

INSPIRED WORD
September 20, 2017

EXHORTATION / SCRIPTURE / INSPIRED TEACHING

I'd like to begin this evening with a reading from the Gospel of John. And you may be thinking, "Oh, we've heard Gospels so many times, every time we go to mass. Why would we read from that again?" And I'm inviting you to look at it with different kinds of eyes today, especially the Gospel of John. There are so many layers and layers and layers of meaning. Let's try to look at another one today. It's the story of the woman at the well. And maybe to give you a hint of another layer, do you remember what usually happens at the well? When a young Jewish man, not married, comes to the well, what happens? What about Moses and Zipporah? What about Jacob? Who did he get to talk to at the well? So, with that perspective, let's listen to this one. Now it's Jesus at the well, young Jesus talking to a woman. See what happens. It's in Samaria and it's at Jacob's well. **John 4:7-21**: *A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans, a woman especially. But Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." And the woman said to him, "Sir, you don't even have a bucket and the cistern is deep. Where then can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this cistern and drank from it himself with his children and his flocks?" Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again. But whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst. The water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." And Jesus said to her, "Go call your husband and come back." The woman answered and said to him, "I do not have a husband." And Jesus answered her, "You are right in saying you do not have a husband. For you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true." The woman said to him, "Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain. But you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem." And Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem." Are you in this story? Is any of you in this story? Where are we in that story? I would suggest that... theologians say that those five husbands that the woman had before correspond to five false gods that those people worshipped along side the true God. And so in her situation, the woman is used goods, so many husbands, nobody wants her anymore. So she has, out of desperation, some kind of guy whom she's not even married to, a lonely woman at the well, comes at noon so nobody sees her, so she doesn't have to face people.*

Did she make her own choices? Did those men make wrong choices? We don't know. But we know that she suffers the consequences of lots of wrong choices. So I suggest to you that you are that woman. I am that woman. I make wrong choices. I set wrong priorities. I forget who is first, who is my first husband. Jesus is the bridegroom, isn't He? To each of us. So before we start this evening, let's take a few moments of silence with Him. Think about the bridegroom we have. What a bridegroom! Have we been faithful? He has so many gifts to offer; He offers so many gifts. Have we received? Have we opened? Have we obeyed? Have we loved? What have we done with what He has given us? And He will never stop loving us, and He will always call us back.

SCRIPTURE

Song of Solomon 2:13-14: *Arise, my beloved, my beautiful one, and come. Come, my dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the secret recesses of the cliff. Let me see you; let me hear your voice, for your voice is sweet, and you are lovely.*

We're going to have Marilyn review now the Inspired Word that we've had for over the last several months. We like to do this because if God speaks, when He speaks through scripture, prophecy, we want to ponder those words and take them to heart and not just listen to them here but review them and pray over them and live them. So let's hear that review.

So this is three months of the Inspired Word. And as you can see by the PowerPoint and Bev very nicely played the song for us, "You are my Prince of Peace; I will live my life for You," this is the theme that the Lord put forth during this three month time. And we're going to go over some of the things that God is and what He does for us. He offers us protection; He shepherds us; He offers us mercy and healing; and then He gives us gifts and sends us out on a mission. And then we'll have a reflection paper at the end as well.

SCRIPTURE

So the first scripture really sums it up. It's from **Psalm 18:1-3** and this is David saying these words: *"I love You, Lord, my strength. The Lord is my Rock, my Fortress, and my Deliverer; my God is my Rock, in Whom I take refuge. He is my Shield and the Horn of my salvation, my Stronghold. I call to the Lord, Who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies."* Then David goes on to list all of the things that the Lord has done for him. Then he concludes by saying, *"Therefore I will praise You among the nations, O Lord; I will sing praises to Your Name"* (**Psalm 18:49**).

IMAGE

And then from August 24, at the beginning of this praise and worship, we sang, "My Prince of Peace and I will live my life for You." At that time I saw an image of Jesus Who

was sitting on a low stool here in the sanctuary on the top step by the altar. He was just sitting there waiting and He is waiting for us to surrender our lives to Him.

PRAYER

And then a prayer from that same evening: Lord Jesus, we love You! We are here to surrender our lives, our hopes and desires, our cares, our fears, and our weaknesses to You, Lord, to surrender to Your will. We surrender all to you for Your mercy, Your healing and forgiveness. Lord, we know that You will never turn away from anyone who comes to You. For all who come to You, You stretch out Your arms and embrace them and fill them with Your love. O Jesus! O Jesus, help us to surrender to You now!

