

INSPIRED WORD

February 6, 2019

PRAYER

Lord, let's just give You time tonight; let's recognize what You've done for us. Holy is Your name, O Jesus. Praise Your name, O God. Thank You, Lord. Thank You, Jesus.

PRAYER

Glory to you, O Lord. Jesus, we thank You from the bottom of our hearts. We thank You for Your salvation; we thank You for the mercy that You pour forth upon us, for Your love that You pour forth as well. And for the ability for us to come into this place tonight, away from all the cares of this world, to focus on You, on You, to give You praise, praise from the depths of our being, from our hearts, to glorify Your holy name, O Jesus. We're here, Lord. Thank You, thank You for calling us. Send Your Holy Spirit upon us this evening that we may worship You and praise You from our hearts, from the depths of our being, that we might give You the praise that You deserve. Free us, O God, free us that we can do that. Come, Holy Spirit. Glory to You.

PRAYER / EXHORTATION

O Spirit of the living God, love of the Father, come, Lord. Let Your mighty river flow in this place tonight. Come, Holy Spirit, come. Let us open our hearts to You, to Your loving touch. We want to see You, Lord; we want to draw close.

PRAYER

O Jesus, light of the world. You are the holy one of God, mighty Lord. Glory to You. Holy one, glory to You. Messiah, glory to You. Lion of Judah, we give You praise. Glory! Savior!

SCRIPTURE / SHARING / EXHORTATION

From **Psalm 104:1-4**: *Bless Yahweh, my soul! Yahweh my God, how great you are, clothed in majesty and splendor, wearing the light as a robe. You stretch out the heavens like a tent and build your palace on the waters above, making the clouds your chariot, gliding on the wings of the wind, appointing the winds your messengers and flames of fire your servants.* And it goes on and on and on, and I won't keep reading because it's about a page and a half long, but it says at the end (**v. 33-35**): *I shall sing to Yahweh all my life and make music for my God for as long as I live. May my musings be pleasing to him, for Yahweh gives me joy. May sinners vanish from the earth and the wicked exist no more. Bless Yahweh, my soul! Bless Yahweh, my soul!* And I think that's a big part of what we do here, and sometimes it seems like we're singing and singing and singing and it's like, gah, and if you're not a singer, it's probably like

double gah. But it's that musing as we turn our eyes to the Lord; it bubbles up in a new way and a different way than just words. It's the song of our soul connecting to the Lord of creation who rides the winds on wings like chariots. When the lightning strikes, He speaks to us. When the wind was blowing like crazy today with the pelting little snowballs that grappled my face at lunch, I can say, "Lord, You're speaking to me. You're reminding me You're present. You remind me You're here, and I need to be here in Your presence and be here for You the way You are here for me, that we could be one, one body, one soul, one spirit, one life, one light, one Lord of all." Let us be one with the Lord tonight.

SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

Chapter 19 of Revelation 11-16: *Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed him on white horses. Now out of his mouth goes a sharp sword that with it he should strike the nations and he himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He himself treads the wine presses with a fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he has on his robe and on his side a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords. O Lord, You are indeed King of kings and Lord of lords, and we praise You and exalt You and magnify Your name, for You are the King, the righteous King of kings, for You're righteous in all Your ways. We praise You and exalt You and magnify Your name. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, the King of kings, the righteous risen Lamb of God. Thank You, Lord.*

CONFIRMATION

And I want to confirm that scripture because that was the exact scripture that I was looking for, so thank You, Lord, that You are the King of kings, the Lord of lords.

EXHORTATION

(sung) Praise Him, praise Him all ye little children. God is love; God is love. Praise Him, praise Him all ye little children. God is love; God is love.

PRAYER

O Lord, let us see Your face tonight. Draw us close. Let us see Your glory in this place, Lord. Draw us close. Come, come Holy Spirit, call us, beckon us, draw us close. O Lord, we hunger for You, we hunger for You, Lord, for Your presence. Come, draw us in. Reveal Your face to us tonight, Lord. Draw us in.

