

INSPIRED WORD
March 20, 2019

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, we just give You this night. We thank You so much for calling us back together again, to worship Your name, to praise You and honor You, to give You glory, to recognize that You are God and we are not. And that is an okay thing. In fact, it's a really good thing. Lord, we just ask that You come upon this place, fill us with Your Holy Spirit tonight, empower us, renew us, strengthen us to be sent back out into the world and into our lives to proclaim Your worship. We ask this in Jesus' holy name, through the intercession of Your mother. Amen

Summary of chapters in "Into His Likeness" – small group discussions on same.

PRAYER

Jesus, glory to You. Lord, send Your Holy Spirit upon us, like those fires at Pentecost. Do you guys need fresh fire tonight? I need fresh fire tonight. Lord, ignite our hearts so that we may join together as this worshipping body to give You mighty praise in this place tonight, Lord. We come here to seek Your face, to give You praise, to glorify Your holy name. And we thank You for allowing us to do it. So pour forth Your Spirit upon us, Lord, and give us that freedom, that joy, that zeal, that energy to raise the roof on this place. Come, Holy Spirit, we invite You, come. Come and touch our hearts; come and fill this place, Lord, this temple, with Your glory.

PRAYER

Lord, we just want to get rid of anything that's not of You or anything that's holding us back. Lord, let us lay down our sorrows and take up Your joy in a new and special way tonight.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You know us deep, You know the depths of our hearts, Lord, and we need not have shame here in this place before You, because nothing, nothing can stop Your love from pouring forth into our hearts and into our souls tonight. Lord, You love us above all. We can't make You stop, and so with that realization, we have that great joy tonight, Lord, that great joy that comes from knowing Your love for us in all circumstances, in all circumstances You call us, call us by name, Jesus. Jesus, Jesus, glory to You.

SHARING / EXHORTATION

Sunday was the feast of the transfiguration and when I was in college I had this really cool experience but I lived with a bunch of women who were very craft-sy kinds of people. And they encouraged me to be a craft-sy kind of person. So one day, Regina, who was the head craft-sy

kind of person, says, "Let's paint." And so she pulled out her paints and said, "Just find paper and let's paint something." Okay, Regina, I've not really done a lot of painting in my day; I've done drawing but not painting. And the only paper I could find was a hot neon pink poster board. Okay, so this looked great at the outset until you start painting on hot pink poster board for a very long time, and your eyes start to bleed from the reflective light. And I was crying as I was painting and the scene I painted was the transfiguration. And I kept it simple; I just kept it, you know, white face, white garment, apostles on the ground in darker colors with their arms covering their faces. And, you know, the combination of that transfigured Jesus in those bright whites, those dazzling whites against that neon hot pink poster board for an hour... that's been 27, 26 years and I can still see that picture as clearly in this moment as the day I painted it. It's been indelibly imprinted on my brain and my eyes. And that's how we should be for our friends and our neighbors and those who need us the most. When they say, "Shine, Jesus, shine," you are the one who is shining because in Christ we can be transfigured as well. We are sons in the Son through baptism; we become adopted children; we become sons in the sun of Jesus. So let us shine through that same way, that someone will recognize Jesus in us so brightly they'll never forget. Shine, Jesus, shine.

WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

Jesus is telling me that there is someone here who has an injured foot of some kind. I don't know which one. It is swollen; it is hot; I don't know if it's infected. But He says He wants to heal it. And then He's also being very specific to me about someone here with a spinal issue and He says that it's L5. I don't know... excuse me for shaking. But anyway, it's L5. I don't know much about the spine; I don't know if it's herniated or if a disk is crumpled or what, but it's causing this person a lot of pain. He definitely wants to heal that tonight. Thank you, Lord. (A man had both issues and was prayed over.)

PRAYER

Lord, let Your Holy Spirit come in power tonight – Your glory, Lord.

PRAYER / SENSE / EXHORTATION

Lord, Your mercy pours forth, Your love, here, now, in this place. I'm getting this word and the word is "release – release – release – release." Perhaps someone is holding something, holding on to something, holding on to something that prevents the full flow of the mercy of God from reaching his heart. Release – release. The Lord calls to release those things that you've been holding that you shouldn't be holding. The Lord calls for release, to release them, to release them to Him, to release them to Him with confidence, to release them to Him, into His hands, and hold them no more. Into Your hands, Jesus.

SHARING

As we were singing this song, I couldn't help but get a little bit teary-eyed because a few years ago this song really was my anthem. And I felt compelled to share this with you because I really felt like somebody might be sitting here tonight with maybe some of the same things, but when this song really became my anthem, I found myself diagnosed with infertility, and it was a very painful season in my life and in my marriage. And this song, as I sat there before the Lord, right there in the back with nobody else looking, and I took that pearl of great price and I laid it before the Lord, and I said, "Jesus, here it is, because with You, everything is raised up." But I don't know whether somebody is sitting here tonight that maybe there's an identity that you thought you were going to have in your life; maybe there's something, an identity part of your life that you maybe need to let go of. That maybe it's not healthy for you to be sitting here, holding on to it. You maybe need to let go. And maybe that pearl of praise that you offer up to the Lord tonight is that thing that you so desperately wanted to have happen in your life, that you so desperately wanted to have your story not be that part. But that's the beauty of the cross and that the resurrection holds is that when we lay ourselves down before the Lord, that when He raises us back up, that grave no longer holds power. You can still look at it and go, "Whoa, that was really painful", but that doesn't mean you have to go back into the grave. So if you're sitting here tonight and maybe that's something you need to deal with, I just really encourage you to do it. There's a prayer team right over here. Maybe find a spot, if you don't want to pray with somebody, maybe find a spot where you can sit and be alone with the Lord. But I highly encourage it.

WORD OF WISDOM

This next prayer speaks to what Ruth was sharing. It's called "He Knows My Name." The chorus is: "He knows my every thought; He sees each tear that falls and hears me when I call". But it also ties back into what Katarina was talking about, that God is the initiator of our discipleship. He's the master who calls us. He sees us under a sycamore tree like Phillip. He sees Peter on a boat. He knows our lives. He knows our name. And He calls us. We just have to say yes.

WORD OF WISDOM

The word of the Lord is living and active and it cuts through bone and marrow and it never returns unfulfilled. And that's one of the reasons that we share scriptures at this meeting every week, because a word may speak to your heart and it may speak to someone else as well, and may be the encouragement or the challenge or the teaching that they need to hear, just like you needed to hear it first.

EXHORTATION

We need to be on the lookout for the Lord's invitation. He speaks to us; He's in us; He's with us all the time. Are we there to hear it? Are we there to respond to it? So that's the invitation.

Let's pay close attention so we can hear when He's there inviting us. Whatever it is He's inviting us to, He doesn't come with empty hands. He gives us all we need to follow Him. So let's expect it and we'll see it, find it and we'll love it. May He help us love and enjoy and pursue and desire all that He brings us to, His perfect will for each of us.