

LISTENING ALONGSIDE



ECHOING CHRIST

Lenten Devotions 2017

**Saturday,
March 4, 2017**

By Jan Mullen

“Weeping may linger for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.”
Psalm 30:5

I recall 19 years ago when I was going through a period of stress in my life. I had made a bad decision about a job and it turned out to be just that – a bad decision on my part to take a job that was offered to me when I already had a good job. Of course, money was the defining factor that made me make this unwise decision. It didn't take me long to realize that it was definitely not a wise decision. I was soon out of a job and wondering what I was going to do next. I began a diligent daily search for a new job, and it seemed everywhere I turned, people just weren't hiring or the job was not what I had hoped it would be.

Three months went by. For some of you, that would probably not seem like a long time; but for me, it seemed an eternity. I was beginning to go into a period of depression. I was on my way back from an interview in Greenville, NC, that had not gone as I had hoped. I had the radio on WRAL in Raleigh that played music of the 80's and 90's. I was getting very depressed and my thoughts turned to those I know God would not have wanted me to consider. Just then, a gospel song came on that station, and some of the words were: "Hold on my child, joy comes in the morning. Weeping only lasts for the night. Hold on my child. Joy comes in the morning. The darkest hour means dawn is just in sight." I pulled off the road and began to write down in shorthand the words of this song. When I finally composed myself and got back on the road, I tried to call the radio station several times, and every time I dialed their number, I kept getting a busy signal. I wanted to know who was singing it and the name of song.

When I arrived back home, I knew that God was trying to get my attention, and I fell on my knees and began to pray for His help and thank Him for always being there for me. A few days after that, I was thumbing through the want ads and saw an ad for a position at Centura Bank. I got an interview and went for the interview and was hired the same day, which was December 23, 1998. I am still with this wonderful company and feel like I am where God wants me to be and am so thankful that I listened when he was speaking to me. He knows how to reach us even when we don't know how to reach Him at times.

Prayer

Blessing to Open the Ear

That as we wake
we will listen.

That as we rise
we will listen.

That before our first words
of the day
we will listen.

That when we meet
we will listen.

That at noontime
we will listen.

That at dusk
we will listen.

That at the gathering
of night
we will listen.

That entering sleep
we will listen still.

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Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Matthew 7:24-27

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!”