

INSPIRED WORD
August 29, 2018

PRAYER

Lord, we come here to praise and honor You. We give You thanks for all the blessings that You have bestowed upon us and we come here, sometimes imperfect as we are, and we have things that weigh us down. We ask You to take those from us, Lord, truly take them to free our mind and our heart and our body and our spirit so that we can praise You with our whole being tonight. In Your holy name we pray, amen.

SCRIPTURE / SHARING / EXHORTATION

I want to share with you a couple of verses from **Psalm 34:1-3**: *I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.* That's what we're going to do tonight. I looked at a commentary on this scripture and I just want to relay on what that commentary said about the first verse: I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. It said we will bless the Lord. We will praise him. We will be thankful to him for his mercies. We will always express our sense for his goodness. At all times means in every situation in life, in every event, in prosperity, in adversity, in safety, in danger, in joy and in sorrow, we will praise the Lord. His praise shall continually be in my mouth. I will constantly be uttering his praises. Whatever may occur, my thanks shall be unceasing. In the storms of life as well as the sunshine of life, my praises will be unceasing. That's why we come here, you know. So how should we apply that verse here tonight? I thought about that and I reflected on it and I thought that over the last several weeks, actually over the last two months, we've had many teachings on the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We're called to use these gifts, that's how we praise God. That's how we praise Him in this community and beyond. We're called to welcome the gifts He gives us. We should seek them, pray for them, use them. Last week, the Lord gave us an inspired scripture about the shepherd who did not take care of the sheep. And what was the result of that inspired scripture? Many people in this community needed to be ministered to. And as a result of that inspired scripture, the community stepped up, prayed for these people, here in the front as well as in the back. And the Lord's peace and the Lord's love was brought to these people. We gave praise to the Lord by using the gift that He gave us in this community to step up and to speak and to do something that honors Him. And that's what we're called to do tonight. We're called to say, "Lord, use me. I'm available. I'm ready. I just want to hear Your voice, Lord. Give me the nudge. Tell me what You want me to say. Give me the scripture and I will say it. Give me the word and I will speak it, Lord." We don't want to sit silently. If our heart is being moved, we want to come up here. We want to share whatever is in our heart because it brings praise and honor and glory to Jesus Christ. Thank You, Lord.

SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

This goes right with what was being said. I ran across this today and it really lodged itself in my heart and spirit. It's **Psalm 118:1-4, 29**: *O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his mercy endures forever. Let Israel say, "His mercy endures for ever." Let the house of Aaron now say, "His mercy endures for ever." Let those who fear the Lord now say, "His mercy endures for ever." O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures for ever.* O Lord, we know that Your mercy endures forever. We praise You and exalt You and magnify Your holy name, for You alone are worthy. Worthy, worthy is the Lamb, worthy of honor and worthy of glory and worthy of all praise. Worthy, worthy, worthy are you, O Lord, for indeed Your mercy endures forever.

PRAYER

Lord, we are talking Jesus! That is our purpose for being here, to remind ourselves of Your glory, Your strength, and all that You do for us, and in us, and with us, and through us. Lord, help us give our lives to You tonight, to focus on holiness, choosing You above all else, that we can truly reflect the light that is You within us.

EXHORTATIONS / PRAYER / SCRIPTURE

So tonight we're not doing a big teaching. Our big teaching tonight was our thanksgivings. It was to teach ourselves to be thankful for the Lord. And in all the insecurities and all the frustrations of this time and this place in our world, we turn around and we come back to God. We thank Him for all that we are, because He has not changed one bit. He is the founder and source of our faith, and if we don't get that, we've missed the boat. So Lord, help us be like the tenth leper who turned around on the road after he experienced healing in his life, and he came back to say thank You (**Luke 17:11-19**). Lord, we've all experienced healing in so many ways at Your hand. You've touched our hearts; You've taught us love; You've held us close in the most difficult hours of our existence, and we say thank You, and we come back to praise You. And that leper was told, "*Your faith has saved you.*" Lord, let our faith be strengthened in Your love.

