

“Work, Peace, and Spiders”

Read -- John 14:25-31, Philippians 4:4-7

As was my frequent Sunday morning habit, early on March 25, 2007 I was walking on the wooded shore path at Lake Needwood in central Montgomery County, Maryland. I was thinking and praying about the pressures at work – a major recomplete proposal to lead, as well as relationships to maintain with staff, suppliers, and the customer. Without God, I would be a worrier, and I was dealing with worry this morning in my prayer time with God.

It was a nice, cool, bright sunny morning about one hour past dawn as I neared my favorite part of the walk – a high area overlooking the lake. God spoke to me in that still quiet voice. “Do you believe that I love you?” Yes, I thought. “Do you believe that I care for you?” Yes. “Do you believe that I will carry you through?” Yes. “Then, be at peace, be at peace, be at peace.”

I thought about what God had said, and my mind turned to my favorite scripture, long ago committed to memory, “*Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs and don’t forget to thank him for his answers. If you do this you will experience God’s peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will keep your thoughts and your hearts quiet and at rest as you trust in Christ Jesus*” (Philippians 4:6-7 TLB).

I turned to start my return trip along the wooded lake shore path. The still small voice said, “Turn left.” I left the path and walked through the forest down towards the lake shore about 90 yards away. There I saw something I never would have seen from the beaten path. Everywhere, the bare, not-yet-budding tree branches were adorned with brilliantly sparkling water droplets. Spider webs spread from branch to branch and glistened with moisture reflecting the light from the perfect low angle of the early morning sun. I praised God for his attention to detail – the meteorological cycle, and yes, even the spiders. The spiders have to eat, too.

“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful” (John 14:27 NASB).

Application -- Consider what areas of your life are causing you anxiety today. Through prayer, release those anxieties to God now, and trust that God will act. Ask God for guidance – how you (we) can be better servants for Him as He works out these situations. And, remember to thank God when He answers your prayers.

Prayer -- Dear Lord, thank you for your peace, your peace that is far more than wonderful than I can understand. Forgive me for worrying so much. I ask You to act in these situations that concern me, and I thank You that You will act in the way that You know is best. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Whitney V. Myers

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