

Insights from the Isles - 2



Steps of Preparation

And I will prepare Him my heart . . .

There is a beautiful song based on Exodus 15:2 that includes the line, 'And I will prepare Him my heart.' What a lovely starting place for today's meditation! Even in human terms, relationships need to be cultivated and prepared for. We cannot rush into our Father's presence and still expect to enjoy all the benefits of heaven and then dash out again.

Listen to the counsel of a one-time impulsive fisherman. In language that depicts the figure of a man tucking his garments into his belt so that he can move freely, Peter, urges us to prepare our minds for action; to be self-controlled, and to set our hope fully on the grace to be given us when Jesus Christ is revealed.'(1 Peter 1:13 and see context) What can we do to prepare ourselves for his service? Here are a few starting thoughts.

- Ponder how the Lord has prepared and provided for you in the past. Use these memories as a springboard to increase your confidence in what He is planning for you now.
- Turn your thoughts wider to embrace what the people of God should be doing in terms of preparation for the days that we live in.
- Think of Noah doggedly persisting in his seemingly bizarre and much ridiculed preparations.
- Do you back away and lose interest in a plan or project if you have no direct part to play in it? Think of David in 2 Samuel 7. The Lord specifically rejected him from carrying out his plan to build the Temple of the Lord, but David overcame this major disappointment. Instead of giving up, or giving in to resentment, he dedicated himself to do all he could to facilitate the work that Solomon would accomplish. What an inspiration!
- If you have the time, look up the words 'prepare,' 'prepares', 'preparing', and 'prepared' in a Concordance.

Amongst other meanings, 'prepare' in Hebrew embraces the concept of arranging, appointing, setting apart, and making ready. Jesus said, 'I am going there (to My Father's house) to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me, that you also may be where I am (John 14:2-3, cf Heb. 11:15-16). Jesus was not speaking speculatively. He was as familiar with His Father's house as He was with Nazareth. And He knows what He is doing with each one of us.

Father, show me today how I can prepare my mind for action and my heart to meet with Yours. Help me overcome my fears and setbacks to face those things I have been shelving. Lead me to the people places and things that will prove most useful for You and me alike. I pray these things for love of You, and for the furtherance of our walk together. In the name of Your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

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