

MONDAY, June 1, 2009: “*The absent are dear, just as the dead are perfect.*”

_Alexander Whyte

- John 11:3 **Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, “Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick.”**

“Hello God! Hint, hint! Just in case you don’t know – there is a need down here where I live!”

Ever felt like that? That is how Mary and Martha felt in the study verse for today. Their brother Lazarus is sick and getting sicker. Matter of fact, the Bible records the fact that he died. Mary and Martha figured they had better let Jesus know about Lazarus’ situation so they sent an urgent FYI.

But, here’s the important point: Jesus already knew and He had a plan. And here is the important application for you today (and this week): Jesus already knows about your situation and He has a plan. Matter of fact, Jesus knows things about your upcoming week that you don’t even know and still He is not worried or hurried; everything is moving according to plan.

So what are you to do? Give it your best shot today and leave the rest to God. And that my dear friend, is a recipe for peace!

SCRIPTURE: Colossians 3:15, I Thessalonians 5:23

TUESDAY, June 2, 2009: “*Peter was not a failure because he looked down and began to sink. If anyone failed, it was the eleven who stayed in the boat, waiting to see if it could be done.*” _Ed Stetzer & David Putman, Breaking the Missional Code, p. 91

- Psalm 139:13 **You formed my inward parts; you covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works.**

Well-known author, Max Lucado writes of a sweater that hangs in his closet. He doesn’t wear it, it is too small. However, he would never throw it away. Why? Because his mother knitted it for him.

Then he made this statement: **“It is valuable not because of its function, but because of its maker.”**

That really stood out to me. In a world that values people for what they can produce or how much they can accumulate, and in a society that values people according to how well they meet the current standards of beauty and style, it is comforting to know that you are valuable, first and foremost, because of who made you!

The point is this, the attitude you have as you face each day determines to a great degree your ability to succeed. Today’s devotional is an “attitude adjustment.” No matter how you feel, no matter what others think of you, I want you to face this day focusing on this central truth. The truth of the matter is that you are a winner – not because of who you are, but because of **whose** you are.

Swing for the fences today, my dear friend; your Creator God is cheering for you all the way! **SCRIPTURE:** I Samuel 1:17

WEDNESDAY, June 3, 2009: “*It is not by leaving the world but by ministering to it that we see God’s purpose fulfilled in our lives.*” _Warren W. Wiersbe, Be Joyful, p. 72

- Psalm 119:71 **It was good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes.**

Many of Fred Astaire’s movies rank as classics of the silver screen. But in 1932, when Astaire was just starting out in Hollywood, he went to a screen test to try out for a part. After the audition, the evaluator wrote, “Can’t act. Can’t sing. Can dance a little.”

Later, Astaire framed that memo and it hung over his fireplace in his Beverly Hills home throughout his long and successful career as an actor, singer, and dancer.

Here’s the point, just because you failed doesn’t mean you are a failure. Just because someone does not like you doesn’t mean that life stops.

Remember yesterday’s devotional? What really matters is whose you are. You were made by God and through faith in Jesus Christ, you are his child. Dare to believe in yourself today. Dare to believe things can and will be better. One day the tough times you are going through right now will be something to laugh about. Life is not going to always be as it is right now; it’s going to get better!

So my dear friend, keep dancing!☺

SCRIPTURE: Romans 15:13

THURSDAY: June 4, 2009: “*If God is a reality, and the soul is a reality, and you are an immortal being, what are you doing with your Bible shut?*” _Herrick Johnson, The Preacher’s Friend

- Lamentations 2:9 **The Law is no more, and her prophets find no vision from the LORD.**

In today’s study verse, the prophet Jeremiah is lamenting the terrible tragedy of Judah’s demise. He is going down a long list of terrible things that have happened to his beloved nation, Israel.

When I came to today’s verse I wrote in the margin of my Bible – “this was the real tragedy.”

The “Law” = the Bible/the word of God. The greatest tragedy of this day will not be if you fail at some task or job, but if you fail to take the time to really and truly read and ponder the Holy Scriptures.

Please my dear friend, don’t rush through this devotional time, take the time to carefully consider the precious words of God.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:33, 105