

Prophecies for September 7, 2008

Jack

Before the service we were praying coming in here today, as Father Bill said, we offer ourselves up entirely to the Lord. Lord, I don't have a lot to offer this week. I've got temptations, failures. And the Lord kept saying, "I'll take that. Thank you very much. Got anymore? I'll take that, too."

"But, Lord, I'm not worthy."

"I'm going to take that, too."

Father Bill

The Song of Solomon says just one look from our eyes causes God's heart to be ravished. When we turn to Him with whatever we have, even if it's our brokenness and our failures; if we just turn to Him and look to Him, it makes His heart flutter with joy to have His children turn to Him and look to Him. Throughout the day, when we're feeling most low and things are going bad, if we just turn to Him it brings joy to His heart. With whatever we have, whatever we give, He is going to be glorified. Turn to Him, seek His face, bring joy to His heart.

Christopher

On the surface that seems like a rather obvious trade for us, but when we were singing that song, I realized the reason we don't do it: trade my sorrow, my shame, my pain for His joy. We have to give up ownership of our lives to do that. For many of us, myself included, we'd rather have pain as long as it's my pain, because it's mine, and I have control over it, and I know where it's coming from. It's my sin, and I like it, because I know it. His joy is unpredictable. It's His. I can't control it. We pray, Lord, that You will give us the grace to give up control of the stuff we don't really want anyway, but we think we want because it's ours. We pray for the grace to give that up to You, and take on Your glory with Your Lordship. We pray that You will take that honor.

Prophecies for September 14, 2008

Jack

Lord over the storm, Lord of our hearts, Lord over our lives, Lord over our money, Lord over our jobs. We give thanks, Lord, for Your favor. We fall short each day, but You say it's all right. You come back to me. That's the one place we can get help, Lord.

Christopher

I feel like the Lord is saying that the subtlest form of pride is self-condemnation. That when you say you're not worthy or that you're not up to it or it's just time to give up or whatever you're essentially saying that Christ didn't save you. Christ couldn't save you. God isn't powerful enough. You're essentially taking control and saying I have the ability to say whether I am worthy to follow Christ or not. And the truth of the Scripture is right there. There is no condemnation for those who believe in Christ Jesus. So there is no need to condemn yourself for whatever you've done or haven't done or whatever you perceive your failings to be. Because self-condemnation can lead to self-pity. I know, I've been there. I've done it a lot. And self-pity leads to inactivity, inaction, depression, You

don't do anything. You just sit around and feel sorry for yourself. So the Lord says, "Don't do that. I haven't condemned you." He says the same thing to us he said to the woman who was going to be stoned for adultery. He looks around once everyone has realized they have no stones to throw and says, "Do you see anyone who condemns you? Neither do I. Go. Sin no more." That's what He tells us today. Don't worry about what happened in the past. I'm not condemning you for that. Just pick yourself up and keep going. Don't stop now. Don't get stuck in your own ideas of what you can or can't do or what you're worthy of. There is no condemnation in Christ Jesus.

Father Bill

It goes real well with the strangest visual I was getting while we were singing that song. If you all can imagine the vision of the Cheshire cat, you can just see the smile. I had this vision of the smile just hovering over the altar here - smiling on each one of us. And I thought the Lord was saying, "There's some of you here today who didn't really want to come. You had other things you'd really much rather do, but you came." And He's smiling on you, He's smiling and He's saying, "I'm so happy you're here. I'm so delighted to see your face. I'm so delighted to have you in My presence and in My house. I'm delighted for you to be here, and I'm smiling on you this day. For those of you who came because you wanted to be here, the Lord says, "I smile upon you because I'm so happy you're here. I'm so happy you want to be here. I'm so happy you've come. And I smile my delight upon you. And now I dance upon you. I give my joy to you that your joy may be full," says the Lord. "I delight in you," says the Lord.

Father Bill

I had a very strong sense while I was administering communion. There are things that have been reflected recently in the physical that God's doing in the spiritual. We've heard similar things before. But this hurricane that came through, Ike, changed the whole landscape of Texas. And the Lord is saying to us that He's bringing about change and transformation in the lives of His saints. And those who are paying attention, those who are mourning, those who are listening will see dramatic changes in their individual lives as well as in the life of the community at large and especially in the life of the church. Those who do not heed the warning will be swept away, because they have not listened. They have not paid attention. They have not listened to the word of the watchman. And so the Lord is bringing about transformation in the lives of the saints. And He is calling each one of us to be especially attentive in prayer, to spend time not only in telling Him of our needs, but listening to what He is saying to us in our spirits. And to be attentive to the needs of those around us and be watchful and be not afraid to cry out on behalf of and minister to those who are in special need. For He is changing the landscape, transforming His church and He is transforming us and our lives, each one, one at a time. I believe that's the word of the Lord.