SCRIPTURE

So God offers protection when we're afraid. Many times in the Bible, He offers protection. So let's read a few of these from our word. From **Isaiah 43:1-2**: *"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; in the rivers you shall not drown."*

PRAYER

And from a prayer on August 10th: Lord, You know the things that are in our hearts more than we know them ourselves. You know the things that are in our minds, the fears that we have, the problems and difficulties that we face.

CONFIRMATION

And then a confirmation: Sometimes this scripture (Ephesians 6:10-18 when you put on the armor of God) sounds a little scary, but then we hear "Fear not!" Sometimes I think that we get a little afraid of that sacrifice because we focus on what we will lose, not on what we will gain when we place it on the altar of the Lord. But the Lord tells us, "Fear not, for I am with you."

SCRIPTURE

And again from **Isaiah 2:1-3**: *In the days to come, the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest mountain and raised above the hills. All nations shall stream toward it; many people shall come and say: "Come, let us climb the Lord's mountain, to the house of the God of Jacob that He may instruct us in His ways, and we may walk in His paths."* I think that this is the point of 'fear not' – be not afraid to come up the mountain and be taught by the Lord to walk in His ways.

SCRIPTURE

And then from **Hebrews 6:19**: This is when God made the promise to Abraham, and God kept that promise. *"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It*

enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where Jesus, Who went before us, has entered on our behalf.” And that anchor for the soul, firm and secure, is like an anchor holding a ship safely in position. Our hope in Christ guarantees us our safety.

SCRIPTURE

And then from **Psalm 121:1-4**: *I lift up my eyes to the hills; where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip; He Who watches over you will not slumber, indeed, He Who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.*

SCRIPTURE

And from **Philippians 4:6-7**: *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

SCRIPTURE

And then from **Psalm 27:5**: *For in the day of trouble He will keep me safe in His dwelling; He will hide me in the shelter of His tabernacle and set me high upon a rock.*

PRAYER

We ask you, Lord, to be present to all of us. We step out in faith and say, “We fear not, Lord, because we know that You are our Protection, our Truth and our Help. We pray this in Your most holy Name!

SCRIPTURE / EXHORTATION

And then the next part that God wants to say is that He shepherds us when we trust in Him and surrender to Him. The Lord told us a lot tonight, and it is a lot to think about. So we don't want to leave here and go into our busy lives and forget His words to us. From **John 21:15**: We heard him ask Peter three times, “*Do you love Me?*” It's interesting that each time the Lord asked Simon Peter, “Do you love Me?”, He waited for the answer. Just like the words He spoke to us tonight in prophecy, “Ponder on these words, ‘I love you! Do not fear, trust Me! Then surrender to Me’.”

PROPHECY

And then a prophecy: My beloved ones, I ask you now to sit in silence for one moment because I desire to speak to you. How often have you heard from Me the words, “I love you”? How often have I spoken those words to you? My beloved ones, to accept My love means that you are willing to surrender. I say to you, if you do not surrender, how deeply can you love Me? Is your heart truly open to Me? So again I speak the words, “I love you!

Be not afraid! My love will not destroy you; My love will give you the life that you sing of in 'Your love is greater than life'."

INTERPRETATION / PROPHECY

And an interpretation from the word: My people, the word "surrender" sometimes has a negative connotation. Some think of it as quitting or giving up. But the surrender I call for is loving and easy. I want you to give your life to Me! It is not a sign of weakness; it is a sign of strength and trusting Me.

PRAYER

And a prayer: Lord Jesus, You are welcome in this place tonight! Lift us up from the depths of our being, from the depths of our hearts, so that we can give You praise here tonight. Good Shepherd, shepherd us into the presence of the Father.

IMAGE

And there was an image given: The pastoral team was praying in the back and they received an image of a small boy in the dark, wandering as though he was lost. When the boy saw his mother, he ran to her with his arms outstretched. He jumped into her waiting arms. The words that followed this image were: "This is the way you should praise Me, as though this is the first time you have seen Me."

SCRIPTURE

And from **John 10:14**: His promise is: "*I know My own and My own know Me*", speaking of Jesus as the shepherd. So He promises all of these things of who He is and what He does for us. We can hold onto these promises with certainty!

