

ISSUE **08**

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LIGHT

Jesus: "I am the light of the world." (John 8:12)

Lift up your eyes and see

Lord in the MIDST

Ointment for Worship

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Pour into me Your power of death

"...knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin" (Romans 6:6)

Whatever our Lord has done is of eternal value. His death has everlasting effect. So, you also can say, "I claim into me the power of the death of the Lord Jesus". This is the way of victory. But if you try to conquer sin by yourself you will not be able to do so. The apostle Paul says in 2 Cor. 4:10, "Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest on our body."

This must become your experience also. Perhaps for some time past you have been trying to conquer sin by your own willpower; but you will soon learn that this does not succeed. Then you can pray sincerely, "Now, Lord Jesus, will You kindly use Your method? Pour into me Your power of death and help me to die to all my desires and weaknesses which are so hateful to You and to me also". That is the only remedy.

Do not think you will become perfect in one day. In fact, no one is perfect. As long as we are in this body, we are bound to have some weakness or infirmity. But when you are troubled by the old nature, go straight away and tell the Lord Jesus, "Lord, I am troubled by this old nature; will You not please come into me and pour into me the power of Your death, burial and resurrection?" This is our only weapon.

The Lord Jesus died to forgive us our sins and also to bury our sins, out of sight, forever. We find this spiritual truth in Col. 2: 12 and Rom 6:4. The devil digs up our past sins to discourage us, especially when our faith is wavering, or when we are in trouble. He will tell you, "Yes, the Lord Jesus Christ died to forgive you. But are you sure He has forgiven ALL your sins? What about THAT sin? Don't you think you are being punished for it now?" At such times, pay no heed to the Evil One; but believe from your heart that ALL your sins are forgiven, and that every one of them is buried forever. So, we can rest assured that God will never again look at our sins. You rebuke the enemy saying, "Get thee behind me, Satan. It is written, 'I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for my own sake and will not remember thy sins' (Isaiah 43:25)". Yes, when God forgives, He forgives us forever. The burial of the Lord Jesus Christ gives us this assurance.

When the Lord Jesus Christ comes into us, He becomes our life, and so imparts to us His divine nature, His love, righteousness, peace, joy, strength, wisdom and holiness. Thank Him daily for forgiving your sins, and burying them, and also for making you a partaker of His divine nature.

- Bro. Bakht Singh -

Ointment for Worship

The word of God instructs us to “Worship the Lord in the beauty of Holiness- 1 Chronicles 16:29.

Worship is not rehearsed or pre planned. It is not “asking” of the Lord of things we lack.

Worship is adoring God for who He is. It should come from the depths of our hearts, as we meditate upon Him and enter His presence in quietness.

As I consider the “True” meaning of worship, I am reminded of the three instances during which true worship was offered to the Lord Jesus recorded by the great physician Luke and the Lord’s disciples ,Mark and John.

Jesus - The Savior and The Lord

Luke 7:37 And, behold, a woman in the city, who was a sinner, when she knew that *Jesus* sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment,

Luke 7:38 And stood at his feet behind *him* weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe *them* with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed *them* with the ointment.

The first instance I would like to consider is the woman in the city that approached the Lord Jesus with ointment to anoint the feet of the Lord Jesus with perfume. We learn that the

author clearly indicates that the woman was sinful and sought the Lord Jesus with ointment to anoint the feet of her Saviour. Verse 38 indicates that she wept so much before the Lord that her tears were sufficient to wash the feet of her Lord.

Even though this woman may not have worshipped the Lord in posture her attitude is what I would like to consider in this instance. The tears indicate to us that she truly did feel insufficient before the Lord. She knew she was forgiven and now a Child of God, a sinner saved by grace.

