

JESUS OF NAZARETH
THE WEDDING FEAST
MATTHEW 22:1-22
9-27-20

All = bold sections – read together

Leader = regular font – leader reads (choose or rotate leaders)

Sung together = italics

NOTE: Please have a white candle ready to light.

Reflect

The Apostle Paul: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. **(Ephesians 1:3–6)**

Welcome

Good Morning! Summer is over and we have moved into the Fall season. Time keeps marching on no matter what is going on in the world. Forward. It only knows one direction. Onward. It doesn't get distracted. Proceeding. It doesn't deviate. Advancing. It stays the course. We can learn a lot from time. This morning may we learn the steadfastness of time and its relentless and persistent and unwavering nature. May we, in Christ and through the Holy Spirit stay steadfast; relentless in our seeking first the kingdom of God, persistent in putting on Christ and becoming "little Christs" (from CS Lewis last week) and unwavering in our hope that the good news promises of God are bigger, stronger and more trustworthy than anything the world is offering because they are grounded in the victorious resurrected Savior, Jesus of Nazareth, our Lord and King.

May the love and joy of the Father, the grace and peace of the Son and the courage and comfort of the Holy Spirit be ours in abundance!

Call to Worship Psalm 19 TO THE CHOIRMASTER. A PSALM OF DAVID.

Step outside for a moment if you are not already there. Look at the skies – maybe the clouds, the birds in the air, the sun and moon. After not seeing the blue sky for quite a while, may we be struck again with its beauty and magnificence. How are they declaring the glory of God to you this morning? Read through this Psalm responsively (and responsibly!). It talks of the value of creation and the value of the commandments of God (his wishes, desires and wants of us). How valuable are they to you?

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard.

Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy. Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.



The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults. Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Those last words...." let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer." They are a request, a prayer, a desire of King David. What have your mouth and meditations been like recently? Would they qualify as being acceptable in God's sight? Would you be proud to display them for all the world to see? What would they give witness to.... the glory of God or your sinfulness? Both, right. Celebrate and enlarge the former and repent of and minimize the latter.

Christ Candle – Iran

Suffering is a part of life. However, some suffer far more than others. There are places in this world that are darker and harbor and facilitate evil more than others; where waking up is a dangerous thing. While life is more challenging in America these days, it is nothing compared to other places. While there is more unrest, polarization and hostility, we still have freedom and our persecution is minimal.

We do live in a dark world. It is true. A significant portion of that darkness resides in the persecution of Christians around the world for their faith in Jesus of Nazareth. In America, in general, this persecution is minimal. We are free to be disciples of Jesus as individuals, as families and as congregations. We have it relatively easy. That is not true for millions of Christians around the world where there are extreme consequences to being a disciple of Jesus from your family, others and the government. In many countries, it is illegal to be a Christian and punishable by imprisonment or death. For the foreseeable future, we will look at some of these countries as ranked by Open Doors USA to keep us aware of our brothers and sisters in Christ who need our prayers and help and to remind us to be grateful for how good we have it here. Iran is the ninth most challenging place to live as a Christian.

Iran's population is 83 million people of which about 800,000 are disciples of Jesus. Iranian society is governed by Islamic law, which means the rights and professional possibilities for Christians are heavily restricted. Christians are forbidden from sharing their faith with non-Christians in Iran, and it is illegal to produce Christian literature or hold church services in Farsi. Converts from Islam face persecution from the government. If Christians attend an underground house church, they face the constant threat of arrest.

Prayer Points: Pray for Iranian Christians who are in prison right now for their faith. Ask God to give them hope and encouragement in their isolation. Pray that God will work through the leaders in Iran to



create laws that provide more religious freedom for Christians and minority religions. Pray for secret believers who meet in house churches, that they will be protected and will be faithful witnesses to the surrounding culture.

Jesus is the Light. We are a light. Shine His light!

