

# PREPARING FOR WORSHIP AT 11

**Sunday January 28, 2018**

**These notes are posted to help you take a few minutes to prepare for worship through reading the scripture and thinking about the songs!**

**SCRIPTURE: Read 2 Kings 2:1-14.** Elisha asked for a double share of Elijah's prophetic power. He was asking to be Elijah's heir, or successor, the one who would continue Elijah's work as leader of the prophets. His request was a bold one, but God granted it. Why? Perhaps because Elisha's motives were pure. His main goal was not to be better or more powerful than Elijah, but to accomplish more for God. When we ask God for great power or ability, we need to examine our desires and get rid of any selfishness we find.

**Read Matthew 11:28-30** In this passage the Lord was addressing the people of Israel who were burdened and weighed down with the externalism and the legal do's and don'ts of the Pharisees, and with the consequences—the guilt, frustration, and dissatisfaction that always goes along with legalism. Even though the Old Testament Law was good, holy, and righteous, it did not bring liberty because it was weak in that it depended on man. It did not provide the means of fulfilling the law and thus it left man under the guilt and load of sin. Rather than freedom, it brought oppression. Paul called it an administration of death. Instead of a sense of release, it brought a sense of guilt and failure. Those who were under the Mosaic Law were said to be yoked to Moses. Those who were under the authority of the Pharisees were said to be yoked to the Pharisees. It is in the midst of this religious setting that the Lord makes a very gracious invitation to all who would want to experience the relief, joy, and the blessings of His life through a grace/faith relationship with Him. This is an invitation aimed at all, at the curious and at the convinced to bring them to a place of a deeper level of commitment in which they are to take His yoke and learn from Him as committed disciples. We read: "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden" (Matthew 11:28a). "Come" It expresses the desire and compassionate heart of the Savior and is His appeal for people to come to Him as a relief from their oppression. It is a call to turn from whatever they are presently depending on to Him. For those without the Savior, it is equivalent to a call to believe in Him. For those who are already believers, it is a call to follow him as a committed disciple; it is a call to completely turn their lives over to Him. Christianity is a relationship with the person of Jesus Christ. This is not a call to a program, nor a system of religion, nor to a church, and certainly not to the discipler, or some human leader. Too often disciple makers end up cloning subordinates rather than developing Christlike people. They draw people to themselves and reproduce graven images. In essence, they say, "agree with me, think like me, dress like me, teach like I do, act like me, and you will have success, or have a successful ministry." While God uses churches, people, and theological systems, Christianity is an intimate, personal relationship with the Lord Jesus. "All" points to the

universal significance of this offer. We are never to be partial to one group, or class, or nationality. In Christ, God reaches out to the whole world.

### **SONGS:**

**Better is One Day:** The scriptures are quoted throughout this song. Take time to look up several which stand out to you:

**How lovely is Your dwelling place, Oh Lord Almighty (Psalm 84:1)**  
**My soul longs and even faints for You (Psalm 84:2)**  
**For here my heart is satisfied, within Your presence (Psalm 63:5)**  
**I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings (Psalm 63:7)**

**Better is one day in Your courts**  
**Better is one day in Your house**  
**Better is one day in Your courts**  
**Than thousands elsewhere (Psalm 84:10)**

**One thing I ask, and I would seek, to see Your beauty,**  
**To find You in the place Your glory dwells (Psalm 27:4)**  
**My heart and flesh cry out,**  
**For You the living God (Psalm 84:2 again)**  
**Your Spirit's water for my soul (Psalm 63:1, Isaiah 44:3, John 4:14,**  
**Revelation 22:17)**  
**I've tasted and I've seen, (Psalm 34:8)**  
**Come once again to me.**  
**I will draw near to You. (Ecclesiastes 5:1, Hebrews 4:16, James 4:8)**  
**I will draw near to You**

**Word of God, Speak---**Here's the first verse of this song: *I'm finding myself at a loss for words, and the funny thing is it's okay. The last thing I need is to be heard, but to hear what You would say.* There are times we need to "get things off our chest" but being heard is not as essential as hearing what God is saying to us. "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10) comes to mind. Taking time to quiet our heart and listen to the (I Kings 19:12-13) "gentle whisper" of the Spirit. The song continues: *I'm finding myself in the midst of You, beyond the music, beyond the noise. All that I need is to be with You, and in the quiet hear Your voice.* The New Testament tells us that Jesus "often" spent time alone so that He could pray to His Father (Luke 5:16). We could follow Jesus' example and take time to listen to God speaking to our hearts today.

**Oceans---**take time to read through the song text below and pick out several lines which you have an interest in that God might be calling you to read. Use your Bible or on-line search in a site like Bible Gateway to look up the scriptures you wish to consider.

**You call me out upon the waters [Philippians 3:13-14]**  
**The great unknown where feet may fail [Isaiah 40:30-31]**

**And there I find You in the mystery [Colossians 2:2-3]  
In oceans deep, my faith will stand [1 Corinthians 16:13-14]**

**And I will call upon Your Name [Psalm 116:17]  
And keep my eyes above the waves [Psalm 69:14-18]  
When oceans rise, my soul will rest in Your embrace [Psalm 5:11-12]  
For I am Yours and You are mine [Song of Songs 6:3]**

**Your Grace abounds in deepest waters [2 Corinthians 12:9-10]  
Your sovereign hand will be my guide [Psalm 73:23-24]  
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me [Proverbs 4:11-12]  
You've never failed and You won't start now [Lamentations 3:21-25]**

**Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders [Psalm 143:8-10]  
Let me walk upon the waters [Matthew 14:25-29]  
Wherever You would call me [Exodus 33:14-15]  
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander [1 Corinthians 2:10-12]  
And my faith will be made stronger [2 Thessalonians 1:3]  
In the presence of my Savior [Matthew 28:18-20]**

**Draw Me Close:** Here's the song text: *Draw me close to you never let me go. I lay it all down again to hear you say that I'm your friend. You are my desire no one else will do. 'Cause nothing else can take your place to feel the warmth of your embrace. Help me find the way, bring me back to you. You're all I want, you're all I've ever needed. You're all I want, help me know you are near.* Read these scriptures: **John 12:32 - And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all [men] unto me. James 4:8 - Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse [your] hands, [ye] sinners; and purify g[your] hearts, [ye] double minded.** How can you draw close to God? James gives the suggestions: give yourselves humbly to God. Realize you need his forgiveness and be willing to follow him; resist the devil. Don't allow him to entice and tempt you. Wash your hands (lead a pure life) and let your hearts be filled with God. Be cleansed from sin, replacing it with God's purity. Let there be tears, sorrow, and sincere grief for your sins. Don't be afraid to express deep heartfelt sorrow for them. Realize your worthlessness and humble yourself before God, and he will lift you up! (1 Peter 5:6).

**SEE YOU IN WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY! BRING A FRIEND!**