



*The
Light of
Life*

**Seven-Minute Meditations
Of Fishermen**

bob mulloy

*“Whoever
follows Me
will never walk in darkness ,
but
have
the
light
of
life.”*

JESUS

**Recorded in the Injil (Gospel)
John 8:12**

Cover Photo: Manila Sunset

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OK to use any portion of this book for
any good, any time, anywhere.

We welcome all questions and comments! ☺
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Foreword

You can meet God. I mean, without dying. First step: listen.

He talks to us in a million ways...through a baby's eyes, a toddler's laugh, a teen's delights, a bride's happy tears, (a runaway groom who came back), etc.

God created the universe by speaking. Starry astrophysics tells us that the universe "exploded" into existence. THANK YOU, galactic geeks; glad you're awake!

GOD loves you. If nothing else, believe this. GOD loves you.

Listen well as the Lover of your soul speaks to you through his servant, John the fisherman who became a world class fisher of men.

But remember, you'll forget 90% in 10 minutes. How about having a pen 'n notebook nearby to record your gems? You could write something each day, if only one word. Maybe a verse that infuses or confuses you. Maybe a prayer need. Make sure to date it. Then watch God work.

~ bob

He Gave The Word

John 1: 1-5. ¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

Aristotle, Plato, and Socrates were world class wordsmiths. Their brilliance dazzled minds in Greece where eloquence was everything. Enter **Jesus, the Word** (Greek. “logos”). God’s logic! God’s package deal.

This carpenter is choreographed as Creator, eternal, divine, the source of life, the true light, dispenser of eternal privileges to children of God, full of grace and truth, the Lamb of God, Rabbi, Messiah (“Isa Almasih” in Arabic), Jesus of Nazareth, son of Joseph, Son of Man, King, and much more! SNL (SkyNightLive) will air videos on this for billions of years, but for now... just snapshots.

Verse 9. Immanuel is inclusive: eternal Jesus has given “light” to every red-blooded human (pretty much everybody). The Word incarnate has spoken to everyone. All humanity has “received one blessing after another” (verse 16).

A lifestyle attitude of gratitude is sweet. Andrew had one. He was one of the first people that Jesus called. What was his response? “The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother...” (verse 41). Peter was lost, but Andrew brought him to Jesus, which changed everything. No surprise. God is BIG.

Some people gain Phd’s at the finest schools, though not everyone may apply. But everyone can love truth, and be wise like Andrew, putting investments where you plan to spend eternity. A wise person wins souls.

Please don’t race through this book. It should take TWENTY ONE DAYS. Then you’ll find treasures along the way, if you take deep breaths of fresh air, walk slowly enough to pick a few flowers, and look UP in trust that the Almighty doesn’t panic when Wall Street hits the wall, or tragedy hits home.

Don’t give up. This President of the universe has myriad and magnificent surprises for you along the Way, including love, joy, peace...things that you can’t pick up at Walmart.

Got something written in your notebook? God is already talking to you, saying “Let’s do this!”

Knowing God Personally

John 2:1-9. ¹On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ²and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." ⁴"Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come." ⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶Nearby stood six stone water jars... each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. ⁸Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet. They did so, ⁹and the master of the banquet tasted the water that has been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew.

"Indescribably delicious! This wine is so sweeeet. Who made it?" asked the wedding host 'n hostess, bride 'n groom. Nobody had a clue, except for the servants; they knew; verse 9.

Twenty minutes earlier, the servers were ordered to bring out more wine. HELP! It already was "out". What to do? You can't get new brew from California raisins! Some of the servants probably groaned, "I don't know where my next meal is coming from if I lose this job."

Thankfully, Jesus was there. He spoke and...
Voila! No magic, no tricks, just God. Water
morphed to wine. The servants knew Who did it.

You don't let a man like that walk away. You fol-
low Him because no one else is worthy.

But, we anthropoids are often out to lunch; (with
no water or wine). We innocuously coast out to
sea. The enemy says, if it feels good, do it. We're
duped. We do it, and drown in the ashes.

Let's learn from the Chinese pictogram for
"crisis". It has two components: danger and op-
portunity. In the pain of life, the DANGER is to
check out. Instead, use the OPPORTUNITY to let
God in. He says: **"Here I am! I stand at the
door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and
opens the door, I will come in."** Revelation 3:20.

As long as you're breathing, He'll keep knocking.
Follow those servants. Their crisis was not their
Waterloo, because they let Jesus do the job.

*Do you know Christ or only know about him?
Are you ready for your miracle? HE's ready to do it.*

I'm Loved

John 3:14-16. ¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

“Oh my god. Oh my god.” We hear it ad nauseum ad infinitum. Some people have so many! You are free to ignore the true and living God, just like the fool who denied the law of gravity, until one day he went skydiving without a parachute. Ouch.

