

QUIET TIME GUIDE
FOR Tuesday 7/1/08
FROM JACK MILLWOOD

Greeting:

If you are one of the very few unfortunate people in the world that has never seen the animated picture “Snow White” you have missed a classic. What a beautiful, and now historic, animation picture. Released in 1937 by Walt Disney, it was the first color feature length animation ever. It is listed in the top 100 films of all time and has been called the “greatest animation film of all time.” The story is of a beautiful young girl who is threatened by an insecure Queen who has been told by the talking “mirror on the wall” that she is no longer the most beautiful woman in the world because Snow White is. (Never tell a woman that another woman is prettier than she is.) So the Queen sets out to destroy Snow White who goes into hiding the woods and ends of meeting seven special friends, adult dwarfs, who love and protect her. These seven dwarfs work in a diamond mine and seek to eventually protect her. When the Queen tries to kill Snow White she puts Snow White into a kind of “sleeping death.” Her dwarf friends build a glass case for her and she stays in there until a Prince comes and kisses her and awakens her from her sleep. With love’s first kiss she awakens and rides off into the sunset, in love forever, with the wicked Queen now dead. My favorite part of the story are the little guys “Doc, Grumpy, Happy, Sleepy, Bashful, Sneezy, and Dopey.” Aren’t those great names? I love them! Did you know that Walt Disney had many other names in mind that he chose not to use? Some of the names he considered were: “Blabby, Jumpy, Shifty, Awful, Bald, Busy, Cranky, Dirty, Dizzy, Flabby, Gabby, Gloomy, Goopy, Graceful, Helpful, Sleazy, Tearful, Thrifty, Wistful, Woeful” and others. I love reading those names. I have often thought that many of us could be named by some of those descriptions. Some days I am “Awful.” I can hear you agreeing now. Some days I am “Busy.” I am “Dopey” a lot. Two of my favorite names however, are names he actually used, “Sleepy” and “Grumpy.” “Sleepy” in the movie is always tired, as attested by his heavy eyelids. His job at the mine is to haul all the diamonds and rubies by cart to “Doc” for inspection. He has the longest beard of the seven and is usually pestered by a fly. “Grumpy” is as his name suggests him to be. He has the biggest nose of the seven and he automatically disapproves of Snow White for the mere fact that she is a woman. However, though initially too proud to show it, deep down he cares perhaps the most for her safety. He repeatedly warns her of the threat posed by the Queen and rushes to Snow White's aid upon realizing that she is in danger, leading the charge himself. Even a guy name “Grumpy” can be a hero! Did you know that I have had both of them in the churches I have served before? There are a lot of Christians who could be described as “Sleepy” and “Grumpy”. The writer of Psalms wrote to them both in Psalm 108. He said to “Sleepy,” “**Awake!**” He challenged “Grumpy” to move beyond his doldrums to “**sing**” and to “**praise.**” Listen to his exhortation to us to change our emotional and spiritual state of mind.

Scripture for today:

Psalm 108: 1 “My heart is steadfast, O God; I will sing and make music with all my soul. 2 Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn. 3 I will praise you, O LORD, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples. 4 For great is your love,

higher than the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies. 5 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, and let your glory be over all the earth. 6 Save us and help us with your right hand, that those you love may be delivered. 7 God has spoken from his sanctuary: "In triumph I will parcel out Shechem and measure off the Valley of Succoth. 8 Gilead is mine, Manasseh is mine; Ephraim is my helmet, Judah my scepter. 9 Moab is my washbasin, upon Edom I toss my sandal; over Philistia I shout in triumph." 10 Who will bring me to the fortified city? Who will lead me to Edom? 11 Is it not you, O God, you who have rejected us and no longer go out with our armies? 12 Give us aid against the enemy, for the help of man is worthless. 13 With God we will gain the victory, and he will trample down our enemies."

Life Application:

Hey "Sleepy" and "Grumpy!" (By the way I put myself into that category as well.) Wake up! Change your attitude. Perhaps today is one of those days you are sleepy and grumpy. Now is that really a way for a Christian to be? As I write this quiet time it has been raining all morning. Early at sunrise this morning out on the church's job site I was hammered by a downpour. That tends to make for a sleepy and grumpy day. However, a Christian is to rise above that. Circumstances are not to dictate his moods. Have you ever thought about how much of a contradiction it is to talk about a "moody Christian?" A Christian is not to be controlled by moods. The Psalmist said: Have a "**steadfast heart.**" Be consistent. Don't be tossed around by the circumstances. Make music in your heart. "*Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn.*"

Spiritual exercise:

Some of us need to hear that message today. Sling off those moods of dreariness and grouchiness and "**sing to the Lord!**" How can you do it? Circumstances don't have to change. It does not matter what the circumstances are. God's love is great! It is "**higher than the heavens.**" It is God's job to "**save us**" as the Psalmist cried out. Think about it. If you are in the hands of God, are you safe? Yes, you are! Do you have anything to fear if you are in God's hands? No. The Psalmist spoke in terms of military battles and military gear but the message is that God is our "**helmet**" and even if we face "**fortified cities**" we are sure of "**victory.**" Romans 8: 31- 32 says "**What can we say about all this? If God is on our side, can anyone be against us? God did not keep back his own Son, but he gave him for us. If God did this, won't he freely give us everything else?**" The Psalmist concluded this Psalm with these words, "**With God we will gain the victory, and he will trample down our enemies.**"

So here is God's word to all of us today. Wake up! Shake off the doldrums. Remember that you are a child of God. Make a joyful noise today.

Thought for the day.

Change your name from "Sleepy" and "Grumpy" to "**Happy!**"