

Gospel Reflections I March 2012

3-4-12

The church, if it wishes to speak into the culture around it, must regain its ability to tell testimonies. It must read its history and learn to tell its individual stories, and to tell them well, so that hearers hungry for a roadmap might find it in us. Our faith gives us the riches and depth of individual narratives that help us live into the life genre God calls us to---and to live with joy, not despair, when it takes a detour. Let us not settle for the shallow Hollywood ending or the witty Facebook gloss. –Alissa Wilkinson

3-18-12

...here's the good news. You don't have to be afraid of examining your ministry community, no matter how weedy it may be, because God meets you in your difficulty with his amazing grace. And you don't have to deny your failures because your standing before God is not based on your success, but on the perfectly successful life of Christ. So, even in failure, he blesses you with the grace of wisdom, patience, strength, and forgiveness. If you are God's children, it is never just you and your ministry partners, somehow hoping that you can work your way through your problems. No, there is another Person who inhabits every situation and location of those relationships. He is with you, he is willing, and he is able to come to your aid. In fact, in his grace, he has made you the place where he lives. Perhaps for too long you have let the weeds of sin choke the life out of important ministry relationships. How about standing up and beginning to pull out the weeds? How about believing that, as you do, your Lord of love and mercy will give you just the grace you need at just the moment you need it?- Paul Tripp

3-25-12

When you watch a sunrise and become enraptured by its beauty and glory, you don't see the moon leave. It just does. Sometimes the moon is still there when the sun comes out. But you don't see it if you're focused on the sun. The immeasurable riches of Christ are like the sun. When we're caught up in the joy and sufficiency of Jesus, lesser things cease to matter. As the Son becomes greater in our hearts, other pursuits fade away. -Britney Hamm