Then there's the college prof who worships daily at the idol of tolerance, flirts with demonic dirtballs, mocks God, and ridicules moral purity.

Freshman: “Do you mean that everything is relative? Nothing is certain or absolute?”

Prof (screaming): “Absolutely!” (Oops)

I like Valentine's Day, but it was iffy as a teen. I held my breath all day, hoping nobody would notice. At age 14, I went to live at a monastery; 4 years with a hundred guys; no girls. No Valentines. Bummer.

At age 20, I began to cry out to God day and night. I was desperate to find SOMETHING TO LIVE FOR.

I began to read God's word. He kept saying: "I LOVE YOU". I soon invited Christ into my life as my personal Savior, and was morphed forever.

Thankfully, He's on call to 'fix stuff' whenever we're ready to receive the "life" of John 3:16 which is qualitative, not quantitative.

Ever notice humanity's narcissism? In business, we revel in our genius and quality control, as if we are the center of the universe! Actually, we're tiny specks on a golf ball. If you're not sure how ignorant you are, read chapters 38-41 in the book of Job, in the Old Testament. God asks hundreds of questions there. See if you can answer one.

God is huge, holding the universe in the palm of his hand. He is the *Creator* who, for example, made the sun, moon and "...also made the stars" (Gen.1:16) incidentally 3,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 stars in the observable universe, which is much smaller than the UNobservable part of the universe.

Creation was painless. God did it with his fingers. Psalm 8:3. Redemption tore His guts out. Isaiah 53. He loves us so much. You know seeing isn't always believing. But **believing is always seeing.**

Are you ready to trust again?

What A Woman !

John 4:7-15. ⁷When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" ⁸(His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" ...¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." ¹¹Sir," the woman said, "You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? ¹²Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?" ¹³Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life. The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water..."

This woman was fearless. That sometimes cooked her goose, but not today. She met Jesus; she was never thirsty again.

Then she introduced Him to everybody else, including her five former hubbies; verse 30. You thought *Hollywood* hobos were bad!

She was famously infamous too, and the NEWS FLASH about her mega-morph drew bigger crowds than sky-high freaks at Woodstock. The whole city came out to see this Celebrity.

What was it about her that made her READY for “living water” (verses 10-15)? She was tired. She was also perceptive; she knew Jesus was radically different than the religious “good old boys”, whose hypocrisy stunk to high heaven and back again.

This nameless (let’s call her Samy, since she was a Samaritan) woman was never thirsty again. Jesus taught her to worship. This included living to love. She also learned to live in joyful confidence, unlike the somber Sadducees (sad, you see), who didn’t believe God could do ANYTHING. So sad you see.

Jesus taught her to worship in truth. He became her Emancipation Proclamator, freeing her from all human hells. She was ecstatic at this Light in the darkness, and would never again hug half-truths or hang with diabolic deadbeats.

How are you like this woman?

How are you like her five husbands?

Getting tired of your way? Ready to seek God’s way?

You can freely drink that living water every day, even now. God loves you!

Liar, Lunatic, or Lord ?

John 5:24-25. I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.
~ Jesus

A carpenter claims to be God over 65 times in the 47 verses of this chapter.

Jesus used the pronouns “I”, “me”, and “my” 35 times, making LITERAL reference to his deity. He makes FIGURATIVE reference 30 times to his deity. What’s your take on that? I already know.

By sworn allegiance, you’re bondservant (Exodus 21:1-6) and will do so forever. You hear his voice, and gladly follow, because your ears are pierced.

Or, by indecision, religion, or indignation, you’ve relegated His claims as God to be a boldface liar’s deception or a bouncing lunatic’s delusion. No middle ground.

Verse 34. Jesus rejected any and all pressure from “fans” for a run at the Presidency. Why? Because His purpose was eternal, not ephemeral.

Jesus did miracles every day, exemplified in this chapter, instantaneously healing an invalid who had suffered 38 years; verses 1-13.

Unfortunately, the religious elite of the day were so earthly-minded they weren't any heavenly-good. They wanted to kill Jesus; verse 11.

Pietists should be glad that God came to earth, loving everybody, raising the dead, giving sight to the blind, freeing the demonized, etc.. But many folks aren't glad. They prefer profits to prophets, and for sure not the Creator. He makes us feel guilty!

Jesus was undaunted. He is unconditionally committed to imperfect people. Put your ear to God's heart, and with each beat you'll hear I LOVE YOU, I LOVE YOU, I LOVE YOU.

If you say Jesus was a great prophet (HUMAN, not divine), how could he be a true prophet of God? Wouldn't that make him an egomaniac, or at least a false prophet, or liar?

Jesus claimed to be God, as do some schizophrenics. If you say Jesus was a great teacher (HUMAN, not divine), but neither God nor a pathological liar, you must logically conclude that Jesus is a lunatic. Are YOU crazy?

