

INSPIRED WORD
March 15, 2017

PRAYER

Lord, we come before You imperfect, but loved by You. In the midst of all circumstances, You walk with us, You strengthen us, You console us, You pour forth Your love upon us and You show us great mercy. You show each one of us the Father's heart. This night, Lord, we come together as Your people to recognize Who You are as our Savior; to recognize Who You are as our Good Shepherd. So Jesus, receive the love in our hearts and the praise from our lips! Glory to You, O Lord!!

SCRIPTURE

1 Timothy 6 - The Good Fight of Faith: 11 – 16: But as for you man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God, Who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, Who in His testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which He will bring about at the right time – He Who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is He alone Who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, Whom no one has ever seen, or can see; to Him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

From the book, “**Jesus Calling**” for today: “Listen to the love song that I am continually singing to you. I take great delight in you. I rejoice over you with singing. The voices of the world are a cacophony of chaos, pulling you this way and that. Don't listen to those voices; challenge them with My Word. Learn to take minibreaks from the world, finding a place to be still in My Presence and listen to My voice. There is immense hidden treasure to be found through listening to Me. Though I pour out blessings upon you always, some of My richest blessings have to be actively sought. I love to reveal Myself to you, and your seeking heart opens you up to receive more of My disclosure. Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”
(Bible references: Zephaniah 3: 17 and Mathew 7:7)

PRAYER

Lord, tonight we seek Your holy Presence and we open our hearts to receive Your love. We open our hearts too, Lord, to the prompting of the Holy Spirit which touch our hearts and minds. Let us be obedient to You, Lord, as You walk among us tonight. Lord, we glorify You! O Jesus, we glorify You! O Jesus, we thank You!

SCRIPTURE / EXHORTATION

Psalm 1: 1 – 5: “Happy is the man who follows not the advice of the wicked, nor go the ways of sinners, nor sit in company with scoffers. Rather, the law of the Lord is their joy; God’s law they study day and night. They are like a tree planted near streams of water, which yields its fruit in season; its leaves never wither; whatever they do prospers. But not the wicked! They are like chaff driven by the wind. Therefore the wicked will not survive judgment, nor will sinners in the assembly of the just.” What was resonating with me from this scripture was that there are a lot of Facebook scoffers in the world; folks who just have to question everything, and it is easy to get sucked into that negativity. Instead of becoming part of that temptation, we need to be planting our roots in the Word of the Lord. When you feel yourself being sucked into doubt, go back to the scriptures – “Man does not live by bread alone”, “I will be like the tree that is planted by water”, “I will send my roots down and as a result, fruit will yield a good season.”

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace,
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be
consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

CONFIRMATION / SCRIPTURE

This is a confirming scripture for the words that we have been hearing – listening and looking for the voice of the Lord, not the voice of the world. **Colossians 3: 1 – 4:** So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ Who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

SHARING / PROPHECY

Diane read a beautiful reflection a little while ago and there were a lot of words in it – a lot to ponder in that reflection. But what I heard most was at the beginning and it was the Lord saying, “I rejoice over **you** with singing.” I have to admit that I don’t feel like singing, nor rejoicing. We talk a lot about putting our burdens in the burden basket, but

sometimes the hurt is just too much a part of you to be able to separate it and put it in the basket. Sometimes your soul is so deeply hurting that you can't make that sacrifice of praise because you are a human being. Then to hear the Lord say, "It's okay, you don't have to rejoice or sing today, for I rejoice over **you** with singing." The Lord has said this to me before - several years ago when we were singing 'You are beautiful, my sweet, sweet song'. At that time also I had a hurt too deep, so deep that I couldn't separate it from my heart. So I went to the back of the sanctuary and laid on a pew because I didn't want to leave and go home. That verse came up which said, 'You are beautiful, my sweet, sweet song'. Three times I heard the Lord say to me, "**You** are beautiful, My sweet, sweet song." Then I heard, "You will sing again. In this brokenness, in this sadness, you are still beautiful to Me, and you will sing again." So I understand about the sacrifice of praise, and I understand that the Lord is worthy of praise in all situations, but He understands when we are broken. He rejoices over us with singing. Also in the words of the Prayer of Saint Francis, it is better to sow love, pardon, faith, hope, light and joy, but sometimes the Lord looks into your heart and says, "Be loved, be consoled," When we are too weak or hurting deeply, His love is enough, His love is always enough!

CONFIRMATION / SENSE / PROPHECY

I just want to confirm what we heard in the Lord's reflection for today and what Laura shared with us. I really have the sense that the Lord was saying to me, "Let Me minister to you in your worship. Don't worry about trying to worship Me." We know that God is wonderful, and amazing! But it is like He is saying, "I want to minister to you in your worship. I am here in My glory; I am the King of glory, but let Me minister to you in your worship."

PRAYER

You are a good, good Father, Lord, that is Who You are! We know that we are loved by You!

EXHORTATION

When we were singing that last song, the thought that came to me was this: Perhaps the greatest praise that we can give God is to say, "Lord, I need You"; to say, "Lord, without You I cannot do it". Because that is really recognizing Who He is to us. I would encourage everyone to take a moment of silence in our hearts, to praise Him by telling Him why we need Him in our lives; why, in our weakness, we need Him so very, very much.

