

Acts 2:44-47

The fruit of serving Jesus

And all those who had believed were together, and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions, and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. And day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their numbers day by day those who were being saved.

No amount of persecution could stem the joy of the Lord! Hallelujah! This is such a great picture of how are life in Christ ought to be. Everyone here demonstrates such a bond of unity and purpose. No one, whatever they did before, can resist Jesus' call to become one with Him and to do their utmost for the building up of His kingdom. What a great example for us. Truly Jesus explains it well when He gives us the example of the seed that fell on the thorny soil and how it is choked out by the deceitfulness of riches and the cares of the world. Jesus has called us to a life so far above these things and has granted the riches of His kingdom in place of them. Love, joy, peace, and salvation to men! These are His riches and they are available to all who will step out in faith, and all who do find this to be true. There is no safer or more secure place then to be in His will and plan for our lives. He may allow trials and physical discomforts to come upon us but He more than makes up for these things with His company! His daily coming and meeting with us is greater pleasure than anything we might have to endure for His sake. Those who seek His will, always find this is true.

Again, as I shared two weeks ago, God's blessing was upon all those who were giving what they had and selling all for the building up of Jesus' kingdom as was shortly revealed when a spirit of greed and thievery came upon the people of Israel and all those who had any possessions were in constant fear for their lives from their fellow countrymen which started a number of years before Rome actually destroyed everything. Wealth became a curse to those who possessed it. However, these same things apply to us today, all those who could have sold their stocks and shares for the sake of Christ and His kingdom would have seen a great return in heavenly wages, both in peace of mind over the events unfolding and riches stored up in heaven where moth and rust cannot destroy and thieves cannot break in and steal.

These verses just remind us of the joy to be found in returning to our first love, Christ Jesus. When we do, the joy of obeying His commandments returns to us and He fills us with a renewed desire to let go of the world which is passing away for the one that is soon to come! There is no secret to the early church, they just loved Jesus with all of their heart, mind, soul and strength. All they wanted was to live for Him. The same zeal would return to us if we did the same. However, our adversary the devil is continually throwing out distractions, fears, and enticements so that by the time we get a chance to sit down with God we are physically incapable of receiving anything from Him because of the pollution in our hearts and distractions in our heads.

Its time to make room for Jesus! And to restrain the impulses of our flesh from getting distracted or enticed from Jesus' company. Only then will we begin to partake of the joy and life that He desires to impart to us. Sometimes we go so long between intimate times with the Lord that we forget what a joy it is to be in His presence. Again, this gives our adversary more persuasion when he is enticing us away from the things of God. Only when we have made a determined effort to spend time with Him do we start to remember what it used to be like when we were seeking Him more faithfully.

The things of earth grow strangely dim in the light of His glorious face!

So let us take these things to heart and renew our efforts to seek the Lord with all of our heart, mind, soul and strength, so that we might return to the joy of our first love and the days of the early church! Let us be continually encouraging one another and daily meeting with one another and praising God with all sincerity of heart! God bless you all!

March 18,09 Written by a fellow servant of Jesus Christ -Seth