That Amazing Andrew

John 6:5-14. ⁵When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. ⁷Philip answered him, "Eight months wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" ⁸Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, ⁹"Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" ¹⁰Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. ¹¹Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. ¹²When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." ¹³So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. ¹⁴After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."

What do you do with a brother like Peter? Let's imagine that Andrew was the older brother. Who knows what Andrew's reaction was as he saw Peter, from day one, and onward. It had to be awesome, but sometimes very challenging. Maybe it was like the school girl who wrote this letter to Heaven:
Dear God, Thank you for the baby brother, but what I prayed for was a puppy. ~ Jane

5000+ people needed a miracle meal. Andrew stepped up and they got one!

Andrew had walked with Jesus for several months already (maybe a year) and had seen Him do miracles that only God can do. Andrew didn't just hang around Jesus. He HUNG with Jesus. We need to do the same. Not just to survive, but to succeed.

I heard a radio DJ "grilling" a pastor recently. The woman reporter was mocking him, as one of his church's teenagers had just killed three people. The pastor's response was: "These are extremely difficult days for those families and for us. We are all in shock, and have wept and prayed much today. We have no where to go but God. This is all we can do, but this is also the best we can do."

I've got an awesome nephew named Andrew. God has big plans for him too... maybe one day becoming an awesome servant of the Savior, just like his dad. And, bringing his brothers to Jesus, just as his Bible namesake did. That's awesome!

*In your times of crisis, what do you do?
Do you have someone like Andrew as a mentor?
Are you "Andrew" for anyone else?*

God will provide all these needs if you cry out to Him.

Dynamic Or Dynamite

John 7:17-18. ¹⁷If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. ¹⁸He who speaks on his own does so to gain honor for himself, but he who works for the honor of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him.

You get to choose. Engage in dynamic relationship with the Lover of your soul. Or, continued slavery to the enemy of your soul, with the only shred of purpose (per the enemy of your soul) being to end well by dynamiting somebody.

Those were the choices if you lived in Palestine in 33 A.D. John chapter 7 is the volatile drama of the Feast of Tabernacles that year. For Jesus, it was a roller-coaster week: rejection (by family and community), teaching the Word, branded as demon-possessed, being subject to murderous mobs, seeing many come to faith, more teaching, more rejection more danger.

Karl Marx was right about one thing. When denigrating religion, he was clear in seeing it as opiate. Yet he failed in not seeing that absolute power corrupts absolutely. Such was the noxious narcissism of religion in first century Palestine. They gladly nailed their own King.

Jesus told pretenders that they could know God's truth, if they would be willing to live it. They weren't. They didn't want Heaven's banquet. They preferred hell's barf.

Verse 20. We get a close-up of those blind guides. They couldn't win the debate against Jesus. So, they accused Him of being a demoniac. When they saw honest seekers believing in Him, these new believers were labeled as deceived; verse 47.

When a man of integrity (Nicodemus) appealed to the due process of law, he was "lawless"; verse 52.

Verse 37. "Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, 'If anyone is thirsty, come to me and drink...'" He's not sitting around. He's preparing a table for you in the presence of your enemies. Psalm 23:4.

The Almighty has provided Life for those who will humbly receive. THEN you have something priceless to share all the time with anyone.

Verse 38. Jesus provides living water that will never run dry. ***Make sure you and your family get what you need.***

Freedom !

John 8:31-36. To the Jews who believed him, Jesus said: If you hold to my teaching, then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. ³³They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?" ³⁴Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

Jesus was homeless, not having a permanent address in this passing world. But He was free, free to live in the love of God. Jesus was "at home" with his Father all the time. That's the source of freedom. NOT religion, but relationship with the living God.

Jesus lived in that dynamic liberty, despite any and all challenges. The truth frees. To the degree that we neglect Life, we may be Mardi Gras party animals par exuberance, but will remain wallflowers and clueless forever.

Verse 32. The big IF. We must hold to His teaching, but that's IMPOSSIBLE if He's not holding us. If He's not living in us, no way He can work through us.

John 1:12: We're invited to "receive" Jesus personally. Anybody can *believe*, something even demons can do, according to James 2:19. They can 'believe' and dynamite at the same time! We must receive Jesus into our lives, allowing Him to save us from ourselves.

John 3:3: Jesus said "I tell you the truth, NO ONE CAN SEE THE KINGDOM OF GOD UNLESS HE IS BORN AGAIN." If we're not "born from above" how could we ever "hold" onto something from above? We'd keep dropping it.

Many people "believed" when it was convenient, when free food was abundant.

It looks like many had build their houses on the sand; (Matthew 7: 24-29). Did they have ulterior motives in following Jesus? Impure motives? They weren't really free, were they?

Do you have freedom in Christ, now and forever?

We need to run to Him while there is still time.

