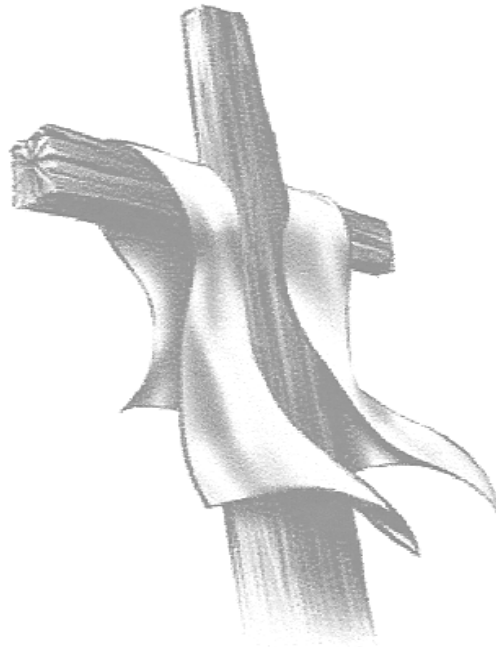

TAYLOR'S TALK ON CHRIST

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Month In Review



The last six months have been amazing. The two internships have come to a close. I have spent so much time in the presence of the Lord. I am so thankful for the amount of grace that the Lord has given me for spiritual growth over the last six months. In faith we do all the spiritual exercises the Lord asks us to do. There is normally not much immediate gratification in the spiritual disciplines, but don't get me wrong. There are times when you lift your voice to Heaven, and the Lord seems to respond immediately. You pray, and BAM prayer answered! Those times are great, but they are definitely not the norm. Typically you spend hours with the Lord in prayer or study of the Scriptures, and at the end of that time you do not actually feel any different. However, we do the spiritual disciplines out of faith, and you have to believe what the scripture says. Galatians 6:8 mentions the law of sowing and reaping. We as Christians sometimes mention this verse, but we mostly always refer to it when talking about sin. We hardly ever apply it to spiritual things the way the verse is written. Now true it does most definitely apply to sin, but it also applies to the spiritual disciplines the Lord calls us to. This is very comforting to those Christians who choose to walk out the Sermon on the Mount lifestyle. The Lord calls us to prayer, fasting, forgiving, giving, and studying of the Scriptures. So we apply Galatians 6:8 to these disciplines, and we know that as we do them, (regardless if we feel any change or emotion) things are taking place in the Spirit of our inner man. It is the old sayings, "as we behold Him, we become like Him." and "the more we talk to Him, the more we fall in love with Him." All that to say, that over the last six months, there have been the immediate gratification times and there have been the dry and dull times. But regardless Jesus is WORTHY. We shall serve Him no matter emotions, and we continue to believe His Word. I am living proof of these words. I have changed and been conformed to His image in so many ways just by choosing over and over, day after day His presence and His beauty over anything the world has to offer. I am so blessed to have done what I have done over the last six months and am so grateful to the Lord and to all of you whom He has used to help me. Thank you and God bless you.

A Word From Louisiana

This month, the words that the Lord has placed in my heart are simple. "Love the Lord thy God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength". It's time that we begin to do whatever it takes to love our beautiful majesty with all that we have. We need to take the focus off of ourselves, off of others, and place it on God alone. We need to let go of unforgiveness, bitterness, selfish desires and begin to yearn for deeper fellowship with Jesus, so that we can come to understand Him so much more than we do now. He longs to meet with us, to show us His love, to show us his character, and to tell us more secrets of his heart and his deeper plans for our lives and how to minister to others. He wants us to come to understand the deeper levels of the mercy that He wants to show us and those around us, as well as our nation. He wants to reveal to us deeper levels of his unconditional love and how much deeper His love is for us than our love for ourselves.

But, if we don't say "YES" to him, then nothing beautiful will happen to us. We must begin to cry out for God's mercy to empower us to change those areas where we consistently resist Him. We must have his mercy, because we cannot change our lives with our own power. But, if we do not set our minds on Him and keep our minds there, then the Lord cannot change us and open our hearts so that He can pour in more of His love. We must choose to keep turning the eyes of our heart (our minds) to Him all day and into the night. This discipline takes time and much effort, but through the power of His wonderful Holy Spirit, we can reach a place where we commune with God all the time, whether we are at work, or spending time with our families, or falling asleep. As our communion with God increases, the more our selfish ways decrease and His perfect love in us increases. Then, he will put our focus on improving ourselves and doing good to others, giving them the wonderful revelation of Jesus that we are now experiencing.