In order to truthfully worship the Lord Jesus , we must understand our true state before the Saviour God. We are all sinners that have sinned and fallen short of God’s Glory. Our good works are as corrupt as we are and as a result our good works will not save us from our sins or condemnation from God Himself. It is only through the Lord Jesus that we sinners are able to be reconciled with God Almighty. Jesus died on a cross when He had done no sin. Without the death of the Lord Jesus none of us could save our life. The Bible clearly says “The wages of sin is death”. Jesus paid the penalty of our sins. Through Him we have forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God.

This knowledge should move us to worship the Lord Jesus with all our

heart and mind. He is our Savior and Lord and there is none other who could or would give their life, for our salvation. He deserves all our adoration.

The sinful woman was determined to express her love and gratitude to Jesus. She did not allow anyone or anything to keep her from coming to Christ. She even came inside the Pharisee's house to meet her Lord. Take courage from this sinful woman. Jesus commended her for her humility and love shown to him. Christ will never turn you away. He welcomes your love and gratitude.

Are you forgiven? Have you received salvation? Christ came to die for you & for me that we may become True Worshipers.

Jesus - The Resurrection and The Life

John 12:3 Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.

The second instance was where the Lord was at the home of Lazarus, having a meal just after Jesus had resurrected Lazarus from the dead. Then we meet Mary, the sister of Lazarus who brings a very costly ointment of spikenard and anointed the feet of Jesus. John indicates in verse 3 that the value of the ointment was worth a year's wages. The

purchase of ointment would have been from her savings.

Mary had witnessed the Lord resurrecting her brother Lazarus from the tomb after he had died. Her eyes were opened afresh to the Lord Jesus. She realized that Jesus has the power to raise the dead. Her life changed through that experience and moved her to worship Jesus with costly ointment to show Him how grateful she was. Mary could not contain herself. She wiped the feet of the Lord with her hair. She did not consider what other people thought of her. Her love for the Lord Jesus drove her to go all out to worship Him.

Even today if we have received salvation we can be assured that the power of resurrection of the Lord Jesus is available to us. The Bible says we were dead in our trespasses. **Ephesians 2:1** says "And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins"; The only way we are quickened is through the power of resurrection. If we are confident that we are saved by the Lord Jesus then we can also be confident that we have received the power of resurrection and with this confidence in Him we could offer our worship to Him who has given us the power of resurrection.

In **John 11:25** "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live":

Today we are partakers of the heavenly calling because of what the Lord Jesus has done in our lives. He has

transformed our lives through the power of His resurrection.

Jesus - The King and The Priest

Mark 14:3 And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured *it* on his head.

Two days before the feast of the Passover Jesus was having a meal at the house of Simon the leper. Simon the leper would have been so grateful to the Lord for healing him of his leprosy. The woman who anointed the head of Jesus with alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious did not realize the significance of her gesture. She worshipped the Lord Jesus out of her love for the Lord without expecting anything in return. The Lord Jesus valued her gesture and commended her.

The Old Testament indicates to us that “anointing the head with oil” was a gesture carried out when appointing either the High Priest or a King. In the above instance we see that the woman anointed the head of the Lord Jesus with ointment. Indicating to us today that the Lord Jesus is the King of all Kings and the Heavenly High Priest interceding on our behalf.

Once Jesus becomes the saviour of our life, we must learn to trust His plans for us and to allow Him to reign

and rule over our lives. This also includes trusting Him even during the tough times. Once we are confident that He is the one who rules our lives we can proclaim that Jesus is the Lord of our life. That He has full authority of our life. That He is our King.

Revelations 19:16 And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Did you know that Jesus is interceding on behalf of us all the days of our life? He is the great advocate. He is faithful to forgive us when we confess our sins.

1 Timothy 2:5 For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

We worship the Lord Jesus because He is our Saviour, He is the resurrection He is King & Great High priest.

“
*Bless the Lord oh my
Soul, 10,000 reasons and
forever more!!*

- Dhinuka Boralessa -

What did you do?

