

“TAKE 10”- Worship While Away! (Sunday, October 10, 2021)

Share:

God, you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted you, and you delivered them.

To you they cried, and they were saved; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

God, you are holy. All praise to you, now and forever!

Read these words from a hymn for Sunday:

Be Thou My Vision

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

*Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.*

*High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

Read this scripture from worship:

Job 23:1-9, 16-17 NRSV

¹⁻⁷ Job replied: “I’m not letting up—I’m standing my ground.

My complaint is legitimate. God has no right to treat me like this—it isn’t fair!

If I knew where on earth to find him, I’d go straight to him.

I’d lay my case before him face-to-face, give him all my arguments firsthand.

I’d find out exactly what he’s thinking, discover what’s going on in his head.

Do you think he’d dismiss me or bully me? No, he’d take me seriously.

He’d see a straight-living man standing before him; my Judge would acquit me for good of all charges. ⁸⁻⁹ “I travel East looking for him—I find no one; then West, but not a trace; I go North,

but he’s hidden his tracks; then South, but not even a glimpse. ¹⁰⁻¹² “But he knows where I am

and what I’ve done. He can cross-examine me all he wants, and I’ll pass the test with honors.

I’ve followed him closely, my feet in his footprints, not once swerving from his way.

I’ve obeyed every word he’s spoken, and not just obeyed his advice—I’ve *treasured* it.

¹³⁻¹⁷ “But he is singular and sovereign. Who can argue with him?

He does what he wants, when he wants to.

He’ll complete in detail what he’s decided about me, and whatever else he determines to do.

Is it any wonder that I dread meeting him?

Whenever I think about it, I get scared all over again. God makes my heart sink!

God Almighty gives me the shudders! I’m completely in the dark,

I can’t see my hand in front of my face.”

Mark 10:17-31, *The Message*

¹⁷ As he went out into the street, a man came running up, greeted him with great reverence, and asked, “Good Teacher, what must I do to get eternal life?”

¹⁸⁻¹⁹ Jesus said, “Why are you calling me good? No one is good, only God. You know the commandments: Don’t murder, don’t commit adultery, don’t steal, don’t lie, don’t cheat, honor your father and mother.”

²⁰ He said, “Teacher, I have—from my youth—kept them all!”

²¹ Jesus looked him hard in the eye—and loved him! He said, “There’s one thing left: Go sell whatever you own and give it to the poor. All your wealth will then be heavenly wealth. And come follow me.”

²² The man’s face clouded over. This was the last thing he expected to hear, and he walked off with a heavy heart. He was holding on tight to a lot of things, and not about to let go.

²³⁻²⁵ Looking at his disciples, Jesus said, “Do you have any idea how difficult it is for people who ‘have it all’ to enter God’s kingdom?” The disciples couldn’t believe what they were hearing, but Jesus kept on: “You can’t imagine how difficult. I’d say it’s easier for a camel to go through a needle’s eye than for the rich to get into God’s kingdom.”

²⁶ *That* got their attention. “Then who has any chance at all?” they asked.

²⁷ Jesus was blunt: “No chance at all if you think you can pull it off by yourself. Every chance in the world if you let God do it.”

²⁸ Peter tried another angle: “We left everything and followed you.”

²⁹⁻³¹ Jesus said, “Mark my words, no one who sacrifices house, brothers, sisters, mother, father, children, land—whatever—because of me and the Message will lose out. They’ll get it all back, but multiplied many times in homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and land—but also in troubles. And then the bonus of eternal life! This is once again the Great Reversal: Many who are first will end up last, and the last first.”

Talk together, responding to these questions:

- How did the man react to Jesus’ words? How did the disciples? How do you?
- How can you be a better disciple, considering the radical words of Jesus in Mark that you have to sell all you own, give the money to the poor, and then follow him?
- What have you left behind to follow Jesus? What have you held onto tightly?
- How would you describe what Dietrich Bonhoeffer (martyred pastor and author from Nazi Germany) calls “the cost of discipleship?”
- How do you think Job’s values are being reshaped as he laments God’s absence?
- How have our values already been reshaped during the pandemic?
- What are your thoughts about what *The Message* describes as the Great Reversal?

Pray together:

You alone are holy, O God; you alone are good. Hear us as we bring our joys and our concerns, our thanksgivings and our demands. Fill us with the assurance that you truly hear our words and thoughts, our songs and our tears. Reshape our values as you help us let go of worldly goods and leave lesser things behind so that we may be ready to enter your holy realm on that day when the first are last and the last are first; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Bless one another:

Take each person's hand and say: "God's grace is for you, God's love is upon you, God's call is within you. Be kind to yourself and others this week as a child of God."

Resources Used: *Call to Worship*, Presbyterian Church, USA
Disciplines, The Upper Room
Glory to God, The Presbyterian Hymnal
The Message, by Rev. Eugene Peterson