Song Death Was Arrested -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMsMiluCUUI>

*Alone in my sorrow and dead in my sin
Lost without hope with no place to begin
Your love made a way to let mercy come in
When death was arrested and my life began*

*Ash was redeemed only beauty remains
My orphan heart was given a name
My mourning grew quiet my feet rose to dance
When death was arrested and my life began*

*Oh, Your grace so free washes over me
You have made me new now life begins with You
It's your endless love pouring down on us
You have made us new now life begins with You*

*Released from my chains I'm a prisoner no more
My shame was a ransom He faithfully bore
He cancelled my debt and He called me His friend
When death was arrested and my life began*

*Oh, Your grace so free washes over me
You have made me new now life begins with You
It's your endless love pouring down on us
You have made us new now life begins with You*

*Our Savior displayed on a criminal's cross
Darkness rejoiced as though heaven had lost
But then Jesus arose with our freedom in hand
That's when death was arrested and my life began*

*Oh, Your grace so free washes over me
You have made me new now life begins with You
It's your endless love pouring down on us
You have made us new now life begins with You*

*Oh, we're free, free, forever we're free
Come join the song of all the redeemed
Yes, we're free, free, forever amen
When death was arrested and my life began*

Responsive Reading



This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. The heavens declare the glory of God--not in words but in a glorious technicolor light show, every day shouts in wordless language that God, Almighty God, made it all.

“Morning has broken, like the first morning, blackbird has spoken, like the first bird. Praise for the singing, praise for the morning, praise for them springing, fresh from above.” (Eleanor Farjeon)

Blackbird has spoken and the voice of the turtle dove is heard in the land. Look at the birds of the heaven, Jesus says in his Sermon, take a lesson from them. Consider the stork, God says to Job. When she spreads her feathers to run, she laughs at horse and rider.

One of our old confessions tells us that “the universe lies before our eyes like a beautiful book in which all creatures, great and small, are as letters to make us ponder the invisible things of God” (Belgic Confession).

Jesus says, “Consider the lilies” to make us ponder the invisible things of God--his providential care and his love of beautiful things.

When Jesus walked the earth, he walked the earth! His feet were dirty with the dust of the earth. His sermon illustrations were about flowers and trees and seeds and vineyards and birds and fish and sheep and goats and pigs.

The Psalmist lies down in green pastures beside still water and he finds peace. He imagines God dressed up in sunshine with all heaven stretched out for his tent. He imagines God laughing as his pet dragon, the leviathan, frolics in the sea. And he exclaims, “What a wildly wonderful world, God! The glory of the Lord, let it last forever.”

We are gathered here this morning, on this green ranch with the tent of the sky stretched above us, to worship the creator of the universe.

The Lord is in his holy temple and that temple includes all of his creation. The Lord is in his holy temple, let all the earth keep silence before him.

Song Yet Not I But Christ In Me -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zundiUFazfg>

*What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace*

*To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to His
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me*

*The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side, the Savior He will stay
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need, His power is displayed*

*To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley He will lead
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome!*



*Yet not I, but through Christ in me
No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven
The future sure, the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And He was raised to overthrow the grave
To this I hold, my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me*

*With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For He has said that He will bring me home
And day by day I know He will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne*

*To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to Him
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!*

*To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to Him
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!*

*When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!*

Song Be Thou My Vision -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Optrm7IF16s>

*Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light
Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one
Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart
High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art
High King of Heaven, my victory won
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heav'n's Sun*



*Heart of my own heart, whate'er befall
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all*

Prayer

Spend some time praying by praising God for who he is and what he has done in history. Then confess your sins and remember that in Christ, we are forgiven and free from its mastery over our lives. Thank God for the good news of Jesus Christ and the amazing gift of grace and the Holy Spirit who is in us uniting us with God and with each other as disciples of Jesus. Finally, ask God for what you might need. Be careful here. Only ask for those things that are in line with the truths of scripture and the gospel of Jesus Christ. Don't ask as American citizens but as members of the kingdom of God. This makes a difference...a huge difference.

Offering

We remember that giving is an act of faith, a practice of hope and an expression of love.

(You can give by sending your offering to the church, P.O. Box 217, Oakdale Ca 95361 or consider giving online through your bank. Our deacons can help you with this if necessary.)

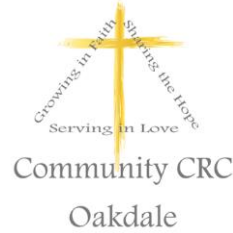
Scripture Reading: Matthew 22:1-22

We are jumping from chapter 20 to chapter 22 as we already covered the contents of chapter 21 during Palm Sunday and Holy Week back in April. Jesus is in Jerusalem and he doesn't leave again. He will be crucified, buried and raised to resurrection life within days. These final chapters are Jesus' last words and encounters before his death and resurrection. The Jewish leaders are seeking to kill Jesus, which they will in a few days. They are hostile to Jesus and we see that in a portion of today's passage. But Matthew is still presenting Jesus as THE Prophet, THE Priest and THE King. He is to be listened to and obeyed even though his ways might seem at odds with our ways. They might seem at odds only because we might be too embedded and shaped by the empires of the world instead of the kingdom of God. We might be too red or blue, too American, too white or too black that we have trouble with the truths of Jesus, the ways of Jesus and the life of Jesus. We might need to repent or being too much of this world and not of the kingdom of God. Jesus is still training his disciples, showing them through word and deed what the kingdom of God is like and what it means and looks like to be a member of this kingdom. He is calling us to the same!

