

INSPIRED WORD
September 27, 2017

EXHORTATION / PRAYER

We can start praising the Lord by taking the burdens we came in here with and placing them at His feet. We don't want to praise the Lord with burdens weighing down our heart. We want to do whatever we can to remove those burdens so we can focus on Him. And a lot of times we don't have the strength to do that. So the joy of the Lord is our strength. And we just want to say to Him, "Thank You, Lord, for being here and thank You, Lord, for letting us lay our burdens down at Your feet." So let's just take a minute, think about what's on our mind and our heart, and place them at the feet of this loving God we have. Lord, we thank You for knowing each one of us so intimately that You know the burdens that we have, that You know the burdens that we carry. And we thank You, Lord, for taking those burdens that we don't even know we have. We thank You, Lord, for taking them away from us. Help us, Lord, to use this time here to praise You and to worship You and to bring honor and glory to Your holy name. Amen.

SHARING / WORD OF WISDOM / SCRIPTURE

You know, I wasn't able to be here last week but through the miracle of modern technology, I was able to listen to the whole prayer meeting that took place here last week. It was very powerful for me to just sit and listen to some of the things that took place. Because as you were experiencing here, I could experience some of those same things where we were. And I know that one of the big things that was talked about was the power in the name of Jesus; the power in the name of Jesus. And where we were, autumn had already set in and the trees were gold and you can just look at those changes a little bit from day to day to day and you can't help but praise the Lord. To praise the master artistry of what He did, so we can see that and draw closer to Him. And all you can do is say "Praise God" because there is power in His name. But as we experience that power, as we go through life, another thing that we heard from last week was that sometimes we have barriers and that's why we come here and we place those burdens before the Lord. But the Lord said last week, here in this community, "Don't let any barriers stop you from drawing close to Me." There is no barrier strong enough to do that. We conjure those things up in our mind. "Oh, this is what I'm going through. I can't break down this wall. I can't tell anybody about this." But the Lord says, "Why do you want to settle for second best when you can have the best? Why do you let this burden come between you and I?" And I don't want it to. There's power in the name of Jesus. And as I was reflecting on those, He brought to mind **Psalm 46:10**. In that Psalm, it says, "*Be still and know that I am God.*" If we but recognize the power in the name of Jesus, and that there's no barrier strong enough to separate us from Him and the love that He has for us, and recognize the fact... to

understand that, we need to take some time to be still and know Him. We will experience Him in a way that we never have before. That's what He wants to give us when we come here. He wants to give us the knowledge that all we have to do is say yes, that we don't choose to let this barrier come between us. I choose to recognize the power in Your holy name and I choose, Lord, to surrender all to you. And if we can, before we start praise and worship, I think that somebody here has a thank you. To thank this God who takes our burdens, who tells us there's power in His name, who tells us to be still and know Him. I know in somebody's life this last week, He's done something that He wants brought forth here to give Him praise and honor and glory. So where should I go first?

SHARING / SCRIPTURE

I love this song; it's really just built on the "Our Father" and it doesn't get more basic than that. When Jesus' apostles said, "Teach us how to pray," He said, "Here's what you do. Let's just start with this" (**Matthew 6:9-13**). And if you listen to the lives of the saints at all, they just say that if you truly pray the "Our Father", you could stop at each word and that in itself is a full prayer. Because if we really reflect on "our" Father, "our", all of ours, our Father, our Abba, the One who created us, Who art in heaven, Who came from heaven to earth to be part of us and one with us... but He's separate from us and holy is His name, hallowed and set apart, glorified, as far as the east is from the west and yet loves us dearly. So let's sing this song, which is just a variant on that prayer, from our hearts and ask Him to really give us the graces we need tonight, to love Him more.