SCRIPTURE / WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

As we were singing that song "Into marvelous light I'm running", the Lord brought my attention to the story of the prodigal son, **Luke 16**, and specifically these verses, when he decided to come home. *But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion.*

He ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe, the best one, and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet, and get the fatted calf and kill it. Let us eat it and celebrate, for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate (vs. 20-24). And I just had a sense that the Father is beckoning probably someone here closer. He is just waiting to run, to run, that you can run into His arms, that He can embrace you and say, "It doesn't matter where you've been or what you've done. I am here; I am here." Run into those eyes for "I am running to meet you."

CONFIRMATION

In response to that word, I'd like to do a song that focuses on God's mercy. And it's got a line in here that says: Let kindness lead us to repentance; bring us back again. And that's that running back and celebrating. We fall on our faces in repentance but it's in response to kindness, not anger and judgment. It's the Lord loving us to repentance, not beating us to repentance.

SCRIPTURE / EXHORTATION

Isaiah 40:1, 3-5, 9-11: *Comfort my people, says our God. Comfort them. A voice cries out, "Prepare in the wilderness a road for the Lord. Clear the way in the desert for our God. Fill every valley, level every mountain. The hills will become a plain and the rough country will be made smooth. Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed and all people will see it. The Lord himself has promised this. A voice cries out, "Proclaim a message. Proclaim the good news. Call out with a loud voice, Zion. Announce the good news. Speak out and do not be afraid. Tell the towns of Judah that their God is coming; the sovereign Lord is coming to rule with power, bringing with him the people he has rescued. He will take care of his flock like a shepherd. He will gather the lambs together and carry them in his arms. He will gently lead their mothers. Proclaim the good news. Announce the good news. Their God is coming.*

EXHORTATION

And a voice cries out, "Come. Do not be afraid. Come. Come into my embrace. Come. For I love you. Come."

SCRIPTURE / SHARING / PRAYER

The pool of Bethesda is the site of only two miracles that Jesus performed in Jerusalem, both associated with water. Water is always critical for life in this part of the world. And in **John 5:1-9**, it records: *After these things, there was a feast of the Jews and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem, near the sheep gate, a pool which is called, in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porticos. In these lay a multitude of those who were sick, blind, lame and withered, waiting for the moving of the waters. For an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons*

into the pool and stirred up the water. Whoever stepped in first after the stirring of the water was made well from whatever disease afflicted him. A man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been a long time in that condition, he said to him, "Do you wish to get well?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water's stirred up. But when I am coming, another steps down before me." And Jesus said to him, "Get up. Take up your pallet and walk." Immediately the man became well and picked up his pallet and began to walk. Now it was the Sabbath on that day. And the phrase that really stood out to me in that scripture was that one that Jesus knew he had been in that condition a long time. He knew his brokenness; he didn't have to be told. He could see it; he could see his soul and his heart. He knew he'd been broken for a long time. And too he said, "Do you wish to get well?"- because that's important. He said, "Sir, I want to but I need help" – in a nutshell. And Jesus said to him, "Get up. Pick up your pallet and walk. You don't need the angel; you don't need the stirring waters. You have me, the Savior. And I can heal what has been broken for thirty-eight years. And I can answer the desire of your heart to be well." And Lord, there are parts of us that have been broken for a long time. And Lord, we ask that we answer You, "Yes, we want to be well" and we have the courage to step out of the way we think it has to happen to get well, and just listen for Your voice. And if You say, "Pick up the pallet," we'll pick up the pallet and walk. We don't have to do the gyrations; we don't have to do it the way we think it has to be done. We just have to listen to Your voice and follow Your instructions and You will heal us in Your way. And that could be physical healings or that could be an emotional issue or a hurt that we've been carrying that has crippled us. A lot of us carry crippling wounds inside. But Jesus sees our hearts and He knows our needs and He says, "Pick up your pallet and walk." And one last gift from that passage, the word Bethesda means "house of mercy" and I think that's pretty appropriate to what God's been telling us tonight.

SHARING

I just wanted to share, while Cici was reading that scripture, I was contemplating the song we had just sang, "Prepare the Way", and I was thinking that I'm going through some stuff in my life and the Holy Spirit spoke to me and said that He has prepared me for the stuff that's going on. So that scripture meant something to me, that I'm preparing the way for God but to turn it around and say that the stuff that I'm going through, He's already equipped and He's already prepared me to go through this journey that I'm going through right now.

