

Strength for the journey

When Jesus called the Twelve Disciples, He told them, “Follow me and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19). These words probably didn’t mean a whole lot to them at that time because they had no idea of all they would experience in their journey with Jesus. As He mentored these men, there were many opportunities for Him to instruct them concerning the task at hand. Luke 9:23-26 reads, “(23) And He said to them all, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. (24) For whosoever would save his life shall lose it; but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. (25) For what is a man profited, if he gain the whole world, and



JUST A THOUGHT

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lose himself, or be cast away? (26) For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and my words, of

him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father’s, and of the holy angels.” Jesus was simply laying out the ground rules for what they would face. It was obvious they would need great strength for the journey.

Years later the Apostle Paul was laying out similar instructions for the young pastor, Timothy, at the Ephesus Church. He sends Timothy this letter, which is probably his last letter before he was put to death. Paul was in a prison dungeon in Rome as he was writing this young pastor. This letter was much different from the first letter he wrote (I Timothy). The first letter represented a theme totally focused on church conduct. The second letter

had the message to hold onto the truth. This was a theme that was much needed in that time, and it is still needed today.

You may be wondering why Paul, while imprisoned, would be thinking about Timothy. We see Paul’s words, “Thou, therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus” (II Timothy 2:1). Timothy was Paul’s spiritual son, and Paul was concerned about him. Paul was writing as a seasoned servant, one that had been through the fire and truly understood the pains of ministry. On the other hand, Timothy was a much younger man, not seasoned in the issues that a pastor would face. Timothy was pastoring a top-notch church and Paul wanted him to know that he was pray-

ing for him. Paul’s real concern was that he might be able to come and spend time with Timothy, but we realize that never happened. Paul was mindful of the tears that accompanied the stressful job of a pastor (verse 4).

As one reads through the text of II Timothy 1:3-8, Paul believed that Timothy had the essential skills for the job, “When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother, Lois, and thy mother, Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also” (verse 5).

Paul wanted to reassure Timothy that there was no greater calling than the one God calls to do His work. This is a sacred oath one must take to be God’s man. A job that accompanies criti-

cism, opposition, internal pressure, and the list could go on and on. Paul knew his young friend had the tools needed to fulfill his calling, but he wanted him to also realize that there must be commitment and total dependence on the strength that only comes from God Almighty. Timothy had the faith that was needed, but he needed to trust in the Lord. That is not an easy thing to do when you are young. The strength Timothy needed could not be mustered up by himself. He had to believe God would energize him for the task.

Next week we will continue our thoughts on this letter, and the vital instruction needed. The thoughts were for Timothy, but they help me also.

Weekly Schedule

Feb. 25-March 4
Thursday, Feb. 25

10 a.m. – Quilters Hall of Fame Exhibit, Quilters Hall of Fame, 926 South Washington Street, Marion. Florida Quilt Study Group: Antique Quilt Block Challenge. The challenge was to take an antique block and incorporate it into a small quilt measuring 24 x24 . Artists were allowed to use the block whole, cut it up, or dismantle it. They could add vintage or new fabrics; whatever it took to create a quilt of their own design and creativity. Admission \$4, \$3 for seniors and students, \$1 for children ages 6-12, and free for children under 6 years of age. Tuesday – Saturday.

Friday, Feb. 26
10 a.m. – Quilters Hall of Fame Exhibit, see Feb. 25.

Saturday, Feb. 27
10 a.m. – Quilters Hall of Fame Exhibit, see Feb. 25.
1:30 p.m. – Eagles Watch at the Salamonie, Salamonie Reservoir, 9214 West Lost Bridge West, Andrews. Meet us at the Salamonie Interpretive Center at your pre-registered time slot, and we’ll caravan to the eagle roost – small amount of walking involved. Times available 1:30pm, 3pm, and 4pm. Fill your gas tank and dress for the weather. Bring your binoculars, cameras and spotting scopes – we’ll watch the bald eagles fly in for the night. Bring your snacks, drinks, and dress for the weather. We are asking one non-driving participant per vehicle to have a cell phone available. Each caravan will be able to have a program by free group call. Donations accepted. All roosting, foraging and nesting sites are protected by federal law. Registration requested 260-

468-2127.

Sunday, Feb. 28
10 a.m. – Quilters Hall of Fame Exhibit, see Feb. 25.

Monday, March 1
10 a.m. – Quilters Hall of Fame Exhibit, see Feb. 25.
10 a.m. – Board of Works Meeting, Council Chambers, 301 S. Branson Street, Marion.

Tuesday, March 2
10 a.m. – Quilters Hall of Fame Exhibit, see Feb. 25.
7 p.m. – City Council Meeting, Council Chambers, 301 S. Branson Street, Marion.

Wednesday, March 3
10 a.m. – Quilters Hall of Fame Exhibit, see Feb. 25.

Thursda, March 4
10 a.m. – Quilters Hall of Fame Exhibit, see Feb. 25.

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6	5	1	2	8	9	7	4	3
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Puzzle answers

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