Gospel Message: The Wedding Feast

Weddings are fun! Think of the most amazing wedding celebration you attended. The food. The people. The music. The clothes. The drinks. The laughter. The location. The bride. The groom. All of this leads to a memorable time that is looked back on with great delight and joy. Jesus tells a parable that centers around a wedding and the guests to reveal a startling truth the Pharisees would have a very hard time believing. The truth is this: many are called to attend the wedding feast but only a few are chosen. A second truth is that only those who are wearing the appropriate attire may attend. What does this all mean?

First, Jesus is comparing the kingdom of heaven (God) to a lavish wedding feast. Now most weddings are quite lavish but this one would be the most lavish of all. It is the wedding feast for the king's son. All the wealth and resources of the kingdom are at the king's discretion. This would be no ordinary



feast. It would be a feast by which all other feasts would look up to. The choicest foods and drinks and clothes and musicians and décor and setting. And not just the choicest but the choicest in abundance. There would be far more than all the guest could ever consume. No one would be unsatisfied. And this wedding feast would not be only for one night but often for an entire week, sometimes more! The wedding was worth celebrating extensively and deeply and passionately by all people there. This wedding feast is a picture of our final reunion with God when Jesus returns to judge the living and the dead; leaving all that is good to celebrate the full and final union of Christ and his bride, the church, us. In other words, heaven is pictured as a wedding feast. But something stunning happens.

The wedding celebration is ready. All that is needed is for the guest to arrive so the Father sends people out to alert those who had been invited that it was time – the wedding was going to happen and the feast was ready to be served. “Everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast!” is the message these folks were delivering to the guests. But they don’t come. So, he sends the messengers out again with the same message (grace). And they still don’t come. They ignored the messengers twice. They continued with their own agendas at the places of their work. Life went on as if nothing happened for most of them. Worse than their utter defiance and disgrace of the king, some of them took the messengers the second time and killed them! They did not just ignore the message, they hated it so much they killed the ones carrying the message! This was the highest act of rebellion against the king they could possibly do. And the king notices. He responds with justified anger at the rebellious and disgraceful guests. So, he sends his army to deal with them by giving them what they deserved – death and the destruction of their places of work. The very things they held more highly than the king. Instead of receiving the priceless gift of a gracious wedding feast that they could never merit on their own, they receive what their due reward for their treacherous act of defiance and rebellion and hatred. The killers are killed and the farms and businesses that the others went to instead of the wedding feast were destroyed. Many are called, but few are chosen.

The king then sends the messengers to the main roads of his kingdom to invite everyone they see; doesn’t matter who they are, stranger, foreigner or citizen, good or bad, criminal or not, all are invited. And they do come to the wedding feast so that the massive hall in the palace where the wedding was to take place is completely filled. Standing room only! While the first guest rejects the king, the second guests respects the king and come to him. The first guests represent the Jews to whom God first makes contact with through Abraham and then Isaac and Jacob, Moses, king David and the prophets. When the King’s Son is ready to consummate the marriage with the wedding celebration, the first guests reject him. When God the Father sends Jesus, his one and only Son, the Jews reject him. They ignore him. They go on with life as if nothing happened. And some of them kill him; murder Jesus of Nazareth, God’s own Son; the Kings’ own Son; the groom to be married to his bride, the church. And they will be judged accordingly. Furthermore, those who go out in Jesus’ name as his disciples and evangelists (we are all evangelists as image bearers of Jesus and witnesses to him), we too will be mistreated like Jesus. The second guests are the Gentiles (and repentant Jews, the remnant, chosen by grace). Paul says in Romans 10 and 11 that now is a time of hardening on the Jews and the time for the full number of Gentiles to be added to the kingdom of God. It is the time for the Gentiles to be grafted in and for many of the Jews to be pruned away. The falling away of the Jews led to the salvation of the Gentiles. Many are called, few are chosen.



