

Family Information

Sermon Series Title

Hallelujah, What a Savior!

Sermon Passage

Matthew 8:5-13

Thoughts to Consider This Week

- 1) Who or what do you have authority over?
- 2) Can you make Jesus marvel at your faith?
- 3) Who do you imagine to be entering the gates of heaven with you?

October Challenge: At some point every day, reflect on what Jesus has saved you from.

Congratulations

Ekow Essilfie was baptized September 24th.

Thank you

Thank you for the prayers and cards.

Norma Stafa



"We never talk during halftime anymore!"

Calendar

October

4	Teen Game Night At Church
4	TGIF At Church
13	Single Sisters Lunch
18	TGIF At Church
20	Fall Festival
30	Singing At Willow Brook Village 10:30 am

For The Month of October

Invitation/ Responses:

Foyer Duty: Michael Evans

Greeters: Frank and Nancy Rynearson

Announcements: Mike Evans

Communion Servers

Franklin Agyei	Patrick Boateng
Lynn Champney	Tim McVicker
Leon Norwood	Phil Stafa
Nick Strawser	Randy Yates

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$4611	\$5077
Designated:	\$175	\$162

Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 am
Sunday Ghana Bible Study	9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday Ghana Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday Spanish Worship	3:00 pm
Wednesday Evening	7:00 pm

Minister: Caleb Dillinger

Elders: Roy Estep, Mike Evans, Jeff McVicker, Jim Robbins

Deacons: Lynn Champney, Perry Coate, Glenn Culler, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, John Lindsay, Don Milnor, Art Silva

Spanish Ministry: Elmer Renderos

A Bright Light From Heaven

(With Excerpts From William Blake's "Auguries Of Innocence")

About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me? Who are you, Lord? I asked. I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting, he replied. - Acts 22:6-8

A bright light from heaven has flashed around us, a light full of truth and full of the radiance of God's glory. A bright light from above has flashed around us, a light that earthly minds cannot understand yet a light that comforts our souls and that reassures our spirits of unseen and eternal things. A great light has dawned in this world, the light of Jesus, who guides us by the hand - *What shall I do, Lord? I asked. Get up, the Lord said, and go into Damascus. There you will be told all that you have been assigned to do. My companions led me by the hand into Damascus, because the brilliance of the light had blinded me. - Acts 22:10-11*

In William Blake's poem "Auguries Of Innocence" (published in 1863, well after his death), he draws a contrast between the beauties of this world as well as the sorrows it contains, and between the kindnesses we can see as well as the mistreatment and corruption in this world. It begins, 'To see the world in a grain of sand And a heaven in a wild flower', using this metaphor to help us to see that even small things can tell us something about God and about human nature.

Blake uses many images both from nature and from everyday life to help us think about things from a spiritual viewpoint, so that we may, as William writes, 'Hold infinity in the palm of your hand, and eternity in an hour.' And as we see the panorama of the joys and sorrows that this life holds, the poem tells us that 'Joy and woe are woven fine, A clothing for the soul divine.' For God uses all these things to teach us about his care for us and about our need for him.

Our Heavenly Father has chosen each of us by name, and he washes away our sins and stains and thorns when we turn our hearts to him and humbly call on the name of Jesus - *Then he said: The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth. You will be his witness to all people of what you have seen and heard. And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name. - Acts 22:14-16*

Blake's poem concludes: 'God appears, and God is light, To those poor souls who dwell in night; But does a human form display To those who dwell in realms of day.' The Son of God came to live in human form, and he called us out of the world's darkness so that we may dwell in God's realm of light. Jesus came to bring a bright light to the world; and in him, God displays his mercy and compassion and truth and understanding.



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- Mark Garner

Day Of God, Thou Blessed Day

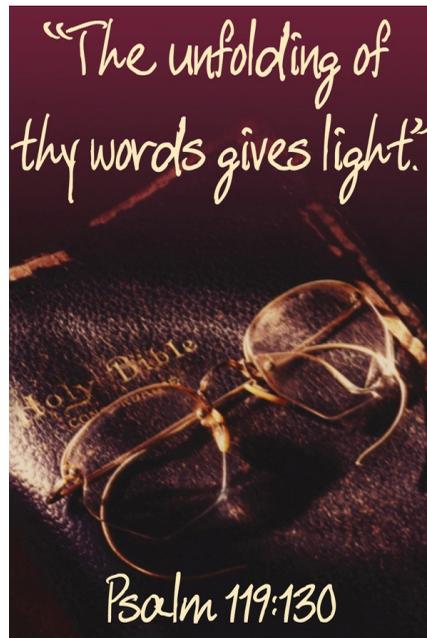
Day of God, thou blessed day,
At thy dawn the grave gave way
To the power of Him within,
Who had, sinless, bled for sin.

Thine the radiance to illumine
First, for man, the dismal tomb,
When its bars their weakness owned,
There revealing death dethroned.

Then the Sun of righteousness
Rose, a darkened world to bless,
Bringing up from mortal night
Immortality and light.

Day of glory, day of power,
Sacred be thine every hour:
Emblem, earnest, of the rest
That remaineth for the blest.

- Hannah Gould, 1841



In God's Wisdom He Made Them All

In recent weeks, some of Northland's members are writing about things that God created, and what they tell us about our Heavenly Father and about our walk with him. This week, Paula Robbins writes about sparrows and what we can learn from them about God and his care.

Sparrows

Have you seen a sparrow today? If you've been outdoors, you likely have. What kind of sparrow was it? Unless you put some effort into it, and have a good pair of binoculars, you probably don't know. Sparrows are not known for soaring majestically, diving at high speed or sporting colorful plumage. They all look much alike, the ubiquitous L.B.B.s (Little Brown Birds) that often leave those of us who do stare at them through binoculars exasperated and confused. Still, most of us see them every day. In fact, we are so used to seeing them, we hardly see them at all.

And yet, Jesus chose this small, drab, undistinguished bird as a sermon illustration. "Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God." (Luke 12:6). We may be in the habit of not paying attention to the sparrows we encounter, but God sees the sparrows. And remembers them. Every. Single. One.

Jesus knew that what we really need to understand is that God sees us. And he doesn't notice us only when we are at our best; when we are obeying perfectly and are accomplishing great things. He remembers us and watches us tenderly (Isaiah 49:15) when our lives feel drab and tedious and completely undistinguished. Even on the days when we don't feel like we can live up to the "five for two cents" price tag. And he doesn't see us as just another generic human. He sees and values every detail of our individuality, down to the number of hairs on our heads (Luke 12:7). We have no need to fear being unnoticed, unvalued and uncared for. God has declared our worth, paid the price for us and will never abandon his investment in us. (Romans 8:32).

And God wants us to see, and value, the "sparrows" around us. The cashiers, bus drivers, janitors and waitresses. The neighbor who we sometimes wave at if we happen to be pulling out of our driveways at the same time. The people whose names we never quite caught, or never thought to ask about. The people that we are so used to seeing, we hardly see them at all. Yes, it takes some intentional effort. And our efforts to engage the people around us will sometimes leave us exasperated and confused. But, if we don't learn to see others and value them as God does, we will find that we are stalled out in our ability to love God (Matthew 5:43-48; 1 John 4:19-21). And our ability to feel and enjoy the love he gives us will be dulled.

So, the next time you see a sparrow, smile. You've been given a reminder of the love and value that God has lavished on you, and of the gift of love and value that you can share with everyone you encounter.

- Paula Robbins