

Prophecies for April 13, 2008

I couldn't help but think, as we were singing that song, of Roman Emperors and when you would walk through the streets of Rome. If you wanted to get close to the Emperor you would just hang out in his courts. You would try to shove a piece of paper at him that had all your requests on it, or sometimes you could just yell at him and hope that he would look at you. That's how you got into the King's house.

In some ways that's what we're doing. It's the worst kept secret in Heaven and actually the scandal of Heaven, that not only do we not have to go through all that but He actually is coming out of His courts and coming down to our little hovel, our little mud huts and knocking on the doors, looking in the windows and trying to get into our house, which would be ridiculous, and almost obscene if it weren't motivated by love. That's the scandal of grace. We don't actually have to go into His courts. We aren't in any way worthy enough to even get near His courts. But He comes out of His courts to our place in all His Holiness. He doesn't mind doing that at all. If our hearts leap at looking at Him, His heart leaps a little bit when we just look up at Him when He is trying to peer through our window at what we're doing. That makes Him happy. That's amazing. That's what this is all about. So he wants to spend time in our courts the same way we want to spend our time in His. Thanks be to God.

The word that is coming so strongly to me from that song..."How lovely is your dwelling place, oh Lord." We think sometimes His dwelling place is Heaven. Or we think His dwelling place is the Church. He's saying to us, "My dwelling place is your heart. My dwelling place is within you. I don't dwell anywhere that isn't lovely. If I'm dwelling in you, you are lovely." Stop thinking you're not lovely. It's what He wants us to know today. Stop thinking you're not lovely. "Because I wouldn't dwell there if you were not lovely."

When looking at music for next month, I don't think I tripped upon it accidentally. One of the verses to the lyrics of this song called, "Our God Reigns", is "God didn't screw up when He made you. He's a Father who loves to parade you." He tells us this each and every day, each and every day. He's telling us to practice to be in His presence at all times. Prayer isn't like hanging up the phone. Prayer is an all day thing. He gets excited when we acknowledge Him in our lives. He's saying with whatever you're doing, take a minute and take a look up.

Prophecies for April 20, 2008

The word I'm hearing right now is that this is a safe place, that the Lord says to us that this is a safe place to come and bear your burdens. Whatever it is that you picked up in the world this week, whatever it is that you are carrying right now; this is a safe place to lay it down. Just bring it to the altar and lay it before the Lord. And whatever it is that's feeling heavy or you're carrying it, the Lord says, "you don't have to carry this, for my yoke is easy, my burden is light. Lay down the burdens of this world and pick up my joy, my life, my freedom, where with I have set you free. Do not be afraid because for this is a safe place to come, and to just lay it all before me, for I will take it away. I will deal with it. You don't have to carry it. It's not yours to begin with." The Lord says,

"this is a safe place to come and to be alive in Me. Do not be afraid to sing out loud and dance in the aisle and rejoice. For I am the Lord and I have taken your burdens away, if you will but give them to me. I will wash them clean and take them and redeem them. Do not be afraid to bring to me your concerns and your burdens, for they are not yours. I have already removed them. Give them to me," says the Lord.

I'm going to confirm that message this morning. There were some things that got changed that were out of my control. Things that I probably wouldn't have chosen, but they were taken from the here and now. The Lord told me, He said, "Do you think I would let a stupid decision like that take you away from me." We have decisions that we can make, but thank you, Lord for so many times when you step in and make the decisions that we would not have made for us and for our betterment.

I don't know about anybody else but I can't help feeling just a wee bit hypocritical singing: In all I do, I honor You. We sit here and I know perfectly well that that's not true. So, I pray Lord, today that instead of that being a statement contrary to fact, You will allow for me, and I imagine for most of us a prayer, that in all we do we might in fact honor You.

I feel like the Lord's saying He realizes that's a "aim high, shoot low" scenario. But, the Lord sees our heart.

Also pray Lord that we could join with all – to relate to the Philippians that "One thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead. I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Pray Lord that we could do that. We can only do it with Your help.