PRAYER

Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening, fill our hearts. Speak, Lord. May we turn our eyes towards You and see Your face.

PROPHECY

It's kind of an odd word but you give what you get. The Lord is just saying, "Take off your shoes for you are on holy ground." And I don't know if anybody is brave enough to let their socks see the light of day, you can do it figuratively or literally, but I want us to recognize... I think the Lord is calling us to recognize that He is here and because He is here, we are on holy

ground. Those who didn't hear, I said take off your shoes; you are on holy ground. And no one will tease you about your socks.

SHARING

As I was pondering that song, the words of that song, I thought to myself that I think I know why they titled that song "Ten Thousand Ways", because there's so many... everything that happens to us we should thank the Lord for that. But I thought to myself that that song could have easily been written or named "One Reason". We really don't need ten thousand reasons to praise, we only need one reason, and that's because He is. We should praise God as those words say, not just because of what He's done for us, but just because He is.

IMAGE / SCRIPTURE

I was getting an image of a veil and I couldn't see through it. And I was then thinking of **2 Corinthians 3:15-18**: *Even to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil covers the forehead, but whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we who with unveiled faces, all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever increasing glory which comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*

SHARING / PRAYER

I really bore witness to what you said about the shoes. But when we come in here, we need to be careful when we come in with a right heart and a proper attitude, because we are in the presence of the King of glory, the Lord of hosts, the most high God, the most high God, the Creator of the universe. And sometimes I am as guilty of it as anybody; it's like... I'm not saying that anybody else is guilty of it but I come in here and I just, you know, kind of go through the motions, or we're just kind of going through it because it's Wednesday night and it's what we're supposed to do, and we're supposed to do it a certain way, and we've got everything worked out in our heads how it's supposed to go and I don't think that's what God intended for us to do. In fact, I don't think He is honored by that at all. Father, we just... me specifically, Lord, I just want to humble myself before You and just ask Your forgiveness. Forgive me, Lord, for my improper attitudes, any arrogance that I might have, any pride. I just ask that You will forgive me. I just praise You and exalt You and magnify Your name, for You alone are worthy. You are the worthy one; You are the holy one; You are the holy, holy, holy Lord of all. O Lord Jesus, You are the righteous King of kings; You are the Prince of peace; You are the righteous one. We praise You and exalt You and exalt Your holy name, for you alone are worthy, worthy of all honor, worthy of all praise.

PRAYER

Lord, we thank You for allowing us to be here. We thank You for moving us to this place. We thank You, Lord, for having us come to seek You, to seek Your face. Let us always look to

You, Lord Jesus. Let us always give You the praise and the honor and the glory worthy of You. Thank You, Lord, for calling us here. Thank You, Lord, for being with us in this place.

PRAYER

Lord, we make it simple. It's all about You. You are so good.

SCRIPTURE / PROPHECY

As we were singing that song to the Lord, it was brought to my mind how when Jesus died on the cross, the curtain to the inner Holy of Holies was torn straight in half (**Matthew 27:51**). And the sense that I had with that image, of just kind of watching that happen, of just that veil... it wasn't like a thin, wispy veil. It was like a legit curtain, a heavy weight curtain that just tore in half to the bottom. And the sense that I had with that image of singing to the Lord in His holy place was just this sense of "I've been waiting for you. I've been waiting for you. I did whatever it took to be able to invite you to come into this place, to come into my holy of holies where I dwell in my awesomeness. I don't dwell in that space anymore but I come to you. But I want to take you back to that spot. I've been waiting for you."

PRAYER

Thank You, Lord, for tearing the curtain, shredding the veil, for breaking down the walls. Thank You, Lord, thank You, Lord, that You love us so much. Lord, we can only imagine how wide and how deep and how great Your love is for us, Lord. We ask for that glimpse, a glimpse of that love to be in our hearts, and we ask You, Lord, to have us strive to share that love the way You want it shared. The way You love us is how You want us to love others. Thank You for tearing that veil; thank You for moving our hearts. Help us, Lord, to know, to understand and to share Your great love.

