

Welcome friends to another broadcast of "Morsels for Zion's Poor"

It is very common to hear the exclamation "my god" used as a term of amazement or to emphasize one's exasperation. This is an awful expression which should not be used by the men of this world let alone the children of GOD. The other day, I overheard a conversation in which a lady made the statement that she believed in "her god". I do not want to judge what this lady meant by her statement but I do know that many religious people call GOD, their god as if HE were "their dog", "their house", or some other possession over which they have control. Only when a person is introduced to the "true and living GOD" does such an idea seem preposterous. Nebuchadnezzar learned this fact and exclaimed, *"And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and HE doeth according to HIS will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay HIS hand, or say unto HIM, What doest thou?"* (Job had a similar experience that taught him who GOD really is. Once we become acquainted with HIM we learn that HE is not always at our beck and call even though our love for HIM is real and HIS love for HIS people is without measure.

Sometimes we pray but we have no answer. Sometimes we worship, but we do not feel HIS approval. Sometimes we praise but it seems like such a motion of the flesh. We are sometimes longing for HIS leadership but we receive none. Sometimes we want to be used by HIM for HIS kingdom's sake but we wander aimlessly and bear no fruit. Why does HE "hide" from He expects that we should do the same. HIS devotion to us never falters and never fails but sometimes HE removes HIMSELF from us so that we can learn to value that devotion. **What causes the LORD to hide HIMSELF from us?**

To teach us to set our affections on things above. One of the ten commandments is "Thou shalt have no other gods before ME". This is indicative of the singleness of mind which the LORD expects from HIS people. Now that we are no longer under the curse of the law we are to be even more zealous in not letting "things" capture our hearts.

To teach us that our love for HIM grows cold without HIS presence. When we consider all that CHRIST has done for us and how much he is devoted to our wellbeing it is a shame that we should ever fail to value it as our most prized possession. We should never tire of expressing our love to HIM in word and deed.

To teach us of the hardness of our hearts. The Psalmist said, *"Today if you will hear HIS voice, harden not your heart"*. The wicked are described in the scriptures as those with hardened hearts; yet it is possible and all too often a reality that those who know the LORD "sometimes" turn a deaf ear to HIS word and SPIRIT. This behavior is understandable in the unregenerate but is a terrible travesty among the redeemed.

To teach us that we are a stiff-necked people reluctant to not follow HIS teaching. Much of that which the LORD has taught us is a bitter pill to swallow for our flesh. That we should pray for our enemies and bless those that persecute us is a hard example to follow. That we should leave vengeance unto the LORD is "sometimes" more than we can bear. We are not in a position to pick and choose what part of our LORDS teaching we will follow. But we are given the mind of CHRIST so that we should not act like those who disregard the word of GOD.

To teach us that we are often slumbering when we should be awake. The LORD, admonished HIS disciples "watch ye and pray, that ye enter not into temptation, the spirit truly is ready but the flesh is weak." We are to be very diligent in waging war with our adversaries, both, within (i.e. our flesh) and without (i.e. the powers of darkness) lest we be overcome.

To teach us that we take the LORD for granted. We seldom realize the value of true blessings until we are forced to do without them. Many times we take the LORD'S presence for granted just like we do the wagging of our dog's tail when we come home. We think HE will always be around whenever we get ready for HIM or if we have some pressing need. But the LORD will not become commonplace to us. He teaches us to value HIS presence just like HE values us. HE will not be relegated to the role of co-pilot or be our little helper. HE will not allow us to dictate the terms of our relationship to HIM. HE will call and we will answer. "My sheep hear my voice and I know them, and they follow me. And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." Have you heard HIM?

"Thy free grace alone," #11 **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at forthepoor@windstream.net**