

Prophecies for May 4, 2008

Father, I thank You that we have another day to worship You. I thank You for Your Son and what He has accomplished. My heart is so full and I just thank You.

I'm sensing a word that I heard through our prayer time as a family the other night. That word is "but, God". It seems so hard sometimes during the week when things are going haywire, or when things haven't gone exactly as we hoped. We see people who are obviously not walking the way of the Lord who seem to have no problems. In Psalm 73, the psalmist says, he didn't understand how all this stuff could be happening, until he went into the sanctuary of God and gazed on His presence. It's not until we come together, it's not until we see the light of His countenance in the face of our brothers and sisters as we worship, as we come and we hear the word of God, as we come to the altar and taste the good food of the Holy Eucharist and receive the grace that comes through the sacraments—it's not until we come into His holy of Holies and gaze at His presence do we understand there is something far greater than the things of this world. And there is something far greater that can take care of all the problems of this world. We may have all the problems; we may have all the trials and tribulations of this life. But God, but God, but God is greater than all the problems. But God is greater than all the evil of this world. But God is greater than every trial and tribulation that may come against us. And it's not until we come into the sanctuary of God that we are renewed and we are strengthened. The Holy Spirit rains down upon us, that we are strengthened to go forth and act the next week. But God will give you the strength if you will put God first. But God will give us everything we need.

Lord we live in a land where we have to try to be skinny. We live in a land where everyone has their own house. Everybody has two or three cars. People get upset when they have to wear the same shoes two days in a row. I see a lot of people that, including me, Lord, that aren't giving You the thanks and praise that You deserve. Lord, I'm just afraid because I know You are a just God and what You give, You can take away. Lord, we pray for this land this morning. Lord in scripture you say to pray for your land and it would be healed for us. Right now in Jesus name we lift up our land to You, Lord.

One of the vows we take, and I think sometimes we take lightly, in the baptismal vows, is to respect the dignity of every human being. And that's on our mind that we have that. From the unborn child who's just getting its first heartbeat to the old person who we stick in a nursing home and forget about, to the terrorist who straps bombs to his chest and goes into market places, to the African child dying of aids and no one seems to care. All of these people have dignity, one way or the other. It is our job description not to decide who has the right to live and die, who is better, who is worse. It is our job to love and our job to pray, our job to lift them up. It is not our job to decide who is worthy, who is not worthy, whose life is more important, whose life is more valuable because all life is valuable, every single human life means something, is worth something and has dignity and it is our job to lift up the dignity of every human being.

I do think too, in light of that, we are complacent in selfishness of the American culture and selfishness of the western world, that we think it's worthwhile to use lots of corn to make ethanol so we can keep driving while people in Haiti and all those other places are starving to death for tiny, little bits of grain. We think it's worthwhile to use millions of gallons of water so we can have pretty green golf courses, when people don't have enough to drink. We can say that we personally don't do that, but we are complacent in this culture that values those sorts of things so much and values for our own convenience and our own lifestyle so much that we can kind of look the other way. We are so sheltered and something happens like a tornado that comes through Arkansas and blows away everything that a whole bunch of people own and kills people and we realize that we are living in a make-believe world, that we think this is safe and this is sustainable. I just pray forgiveness for our selfishness, personally, corporately, as a country, as a culture that you would forgive us.