SENSE / SCRIPTURE

But when we do respond to the Lord, I feel very, very strongly that He is going to respond to us. As He said to Peter, "*Feed My lambs, tend My sheep, feed My sheep*" (**John 21:15-17**), He is going to say to each one of us what He wants each of us to do.

SCRIPTURE

And from **Psalms 100:1-3**, a praise for being the Good Shepherd: *Shout joyfully to the Lord, all you lands; worship the Lord with cries of gladness; come before Him with joyful song. Know that the Lord is God, our Maker to Whom we belong, Whose people we are, God's well-tended flock.*

INSPIRED TEACHING

So Jesus protects us from our fears; He shepherds us when we trust Him and surrender to Him, and this opens us up. You can forget the fears; you can forget some of the

anxiety. We're led by the Good Shepherd. And so we have some space to get some gifts, to get some healing, to get some freedom. So God offers mercy, healing and freedom when we are burdened.

CONFIRMATION / SCRIPTURE

I have a confirmation of that perfect love which God has been talking about. This is from **Psalm 136:1-4**: *"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever; give thanks to the God of gods, for His mercy endures forever; give thanks to the Lord of lords, for His mercy endures forever; Who alone does great wonders, for His mercy endures forever."* This Psalm continues on and it mentions 26 times about the Lord's mercy enduring forever.

WORD OF KNOWLEDGE / EXHORTATION

And then there's a sense, an exhortation: I have a sense that there is one person here (or maybe even more) who feels that they are not worthy. They feel as if there is something between God and them, and it is just a hurdle. They are carrying this burden and guilt and feel like they can't even ask God. You can ask God with faith, and it can be done! So just set aside any guilt or burden tonight. Just ask Him to come into your life; He is God and He can do all things!

WORD OF KNOWLEDGE / SENSE / PROPHECY

And another sense and prophecy: After we sang that last song, there was a sense of the powerful presence of God asking to invade our hearts. I just sense that there was at least one person who felt that they were not sure that they wanted the Lord to invade their heart, because they were thinking that "my heart has been broken before. I am afraid to let You invade my heart." The Lord wants you to know that He is the God of mercy, the God of love, and the places where your heart has been broken, He has been there and He now this night puts His healing hand upon that place and He says, "My mercy now touches you. My love heals that place that has been broken. Trust Me, for I am the One Who loves you."

EXHORTATION

And again, we're being freed up from more of our burdens and then God gives us gifts and a mission. And these things do not happen all at the same time but if you get rid of some of that fear, and trust the Lord, you'll have more room for these gifts.

EXHORTATION

We have a God Who cares! We have a God Who responds to prayer! We have a God Who wants to do the miracles and the signs to bring people to Him, like He did two thousand years ago. He continues to do that today. People, listen! We have got to be

open enough and humble enough to ask Him, “Lord, I need You! I can’t do this by myself, but You can do it!”

SENSE

Perhaps this was the Lord’s way of making a Divine Appointment with us. Maybe He was saying, “Did you hear the word I spoke to you? Did you hear Me say that I love you? Do you know that I am crazy about you? Now you be My witnesses and tell them Who I am. Tell them I love them. It is that simple. You will know them because I will clearly place them in your path.”

PRAYER

Lord, we thank You for Your love poured forth in this place tonight. Holy Spirit, open our hearts tonight! We ask You to touch every person here. Help us to love, to increase in our hearts the love that Jesus has for one another. Help us, Holy Spirit, that we may be open to Your gifts as You pour them forth, that we may be ready to say “Yes” to You.

SCRIPTURE

And then this is about the story of Peter walking on the water in **Matthew 14:25-31**: *During the fourth watch of the night, Jesus came toward them and He was walking on water. When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the sea, they became terrified, but Jesus told them to take courage and not be afraid. He said to Peter, “Come.” Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But he became frightened, started to sink and called out to Jesus to save him. Jesus stretched out His hand and caught Peter.*

PROPHECY

And a prophecy: The Spirit says, “Come! Each one of you in this room will heal. This is the time of preparation for all of you and that is regarding the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Each one of you will help in the work that is to come!”

SCRIPTURE

And a scripture from **Romans 10:13-15**: *“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” But how are they to call on the One of whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in the One of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim Him? And how are they to proclaim Him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”*

SCRIPTURE

And another scripture from **Jeremiah 29:11**: *“For I know the plans I have for you, plans for your welfare,” declares the Lord.*

PROPHECY

There are some of you who raise their arms and ask for prayer. There are some among you who respond and pray for those. But, My beloved, there are some who raise their arms and there is no one who sees them or prays for them. There are some who cry internally and cannot even raise their arms. My beloved, they need you! There is no excuse! You are loved, you are gifted, you are empowered, you are strengthened, and you are protected. I am sending you!