As Reformed Christians, we hear clearly what Jesus is teaching. Jesus is teaching election and predestination through parable. In today's world, the two are often synonyms of one another. However, biblically speaking, predestination and election are similar but distinct. Predestination is God's sovereign but more general ordaining of people's destiny while election is God's more specific act of choosing those sovereignly predestined to be saved. Thus, predestination is more general while election is more specific. Notice that effectual choosing is embedded within the general calling. Pastor and theologian, Kevin DeYoung notes that John Calvin saw predestination covering all humanity while elect only covering those saved. He says,

"Calvin defined predestination as "God's eternal decree, by which he compacted with himself what he willed to become of each man...Therefore, as any man has been created to one or the other of these ends, we speak of him as predestined to life or to death" (Inst. III.xxi.5). For Calvin, predestination encompasses the entire eternal decree. Election and reprobation, then, represent two different aspects of the decree. The Canons of Dort Article 1 makes the same distinctions. This delineation is not without merit. The "elect" is always a positive designation in Scripture (e.g., Matt. 24:31; Titus 1:1), suggesting that election implies eternal life (though Romans 9:11 may be an exception to this rule). Predestination, on the other hand, can be used more broadly. Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and people of Israel, did to Jesus what God's "plan had *predestined* to take place" (Acts 4:27-28). Indeed, all of our days are written in God's book before one of them comes to pass (Psalm 139:16). Every form of prosperity and affliction comes to us not by chance, but from God's fatherly hand (Heidelberg Catechism Q/A 27). Or as Augustine put it, "The will of God is the necessity of all things."

So, with Jesus' parable, the many are predestined to accept or reject the call, to life or to death. The few are those who are elected by God and will accept. The rest are the "reprobate" and will not. This is the doctrines of "Unconditional Election" and "Irresistible Grace" in the famous Reformed acronym, TULIP, also known as the five points of Calvinism. "T" stands for total depravity which means humans are not capable of saving themselves. "U" stands for unconditional election which means that humans are saved not on the condition of merit, but by God's grace alone in Christ. "L" stands for limited atonement and means that Jesus death only saves the elect; while it is sufficient to save all, it is not efficacious in doing so because not all are elect, or saved. "I" stand for irresistible grace and means that those who are elect cannot reject God's choosing grace. The reprobate can and continues to reject God's calling grace as they are predestined to do. "P" stands for perseverance of the saints and means that those who were unable to save themselves but who have been saved unconditionally by God's electing grace will never be lost or fall away permanently and become reprobate. They will persevere to the day of the wedding feast!

There are also two more modern ways to remember these important doctrines of grace: FAITH and BACON. FAITH stands for: **F**allen humanity; **A**dopted by God; **I**ntentionally atoned for by Jesus; **T**ransformed by the Holy Spirit; **H**eld by God. BACON stand for: **B**ad people; **A**lready elected; **C**ompletely atoned for; **O**verwhelmingly chosen; **N**ever falling away. The meanings are exactly the same as TULIP but try to avoid some of the misunderstandings inherent with it (yes, they create their own inherent misunderstandings too!)



There is more to the parable. One person gets into the wedding feast but is thrown out and not just thrown out but thrown out to “outer darkness” where there is “weeping and gnashing of teeth” This is undoubtedly hell. Why? Jesus gives the explanation and it is an important one. In fact, it is the gospel of Jesus Christ. He says he is to be thrown out because he entered without proper wedding attire – he was wearing the wrong clothes. Now what does this mean? Well, there is only one kind of clothing that will get you into the wedding feast and it is the only clothing that a disciple of Jesus wears. It is Jesus’ robe of righteousness. That is the proper wedding attire; that is what gets us into the great wedding feast at the end of this age and the beginning of the age to come. Isaiah 61:10 says,

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

The “garment of salvation” is the “robe of righteousness” that is compared to the wedding clothes of the bride and the groom. It is the image that Jesus has in mind with the parable of the wedding feast. Notice too that it is the Lord God who clothes us; we don’t cloth ourselves. It is an act of sovereign grace. God chooses who he will clothe with the robe of righteousness (predestination and election). This is why Isaiah says he will greatly rejoice. The doctrines of election and predestination are not doctrines that are supposed to lead to fatalism or anger, but joy and delight. They are meant to lead us to praise our gracious God, who, as we saw last week, is not under any obligation to save anyone but graciously does save some. The person who slipped into the wedding wearing his own clothes represents people trying to get into the kingdom of God on their own terms, by their own merit, by their own works. And Jesus categorically, explicitly, plainly says this will not happen. It is impossible. Only those who, through the possibility of Jesus of Nazareth, have been sovereignly and graciously called and chosen can enter. How might we be trying to enter into the kingdom of heaven on our own terms? By turning it into a political kingdom or national or national kingdom that is more centered on American politics and democracy than kingdom politics and theocracy?