SHARING

You know, I never understood Jesus' quote that you can't put new wine into an old vessel (**John 5:37**). While we were singing... I'm trying to change in a way. I've gone through a lot of stuff since I arrived in Colorado. I'm anxious and worry a lot, I mean, a lot. So more recently, maybe the past month, I decided that I was going to give that to the Lord, that worry. And whenever I start to worry, to give it to the Lord. Now for me, the story on how he hit a stick and

the river opened and they were able to cross over or Moses was able to cross the river... So I couldn't do that. I visualized a stick and all that worry going away and it wasn't working. So I tried something else. What I did was I lowered it with my hands. So I got all that worry and visualized crossing over out of the worry. And the worry would come back and I'd get frustrated. And that's the old wine, being hard on myself and frustrated. And God told me when I was reading the bible, "You're doing good; you're trying; you're doing good." And I was out hiking and I really love nature because God speaks to me. I was out hiking and the wind was blowing, you know, like my worries and fears; I'm really filled with worry and fear. The winds blowing all over me and I turned and there's a tree and the tree branches, believe it or not, the tree branches were doing exactly what I was doing. All of them, like that, you could see the tree branches. And I just happened to look at it and see this and I've never really seen something... you know how God shows you something for the first time? You never really noticed it before, and you know God is speaking to you. And in that moment I heard God say, "You're doing the right thing. You just have to be patient with it and like, you know, you've seen the tree. It's kind of light and it's kind of neat to watch it because it's almost childlike in a way. Take it easy and don't push things." And you know, the music which is calling to me. It's saying the wine skin is old, get rid of the old when you're trying to change, you know. Forget the worry; forget being frustrated with myself. So I'm really grateful. Thank you, music team; thank you, Holy Spirit. I'm really grateful for the message. Thank you.

WORD OF WISDOM

There's a really neat image of that old wine skin. Wine skins are made of leather, animal skins, and they get stiff because that kind of stuff will – it just gets stiff over time. But new wine ferments; it bubbles; it moves; it grows; it does its thing. And they wouldn't necessarily do it, let it ferment in casts. They put it in the skin and let it ferment in the skin. And you get new wine. Well, if you have a bubbling, fermenting new wine in an old skin, that suckers going to break, it'll blow; it will leak out the edges or it will explode. And Jesus was saying, "You have to have the new skin to go with the new wine because I'm doing a new thing in your life. And the old won't fit anymore. It'll be stiff; it'll feel weird. And it doesn't give me the freedom to do what I want to do with you. So give me it all. I'll give you the new skin and the new wine as well."

SENSE

When Deacon Chuck was praying and said, "Lord, I want to see Your face," the next thing I thought was "Look around. Look around and see my face."

SHARING

Cici, when you read that scripture about the water and the mat, and you know, he was told to stand up and everything, I've been thinking about that since you said that. For me, this is the thought that came into my mind after you said that and it's been kind of sitting in there during these last few songs. I've got a lot on my mat so I think I better take some stuff off because I'm

not going to get to that little pool of water because it's too heavy. I'm not that strong to pull all that stuff. So de-clutter and just focus on the big stuff.

SENSE

One thing I kept hearing was how great is the name of the Lord, how majestic is the name of the Lord, and that we are to magnify it.

SENSE

The Lord asked me to be peaceful, to rest in His love, to rest in His peace.

SENSE

How incredibly God will guide us if we pray, that my need for anything comes out of prayer. That's what's been spoken to me.

SENSE

I think from the beginning when Matt was talking about peace and a couple of other people were talking about that, I really felt the overwhelming sense of peace coming down from the cross, but also on the crossbar, the community reaching out and sending their peace around the church as well. It was really very comforting.

SENSE

It was just sensing God inviting us into the intimacy of His presence and hearing the words to just dwell in His secret place and abide in His shadow, just seeing God's light and also little love notes all around, little love notes from God everywhere.

SENSE

One little counter melody I got tonight was about the wine skins, new wine skins and not the old one. We have the tendency to carry around old wine, and I don't think old wine is necessarily what God wants us to be carrying around right now. I think He wants us to have new wine skins.

SENSE

I really thought God spoke to me, you know, about the man sitting by the well and healing water. And He reminded me today that it doesn't matter how long you've been sick or stuck due to different wounds, you don't have to sit there anymore or feel ashamed or dumb because you have been stuck. But that, you know, with Him giving us faith to believe in Him, we can get up and walk and make a change.

