

INSPIRED WORD

June 10, 2020

SCRIPTURE

John 12:46: *I have come to the world as its light, to keep anyone who believes in me from remaining in the dark.*

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 25:6-8: *On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine, the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations. He will swallow up death for ever. The sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces. He will remove the disgrace of his people from the earth.*

SCRIPTURE / SENSE

Psalms 69 which is subtitled *The Lament* and it's the sense that it's okay to be overwhelmed, that with all the craziness going on, it's overwhelming. He says: *Save me, O God, for the waters have closed over my being and I am sinking in the deepest swamp. There is no firm ground. I have stepped into deep water and the waves are washing over me. I am exhausted from calling out; my throat is hoarse. My eyes are worn out from searching for my God (vs. 1-3).* And it goes on for paragraph after paragraph. And it's that lament of the heart that says, "Lord, I need you. Lord, I'm broken. I'm overwhelmed." But the psalmist comes back at the end with hope. And he says, *"For God will save Zion and rebuild the cities of Judah; and people will live there on their own land. The descendants of his servants will inherit it, and those who love his name will dwell there (vs. 35-36).* And I think the sense is that when we enter fully into our lament, and we let ourselves be overwhelmed, it draws us to God. Then we're rebuilt. It's not rebuilding on our own but it's being completely consumed into Jesus and the Father.

CONFIRMATION / PERSONAL

I confirm that. The Lord has been showing me this week how a lament can be a praise and worship, when we cry out to God, when we know there is nothing left for us to do, nothing we can fix – a mess, a problem that we have, and when we lament and just say, "It's all You, Lord. I give up. I've tried. We need you, Lord. You're the only hope."

PRAYER

I confirm that. God of love and mercy, ease our burdens, calm our anxieties, strengthen our faith, and increase our trust and confidence in Your caring goodness. Bless us each

day with Your healing grace, with health in mind and body, and a heart filled with hope and peace. Grant us the courage we need, dear Lord, to face all difficulties, knowing that with Your help, miracles happen and lives are restored. In Your name, Jesus. Amen.

PRAYER

Lord, I invite You into my life. I know You are with me but am I open to see You? Am I open to hear You? Am I open to know You? I open my heart to You. I open my life to You. I invite You into my life, Lord.

PRAYER

Come, Lord Jesus, You are our only hope. You're the hope for this nation and this world.

PRAYER

Let Your mercy be on us, Lord, as we place our trust in You.

SENSE / EXHORTATION

As the scriptures were read and those prayers were said, I just had a sense, as our hearts were open to that, the peace of the Lord began to settle upon us, and it was almost like He was saying to us that all the distractions that we had at the beginning, this is the way that we can be distracted by everything that's been going on in our world and in our lives. But in those distractions, once we look to His word, pray, and offer and open our hearts to Him, His peace will come and that will make us the radiant light we need to be at this time. Thank You, Lord.

CONFIRMATION / PROPHECY

And I confirm that. I was sitting here awhile ago thinking in all this wind, all this dust, all this cold, all the technology problems, there's one constant. And that is God. And I heard the words, "My beloved, when have I not been with you? When have I not stood aside you, walked with you, held you? When have I not spoken to you and told you that I love you? Concern yourself not with the things around you, for they will tend to pull you away from me. But rather focus on the words that I speak now and focus on the words that I have spoken. And remember the joy that comes when you stay close to me and when you allow me to love you and to hold you and to touch you and caress you. Yes, there are distractions around you. There are things that will pull you away from me. There are things that will take your attention. There are things that may appear more beautiful. There are things that may appear more distractive. But in all of these things, I am here. Focus on me. Remember the words that I have spoken and that I speak now. My beloved ones, my love is greater than anything that will pull you away from me. Stay close to me, my beloved, stay close to me.

PRAYER

Lord, Your voice comes to us this evening in the midst of all the noise around us, all of the turmoil around us. Your voice, that voice of love speaks to our hearts. And we give You praise and we give You thanks, Lord.

SENSE

I continue to get this really strong sense, and perhaps it's for me, but I think it's for all of us, of the Lord saying to us, "Whom have you reached out to, who have you told about me?" And I still have a really strong sense that the Lord is calling us, as He has in the past, to continue, or to start if we haven't done so, to reach out to people. There are a lot of people in darkness, some have been... just loneliness, and others perhaps have lost their jobs. We all know people who are like that, and I have a real strong sense that the Lord is saying to us, "You need to share my love with them."