

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP AT 11

Sunday February 25, 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 I Kings 8:29,30 and John 11:41-43 (*Then, to the others, "Go ahead, take away the stone." They removed the stone. Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and prayed, "Father, I'm grateful that you have listened to me. I know you always do listen, but on account of this crowd standing here I've spoken so that they might believe that you sent me."* This statement from Jesus declares the intimate relation which subsists between the Father of all and the Son in Jesus. A continuous absolute communion is ever going on between heaven and earth in the heart of Jesus. His consciousness of the Father is a door opened in heaven. Jesus is our way, truth and life to God the Father)

SONGS:

Song-Blessed Be Your Name.

Read David's prayer to the assembly in 1 Chronicles 29:10-13. *10 Therefore David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: "Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. 11 Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. 12 Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. 13 And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.* Also consider these verses from Isaiah 55:8-9: *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. 9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

Song-Lead Me to the Cross

(These words are from the band HILLSONG): The song: *Lead Me To The Cross* is a good reminder for all of us that we are not our own. We only owe this life to God. You and I belong to Him. We must know that everything is inferior compared to Jesus's companionship. When you come to God, as you spend time in praying and reading His words, you will recognize His presence. The lyrics of the song ask for rest and peace for all the things that we have encountered. The song encourages us to ask help and offer ourselves to God and to let go of the things that we are tempted by and the things we think bring us happiness and meaning in our lives. We must follow God and ask for salvation, give up everything- including ourselves- and most of all love Him and believe Him that He will enter your soul and heart and lead you to the cross.

Song-Give Us Clean Hands

Before you read the lyrics to this song, read Psalm 24:3-6. This passage and this song talk about having clean hands. What do you think the writer means by clean hands?

(clean enough for eating, for food preparation, for surgery?) In the Psalm, why is it that one should have clean hands? What are clean hands and pure hearts the prerequisite for? What kind of blessings do you experience (v.5) by keeping your hands clean?

**We bow our hearts We bend our knees
Oh Spirit come make us humble
We turn our eyes From evil things
Oh Lord we cast down our idols
Give us clean hands Give us pure hearts
Let us not lift our souls to another
Oh God let us be The generation that seeks
Who seeks your face Oh God of Jacob**

There are hints in this song as to ways that we can make sure our hearts are pure. How many do you see and what are they? What evil things have your eyes seen that you need to turn from? What does it mean to lift our souls to an idol, or another? What things or people in your life act as idols? What's the difference between making sure your own hands are clean and asking God to give you clean hands? Whose responsibility is it? This is a song of confession and repentance. Whenever you sing this song, think through the evils and idols in your life and humbly pray to God to remove those.

Song-Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord

Read Ephesians 1:18,19 ...*pray the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.* Here's a prayer to pray: *I am a part of your living body, Lord Jesus. Fill me afresh with your Spirit and open my eyes of faith so that I might understand not just in theory, but in day-to-day living, what it means to be a part of your body. Teach me to think your thoughts, to see with your eyes, to hear with your ears---to live and move and have my very existence in you.*

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