

INSPIRED WORD

August 5, 2020

SCRIPTURE / WORDS OF WISDOM / PRAYER

Psalm 4:1-3: *When I call, answer me, God, upholder of my right! In my distress, you have set me at large. Take pity on me and hear my prayer. Children of men, how long will you be heavy of heart? Why love what is vain and chase after illusions? Realize that Yahweh performs wonders for his faithful. Yahweh listens when we call to him. He listens when we call to Him. That's His promise. The chorus in this next song says He's the breath in our lungs so we pour out our praise, we pour out our praise to Him only. And that's that asking so that we can receive, seeking so that we can find, knocking so that it will be opened. Because if we're not listening and looking, it sure can be hard to find God sometimes, but He's there waiting. Like in the story of the prodigal son, the father is there waiting and watching for his son to come home (Luke 15:11-32). And he's not waiting in judgment; he's waiting in love and anticipation. And Lord, we just ask that You would help us to have the courage to run to You, to leave behind our sin, leave behind our self-recriminations, and just come home to the Father.*

PRAYER

O Lord, let Your holy mercy come. Let Your light penetrate the darkness, O God. Let Your light, O Jesus, bring truth. Let Your love, O God, bring healing. Let Your mercy, O God, bring unity. Lord, we cry out to You. Spirit of the Living God, we know that nothing we do, nothing we do has power except through You. So we ask You, O Holy Spirit, to come here into this place, come here into our homes, come here into our hearts, come here into this community. And Lord, we ask You with confidence. We ask You and we know You hear, and You say to us, "Ask and you shall receive." So we ask tonight. Lord, come with Your love, come with Your mercy, with Your power, with Your gifts, come. Come. Your people call to You.

PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, You are welcome here. We invite You to fill our hearts in a new way tonight. Draw us together and give us a sense of Your peace.

SHARING

I'm reading from a book called "Jesus Calling" and the reading for today is: Sit quietly in my presence while I bless you. Make your mind like a still pool of water, ready to receive whatever thoughts I drop into it. Rest in my sufficiency as you consider the challenges this day presents. Do not weary yourself by worrying about whether you can cope with the pressures. Keep looking to me and communicating with me as we walk through this day together. Remember that you are royalty in my kingdom.

SCRIPTURE

I got this verse from **Isaiah 46:9:** *I am God; there is no other. I am God; there is none like me. At the beginning, I foretell the outcome in advance, things not yet done. I say that my plan shall stand. I accomplish my every purpose.*

SCRIPTURE / SHARING

From today's mass reading, Jeremiah 31:3: God says, *"With an age old love I have loved you; so I have kept my mercy toward you."* And the phrase "age old" struck me. It's not a young love; it's not fragile. It doesn't run away; it doesn't give way. It's age old and it stands. It can stand through anything.

SHARING / PROPHECY

One of the first songs we sang was the "Our Father" and when Chuck mentioned the kingdom of God, it really struck me and I've just been spending a lot of time thinking about that. And at first I thought to myself how the kingdom of God can change just as we travel from one mile to another mile or hundreds of miles or other countries. But it's all the kingdom of God. And it may change but the one thing that has never changed, even through time, is God Himself. God's love, God's mercy, God's forgiveness – God has always been and continues to be with us. And that is the God who says to us now, "You, my beloved, are my kingdom. You Joe, you Barb, you Marianne, you Phyllis, you Betsy, you Bob, you are my kingdom. And I call to you and I say to you, this is what I say to you: Invite others to my kingdom for it is not just for you. It is broad; it is big; it is timeless – as is my love. And there is room for many. And I say to you to invite others to my kingdom. Have them enjoy what you enjoy. Allow me to pour my breath out on them as I have poured it out on you. I love you, my beloved, I love you. I love you."

SCRIPTURE / SHARING

The second half of **Psalms 4** that we started with says (**vs.4-8**): *Be careful not to sin. Speak with your hearts, and on your beds, keep silent. Loyally offer sacrifices and trust in Yahweh. Many keep saying, "Who will put happiness before our eyes?" Let the light of your face shine on us, God. Yahweh, to my heart you are a richer joy than all of their corn and new wine. In peace I lay down and at once fall asleep. For it is you and none other, Yahweh, who make me rest secure.* I just felt that was a bit of a confirmation to Mel's word that people are looking for happiness. They're looking in food and alcohol and friendship and in all sorts of places, and some of it's good and some of it's gone sideways on them. But we know a God who's a richer joy than all those things. And are we holding it to ourselves or are we sharing Him? Are we asking that His light shine on us and on those who are seeking so that they too may fall asleep and rest secure both now and in the age to come?

SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

In **Job 42:1-5**, Job is speaking to the Lord, and he says, *"I know, Lord, that you are all powerful, that you can do everything you want. You ask how I dare question your wisdom when I am so very ignorant. I talked about things I did not understand, about marvels too great for me to know. You told me to listen while you spoke. In the past I knew only what others had told me. But now I have seen you with my own eyes."* O Lord, through Your grace we have seen You. And through Your grace we trust in You. And even if it's beyond our understanding and we don't know what's happening to us or why, we place our trust, O Jesus, in You and in Your eternal plan for each one of us. O Jesus, Good Shepherd, we love You.

WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

I'm getting the sense that someone is really hurting tonight. I don't know if it's physical or emotional or spiritual, I don't know but I have the sense that someone is really, really struggling with something.

SHARING

We hear a call to go forth and share the kingdom and that sharing brought back to me when I was asking the Lord the other morning, you know, there's so much going on. What can my little prayer do to help that? I wish it could be more. And as He does so many times, He just kind of laughed at me and said, "O little one, don't you know? When you pray, you put it in my hands, and when you put it in my hands, I'm the one that has the power." And He reminded me of the yeast, the tiny little bit of yeast that was put into the bread and it just makes the dough grow really big. So when we pray, when we share, we may think it's not doing that much good but I'll do it. We're basically giving it to Him and He is the one who causes it to be.