

Cell Notes 5 February 2012

PRAYERS THAT MOVE GOD AND BRING CHANGE 3

- 2 Chronicles 33:10-13 (7:14 in action!) Manasseh led Judah into idolatry, then...
- Humility, repentance and heart-felt prayer moved God and brought change
- *People pray when they KNOW that without divine empowering and intervention they have nothing significant to contribute to changing the future for themselves or their society.*
- One of the most influential living leaders in the world (in any field) is...
- ...HM the Queen (moral & spiritual leadership, not political). 60 yrs. tomorrow.
- Has been far more than a ceremonial figurehead, or amiable grandmother...
- Has held back the forces of moral/spiritual decline and disintegration
- Like the Elves in Lord of the Rings who embodied an ancient wisdom, goodness and power to slow the advance of evil and protect places like the Shire
- QE2's influence, example and **prayer** has been a leavening presence, like salt, preserving much that is good and noble in our culture.
- Her death will be serious loss – pray the national anthem (vs. 1 & 4)

What's her secret? (We must learn from her in preparation)

- 1) Sense of duty and destiny (knows who she is and why she's here). Trained by father, George VI (like David/Solomon), a godly, believing monarch (didn't come out in 'King's Speech')
 - 2) Understands servanthood. *I have in sincerity pledged myself to your service, as so many of you are pledged to mine. Throughout all my life and with all my heart I shall strive to be worthy of your trust.* (Coronation Day Broadcast).
 - 3) Takes the anointing of the Holy Spirit seriously – prepared herself for the most solemn moment in her Coronation believing she was receiving divine unction (and did!)
 - 4) Courage in adversity (family problems, weathering unpopularity, death of Diana)
 - 5) Believes in (and practices) prayer. Her speeches frequently mention prayer. 1942 George VI called/led nation to prayer during WW2, big part of our deliverance.
- Apostle straddling 7 mountains of influence (esp. government, family, religion)
 - Head of C of E and Defender of the Faith (Oath of Allegiance) – symbolic/ ceremonial?...
 - Christian Community has shared that role – salt and light; we haven't been powerful enough to turn back the tide of secularism (like Cnut! e.g. HOTS and ASA 'God can heal you')...
 - ...but have slowed it down, preserved some goodness and held back the darkness
 - A losing battle? No. Holding the fort till (revival) reinforcements arrive (from Heaven)!!

Discussion Questions

- 1) In what ways is 2 Chronicles 33:1-13 a fulfilment of 2 Chronicles 7:14? What was it about Manasseh's prayer that moved God so much?
- 2) What can we learn from the Queen's example about giving moral and spiritual leadership and being 'salt and light' in society? Is there more to her than meets the eye?
- 3) If we, under the Queen's leadership, have been able to slow the advance of secularism and unbelief, but not halt it, what will it take to turn it around? (Compare quote bullet point 3)