PRAYER

Let Your glory come, O Lord. Let Your kingdom reign here, God. And when we pray that song, when we say, "Thy kingdom come," that means God's glory, that means everything in the kingdom - His magnificence, His holiness, the power and love of the Holy Spirit. Thy kingdom come, O Father. Let Your kingdom come, here in this place tonight. Let Your glory be made manifest. Touch each heart, O Lord, with Your love and mercy, with Your healing and Your forgiveness. Come, Holy Spirit. Come, mighty God. Come here. Thy kingdom come, Lord.

PRAYER

O Lord, give us that joy tonight and know that You love us. Thank You, Lord. Thank You for Your holy presence with us. Thank You for that joy that comes from the sure knowledge of Your love for us. We can dance; we can sing; and we can exalt; we can praise.

PRAYER / WORD OF WISDOM

Lord, our songs are the songs of our heart. And sometimes that's the sacrifice of praise that we're lifting up and saying, "Lord, I don't feel it but I'm giving it to You anyway." And sometimes it's the sacrifice of praise that says, "This is everything that I am, and I give it, joyfully, willingly, and wholeheartedly." Both are good because God needs us in the sorrows and the sadnesses,

like that song said, and the joy of the Lord is our strength. It's not our own strength we lean on; we lean on His joy, His strength. And we join that song with the angels and saints and all those who've gone before us and all those who are standing with us now and all those who are coming after us, a one cacophony of joy and love in front of the face of the Father in thanksgiving for our brother Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit.

SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

I wasn't sure if I'd get a chance to share this tonight but when this came out, I thought maybe it would be good for me to share it. And there's two passages in Habakkuk, and I said, "Lord, Habakkuk?" And He said, "Yes, Habakkuk." **Habakkuk 2:1-3:** *I will stand my watch and set myself on the rampart and watch to see what he will say to me, and what I will answer when I am corrected. Then the Lord answered me and said, "Write the vision, make it plain on tablets that he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it because it will surely come. It will not tarry."* Then going over to **Habakkuk 3:17-19:** *Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, though the labor of the olive may fail and the fields yield no food, though the flock may be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The Lord God is my strength; he will make my feet like deer feet, and he will make me walk on my high hills.* Dear Lord, I just thank You that You brought this word tonight and just ask that You would make it clear, make it clear how we're to understand that and how we're to walk in knowledge before You. We just praise You and exalt You and magnify Your holy name. We worship You with every fiber of our being, that everything that we say and see will be in accordance with Your will, of Your perfect will, Your perfect will that passes all understanding, that we would come to a full understanding of these days that we're in, that we could come to a full understanding of the days that we're in. We praise and exalt and magnify Your holy name, for You alone are worthy, worthy of all honor and worthy of all glory, worthy of all praise. Halleluiah to the Lamb, unto His holy name. Worship You, Lord. Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb.

SCRIPTURE

From **Isaiah 55:8-9:** *My thoughts, says the Lord, are not like yours, and my ways are different from yours. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways and thoughts above yours.*

SHARING / EXHORTATION

I just want to say "Jesus" because you can't top that. I'm sorry; I used to be Protestant so I'm trying to be Catholic now. Jesus. Just keep saying that, to your daughter, to your circumstances, to the fears, because the most wonderful thing that got me today... I've been hearing that scripture for years, and, by the way, I think we had it as scripture reading sometime this week, didn't we? I think it was in the daily mass... I kind of zone out sometimes.

