

INSPIRED WORD

July 8, 2015

TEACHING / SCRIPTURE / PRAYER / EXHORTATION

Mark 12: 28 – 31: One of the scribes came forward and asked Jesus, “Which is the most important of all the commandments?” Jesus answered, “The most important is this: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second most important commandment is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these two.” My brothers and sisters, when we come here, do we not come here to show our love for God? Do we not show that love for God by our praise, our worship and our surrendering to Him? And do we not show our love for each other when we come here? Do we not show our love for each other through greeting and sharing, but also through the yielding to the Charismatic Gifts? So we show love to God through surrender and praise, we show love to each other by being kind and welcoming to each other, but also, most importantly here, through the use of the Charismatic Gifts. In the song we heard that he ‘was sorry for the thing that he made it’; what did he make it? He is coming back to the ‘heart of worship’, from where is he coming? Where did he make his worship; from where is he coming? Speak to me! This community answers: “away from God; he made it about himself and the world; he made it a performance – ‘doing his thing’, so to speak”. He is coming back to sincere worship and focusing on the Lord as God. Sometimes we go away from our worship, but we come together here. Sometimes it becomes a routine, doesn’t it? I am sure it does for many of us. Sometimes we come here out of habit and we go through ‘the motions’, don’t we? We see that happening sometimes during Mass too – we do things without conscientiously thinking. An example: “The Lord be with you!” and we automatically respond, “And with your spirit.” Coming here can be routine as well; through routine we can go away from the type of worship which God wants. Also from lack of expectancy – ‘same old thing’ - the same things are going to happen, right? We fall into the lack of expectancy that God can always do something new! We can also go away when we lose focus, when we become near-sighted or self-sighted, and we look only at what **‘we are to get’**, (and we do **get** it), **and not so much as what we come to give, both to God and to other people!** It is not just a ‘receive thing’! We come here to give as well, to give praise and glory to the God Who loves us so much, and to love each other through the use of the Charismatic Gifts! And to minister to each other through the release of the Charismatic Gifts! We can also go away from worship out of fear, self-consciousness, worry, not feeling worthy, lack of desire, control, indifference, inhibition, or comparing yourself to people around you. In the midst of praise we can also be reluctant. So tonight let’s take some time to re-focus ourselves and to look at this very, very intentionally. In the booklet “Miracle Hour”, Linda Schubert (the author) talks about many things, but she concentrates on four methods of prayer and I would like us to look at these methods tonight. **The first is “Surrender.”** We come into this place to surrender our hearts to the Lord, to truly surrender to Him. Linda Schubert has a prayer in the booklet which I will read: **“Loving Father, I surrender to You today with all of my heart and soul. Jesus, You are Lord of my whole life. I believe in You as my Lord and Savior. I hold nothing back. Holy Spirit, I surrender all to You, my health, my family, my resources, occupation, skills, relationships, time management, successes and failures. I release it, and let it go. I surrender my**