SHARING / SCRIPTURE

The word that's been with me for quite awhile tonight is just awe, awe of the Lord, awe of the Father, just the creation, for what He's done for us. The scripture came to mind, and I can't quote it because I don't know where it is, maybe someone else does, but Paul talks about giving praise to the Lord even though he's been shipwrecked, beaten up, left for dead and a bunch of other things I can't remember so if anybody has that... (**2 Corinthians 11:23-31**)

CONFIRMATION

The first line of the next song is: I am standing beneath your wings. I am resting in your shelter. Your great faithfulness has been my shield and it makes me want to sing. That's real confirmation of Doug's scripture summary because that's what Paul's life was about. The guy did get beat up an awful lot, and stoned, and thrown out of cities, and he kept coming back for more – over and over and over again. Everybody else said, "You are crazy. Why would you go back to that town? They just stoned you, threw rocks at your head, tried to kill you. And you

want to go back and praise the Lord and teach them about the love of God?" Because the Lord's great faithfulness has been his shield, it made him want to sing the praises of God. We experience that in our own lives. What is our shield? Where do we hide? Or does it make us want to sing even more?

PRAYER

Thank You, Lord, for bearing our burdens. Lord, we go through life and sometimes we focus on the things that keep us down, the things that depress us, the things that hold us back. They stay heavily on our mind, Lord, and sometimes we don't think, we don't think to come to You and to just say, "Lord, this burden is too heavy. Lord, I can't carry it another step. I can't lift it, Lord. I can't move it anymore, Lord. It just presses me down." But we hear these words, Lord, that daily You bear our burdens. Let us never forget that, Lord. Let us place that in our mind and in our heart and in our being that You carry more of the burden than we carry ourselves. And we give You all the praise and the honor and the thanks and the glory for that, Lord.

EXHORTATION / PRAYER

We come here with our burdens and we need to unburden ourselves. The Father's arms are opened wide. Forgiveness was bought with the precious blood of Jesus Christ. I'm going to ask the praise team if they'll pray that song again. I believe the Lord wants us to know and understand the mercy of the Father's heart, the love that Jesus has for us, and the power of the Holy Spirit that draws us to both. Thank You, Lord Jesus, thank You, Father God, for Your open arms. Thank You for running toward us even as we run away. Thank You, Father God.

SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

In John 6, I just feel like the culmination of this song. It's **John 6:35** that we've listened to at mass for weeks, the bread of life discourse that says, "*I am the bread of life. He who comes to me shall never hunger.*" It is His body, His blood that give us life. And when they couldn't understand it and they couldn't accept it, He turned to the disciples, because it was hard words; it wasn't easy stuff (surrendering is never easy stuff), and Jesus said to the twelve (**John 6:67-70**), "*What about you? Do you want to go away too?*" And Simon Peter said, "*Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the message of eternal life. And we believe and have come to know that you are the holy one of God.*" Jesus replied to them, "*Did I not choose the twelve of you?*" But there was still one who betrayed Him. It was a mixed bag from the beginning. But who do we go to? Lord, where else can we go? You have the words of eternal life. You are the bread of life, and You feed us, Lord. You feed our souls, our spirits, our bodies, the community with love, with the word of God in the gospels and scriptures and in our hearts and our prayers, to each other and through each other and the Holy Spirit and the gifts active and alive in us. Lord, You are the words of eternal life. Where else can we go?

CONFIRMATION

And I confirm that scripture. Thank You, Lord.

SHARING

It was me that turned down the lights earlier tonight so it would be a better atmosphere. And I know I failed and someone came up and turned them on. But me being me, of course I thought, "Oh my god, what did I do? People don't like this." And I was kind of feeling sad. During one of the songs I had my head down and my legs start shaking. And I hear... the sin I see is a shadow, the doing wrong. It's not the truth; it's external. It's the heart; it's the love that's there. So Jesus Christ was kind of reminding me when I was overcome with all this weight, which was really nothing, that to focus on the love that was there. So that was just a little thing I learned tonight.