On Cloud Niner

John 9:35-41. ³⁵Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when He found him, Jesus said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶“Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.” ³⁸Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshipped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.” ⁴⁰Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, “What? Are we blind too?” ⁴¹Jesus said, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.”

The light of the body is the eye. For that reason, some people didn't know that this guy was the former blind man: they'd never been able to look into his eyes!

Having dual blindness (body and soul) is reversible, but only by Jesus.

But it's tough, even for God, if you're religious.

He healed the man whose eyes were blind, but couldn't heal the men whose heart was hard. Jesus said, "...if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!" Matthew 6:23.

Verse 24. The temple leaders thought they knew something. They said, “We KNOW this man is a sinner.”

Let’s call this ‘former’ blind man “On Cloud Niner” because he probably yelled out “I can see... I can see”, when Jesus opened his eyes, then promptly hijacked the nearest Naboo Starfighter and went on the highest joyride in history.

Verse 25. In the second interrogation session, when the bosses were still lounging in their legalities, “Niner” spelled it out: “All I know is that I used to be blind, but now I can see!”

We need to be like Niner. We don’t need much to be forever safe: we just need to see. We need to move to Light Street.

“Niner” got a miracle. Did you get yours?

Jesus said: “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”

We’ve got to stay in the book. God’s word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. (Psalm 119:105).

Kids Love Him

John 10:1-7. "I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ²The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. ³The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice. ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was telling them. ⁷Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep".

When truckers are in trouble (lost, famished, falling asleep at the wheel) but are 'saved' just in time, they transmit. "That's a big 10:4."

John 10:4 is bigger. It comes with Eternity Warranty. But, it's useless, UNLESS we confess that we are lost sheep, blind, deaf, and dumb, harassed by enemies on every side, especially "inside."

It's bad when somebody yells to you: "Hi, FRUIT-CAKE", and you answer "Lo, NUTMEG." (sorry)

We're collective wackos, desperate for metamorphosis. We know nothing else will work. Thankfully, GOD CAN DO IT. 2 Corinthians 5:17.

The eristic rationalist mocks only himself when he epithets “There is no God”, but a fool is worse. A fool incarnates “NO, God.”

Seven-year-old Josh asked his public school teacher: “What’s the most famous thing in the Bible?” She answered “Psalm 23” and read it to them. They liked it, and voted to memorize it, so she gave them 6 days for those 6 verses. Josh was really pumped to do this, but it was a struggle. He couldn’t memorize! It was totally frustrating! He could barely get halfway through it. A week later, the kids got their chance. Some opted out; most got it verbatim. Josh was hopping with excitement! He was literally JUMPING for joy! When it was his turn, he ran to the microphone and proudly proclaimed, “**The Lord is my Shepherd, and that’s all I need to know.**”

We must learn from children. And follow them as they follow Him.

Prayer: Gentle Shepherd, help. We so quickly and so easily roam and wander away. Protect us from ourselves, bring us back to You, and let us live again.

Are you experiencing any dark valleys now?

Maybe it’s time to read Psalm 23. Great ending!

Raindrops Or Teardrops?

John 11:32-35. ³²When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴“Where have you laid him?” he asked. “Come and see, Lord,” they replied. ³⁵Jesus wept.

GOD CRIED. The heart of God is the source of rain. What we don't know is which raindrops are:

1. intentional because He likes greenery, and watching boys make mud-pies; and/or
2. emotional because He loves you and me, and hurts when we do.

I ran out of tears at age 14. Saying ‘bye’ to family, and ‘hi’ to 100 guys in a monastery dorm was tough, even though it was my choice.

Home was 22 miles away, but seemed like a million. My folks and siblings brought a “care-package” every Sunday. It was so good to see them. I fought the tears as we waved goodbyes, but once that little VW was down the road the dams would burst walking through the dimlit hallway and up to 3rd floor.

When you love people, you want to be WITH them. Jesus left Heaven to be WITH us. Immanuel.

Jesus made friends all over the place, including Lazarus, who died young. Jesus' reaction? He wept. The shortest Bible verse has the longest history.

Jesus was/is a real man. Gutsy and gracious, strong and steady. Just like us! Jesus wept because of His greatness, not because of any weakness. People said: "See how much he loved Lazarus"; verse 36.

At this point, our Arab friends, whether Christian or Muslim, should shout "ALLAHU AKBAR" meaning "God is great". Why? Because God is love. His Home is full of love all the time. And ANYONE can get in, providing your heart is full of love, something that you get from Jesus. ALLAHU AKBAR because He is full of holiness, power, wisdom...and love for the unlovely.

GOD IS SO GREAT-FULL! Your god is too small if all he can do is inflict pain and poison on your enemies. That kind of god is not worthy of our eternal allegiance, is he? Is that kind of god really God, or something else?

