

INSPIRED WORD
August 2, 2017

PRAYER

Be with us in the garden and be our light, that we may be the light to others in our lives. We ask this through Jesus' holy, blessed name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

In the **Prayer of Azariah and the Song of the Three Young Men, 28-34**: There in the furnace, the three young men and him started singing together in praise of God: *"We praise you, O Lord, the God of our ancestors, may your glorious holy name be held in honor and reverence for ever. May hymns be sung to your glory forever, and may your holy presence be praised in the temple, where you sit on your heavenly throne above the winged creatures and look down to the world of the dead. May you be praised and honored for ever. May hymns be sung to your glory for ever. May you be praised in the dome of the heavens. May hymns be sung to your glory for ever."* Father, we just praise and exalt and magnify Your holy name. For You alone are worthy; You're worthy of honor; You're worthy of glory and worthy of all praise. Father, we just praise and exalt Your holy name and our mouths do not even know how to form the proper praise that's worthy of Your holy name. But we praise You and exalt Your holy name and You alone are worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb, the holy risen Lamb of God. Worthy, worthy, worthy of all praise; worthy, worthy is the Lamb. Halleluiah to the Lamb. All glory to Your name. For You alone are worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb.

PRAYER

We give You praise from the bottom of our hearts.

PRAYER

Come Holy Spirit, we ask for Your holy presence in a mighty way.

SHARING

I just wanted to share something with you because it speaks to my heart like the song said. I've just been reading from this book and it's rather interesting. It's about a man who was given the words and images of Jesus and he writes it as if Jesus is speaking. It's not scripture but it does provide just some insights. Think about evangelization while I'm reading this. (Excerpt from the book "Through the Eyes of Jesus" by C. Alan Ames, pgs 86-87):

"Let us find a place to rest," said Peter. "You must be tired Master, for the people ask so much of You."

A woman who had been following us for some time, but had stayed in the background, came forward. "Lord, I would be happy if You and Your disciples stayed the night at my home." "Don't stay with her," shouted some of the people. "She made money by giving herself to a Roman."

I looked at her and saw a tortured heart within, such pain, such sorrow, and yes, so much love. "Of course we will stay with you," I said.

Matthew spoke, "Is this wise Master, it may upset the townspeople? We do not want to cause trouble or get a bad name."

"If after all this time following Me, you are still worried about the thoughts of others, then you have not been listening to all that I have been teaching you. Never judge others. Leave that to God. Only see in others the chance to help them, the chance to bring them closer to God. If you do anything else, then you do not do My will, you do man's will. Try to remember God is the only judge, and it does not matter what others think of you. Please God in your life, not man. You cannot do both without compromising your service for God, so always put God first," I said.

Matthew replied, "Lord, we are so weak. It is so easy to give in to the pressures others put upon us. It is so easy to return to thinking with our heads instead of our hearts. Forgive us, Lord, and help us to understand better, so we can be more like You."

"One day, My friend, that understanding will come into your heart. One day your spirit will be set on fire with the Spirit of God that will fill you with compassion and love."

The two lines that just stood out for me are: "Only see in others the chance to help them, the chance to bring them closer to God," and then, "It is so easy to return to thinking with our heads instead of our hearts."

PRAYER / EXHORTATION

The time when You mold hearts is now. The time when You transform us that we might look and love and act like You is now. And here in this place we open our hearts to You – now.

SHARING

This morning, as I usually do, I said this prayer and I just wanted to share it with you. It's called "Jesus Calling".

"Bring Me the sacrifice of your time, a precious commodity in this action-addicted world. Few of my children take time to sit quietly in My presence. But for those who do, blessings flow like streams of running water. I, Jesus, the One from whom all blessings flow, am blessed by our time together. This is a deep mystery. Do not try to fathom it. Instead, glorify Me by delighting in Me, enjoying Me now and forever."

I just thought it was so beautiful how the Lord is saying to each one of us that not only should we delight in Him, but He delights in us.