In year 2006 my son Abhishek was doing dubbing at Swarnawahini, ROSA AACHCHI cartoon series. I used to drive him to the studio & pick him back. One day he came with a very happy mood, because he had received his first salary for dubbing. No sooner he came home, he distributed money among us. My wife got some & my daughter got some & I got little more than the others. I still can remember how he was giving us that money. He was acting like a matured man.

After few days when I was driving him to the studio suddenly he asked “Thatthi, what did you do with that money?” . In fact, when I received the money, I didn’t take it that serious and gave it to my wife. So I told him the truth. “Putha I gave it to Ammi”. Suddenly I saw the change in his face. I felt very bad as I can’t forget that sad mood I noticed in his face. I understood that I have made a big mistake; I have not valued his little gift. But it’s too late.

Beloved, God gives us the spiritual gifts according to his will at our new birth in Christ. According to 1 Corinthians 12 these gifts had been given to us, expecting us to use them

effectively. It’s our duty & responsibility as Christians to re-invest what God has invested in to our lives. You can’t divide these gifts as big and small. All the gifts has its own value.

In Mathew’s gospel chapter 25 from verse 14 to 30 we read the story of a Master and three servants. When the master was getting ready to go to a distant country he distributed five talents to one & two talents to another and one talent to the other. When he returned he found the servant who got five has made another five and the servant who got two has invested to make it four and the servant who received only one has not done anything and keeping that single talent with him. Master was totally disappointed and took that talent and gave it to the servant who had ten.

Beloved, we find two groups here. The group who has re-invested their talents and made it double and the group who has talents but waiting and praising God for the talents without using the same. In which group are you?

- Gunadasa Vithanage -

A brief meditation on the subject of
Addiction
be it in whatever form, also
Habitual Consumerism

Life as we know it is very tough to live through, there's plenty of trials and tribulations to hem and smother you down shattering your confidence in pieces and leaving you wounded and vulnerable. In most cases the damage and emotional trauma is multiplied when it's done by those who are close to you.

Whatever the case, it is human nature to seek for a vice of comfort in these hard times, and there are plenty such getaway options out there in society, a majority of which might not necessarily be healthy or even effective on a long-term basis. Use and abuse of drug and alcoholic beverages and even tobacco and cigarette use is prevalent in modern society and these are the most common types of addictions out there and are discussed upon endlessly time and time again. Unfortunately, there are thousands

of other forms of recreation and temporary pleasure that aren't taken into regard as much as they need to be, namely video-game addiction, gambling, sex addiction, coffee addiction (in some cases) and even porn addiction, and the list goes on. 1 John 2:16 says, "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

Although, however bizarre the infatuation might be, it is vital to consider the hope for salvation and a better life for oneself and those immediately around oneself, which could only be obtained through the Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ, through confession and the seeking of forgiveness.

"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not

allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry." 1 Corinthians 10:13,14

With the convenience of modern technology and the abundance of information along with the efficiency to access it has resulted in a consumerism spike, victims of whom are addicted to electronic tele-devices such as, cell phones, laptops, personal computers, gaming consoles etcetera.

Limits should be imposed to help tackle the never satisfiable yearning for temporary pleasures. Meditating upon the Holy scriptures and prayer provide sufficient motivation and inspiration to help upkeep the spiritual health while halting Satan's advances, crippling the yearning to relapse back into unhealthy practices, keeping them at bay.

"Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." James 4:7

For to attempt to contain addictive urges by oneself without external help or motivation is futile and vain. Through fellowship with others who have undertaken their guilty pleasures and overcome them, one can learn to subdue the devil's attempts at exploiting the holiness within a child of God and thus creating chaos. So, it is crucial to be armed with God's Word and prayer and to labour on knowing that our old self was crucified with Lord Jesus in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. So, you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

- Ephraim Rajkumar -

**Therefore,
if anyone is in Christ,
he is a new creation;
old things have passed away;
behold, all things
have become
new.**

2 Corinthians 5:17

Lord in the MIDST

RIGHTEOUS JUDGE

Zephaniah 3:5



Click here to read about the MIGHTY WARRIOR

We find that in Zephaniah 3:5,15 &17 that the Lord being in the midst of His chosen people reflects 3 important characteristics.

