

Morning Worship

Sunday, August 15th, 2021

“Encourage him.”
— *Deuteronomy 1:38*

God employs His people to encourage one another. He did not say to an angel, "Gabriel, my servant Joshua is about to lead my people into Canaan—go, encourage him." God never works needless miracles; if His purposes can be accomplished by ordinary means, He will not use miraculous agency. Gabriel would not have been half so well fitted for the work as Moses. A brother's sympathy is more precious than an angel's embassy. The angel, swift of wing, had better known the Master's bidding than the people's temper. An angel had never experienced the hardness of the road, nor seen the fiery serpents, nor had he led the stiff-necked multitude in the wilderness as Moses had done. We should be glad that God usually works for man by man. It forms a bond of brotherhood, and being mutually dependent on one another, we are fused more completely into one family. Brethren, take the text as God's message to you. Labour to help others, and especially strive to encourage them. Talk cheerily to the young and anxious enquirer, lovingly try to remove stumblingblocks out of his way. When you find a spark of grace in the heart, kneel down and blow it into a flame. Leave the young believer to discover the roughness of the road by degrees, but tell him of the strength which dwells in God, of the sureness of the promise, and of the charms of communion with Christ. Aim to comfort the sorrowful, and to animate the desponding. Speak a word in season to him that is weary, and encourage those who are fearful to go on their way with gladness. God encourages you by His promises; Christ encourages you as He points to the heaven He has won for you, and the spirit encourages you as He works in you to will and to do of His own will and pleasure.

—C. H. Spurgeon Morning and Evening

We Proclaim the Name of the LORD

Call to Worship

Deuteronomy 32:1-3

Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak, and let the earth hear the words of my mouth. May my teaching drop as the rain, my speech distill as the dew, like gentle rain upon the tender grass, and like showers upon the herb. For I will proclaim the name of the LORD; ascribe greatness to our God!

How Firm a Foundation

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said,
To you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled:

Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed,
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through the deep waters I call you to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
And sanctify to you your deepest distress.

When through fiery trials your pathways will lie,
My grace, all sufficient, will be your supply;
The flame will not hurt you; I only design
Your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.

The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake.

Prayer of Invocation

We ask God's presence to enable us to worship him as we ought.

We Confess Our Failure to Speak in Love

Call to Confession

Ephesians 4:1-3, 29

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

Prayer of Confession

(adapted from *The Valley of Vision*)

O Lord,

I humble myself for faculties misused, opportunities neglected, and words ill-advised. I repent of my folly and inconsiderate ways. O bury my sins in the ocean of Jesus' blood and let no evil result from my fretful temper, unseemly behavior, or provoking pettiness. If by unkindness I have wounded or hurt another, pour in your balm of heavenly consolation. If I have turned coldly from need, misery, or grief, do not in just anger forsake me. Fill me with an overflowing ocean of compassion, the reign of love my motive, the law of love my rule. Allow me to bestow your restoration to the sin-diseased, hope to the despairing, joy to the sorrowing, and love to the prodigals. Blow away the ashes of unbelief by your Spirit's breath and give me light, fire, and warmth of love. Fill the garden of my soul with the wind of love, that the scents of the Christian life may be wafted to others; then come and gather fruits to your glory. So shall I fulfill the great end of my being — to glorify you and be a blessing to men. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Hebrews 10:19-25

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Jesus, I Come

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night, Jesus, I come; Jesus I come.
Into thy freedom, gladness and light, Jesus, I come to thee.
Out of my sickness into thy health, out of my want and into thy wealth,
Out of my sin and into thyself, Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the glorious gain of thy cross, Jesus, I come to thee.
Out of earth's sorrows into thy balm, out of life's storms and into thy calm,
Out of distress into jubilant psalm, Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into thy blessed will to abide, Jesus, I come to thee.
Out of myself to dwell in thy love, out of despair into raptures above,
Upward forever on wings like a dove, Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the joy and light of thy home, Jesus, I come to thee.
Out of the depths of ruin untold, into the peace of thy sheltering fold,
Ever thy glorious face to behold, Jesus, I come to thee.

Pastoral Prayer

The Promises of God Encourage Us

Scripture Reading

**Acts 4:36-37; 9:26-31; 11:19-26;
13:1-3; 15:1-21; 36-41**

³⁶ Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, ³⁷ sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

¹⁹ Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. ²⁰ But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. ²¹ And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. ²² The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. ²³ When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose, ²⁴ for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. ²⁵ So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶ and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

Sermon

“Small Enough to Encourage”
Rev. John McElwain

We are Strengthened by the Grace Found in Christ

The Lord's Supper

All baptized Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior and Lord, who are communicant members of a Bible-believing church, and who seek strength and grace to live more faithfully to Christ are invited to participate. The cups with lighter liquid contain grape juice, the darker liquid is wine. The darker bread in the paper cup in the center of the plate is gluten-free. While communion is being served, please feel free to join in song or meditate quietly on Christ's sacrifice.

Song of Preparation:

Amidst Us Our Beloved Stands

Amidst us our Beloved stands, and bids us view his pierced hands;
Points to the wounded feet and side, blest emblems of the Crucified.

What food luxurious loads the board, when at his table sits the Lord!
The wine how rich, the bread how sweet, when Jesus deigns the guests to meet.

If now, with eyes defiled and dim, we see the signs, but see not him:
O may his love the scales displace, and bid us see him face to face!

O glorious Bridegroom of our hearts, your present smile a heav'n imparts!
O lift the veil, if veil there be, let every saint your glory see!

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Song of Response:

Lift High the Name of Jesus

Lift high the name of Jesus, of Jesus our King.
Make known the power of his grace, the beauty of his peace.
Remember how his mercy reached and we cried out to him.
He lifted us to solid ground, to freedom from our sin.
*Oh sing my soul, and tell all he's done,
Till the earth and heavens are filled with his glory!*

Lift high the name of Jesus, of Jesus our Lord.
His power in us is greater than, is greater than this world.
To share the reason for our hope, to serve with love and grace,
That all who see him shine through us; might bring the Father praise. *Chorus*

Lift high the name of Jesus, of Jesus our Light.
No other name on earth can save, can raise a soul to life.
He opens up our eyes to see the harvest he has grown.
We labor in his fields of grace as he leads sinners home. *Chorus*

Benediction

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