Patricia Simmons Journal weeks 6 to 10

Journal week 6

a. I've read the Canaanite woman's story and heard it taught a number of times, but I felt now that I have a greater insight into what Jesus responded to:

#1- Jesus was the one who entered the gentile territory- the woman thought about that- why has He come here? He was Jewish. Did she see this as an open door opportunity?

#2-She called Him the Son of David- I think because that's what some of the Jews called Him- and it was a Jewish title of honor even if she didn't understand what it meant.

#3- She had already cried out to His disciples and they didn't respond.

#4 Then She approaches Jesus, called out to Him pleading for mercy- which is really the only was she could have come to receive from Him - was for His mercy for healing for her daughter.

#5- She referred to herself as a gentile dog- which must have hurt- but she was honestly representing herself to a Jew.

#6- Even when Jesus at first denies her request and explains to her why- (He came first to the Nation of Israel only- to fulfill covenant) she heard in His answer - about the children's bread and she SAW that even the CRUMBS - just little pieces were still VALUABLE and BIG ENOUGH for her daughter's healing.

No wonder He said “great is your faith”. She came to Him honestly, respectfully, earnestly, committedly with valid reason, and SAW that in the CRUMBS- the VALUE, and that it need not be wasted!!!! WOW. I think He saw her response as a genuine true and righteous response - and it revealed TRUE FAITH- which is greater than any rule. I see a touch of Abraham's reasoning with God here. I see the Lord's response here as an encouragement to approach Him even when I continue to fail- because He is so GREAT a GOD- He doesn't deny what is right, and He responds to the real inner part of us, there is no need to hide.

c. The story of the transfiguration video helped me see the Law in greater perspective- how I respond to commandments- sometimes I feel as if I didn't meet their full requirement because they come across as so lofty, but actually the call by Jesus to FOLLOW ME, makes greater sense to me, and that my response to Jesus (the Spirit leading me) is sufficient for me to live rightly before the Lord. I think can focus more on this aspect of my life and not all that the bible speaks of. And I feel more assured- as I know He did fulfill the Law- that my focus should be HIM.

Journal week 7

#1-- The parable of the landowner caught my attention- I heard and read this parable several times- now, though I think I understand it better. As usual, Jesus explains spiritual truths through story form so that we can UNDERSTAND.

a) God/Jesus is the landowner, of course and hired laborers I believe are people of the world- people being called to into HIS vineyard.

b) and He goes into the world to find people for His kingdom- whom He calls laborers (I think He's revealing as per Jeremiah, for example, "I know the plans I have for you" and that He is the potter and we are the clay-; He has made us to DO things WITH the Lord- we are not just empty vessel sitting on shelf but even as per Adam in the garden of Eden- we are to take care of this world; who He will hire for a denarius a day (a fair wage for a day's pay). I think the denarius may represent Rom 12.3 --- to each Her has given a measure of faith. If not- the illustration is still the same- it is something that you cannot earn- everyone gets the same amount and it is the GIFT of GOD.

c) note the people who agree come in - come in at different times of the day. I think this represents all the times of all the people entering God kingdom.

d) and He considers people as IDLE who do not enter His kingdom or respond to HIM.

e) But it was the 1st laborers who felt that the pay for their work was unfair because they had worked longer than the others.

I think this represents in particular the Pharisees that thought they as Jews representing all that the Nation of Israel had done since the times of Abraham- had worked the law longer as Jews- and it shouldn't be all the same payment.

f) because I think the Pharisees and all of us at times think that we EARN from God some things- but here- the parable is illustrating- the pay I think is salvation- and that we all get the same salvation- NONE of us earn it- it's all about the GRACE of God.

I think overall He is addressing Pharisees, scribes, chief priests, etc- those who think they earn the kingdom, have done more (kept the law, were Jews) - and Jesus is revealing - eternal life- IS BASED on HIS GRACE.

I think that I have felt that I earn from God and that why does it seem like (as an older christian)- sometimes someone younger in the Lord seem to be more ahead than I. I think this parable reminded ME that God oversees the fairness of His grace- and I need not be concerned about comparing myself to others and what they are doing.

#2- Matt 8-9 about a hand or an eye causing you to sin- then pluck it out- I'm unsure how this practically applies to me. It's a severe comment in regard to harming little ones- but I don't really have insight how this relates to me. I haven't

heard much teaching on these particular scriptures. I'm sure my mind will look for this as times goes by.

Journal weeks 8 and 9

#1--- from Matt 21.23 to 26 These Scriptures caught my attention- The chief priests , elders, and scribes again confronted Jesus- though they asked Him who gave Him authority (they did recognize He had authority and probably from God and this is the group of people who should have known the Scriptures which told of Christ). But they were not willing to receive Him. I didn't at first really see this- - but Jesus actually reveals to them that He was willing to reveal to them who gave Him authority- if only they were honest with themselves. I think this is a great encouragement to me to be bold to ask the Lord some of the deeper thing of Himself- not to be afraid- though I'm not really afraid- but Jesus does actually want us to understand Him and His ways. I do need to- be sincere.

Jesus was trying to bring them to themselves (Luke 15) - even in His rebuke, He was still trying to bring them to recognize the truth -- if only they had recognized their sin- He would have forgiven them and reveal Himself to them. BUT-

2Thess 2:10 and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish because they received not the love of the truth that they might be saved.

#2- from Matt 23 .38 See! Your house is left to you desolate; 39 for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say,

"Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!"'. I see later that the temple was destroyed in 70 AD.

Additionally, the Temple remained open from 30 AD to 70 AD (40 years - did this represent an additional time for testing Israel, and also the Holy Spirit came to the 120 disciples in ~ 30 AD at Pentecost. So I don't yet fully understand this timing and what does it represent. And how does this timing fit into the beginning of the Church? So I still have my ears open to more teaching about this.

Journal week 10

#1- I am well versed and have understood these Scripture given every communion at my church. But during one of the crucifixion videos which showed the tearing of the back of Jesus which was promptly followed by the picture of Jesus tearing bread of the Passover meal- something registered in my heart - a revelation, and I was so touched by this. I also seemed to have greater understanding almost as being present during the 1st Passover meal myself. Jesus also revealed this to the disciples (and ultimately the world) His saying that He was the Bread of Life.

Also- to take part of this broken bread (His body), you must believe that Christ died for us. It is not enough to believe that Jesus existed- in order for salvation to come to you- you have to take part in His death, burial, and crucifixion by faith. My heart so greatly expanded with this love of Jesus. Also, I then thought I understood the Scripture - Psa 34.5 They looked to Him and were radiant (nahar- shine, beam). This shined in my heart.

Psa 36.9 With You is the fountain of Life, in Your Light we see Light.

#3- As Peter was one of those who saw Jesus in the transfiguration- it's still perplexing that he denied Jesus 3 times. This seems to have been a weak area in his life- maybe the Spirit of God is revealing that we all have surprising weak areas. Food for thought.