

INSPIRED WORD
September 2, 2015

SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

John 11: 38 – 44: Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead: Jesus went to the tomb and He said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man Lazarus said, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank You for having heard Me. I knew that You always hear Me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that You sent Me." When Jesus had said this, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." So Lord, we bring all of these people who are suffering from terrible diseases to You. We ask You, Lord, to speak into that darkness; speak into the darkness of these diseases and call them out into the freedom of Your healing. Call them out by name, Lord Jesus! Call them out that they may be untied and that they may be free of these diseases, in Your holy Name we pray. We pray for this healing in the Name of Jesus, the Lord!

CONFIRMATION

I want to confirm Deacon Chuck's Scripture reading about Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead.

SCRIPTURE

2 Timothy 1: 7: For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and self-discipline.

SCRIPTURE

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

John 10: 10: The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come in order that you might have life – life in all of its fullness.

SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 3: 17: Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

TEACHING / EXHORTATION / PROPHECY

Earlier as you prayed for each other and lifted each other up in prayer, and as you raised your hands over one another and prayed for healing, the Lord said that this is not the sum of that activity. This is where you learn and practice how to do what we are being called to do up there. If there is freedom, there has to be freedom in the Spirit to say, "Yes, I see the need for healing. Yes, I see the need for forgiveness; yes, I see the need for

intercession.” Our jobs, as revealed by God here tonight, is that this is just the place where we practice the skills that we will use up there. Everyone, lift your hands up in the air. These are the hands that God says that He wants to heal. When someone is hurting, when someone is in pain, when they are physically suffering, when they are emotionally in torment, when spiritually they are dying, God says to us, “Lay your hands upon these people and let Me heal them through you. Then they will give Me the glory!”

TEACHING / EXHORTATION / PRAYER

There are places in the Word where God reveals Himself to us as we seek Him. He reveals Himself as we seek Him in prayer, and He reveals Himself as we seek Him in praise and adoration. There is a progressive revelation of Himself. As we come into His Presence, we see a more complete revelation of His Spirit and what He wants to show us. Sometimes what He wants to show us is more complete than in other times. We need to come into His Presence and really see the things that He wants to show us, but it’s when **He** wants to show us and when He wants to show us, **we** want to be **obedient** and to be open to the things that He wants to show us. Father, we ask that You would cause us to be obedient to see the things that You want to show us. We want to be Your good sons and daughters of Your kingdom. We want to be able to see things more clearly as You reveal them to us. Father, we praise You, exalt You and magnify Your holy Name! You alone are worthy; You are worthy of all honor, all glory and all praise! Hallelujah to the Lamb, the holy Risen Lamb of God!! Righteous are You, O Lord, in all of Your ways!!

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 13: 2 – 9, 18 – 23: Great crowds of people gathered around Jesus, and He told them this parable: “A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep, and when the sun rose it was scorched, and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. Whoever has ears should listen.” “Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has not root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on rich soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

SCRIPTURE / PROPHECY

Ezekiel 47: The water was flowing from the threshold of the temple toward the east; and the water was flowing down from below the south end of the threshold of the temple, south of the altar. Then he brought me out by the way of the north gate, and led me around on the outside to the outer gate that faces toward the east; and the water was coming out on the south side. As the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand, he measured

off a thousand cubits and then led me through water that was ankle-deep. He measured off another thousand cubits and led me through water that was knee-deep. He measured off another thousand and led me through water that was up to the waist. He measured off another thousand, but now it was a river that I could not cross, because the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in – a river that no one could cross. He asked me, “Son of man, do you see this?” Then he led me back to the bank of the river. When I arrived there, I saw a great number of trees on each side of the river. When the river empties into the Sea, the water there becomes fresh. Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large number of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live. Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both sides of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. They will bear fresh fruit every month of the year. **(Reference: Verses 1 – 12)** This is the truth that occurred to me: the farther away from the temple this river gets, the deeper it gets and there is more life living around the river. The Lord said to me, “Don’t you have a salty lifeless world out there? It needs the freshness that I give you, which you offer the world, which you bring to the world.”