If we don't press on, if we don't aim high, we won't get there. Father Nick and I were talking this week and he was quoting, and I don't know which President Bush it was who was talking about the subtle bigotry of low expectations. If you expect people to misbehave, if you expect people to fail, if you expect to not be able to be excellent, they never will. So we ask You to help us to aim high, to aim to Your standards which are infinitely high.

I have two quotes going through my mind, one of which is profound and one of which is ridiculous. I'll start with the ridiculous one and that is a rather famous line from a Woody Allen movie which is: "A relationship is like a shark. A shark has to keep moving to stay alive and what we have here is a dead shark." I think the same thing is true with our relationship with God. We have to keep moving. We can't just assume that where you are is okay. The profound line that's going through my mind is, I think it was Saint Theresa Liseaux who said, "I don't love You Lord. I don't even want to love You Lord. But I want to want to love You." I pray that that will be my prayer everyday. I pray that, too, because sometimes I don't want You. Sometimes, I don't even particularly want to love You Lord, but I want to want to love You. And so that's my prayer today.

I feel the Lord telling me that because we are forgiven, because we ask for that forgiveness from Him, He is honored. Honored by our presence and honored by us asking for forgiveness. He accepts the honor we give Him. He's happy with it.

Prophecies from April 27, 2008

The Lord just gave me an image of an eclipse. First I saw the eclipse of the moon. When the moon is full it shines brightly and everything glows with a kind of an earthly glow on a full moon night. But on a full moon you can also get an eclipse. And even when the eclipse comes, there's still that faint glow on the moon. You're still aware it's there even though it's completely dark. That's the brightness of the sun. The brightness of the sun cannot be obliterated by the place of the earth in an eclipse. The other thing the Lord was showing me is that the moon has no brightness of itself. The moon is just a rock, literally. It's just a hunk of rock. And the brightness that we have on a full moon night is the sun reflected on the dull rock of the moon. We're the rock. We're the dull rock. What does it mean to magnify the Lord? It means to reflect His glory. It means for us to be less and for Him to be greater. It's so easy for, us even as the moon, to see the sun blocked out by the earth to take the things of this world and to focus on them, instead of on the sun. But even at that, there is the eclipse of the sun. When the moon comes between the earth and the sun, you can't look at the sun. You cannot look at it during the eclipse until the moon completely obliterates the sun's orb. And even then what shines? The corona, the halo of the sun becomes even brighter in the midst of the eclipse. You see the glory, the glory of the sun. What does it mean for us? What does all this say to us? To be magnified, for God to be magnified. You cannot diminish Him in any way, shape or form. There's nothing that is so earthly, so dark that can obliterate the sun. The sun will shine. And what we need, what we must do to magnify the Lord is to reflect His glory in our lives. To become less, that He may become more. That we may grow smaller. That He may be greater. The Lord says the less you become the greater I will make you. Those who are least in the kingdom will be first. Those who are last will come to the head of the table. For I will exalt you, if you will but magnify my name, says the Lord.

I confirm that word. All week the Lord has just been saying, shine. Shine in Me, reflect the glory that is the Lord. All week I've been saying if I do good, let the credit be to the Lord. And when I do wrong, let the fault be to me. Shine forth His glory in the darkness.

The Lord says that's how we reflect His glory is by putting on the garments of praise. The whole earth is filled with His glory. That is how He is magnified. As each one of us puts on the garment of praise, and gives the glory to Him. That's how we can best reflect Him. The rest of the earth doesn't understand being happy in difficult times. The praise is also for us, it's what helps lift us up out of the pits of discouragement and disappointment and unhappiness. It takes the focus off of us and our troubles and puts it where it belongs, on the Lord. Thank you, Lord, for the gift of Your garments of praise.

I'd just like to confirm that and just add a little piece to that. It was hitting me so much during that song -- it's not an accident with the phrase "Put on the garments of praise". You don't just stand there and garments just kind of fall on you while you're waiting around. You

have to do something to put garments on and I think sometimes in difficult times we are just waiting for the Lord to do something or rescue us. The garments are laying right there. Nothing's going to happen if we don't pick them up and put them on. It takes our cooperation in being in the project for it to happen.