Vs. 5 – Lord the **RIGHTEOUS JUDGE** in the midst of His people

Vs. 15 – Lord the **TRIUMPHANT KING** in the midst of His people

Vs. 17 – Lord the **MIGHTY WARRIOR** in the midst of His people

In this article we are going to consider the lessons we can learn from Vs. 5 – the Lord as the **RIGHTEOUS JUDGE** in the midst of His people. To understand this point we have to read Zephaniah 3:1-13. As we read this passage we can identify 3 aspects of the Righteous Judge as follows:

- **RECOGNIZING**
- **REPUTATION**
- **RELEVANCE**

1) **RECOGNIZING of the Righteous Judge – Zephaniah 3:2 / 3:3,4 / 3:7**

Reading these verses we are introduced to things that the righteous judge is involved in, in the midst of His people. Firstly we understand that this righteous judge **WATCHES** over all things that takes place. The people of Jerusalem had very conveniently forgotten that all their ungodly deeds were being noticed by God. Even though the Lord kept silent for a period of time as if He was not interested in the affairs of His people, yet in this verse the Lord the judge clearly states his observation of the behavior of the people. He mentions 4 things that He had observed about His people in Zephaniah 3:2:

- **She obeyed not the voice**
- **She received not correction**
- **She trusted not in the LORD**
- **She drew not near to her God**

And if we may put our name there and read this verse it will speak to us much more than me trying to explain it to you. Sadly this is what God may have to say about most of us even today. God is watching and taking note of our every thought, word & deed. Though He may keep silent and it may seem that He's not taking note, yet we find according to this verse that everything that was done by the people of Jerusalem was carefully watched by the watchful eyes of the Lord.

Secondly we also understand that he **WEIGHS** every action and gives a true accurate estimate of the condition. While the leadership of the people were expected to deal justly, they disregarded their responsibility of good leadership and abused their power & privileges.

There again He mentions 4 levels of leadership – PRINCES, JUDGES, PROPHETS & PRIESTS. And the Lord is giving a very detailed description of the state of affairs of the leadership. No one needs to tell the Lord of the motives & reasons behind our behavior. The Lord knows and He assesses it right and we cannot deny His estimate of our state. The Lord is righteous so He does not show partiality whether it

is the common man or the leaders. The Lord is reminding all of us that He weighs our every motive & action no matter what our spiritual standing may be. We may be simple believers or those involved in some ministry work whatever it may be the Lord is weighing our every deed.

Thirdly He also **WARNS** the people through the circumstances faced by them to help them to learn the lesson and turn away from their rebellion. But pathetically none of them seem to take it to heart or take heed to the warnings given by the Lord. Instead they continue in their own way turning a blind eye towards the warning signals given by the Lord.

The Lord is using every situation in our lives and the situations that surround us to warn us and alert us. Dearly beloved let us be sensitive to those warning signals that God flashes and take heed to our ways.

The Lord is speaking to us as individuals, families and as a Church that He is the **Righteous Judge in our midst and He is WATCHING, WEIGHING & WARNING** us in our respective state. You and I need to be sensitive to this and take serious note of it and examine our lives in the light of these scriptures.

2) REPUTATION of the Righteous Judge – Zephaniah 3:5

In order to understand & appreciate the value of the reputation of the righteous judge, we need to realize the deplorable state of the leaders of the people. In Vs. 3 we have this similarity that these so called leaders were also in the midst of this people but their ways and means were so different to the Lord the righteous judge in their midst. The very people who were supposed to give leadership and guidance were full of injustice, iniquity and acted indifferently. But in vast contrast to this we see the Lord the Righteous judge in the midst of His people had an unparalleled reputation.