SCRIPTURE / SHARING

Romans 3:23: *...for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God...*. What that means is... This past week I came across some people who had put their faith in man and not in God and in Jesus Christ. And when they found out that person was just another human being, then they kind of lost their faith. So the emphasis on those who evangelize is to make sure that people put their faith in Jesus Christ.

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 102:1-2: *Hear, O Lord, let my cry come to you! Do not hide your face from me in my distress! Incline your ear to me; answer me exceedingly in the day when I call!*

SHARING / WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

So it's really cool how the Holy Spirit works. Just before we sang that song to the Lord, I just had this one word – dance. And I was like, a peace dance? No, a slow I-love-you dance, like a daddy does with his children. I don't know if anybody ever did this but my dad or my mom would let me stand on their feet and we'd dance around. And just to know that freedom of the love, but also the passion that goes behind that love. It's not like "Hey, I love you, Lord" (giggly) but it's an "I'd go to the ends of the earth for you" love. And the sense I'm getting out of this is that there's some of us in here who maybe have forgotten how to dance with Jesus in that way, and just letting Him say, "Gosh, I love you. I think you're amazing. I think you're fantastic. I love you so much. You're doing such a good job." So if you feel that sense from the Lord – "Come dance with Me" – do it, just do it. Nobody cares. We might even join you.

PRAYER

We pray that we might revel in Your love.

(Message in tongues)

INTERPRETATIONS

-Blessed be the Lord God, for God is the one.

-Father.

-Peace be with you. I have breathed on you and the Holy Spirit has been breathed on each and every one of you.

-Are you ready? Have you dressed in the robes for the wedding? Do you come with expectant hearts?

SCRIPTURE

I'm getting **Psalms 46:8-9:** *O come, behold the works of God, the nations at his feet. He breaks the bow, and bends the spear, and tells the wars to cease.*

SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 13:11: *To end then, brothers and sisters, we wish you joy. Try to grow perfect, encourage one another, have a common life, and live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.*

WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

I've been getting the word "animosity." And it could mean that someone here tonight might have unforgiveness or extreme anger toward a person. And the Lord's grace, you know, flows through right here, right now. And although it might seem very, very difficult to deal with that issue, the Lord's strength is present for that. And if you feel in your heart that that may be you, you can call on the strength of the Lord Jesus Christ and say "in the name of Jesus, I forgive."

CONFIRMATION

I confirm that too. I was getting "the seas are rising, the seas are rising." And there's that sense of the seas rising with the animosity of this world that greatly offends God. And we need to pray, pray heartily for those who offend God and pray for those souls in Purgatory.

EXHORTATION / PRAYER

I have the sense that God's grace is flowing through this sanctuary right now. They can open themselves to the grace of God, and change their standing in the course of heaven. And if they do that, there'll be a new day for them and the people around them. Father, we just pray that You'd go ahead and cause this thing to land in a proper way for people, and it would be a proper thing, in Your proper season, and we just praise You, and ask that You would have it happen properly. Your grace, O Lord, that we'd be able to reach out for Your grace. Your grace is what we're seeing, O Lord. We just want Your grace to be our portion in this time. In Jesus' name, we pray. Halleluiah to the Lamb, the holy Lamb of God.

EXHORTATION / PRAYER

...to prepare that way, to make the changes in our lives that lets go of the negative and embrace the Lord, to let go of the hurt and the anger, often so justified where one broken person hurts another broken person. But the Lord promises to walk with us on that journey, to be our strength, to help us prepare the way. He's the one who brings the valleys up and the mountains low and makes a straight pathway in the desert, to lead us to the mountain of the Lord. Lord, walk with us every step of the way. Hold our hand, love on us, help us to become who You've created us to be, for Your glory and the glory of Your world and the church.

PRAYER

Let's just thank the Lord for His holy presence here with us and His action among us. And Lord, You are our strength for the journey. Send us out, Lord. And as we walk from this place in the power of the Holy Spirit, let us be messengers of Your love, messengers of Your

healing, messengers of Your compassion and Your reconciliation. Jesus, we give You praise and we thank You.