***Life BEGINS with agape. Have you received it?
If so, pass it on! It's too good to keep inside.***

...LIFE death LIFE...

John 12:24-33. ²⁴I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant will be. My father will honor the one who serves me. ²⁷Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ³²But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." ³³He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

Imagine a sub sandwich a million miles long. That's life. Cut it in half and put an inch of limburger cheese or something else that's gross in the middle. That's death. Now close it up. That's life again, a timeline, though timeless forever. Don't think quantity of time. God is big on quality.

"Death" is negligible, with no significance other than a signpost or a stepping-stone.

Verse 24. Enroll in Agriculture 101. Or learn from Jesus: "...unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed...."

We often can't smell past our nose, and even "long-noses" can be short-sighted! We think, for example, that death is the end. That's REALLY DUMB. Think about it. If anything, death has value because it is NOT an end.

Exhibit A.B.C. (Assassination, Brutalization, Corruption) is "good Friday". Not just anybody died that day. SOMEBODY died.

Figuratively, God's children must die to personal ambitions: WHATEVER diminishes grace.

Besides, a thousand years from now, nobody will be asking "What's new in New York, hot in Hollywood, cool in Colorado!" People will be asking "What's the KING of Kings going to do next? What universes will the Carpenter make next?" That's all that's going to matter!

The Muscle Man of all time and space became the Savior of our race, enduring infinite pain for YOU.

Spiritually speaking, what areas in your life are not dead yet, but should be?

Spiritually-physically speaking, when it's time to die, are you ready? You ARE if you have the Son. 1 John 5:11-13. If you don't have Him, you can now.

Forever Happy Feet

John 13:1-17 ..Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love....⁴so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ...¹²When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

The 12 disciples had no clue. I've been to a few "foot-washing services" that were announced and planned WELL in advance. I guess nobody wanted to wash somebody's toenails that hadn't been cleaned since kindergarten, or strip socks that could stand on their own.

Those 24 feet were light-years from being sterilized. They must have stunk seriously. Jesus' love wasn't warm fuzzies; it was washing footsies! His "upper room" goal was to wash hearts.

Verse 30. When Iscariot left, “It was already night” in more ways than one. It was darker than he imagined. In the next three hours, he would lead hell’s horde (John 18:2) for INSTANT CASH. By sunrise, Iscariot would ‘see the light’, repent, and return the money. Too late (Matt. 27:1-5).

Jesus taught about love, and loved. He perfectly represented the magnanimous Majesty of heaven.

Don’t try to change your life. An old man grouched, “I will come to church after I get straightened out”. Sure enough, he died that day and was in church the next day.

Let God change you. It starts with regeneration; John 3:3; 1 Peter 1:23-25. It requires confession of sin and receiving the Savior; John 1:12-14; 29; 1 John 5:11-13. God does the rest, and does it well!

When is the last time your boss, pastor, or parent washed your feet? When is the last time you did it?

You can’t give what you don’t have. If you don’t have the Son, you can receive him now! After He adopts you into his family, he begins to wonderfully change you.

THEN you will make a difference forever and wherever those clean and happy feet take you !

The Only Way, Truth, and Life

John 14:1-6. Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust in me. ²In my father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³And 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. ⁴You know the place where I am going. ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

In other words, remember: 1. don't sweat the small stuff; and, 2. it's all small stuff.

"Don't worry, be happy" floats from the intercom after Southwest Airlines touch tarmac. It's giddy enough to spawn smiles, despite hearing it a silly sillion times. Some folks love it and would dance in the aisle except that you got 100 people jockeying for a leg to stand on while grabbing stuff from the overhead compartment, without bonding to garlicky chubby checker who's already leaning on you and has probably bathed this year, but not for sure. The other 100 folks sitting calmly are wondering how dumb we are, as if tons of people can exit the plane before the door opens. I won't tell you which group I stood with. (oops.)

You're late to work and your cannibal boss says "I want you for lunch!" What to do? PRAY. God will give you wisdom, like maybe pig out on limburger, and kiss the guy. I don't know!

My ball and chain is worry. My God is not tiny, but my trust often is. You know, modern society can be mostly scary. *A young boy was asked in Sunday School "What do you want to be when you grow up?" He answered: "Alive!"*

It shouldn't be that way. The Owner of the sky has a 24-7-52 forever banquet for us, with everything we need; Psalm 23:1; Romans 8: 28-39.

You're tooling down the road. You've got to know where you're headed and how to get there!

Ignorance is not bliss when you're lost. Or when a deranged guy puts a gun to your head and sneers "Are you a Christian?" Or when a demonized terrorist pulls out a grenade at 30,000 feet, saying he's ready to die and asking if you are.

We just need Jesus. Love and light, purity and peace, strength and salvation...it's all there in "the way, the truth, and the life." Pass it on.