SCRIPTURE

Song of Songs 2: 10 – 14: "So as the Father looks at us, who are baptized into Christ, He says the words to us as He said to Jesus, "You are My beloved Son, and You are My beloved daughter in which I am well pleased!" He sees us as Christ. I was moved to read these words from the **Song of Songs** which are spoken from the heart of the Father to us. "Come then, My love, My darling, come with Me. The winter is over; and the rains have stopped; in the countryside the flowers are in bloom. This is the time for singing; the song of doves is heard in the fields. Figs are beginning to ripen; the air is

fragrant with blossoming vines. Come then, My love; My darling, come with Me. You are like a dove that hides in the crevice of a rock. Let Me see your lovely face and hear your enchanting voice.” These are words of love from the Father spoken to each one of us.

SCRIPTURE

The Lord is moving here in a very powerful way. I am not really sure what He wants us to do here. But I do know this: **Isaiah: 10 – 11:** As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is My word that goes out from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

SUMMARY / SCRIPTURE

Barb M. speaking: When we knew that Father Paul could not be with us tonight to talk about Ukraine, we asked the Lord, “What is it that You want us to do?” It seemed like He wanted us to go back to what Marilyn spoke about several weeks ago – about our responding to Prophetic Word. Early on when this praise and worship community began, we would begin to hear words from the Lord like we heard tonight, that were words of love and encouragement. About the third or fourth time that we met as a praise community, the Lord said, “Write it down!” He wanted us to remember what He said to us. Why? Because it would serve the purpose for which He had sent it and would not return to Him empty. He promised that His words would not return to Him empty. I think that the other reason that He wanted us to write it down is for what has been on Mel’s and Marilyn’s hearts. He wanted us to go back and reflect on what He has been saying to us in the past three months, and how we are responding to His words.

There seemed to be three major things and I am just going to go through them very quickly, so that we can think about them. The first recurring theme that came up in the three months was **to yield to God**. The second one was **to allow Him to transform each one of us**. The third one was **share with each other the greatest joy ever told**. We have a light to shine!

First, when we talk about yielding to God, we are talking about it in the praise and worship community, and then in our broader lives. Praise and worship helps us and allows us to yield to God. There is no right way to enter into praise and worship. As you heard tonight, some entered into praise and worship hearing the Lord sing over them because they could not enter into that on their own. Some can enter in with great abandon. We come here in many ways and God knows that, but the key to it all is that He is a good, good Father, and we are loved by Him. So however we yield to praise and worship, God is able to transform us. I like what Matt said to us one time, **‘The purpose of this praise and worship is not to get information, but transformation’**. So how are we responding to the call to praise and worship Him? We have to trust Him, to just let go and worship Him as our good, good Father in any way that we can – to open our hearts and be drawn into that praise and worship of Him.

Second, allowing Him to transform each of us. Awhile back, Katarina quoted Father Philippe, who had quoted Saint Faustina. She said, “The shortest way to holiness is to be faithful to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit.” In her sharing awhile back, Marilyn had said, “We have God’s love within us, He restores and purifies us.” So as we yield to Him, how do we allow Him to transform us? Yielding to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit is as simple as listening to those inner promptings or inner words that we hear – maybe not saying what you were going to say, or not acting in the way that we were going to do. In our everyday lives, are we attuned to hearing those things and then responding? That helps us grow in holiness. There are little inspirations and big inspirations as He tries to help us grow in holiness. Then there are the large inspirations. I read a story just recently about gentleman who was in a grocery store and it was not a good atmosphere, so he decided to leave. But as he walked out of the store, he saw a homeless man sitting there and the Lord said to him, “He is the one I want you to speak to.” So he listened to that inspiration and went over to the homeless man and said to him, “Do you know that God loves you?” The man answered, “I know that, but I forget that a lot. So I am glad that you reminded me today that God loves me.” Then the Lord took the gentleman a step further; all of a sudden he had a Word of Knowledge, which is another inspiration of the Holy Spirit. He said to the homeless man, “Do you know that your son forgives you?” The man looked at him and said, “How could you know that?” The gentleman said to him, “The Lord put this upon my heart to say to you, “Your son is in heaven with Him and he forgives you.” The homeless man began to weep and he said, “Now today, I know that God loves me.”

Do you know that God wants to do that with each and every one of us, if we listen to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit? He wants to transform us in holiness and He also wants to transform the world through us.

The **third** and last recurring theme is to share with others the greatest love story because we have a light to shine. That light is the love of God Who dwells in us, so we have a light to shine. What does that light look like; what would your light look like? A smile, a kind word, or words of encouragement. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and we will witness to the love of God. We hear in **Matthew 5: 14 – 16**: “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bushel basket. Instead they put it on a lampstand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” Those are some of the words that was shared with us as the Lord spoke to us during the three month period. So we ask ourselves, “How have I responded to those words? Have I heard those recurring themes, and what am I doing with them?”

In this three month period that was reviewed, Richard H., who was a member of this community for a really long time, had moved to Arizona. He prayed for a word from the Lord for us here. He was lead to **Colossians 3: 11**: Christ is all, Christ is in all.” Richard told us, “Never forget that Christ is in all of you, and He calls you to bring His light to the world.”

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5 – The Beatitude – verses 4 – 6: Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians: 6 – 7: For God Who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.” So sometimes our biggest testimony and our light shines the most in the places where we are most broken. And we praise God for that because that is **His** light shining.

(Praying over Deacon Miles who, with his family, will be moving to Texas.)