He was **FAIR** – Did no iniquity or injustice, His judgments were true. His judgments were **FRESH** – Morning by morning he brought His judgments to light (even though it may have seemed that the Lord was delaying in meting out His judgments, His judgments were timely). He was also **FAITHFUL** – He never failed in His responsibility of commending the good and condemning the wrong.

The Lord the righteous judge in our midst today is the same even today. People may question as to what the Lord is doing while everything seems so not right. Why isn't He working in a visible manner

and as urgently as people may want Him to? But let us remember, that He is in our midst as the righteous judge and He will act at the right time in the right manner. Let us remember whether it is to reprove us or to reward us the **Righteous Judge in our midst is FAIR and His judgments are FRESH and He will FAITHFULLY mete out justice.** So let us look up to this judge and not to any person in this world.

3) RELEVANCE of the Righteous Judge

As we have already recognized the characteristics and working of the righteous judge now we have to consider how His judgment is relevant to you and me as the righteous judge in our midst.

a) PUNISH & PARDON Zephaniah 3:1-13

Firstly we see that the righteous judge in our midst will **PUNISH & PARDON** accordingly and at the right time. While the Lord was judging the nations around Jerusalem, the Jerusalemites thought that they were good enough and that God would wink at their wickedness because they were God's chosen people. But we find God did not spare them either, but in His righteousness He judged them by punishing them and also pardoning them accordingly later on. Dear brothers & sisters even today the Lord will punish and

pardon us in his righteousness - 1 Peter 4:17 / 1 Corinthians 11:31. The Lord is reminding us that He is in our midst and no matter who we may be, that He will punish us and also mercifully pardon us when we repent and turn to Him. Let us be aware of this fact and conduct our lives in the fear of the Lord. Let us not live complacent lives thinking that all is well with us but remember the **Righteous Judge in our midst will PUNISH & PARDON.**

b) PLEAD & PRESERVE **1 Peter 2:21-23**

Secondly we see that the righteous judge in our midst will **PLEAD & PRESERVE** us from all opposition we face. People will misunderstand us, misuse us, oppose us and say & think and do many things to us and against us. People outside from the world and even our own families and spiritual family will work against us. But let us remember, we don't need to justify ourselves to prove us right. Let us learn the lesson from the Lord Jesus Christ who committed Himself to the righteous judge and silently endured every opposition. Dear brothers & sisters today having lived righteously and having done the right before God, if you feel let down, forsaken and despitefully used and facing the opposition from those around you, then the Lord is speaking to you. Please don't go around talking of all

the injustice you face and complain, but keep silent and commit it to the Lord who judges righteously. Remember the Lord the **Righteous Judge is in our midst and He will PLEAD our cause and HE will PRESERVE us.** Allow the Lord to vindicate you in due time and to protect you so that He can finally fulfill His eternal plan and purpose in your life.

c) PROVE & PROMOTE **Psalm 26:1, 2 / Revelation 22:12**

Thirdly we see that the righteous judge in our midst will **PROVE & PROMOTE** us. He is the righteous one who will scrutinize our every thought, word & deed and will reward us accordingly. We need not worry about whether our work & service is recognized, appreciated & rewarded by those around us. In this world we may not receive that appreciation we may look for. But let us remember the Lord our righteous judge in our midst is the one who will examine and prove everything and reward us and promote us duly. Today believe that the Lord in our midst as the righteous judge will reward you according to your work and integrity. Do you have that assurance that your life is right before Him so that He can examine you and reward you. Allow the Lord to prove you and promote you to greater heights.

- Dinesh Malcolm Paul -

Lift up your eyes and see

While reading and deeply meditating on the well-known passage in John 4 which speaks about the Woman of Samaria, suddenly I began to realize that two important things in Christian life is found in this portion of scripture. First thing is "Worship"; the second thing is "Evangelism".

