

Prophecies for December 23, 2007

The Lord gave me an image of a heart that had been pierced and was bleeding. Somehow this is a word of encouragement. He said, "That's my heart and that's much more difficult for me to bear than the wounds I took from the crucifixion; from the nails and the lashings and the beatings." He's saying to us that even before he was born, even when Mary was carrying Him in her womb, that His suffering started. He could sense her embarrassment and her inadequacy and it continued after he was born when Joseph first held him. He could feel Joseph not feeling worthy to be the stepfather to the Son of God. His suffering and pain continued because He loved all of us so much all through His walk on earth. He cared for others. He healed others. He endured loneliness. He endured dealing with those who were sick and hungry. That heart that is pouring out the blood represents Him. He's saying that was more difficult than actually taking the nails. He did it because He loved us. He's calling us to do that too; to walk through the suffering and the pain that is here on this earth. Just look ahead, knowing that the resurrection is at hand. It is a process. That's what he's saying today. It's a process. The pain and suffering is a process. It's not an end and we're not to focus on it. We're to focus on the resurrection and the power that lies there.

This was very close to what I was hearing the Lord saying this morning. Actually, I had an image too, but it was a little brighter image than a pierced heart. It was the image of the drummer boy. The drummer boy felt so inadequate. He had nothing to offer. The Lord says to us, we come to Him saying we have nothing to offer. He's not looking for anything. He sent His son, Jesus, to be the treasure. Yes. But, even more He sees us as the treasure. He sent His son to reclaim the treasure that had been lost. The little drummer boy felt inadequate. All he could do is play his drum. All we can do is just come and praise. When we praise, when we sing the glory of God, the heavens open, the darkness is dispersed and the light of Christ can come. When we sing the praise, when we offer what we have ourselves, our brokenness, our pierced hearts, our bleeding selves to Him, He is overjoyed. For it's what He came to seek and to redeem. And just as was said in that word a moment ago, if we would keep our eyes on the risen Lord--keep our eyes on the promise that He came--that He would die for our sins and that we would be born again. He came to die. Praise the Lord. He came to give us life. We're the treasure and He's seeking us and He's drawing us back to the Father. And in that we can rejoice and we sing praise and the darkness is dispersed and the light of Christ comes. Not just to us but into this world; when we will but glorify God, with the angels and the archangels, with the shepherds and the little girl and boy. We offer our selves, our souls and our bodies and God is glorified in us. Thanks be to God.

I think I have a similar image, similar, but different to that. I've just read this past week "The Road" by Cormac McCarthy. It's not a Christian book per se, but it's an interesting message that I think is apropos to what the words have just been said.

This man and his son are walking through post-apocalyptic America, basically after a nuclear war and everything is covered in ash. They have clothes basically and

very little food. But they keep telling each other, “We’re carrying the fire, right? Yes, we’re carrying the fire.” They know all they have to do is hold onto that when they’re walking through this horrible world that’s been created. They can somehow make it, not to totally give away the ending, but it’s only when they put down the gun (they have guns to protect themselves) and trust somebody else, they can really share the fire. I think that image is an image that we need to keep. It’s just putting one foot in front of the other, even though the world seems very bleak and desolate and there’s no life. We have the fire and we can’t be on our guard and constantly have a gun, so to speak, with us at all times to protect ourselves from the bleak world. We have to share the fire instead. I think that’s part of what the bleeding heart is about, too. It’s about His love for the world and His desire to share that.

Prophetic Words – January 6, 2008

I believe our gift to Him is our bodies, a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto Him. He wants us not to conform to this world, but be transformed and changed into His image.

I don’t know how this relates to gifts, but the words I heard were “Let me hold you in my pocket”

What I get from that is that a lot of us keep very important things in our pockets. We keep our wallets. We keep our keys; pictures of our family. I have a rather beloved Saint Christopher medal on my key chain. We all keep things in our pockets that are most important to us to have with us at all times. I think what the Lord is saying through this is “we are that for Him.” He in some sense wants to keep our pictures in His pockets at all times, because He wants to have us near Him all the time. We’re that important to Him.

I had that image when I was a kid. I had put a hamster in my pocket and when I walked around, he was looking at everything I was doing all the whole time. It’s like when Adam used to walk with God in the garden. They used to walk and talk with each other. He used to see all the things that the Creator would do each and everyday.

We can’t stuff Jesus in our pocket, but He easily slips us into His.