Garden Glory

John 15:1-4. ¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

A garden is a signature. In this chapter, “vine” and “branches” are mentioned 9 times each, as is “love”. Of course! That’s just like God the gardener.

IS HE A SUCCESS? I mean, as a wise, strong, and loving grower of people? Jesus had twelve followers, but lost one. God has over 6.6 billion “human plants” at the moment, but many have chosen the 666 mark rather than the 777 message; (Rev. 13:11-18). Some “plants” prefer total darkness. For example, “the fool has said in his heart, ‘NO, God.’ ”

Others LOVE THE LIGHT and are free to be! To be who they’ve been created to be. (2 Cor. 5:17; John 15:1,2,3,5,7,8,16; John 8:31-36; Psalm 1.)

I recently house-sat for a surgeon. I had the run of his square-block Heritage Tour mansion and yard. Strolling through his lush Tropical Forest complete with waterfalls, myriad flora, etc. I came upon a quote from a renowned statesman and empiricist :

***"God Almighty first planted a garden...
and a man shall ever see
that when ages grow to civility and elegancy,
men come to build stately sooner
than to garden finely ,
as if gardening were the greater perfection."
(Sir Frances Bacon, 1625)***

In other words, any engineer can design a mall. You deal with predictable physics, concrete, steel, wood, etc. It takes A LOT MORE to grow graceful but fragile flowers that can flourish in the midst of pantheonic challenges, both animate and inanimate.

Jesus took me in when I was 20. I'm pushing 60 now, but there are still big weeds in my life. HELP! For one thing (the main thing), I don't love well. I got a long ways to grow. I'm worried about feeling out of place in God's home where they only speak love languages.

Despite Gardener-love, we often lust. We wine and dine at the devil's deli, enamored with his tricks and treats, idols and icons, ooohing and aaaahing at the exquisite table settings, totally unaware that the dinner music is a death march.

Thankfully, love is stronger than hate, and any candle will always disperse darkness!

Steel Yourself. Trouble Is Ahead !

John 16:1-4, 33. A time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God. They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. I have told you this, so that when the time comes you will remember that I warned you. I did not tell you this at first because I was with you. I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

God's kids get sneak previews! Unlike us, He is eternal, seeing past, present, and future at the same time. He gives us glimpses so we can plan ahead.

“Word on the street” says your billionaire uncle is gonna get decapitated, decapsized, and even discumbumberated at 5 a.m. tomorrow. You panic ‘cause your name is not in his Will, ‘cause he deleted it when you refused to buy him 10 cheeseburgers at 10 pm 10years ago. What to do now? Plan A and B: GET 10 BURGERS ALREADY, buzz over, butter him up, blurt out apologies, say “I lub you” (not “lube” you), bounce on his bed affectionately but not his lap, coo a little, prep beneficent pens and benignant witnesses, and get your name on that Will ! Oh, don't forget to leave before the hit men arrive at five.

(By the way, that's not in the Bible.)

Verse 2. Contrary to the platitudes of neophyte historians and narcissistic theologians, the human race is NOT moving ahead. Modern men are not any “better” than cave men.

And, as we’ve seen throughout this eye witness account of the apostle John, people of religion can be the most dangerous. It’s no different in the 21st century. Human nature has not improved an iota. Trouble is ahead if you love God more than gold. You may only see bread and water. Get ready.

Let’s steel ourselves now, so we don’t bend or break when the first wind blows in. BUT this is not about positive thinking or self exertion. It’s about knowing and resting in the fact that Jesus overcame the world. His love overcame hate. He can, and wants to, do it again through His children who live as tiny candles in a world of darkness.

Verse 33. God has called us to peace. When you choose Him, you’re never hopeless, or helpless. You’re an overcomer. In the words of the apostle Paul, written from prison: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Phil 4:13.

God is bigger than any problem. Why not remind someone about that today?

Knowing God

John 17:1-3. ¹After Jesus said this, he looked toward Heaven and prayed: “Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. ²For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³Now this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent.

Are You IN ? Card sharks and shysters, before dealing, ask “Who’s in?” We all like the “inside” track, being a member of the cool “inner circle”, “in touch”, etc. LOCATION is everything.

You know where you’ve been (IN a rat-race). When you trust IN Christ alone, his Spirit begins to live IN you. Moment by moment, his Spirit IN you affirms that you’re not alone, and that you have a place IN Heaven forever. To be IN Christ is to belong.

Verse 3. At the last supper, Jesus prayed “Now this is eternal life: that they may *know You*, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent...”

NINE TIMES in John 17 the word “know” shows up. It’s an intimate, pure and growing relationship.

America in the 1960's struggled with what sociologists called the 'sexual revolution'. But they're wrong, actually. It was a search for intimacy, something all humans need, but few pursue it in the right way, time, and place. It's an ideal, and sometimes so lofty that it seems unreachable.

