

INSPIRED WORD

May 30, 2018

PRAYER

Lord, we come before You and You know the burdens that we have. You know those that we came in here with, those that we struggle with, the burdens in our families, our friends, the burdens of health, financial burdens, burdens of loneliness. Lord, we give them to You. We ask You to take them from us, Lord, and we give them to You. We want to spend this time here, Lord, for praising You, for praising Your holy name. We want to spend this time here listening to You, Lord, listening to Your voice and Your word. So we ask You, Lord, to take the burdens that we have, take them from us. Don't let us think about them, Lord, while we're here. Just let us praise and worship and glorify You. Amen.

PROPHECY / EXHORTATION / SENSE

We had a very interesting word last week at our praise meeting, and I hope we have the opportunity to sit with that one. We need to reflect on it, and this is just part of what we heard from the Lord. It says, "Can you believe in your heart... (now this is the Lord talking to us as a community). "Can you believe in your heart that even in the difficult times, even in the desert or when the waves are overwhelming and you are in despair and begin to doubt, do you believe when the Father says, 'I love you'? When you have done things that you don't believe you can be forgiven for, in your heart can you believe that the Father says, 'I love you'? And now that you are challenged to, and as I have been saying, to cross the river into uncertainty, perhaps you have some concern or maybe even some fear, can you in your heart believe when the Father says, 'I love you'? For you see, it's not what you have done but it is that you turn around and come back to me because when you do that, then you truly say to me, 'I love You'." I thought that was an interesting word that we had, you know, that in the midst of all the weeks prior where we're going across the Jordan and all the weeks leading up to Pentecost and all the difficulties that we know people do encounter, we heard many of them tonight, the Lord says, "Can you believe in the difficult times, even in the desert or when the waves are overwhelming you, and you are in despair and begin to doubt, do you believe when the Father says, 'I love you'?" That's an interesting question. Do you believe? In fact, there were three questions and all three asked us if we believe. For six weeks the Lord asked us to trust Him to get into the river Jordan or to cross that river, and we're now on the other side. And maybe we are in a little bit of uncertainty, maybe we don't know what's coming, maybe the Lord just wants us to sit for awhile and trust, and trust that when He calls us to get up and move that we're going to be ready to do that. So He addresses some of the situations that we have in life: despair, doubt, hurt, illness, anything we can think of. And He says even in those situations, do you believe when the Father says, "I love you"? And I thought about that and wondered if we

responded to that last week. Did we take the time and respond to the Lord and say, “Yes, Lord, this is what’s in my heart, this is what’s going on”? Did we take time during the week to do that? Because He says, “Now that you are challenged, perhaps you have some concerns, maybe some fears. Can your heart believe when the Father says, ‘I love you’?” Three times God told us that He loved us. The week before that He gave us that word seven times in a row, that “I love you.” And I think He’s saying, “You’ve heard that so I’m asking you a question. When you go through these difficult times, you’ve heard how much I love you. You’ve heard that I rejoice over you with singing. You heard that the Father says ‘I love you’. But do you believe it?” And that’s an interesting question because this is the Lord God who’s saying to us, “Do you believe when the Father says, ‘I love you’?” I think that takes a little bit of pondering. I think the Lord has asked us that question to get our attention and not just to drop some words on the community that we hear and then they’re gone when we walk out the door. I think the Lord wants each of us to spend a little bit of time with Him during this week and answer the question of when we are going through difficult times – doubt, despair, challenges, illness, discouragement – do we believe when the Father says, “I love you”? That’s a question. In fact, that’s three questions that He gave us. And then He says, “Forget about anything that you think is blocking your relationship with me. Forget about it, because when you turn away from that and come back to me, you’re telling me that you love me.” He’s pointing out the difficulties that we face in life and He’s recognizing the fact that we go through doubt, discouragement, sometimes despair. But then He says, “When you get up and take a step toward me, you’re telling me ‘I love You’.” And He tells us right back that He loves us. So we are a small community here tonight, so I’m asking if you can to move up. But this is where the Lord challenges us. When we have a small community, and the Lord gives us a word to speak, do we have the courage to get up and speak it? Because He wants us to, but I think He wants us to remember that as we give that word that He places in our heart, that He’s saying, “Do you believe when the Father says, ‘I love you’?” So if the Lord places something on our heart, an image, a vision, a scripture, a word, we can say, “Lord, do you want me to share this?” He’s going to say “yes” because I know that you believe that the Father loves you.