IMAGE

I heard this earlier but I couldn't figure out where it fit. In the beginning I heard something cracking open and something was being handed to all of us. And I prayed as to what that was, and the sense now that is coming over me is the something that was cracked open is the collective you. I asked for the word and He said, "You as a group are being cracked open." He is handing something to each of us.

CONFIRMATION

I confirm that. As we go deeper, there's something that... we're just going to have to trust.

SHARING

I don't know if this is the word or not but this was on my heart for the last week or so. With all the scandals that are happening in the church, a lot of people are, not losing faith, but they're weakening in their faith. Now is not the time to give up. Like in every race, when you hit that wall, you don't stop and quit. You dig deeper for that extra strength that you have in reserve. And you pray harder and you increase your faith but never, never give up. The secular world wants us to give up and that's why they attack like they do. So stay firm, stay constant and remain in your faith.

PROPHECY

And now I say to you, my beloved, indeed tonight I have opened my arms to you. And tonight I have said to you that I will give you what you need to stand firm. Believe in me, look to me, be drawn not to that which is wicked and evil. But remember, my arms were open on the cross and my arms remain open to you. When you feel weak, come to me and allow me to hold you. I have spoken to you in the past and said to you that my love is greater than anything. And I say to you now, my arms are open to you. My love is available to you. Be strong in me, stand firm.

SHARING

I'd like to share something really quick. I was trying to find it but I can't seem to find it. Sherry Weddell who was the lady who helped start the Catharine of Siena Institute and has been teaching literally all over the world with bishops and cardinals and archbishops and parishes about forming intentional disciples, posted something recently. And her comment was that God knew - that was kind of the heart of it. We've had all this trouble in the last 70 years that it's been brewing and under the surface, but in that same 50 years and in even in the last five or ten years, He has raised up charismatic renewal; He's raised up Marian movements; He's raised up intentional discipleship; He's had bishops and archbishops calling and begging her to come to dioceses all over the country to teach them how to teach people how to follow Christ, to raise up this laity, this body of people who are desiring holiness in a way that it hasn't been in a long time and in an intentional way of following Jesus. Her comment was just that if this had even broken in '88, we wouldn't have been ready. The church wouldn't have been ready to respond. But He's raising up people and saying to them to be holy, desire holiness, come praying, caring for each other; it's fasting; it's everything. It's being that witness, desiring Christ beyond everything else. And that's how the Church will heal and become the witness as it's supposed to be. Only then will it become the witness it's supposed to be, because it was always supposed to be everyone coming to Christ, not just leaders coming to Christ but every human soul. The Father has no grandchildren; He only has His children. We all have to make that decision for ourselves to come to the Lord and experience His grace.

PRAYER / EXHORTATION

And all we can say is thank You, Lord. Thank You, Lord, for Your words of love tonight. Thank You for Your words of encouragement and Your words of endurance. Thank You, Lord, for telling us to stand firm and never give up. But You told us something else, Lord, and we want to take that with us as we leave here tonight. We heard it in song: Leave behind your regrets and mistakes. And that's what the Lord wants us to do. Not in a flippant way, not just saying here it is, but to sit down with our heart open and talk to Him, and say, "Lord, I do come to You. I want to be that immovable rock You want me to be but this is what weighs me down, Lord. These are my regrets, these are my mistakes. I can't seem to shake them." And He reminded us that His arms are open wide, and that's where He wants us to run to, right into His arms, and all we have to do is say, "Lord, here are my regrets and my mistakes." And we thank You, Lord. We thank You, Lord, for the blessings of this night and we thank You, Lord, for Your words to us. We thank You, Lord, for the beautiful, inspired praise music that You gave us and we give all the honor and glory to You. Amen.