

## **Twenty-One Day Fast: Day Nineteen – August 26**

### **"We Aren't in Kansas Anymore, Toto" (or Consider Well How You Listen part 2)**

by Marty Barkey

Dorothy, in the Wizard of Oz, said to her dog, "Toto, I've a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore. We must be over the rainbow." The ensuing scenes portrayed lights, very scary images (to a 6 year old) and sounds of evil contrasted with delightful sightings of the beautiful and the good. As a small girl I believed the movie was reality and I was terribly fearful of the evil. I had no capacity to focus on the rainbow because my imagination was extremely creative and vivid images of evil stayed with me for a long time.

Even as an adult I sometimes find myself angry, frustrated, fearful and worried. My thoughts can be riveted on the negative instead of God's Word and His promises. I sometimes don't think realistically about a situation.

### **Parable of the Lamp**

"Now no one after lighting a lamp covers it over with a container, or puts it under a bed; but he puts it on a lamp stand, so that those who come in may see the light.

"For nothing is hidden that will not become evident, nor anything secret that will not be known and come to light. So take care how you listen; for whoever has, to him more shall be given; and whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has shall be taken away from him." Luke 8:16-18 (New American Version)

Dorothy, in the movie, eventually saw and heard truth. She learned a great deal on her journey and faced the unknown and her own fears. She even encouraged others to face their deepest fears.

God's promises aren't 'somewhere over the rainbow'. They are for the here and now--for me to consider and ponder and meditate upon. However, worries and sins can keep me focused and distracted from His promises. As you consider well how you listen during this fast, are there areas of life that distract you? Do you find yourself fearful? Are there people you avoid? We cannot hear God if we are not listening to the 'cues' from God about hindrances.

Nothing is really hidden or secret. We can only push those sins under the rug for so long before life's stresses create situations like vices that squeeze until something has to give. Would you take a moment and quietly consider well how these distractions and fears are hindering you? Would you ask the Father to speak to you about any lies you believe?

As Dorothy said, in the Wizard of OZ, "We aren't in Kansas anymore, Toto." As we fast, it is to our benefit to consider well how we listen and be willing to move into fresh and new and 'over the rainbow' life messages from and with God and others. Let's consider well how we listen. If we don't we'll miss the rainbow full of His promises.

**PRAYER POINT:** Lord, fine-tune our heart to hear Your Heart.