

# Sunday, September 22, 2013

**Welcome** – Greg Snow

**Call to Worship** – *Psalm 40:1-3 (Source: Rick Ezell)*

Welcome in the name of Jesus Christ! It is our prayer and desire that each one of us find great joy and spiritual nourishment as we worship together today. Hear the words found in Psalm, Chapter 40, Verses 1-3:

*I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.*  
*Psalm 40:1-3*

David had an experience with the Lord. God had rescued him and refreshed him. David was a changed man. And, he couldn't be silent about it. David was exuberant in song and praise. He was excited. He could not contain his joy, his happiness, his relief. He had to shout and sing. I encourage you, as David did, to lay aside your troubles, your anxieties, your fears, and your cares and celebrate God's gift of mercy and grace; God's touch of forgiveness; God's power to personally lift you out of the slimy pits of life; God's provision to set you on firm footing. Let's come together now and praise our Redeemer!

**Songs of Praise** – *For All You've Done/Lord, I Lift Your Name on High*

**Confession of Sin & Prayer** – *Psalm 32, 51:1-4, 6, 9-11*

Listen to the words, paraphrased from Psalm, Chapter 32:

*“What happiness for those whose guilt has been forgiven! What joys when sins are covered over! What relief for those who have confessed their sins and God has cleared their record.*

*There was a time when I wouldn't admit what a sinner I was. But my dishonesty made me miserable and filled my days with frustration. All day and all night your hand was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water on a sunny day until I finally admitted all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide them.*

Let the following verses from Psalm 51 be our corporate prayer:

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.*

*Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.*

*Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.*

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.*

During the next few moments let's spend time in silent prayer, asking God to forgive you of your sins and to create in you a clean heart, so that He may be glorified in all you do. Let's pray.

**Assurance of Salvation** – 1 Timothy 1:15, 17

Listen to these words of encouragement found in 1 Timothy, Chapter 1:

*Here are words you may trust, words that merit full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. To all who confess their sins and resolve to lead a new life, he says, "Your sins are forgiven." He also says, "Follow me." Now to the one who rules all worlds, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever.*

**Songs of Worship** – *Grace That Is Greater/My Savior's Love*

**Offering** *"Life is wasted if we do not grasp the glory of the cross, cherish it for the treasure that it is, and cleave to it as the highest price of every pleasure and the deepest comfort in every pain. What was once foolishness to us – a crucified God – must become our wisdom and our power and our only boast in this world."* John Piper

**Take Up Your Cross and Follow Me** – Matthew 16:24 (Source: Ligon Duncan)

This is the Word of God found in Matthew 16:24...

*Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.*

Salvation is the free gift that costs you everything. To be a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ means giving up everything because you treasure him above everything else. He will not allow you to give up more for Him than He gives back to you, but what you desired on the other side of discipleship may be very different from the gifts He gives back to you on this side of discipleship. The gifts that He gives back as a disciple you will treasure, but chances are they will be very different from the things you desired before you became His disciple. Now, there's an important message, my friends, in how we make disciples. You know if someone had come to us and said, "I've decided to follow Jesus," chances are our response would be, "Wonderful! Welcome to the kingdom!" Jesus' response would be, "Have you really desired to follow Me? Have you really decided to follow Me? Do you know what's entailed in following Me?" So before we're too quick to declare, "We will not waver, we will not tire, we will not falter," let's remember what's entailed in following Jesus and ask ourselves one simple question: "Is Jesus my treasure?" If He is your treasure then you won't mind giving up anything and everything else that's not your treasure. But, if you find yourself having it hard in giving up your other treasures, chances are that He's not the treasure to you that He ought to be. Chances are your heart is divided and that's what Jesus is getting at here. He wants disciples whose hearts are not divided. They've already decided that He's more important than anyone else and so they're ready to give up everything and follow Him.

To the One who calls you and says, "Follow Me...take up your cross and die daily," gives back to you a hundred more times more, He gives you this blessing - Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Songs of Worship** – *Trust and Obey/I Surrender All*

**Message** – *“Setting His Face Towards Jerusalem”*

*Scripture Reference: Matthew 16:21-28*

**Time of Prayer**

**Song of Worship** – *Have Thine Own Way, Lord*

**Benediction**