

Title: Gather Together All Sides

Grant Hill, Garden Gathering, 3/17/24

Welcome to the Garden Gathering.

John 10:1-6 NKJV

There is only one way to be in the sheepfold of God. Jesus, proclaims Himself as the “door that leads to Heaven.” This way that He has called is by His very own blood. It is by His very own death. It is not a way of works. It is a way of dying. It is actually not a way of living. It is a way of sacrificing. It does not make sense. It is different than any other religion, because it is not a religion. It is a relationship with One who has already died. The good news, is that we know He died for *our* sins. He took on *our* shame. He took on our sin. If we have guilt towards the Lord or with others, He says, “I will write that debt in the name of Me. I will pay the debts that you owe with my own blood. When He has paid that, it is the way out.

If we have been in a situation where we are having to file for bankruptcy, people come to us and say, “this is the way out.” This is the way out of the debts that you owe. But, we have to recognize that we have a debt that must be paid. Not by what we have accrued physically, but by our soul. My soul must pay. How do you pay something in the spirit realm? Scripture says in Psalms, “Who can ascend to the hill of the Lord, but he who has clean hands and a pure heart.” So, we know how to get into Heaven. We must have clean hands and a pure heart. But, when we examine the soul, we cannot wash it off. When we examine the soul, that guilt is still there. Jesus says, I am the Shepherd, that will come into your life and lead you out of your bondage, out of the corral of your sin, out of the gates of your guilt, out of the gates of your depression, loneliness, and wickedness. I will lead you out, if you will hear my voice and know Jesus, as your lord, master and savior. We have all heard His voice.

In First Corinthians, it reads that “the gospel of Jesus is a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness for everyone else.” So, who can hear the Gospel if it is a stumbling block to the people that He came from and foolishness for everyone else in the world? It does not make sense that the best person that has ever walked the Earth would die. It does not make sense. He is the champion. He should not have been whipped, beaten, stripped naked and hung on a cross. Not even looking like a man scripture says in Isaiah. That should not have been. It is foolishness to everyone else. The gospel of Jesus does not make sense. Who then can be saved? Who then can know? Yet, it says in Isaiah that the voice will come and awaken your heart to hear. It says that today is the day of salvation.

There are days when we hear His voice. Then after you hear His voice, He quickens you to come and be free. Come, receive my forgiveness and be forgiven, loved, and wiped clean. Though your sins are scarlet, I will make them white as snow. Though your sins are red, I will make them as white as pure snow. Wow. What are the color of sheep? Sheep are white. There is a reason why He does this. They did not understand the things which He spoke to them. But, today is a day to understand. Today is a day to hear. Today is a day to know who Jesus is. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He is the Gate, but He is also the Shepherd. He is the Gatekeeper, and the Shepherd.

There was an illustration given once by a man named David Pawson. He tells a story about this parable. He went to Israel and was at one of the watering holes used by shepherds for their flocks of sheep. Many shepherds came to the same watering hole with their flocks coming running from every direction. The shepherds talk with each other while the sheep mingle and intersperse around the watering hole. *Like coworkers at work talk around the water cooler.*

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When the shepherds were ready to leave they started whistling, singing, or calling their sheep to follow them. The sheep themselves separated to follow the correct shepherd. They did not worry. They were not afraid. The shepherds did not think, "Oh man, we wasted twenty minutes talking to each other, and now we have to separate these sheep." They just went on their way "calling their sheep," and their sheep followed their voice. That is what it means to "know the voice of Jesus." But, you have to be actively engaged at listening to Him.

That is what He's saying today. You can act and talk like a Christian, but is your heart hearing His voice? Why does He say that? Because, we read that there are wolves in sheep's clothing. That will test whether you actually know the His voice, or you are just acting like a sheep. There is a difference between actually hearing and knowing the voice of God and just walking like a sheep. Sheep are not very smart. Ask the ranchers in the room. Sometimes it offends us, that He calls us sheep. It is a metaphor for us to understand.

John 10:7-8

That means there are false messiahs. He is saying, "I am the Messiah. I am the Christ."

John 10:9

This is that Christian word, "saved," that we talk about. Jesus uses it, "saved." What does it mean to be saved? We are saved from our debts we owe. We are saved from that sin that separated us. Our sin separates us from God's presence. There is an issue there, because I was born to be in God's presence. I cannot live without God's presence. If I am without God's presence, then I die. He is the Tree of Life. God Himself is my sustenance of life. When I sin, it cuts me off from that sustenance. Any plant that has been cut off from its life source, eventually perishes and dies. So, I am in a perishing state and I must be saved. In "Christianese," I must be "saved," from this perishing moment. When God does this, Jesus says, "You will be free." You can come in, go out and go to pastures. I have set you free. Be free. Who does that? Who pays the debts and let you go totally free? You can come in and you can go out. You can go.

