

## Prayer

### **PSALM 50:1-5**

*The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth  
from the rising of the sun to its setting.*

*Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.*

*Our God comes; he does not keep silence;*

*before him is a devouring fire, around him a mighty tempest*

*He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people:*

*“Gather to me my **faithful** ones,*

*who made **covenant** with me by **sacrifice!**”*

*The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge!*

## Loving Accountability

Let's look back at last week - ask for testimonies.

- Matthew 28 - The authority of Jesus
  - *did you submit to the authority of Jesus?*
- Heart of God - Reaching the Nations, Brutal Facts 85K in CMC
  - Did you take any steps to reach our county this week? Share?
- Matthew 4:19 - Follow and Fish
  - Can anyone share a testimony of increased prayer or abiding?
  - Can anyone share a testimony of going into the harvest and sharing the Gospel?

Share about Josh and Christian inviting Bill and I & the increased #'s on ZOOM.

### **Vision -**

We, Revolve Church, exists to Glorify God by Making Disciples who Make Disciples of

all nations. That every committed adult at Revolve would prayerfully disciple two to three people this year to grow as a disciple who makes disciples.

- ACTION:
  - Abide
  - Find God prepared people
  - Basics of discipleship

We believe that to be in the simplest form to **Follow Jesus and obey His commands.**

There are many parts and layer to this, but we need to simply **hear & obey**

### **LOOKING UP**

### **Recap -**

It seems like it was just yesterday, but we've been studying the book of John for 44 weeks now. Today we pick up in John 12

- Lazarus was raised from the dead and Mary then anointed Jesus' feet.

**JOHN 12:9-11** - When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

Continued pattern in John. Jesus' does a miracle, people get excited, Jesus says something weird, people scratch their heads and walk away.

This passage we see two responses to Jesus miracle.

- Check out the Lazarus show
- Kill Lazarus - to shut down the movement
  - Both of these responses are *self* focused
    - (John Story/FEEL close to Jesus without actually following)
    - Upsetting to their own personal power structure

**JOHN 12:12-15** - The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him crying out, Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

Crowds/Jewish People are getting excited - *Their time* has come.

Years/Centuries of oppression is coming to an end.

Grab a palm it's time to party. (self focused)

**DBS** - God? / Donkey's colt. Humble King. Didn't come to establish His kingdom w/force

Man? / Crowds draw a crowd. We like these large gatherings. Mob mentality.

Let's go back to the beginning - to what God says way back in Genesis to Abram (the father of the Jewish people).

Genesis 11:6-9 And the LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. <sup>7</sup> Come, let us go down there and confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech." <sup>8</sup> So <sup>e</sup>the LORD dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. <sup>9</sup> Therefore its name was called <sup>f</sup>Babel, because there the LORD confused<sup>1</sup> the language of all the earth. And from there the LORD dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

What does this passage teach us about God and what He thinks about large crowds gathering and making a name for themselves?

What can this look like in our own context today.

- What could this look like in our Church / DG / Personal/Family Life?
- Are we growing a crowd or an empire within those areas?

**Genesis 12:1-4** Now <sup>m</sup>the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country<sup>2</sup> and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup><sup>n</sup>And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.<sup>3</sup><sup>o</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and <sup>p</sup>in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Peter Reminds the Jewish people their role when planting the first Church in

**Acts 3:25** You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, <sup>9</sup>“And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.’

Peter was reminding them - This has never been about YOU.

- God’s plan has always been for *His* people to spread throughout the world
- God laid this plan out early on to Abraham, but God’s people were missing it. They missed it then,
- Are we missing it now?
- Are we, as God’s people, being a blessing and making HIS name great.

Look at today's context -

- What does this mean to be the global church? Why are we gathering as this crowd today?
  - Celebrate large crowds / We provide a good show / celebrity)
  - Easy to judge the crowds in Bible times and online, but let's look inward.
    - We don't announce when Bill's not going to be preaching
    - When the second week of Indonesia, attendance was down 50%
- What does this mean to be a Discipleship Group?
  - We are with our friends and families
  - We are reading the word and praying
  - These are good things, I'm guilty of this as well - I love my DG.
  - Are we thinking of multiplication or are we happy simply gathering?
  - It's in the name Discipleship Group - Disciples make Disciples
- What does this look like as a family, or individual?
  - Are we building our kingdom
    - our job, our kids, our stuff?
  - What does it look like to be a family that is focused on making God's name great throughout the nations?
  - Do we gather because we think God is going to bless us if we are on His team? Prosperity Gospel - William Prayer Walking Story

We need to be careful church with thinking the Gospel is about us.

- It's not about our good works.
- You think the creator of the universe is impressed that showed up today?
  - It's not about you or the stuff you do.
- We are going to talk later about the good works, we are expected to do as a **response** to Jesus death and His resurrection.

It's not even about His death for us. Stop making it about us. Stop making it about you!

Yes, Jesus loves you. Yes, Jesus died on the cross to redeem you to the Father. Yes, the world was created in such a way that humans have dominion and thrive.

But we are created in GOD's image - to do God's work. To be a blessing to the nations

One more thing and then I'll start the sermon -

Can we stop with the whole "self love" thing? I see people post Bible verses on social media daily yet mixed in are these "self love" posts. Like - You need to love yourself before you can love others. NO. STOP. be careful Christians, we can walk a dangerous line when we start looking at the world for our wisdom rather than God's Word.

**Ephesians 4:17 - You must no longer walk as the gentiles to in the futility of your minds.**

I am not saying to be masochistic. Yes, we are created in the image of God and we are to harm no one - including ourselves. But.

