

INSPIRED WORD
January 10, 2018

SHARING / PRAYER

...The first night I couldn't hear Him very clearly because I was a really sound sleeper back in those days. And it was three nights in a row. And finally on the third night I said, "Okay, what?" So I paid attention and He said a few things to me and He gradually, a little bit at a time, brought me back into fellowship with Him. And I had been out of fellowship for seventeen years. It's not exactly the same thing but it's close enough for me. And I just wanted to share that because a lot of times God will talk to us when we don't expect Him to. And He'll bring us to Him and we don't always hear Him the way we expect to hear Him. And I just wanted to share that tonight with respect to what was being said. Father, we just thank You and praise You and exalt Your holy name for You alone are worthy, worthy of all honor, worthy of all glory, worthy of all praise. Halleluiah to the Lamb, the righteous, holy Lamb of God, the risen Lamb that takes away the sins of the world. Halleluiah to the King, the holy risen King of kings.

CONFIRMATION / SCRIPTURE

I have to confirm that song. Just before we sang it, I was going to read from Psalm 68 and the Lord said to wait a minute, that there was another song coming up. And in Psalm 68, a couple of the verses say, "Chant the praises of the Lord. Confess the power of God." And when I saw that song coming up, I knew why I was supposed to wait. So from **Psalm 68:32-35**: *You kingdoms of the earth, sing to God. Chant the praises of the Lord, who rides the heights of the ancient heavens, who sends forth his voice as a mighty voice. Confess the power of God whose majesty protects Israel, whose power is in the sky. Awesome is God in his holy place, the God of Israel who gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be God.*

SHARING

I wanted to mention that in that song I noticed that God won't be silent, and before that you were speaking that we need to be silent and listen to God. So it's kind of like at the right moment we need to praise God loud and at other moments we need to sit and be quiet and listen to God. And this week when I was printing the list, our next song is "Glory". Glory was on my mind a lot, to give God the glory, to give God the praise. So a lot of these songs will be giving glory to God, glory in the highest, and I find that very appropriate.

SHARING

I know we've been talking about God speaking to us, and for me personally, I've never heard God speak to me directly but I've heard Him through other people. Sometimes when I need something, somebody else in our community will come and say something and I know it's

meant for me. I have heard God's voice in my friends. I don't hear God's voice in my head. So if you don't hear God's voice in your head, don't think He's not talking to you because He is through other people.

SHARING

I feel like I should speak something that happened on January 1st at the mass here. Fr. Baron went through the whole mass; it was wonderful. And at the end he said that he got so caught up in it all that we forgot to say the creed. And so he said we should say it before we leave. And the reason this comes to mind is because we were thinking of ways that God speaks to us. And we've all said the creed hundreds, maybe more, times. But when we stood to say it at the end of mass that day, I felt an anointing and tears, and I think that's the way God speaks to us sometimes. But it was when we said the part where: "I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God. Born of the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God." And it stays with me to this day; it was so powerful. And I thought that Father had us say this at exactly the right time, just before we're going out into the world. We need to remember: We believe.

PRAYER

The Lord always does things at exactly the right time. In that last song we sang that He's our Messiah, our Redeemer, the Rescue for sinners. And then we heard: I believe. This is the God whose birth we celebrated only a few days ago. He came down from heaven. Do we understand that? He came down to rescue us from our sins, the Redeemer of all. And we believe. Lord, You are our Messiah, our Redeemer, our Rescuer, our Ransom. Lord, without You, we are nothing. We have no hope without You, Lord, but in You, we have all the hope, Lord. We believe, Lord, we believe.

SHARING / SCRIPTURE

I'm kind of nervous about this one because I wasn't really planning on sharing this so I don't know if I have it all together or not, but the Lord is calling me to tonight. A couple months ago I was in adoration and He led me to read a scripture that touched me, or I heard something in it, or I saw something in it that I've never thought of or heard before. And it's kind of like what you said. I was at that New Year's Day mass and when you have it come out of context all of a sudden, yeah, it meant more or it had new meaning or something. And that's kind of what happened. Anyway, so are we disciples of Christ? Yes, we are. This is from Matthew, and it's in Mark and Luke also but I liked the one in Matthew the best. **Matthew 12:46-50:** *While he was still speaking...* (they're talking about Jesus). *While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him. But he replied to the man who told him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother, and sister, and mother."* And I know we call ourselves

