

INSPIRED WORD
December 5, 2018

EXHORTATION / PRAYER

The first thing we want to do is take all the burdens that we came in with and place them at the Lord's feet. And for some reason, I think, in our society this time of year, this season of Advent, there seems to be more things that block us and get in our way, that weigh us down, that hold us back. At least I know for me they do. So I want to take about a minute and for each one of us to think about those things, to think about the things we know and ask God to take the things that we don't know along with those, and ask Him to take these burdens away from us for tonight. And if He chooses to keep them forever, that's fine too. But we want to praise Him with open minds and with open hearts; we want to give Him 100% while we're here. And we can't give Him 100% if something's on our mind other than Him. So let's try and take all those burdens and put them at His feet right now. Lord, You know each one of us. You love us all beyond measure, Lord. You know the things that hold us back, that weigh us down. We want to come here, Lord, and give You praise and honor and glory, so in faith, Lord, we ask You to take these burdens, these things that weigh us down, these things that jump into our mind, we ask You to take them, Lord. We place them at Your feet and we ask You to take them and hold them and chain them right there, Lord, so that we can spend this time with You, praising You, and giving You all the honor and glory. Thank You, Lord God, thank You.

SCRIPTURE

I had a scripture reading given to me when Ray was talking about our burdens, and I've never heard this before, and it's talking about the Sabbath day and burdens but, you know, we aren't to work on the Sabbath and all of this because it's a day set aside for the Lord. Well, that's what we're doing here also. But let me just read this to you; it's from **Jeremiah 17:21-27**: *Thus says the Lord: Take heed for the sake of your lives, and do not bear a burden on the Sabbath day or bring it in by the gates of Jerusalem. And do not carry a burden out of your houses on the Sabbath or do any work, but keep the Sabbath day holy, as I commanded your fathers. Yet they did not listen or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck, that they might not hear and receive instruction. But if you listen to me, says the Lord, and bring in no burden by the gates of this city on the Sabbath day, but keep the Sabbath day holy and do no work on it, then there shall enter by the gates of this city kings who sit on the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, they and their princes, the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and this city shall be inhabited for ever. And people shall come from the cities of Judah and the places round about Jerusalem, from the land of Benjamin, from the Shephelah, from the hill country, and from the Negeb, bringing burnt offerings and sacrifices, and bringing thank offerings to the*

house of the Lord. But if you do not listen to me, to keep the Sabbath day holy, and not to bear a burden and enter by the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath day, then I will kindle a fire in its gates, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem and shall not be quenched. I have never heard that serious of a note about keeping the Sabbath day holy. But just relating it to here, I think it's the same thing. Like Ray was saying, our burdens have no place here. It takes away from us, you know, giving this time to the Lord. Yes, we pray for burdens and I don't want to make it sound like we don't bring them here, but it's... I don't know. I was just given this scripture and I thought we can relate the Sabbath day to our hour and a half that we spend here with the Lord.

Talk about Advent as a little Lent

REVIEW OF PROPHECY

In last week's word, we received four gifts from the Lord, four Christmas gifts that He gave us openly and He told us He was giving them to us. Now this is not the whole word; I just want to share a little bit of it so that maybe we can calm ourselves and let our mind focus on what God told us so we can praise Him here. He said: "My mercy is endless. It flows like a living stream. It embraces every part of you. It fills you with my glory. My mercy is a mighty wind. It blows where it will. But my mercy carries you where you can't walk. Do you trust the community enough to lower you into my presence so I can touch you? I welcome you into my presence. You are always welcome in my presence. Come into my presence with joy and thanksgiving." (That's what we're going to do tonight.) And then He said: "I am full of mercy; I am full of love; I am full of peace; I am full of healing. And I come to fill up your heart. Will you allow me to fill you with love, or with mercy, or with peace, or with healing that you may have a full heart and that heart may overflow to those who need my love, my mercy, my peace, and my healing?" Four gifts from the Lord that He gave to each and every one of us, and He asked us to share them openly and freely with anyone who He places in our path. Now this is the God we come to praise and worship, to give Him all the honor and glory.

SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

In **Hebrews 9**, it talks about the new covenant (**vs. 10-15**): *...that we're not to be concerned only with foods, and drinks, or various washings and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation. But Christ came as high priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood he entered the most Holy Place, once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling the unclean sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, quench your conscience from dead works to serve the living God. And for this reason he is the mediator of*

the new covenant by means of death for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant that those who were called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. For we come not by the blood of bulls and goats but underneath Your blood, underneath Your blood, O Lord, we come, we come, we come by the blood of the Lamb, by the blood of the holy Lamb. We praise and exalt You and magnify Your name, for You are the King, the righteous King of kings. We praise You and exalt You and magnify Your name, for You are the King, the holy King of kings, holy risen Lamb, risen from the grave. We praise You and exalt You and magnify Your name.

PRAYER

God, we just keep giving You that glory that's all You deserve. Glory to your name; praise Your name, God; thank You, Jesus.

SCRIPTURE

From Psalm 50:10-15: For mine are all the animals of the forest, beasts by the thousands on my mountains. I know all the birds of the air, and whatever stirs in the plains belongs to me. If I were hungry, I should not tell you; for mine are the world and its fullness. Do I eat the flesh of strong bulls or is the blood of goats my drink? Offer to God praise as your sacrifice, and fulfill your vows to the Most High; then call upon me in times of distress; I will rescue you and you shall glorify me.

SHARING / EXHORTATION

When I was a little girl, we had a manger scene, and mom was trying to figure out a way to get five little kids to figure out what Advent was all about, and the sense of preparing but in a way that little kids could understand. And she had straw in the manger scene, actual real physical straw. And there was a little manger in there but no baby Jesus, the baby Jesus was separate and it lived over in the angel candle until Christmas morning. Sorry, long story. Short version of the story is that if you did something good for another person (or in this case for us now, praise for God), you put a piece of straw in the manger to make a bed for Jesus. If you did something mean to your brothers or sisters, you had to take a piece out. The goal was to have more in than out by Christmas time. But I just had that image as he was reading that. It's not about the blood of goats; it's not about sacrifice. It's about praise. Can we in our hearts put a piece of straw in the bed for Jesus to prepare His bed in praise tonight and every day? What is your one thing of praise you're going to do each day, a positive thing of praise to prepare? Let's give Him more glory.

PRAYER

O Lord, we do ask that. Manifest Yourself in me, Lord. Manifest Yourself in us, Lord. Speak to our heart, change our life, Lord. Lord, we cry out to You. We sing praise to You, Lord. Lord, we

give You all the praise, all the honor, all the glory. Lord, let us shout; let us shout Your praises. Let us shout for Your honor, let us shout for Your glory, Lord. Thank You, Lord.

PRAYER

Yes, Lord, let it rain, Lord. Open those floodgates upon us, Lord. Let it rain, Lord. Send the wind of Your Spirit, send Your Holy Spirit upon us, Lord. Just shower us with Your love, shower us with Your peace, shower us with Your compassion, shower us with Your healing, shower us with Your Holy Spirit, Lord. Let us feel the wind of Your Spirit. Let it rain, let it rain, open Your floodgates, pour out Your Spirit upon us, pour out Your Spirit upon us, Lord.

MESSAGE IN TONGUES

INTERPRETATIONS

I got the sense of "Take my hand. Walk with me as I guide you and teach you."

"I am with you always."

"Go out into the world. My people are desperate to hear from you about me."

"And wherever you go, I am there with you."

"I fill you with more of me, more of my love, my power, my grace."

PRAYER

Lord, we thank You for Your word to us tonight. We thank You, Lord, for allowing us to come to You. We thank You, Lord, for taking those burdens from us so that we could praise You, Lord. We ask You, Lord, to let the songs we have sung be a praise that reaches to Your throne, Lord. And we do ask You, we do ask You with sincerity of heart, Lord, to open Your floodgates and let it rain, Lord, let it rain. Send the wind of Your Spirit upon us, Lord. And, Lord, we do ask, we do ask for that divine appointment so that during this special season, we can bring Your love, Your mercy, Your peace, and Your healing to anyone and everyone You want us to. Thank You, Lord.