God put those desires for intimacy in us. Since the sin of Adam and Eve, and everyone since, we are born to wander. There's a God-shaped vacuum in all humans that will never be filled or satiated except by the presence of the Holy Spirit. The Bible teaches that this happens at regeneration, when a person is born again. By faith in Jesus alone.

When that happens, life is no longer a dress rehearsal; it's Opening Night every day and night! No regrets and no mediocrity walking with the KING of Kings. It's an intimate relationship that takes time to develop, but the Almighty is pumped to make it happen.

It's Who you know intimately that jumpstarts us to fullness of love, joy, and peace. John 10:10. No need to settle for less, because YOU ARE LOVED.

*What closets does the Holy Spirit need to clean out so that you can experience intimacy with God?
With people?*

The Longest Night

John 18:1-11 When He had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron valley. ...Judas (Iscariot) came to the grove, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons. ⁴Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?" ⁵"Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "I am he," Jesus said. And Judas the traitor was standing there with them. ⁶When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.... ¹⁰Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear.... ¹¹Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"

Vs. 1 "When Jesus had finished praying...", he left. He knew this would be the cruelest and darkest night of eternity. No one else had a clue.

Since no human stuck with Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane, God had to send an angel. Jesus was sweating bullets and "was in great pain, and prayed so sincerely that his sweat fell to the ground like drops of blood:" (Luke 22:44).

Verse 18. “It was cold” in more ways than one, “It was night” (13:30) in more ways than one. Beginning around 9 a.m. the next day, Jesus would experience the vilest darkness of death, absorbing eternal punishment for the sin of all mankind. Those hours on the cross SEEMED LIKE AN ETERNITY because they were! He “became sin”, abhorred by God...for you and me. 2 Corinthians 5:21. It was the only way the Father could render us save-able.

Nobody killed Jesus. He wholly laid down his life intentionally, willingly; (John 10:17). He was dead three days. Then HE ROSE AGAIN. You can't keep God down!

I know the future! Since Jesus “humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross, God exalted him to the highest place, and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus **every knee will bow ...**” (Phil. 2:8-10).

Your knees (all two of them), mine (a couple more), and those of all humanity WILL bow. Your tongue, mine, and that of all humanity WILL confess in worship and reverence that the carpenter of Nazareth is the Creator, the KING of Kings.

It would be MUCH BETTER if our knees and tongue do it now. People get ready, there's a King a 'comin' !

“IT IS FINISHED”

John 19:28-30. ²⁸Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” ²⁹A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. ³⁰When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

The Lamb of God did it all. He PAID THE PRICE of redemption “once and for all”. The transaction is complete, signed, and sealed. It’s done. Finished.

Go ahead and spit in God’s face. That’s what you do when you think you could merit even a millisecond of time or a millimeter of space in Heaven.

WHAT COULD WE EVER DO that is void of personal ambition, that would be a perfectly marvelous fit in Heaven’s trophy case? Hmmm. Ask me next week. If I don’t get back to you the answer is zilch.

For many years, a “Bible woman” in India had been sharing with Anup, a wealthy pearl-diver. The concept of eternal salvation based on God’s “grace” was inconceivable to him. It was ludicrous.

Then tragedy struck. His only son Prasad made an unusually deep dive to retrieve a large pearl oyster. He succeeded, but the pressure was too much. He died the next day. Anup was totally devastated.

He gained some comfort seeing the Bible woman at the funeral. Though he didn't share her foreign religion, he respected her. Two weeks later, she visited Anup's home when he offered her the pearl that cost Prasad his life. She answered carefully, agreeing to accept it on one condition. She said: Thank you so much. I deeply appreciate this gift, knowing that it cost the life of your son. But, I must do my part to pay. Here are two pennies. I'll bring you some more later on."

Anup was perplexed at first, and then furious. He yelled at her. "What? That's disgusting. Get out of my house!" How dare she suggest that her efforts or all the money in the world could somehow pay for the pearl that cost the life of his dear son.

She then explained that "good works" to earn Heaven are filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6) and insults to God. His HOME is open to all who come through Jesus who paid the entry fee with His blood.

Anup was awestruck at God's infinite love. He opened his heart to Christ, humbly receiving the gift of eternal life; (Romans 6:23). Anup became a pastor, eagerly sharing with whoever would humbly receive Christ.

God loves you so much! Make sure that you get your Gift ! If you haven't yet, you can now!

The Reason To Live

John 20:18-31. Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her. On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

.....A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

Mary Magdalene was the first eyewitness of Jesus' resurrection. She had ZERO CREDIBILITY since:

1. She was formerly possessed by 7 demons. It's hard to imagine how grotesque that was.
2. She was an outsider from Magdala, the Timbuktu armpit of that era.
3. Israel was dominated by religious wicked whose claim to fame would be killing Jesus. You would not want ANY of them on your bowling team. According to their mantra, women were akin to dogs.