understanding of how things ought to be, my choices and my will. I surrender to You the promises I have kept and the promises I have failed to keep. I surrender my weaknesses and strengths to You. I surrender my emotions, my fears, my insecurities to you. I surrender my entire life to You, the past, the present, and the future. In sickness and in health, in life and in death, I belong to You.” So she (the author) is calling us to truly surrender. Brothers and sisters, we fail at this, don’t we? If we are honest with ourselves, we fail at this often, but that is okay as long as we get back up and do it again; and say, “Lord, I surrender to You again; I surrender all of those things to You again.” If we take some of them back, what do we do the following day? We surrender them to the Lord again! He is always there to help us and to take us by the hand and lift us up. Lord, we come here to surrender to You tonight! You give us the grace when we ask for it, to truly make You the Center and Lord of our lives. The **second method** that Linda Schubert talks about is the **Release of the Holy Spirit**. It is a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to come and set her soul and her heart on fire; to come and increase those Sanctifying Gifts of Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety and the Fear of the Lord; those gifts which we receive in Baptism, and Confirmation; those gifts that give us the mind, the will and the heart of Christ. She asks God to increase those gifts in her. We also ask Him to increase those gifts in us that we might have the heart, the mind and the will of Jesus, and to use them, in the promptings of the Holy Spirit, here in this assembly and outside of it. So the author asks for those seven gifts that I mentioned; she also asks the Lord to release the Manifestation Gifts in her, which are Wisdom, Knowledge, Faith, Healing, Miracles, Prophecy, Discernment, Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues. She said “I need them to witness to a hurting world. Only in Your power, guided by Your Spirit, can my life be fruitful. Holy Spirit, come.” Can we ask for those gifts to be released in the community? Can we ask for those gifts to be released in us, in you, and expect God to hear our prayers? She goes on to say that she will not limit those gifts ‘by my perceptions of what I can handle’. She continues, “Holy Spirit, expand my capacity. Work in me in a powerful way. I want every purpose God has for my life to be fulfilled, and I need You, mighty Spirit of God, to bring that purpose to fulfillment.” Can we say that prayer in our hearts – “I need You, I need Your power to do Your work.” In the **third method of Praise**, we come to **Psalm 103: 1**: “Praise the Lord, O my soul, all my inmost being, praise His holy Name.” Praise is the highest form of prayer because it gives glory to God for Whom He is! It gives Him glory! Then we have a **Litany of Praise** and it talks about Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. What I am going to ask you to do is to take turns in doing this – if someone says, “You are my life, Jesus, You are my life and my love”, then others here can say, **“Praise You, Jesus.”** “You are the Name above all names, praise You, Jesus; You are Emmanuel, God with us, praise You, Jesus; You are the great I AM, praise You, Jesus; You are the Light of the world, praise You, Jesus; You are the Mighty Warrior, praise You, Jesus; You are all that I need, praise You, Jesus; You are Christ, the King, praise You, Jesus; You are the Light of Judah, praise You, Jesus; You are the Wonderful Counselor, praise You, Jesus; You are my Provider, praise You, Jesus; You are the Door, praise You, Jesus; You are our Covenant, praise You, Jesus; You are the Living Word, praise You, Jesus; You are the Bread of Life, praise You, Jesus; You are the Cornerstone, praise You, Jesus; You are the Prince of Peace, praise You, Jesus; You are the Mountain Refuge, praise You, Jesus; You are the Messiah, praise You, Jesus; You are the Strong Tower, praise You, Jesus; You are the Good Shepherd, praise You, Jesus; You are the Bridegroom, praise You, Jesus; You are the Everlasting One, praise You, Jesus; You are the Living Water, praise You, Jesus; You are the Deliverer, praise You, Jesus;

You are the only Truth, praise You, Jesus; You are the Almighty, praise You, Jesus; You are our Salvation, praise You, Jesus; You are the Promise of the Father, praise You, Jesus; You are the Alpha and the Omega, praise You, Jesus; You are my joy, praise You, Jesus; You are my Hiding Place, praise You, Jesus; You are my Fortress, praise You, Jesus; You are the Sure Foundation, praise You, Jesus; You are all that I want, praise You, Jesus; You are the Resurrection and the Life, praise You, Jesus; You are the Lamb that was slain, praise You, Jesus; You are our Wisdom, praise You, Jesus; You are the Beginning and the End, praise You, Jesus; You are the Bright Morning Star, praise You, Jesus.” Okay now, we spoke all of those words, how did it feel to speak those words? We speak those words in praise of the Lord. You heard your own voice speaking those words; it is important in praise and worship to hear your own voice. You should be able to hear your own voice and the voice of the person who is sitting behind you. Then the **fourth method** that Schubert talks about is: **Sing to the Lord**. From **Psalm 95: 102**: “Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before Him with thanksgiving and extol Him with music and song.” It has been said that ‘He who sings, prays twice.’ Anointed music has a great power to open our spirits.

SCRIPTURE

Romans 8: 35 – 39: “Who, then, can separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble do it or hardship or persecution or hunger or poverty or danger or death? As the Scripture says, “For your sake we are in danger of death at all times; we are treated like sheep that are going to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we have complete victory through Him Who loved us! For I am certain that nothing can separate us from His love; neither death nor life, neither angels nor other heavenly rulers or powers, neither the present nor the future, neither the world above nor the world below – there is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord.” That is good news!! And that is the good news which we celebrate in this place tonight!

SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

Every time my spirit thinks of worship, I come to **Revelation 4: 8 – 11**: And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and inside. Day and night without ceasing they sing, “Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come.” And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to the One Who is seated on the Throne, Who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall before the One Who is seated on the Throne and worship the One Who lives forever and ever; they cast their crowns before the Throne, singing, “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they existed and were created.” Father, You are worthy, worthy of all things, You are worthy of all praise, worthy of all glory! You alone are worthy! We praise and exalt You, we magnify Your holy Name! For You alone are worthy of honor, of glory, and worthy of all praise!!

IMAGE

I have had this Image for awhile and it is of people helping other people to come to the Lord. It is like the Lord is here, but people are going back, reaching out a hand and bringing others forward. That could be that the gifts of the Spirit are operative through

them; we will then reach out to someone and bring them closer to what God has for them tonight.

CONFIRMATION / EXHORTATION

I confirm that, but I think that it is much bigger because it is the world, it is our country right now; many are trying to put God in a box, but God is bigger. He is so much bigger! I think of Saint Bakhita who was a slave and she didn't know who God was. But she sat under the stars and she said, "I don't know who made all of this, but I want to know." God is bigger! We are telling God that we love Him, but what He is telling us is: What all of these people, who are trying to put God in a box, really need is our love. They don't need anger, or harsh words, or criticism; they are crying for God's love! God is going to use us to take His love to them. So we need to respond to other people with God's love; let them all know that they are loved!

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 46: 10: "Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth."

IMAGE

When you were speaking about the Image you had, the thing that came to me was a big magnifying glass – an Image of a big magnifying glass. We could use our lives and the love that we have for other people to be a magnifying glass; to magnify the things that God wants to show other people.

SHARING

I think this is the same thing that Teresa was talking about – Saint Bakhita was asked what her greatest joy was and her response was '**the giving**'. It is the giving and receiving.

IMAGE

I had an Image of a hand reaching out.

TONGUES

INTERPRETATION

My beloved ones, you have come forth to acknowledge the love that I have for you. Be not afraid, My beloved ones, for My love for you is great. What you shall experience is greater than you can imagine. For I place My hand upon you, My beloved ones, you shall know that My kingdom is yours. There are many people who will turn away, but you have stepped forth. You shall be an example to others. Be not afraid, for I have sent others out into the world and they have survived, as you will. Be bright in your faces, be strong in your hearts, be courageous in your mouths, proclaim the words that I give you. Tell them that I love them!!

SCRIPTURE / EXHORTATION

Luke 17: 5 – 6: The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!!" The Lord replied, "If you had the faith of the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea', and it would obey you." That faith the size of a mustard seed, which is the size of a sugar ant and it is so small. And the mulberry tree which is

huge would be uprooted by that faith the size of a mustard seed, because that faith is a spark of God's love and His life in you, which you receive in your Baptism. He is with you all the time, giving you the Holy Spirit; stirring up within you. Don't focus on what you don't have, but trust in what He has already given you. The faith of that mulberry tree being uprooted and planted in the sea is in His power and in His time!

IMAGE

When I was praying with the people who came up here, I had an Image of Jesus standing here and stretching out His hand toward each one. Lightning was coming from His fingers directly into your hearts. He was seeing if you were a conduit of His power, His love, His mercy and forgiveness. He is asking us to be a conduit for Him.

CONFIRMATION / SCRIPTURE

I confirm that. **2 Corinthians 3: 17 – 18:** Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

PRAYER

Tonight's teaching was about praising God and praising Him a little bit louder and stronger, and from our hearts. Then as we praised the Lord in that way, we heard in Chuck's prayer over the people who had come up here to be prayed with, 'the Lord will never be outdone in His generosity'. The Lord's blessings are falling. In that Spirit and in that belief, I truly believe that with all of my heart, that the Lord will never be outdone in His generosity. So I am asking the Lord in His generosity, to reach out and touch my grandson, Donovan, where he is right now and heal him of this sickness. Lord, You said to bring the little children to You, so we, as a community, do just that right now. Lord, I praise You and I honor You, and in faith I ask You, Lord, in Your generosity, to reach out and touch and heal Donovan. I ask this in faith and belief, Lord, that You will do that, in Your holy Name, I pray. Amen.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we give You praise and thanks! Holy Spirit, thank You for Your Presence here tonight. Thank You for the blessing which You have poured forth upon us. Send us forth now as Your disciples, apostles of love and mercy and a zeal for souls. Amen.