

Have this mind in you.....

In one of his books, Wolfgang Simpson comments that as a whole, western Christians tend to be extraordinarily indifferent in their attitudes towards those who are not disciples of Jesus. We seem to border on smugness when we consider that we are among those who have made the decision to

"Enter through the narrow gate. For **wide** is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But **small** is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." Matt 7:13-14

We shake our heads at the foolishness of those who walk that broad easy way and congratulate ourselves and each other that we are in that select group who have "found" the narrow way. Simpson suggests that many of us seem quite comfortable with the anticipation of a very roomy heaven for "us" and a hell filled to overflowing with "them."

The Lord is speaking to our hearts today, calling us to have His heart for those who do not yet know Him. He wants our hearts to be broken with the things that break His heart. He intensely desires to be in fellowship with all men. He speaks to us clearly in His Word

Say to them, 'As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, **I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live.** Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, O house of Israel?' Ezekiel 33:11

"For God so loved the world (did you ever wonder why it doesn't say that God so hated sin, or so hated sinners?) that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For **God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world,** but to save the world through him. John 3:16

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, **how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings...** Luke 13:34

Father is calling us to repent *ourselves*, to turn from our own self-centered ways and mindsets and to embrace His heart for His world, for those He made for Himself.

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus... Phil 2:5

But we have the mind of Christ. 1 Cor 2:16b

God wants us to be spiritual midwives with Him, standing with Jesus as intercessors for the lost! Is it not stunning to consider that even as you read this, Jesus

"is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us." Romans 8:34

And surely not only for us, but for all who comprise what John 3:16 calls "the world."

The point I'm trying to make is that as our relationship with Father continues to grow, He reveals to us in His Word and by His Spirit that He wants us to labor with Him for all to come to know Him. He makes known His anger against the sins of men that separate them from Him. He wants us to share His burden, to participate in the labor pains Paul speaks of - that Christ be worshipped by others. Watch how the Lord causes this to happen:

"I have seen these people," the Lord said to Moses, "and they are a stiff-necked people. Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation."

But Moses sought the favor of the Lord his God. "O Lord," he said, "why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.'" **Then the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.** Exodus 32: 9-14

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Leave this place, and go up to the land I promised on oath, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I will send an angel before you... But **I will not go with you,** because you are a stiff-necked people and I might destroy you on the way."

Moses said to the Lord, "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favor with me.' If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. **Remember that this nation is your people.**" The Lord replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." Then **Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here.** How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?" And **the Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name."** Exodus 33:1-2a, 2b, 12-17

"Even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning." Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity. **Who knows? He may turn and have pity and leave behind a blessing--** Joel 2:12-14a

Let's pray for each other as shepherds charged with leading flocks and making real disciples of Jesus. Let's ask the Father to truly give us "the mind of Christ." Let's weep in His presence for those who don't yet know Him. Let's so live our lives, so direct our own personal resources as to be completely sold out to His heart, His purposes, His glory, His kingdom. Let's not give Him any rest until we see

"Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done ON EARTH as it is in heaven."

Let's make this our rallying cry:

I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; They shall never hold their peace day or night. **You who make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent, And give Him no rest till He establishes And till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.** Isaiah 62: 6-7