Religion will tell you otherwise. Religion says, if you do this, you will get this. You will get this, if you do that. Jesus says, I will not force you to follow me. If you understand what I did, I believe that you will choose me all the days of your life. If you understand what you have been forgiven of, you will love me much. But, if you don't understand what you have been forgiven of, you will love me less. He says that Himself. So, the goal of a Christian is to understand the full payment that Jesus paid for you. When you realize and have revelation of the full payment, that Jesus paid for you, then you will love Him with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. That is the greatest commandment, and the second greatest is to love your neighbor as you love yourself.

How do you love yourself? If the reverse of that is to love yourself as much as you love your neighbor? How do I love myself? Most of us look at ourselves and see failure, not living up to my potential. Yada yada, yada, right? Fill in the blanks. But, if you look at Jesus and He looks at you, and He says, "This is who you are." You hear what Jesus says. "You are a son of God. You are my faithful son. You are a prophet. You are an evangelist. You are a servant. You are an encourager. You are an exhorter. You are going to be faithful to Me. You are My beloved. You are my glorious daughter. When He says those things, you have a choice to believe it or to not believe. If you choose to believe, it will change how you see yourself. If you choose to believe what Jesus says, it actually brings a healthy pride to you. A healthy restoration of, "I know who I am, not because of what I know, but because of what He told me."

This is actually how it is supposed to look in marriage. You are to receive from your spouse the truth. Wife, you would receive from your husband the truth about what He says about you. Husband, you would receive from your wife, the truth about what she says about you. That is how it is supposed to work, because we are the Bride of Christ. We are receiving from our

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Beloved. What He says about me is true. On the flip side, I am to exalt Him and say, "You are the radiant one, You are the awesome one, and You are the glorious one." That is how it looks. The mystery is what it looks like in marriage. The mystery is what Christ and the Church are.

John 10:9

Whom the Son sets free, is free indeed. For liberty, I have set you free.

John 10:10-11

This is the question. If God is so good, why do these bad things happen? The accusation against God's goodness is, "then why does evil and bad and Holocaust and genocide and thievery and murders happen?" You have to understand that we have put this world in this state. It is mankind's fault, because God gave us the authority all the way back in Genesis. He says, "This is your dominion, and I want you to walk with me in it." We said, "Well, we don't want to walk with you," because we sinned and separated ourselves from the One who could make it right. He gives eternal life and more abundant life. He is the Tree of Life. But, we sent the world into corruption and now the dirt fights against us. It breeds thorns and briars and it fights against the labor. We find it showing up in syndromes and diseases, because we are made out of dust. Who did we give the keys to? Not to each other, but we gave the keys to a deceiver, liar and thief, who tried to break in and go over the gate the other way. "The thief comes to steal, kill and destroy." We gave our keys to the destroyer.

Now, it is our job to try to take it back. But, you have to recognize that evil is the result of us agreeing with the devil's plans. Or, it is him taking legal ground through our sin and trying to plunder, steal and destroy. He knows that God is going to win. But, he is going to take down as many of us as he can with him. God is going to win, but the enemy is not going to just roll over. He wants to bring as many of God's children with him as he can. He hates the family of God, because He hates God. Jesus said at the very beginning, that we are made, "in the image and likeness of God." So, if the devil hates God, then he hates everyone that looks like Him, talks like Him, acts like Him, and thinks like Him. There are 8 billion of them on the Earth. He comes to steal, kill and destroy our lives. But, always read the "but." Jesus says, "But, I have come, that they may have life."

You can go through life not experiencing *abundant* life. You can go through your life, not being filled with "living color." Jesus says, "life abundantly." I have come and you are alive, but not just alive. You are flowing, you are living abundantly, and just a well of life, and exuberant life. I have come with that for you. How does that happen, by the blood of Jesus.

John 10:11-16

He was telling the Jews, that "I have sheep that are not just Jewish." Praise God, because many of us are not of the Jewish race. He says "I have more that are not of this race." We have to get them all. "They will hear my voice and there will be one flock and one shepherd."

John 10:17-18

I gave you half of the story. He laid down His life. He went to the cross for us. He paid the debt that we owe. But, by the power of the Holy Spirit, three days later, He was raised to life again. He is not just a spirit man floating around in Heaven. He is actually, in flesh and bones, sitting in Heaven right now. Our loved ones have gone in spirit to be with Jesus. If they believed in Christ, they are in the spirit realm there. But, down here, we know where their bones are. But, Jesus did not leave His bones here. He went to Heaven in the flesh, and is now the only one in the flesh in Heavenly places. Wow! Wow! Wow!