Teaching



It took a while for the Lord to show me what He wanted to write about this month. There has been so much learning and revelation taking place in my life of the last month that I was not sure how to pick one thing or topic to talk about. But of course the Lord came through, and I really think He chose a topic that is very important in today's Christianity. It is not only important to the Lord, but it is also really a topic the Lord has placed upon my heart. You could almost call it a burden the Lord has shared with me. Enough introduction, let us get to the subject at hand. I want to briefly talk to you about the definition of and difference between the words GRACE and MERCY. The two words are used interchangeably so often by Christians, and they truly do have quite different meanings. I do not have time to or space to get too technical and get into the Greek and Hebrew definitions of these words. I just want to give a simple definition of each word, and then talk about how they differ. We all know (I hope) what the penalty for sin is. It is death. We all know also that we were all sinners and enemies of God before we accepted His Son and made Him Lord of our lives. This is where the Lord's mercy came in for each of us. God decided to show His infinite mercy to us. He decided to give us something that none of us deserved. When someone gives you something you do not deserve, they have given you mercy. This is the very definition of mercy. The Lord has shown each of us mercy by offering us forgiveness instead of death. None of us deserved it. God out of His infinite mercy and compassion loved the world and His creations so much that He gave and crushed His only begotten Son that we would have the ability to partake in everlasting life. So when we think of the definition of the word mercy, it would be logical to link God's mercy with God's forgiveness of sin. I hear so often the word grace used in the context of the Lord's forgiveness. Normally when this is done, it is referring to a term called cheap grace. Cheap grace refers to a person that says, "Well I'll just sin now and I will be covered by grace later." I must make it clear now, and this thought should remain with every professing Christian forever. There is NOTHING cheap about grace. There is nothing CHEAP about

the forgiveness of sin. The second person of the Godhead had to become a man, was beaten brutally beyond human likeness (NIV), bared the weight and punishment of ALL the sin of the ENTIRE world, was crushed by the Father (and it pleased the Father to do so), died on a cross, and had to go into hell to take the keys to the kingdom away from the devil ALL FOR OUR SAKE. The magnitude of these events cannot be related to or even assimilated with the word CHEAP. It is an absolute abomination to do so. Nothing about what Jesus did cost Him little. So the word mercy and not grace is used in reference to forgiveness. Now we are saved by grace. It does say that in Ephesians 2:5 & 8. But I do not think that this is referring to forgiveness per say. We must have forgiveness to be saved and be made right with God. We must also have repentance in order to receive forgiveness from the Lord. Now I am not saying one must be perfect in order to be forgiven, but one must be in pursuit of overcoming, 100% obedience. Willful pre-meditated sin is not forgiven until the person decides to repent in his heart of that sin. So how do we define the word grace. I had always referred to the meaning of grace as unmerited favor. Now that I have had a chance to think about this definition and study it out, I think it is a terrible definition. It does not do justice to what grace does for a believer. I believe the word grace can be defined correctly very easily. Grace is EMPOWERMENT. Every believer since Christ has the Holy Spirit dwelling within him. This is the major difference between Old and New Testament believers. Part of the role of the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Grace. Grace empowers us to overcome sin. This is how we can now, but they could not then, overcome sin in our minds and in our actions. We have the fullness of God dwelling within us. The third person of the Trinity gives us overcoming power over sin. This is why we are not slaves to the law any longer, and this is why we cannot overcome by our own strengths (but we most definitely CAN overcome). We need grace, grace, and more grace. The promises in Revelation are to the OVERCOMERS, not the sinners. Instead of relying on CHEAP grace, let's ask the Lord for more grace so that we are EMPOWERED to walk worthy before the one we LOVE SO MUCH!!!!



Future Events

Dec. 28th – Dec. 31st

Something Young Adult Conference
at IHOP in Kansas City

The CALL (part of the something)
From Noon to midnight on
New Year's Eve (day of fasting
and prayer for Justice)

Jan. 8th ish

Miranda is going back to S. Africa

Jan. 14

FSM Classes Begin

June ?

Bobby is coming back to LA to preach

Looking Forward

Wow! It is hard to believe that part two of the internship is over! The last six months have been amazing. I can only pray that the next months of being in God's presence goes as wonderful. I am such a blessed man to be able to do what I do. The reason I am able to do it is God moving through all of you and your generosity. I am so very thankful for what all of you have contributed. I still have a little ways to go before I have enough monthly support for 2008. I found out last month that when I transfer my account to IHOP, they will require in taxes 1/5 of all money that comes in. Apparently a missionary is considered a self-employed person, and so they have to pay self-employment taxes. That makes the money I need increase by at least \$300-400 per month. That is a bummer, but I know God WILL provide. Some good news for me being a diabetic, I have found a hospital here in K.C. that will provide VERY cheap healthcare. That is a MAJOR blessing for a diabetic, so my financial need for health care has been kept to a minimum by God.

****PLEASE READ****

NEW SUPPORT & CONTACT INFORMATION

From now on please send all your checks to **11202 Norby Rd. Kansas City, MO 64137**. If you do want your tax deduction, please make your check out to **IHOP-KC** and no longer write my name in the memo blank. It will prevent you from getting any deduction if you do not do it this way. I will be paying 20% in taxes on all tax deductible contributions. So if you do not want your tax deduction, please continue to make your checks out to **Bobby Taylor** and write anything you would like in the memo.

Reminder my e-mail address is bjt1261@gmail.com. Feel free to e-mail any questions or concerns at any time. I now have a new WeBlog for you to check out at bjt1261.wordpress.com. Check it out and enjoy!! Leave comments too and let me know what you think.
