

INSPIRED WORD

May 1, 2019

SHARING / EXHORTATION / PRAYER

As we began to sing that song, I was reminded of yesterday morning. Evelyn and I were on our way to church here and as we dropped down the hill from our home, we encountered really thick fog. You know, when you're in the middle of the fog, you're trying to see where you're going but that fog really bothers your vision quite a bit. You can't really see clearly what you want to see and where you want to go. And I tie that into what happens when we come here sometimes. You know, we come here in a fog sometimes, don't we? And the fog is the concerns of the day or maybe concerns for a friend, an individual, concerns for ourselves, maybe we're hurting or something. And we come here and we're not really prepared and we don't take the time to prepare. And so we sing a song "I Want To See You" but we're singing that song in the fog. And so I'm going to ask you right now to just take a few seconds, just take a few seconds to really be quiet and center yourself. And just imagine... close your eyes and imagine if you could see the Lord, let your imagination go. Ask the Lord to present Himself to you. Close your eyes right now and look into the face of God and say, "Lord, I really do want to see You. And sometimes I walk in a fog, Lord, and the fog of the day prevents me from seeing You. It's not physically seeing You, Lord, it's spiritually seeing You. And so right now, Lord, I just ask You, Lord, help me, help me by clearing that fog, Lord. Help me to focus myself on Your face, Lord. Help me to focus myself on Your being, Your Spirit, Lord. I know You're with me always but sometimes I just don't see You very well. And tonight... tonight I want it to be a real special time, Lord, where I see You, where I hear You, where I feel You, where I can truly say I've experienced You, Lord. And so I give You whatever I came in with, Lord, I give it to You right now. And I say, 'Lord, take it for the hour or so I'm here, Lord. Make it a clear sky. Make it a clear day that I may truly say I have seen You, I have heard You, I have felt You, and I have experienced you.'"

SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

In **Isaiah 6:3-7**, it says: *"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." And the posts of the door were shaken by voice of him who cried out and the house was filled with smoke. So I said, "Woe is me! For I am undone; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged."* Lord, we just praise You for the opportunity to come into Your presence tonight, into Your holy presence. For You are indeed

the Lord of hosts; You are the holy Lord God of all. And we do praise You and exalt You and magnify Your name. For You are the King of kings, the righteous Lamb of God.

CONFIRMATION / SHARING / SENSE

I just wanted to share that when we were doing that song, it just struck me how much it dovetailed with Jimmy's word where Isaiah talked about "I am a man of unclean lips and the coal touched my lips." It was God who made him worthy, who helped cleanse his heart and allowed him to give his life to God. And our response to that is, "My life is in You, my strength is in You." It's not about us. We get that strength from God to give it back to God and I just love that circle. He doesn't expect us to have the strength on our own, to have the strength to give it to Him. He gives us every grace we need to turn our hearts and our lives to Him. So it just felt like it was a good blend. And this next song does the same thing. It says, "Lord, You give life; You give love; You bring light to the darkness." It's that same message that I think the Lord's giving us over and over again for a reason. Mel talked about coming in in a fog. You can't clear your own fog. The Lord has to lift the clouds and bring the sunshine. And He doesn't lift the clouds by giving you more clouds. He lifts the clouds by burning them away in the light of His love, in the light of His Son. That's what lifts the clouds; it's not what we do on our own. So Lord, we just turn our hearts to You.

SCRIPTURE

This is from **Luke 19**, as Jesus is coming into Jerusalem (**v.36-40**): *They spread their cloaks on the roadway as he passed along and on his approach, with the descent from the Mount of Olivet, the entire crowd of disciples began to rejoice and praise God loudly for the display of power they had seen, saying, "Blest is he who comes as King in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." He replied, "If they were to keep silent, I tell you the very stones would cry out."*

WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

While we were singing that song, I heard the words very loudly – "Take courage." Then the next thing that really came to me still strongly was in the movie the "Wizard of Oz," when the great wizard is really just exposed as this man behind the curtain and he doesn't really have any power and he doesn't really have any control. And it's almost as if there's somebody, and I don't know who this is for, but it's almost as if you're in a situation where you're so afraid. I just heard that word – take courage – that what you see in front of you isn't reality. It doesn't have any power over you; it doesn't have any salvation for you; it can't bring you to the place where you are trying to get to. But take courage because Jesus, who conquered sin, who conquered the grave, who conquered death, is here with you right now, right in this moment. Take courage.