brothers and sisters but what got to me this time is He's saying we're His mother also. And we can say, okay, Mother Church, that's what we call the Catholic Church, Mother Church, but who is the church? We are. We can take it extremely literally and say, okay, He's just talking about His mother Mary, but we are to be like her. She is an example. She literally carried Jesus to the world. We are to carry Jesus to the world. He's saying that His disciples are not only His brothers and sisters but they're His mother. And it just struck me that, you know, to be a good mother... I'm not a mother myself, and guys, single parent fathers have to be both mother and father so you have to channel your mother, you know, in you too. He's asking us to be mother. He's saying we are mother. And what do good mothers do to their children, for their children? I was thinking, you know, if we're mother... We say we're brothers and sisters to everybody out there and it kind of takes us off the hook. But if we say we're mothers, those are our children. Mothers don't wait for things to happen when their kids are in need or need help or when they're lost or struggling. Mothers take action. And one thing that was said here, again it's been awhile, but the mission statement of this group is to praise, worship and evangelize. And we do great as a group to praise and worship but as a group, are we mothering? Are we evangelizing those guys out there? I was thinking about the Briarfest; that created a little ember in us but that ember died, I think, pretty quickly afterwards. And mothers take action. They don't wait around for something just to happen; they take action. And I've been struggling with this because if I now look at myself like a mother, what am I going to do? What action am I going to take? I shouldn't just wait around. Jesus is saying that if we're His disciples, doing the will of the Father, then we are also His mother. What would Mary do? I don't know, I just thought that the first of the year, well, I didn't think this but God is saying that maybe since it's the first of the year we take that as our focus, to see ourselves as mother to people who need us. Jesus is calling us to do that.

CONFIRMATION

And in confirmation to everything that's been brought forward, this next song is "We Believe".

MESSAGE IN TONGUES

PRAYER

When the Lord gives us a message in tongues, it's a reminder to pay attention. He's trying to get our attention. So, Lord, we just ask for an interpretation of that tongue. It says in scriptures, one will prophecy and one will interpret; one will give a message in tongues and one will interpret that tongue. So, Lord, give us Your word that we may understand and pay attention.

IMAGE / SENSE

The sense I got from when Mel was speaking was of the upper room. I don't know if any of you guys have seen Da Vinci's picture of the upper room. You think the long table and everybody's on the one side, facing the camera. But that really is probably not what was going on. Because

the tradition was that you reclined at table. And there were all those couches and you would eat from the center. And they were all around the room. They were together as family, as friends, as disciples of the Master, listening to His heart, listening to His word. His best friend was probably laying back on Him because they were more touchy-feely than our culture is. And I don't know what He was saying to us exactly, but I just had that image of "Just come be with Me, eat with Me, rest with Me. I've got stuff to tell you and it's important. You're My disciples and I want to teach you. Let Me teach you." That feeling of a teacher who really wants their students to learn, like what do I have to do to make you learn? Listen and hear.

INTERPRETATION

I heard Jesus saying, "I pour my blood over you."

INTERPRETATION

What I heard was, "I've heard your entreaty; I've heard you call upon me, and I love you. I love you; I love you."

INTERPRETATION

I heard Jesus say, "I am all you need in this big, busy world. I am all you need."

SENSE

The sense that I got is that we heard Jesus' word be spoken to us at the very end of prayer group. And it's like He wants to leave us with His word. That just reminded me of what Teresa said about saying the creed at the very end. And I don't know, that just stuck with me. We are to leave with His word.

SENSE / PRAYER

The Lord is speaking to each of us individually tonight. He is telling us to come and to rest in Him. He's telling us that He's our Messiah, our Redeemer, our Ransom from heaven. He's telling us that He wants us to be the mother and the brother and the sister to each person out there as well as in here. He's telling us that He is all that we need. And He's telling us that as we leave, that we should leave with His word in our heart. The word that He told us individually, to step out in faith with, to be the mother, the brothers, the sisters to each and every person. To be the strength, to take the risk, and to be His word. The last word that we hear tonight is Jesus telling us who He is to us. And I believe that He's telling that to us so that we have the courage and trust to tell it to someone else. So, Lord, we thank You for that. We thank You for Your presence here tonight. We thank You for giving us the courage to step out and to say yes. We thank You, Lord, for having us say, "Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening." We want to listen to You, Lord. We want to step out in faith. We want to do what You call us to do, Lord. We want to hear Your voice in other people; we want to hear Your voice in

our heart. So we say thank You, Lord, for Your words of encouragement, Your words of hope, Your words of salvation to us tonight. Amen.