So, these two things are very clearly mentioned in this incident about Samaritan woman. John 4: 24 is about worship. "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.". But as we read further in verse 35, we find about evangelism; about speaking the gospel. "Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!"

When we come to verse 35, we are still at the story of Samaritan woman. That story continues up to verse 42, even in verse 39 she is

mentioned. So, through the story of the Samaritan woman, these two important aspects of Christian life are brought to us. Worship and evangelism.

Regarding the first one, that is worship, we can say about ourselves that we have done well and mastered the art of worship. We have an outstanding characteristic in our common worship that everyone is able to audibly worship individually. One person worships and the others listen to it and then they agree and say, "Amen". So now, we have brought this worship to every individual believer where each believer is able to worship. I believe, this is a very valuable aspect that we have, and this is an outstanding feature found in our kind of gathering. Through this way of worship, we show that we are giving priority to this gem of a doctrine about worship that those who worship God must worship in spirit and truth.

However, the second aspect what the Lord Jesus showed to us through this story is lacking in ourselves.

The Lord notices that the people of Samaria are ready to be saved. The disciples didn't perceive it like that. So that day, the Lord Jesus took that opportunity and through a local situation He tried to teach them something.

According to verse 35, there was still four months for the harvesting. So, if the Lord Jesus said, "Now you go and harvest", then they would have laughed at Him because there was still four more months for the right time for this harvest to be reaped. But now, the Lord Jesus says, "Lift up your eyes and see". That means, He is asking them to look with a spiritual eye beyond the natural, worldly and common way of looking at things. " Look at the fields, for they are 'already' white for harvest!"

We held on to the first teaching and we are doing quite well at it but, we need to be equally concerned of this second teaching about evangelism as well.

Verses 36 to 38 is true about the present time. Already there are some who have served in the ministry of the gospel. Among the people of the world, many of them have this knowledge or some idea that there might be a God. So now the Lord Jesus is telling us what is found in verse 38: "I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored". Over the past hundred years throughout Sri Lanka, many have gone to various parts of this island preaching the gospel and speaking the gospel. Because of what others have done now, people have some knowledge. They know that there are some who are known as Pastors; there is something called the Bible; there is something called the gospel; there is something called salvation. Now the Lord Jesus is saying, "Others have laboured. Now, what you need to do is to go and reap that harvest."

Now dear brothers and sisters, we need to make up our mind to do this work of evangelism. "Do the work of an evangelist" 2 Timothy 4:5. This is the exhortation we have for the day. Being inside a building or in our own homes and

worshiping the Lord is one aspect of our spiritual life. And the next thing which is not second to the other is going out and being involved in the work of evangelism.

Ecclesiastes 11:1, "Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days." This verse does not mainly speak about evangelism but there is some hidden hint about this thought. Look at Ecclesiastes 11:6, " In the morning sow your seed, and in the evening do not withhold your hand; For you do not know which will prosper, either this or that, or whether both alike will be good." This is a good advice so let us follow; take heed to this advice.

Our responsibility is to sow. If we sow, then God may raise up some good harvest out of it. Psalm 126: 5-6, "Those who sow in tears Shall reap in joy. He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

Daniel 12: 3, "Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness

of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever."

Now this is the ministry that has been placed upon us; that is to turn many to righteousness.

1 Thessalonians 2: 19, "For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?"

Here, Paul is telling the Thessalonian believers that when the Lord Jesus comes, on that day, you are going to be my pride. Because Paul the apostle when to that place and he preached the gospel for three weeks and he brought many to the saving knowledge.

Acts 8: 4-5, "Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them."

The believers at Jerusalem became refugees. But they went everywhere not with the idea of

receiving some help and funds but wherever they went they spoke the gospel. The example there is, no matter in what situation in life we may be, we need to preach the gospel; speak about the gospel.

- Neville Jayasundara -

"Must I go, and empty-handed,"
Thus my dear Redeemer meet?
Not one day of service give Him,
Lay no trophy at His feet?

