Weekly Devotional 3-11-2012

 "6 Jesus answered, I am the Way and the Truth and the Life No one comes to the Father except through me. **7**If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” John 14:6-7.

 Several people are searching for answers and many false truths are out there about eternity and salvation. Jesus reminds us He is the only way! Let’s view the history. John was Jesus cousin. He was convinced that Israel was coming into a new “era.” He believed that this mission was to prepare the people at this time. He would go out into the wilderness and would preach. *The point of being in the wilderness was to remind his hearers that this was the wilderness they came out of before they came into the land.* The time of being in the wilderness was a time of “*trusting God and depending on Him*” and now coming into this new time you must become as those children again. You need to go back to that beginning and repent and get right with God and reclaim your heritage.

 **Jesus Mission to rebellious Israel –**

 Jesus saw Himself as the one established by God to recharge Israel. As He went about numerous signs came about that He was extra-ordinary and that something was happening. One of the signs is that He would have with His party, meals, and people from all areas of life and walks of life, different jobs whatever, everyone was invited to His table. This was a sign that God was bringing about restoration in Israel. That did not sit well with the Sadducees and Pharisees. This is why they hated Him so much. Abraham, Isacc and Jacob (Israel) and the new Israel coming through Jesus. Jesus states “who is not with me scatters.” Jesus calls His followers a new family Mark 3:31-35. God is their Father Matt 23:9 and the twelve are those who are called to be leading with Jesus in this new kingdom Matt 19:28.

**The Crisis in this new Mission**

 As with John the Baptist, Jesus saw Israel at the crossroads. Israel needed to shape up, if they were going to follow in their current course, they were going to end up in a war with Rome. What Jesus saw is that there would be another future, another coming for Israel and new beginning. Luke 13:1-3 and 6-9 this parable represents either staying behind or moving forward. Jesus was saying there is a time coming when I am going to give up on this proclamation. \*\* Israel was not repenting, something else needed to be done. Jesus sees Himself as the Son of man (Daniel 7) who was the representative of Israel. In stepping forward as an embodiment of Israel itself he prepares to go at the leaders in Israel and confront them. It is so confrontational that He faces certain martyrdom. He went beyond the normal expectations of what a regular Jew would say, but when he said “the Temple is of no use” they began to get so angry with Him that they wanted Him dead. In Mark 10:45 there is a very important text. “The Son of man came not be served, but to serve” now look in Daniel 7:14, “to Him was given dominion and glory and the kingdom.” Jesus became the ransom prize, to wipe the slate clean. But those who are listening will enjoy the benefits of the new age. Mark 14:59-72 is the trial of Jesus. Then Jesus tells them they will see Him in His other place and they will stand before Him as Judge.

ARE you "searching"? Look no further than Jesus and His Words they are the only TRUTH!!!

My prayer for you is: I pray you will find your way through the only Way, Jesus Christ the Son of God. LORD lead and guide the person reading this right now. You know their hurts, pains, and hang-ups You alone call heal them of all. May the ministering Holy Spirit come over you like a warm summer shower right now and wash you clean and may you accept the love and forgiveness that is waiting for you and be washed clean. Amen.