SCRIPTURE

The Holy Spirit just led me to this where there’s a new image of the Lord. **It’s Psalm 125:2:** *As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about his people, from this time forth and for evermore.* I’ve not ever thought about the Lord being the mountain and I’ve been to Jerusalem and they have maybe hills. But we have Pikes Peak out here and just think of the Lord surrounding us like Pikes Peak, protecting us, keeping us safe.

SCRIPTURE / SHARING

A reading from the holy gospel according to **John:14:6-14:** *Jesus said to Thomas, “I am the way and the truth and the light; no one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”*

Philip said to him, "Master, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." Jesus said to him, "I have been with you for so long a time, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me is doing his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe me because of the works themselves. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father; and whatever you ask in my name, I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything of me in my name, I will do it." The gospel of the Lord. I was invited here by Joe just on kind of a whim, and when I came here two weeks ago, I sat back here and I thought to myself, man, this community's on fire. They've got a fire burning here. But I thought to myself that you need more wood. You need more wood. And I look around and I think if it weren't for a ministry like yours that came to our parish... I mean I've never seen anything like it before in my life. (Testimony)

SHARING / WORDS OF WISDOM / SENSE

Thank you for that. When Denise read her scripture, it really struck me that the Lord will surround us like the mountains. It's because of that mountain that I know north, south, east and west, because the mountain is west. I can see it. That's something that gives me direction, just like this charismatic praise group has given me so much direction in my spiritual life. It's really pointed the way for me to go. All of you, the words we get here, the prophecies, the music, the worship, the prayer, everything has given me personal direction. And then I heard what Greg said about making it more prolific, about taking the bushel basket off, about making it more. I think about what we've talked about, about crossing the Jordan. I don't know about you but I've been coming to this group for probably close to 20 years now, probably 18, and I feel like I've been treasuring it in my heart too much. I've been pondering it to myself too much. And I feel like the Lord is saying, "This is for everyone. Put it out there like the mountain so it can be seen and give direction and give guidance to more people." I don't know how we're going to do that but we have to pray about it. Stop pondering about it in our heart and get going, get doing it. Cross that Jordan and get more prolific with it.

PRAYER

Lord, we just ask that You make that way clear to us. Lord, for 33 years now You've been our guide, You've been our way, You've been our truth, You've been our light. And Lord, You have opened some doors for us to cross through and we have. But we know, Lord, that when You say "Cross the Jordan", it's no more small steps. It's big steps. You are our leader, Lord, You are our guide. You are the one, the light that goes before us. Lord, You said, "Ask and you shall receive." So we ask, Lord, to do in this community what You want done; not what we want done but what You want done, Lord. We ask that You open our mind, open our heart, open our will to Your very presence, Lord. We ask You, Lord, to open the doors and the

windows for the next step that You have planned. And have us not hesitate, Lord, but just to stand up and walk. Thank You, Lord.

WORDS OF KNOWLEDGE

I want to tell Greg that when you came up, my heart was beating like crazy and I kept saying, "Okay, God, what do You want me to say? What do You want me to tell him?" And He said, "I have been waiting for you." Clear as a bell. "I have been waiting for you."

EXHORTATION

Greg and Laura said something and I just heard this from God. He's challenging all of us to just open our eyes to the people around us. I just happened to see Greg and his wife at church and invited both of them to come to this, not knowing what they would say. But I just heard God challenging all of us, and I mean all of us, to get out of our comfort zone again and to go and just talk to people we don't even know, and to just say, "This is an amazing event that happens on Wednesday night. God is there and giving us courage." And I'm the biggest one to sit on the sidelines and go, "Oh, everybody else has to go and do this." But He's challenging all of us.

SCRIPTURE

This is from **Psalm 8:1-9**: *O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name over all the earth! You have exalted your majesty over all the heavens. When I behold your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars which you have set in place; what is man that you should be mindful of him, or the son of man that you should care for him? You have made him little less than the angels and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him rule over the works of your hands, putting all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, yes, and the beast of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever swims in the paths of the sea. O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name over all the earth!*