So, how is this specifically connected to Jesus? Follow the logic of these verses:

Romans 13:14 Put on [that’s a command] the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Galatians 3:27 As many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Ephesians 4:21b–24 The truth is in Jesus, so put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For our sake God made Jesus to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Jesus’ perfect life made him perfectly righteous. When we put on Christ, we put on his righteousness, not ours. It is a righteousness that we did not earn. It is gifted to us – that is grace. Faith is believing that God did this for us in and through Jesus of Nazareth. When God the Father looks at us, he does not see a reprobate, he sees a saint; he sees a child of his because of Jesus and because when we are united with him, he gives us his righteousness and takes from us our unrighteousness. That is what it means that Jesus, though he never sinned, became sin so that in him we might become the



righteousness of God. This is the gospel. This is the good news! This is what we have to look forward to, the great wedding feast where we are not just the guests but the bride! Because of Jesus, we are loved!

As disciples and evangelists of Jesus, we are to verbally give witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ and to visibly put on Christ and his robe of righteousness by living in line with the truth of the gospel; that is through the good works of the obedience of faith that derives from the transformed life of one who grows in faithful discipleship with Jesus. May people not first see Republicans or Democrats or Americans or athletes or a particular denomination or any other thing. May they see Jesus. May they hear Jesus. The only way we do this is by continuously turning (repenting) from the pendulum of lostness (right, left or anywhere in between) and into the realm of the gospel of Jesus Christ, a third way. We must continuously put on Christ, every morning, every moment for his glory and our joy. Stay in God's Word on his terms, with humility and readiness to repent by confessing our wayward ways and turning back to Jesus of Nazareth; to the biblical narrative and gospel story; to the divine drama that you and I are active participants in today; to each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. Pray for God's Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit to continue to empower and equip you as disciples of Jesus; to lead you into the obedience of faith; to produce the fruit of the Spirit in your life (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control); to utilize more freely and effectively the gifts of the Spirit in your spheres of influence (home, school, work, play); to demonstrate the love of Christ; to grow in faithful discipleship to Jesus and to share the eternal hope that we have in Christ.

Communion Meditation

Professing: (Apostles Creed)

We believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

**We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead.**

On the third day he rose and ascended to heaven

Where he is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,

The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Proclaiming: 1 Corinthians 11:23b-25 (Paraphrased)

On the night of his betrayal, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it saying, "this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." After the meal he took the cup of wine and pouring it out said, "this wine is my blood, a new covenant of grace poured out for the forgiveness of sins."

Remember and believe that the body & blood of Jesus was given & shed for the forgiveness of sins.

We all need to become more like Jesus of Nazareth. We all need more humility. We all need to be consumed from the inside out and filled with the life and love of Jesus. May this closing song be true of you. May it speak the desires of your heart, like King David many, many years ago. May the gospel of Jesus daily strengthen and guide us because a thousand times we have failed and we will fail a



thousand times more. We desperately need Jesus and his Holy Spirit to guide us in truth; however, not truth in any old way but in the way of Jesus and through the life of Jesus in us. May we continue to be conformed more and more into the image and likeness of Jesus of Nazareth.

Song From The Inside Out -- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9azOSb_bONA

*A thousand times I've failed
Still Your mercy remains
And should I stumble again
I'm caught in Your grace*

*Everlasting,
Your light will shine when all else fades
Never ending,
Your glory goes beyond all fame*

*In my heart and my soul,
Lord I give You control
Consume me from the inside out,
Lord, let justice and praise
Become my embrace to love you from the inside out*

*Your will above all else my purpose remains
The art of losing myself in bringing You praise*

*Everlasting,
Your light will shine when all else fades
Never ending,
Your glory goes beyond all fame*

*In my heart and my soul,
Lord I give You control
Consume me from the inside out,
Lord, let justice and praise
Become my embrace to love you from the inside out*

*Everlasting,
Your light will shine when all else fades
Never ending,
Your glory goes beyond all fame*

*And the cry of my heart is to bring You praise
From the inside out Lord my soul cries out
From the inside out Lord my soul cries out to you.*

Sending as Disciples of Jesus: Matthew 28:18-20 (Paraphrased)

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus. Therefore, as we are sent into the world by him, let us make disciples of all, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that Jesus has commanded us. And let us remember and treasure that Jesus is with us always, even to the end of the age. Amen!