Manna Meditations for March

March 1

They were bringing to him little children, that he should touch them, but the disciples rebuked those who were bringing them. But when Jesus saw it, he was moved with indignation and said to them, "Allow the little children to come to me! Don't forbid them, for God's Kingdom belongs to such as these. Most certainly I tell you, whoever will not receive God's Kingdom like a little child, he will in no way enter into it." He took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them. - Mark 10:13-16

People were bringing children to Jesus for a blessing, but the disciples tried to stop them, likely thinking Jesus had more important matters to attend to. However, Jesus was upset by this and made it clear that children are valuable in God's eyes. He taught that the Kingdom of God belongs to those who have childlike qualities: humility, trust, and openness. Only those who receive God's Kingdom with simple, sincere faith will enter it. Then, Jesus embraced the children and blessed them.

We should approach the Lord with the same trust and humility as a child—dependent, eager to learn, and without pride. Faith isn't about intellectual superiority or status; it's about sincere belief and willingness to follow God with an open heart. Just as Jesus welcomed the children, we too should nurture faith in the young and recognize that all people, regardless of status, are precious to Him.

March 2

"Can the blind guide the blind? Won't they both fall into a pit? A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher. Why do you see the speck of chaff that is in your brother's eye, but don't consider the beam that is in your own eye? Or how can you tell your brother, 'Brother, let me remove the speck of chaff that is in your eye,' when you yourself don't see the beam that is in your own eye? You hypocrite! First remove the beam from your own eye, and then you can see clearly to remove the speck of chaff that is in your brother's eye. For there is no good tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces good fruit. For each tree is known by its own fruit. For people don't gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush. The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings out that which is good, and the evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings out that which is evil, for out of the abundance of the heart, his mouth speaks." - Luke 6:39-45

Jesus warns against spiritual blindness—those who are

not grounded in truth cannot lead others without both falling into trouble. As disciples, we must learn humility and wisdom before guiding others. He also condemns hypocrisy, urging people to first correct their own faults before judging others. True character is revealed by one's actions, just as a tree is known by its fruit. A good heart produces good words and deeds, while an evil heart brings forth corruption. What a person speaks and does is a reflection of what fills their heart.

Before criticizing others, we must examine ourselves, ensuring we are living rightly before God. Hypocrisy weakens our credibility and damages relationships. We should also be careful about who we follow, seeking wise and godly teachers rather than blindly trusting those who lack understanding. Most importantly, our words and actions reveal what is truly in our hearts—if we desire to produce good fruit, we must fill our hearts with God's truth and let it shape our lives.

March 3

"Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, How difficult it is for those who have riches to enter into God's Kingdom! The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus answered again, Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter into God's Kingdom! It is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye than for a rich man to enter into God's Kingdom. They were exceedingly astonished, saying to him, Then who can be saved? Jesus, looking at them, said, With men it is impossible, but not with God, for all things are possible with God." - Mark 10:23-27

Jesus warns that wealth can be a major obstacle to entering God's Kingdom, not because money itself is evil, but because trusting in riches can lead to self-reliance instead of dependence on Jehovah God. The disciples were shocked because wealth was often seen as a sign of God's blessing. Jesus emphasizes that entering the Kingdom isn't about human effort or status—salvation is impossible by human means alone but is made possible through God's power.

We must be careful not to let wealth, possessions, or worldly success take priority over our relationship with the Lord. Trusting in material things can make us spiritually blind, leading us away from humility and faith. Instead, we should rely on our Heavenly Father, knowing that salvation isn't something we can earn—it is a gift that only He can provide. No matter our circumstances, God can transform hearts and lead anyone, rich or poor, into His Kingdom if they trust in Him.

March 4

"Jesus said, Most certainly I tell you, there is no one who has left house, or brothers, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or land, for my sake, and for the sake of the Good News, but he will receive one hundred times more now in this time: houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and land, with persecutions; and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first." - Mark 10:28-31

Jesus assures His followers that anyone who sacrifices family, possessions, or security for His sake and the Gospel will be rewarded abundantly. This reward is not just in the world to come but also in this present life, though it will come with challenges, including persecution. However, the Lord's way of rewarding is different from the world's. Those who seem important now may be humbled, while those who are overlooked or suffer for their faith will be honored in God's Kingdom.

Following Jesus Christ may require sacrifices—losing relationships, status, or comfort—but God promises that whatever we give up for Him will be repaid in ways beyond our understanding. Our true family is found in the community of believers, and our ultimate reward is eternal life. We must also remember that the Lord's standards are different from the world's—those who seek power and recognition now may find themselves last in the Kingdom, while those who serve humbly will be exalted.

