

INSPIRED WORD

June 6, 2018

SENSE / SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

Prior to the prayer meeting when we were in the back praying, I got the sense of the words "press in". You know, the scriptures... if you look at the story of the woman with the hemorrhage and she pressed in to touch the cloak of the Lord Jesus Christ (**Mark 5:25-34**). And we're here to worship Him tonight. We're here to worship Him tonight and give Him glory so as a body, as a community, let us really press in with praise tonight. Can we press in with praise tonight? With loud voice and sincerity of heart, Lord, we're here and we want to give you glory tonight because You're so worthy of that. We come to praise You. And Lord, we want to be open to Your Holy Spirit too. We open our hearts to receive Him and ask Him to come, come here tonight and fill this temple, come and fill our hearts so that we might be channels of Your love and grace to one another. Glory to You! So we press in.

SHARING

I thought of all the miracles that have been done in this group and the word came to mind. You know how at the end of the gospel it says that not all the works of Jesus Christ are written down in this book because if they were, the book would not be able to contain them. That's what I felt at that moment. Let us praise the Lord for works and miracles that can't be contained in the book.

CONFIRMATION / SCRIPTURE

I got the same confirmation when Eric was walking up here. It's right out of John **14:12** and it says, "*Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these because I am going to the Father.*"

SCRIPTURE

From **Psalms 30:1-4, 11-12**: *I praise you, Lord, because you have saved me. I cry to you for help, O my God, and you healed me, and you kept me from the grave. I was on my way to the depths below but you restored my life. Sing praise to the Lord, O his faithful people! Remember what the Holy One has done and give him thanks! Lord, you have changed my sadness into joyful dance; you have taken away my sorrow and surrounded me with joy, so I will not be silent. I will sing praise to you. Lord, you are my God; I will give you thanks for ever.*

SCRIPTURE

From **Psalm 29:1-2**: *Ascribe to the Lord, O mighty ones, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.*

SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 4:17: *For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.*

SHARING

I kept finding myself drawn to the book the Song of Songs and I kept saying, "Lord, what's the verse that You're trying to have me read here?" And nothing's popping, nothing's coming off the page saying that's the one. And I said, "Then why did you send me to the book?" And He said, "The book, the whole book. You don't have to read it out loud tonight but it's the letter of my love for you. That's what I'm trying to tell you about." And it's an intimate love that God has for His church, that He has for each one of us as individuals. And He asks for us to love Him back with that same deep, intense, giddy at times way but also intense way. He wants to have shared experience; He wants to have joyful, giddy times; He wants to walk through the valley of the shadow of death with us. And at the end, what's left is love – pure, straight, simple love, the giving of yourself to another, the giving of themselves to you in communion, which we celebrate on Sundays and every day all around the world – the communion of love between persons.

IMAGE

As we were praising God the last song or two, I just had an image of Jesus. You know how sometimes we hold our hands up like this? I had an image of Jesus coming to meet us with His hands the same way. And what He did was place His hands on ours, His hands on ours, inviting us to give ourselves to Him and to respond to the love that He has for us – just like that. Glory to You, God.

EXHORTATION

The Lord has been calling us to cross over the Jordan river and we have begun that journey. In fact, I believe we are across and beginning to walk now and this song that I invite you to open your heart to and pray, it talks about the new wine of the Holy Spirit, the new wine that we're asking the Lord to make out of us.

SHARING

I'm just really impressed by just everything that's been going on this evening. You know, just his vision of Jesus reaching out to us, and we holding up our hands. We're asking God to come in our hearts. And it brought to mind what my mom always told me: You take a baby step

toward Jesus and Jesus takes 20 giant steps towards you. And to know this – that we have the power of the Creator of heaven and earth in our hearts and it's a matter of opening up our hearts and mind and praising and glorifying His holy name.

SHARING / PRAYER

I'm still thinking of that image of Chuck's too, where our hands are upraised and Jesus meets us. In fact, Marilyn, would you come here for a moment? That looks like a bridge, doesn't it? Jesus is the bridge to the Father. He's the bridge to eternal life. He paid the complete price. There is nothing that won't be forgiven. All things will be forgiven. If you're willing, close your eyes and reach your hands up in the air like this. Now image Jesus coming to meet palms with you. Pray this prayer with me: Jesus, I need Your love. Enter my life. Forgive me. Lead me to the Father. I love You, Lord. Make me a vessel. Bring new wine out of me. I love You, Jesus. Amen.

SENSE / SCRIPTURE

I keep having the word "bridegroom" often this evening. I don't know which scripture, what it means, even the banner of love. I just can't get the word "bridegroom" out of my head. This is one verse I found from **Isaiah 62:1-3**: *For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till the righteousness shines like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch. The nations will see your righteousness, and all kings your glory. You will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will bestow. You will be a crown of splendor in the Lord's hands, a royal diadem in the hand of your God. And further down in verse 5: As the young man marries the maiden, so will your sons marry you. As a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will God rejoice over you.*

SCRIPTURE

Just the great love of our Father for even the little things in our lives that Barb mentioned earlier. In **Matthew 10:29**: *Are not two little sparrows sold for a penny? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground without our Father knowing about it.*

PRAYER

So, Lord, we give You praise and thanks for bringing us on this journey this evening. In the Spirit of holiness, sanctify Your people. Love of God, sanctify Your people. Spirit of God, make Your people holy.