ICC Devotional - 1/3/23

Have you put out the rubbish bins?

James 4:3-4 TPT

And if you ask, you won't receive it for you're asking with corrupt motives, seeking only to fulfill your own selfish desires. [4] You have become spiritual adulterers who are having an affair, an unholy relationship with the world. Don't you know that flirting with the world's values places you at odds with God? Whoever chooses to be the world's friend makes himself God's enemy!

I recently heard a Christian leader talk about what he believed to be the biggest idol in Australian society - the idol of Lifestyles. He talked about our desire for pleasure, holidays, pursuing a certain image and living for ourselves. Like many idols, those things are not wrong, it is important to rest in the Lord, enjoy family holidays etc... However, I believe this goes deeper to our DESIRES.

James states that friendship with the world makes us enemies of God. He goes further to reveal to us that the Holy Spirit in us passionately and intensely desires for more and more of us. In fact, that desire is so intense, He is jealous for you! He is so gracious and loving that he will give more grace to those who humble themselves.

In Philippians 2 - Jesus emptied himself of his kingly and divine rights and privileges as God and became human, taking the humble position of a slave. Likewise, we too can EMPTY ourselves of our opinions, unproductive thoughts, negative attitudes and desires for the things of this world.

Today, let's pray to re-Align our desires and pleasures to be focused on Him. In Isaiah 6, Isaiah's life was changed in an instant when he SAW the King of kings 👑.

Pray: Open our eyes Lord, we want to see Jesus, to reach out and touch him, to say that we love him. More than anything or anyone in this world, I want you Lord Jesus. Fill me Holy Spirit, let me know your heart, your ways, your character, your goodness and your mercy. I love you Lord and I lift my voice to worship you all my days!

Humble yourselves before God, resist the devil and he will flee from you. Come close to God and He will come close to you. Wash your hands you sinners and purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.

Link to all devotionals: iccbrisbane.org/journaling