March 5

"Trust in Jehovah with all your heart, and don't lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." - Prov. 3:5-6

This passage teaches complete trust in God rather than relying on our own limited understanding. Human reasoning is flawed, but when we acknowledge the Lord in every aspect of our lives, seeking His wisdom, obeying His will, and surrendering our plans, He will guide us on the right path, leading us in the way we should go. Instead of trying to control everything or relying solely on our own wisdom, we must put our full trust in God through Jesus Christ. This means turning to Him in prayer, studying His Word the Bible, and making decisions based on His guidance rather than our own limited perspective. When we do this, He will direct our lives in the best way, even if we do not always see the

March 6

full picture at first.

"However, I consider those things that were gain to me as a loss for Christ. Yes most certainly, and I count all things to be a loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, my Lord, for whom I suffered the loss

of all things, and count them nothing but refuse, that I may gain Christ." - Philip. 3:7-8

Everything Paul once valued, his status, achievements, and possessions, is worthless compared to knowing Christ. What the world considers gain, he now sees as meaningless because his true treasure is in Jesus Christ. He willingly gave up everything, even suffering loss, because knowing Jesus and being found in Him is far more valuable than anything else.

We should constantly evaluate our priorities and recognize that worldly success, possessions, and personal achievements are nothing compared to a relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. Like the apostle Paul, we must be willing to let go of anything that hinders our faith, even if it means personal loss or sacrifice. True fulfillment and eternal gain come not from what we accumulate in this life, but from knowing and following Jesus.

March 7

"Salvation belongs to Jehovah. May your blessing be on your people." - Ps. 3:8

Salvation comes from Jehovah God alone—He is the one who delivers, rescues, and grants eternal life. David the psalmist also expresses a desire for the Lord's blessing to be upon His people, showing that His care and favor extend to those who trust in Him.

We cannot save ourselves through our own efforts; salvation is entirely in the Creator's hands. Instead of relying on worldly solutions, we must place our trust in Him for deliverance, both spiritually and in life's struggles. This verse encourages us to pray for God's blessing not just for ourselves, but for His people as a whole, seeking His guidance, protection, and favor.

March 8

"What then? Are we better than they? No, in no way. For we previously warned both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. As it is written, There is no one righteous; no, not one." - Rom. 3:9-10

The apostle Paul is making it clear that no one, Jew or Gentile, is inherently better than another because all people are under the power of sin. No one is righteous on their own, and everyone falls short of God's standard. This levels the playing field, showing that salvation is not based on heritage, status, or works but solely on God's grace.

We must recognize that we are all sinners in need of God's mercy. No one can claim moral superiority, and no one can earn salvation by their own efforts. This should humble us and lead us to rely completely on the Lord's grace through Jesus Christ. It also reminds us not to

judge others harshly, since we all stand in need of the same forgiveness and redemption.

March 9

"For no one can lay any other foundation than that which has been laid, which is Jesus Christ." - 1 Cor. 3:11

Jesus Christ is the only true foundation for faith and salvation. No other person, belief system, or achievement can provide the solid foundation needed for eternal life. Anything built on a different foundation will not stand.

Our lives must be built on Christ, which consists of His teachings, His sacrifice, and His example. If we base our faith on anything else (wealth, status, personal success, or even religious traditions without true faith), it will not last. We should examine whether our beliefs and actions are truly grounded in Jesus, ensuring that He is the center of everything we do.

March 10

"Put on therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, humility, and perseverance." - Col. 3:12

As God's chosen people, believers are supposed to reflect His character. In his epistle to the Colossians, Paul instructs us to actively cultivate compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. These are not optional virtues; they are essential traits that should define those who genuinely belong to Christ.

We must intentionally "put on" these qualities, just as we put on clothing every day. This means choosing to be compassionate even when it is inconvenient, showing kindness even when others are not, and remaining humble and patient despite challenges. Living this way reflects Christ to the world and strengthens our relationships with others.

March 11

"He appointed twelve, that they might be with him, and that he might send them out to preach." - Mark 3:14

Jesus appointed twelve disciples for two main purposes:
1) to be with Him, learning from Him and growing in their relationship with Him; and 2) to be sent out to spread His message, preaching the Gospel. This shows the importance of both intimate fellowship with Jesus and active participation in His mission.

As followers of Christ, it's essential to have a close relationship with Him, spending time in His presence through prayer, the Scriptures, and fellowship. At the same time, we are also called to go out and share the message of Jesus with others, using our lives and words to proclaim the Gospel. Our time with Him strengthens us for the work He calls us to do.

