

Week of November 11, 2007

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Monday

Luke 9:28 And some eight days after these sayings, it came about that He took along Peter and John and James, and went up to the mountain to pray.

Roses without thorns? It's what our human nature desires. Plenty of water, but no rainy days – somehow we imagine the possibility. Life's blessings do not come isolated from its hardships and burdens. If you would know Jesus on the mountain, embrace Him in the valleys. If you would know Him in pleasant retreat, walk with Him in ministry and service. The mountain was surrounded by places of ministry and even tribulation.

Tuesday

Luke 9:37 And it came about on the next day, that when they had come down from the mountain, a great multitude met Him.

No one stayed on the mountain. Did you notice that? Neither Jesus nor the disciples tarried there for long. More than that, God allowed no building of shrines to the mountain top experience. It was a place from which to move forward not a place for repose. When God grants us 'mountain tops' it's not as an end to itself but as a preparation for further growth and service. It is not a place to pine for, but a place to launch out from. The mountain was a blessing but the valley was the 'calling'.

Wednesday

Luke 9:40 "And I begged Your disciples to cast it out, *and they could not.*"

There are dangers at the mountain. Too often we count ourselves "special" because of such a spiritual experience. We come to think that the experience has more to do with our worthiness than with His grace. Instead of deeper humility, we grow in pride. Instead of focusing upon Him, we focus upon ourselves. Instead of growing in ministry to others, we demand service from them. Shamefully, the mountain moves us away from God's purpose instead of toward it. Enjoy the mountains, but be careful for the enemy loves nothing more than pushing you over the cliffs of prideful temptation.

Thursday

Luke 9:44 "*Let these words sink into your ears*; for the Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men."

Mountain top experiences are preparation moments. Moses was carried to the mountain in preparation for the long journey before him. Jesus was carried to the mountain at the beginning of His ministry. The disciples were invited to the mountain before they encountered the heartache of the cross and in preparation for their ministry to follow. The mountain is a place of preparation, learning, and commissioning. Embrace not the mountain but the work of God in your soul that is preparation for greater service to the King.

Friday

James 4:8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

God does not intend for us to walk in desert places waiting and longing for the mountain top experiences. Instead He invites us into His presence on a daily basis. *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you!* By the work of His Holy Spirit, God will speak to you through His word. He invites you to His mountain on a daily basis through the quiet moments of your daily devotions. He will listen to you in your prayers. He will guide you in His wisdom. He will comfort you with His presence. He will sit with you and share His grace.