**Sunday, April 22, 2012**

**Welcome** – Greg Snow

**There Is None Like You –** Psalm 86:8-13

Hear the word of the Lord this morning:

***There is none like You among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like Yours. All the nations You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord, and shall glorify Your name.***

*For You are great and do wondrous things; You alone are God.*

*Teach me Your way, O LORD, that I may walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name.*

*I give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify Your name forever. For great is Your steadfast love toward me; You have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.*

Join me as we sing praises to our great God!

**Song of Praise** – *Our Great God*

**Praises To My God and King –** *Psalm 145:1-3/1 Timothy 1:17*

*I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.*

*Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.*

*Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.*

*To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.*

**Song of Worship** – *Sing Allelu*

**Divine Mercies** –*A Puritan’s Prayer*

**Thou Eternal God,**  
Thine is surpassing greatness, unspeakable goodness, super-abundant grace;  
I can as soon count the sands of ocean’s ‘lip’ as number Thy favours towards me;  
I know but a part – but that part exceeds all praise.

I thank Thee for personal mercies, a measure of health, preservation of body,  
comforts of house and home, sufficiency of food and clothing, continuance of mental powers,  
my family, their mutual help and support, the delights of domestic harmony and peace,  
the seats now filled that might have been vacant, my country, church, Bible, faith.

But, Oh, how I mourn my sin, ingratitude, vileness, the days that add to my guilt,  
the scenes that witness my offending tongue;  
All things in heaven, earth, around, within, without, condemn me –  
the sun which sees my misdeeds, the darkness which is light to Thee,  
the cruel accuser who justly charges me,  
the good angels who have been provoked to leave me,  
Thy countenance which scans my secret sins,  
Thy righteous law, Thy holy Word,  
my sin-soiled conscience, my private and public life,  
my neighbors, myself –  
all write dark things against me.

I deny them not, frame no excuse, but confess,  
‘Father, I have sinned’;  
Yet still I live, and fly repenting to Thy outstretched arms;  
Thou wilt not cast me off, for Jesus brings me near,  
Thou wilt not condemn me, for He died in my stead,  
Thou wilt not mark my mountains of sin,  
for He levelled all, and His beauty covers my deformities.

Oh my God, I bid farewell to sin by clinging  
to His cross, hiding in His wounds, and sheltering in His side.

**Songs of Worship** – *My Savior’s Love/Be Thou My Vision*

**Offering**

**Hunger and Thirst After Righteousness *–*** (This excerpt was taken from Studies in the Sermon on the Mount Volume One, by Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones.)

Everybody wants to be happy. That is the great motive behind every act and ambition, behind all work and all striving and effort. Everything is designed for happiness. But the great tragedy of the world is that, though it gives itself to seek for happiness, it never seems to be able to find it. The present state of the world reminds us of that very forcibly. What is the matter? I think the answer is that we have never understood this text as we should have done. *Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness.’* What does it mean? Let me put it negatively like this. We are not to hunger and thirst after blessedness; we are not to hunger and thirst after happiness. But that is what most people are doing. We put happiness and blessedness as the one thing that we desire, and thus we always miss it; it always eludes us. According to the Scriptures hap­piness is never something that should be sought directly; it is always something that results from seeking something else. We will never find happiness and blessedness apart from Christ. For this to be obtained you must see your need of Christ, nothing more.

In seeking Christ, 'To be hungry is not enough; I must be really starving to know what is in His heart towards me.' 'When the prodigal son was hungry he went to feed upon husks, but when he was starving, he turned to his father.' To hunger and thirst really means to be desperate, to be starving, to feel life is ebbing out, to realize my urgent need of help. 'Hungering and thirsting after righteousness'- *“As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God.”*

When you and I know our need, this hunger and starvation, this death that is within us, then God will fill us, He will give us this blessed gift. *“Whoever comes to me I will never cast out.”* Now this is an absolute promise, so if you really are hungering and thirsting after righteousness you will be filled. There is no question about it. Make sure you are not hungering and thirsting after blessedness. Hunger and thirst after righteousness, long to be like Christ, and then you will have that and the blessedness.

**Songs of Worship –** *Take My Life/Give Me Jesus*

**Message** – *“Hunger and Thirst For Righteousness”*   
 *Scripture Reference: Matthew 5:6*

*“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”*

* Jesus is the gate to the Kingdom.
  + Genesis 3:23-24
  + Matthew 7:13
  + Revelation 22:14
* *“Gods righteousness means that God always acts in accordance with what is right and is Himself the final standard of what is right.”* Wayne Grudem

1. **Gods Righteousness**
   * Gods righteousness is seen in scripture as that which is imputed unto us – it is a gift (Romans 4)
   * Entrance into the Kingdom is gained through seeing our sin & being broken of our sin. This is not taught in the typical American church.
   * False conversions are due to a “prayer” that we say but there is no life change.
   * The only way to be clean is to rid yourself of “self.”
   * Righteousness is action
     1. We are saved totally by grace but our life, attitude, & desires have to change.
   * Righteousness is a desire for mercy. Through righteousness, you will begin to show mercy to others; you will begin to be a peacemaker.
   * *“If nothing in this world satisfies me, it tells me I was built for another world.”* C.S. Lewis
2. **The Pattern of the Beatitudes**
   * The Beatitudes are perfect in their order. First, we are broken and drawn to Him; then Christ works through us to bring Himself more glory
   * IT’S ALL ABOUT HIS GLORY!

**Take-Away’s**

1. Can you imagine a world in which this Righteousness was treasured, honored, & lovingly followed? Think of the transformation of your life at home & work.
2. The true mark of maturity and growing in Christ is the continual hungering & thirsting after Gods Righteousness.
3. Hungering & thirsting is **the way in and the way of** the Kingdom of heaven.
4. *“I do not know of a better test to see if one is a Christian.”* Martyn Lloyd-Jones   
   Do you hunger and thirst after Righteousness?
5. You must enter by the narrow gate! What are you waiting for? Enter today!

**Time of Prayer**