

“Jesus speaks of the love of  
God for the lost” Midweek Reflection # 58, august 5th, 2009

I’ve had the privilege this week of studying some of the parables of Jesus with a wonderful group of adults and children from our church and the local neighborhood at our annual Vacation Bible School. We’ve been reminded of God’s great love for us and Jesus’Abba’s “furious longing” for us (The title of a recently published book by Brennan Manning on the subject) which Renie recently found and purchased as a gift for me.

The Furious Longing of God, by Brennan Manning, published by David C. Cook, 2009

As usual Brennan Manning’s writing is passionate and powerful as he describes “God’s intense, consuming love for His children” (from the dust jacket of the book)

We’ve read and discussed Luke 15: 1-22 , Luke 14: 12-24,Luke 13: 18-20 and Luke 6:46-49.

As usual it’s anyone’s call as to who learned more, students or teachers. God has certainly used these scriptures to comfort, challenge and enrich this 63 yr old heart and spirit in new and enriching ways as I’ve seen the familiar stories again through the eyes of children, some of whom were discovering the spiritual truths they contain for the very first time. I am so grateful for God’s desire to be known and to know me and love me personally as if I was the only “lost” sheep in His flock. I’m grateful that God did not wait for me to come to my senses and return to Him but sent His unique Son into this world to find me and bring me home to Him. I encourage you all to reread these passages in a prayerful way and putting yourselves in the stories as the lost sheep, lost coin, prodigal son who is rejoiced over by the loving, waiting Father. And I would recommend reading the Manning book when you get a chance. God’s longing is for each of us to know and appreciate His initiating love for us.

May your week be full of quiet times with Abba, His Son and God’s Holy Spirit as you make yourself available to Him in reading scripture and in prayer.

Under The Mercy,

Howie

