

Prophecies for August 3, 2008

Lord, You are faithful in all Your promises even when we are not. I think what the Lord is asking this morning is which throne is He reigning on? Is He reigning on the throne of your heart? Lord, we lay all this before You this morning.

I was getting a very strong impression of, for lack of a better word, the iconography of what we've got up here. Icons being images of God. If you look straight forward in this church, there is a cross, then there's a cross, and then there's a cross. And the top cross, the sword is a spear, because the Sword of the Spirit cuts through everything and conducts warfare in heavenly places. And it quite literally points to the next cross, which is on the tabernacle, which is the cross on which our Lord died, where His hands are, where He offered His blood. And it is founded on the cross of the altar which is the cross of God our Father who is the Source and Basis of all things. And it really struck me how—I don't know that we logically planned that out—what a beautiful Trinitarian symbol those three crosses are, and the way they're structured and the type of crosses they are. I just wanted to share that, because it just really struck me during that song.

Prophecies for August 17, 2008

Lord, I feel I must confess on behalf of myself and probably on behalf of most of us standing here that we think of me above all, too. That when things go wrong, we think of ourselves. When things go right, we think of ourselves. We just pray, Lord, that You would give us the grace to think of You. Maybe it's more than we can manage right now—to think of You above all, but at least to think of You in any situations in our lives, to remember where the Center of the universe really is.

Just as Miranda began that prayer after the last song, I was hearing, essentially, the same word. And it was a word about putting God first—seeking Him. As we were singing this song the Lord kept prodding me to speak this: Blessed are those who dwell in His house. God has a really, really big house. And this house isn't Church of the Resurrection or this building. This isn't a really big house. But wherever you are God is inviting you to recognize that you're in His house. So when you're at school, when you're at work, when you're in your own home, when you're in your car, when you're out in the street, you've got to recognize you're in His house. God has a really big house. This past Tuesday night, or actually Monday night, Tuesday morning, there was the Perseid meteor shower. I went out at 2:00 a.m. and was watching the meteors fall, and I was thinking about the beauty of God's house. And it was really neat, because about every two minutes a meteor would come down. So I sat out there for three hours, just worshiping God and watching the meteors fall. Beautiful night, absolutely perfect. And it prompted me to begin to sing the "Song of the Three Young Men," just praising God for all the beauty of the sky, the moon and the meteors and everything else. And He's calling on all creation to worship Him. When you really realize for a moment that all creation is God's house, and that God is waiting for the sons of men to become who we are called to be before all creation can be redeemed, it's an important task for us to recognize that whether you're at school or at work or at home, you're blessed, because you're in God's house. Not because you've come to Him, but because He's come to you. You're in God's house, because He's with you. And He dwells in you. And God has called you by name to be His child. You're His sons, you're His daughters. You've been invited to come, and you've been adopted into His family. Therefore you live in His

home wherever you are. He's waiting for you to recognize that and to call on Him and to speak His name and to give glory to Him wherever you are and whatever you're doing. Take a moment when you're sitting in your desk in school. Take a moment when you're sitting at your desk at work. Take a moment when you're sitting in the car and say, "You know what? I'm in God's house. And I'm blessed. And I'm blessed because I dwell in God's house." I'm reminded, too, that Sodom and Gomorrah were evil cities and that God had mercy on those who called on His name—Lot and his daughters. And that the woman who cried out to Him in Matthew's gospel, maybe that's today's gospel, even though she wasn't one of the House of Israel, she cried out in His name. And even though she wasn't part of the family, because she cried out in His name, He had mercy on her. Cry out wherever you are. You are in God's house, because you are God's child.

I got what I thought was the second piece of my word, which actually sort of dovetails with what Bill is saying. I don't know about the rest of you, but I've been spending far too much time watching TV this week with the Olympics. And it really hit me when we were singing and what you think about above all. What can be accomplished when you really want something. And you really, really focus all your efforts and all your energy and all your time on it. We've been watching Michael Phelps getting eight gold medals including one he had no business getting. We've been watching Dana Torres come back at age 41 to get gold medals when she had no business being able to go that fast. Or those gymnasts, any of those people, because they wanted it so much. And they were willing to put everything else aside to get it. And put all their focus so that nothing else mattered but that. And I think if we could just get a little piece of that about our seeking after the Lord in our life, what He could do with us and through us would be phenomenal.

I was really struck today of our violin player returning. Of course, he's my son. But just hearing it and not having heard it in so long, realizing God has given him that gift to play. And all the things we're seeking after God when God is already there. God has a master plan. God gives us all the gifts. I guess, for me, sometimes it's helpful to reflect on what God's already given me and all the ways God is in the minutiae in my life that I don't always acknowledge. But when I can see that, when I can see the gifts that He's given and the way He's blessed my life, the way He's blessed me by bringing me to this church and having this church family, having this incredible, talented band and wonderful clergy. But then I know that God has a master plan. He's not going to stop today. He's not going to say, "That's enough, Carol. You got your quota." What Father Bill said of looking to Him and all that He has for us, we know that because of what He's already done for us. And for me, it helps to reflect on that in order to really know the truth of what's to come and believe in it.