Prophecies for January 27, 2008

Last night Christopher and I were watching figure skating on TV and they kept breaking in with the South Carolina primaries to tell us what was going on and all the people standing behind Barack Obama to celebrate his win were waving signs saying “Change you can trust”. I’m here to tell you this morning there’s only one source of change you can trust and that’s the Lord. You’re not going to get it from any politician. I don’t care who he is or how much you like his positions or how good you think he is; it’s not coming from there and it’s not coming from any self-help program. It’s not

coming from the psychiatrist or the psychologist or whatever else you think it might be coming from. The only change you can trust is God, the Lord. It's the Lord in this time of people putting their hopes in men that is going to tell us very clearly it's a bad idea. We put our hope in You. And whoever gets elected we put our hope in You for this country. And we put our hope in You for our lives. You're the only one. You're the only source whom we can trust. So we thank you Lord, that already we know where true change in our lives can come from.

Prophecies for February 3, 2008

I believe the Lord is saying that the whole earth is full of My glory. The whole earth is waiting for the sons of men to reveal that glory.

Often we look at the world and we see the brokenness of it, we don't see the glory of it. The Lord wants us to see the glory of what once was and what will be again some day. He sees evil when He sees the world, but He sees what He created it to be, not what we've turned it into. I think what He's saying is that He wants us to see that as a possibility and not despair for the world. And the world is full of His glory and can be full of His glory again. A quote that is in my head by a political figure, but it is a religious quote in some ways: Robert F. Kennedy said, "Some people look to the past and ask why. I look to the future and ask why not." So, I think God wants us to look at the future and ask why not.

Prophecies for February 10, 2008

"Lord, You bid Your faithful people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the Pascal Feast, with fervent prayer and works of mercy, renewed by Your word and sacraments that they can come to the fullness of grace which You have prepared for those who love You." Lord, this is the celebration day; this is the day of Resurrection. It is a day for rejoicing. We recognize Your sorrow in the garden. We recognize Your sacrifice on the cross. But, Lord we also rejoice because we stand assured of Your resurrection from the dead. Your conquering of sin, Satan, death and all the power of evil. And this day we rejoice and we give You thanks. We give You praise. For You alone are worthy. You alone are God. You alone are worthy of the thanks and praise of Your people. Alleluia.

The Lord would say to me that... we heard today about the Garden of Eden, about a tree that had the fruit of knowledge of good and evil on it. We heard about the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives. But, there is another garden. "Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life as clear as crystal flowing from the throne of God into the Lamb down the middle of the great stream of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree hold the healing of the patients. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God of the Lamb will be in the city. And His servants will serve Him. They will see His face and His name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night.

They will not need the light of the Lamb for the light of the Son of the Lord God will give them light and they will reign forever and ever." (Revelation 22:1-5)

I feel like the Lord keeps telling me to be prepared for change. You think you've been here before, but the Lord is doing a new thing.

Prophecies for February 17, 2008

The word I keep hearing is truth. Jesus went through the scourging because He trusted the Father. We're going through Lent and our disciplines because we trust in Jesus.

A couple of weeks ago we had the privilege of going to the Biltmore House. Our favorite part was going to the farm. When visiting the smithy, he started with a long piece of metal. He put it in the fire and pulled it out and took it to the anvil, and hammered it, and put it back in, and took it out and hammered it some more. He got to the place where He was ready to make the leaf. He explained to us that when the smithy makes something artistic they want it to look as close to the real thing as possible. So he was ready to do that and he put it back in the fire. He poured water on the fire and instead of it cooling off the fire, the hydrogen immediately dissipated and the oxygen caused the fire to become hotter. He explained that in order to make the leaf or whatever he was making as close to the original, as close to the real thing, he had to make the fire hotter. Then he was able to put on the finishing touches to make it look and become close to the real thing.

I guess where I'm going with that is that's something God has been talking to me in my life. The fire becomes hotter because He wants to make me like Him.

I was thinking when Kelly was sharing; of course in Hebrews it says, "Our God is a consuming fire." The word Holy is an interesting word because it really means set apart--other. Our God is so completely other from us and I think sometimes we live in this illusion that God is somehow cozy. God is a lot of things, but cozy isn't one of them. The angels can't stand to look at His face. They cover their eyes with their wings because of the brightness of His holiness. The Hebrews couldn't stand to look at the mountain because of the fire. The only reason we can even come close is because He's become Jesus. He's become what we are. So we can stand to look on His holiness.

I think what Kelly was sharing is absolutely right. We have to become so much more like Him to be able to be near Him without being burnt up. One of the early desert fathers was taught all that he had done in his hermitage and his meditation, the prayers and the fasting and so on and so forth. He goes to the Abbott and says, "What more can I do?" And the Abbott says, "Why not become all flame." It's such an amazing thing that God was willing to become something other than all flames and we could come close to Him.

You say He's alive. Is He quite safe? Of course He's not safe, but He's good.