If you think you need to love yourself before you can love others and claim to be a follower of Jesus. If you claim to have the Holy Spirit, the same Holy Spirit that hovered over creation... before creation was even creation. If you believe He is in your heart and that is not enough. You don't need "me time" or "self care" - you need time alone with Jesus in prayer. Because Jesus is more powerful than any "Self help, instagram yahoo." And you need to ask Jesus to remind you of your identity as a child of God and your purpose as a follower of Christ. And that being filled with the Holy Spirit is enough to give you the strength to love your neighbor, to love your kids, to love your boss. Sure go for a walk, have a night with friends... But remember where your strength comes from. More of Jesus, less of me.

Ok - let's start the sermon.

**John 12:20-26** <sup>2</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some <sup>f</sup>Greeks. <sup>21</sup> So these came to <sup>g</sup>Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup> Philip went and told <sup>h</sup>Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.<sup>23</sup> And Jesus answered them, <sup>i</sup>"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.<sup>24</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup> <sup>l</sup>Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup> If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. <sup>q</sup>If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

### **Summarize -**

- I think it is interesting that it was the Greeks (Gentiles) who were coming to meet with Jesus. Not the Jews who are currently celebrating.
- Jesus hits them with the heavy stuff right off the bat. Jesus holds nothing back and is focused on what He wants to think is important for these new followers.
- Jesus talks about the cost of following Him and Multiplication
  - If you have come to Revolve more than once, you've heard us bang those two drums. Following (or Abiding) Multiplication (or Movement) // Hear and Obey

### **So what does this teach us about God.**

- V.23 He is about Jesus being glorified.
- V.24 Glorification requires sacrifice.
  - There needs to be a movement away from the norm, then death, then the fruit comes
- V. 25 Jesus is eternally focused

### **So what does this teach us about Mankind or ourselves.**

- V.25 We must lose our life to love it.
  - Very Clear Jesus - thank you
  - This is counter to EVERYTHING the world teaches us.

- Imagine that marketing campaign.
  - Love your life, help others.
  - But don't post about it so everyone knows and you look cool.
- V.26 If anyone serves me, he must follow me. Where I am my servant will be.
  - Little more clear. Interesting He flips it - Serve / Follow
    - It shows that serving is also abiding
      - You can't serve Jesus, if you don't know where He is moving.
  - We often look at it as we follow and then serve.
  - This stresses the authority of Jesus.
- If we are a follower of Jesus - We must be a servant.
  - What do servant's do - they submit and do the work of the master.
  - Following Jesus is ongoing.
    - Following in moving, not just stopping at the "altar"
  - Again - a servant's life is NOT about him.
    - It's about the Master.

**What do we do with this? How do we OBEY this passage?**

- To serve Jesus, we must follow him
- He was God among men.
  - Do you ever get frustrated when you're around stupid people?

- The creator betrayed by his own creation
  - Do you know how mad I get at my kids when they are ungrateful?
- He didn't live in a palace, He wasn't born in a hospital. He wasn't given a fair trial.
  - How often do we get indignant about our "rights" or what we "deserve"
- He emptied himself for others to the point of death.
  - **Jesus was a sacrifice.** And tells / commands us to follow Him.

### How do we live a life of sacrifice?

This is a passage I was wrestling with a few weeks ago and I want us to take time to investigate and really pray about what it means in our **own** life

**Hebrews 11:4 By faith <sup>h</sup>Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.**

By Faith (like Abel) - we are to be offering up a **more acceptable** sacrifice.

The **sacrifice** is what commended him as righteous by God.

**Faith (in Jesus)** is what counts us as righteous in the eyes of God.

- Sacrifice is the action step of faith - they are married.

If there is not a response of a faith filled worthy sacrifice - are we truly following Jesus? .

And sacrifice is costly. It's our life. Romans 12 calls it a "living sacrifice"

We are to offer an **acceptable** sacrifice.

- In Abel's case and Jesus' case it cost him his life.

## What makes ABEL's sacrifice an acceptable sacrifice?

1) His heart in the right spot.

a) He acted in obedience not obligation.

Think about your relationship with Jesus - where is your heart?

Obedience or obligation.

2) It was In line with who he was.

a) There are tons of commentaries about the depth of Cain's sacrifice, but if we boil it down to this.

i) He offered the first and best of what he had to God.

ii) Abel was a shepard, so his sacrifice was his food, his livelyhood, it was his work, it was his pride.

Sacrifice is going to look different to different people. I am going to give you some examples of sacrifice as it looks in Revolve. But we are going to take time to pray about the true cost of following Jesus. What does it look like to live for Jesus and die to our self.

Sacrifice of friends for the gospel

Sacrifice money - 40K of the 90K was one family.

Sacrifice time and family. Going on a trip / spouse going on a trip / fostering

Families are going up "family time" the sake of the nations

We all play a roll - baby sitting and meals and just support (how you doing)

Sacrifice our pastor and staff. We have a great pastor, who God has blessed as a teacher - and when he travels to different places and countries to train. We rejoice that we can support him and we have other elders and leaders who can step in. We need to not be only thinking of ourselves.

Individual level -

Sacrifice time for prayer.

Lunch times, 10am calls.

Sacrifice vacation time.

Only get one week of vacation time a year can't go. It's a sacrifice.

I can't judge and I can't tell you what sacrifice means for each and everyone one of you

But I CAN say is

Jesus commands us to follow Him

Jesus lived His complete life in Sacrifice for the Glory of the Father -

Are you willing to do the same?