PRAYER

Lord, pour Your Holy Spirit down upon us. We yearn for Your Presence within us, revealing Your love to us and empowering us with Your charisms, so we may proclaim the Kingdom of God - Your kingdom, Lord Jesus! That we may proclaim Your Kingdom everywhere we go, in all circumstances, and in all places, and to all people!

SCRIPTURE

And then I'm going to read where we started from **Psalms 18:1-3**: *"I love You, Lord, my strength. The Lord is my Rock, my Fortress, and my Deliverer; my God is my Rock, in Whom I take refuge. He is my Shield and the Horn of my salvation, my Stronghold. I call to the Lord, Who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies. Therefore I will praise You among the nations, O Lord; I will sing praises to Your Name."*

EXHORTATION

And the bottom line is He is our Prince of Peace and we will live our lives for Him. The important thing is that we have to believe in our hearts that He is the Prince of Peace; otherwise, the fear stays, we don't trust, we don't get the gifts, and we do not go out and tell other people about Him. So sometime this week I'd like you to sit with these scriptures and realize who God is. And it might not make your problems disappear, but you will have a different perspective on your problems. You might get some different answers for your problems, but you will have the Lord's peace.

PRAYER

Be exalted, O God! Be exalted, O Jesus! We praise You, O Lord! Jesus, we love You. Be exalted, O Lord!

IMAGE / EXHORTATION

The image that I'm getting is an image of hardness of heart. Hardness of heart for whatever reason, but you know, there's power in the name of Jesus, when you call out His name. But this hardness of heart – you can call upon the name of Jesus. Jesus! Can you speak that name with me, people of God? Jesus! Jesus! For this hardness of heart,

anyone, call out the name Jesus. Let Him break it; let Him melt it; let Him pour His love into it; let Him open it.

SENSE / PROPHECY / EXHORTATION

I've had a feeling all night long that the Lord is really, really calling out to us. He's really been... in the songs, in the scriptures. He's been saying to us, "Come to Me! Come to Me. There's nothing to keep you from coming to Me." We had a song earlier that said that no mortal man can stand before the throne of God. We don't have to stand before the throne of God because God came down here to be with us. And He's calling us. He's present here and He's saying to me and to you, "Don't let anything keep you from coming to Me. Don't be afraid." You know, we talked about a barrier to the water earlier and I hear Him saying that there's no barrier. There's no fear in Me. There's no hunger in Me. He said to the woman, "Come to Me and I will give you the living water." He said to us, "If you want the best, if you want the best wine, come to Me. What are you afraid of? What are you worried about? There's no worry in Me. There's no fear in Me. There's no concern in Me. There is only love in Me. Come to Me." I hear that over again. He says, "Praise Me." He died on the cross. Why did He die on the cross? For me and you, because He loves us. There's nothing, nothing that we should have not surrendered to Him tonight. If you can't surrender to Him tonight, then pray this coming week, "Lord, I want so much to be with You. I want You to be in my life. I want You to be my life." Ask Him! If you can't say yes tonight, ask Him to help you say yes tomorrow. Don't let any barrier prevent you from receiving the best, because only God, only Jesus, only the Holy Spirit can give you the very best.

EXHORTATION / PRAYER

And following that, you can speak His holy name. And you can speak His holy name right now, right here, right now. And when you speak His holy name, He touches you. As you glorify Him and His holy name, He comes. O Jesus! Can you say His name with me, people of God? O Jesus! O Jesus! O Jesus! O Jesus! Call us and we come. O Jesus! O Jesus! All barriers break away, Lord. O Jesus! O Jesus!

SCRIPTURE

And when we call, "O Jesus," He answers us through the prophet **Ezekiel 36:25-27**: *I will sprinkle clean water on you and you will be clean. I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you. I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees.*

EXHORTATION

That's how we live. He's holding us so close to His heart. All we have to do is respond. There is no place for fear; it does not exist when we are close to Him.

WORD OF KNOWLEDGE / PRAYER

I've got one word and that is testimony. So if that means anything to anybody, come up and see me afterwards, okay? Testimony is the word. May almighty God bless you. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Go in peace glorifying the Lord by your life.