March 12

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only born Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through him." - John 3:16,17

In this passage we can see the very heart of the Gospel—God's immense love for humanity. He gave His only Son, Jesus, to provide salvation for everyone who believes in Him, offering eternal life instead of eternal separation from God. Jesus did not come to condemn the world but to save it, showing God's grace and desire for all people to be reconciled to Him.

We should fully grasp the depth of God's love for us and the incredible gift of eternal life through Jesus. Belief in Him is the key to salvation, not through our own works but through faith in Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross. This should make us want us to share the message of salvation with others, showing them that God's intention is not judgment but salvation. Our response should be to trust in Jesus Christ, live in gratitude for His love, and share this hope with the world.

March 13

"Brothers, be imitators together of me, and note those who walk this way, even as you have us for an example." - Philip. 3:17

The apostle Paul encourages the believers to follow his example, as well as the example of others who live according to the teachings of Christ. He calls them to walk in a way that reflects a life committed to following Jesus, and he points to himself and others as models to imitate in their faith and conduct.

As Christians, we should look to mature believers as examples of how to live faithfully. Just as Paul encouraged the Philippians, we should strive to live in a way that others can follow, reflecting Jesus Christ in our actions, speech, and attitudes. We are not only responsible for our own walk with God but also for setting an example that others can imitate in their pursuit of Christ.

March 14

"But we all, with unveiled face seeing the glory of the Lord as in a mirror, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord, the Spirit." - 2 Cor. 3:18

There is a special transformation that takes place in

believers as they grow in the Lord Jesus Christ. Unlike Moses, who had to veil his face after encountering Jehovah's glory (Exodus 34:29-35), we now have an unveiled view of God's glory through Jesus. As we behold Him, we are being changed into His likeness, becoming more like Him step by step, through the work of the Holy Spirit.

Our spiritual growth is a continuous process, by focusing on Jesus, studying His Word, and allowing the Spirit to work in us, we are gradually transformed to reflect His character. This change does not happen overnight, but as we walk with God, we grow in holiness, love, and righteousness. The more we seek Him, the more His image is revealed in us.

March 15

"Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, so that there may come times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send Christ Jesus, who was ordained for you before." - Acts 3:19-20

The apostle Peter is calling people to repentance, urging them to turn away from sin and back to God. When they do, their sins will be forgiven, and they will experience spiritual renewal and refreshment from God's presence. This also ties into the future hope of Christ's return, which has been part of God's plan all along.

True repentance is not just about feeling sorry for sin; instead, it means actually turning away from it and choosing to follow Jehovah God and His ways. When we repent, God wipes away our sins and brings spiritual renewal, peace, and strength. We are also taught to live in expectation of Jesus' return, remain faithful and prepare for His coming.

March 16

"Now to him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to him be the glory in the assembly and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen." - Eph. 3:20-21

The apostle Paul, writing to the Ephesians, praises God's limitless power, reminding us that He can do far more than we can ever imagine or request. The Lord's power is at work in believers, and all glory belongs to Him—not just now, but for all generations to come. Paul emphasizes that God's greatness extends beyond human understanding, and His work through Christ and His people is eternal.

We often limit God in our thinking, but this verse encourages us to trust that He can accomplish far more than we expect. When we pray, we should do so with faith, knowing that His power is at work in us. We must

give glory to God in everything, recognizing that His plans and purposes extend far beyond our own lifetimes.

March 17

"And the Holy Spirit descended in a bodily form like a dove on him; and a voice came out of the sky, saying 'You are my beloved Son. In you I am well pleased." - Luke 3:22

We read about the baptism of Jesus, where the Holy Spirit visibly descended upon Him like a dove, and God the Father openly declared His love and approval of His Son. Can you imagine being there when this occurred? This moment confirmed Jesus as the promised Messiah and shows the unity of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Jesus' baptism sets an example for us today, showing the importance of obedience to God and the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Just as the Father affirmed Jesus, those who follow Christ can also have confidence in God's love and calling. Through Christ we too can be pleasing to God when we walk in faith and obedience.

March 18

"...Look, I see four men loose, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are unharmed. The appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods." - Dan. 3:25

This verse comes from the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who were thrown into a fiery furnace for refusing to worship King Nebuchadnezzar's golden image. Instead of being consumed, they were seen walking unharmed in the fire, with a mysterious fourth figure who appeared divine. In this we can see Jehovah's direct intervention and protection over His faithful servants.

God is with His people in their trials, just as He was with these three men in the fire. When we face persecution, hardship, or suffering for our faith, we can trust that God will not abandon us. He may not always remove the fire, but He will walk with us through it, giving us strength and ultimate deliverance. We must stand firm in faith, knowing that God is greater than any earthly power.