SHARING / PRAYER / PROPHECY / EXHORTATION

Sometimes I wonder if I would allow myself to go out into the water up to my ankles. That is pretty comfortable and I tell the Lord that this water is deep enough. I feel safe in this depth of water. We just sang a song with these words: “More love, more power.” Those words were really a challenge to me. I want God’s love and I want His power, but I only want His love and power enough to where I can still be comfortable. So I say, “Don’t empower me too much, Lord, because if I have to go out into the river with water up to my waist, then I really start to get uncomfortable! And I don’t know what I am going to do with all of that love and that power that You are giving me. And, heaven help me, Lord, if You give me so much love and power that You are expecting me to step out into the river and help to make the rest of the world fresh, instead of salty. Now I am not very comfortable at all and I am starting to be afraid. So maybe I would back off a little bit and go back to that comfortable spot.” The Lord challenged me and said, “You asked for more power, you asked for more love. When I gave it to you, you backed up on Me.” I find myself doing that during the day; when it is time to pray and worship, I find myself saying, “Alright, Lord, right after I finish reading this.” I am wondering that with so much quiet time, is there some fear there? Because with so much quiet time, the Lord is going to ask me to step out into that water up to my waist and I am not comfortable there at all. So as I reflect, I ask all of you to reflect as well, do I really want that power, the full power of God, that will allow me to see someone in the middle of the store who needs prayer and it challenges me to step out, in front of all of the other people in the store, and pray for them? What if he is someone who said he doesn’t believe in God and he has lost faith? The Lord has given me enough love and enough power to say to him, “This is how I feel.” So I ask each one of us to reflect: “Lord, will You feel comfortable in my relationship with You? Do I trust You enough in my relationship with You, God, to go into the water that is higher than the ankles, and past the knees? Do I trust you enough to accept the freedom which You give to me to float, and to use the power and the love that You give me without any inhibition and without stepping back?”

EXHORTATION / IMAGE / PROPHECY / SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

I am smiling because this is such a holy and blest time. The Lord has anointed our hands and He is asking us if we can let go and use His power, to go out into the deeper water. He reminded me of an image that I want to share with you because I think that it tells us what the Lord is saying, in a very child-like way. Last summer, for some birthdays, we rented a big bouncy house with a water slide in it. The water slide was really high and the children loved it. On the top of the water slide, there was just a trickle of water that comes down to keep the slide wet. At the bottom of the slide, there is a pool that has deeper water. Many of the children were avoiding that deeper pool; they would go down the slide and get off the slide before they reached the pool. But there was one little boy, Ben, and he was two years old. Ben could hardly climb up to the top of the water slide. But he would come down that slide with total abandon, right into that deep pool and he didn't care if he went down into the water. His parents had to pull him out of the water about four times. He wanted to come down, from 'close to the temple where the water flowed' and right into that pool. I think that the Lord is saying to us, "Be like the Ben! Be like Ben, My people! The water may seem slow, it may seem shallow, but go into it; go into the deep knowing that I stand there. I am ready to pull you out if you need to be pulled out, but be free in My Spirit. Be like Ben, My people!!" I also have a Scripture from **Ephesians 1: 13, 17 – 19**: "You also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance among the saints, and His incomparably great power for us who believe." So, Lord, may our eyes be opened and that we will know the greatness of Your power. May we all be like Ben, and just go out into that deep water with total abandon, knowing that You, Lord, take us there, and will You rescue us when we need to be rescued. Call us, Lord, into that deeper water!"

SUMMARY / PRAYER / EXHORTATION

I find it very interesting, than in reflecting back to this past week, we had many stories and images of us being in a boat, being tossed about; sometimes doing whatever we could do to patch the holes in the boat, to hang on, to tie ourselves in and just grasp whatever we can grasp for safety. Tonight we haven't heard about holding onto the boat or patching the holes. The Lord gave us a question, and it is really simple – "how far into the water do we want to go?" It is not "If we want to go", He has already established that for us. He asked us how far do we want to go. I think that it is very important because prior to the start of this prayer meeting when we were praying in the back, two words were spoken by the Lord and He said, "Be ready and be available." That assumes that we heard and will follow his instructions to get into the water. I think we answered that question earlier tonight when we were praying for each other. It wasn't one person leading the prayer; it was whoever God touched to lead that prayer, to go out into the water, to be ready and to be available, and to go down the slide. Because interwoven into all of this, whether we are still struggling in the boat, or struggling with how far into the water we are willing to go, we have to say, "Lord, do I trust in You enough to do that?" The Lord's answer is very simple! "Be ready and be available!" He doesn't say that we have to accomplish anything. He doesn't say we have to complete big tasks. He just says, "Be ready and be available!"

IMAGE / SCRIPTURE

I have been getting this image, so I guess that I am supposed to share it. I am seeing a fog, and then I am seeing God's light burning away the fog. I also am getting this Scripture in **2 Corinthians 4: 16 – 18**: Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far out weighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

IMAGE

In that same kind of image, I am getting this, that our God is telling us that He is saving the best for last – and that is eternal life.