"Must I go, and empty-handed?"
Must I meet my Savior so?
Not one soul with which to greet Him:
Must I empty-handed go?

Not at death I shrink nor falter,
For my Savior saves me now;
But to meet Him empty-handed,
Thought of that now clouds my brow.

O the years in sinning wasted;
Could I but recall them now,
I would give them to my Savior,
To His will I'd gladly bow.

O ye saints, arouse, be earnest,
Up and work while yet 'tis day;
Ere the night of death o'ertake thee,
Strive for souls while still you may.

Lyrics: Charles Carroll Luther (1847-1924)
Source: www.hymnal.net

Word of Christ

Word of Life

Philippians 2: 16

Word of the Truth

Colossians 1: 5

Word of Righteousness

Hebrew 5: 13

Word of His Grace

Acts 20: 32

Word of Faith

Romans 10: 8

Word of His Power

Hebrews 1: 3

Word of the Kingdom

Matthew 13:19

Blessed Experience

"Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.", that is the Levitical choir singing and here is the response from the people who are inside the city, "Who is he, this King of glory? The LORD Almighty-- He is the King of glory".

"The King of glory" is mentioned 4 times in this psalm. But, He is also referred to as "The Lord Almighty". The Lord Almighty; The God of power; The God who not only gives us promises but the God who can come through on His promises; The God of purpose; The God of redemption; The Lord God Almighty; He is present with us.

Now in this entire psalm, David has been telling us who this king of glory is. He is the creator God; He is the Saviour God; He is the God of Jacob; Who specializes in changing people; He is the King of glory; He is the Lord strong and mighty; He is the Lord God Almighty.

So, we have plenty of ammunition to praise our God. You can look at these titles and characteristics of our God and you can worship Him; you can praise Him; and you can appropriate

Him for whatever need you may face in your life today.

Now it is very important also to realize this. Here were the mighty gates and the ancient doors that provided security for the people from the enemy as long as they remained shut. But then they have to open up so that people can go out and so that people can come in. And these gates and doors were very carefully monitored. There were security guards who would maintain strict vigil over these gates. But for the King of glory to come in, these gates and doors need to open up.

Now there is a very important door that has got to be opened in your life and my life and that is the door of our heart. The door of our heart sadly remains shut to the Saviour; to the King of glory; to the Lord Jesus Christ because of sin; because of unbelief; because of doubt; because of rebellion and the list can go on. And all of us our born with this door shut to the Saviour; to the Lord.

And there has got to come a defining moment in our life when we have to open that door. We open that door by faith. The door of our life; the

door of our heart. And we welcome the King of glory, the Lord Jesus Christ into the darkness of our life and what happens? He steps into our darkness and our whole world is filled with light. Where there is death, there is life.

And it is absolutely important that we give permission, and we invite the Lord Jesus into our life. You need to open up your life to Him. And you need to let Him sit on the throne of your life. Let His presence permeate your whole life. And I thank God, I made that decision when I was twenty years old, and I have no regrets; absolutely no regrets.

My only regret is, why did I keep that door shut for twenty years even though I was raised in a Christian background. My rebellion; and my unbelief; and my sinful pleasure kept the door shut to the King of glory. And it actually took a crisis in life for me to realize what a pathetic state I was in; how spiritually destitute I was and bankrupt. And that God, God led me to

repentance and He gave me the gift of faith and I opened the door of my life to the Saviour, to the Lord Jesus Christ and He indwells me and I am sealed by the Holy Spirit to the day of redemption. And you can come into the blessedness of this experience. Today, if you have not already done so by opening up your life to this Saviour.

Let me close with a well-known verse of invitation, "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me." Revelation 3:20

And sometimes, even after we invite the Lord into our life, because of all our busyness He gets crowded out. So, constantly we need to invite Him to come and occupy the throne room of our life so that He is in absolute charge of your life and my life. And that's the path to blessing; the only path to blessing.

- Benjamin Devadason -



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