of us and what we need from Him.

"the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force." matt 11:12 the word tells us to be persistent. don't give up on something we're believing for. "ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." matt 7:7 you may well be giving up just before your answer is set to arrive.

have you ever noticed the more one has to work for something, the more we value we put it? some of us don't appreciate things that come easily to us. we feel we need to do something even though we really don't; nothing other than repent and ask. God does it all because He is all. none of us will ever be able to boast before God. but still the promises of God are conditional. "if you will, I will." oft times the only "will" we need to do is call on His name.

when naaman was healed of leprosy in 2 kings 5, he

expected something to be required of him. (only he felt he need to do more than just wash.) when Jesus spat and made clay and put it in the blind man's eyes, he then told him to go and wash in the pool of siloam. yes, obedience is paramount. i think the lesson is though, they both needed to feel they had a part to play, and indeed we all do. the more cost or effort we exert, the more we value we place on the item.

king david, when he sought for land on which to build God's house (even though it was freely offered) said: "no, but i will surely buy it from you for a price; nor will i offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God with that which costs me nothing." 2 sam 24:24

and yes, even i have that same need in me. as i daily write my whispers, i struggle as my right hand is nigh useless from strokes and my left is down to two finger usage because of hand deformity. manipulating the movement of the mouse requires extended effort as well. i do not say that for any sympathy. it's just that the struggle to type makes my sacrifice to Him more costly in my eyes. the struggle adds worth to my gift. our God knows what it costs us all to give. i believe it makes it more precious to Him and i know it does to me.

"for which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it?" luke 14:28 what we are striving for is more costly than silver and gold; more precious than diamonds or jewels. it is the pearl of greatest price and we gladly sell our all to possess it. always give Him your best; whatever the cost.

sometimes the effort to call upon Him is all we have to offer, and that too is enough. i will struggle through the crowd so i might touch the hem of His garment. i will cry out loudly as He passes until He halts at my cries, even though others seek to hush me. i will press in and take it violently if need be, for He may not pass this way again.

Jesus is passing this way today,
passing by your door;
hasten, call the Savior,
for he may pass no more.

Jesus is passing this way today,
call him, weary one;
ask the Savior to help you,
e're sinks life's setting sun.

yes, Jesus is passing this way today. "behold, now is the day of salvation." 2 cor 6:2 press in. don't let Him pass unchallenged.