

## INSPIRED WORD

### January 4, 2017

#### EXHORTATION

Let's play that song one more time. What did the people say (in that song)? They say, "Amen!" We are allowed to say that with joy and conviction, so let's stand and sing that song one more time.

#### PRAYER / SCRIPTURE

Lord, we thank You for Your love and we say, "Amen!" to the great gift of Your love. Whenever two or three are gathered, the Lord is in our midst (**Reference: Matthew 18: 20**) So He is present here in us and in the Blessed Sacrament behind the altar in the Tabernacle.

#### PRAYER

Lord Jesus, no matter what it is – the stresses of the day, or about family, or about work – we place all of our burdens mentally in the burden basket and lay them at Your feet. Help us, Lord, not to look at them, but to keep focused on You and to look into Your eyes. Lord, we open our hearts to You and we are here in this place to give You praise and glory. We ask that You would anoint our hearts in the Holy Spirit.

#### SCRIPTURE

**1 Corinthians 14: 26:** What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.

#### EXHORTATION

So what is being said here is that He is asking us to be open to the gifts that He is going to be stirring within us. Why should we be open to this? For the building up the body in Christ, in ministry and to each other out of love.

#### SCRIPTURE / IMAGE / SENSE

As we were praying in the back before this praise group started, this scripture was given. **Jeremiah 29: 11 – 13:** "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call to Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all of your heart." Barb had received this image as the scripture above was being read. The image was like a cloud, but behind it were bright rays coming out of the cloud. It was like the glory of God was behind the cloud. It wasn't the cloud that was going to move, but I sensed that the Lord was asking us to move to a place where we could see the glory, in spite of the cloud. It wasn't a physical moving, like moving to another chair or place. It was like the Lord was asking us for a movement of our hearts, to see beyond anything that might be obstructing our ability to see His glory tonight.

## PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You are here in this place tonight and we welcome You! We ask for the grace of the Holy Spirit that we might worship in grace, in truth, and in the Spirit of the truth. Touch our hearts! We don't want our songs to be just words, Lord, but we want them to be prayers from our hearts. Come, Holy Spirit, come and touch our hearts! O Jesus, O Jesus, we love You!

## SCRIPTURE

The responsorial song from the readings these past three days have been from **Psalm 98**. It is: "All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God." "Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him." The response is: "All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God." "All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music." Response: "All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God." "Make music to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing. With trumpets and the blast of the horn, shout for joy before the Lord, the King." Response: "All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God." **(Verses: 1 – 6)**

## PRAYER

Lord, one sure thing is the knowledge that we are loved by You! Lord, our joy is the sure knowledge that we are loved; that no matter where we have been, no matter where we are, no matter where we go, that Your love is always with us surrounding us and buoying us up. Therefore, with that knowledge, we have joy, **we have joy in that realization that You love us, You love me!** There is the joy, Lord, knowing that and acting in it. Thank You, Lord, for pouring forth Your love upon us; thank You for pouring forth that love that never ends; thank You for pouring forth that love that can never, ever leave us! Glory to You, O Lord! We thank You and we give You praise!

## SHARING / EXHORTATION / PRAYER

When we were singing these songs, the thought that came to me was this: What if we knew that Jesus is coming in on a horse in bright daylight, with trumpets sounding, but quite a few people won't recognize it because of that dark cloud that Barb talked about a few minutes ago. The sense that Barb had was that God wants us to move – **a movement in our hearts** - so that we can see His glory. What if all those things were happening and we didn't move our hearts, or we didn't think that we could move. How difficult is it to believe that God is our Lord on high, He is the truth, He is our Comforter, and He is all those things? What is your cloud in your lives? What is that cloud that prevents us from seeing the glory of God - not tomorrow, not in the past, but right now? Is there a cloud in our lives that is preventing us from seeing that joy? Identify that cloud, if you can, and then say, "Lord God, I need Your help, I need Your glory! I know that it is there, Lord, but I am having a difficult time right now. I really want to move my heart, so that I can see and experience all those things, Lord. I need to experience Your love right now. I don't just want to know about it, but I want to experience Your glory, Lord! I want to change, I want to move, but it seems that it is always that cloud that moves along with me. I surrender to You right now that cloud, Lord, and I ask You

to shine right through it. I ask You to help me move to wherever I have to move to experience that fire in me, that joy, Lord, so that I can see Your glory! Help me to move my heart and to change, Lord; I surrender myself to You right now. Help me to do and to give up whatever I need to do. You told us in scripture that those who seek You will find You, so I am seeking You, Lord! I am seeking You with all my heart and I surrender to You all that I am. Please help me! I thank You and praise You, Lord God, for what You are doing right now in my heart. Glory to You, Lord!

### **SCRIPTURE**

I believe that this is a confirmation to what we just heard. **Psalm 51: 10 – 15:** Create a pure heart in me, O God, and put a new and loyal spirit in me. Do not banish me from Your Presence; do not take Your Holy Spirit away from me. Give me again the joy that comes from Your salvation, and make me willing to obey You. Then I will teach sinners your commands, and they will turn back to You. Spare my life, O God, and save me, and I will gladly proclaim Your righteousness. Help me to speak, Lord, and I will praise You.

### **SCRIPTURE**

**Philippians 4: 9:** Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

### **SCRIPTURE**

**John 1: 1- 5, 16 – 18:** “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” Then a little bit further down: “From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, Who is close to the Father’s heart, Who has made Him known.

### **PRAYER**

Jesus, we thank You for bringing us to You and in seeing You we see the Father. Thank You for Your Holy Spirit! Thank You for the spirit of adoption that allows us to be called sons in the Son of God. For we truly call Abba Father which is a gift and a privilege. Abba, Daddy, Father of our hearts, Father of our lives. Jesus, Brother, Friend, Savior, Son, and Spirit, the life and love of God the Father and of God the Son, Who living and dwelling within us, allowing us to be called the children of the Most High. Thank You, God!! Amen.

**(Praying for the needs of others and those present who need prayers.)**