SHARING / SCRIPTURE

I couldn't for the life of me find the scripture that says "I am able to sustain those who are weary." This refers to Jesus and the reason why He can sustain the weary is because He placed Himself there, voluntarily. Last week I saw an image in the sky and you know, I'm not talking about a spooky image; I'm just looking at the sky and it was a fluffy cloud. The cloud was opening and it was backlit and a lot of light was coming through that center, blue sky and a lot of light coming through. And pretty often do I image this backlit light because I've been through dark places, several times. But this Jesus is the one. He speaks the word. Jesus is the living Word. He speaks it and it's not an ordinary thing. He's putting life into us. He's speaking and He's giving us His presence. There is a story (**1 Samuel 21:8-9**) about David and he was being pursued by King Saul's jealousy, and while he was running for his life, he came to the Levites and asked for a weapon. He was told that they had no weapon there except for the sword he took from the Philistine Goliath. And he said, "Give it to me. There's none like it." That sword represents the experience of... In the past, (...) hold the word and earlier when he was just a youth, and he faced down Goliath (**1 Samuel 17**). The description of Goliath goes on and on. He had bronze mail, he had bronze sheaths on his shins, he had a helmet, he had javelin, spear and sword. And he didn't even carry his own sword, I mean his shield. He had somebody carry his shield ahead of him. And here was this kid, not exactly a kid but a young man who had not yet reached maturity. And the only thing he was armed with, what the scripture keeps on saying, was, you know, "You come to me with all this stuff and you're approaching the God of Israel. But I come to you in the name of the living God." He had that word; he had that insight. And Jesus is willing to give that, you know. We're lacking in everything; we're lacking in everything but Jesus has poured Himself out over and over. All we have to do is ask and He's gonna put that encouragement that we need to live. We can't act; we can't do anything. We've gotta have that. He is the breath; He's everything and we're nothing.

CONFIRMATION

Thank you for saying that. In this next song, we're talking about Jesus and that's what we're here for. And I really love the chorus part. It says, "Just give me Jesus. Give me Jesus. You can have this world. Just give me Jesus." And really we need nothing but Jesus in our lives and I believe that's what we're here for.

EXHORTATION

Let's just take a moment. The song said, "You can have all this world but just give me Jesus." So what is it in the world that we need to give Him to make space for the Lord? It can be good things or it can be hard things. But let's just stop for a moment and give Him the world, whatever that means for you so there's room for Him in your life tonight.

EXHORTATION / PRAYER

Let's just really continue bringing ourselves to the Lord and asking Him to be the center of our lives. Let His strength and His power fill us to overflowing, to be the living water that bubbles out from a spring that has no beginning and no end. Focus us, Lord, on You. Help us to quit looking at our own belly buttons and get our eyes on the cross and on the resurrection. Be our center.

MESSAGE IN TONGUES

INTERPRETATION

My beloved people, so often have I told you how much I love you. And tonight I want you to hear these words again. I love you. I love you, my beloved ones, and I say to you 'Be not afraid' for that which you fear is nothing in comparison to the might of the love I have for you. You so often see the darkness and I say to you now 'Look for the light.' Look for me, for I am present in your love. I am present in your life always with my love. Be not afraid, my beloved ones. I love you.

SHARING / PRAYER

Last night I gave a gift to my nieces and nephews of a keyboard for their birthdays, their 5-year-old birthdays. And the 2-year-old wanted to play too of course. So we sat on the couch and we were all playing it at the same time and it was quite the cacophony of sounds coming out of this little keyboard. But it's got this thing on it where you can turn on a rhythm and you can turn on an accompaniment as well as regular playing. And the song they knew was "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" so we were playing very simply this song, and Alice wanted to sing it again and again and again, because she's two. So we kept singing "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" and as we were doing that I flipped on the accompaniment, the rhythm so it was a rock rhythm, and I flipped on the accompaniment so we had a whole background symphony going with our "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" melody. And it was pretty cool actually. It sounded neat. But I was just kind of struck by that tonight remembering that. In God's love, we can play the song we're given or the song we know. And it can be as simple as "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star." But God takes that little effort and He expands it and He adds His rhythm and His accompaniment and plays around us until the whole world is more beautiful than it was before, than we thought was possible from "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star." And Lord, we just ask that You would take our song, our darkness that we're fixated on, and get our heads out of that cloud. Let us sing the simple song You've given us so that You can play the accompaniment of the world and bring beauty and life and joy and love to each of Your children, to all of creation through that effort. Play with us, Lord, and we'll all be lifted up by that.