He will come again, because His role is to bring Heaven to Earth, as it was to have been done at the very beginning. Now, He calls us. You start setting up. You are going to be ambassadors

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of My Kingdom. If you believe in me, I will set you free, but I am going to ask you to give up your life. You are free. I am going to ask you to give it all. I gave it up. I chose to give it up. Nobody could give it up, but me. Those who follow me, it means the same. Nobody chooses to give up their life, but when they lay it down for me, they reap a multitude of Heavenly fruit. They expand the Kingdom of light. Every seed that is sown of sacrifice of self, reaps an abundant harvest of the Kingdom of Heaven, and the fruit of the Holy Spirit, which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness and self control. Wow!

I woke up this morning at 3:30. I heard a gate close. I thought it was my gate, and I heard it again. I know my dog heard it, because he shook and woke me up again. I asked my wife if the gate was open? She said, "No, I locked it last night, because you forgot." Oh, I did forget, and I thanked her for locking it. But, I know I heard the gate. I heard it twice. Also, I heard this phrase. "Come, gather together, all sides." Then I heard the gate shut, and I have been wrestling with this, because I don't really feel like I have the full revelation. But, I will give you the verses that He gave me.

Joel 3:10-16

That was what He gave me. "Come, gather together all sides."

Joel 3:11

Isaiah 2:4

If you have heard verse ten in Joel, "Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears." You might recognize that and think it is wrong. Because, if you read in Isaiah chapter two it says, "they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks." In Isaiah, He talks about there being a judgment. But, this judgment makes the opposite happen. Their war items of "swords and spears" are being made into farming "plows and pruning hooks." But, Joel said the opposite. He says, "call the men of war and make their farming utensils into spears and swords." You think, wait, Joel, I think you have your words mixed up.

Micah 4:1-3

Micah says the same thing as Isaiah, as if the Holy Spirit was saying it is so big and awesome, I am going to say it twice.

Joel 3:10

What is Joel talking about? These are both times of gathering. Isaiah and Micah are seeing a time when the judgment has already happened, and the millennial reign of Christ has come. Jesus comes back to the Earth, and He comes and sets His feet in Jerusalem. He is going to show Himself strong to the wicked. Once He establishes His kingdom, there is no need. All the nations from afar off will flow to Him. All the nations will come and learn of His ways. Saying, "You are the best that has ever been among us. Teach us your ways, Son of God. Teach us your ways, Messiah Jesus. Teach us your ways, so we will have no need to fight one another. We will follow the way of Jesus across the whole Earth, until the glory of God covers the Earth."

Joel is talking about seeing things before this day and hour. God calls the nations. He calls the nations to gather around, and He puts them in the valley and judges them. He calls them to come to war. He calls them to take up arms. He calls them to challenge Him. *If you* challenge His country, *you* challenge Him. We read this in Ezekiel. It is called the battle between Gog and Magog where He puts a hook in their jaws and drags them to the valley. He drags them. This can happen to a nation. This can happen to what their ideas are. God challenges every nation.

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He challenges, “your ideas against mine, your isms against me.” Humanism, atheism, secularism, fascism, communism, socialism, federalism. “Give me your isms. Gather around all you peoples. Let's go to the Valley of Decision. Come on. Come, let's go.” He drags them into that Valley of Decision. Now, that Valley of Decision is not that “we make a decision.” This is the Ancient of Days on His throne, and He makes the decision. The Valley of Decision is that you are now in the court. You are now at the judgment seat and a decision is going to be made. It is where God is saying, “Okay, we have seen all of the legal matters, and now it is time to get them in order, and stand before the Judge and a decision is about to be made.”

So, when God says, “Come, gather together all sides,” that is a judicial call. That is a judgment call. It is a court date.

Joel 3:14-16

The Lord will also roar from Zion, which is what Brandy brought last week. Amen, he who has an ear, let him hear.

Let's stand and pray. I really do ask that the Lord would give you revelation. If you have need of knowing the Shepherd and His voice, He is at the gate. We are up here to pray for you. If you have any other need we will be up here to pray. If you have a prophetic word for someone or an impression, please give it.

“Holy Ghost, we honor your word. Come, gather together all sides, as you shut the gate, Lord. We know that we have been revealed a judgment date over our land, over our countrymen, and over our country. I thank you, God, that you delight in that. You delight in making a decision for us. You delight in revealing your scepter of righteousness. You delight in chastening your people. We trust in you, God. You say that you will be a shelter for your people and the strength of your children. I ask God, that whatever will be shaken, will be shaken. It takes time. But, when it is time, you strike. We receive that strike of the Lord. In Jesus mighty name we pray, amen.