I get stuck on the icons and... But I want you to remember that Jesus is alive. You didn't get electrocuted; He was alive in you; He was making you alive. He took you away from that guitar so you wouldn't die, so you'd be here today to glorify His name. Jesus. Just keep saying that. You're saying it to the most high God, the creator of the universe Who loves you. Listen to what He said. Please read that scripture again. Listen, this is what got me. He says His thoughts ... I mean, we live in Colorado for crying out loud. You can stand outside and look up into the heavens and even though you go to Pikes Peak, which is fourteen thousand feet and change, it's still unreachable. But God came down in Jesus to touch your heart, your life. Listen to what He said then. The next part was this... Get this, because first He identified Himself. He said, "My thoughts are not your thoughts." He identified Himself as God. But then look at what He gives us. He says, "But I know you, you little rascal." He says, "Your ways are not my ways." So guess what? I had to go to the dictionary because I'm dense, I really am. So I looked up "thought" and it means, obviously, "think", right? But it also means action and process, and then when I looked up "ways", oh boy, I really got in trouble because here's what it translated to. God says, "Listen, my actions and the way I process things aren't the way you're going to do them. But guess what? I don't fear; I don't tremble; I don't abuse; I don't mistreat you. I see you out there in the corner – hiding. You're afraid. I don't fear." Please say it with me - Jesus. Keep saying it for the rest of your days that God grants you breath. Remember the name that is above every name that God has given us, to call upon. He came down so that, look, we have the Blessed Sacrament. He gave us His breath and He gave us the Eucharist so He's not on the outside of us. Because we can't reach Him, He had to come down, not so that we could have just a little touch and hold His hand and such. No, He wants to live inside of you, and every time we bow down to that Blessed Sacrament, we're saying what? Jesus. Jesus.

PRAYER

Lord, Your love surrounds us even now. And You rejoice in us, in us Your people, the sheep of Your flock, Lord. Jesus.

SCRIPTURE

From **Zephaniah 3:16-17**: *Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you; he will quiet you with his love. He will rejoice over you with singing.*

SCRIPTURE / SHARING

Psalm 67:1-7: *May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving power among all nations. Let the peoples praise thee, O God; let all the peoples praise thee! Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for thou dost judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Let the peoples praise thee, O God; let all the peoples praise thee! God, our God, has blessed us. God has*

blessed us; let all the ends of the earth praise him! I just want to thank God. “All the ends of the earth”... that just sounds so vast. But I just want to thank Him because I believe He has blessed us greatly that we can gather together as a community and give Him praise in our little section of the world.

PROPHECY

The sense that I got is that the Lord was saying to us: My beloved ones, you asked a question of me which I cannot answer. I cannot answer the question of how deep is my love for you because the depth and the breadth of my love is beyond your understanding. And so you see, I may not ...

WORD OF WISDOM

And an answer to that mystery was just answered by saying He’s enough. We don’t have to know how deep and how wide. He’s just enough – always.

PRAYER

Lord, pour forth Your love right now.

PRAYER / WORD OF WISDOM

So it’s time. But the glory of tonight is that there’s still hope. There’s always hope. You can say to the Lord, “I surrender to You. I surrender to Your awesomeness. I give You my needs, which can be so great. I give You my blessings and my love, which can also be so great. But mainly, I’m Yours.” And that’s where He meets us; He meets us there. So we’re going to close with just a short chorus but it’s a declaration and I ask that you join in with your heart in declaring that we stand with the Lord – and He stands with us. And that is our truth and that is our bedrock and that is our reality. In the midst of a swirling, messed up world, that is so glorious on the one hand and so confused on the other, the Lord is the Rock and it is upon Him that we stand and to Him that we surrender.

CONFIRMATION / SCRIPTURE

Very quickly in response to what Mel said and what CeCe said about how deep God’s love is, **Psalm 130:7** says: *With the Lord there is mercy and with him there is plenteous redemption.* And plenteous means there’s more than we need; there is plenty.

PRAYER / PROPHECY

And I think all we can say is, “Thank You, Lord, for Your words of love to us tonight. Thank You, Lord, for telling us that the love that You have for each one of us is far beyond anything that we can understand or imagine.” And the good news is that it’s for each and every one of us. The good news is that His mercy endures forever. The good news is that His compassion endures forever. The good news is that when we hear these words, we must take them into

our heart, that He's speaking directly to each and every one of us, without exception. He looks into our mind, He looks into our heart, He know us with every fault that we have, and yet He turns and puts His hand on our shoulder and He says, "I love you with such a great and everlasting love that it cannot be put into any words that you understand." And for this, Lord, we say thank You. We thank You, Lord, and we ask You to instill in us the importance of the words to be still and know that it is You Who is saying this to each one of us. Thank You, Lord. Amen.