When you form a franchise, build a hospital, start a school, whatever, you choose reputable board members. Jesus didn't. He chose white trash that had been dirtied in the devil's scum for too long. Then He made Mary Magdalene a trophy of grace!

The Lover of our soul has big plans for U !
Not gloom, but gladness. Not lust, but love.
Not darkness, but delight. Not fear, but faith.
Not strife, but salvation. Not pain, but peace.
Not envy, but enjoyment. Not hatred, but harmony.

God knows us. He says "DON'T BE AFRAID"
365 times in the Bible, one for every day of life.
Sometimes I'm afraid to get out of bed because I
don't know what will happen next!. In my son's
words, it might be "totally freaky".

After that first Easter morning, Jesus kept the message simple. (He didn't want to be confused with Casper the friendly ghost.) John chapter 20 records three times when Jesus said "Peace be to you." He may have said it 100 times that day, as He went from one jaw-dropping friend to another. His message is the same in 2009. "Don't be afraid. I'll never leave you or forsake you."

Your Father's eyes are brimming with joy and love for YOU, even right now. Look up. You'll see!

All We Need Is ...

John 21:4-6. ⁴Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. ⁵He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered. ⁶He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

Vs. 15-17. ¹⁵When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "You know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." ¹⁷The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time. "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep".

Chapter 21 shows how sweet GOD is. He fixed a scrumptious breakfast better than any mom's cooking on the planet. But He also let the fishermen add their catch, which was actually his; verse 3. I have a feeling that they all pigged out (minus the pork) !

Then Jesus gave Peter the test of his life. He asked Peter for a pledge of allegiance. Jesus asked the same question 3x , and Peter answered 3x. (Maybe this was cathartic, erasing Peter's denials 3x a few days earlier). There was no turning back after now.

All we need is assurance that the true and living God loves us. He's not a rinky-dink idol made of steal-able pure gold that any petty thief could pawn for fifty bucks. He's not a figment of imagination, nor an out-to-lunch lord of luscious luminescence.

A carpenter and his son Jimmy made a sailboat. Jimmy kept it in the bathtub, using an electric fan to send it in all directions. One day he took it to the river, never imagining what would happen.

The wind instantly blew it away. Jimmy wept for days. About six months later he was walking with his dad and saw his boat in a display window. They went in and argued with the shopkeeper that it was Jimmy's, but the man was adamant, saying it was for sale, not giveaway. Jimmy went home determined to work as hard as he could to buy it back.

After an eternity of weeks Jimmy returned, not knowing if it would still be there or not. It was! He went in and bought it back. Walking home, he held it close to his heart, and whispered: "For four reasons you shouldn't run away anymore:

1. I made you. 2. I bought you back.
3. I love you. 4. I want you home forever."

Jimmy held the boat to his heart. If little boats could talk...it would have said: "I love you too."

***We too need to come back to God. Every day.
Enjoy the walk in that grace and truth, forever.***

The Author

Robert (Bob) John Mulloy is a follower of God. Along with his winsome wife Mary Emily, Asia has been home for their family for over 20 years. Their dear daughter Amy Christine is an education major in Tennessee, and their sweet son Greg Carver majors in soccer and spinning tales and tails.

Bob's favorite New Testament book (can you guess?) is the gospel written by John the apostle. Bob believes that understanding John 19:30 "IT IS FINISHED" spells the difference between life and death.

Please check out www.thegutsyGod.com to access other devotional materials, some cool jokes, etc..

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Help!

All proceeds from book sales go to buy groceries and school supplies for the pretty girls and sporty guys at the New Faith Family Children's Home in Quatro, Manila. 40 SUPERKIDS. Please partner with us for them. Can do tax receipting too!!!

When the storms come,
and your friends leave,
and your money leaves,
and your health leaves,
all you have to remember

is that
JESUS
ROSE
FROM
THE
DEAD.

“Because I live, you will live.”

JESUS (John 14:19b)

THE OLD MAN was up at 4. By 8 a.m., he had enough fish for his family and extra to sell, so he stopped. A young boy yelled "Heah fool, you should fish longer and make more money. Then you'd be happy." The old man said: " Nope. I already am! "

The Light of Life; Seven-Minute Meditations of Fishermen is a 21-day journey in the 21 chapters of the Injil (gospel) of John. He was "son of thunder" as a teen. We don't know if he was a good fisherman but we know that he walked with Jesus for 3 years. (Good legs!)

The other fisherman is Bob who once coasted here in the Pacific Rim for over 3 hours, but no fish. As I started the engine to head home, a 3-inch minnow flew into the boat, grinning from fin to fin. Maybe it was being chased by the school principal. I probably made its day!

Hope this book makes *your's*..21 times!