

## **Prophecies for July 6, 2008**

*Father Bill*

I believe I was hearing a word during communion. I believe it's a word of encouragement for this congregation. You've been hearing through the sermons some pretty strenuous words, hard words in many ways. And, even the Bishop, although his word was comforting and encouraging, it was a challenge, a very strong challenge to us as a congregation. And at a juxtaposition of events this week, I went and I met with the Episcopal Bishop of Western North Carolina. I went there to talk to him about reconciliation. There are a number of you who have been over to Redeemer in the last couple of years, and some of you have had negative experiences over there. And there's still a lot of animosity for whatever reason. Thirteen years is a long time to hold a grudge. It's been thirteen years since we left. In the body of Christ there's no room for that kind of non-reconciliation. So I went to the Bishop and I said, "Whatever I can do to facilitate reconciliation, I want you to know I'm here." And it was a very cordial meeting. I met with some local pastors on Thursday, and we were talking about the church, and I was struck by something one of the pastors said. He said he has seventy members in his congregation and about fifteen committed. As I look at this congregation, I look at sixty, sixty-five people, and I see sixty, sixty-five committed people. I consider that a great, tremendous, wonderful, huge blessing. It's very hard for us and sometimes that makes it hard for new people to be incorporated, because there's this effort of the Lord to have us grow. He's constantly pushing us and constantly exhorting us to go the next step—more and more and more. And that's hard, and I know it's hard. And there's a constant call for repentance. And yet, what I see in this congregation is the commitment to do the way the Lord wants it to be done. For that I commend you, and I encourage you, and I praise God for you. The word I was hearing today was "You're not okay, but that's okay, because God loves you anyway." And the reason why we have to repent is you know you're not okay, but that's okay, because God loves you anyway. And the more you keep coming back to Him, the more His love is going to keep pouring out on you. And the more you repent, the more you're going to see the sun shine, the curtains of the room open. The room is going to become more and more bright, and your light is going to become more like Jesus. So don't be afraid; do not be afraid to follow where He's leading. Do not be afraid to return to Him. For God has better plans for you than you could begin to ask for or imagine. So just consider that a word of encouragement. You're not okay, but that's okay, God loves you anyway.

*Father Nick*

You know, Father, it just occurred to me while you were talking. One of the ways we know we still have maturing to do and some things of which to repent, to learn from and grow from and into is that we're still breathing. There are those among us that have gotten their job done. And they're no longer having to fool with that. So as long as you're still breathing, it's probable that there's growth and repentance and change and maturing to do. I thought Father's word today was excellent. We're not mature Christians, we are *maturing* Christians. Because if we were mature Christians, we wouldn't be here.

*Miranda*

Another thing that hit me when you were speaking is we are not an entry-level congregation. There are entry-level congregations. And maybe one of the things that has frustrated us is we think we're a good place to bring new believers, and we may not be. That may be okay. There may be other places that are new-believer places. We're the place for people who have been believers for a little bit and realize there's more, and they need more. And that's where the good come when they need more.

### **Prophecies for July 13, 2008**

*Jack*

The Bishop was preaching. The hardest thing to do is own our stuff. The Lord is saying we don't have to own it. Lord, we do, we yield to you and give you everything. All the good and the bad. Just give it to you right now.

### **Prophecies for July 20, 2008**

*Amanda*

I believe the Lord is answering this simple prayer. By the events of this week regarding the church building He is asking us to maybe start thinking more spiritually than materialistically and physically. I'm reminded in Zechariah chapter 4 says:

Now the angel who talked with me came back and wakened me, as a man who is wakened out of his sleep. And he said to me, "What do you see?" So I said, "I am looking, and there is a lampstand of solid gold with a bowl on top of it, and on the stand seven lamps with seven pipes to the seven lamps. Two olive trees are by it, one at the right of the bowl and the other at its left." So I answered and spoke to the angel who talked with me saying, "What are these, my lord?" Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord." So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the Lord of hosts. 'Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone with shouts of "Grace, grace to it!"' (Zechariah 4:1-7, NKJV)

I believe the Lord is reminding us with this passage that it's not by might or by power, but only by His Spirit these things can be accomplished. And we are to look to Him to accomplish impossible things and not put limits on Him. So, thank you, Lord, that You are the God of impossibilities. Help us to see beyond the realities of this world and look more heavenward to Your possibilities in Your Spirit.

*Miranda*

I think the Lord is also saying that surrender has a very bad name in this country. That surrender has to do with cutting and running, that surrender has to do with giving up, surrender has to do with failure. And the Lord wants us to know that that's only true if you surrender to the wrong things—if you surrender to evil. But if you surrender to Him, it has nothing to do with cutting and running. It has to do with cutting and staying, but not with cutting and running, certainly not failure. And we have to get past what we have in our mind, that somehow surrender makes us less, makes us worse. Because you're going to, the scripture tells us, be slave to something—either to Him or to this world or to the evil one. And if you think you're in charge of yourself, it's one of the latter two. So, we pray, Lord, that you will give us the grace to understand the surrender that you want us to make to you. And even though it does involve cutting, that it's not a cut-and-run, but a cut-and-stay. You're the only person who can do anything for us in the long run anyway.

*Jack*

In a world that acts like a lover with bright and shiny things, and says that's what the flesh needs, every minute, every hour of trying to transform you, Lord. Lord, help us to keep our eyes on you. Lord, we don't need that church building. We don't need this church building. We just need you.