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Theme: “Camel Knees”

Scripture:e: James 5:17-18 (NIV)

“Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. 18) Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.”

A Thought:

James is one of my favorite books in the Bible. What a turnaround for the half brother of Jesus who was not in the vanguard of early believers....John 7:5 (NIV) *“For even his own brothers did not believe in him.”* His transformation by the power of the Holy Spirit is seen in the introduction of his five chapter book. This once pious Jew identifies himself as *“James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus.”* The Christian leader of the Jerusalem church was known as “camel knees” because he regularly prayed on his knees and his role model was another prayer warrior...the prophet Elijah. As Christian men we travel a tough road to sustain a powerful prayer life. Of course we or at least many of us will not experience the mantle of “camel knees.” However as Christian men prayer is of the utmost importance in our walk with Christ Jesus. The Lord spent many hours and nights in prayer (Matt. 26:36-45). We have many examples of holy men in habitual steadfast prayer. Paul prayed day and night. Daniel prayed three times a day. Luther said: *“If I fail to spend two hours in prayer each morning, the devil gets the victory through the day.”* Being alone with God is essential. E.M Bounds, author, Power of Prayer says as much...*“We would not have anyone think the value of their prayer is to be measured by the clock, but our purpose is to impress on our minds the necessity of being much alone with God; and that if this feature has not been produced by our faith, then our faith is of a feeble and surface type.”*

Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

Talk to yourself:

- Is praying difficult for you? Discuss the reasons for the difficulty.
- By now in your Christian walk do you understand the importance of prayer?
- Do you pray at least once a day? Week? Month?

Scriptures to read: Genesis 4:26, 17:3-4; Psalm 6: 9, 28:6, 122:6, 143:8; Isaiah 56:7; Proverbs 22:4; 1 Kings 8:22, 54;18:30-40; Zech. 13:9; 2 Chronicles 20:18; Daniel 6:10; Matthew 6:5-8,9,26:39-41; Mark 1:35, 11:24; John 13:13-14; 15:7, 16:23-24; Romans 12:12; Ephesians 3:14-17; 6:18-20; 1 Timothy 2:1,8; James 5:13-18; 1 Peter 3:12

Quote: A. L Tozer, Pastor, Author, God Tells The Man Who Cares *“Praying itself must be the work of the individual. That it is the religious work which gets done with the least enthusiasm cannot be one of the tragedies of our times.”*

Bottom Line: Men we must strive to discipline our respective selves in our constant battle to be in fervent prayer. It is difficult (I know this on a personal basis) to shut out the noise and the ever-present distractions. Apropos to the above quote we do approach prayer with the least enthusiasm than any other religious work. How do we reconcile the conflict? Tozer lays it on thick with the following admonition *“No man has any moral right to go before the people who has not first been long before the Lord.”* Tough words indeed. We must go before the Lord in a secret place, talk to him, thank Him for His presence in our lives and in supplication (read Mathew 6:6). Our “prayer” is not a moment of interest but a sustaining offering to our Lord. Prayer should be priority in our lives so that His responses to our prayers can be channel on how we live, what we say and what we see. If we do not talk to our Lord how do we expect to receive His dictates Exodus 33:34-35a (HCSB) *“When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face. But whenever Moses went before the Lord to speak with Him, he would remove the veil until he came out. After he came out, he would tell the Israelites what he had been commanded, 35a) and the Israelites would see that Moses’ face was radiant.”* In closing, *“... no soul follows hard after God who is not after Him in early morn.”* E.M. Bounds, “Power of Prayer.”

NOW.....THAT’S THE BOTTOM LINE.

Spiritual Dabbler, Your bro, Ray

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