March 19

"For you are all children of God, through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ." - Gal. 3:26-27

All believers in Christ Jesus become children of God through their faith, not by birthright or works alone. Baptism symbolizes being united with Christ, putting on His character and identity like a garment. Through faith and baptism, believers are fully embraced into God's family.

As followers of Christ, our identity is found in Him. Being "clothed" with Christ means striving to reflect His character—His love, humility, and righteousness. It also reminds us that in the Creator's eyes, we are His children, equal in His love and grace, regardless of background or status. Our faith should be evident in how we live, showing that we truly belong to Him.

March 20

"Commission Joshua, and encourage him, and strengthen him; for he shall go over before this people, and he shall cause them to inherit the land which you shall see." - Deut. 3:28

Since Moses would not be entering the Promised Land, Joshua was chosen to guide the people into their inheritance and to serve as the next leader of Israel. This was a crucial moment of leadership transition, requiring Joshua to be strengthened and prepared for the task ahead.

This shows us the importance of mentorship, encouragement, and preparing the next generation for leadership. Just as Joshua needed strength and support, we should uplift and equip those stepping into roles of responsibility. It also reminds us that the Lord raises up leaders to accomplish His purposes, and those called to lead must trust in His guidance and strength.

March 21

"You yourselves testify that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent before him.' He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore my joy is made full." - John 3:28-29

John the Baptist made sure his followers knew that he was not their Messiah but was sent to prepare the way for Him. He compared Jesus to a bridegroom and himself to the friend (or best man), whose role is to support and rejoice in the bridegroom's presence. John found joy in Jesus' arrival, knowing that his mission is being fulfilled.

What a wonderful example John teaches us about humility and purpose. Like John, we are not the central focus—Christ is. Our role is to point others to Him, rejoicing when His work is accomplished. Let's find joy in Christ's presence and embrace our role in God's plan, whether big or small, with a heart of humility and gratitude.

March 22

"He must increase, but I must decrease." - John 3:30

John the Baptist knew that his role was to prepare the way for Jesus, but now that Christ has come, John's influence must fade while Jesus' authority and mission take center stage. This is a statement of humility and surrender—John understands that it is not about his own status but about exalting Christ.

As believers, our goal should be to magnify Christ in our lives rather than seeking personal recognition. This means putting aside pride, self-importance, and personal ambitions to let Jesus take priority. Our actions, words, and decisions should reflect that He is increasing in our hearts while our own desires and egos decrease. True discipleship is about making Christ the focus, not ourselves.

March 23

"Do not envy the man of violence. Choose none of his ways. For the perverse is an abomination to Jehovah, but his friendship is with the upright."- Prov. 3:31-32

We should never envy others or follow those who use violence and corruption to gain power or success. While the world admires strength and aggression, the Lord sees perverse and wicked behavior as detestable. Instead, He offers His friendship, guidance, and blessing to those who live righteously.

It is easy to be tempted by the ways of the world—whether through ruthless ambition, dishonesty, or seeking power at any cost. But God calls us to a different path, one of integrity and righteousness. True success comes from walking with Him, not from adopting the ways of the wicked. Choosing the Creator's ways may not always bring immediate rewards, but it leads to eternal security and His favor.

March 24

"Whom do I have in heaven? There is no one on earth whom I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart fails, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever." - Ps. 73:25-26

In this psalm, Asaph expressed his deep dependence on God. Despite the struggles of life, including physical weakness and emotional distress, he declared that the Lord is his ultimate desire and source of strength. He recognized that nothing on earth compares to the presence and provision of Almighty God.

Where we place our trust and desires? Even when we face difficulties or feel weak, we should remind ourselves that God is our true source of strength and fulfillment. We will experience disappointments or

letdowns from people or things in this world, but God remains our constant and sufficient portion. Trusting in Him, rather than in temporary things, provides lasting peace and security.

March 25

"He knows the way that I take. When he has tried me, I will come out like gold. My foot has held fast to his steps. I have kept his way, and not turned away." - Job 23:10-11

Job expressed confidence that the Lord knew every step he took, even during his suffering. He knew that, through his trials, God was refining him like gold—purifying his faith and character. Despite his hardships, Job remained faithful, holding to God's ways and not turning away.

Like Job, we can trust that the Lord knows the path we are on, even when we face challenges. Trials can be tough, but they serve as opportunities for Jehovah to refine our faith, making it stronger and purer. Even when life is difficult, we should commit to following God's ways, knowing that our faithfulness will bring growth and deeper spiritual maturity. The Creator's refining work in us is always for our good and His glory.

March 26

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, and your ways are not my ways, says Jehovah. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." - Is.55:8-9

The Lord reminds His people that His understanding and plans are far beyond our mere human comprehension. Just as the heavens are infinitely higher than the earth, so too are God's thoughts and ways higher than ours. We may not always understand why things happen the way they do, but we can trust that the Creator's wisdom and perspective are perfect and far beyond our own.

To understand this, it takes humility and trust. When we face situations where we don't understand Jehovah's plan or why things are happening, we can take comfort in knowing that He sees the bigger picture. His wisdom is infinite, and He knows what is best for us, even if we ca not see it. We are reminded to rely on God's understanding rather than our own limited perspective, trusting that His ways will lead to good outcomes, even if they are not immediately clear to us.

March 27

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid. Do not be dismayed, for Jehovah your God is with you wherever you go." - Josh. 1:9

The Lord commanded Joshua to be strong and courageous as he was taking on the responsibility of leading the Israelites into the Promised Land. The Lord reassured Joshua that he does not need to fear or be discouraged because God's presence will go with him wherever he goes.

The Lord's constant support, even in challenging tasks or times, is just as relevant for us today. When we face challenges or difficult decisions, we can draw strength from knowing that Jehovah our God is with us, guiding and empowering us. Fear and discouragement can be overwhelming, but like Joshua, we are called to stand firm, trusting that God's presence and faithfulness will carry us through. No matter what we face, we do not have to walk alone because the Lord is with us every step of the way.

March 28

"These words, which I command you today, shall be on your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up." - Deut. 6:6-7

The Lord commanded the Israelites to keep His words close to their hearts and to diligently teach them to their children. The command shows us the importance of integrating God's teachings into everyday life—whether at home, on the go, or in daily routines. The Lord's words should be central to every aspect of life, not just something that is talked about occasionally.

In this we can see the importance of making God's Word the Bible a consistent part of our lives. It is not just about teaching Scripture to others, but also living it out daily. We must be an ideal model of faith and share God's teachings in every moment—at home, at work, and in casual conversations. This is an encouragement to make God's truth not only a mental exercise but also a way of living, teaching it to the next generation by both word and example.

March 29

"Jehovah, you are my God. I will exalt you! I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, things planned long ago, in complete faithfulness and truth." - Isa. 25:1

The prophet Isaiah expressed deep gratitude and worship toward God, acknowledging His sovereignty and the marvelous deeds He had done. The "wonderful things" refer to God's faithful plans and actions throughout history, demonstrating His unchanging truth and commitment to His people. Isaiah praises Jehovah for His perfect faithfulness, saying that everything the Creator does is part of a divine plan set long ago.

We should live a life a posture of praise and worship, recognizing God's faithfulness in our own lives. Just as Isaiah reflected on God's wonderful deeds, we are encouraged to reflect on the ways the Lord has worked in our lives—His guidance, provision, and unwavering truth. When we face difficult challenges, remembering God's past faithfulness helps strengthen our trust in His ongoing work and eternal plan. Like Isaiah, we should respond with praise and exaltation, acknowledging God's sovereignty and truth in all circumstances.

March 30

"Search me, God, and know my heart. Try me, and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way."- Ps. 139:23-24

The psalmist David prayed for God to examine his heart and mind, asking for divine insight and correction. His desire was for God's truth to reveal any sin or wrongdoing in him so that he could walk in righteousness. David asked the Lord to lead him on the "everlasting way," which refers to the path of truth and eternal life.

We should have the same thought as David did. We need to have an open, honest relationship with our Lord, where we invite Him to search our hearts and minds. David's words should encourage us to seek God's guidance in identifying areas of our lives that are not in accord with His will. Do we desire to be led by God in paths that lead to eternal life? Are we allowing Him to correct and refine us? This is a call for self-examination

and a willingness to follow the Lord's ways, no matter where they lead.

March 31

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, through the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God." - 2 Cor.1:3-4

The apostle Paul praises God as the source of all mercy and comfort. He acknowledges that the Lord comforts us in our own struggles, providing the strength and peace we need during times of affliction. This is meant to comfort ourselves and to equip us to comfort others who are going through difficulties. The idea is that the comfort we receive from God can be passed on to others, helping them find solace and hope in their struggles.

This verse encourages us to lean on the Lord for comfort in our own trials, knowing that He is a source of peace and healing. But it also tells us that God's comfort is not meant to be kept to ourselves. As we experience His mercy and comfort, we are called to share that same comfort with others who are suffering. Our struggles can be used by God to help others; our own healing can become a tool for encouraging and lifting up those around us.

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