

Sunday Gathering

The One Who Gave All, Luke
20:45-21:4 - Bradley Bell

May 7, 2023

Luke: Upside Down (Spring
2023)

Call to Worship - Psalm 138:1-3, 6, 8

Brothers and sisters, a call to worship is a call to reality. Here is reality for us today: that there is one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God. It's easy for our circumstances and our feelings to begin to define reality. But in this gathering let's choose to look at all of life through the lens of the gospel. God loves us. This is reality.

This truth taken to heart is worth responding. Let's say this together from Psalm 138:

****I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;
I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name
for your steadfast love and your faithfulness,
for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.
On the day I called, you answered me; my strength of soul you increased. ****

Here is good news for the lowly today:

For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he knows from afar.

Soak in those words for a moment. Let him draw you near.

Now speak this with confidence:

****The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.**
Psalm 138:1-3, 6, 8**

Oh Give Thanks (Psalm 107)

Confession - John 3:19-21, Psalm 139

Church services are notorious for being places where we put on our best appearance. We wear our nicest clothes to be presentable to the Lord, but can also hide behind them the messiness of our lives. We can wear a smile to show that we're happy to be in God's house, but can hide behind it that we're actually indifferent about worshiping with God's people. We need to hear these words taken from John 3:19-21:

This is the crisis we're in: God-light streamed into the world, but men and women everywhere ran for the darkness. They went for the darkness because they were not really interested in pleasing God. Everyone who makes a practice of doing evil, addicted to denial and illusion, hates God-light and won't come near it, fearing a painful exposure. But anyone working and living in truth and reality welcomes God-light so the work can be seen for the God-work it is. John 3:19-21, MSG

Church, the invitation this morning is to come into God's light. Even if you feel yourself holding back, make this your prayer based on Psalm 139:

****God, investigate my life;
get all the facts firsthand.
I'm an open book to you.****

Like an open book, you watched me grow from conception to birth;
all the stages of my life were spread out before you,
The days of my life all prepared
before I'd even lived one day.

****Investigate my life, O God,
find out everything about me;
then guide me on the road to eternal life.****

Take My Life And Let It Be

Lord Have Mercy

Sermon - Luke 20:45-21:4

Baptism - Romans 6:3-4

Communion - 1 Corinthians 11:23-28

My Worth Is Not In What I Own

We Will Feast In The House Of Zion

Benediction - Galatians 2:20

You may be seated. Thank you for joining us in today's gathering! We hope that you have experienced the welcome of Jesus.

Family Groups - We invite you to visit one of our Family Groups, which meet in homes throughout the week. We describe them as "intentional environments to be transformed by the gospel through relationships. If you would like to join one of them, there is info in the hallway, or talk with one of us, and we'll make a direct connection for you.

Giving & Visitors - Also, now is our time for giving—ushers, please come forward. If you are a visitor with us this morning, please grab a visitor card from the basket so we can get to know you more. You can give it to someone with a lanyard or leave it in your seat.

Antioch members, remember that giving is part of how we participate in God's mission. If you prefer to give digitally, visit our website or find us on GivApp.

Announcements

For everyone, here are a few ways to take the following steps:

- 1) Spring Soccer Clinics - Our Spring soccer clinic returns this Saturday on, May 13th, and will finish next week on the 20th. Please continue to invite, pray, and involve your children in this important outreach.
- 2) MCT - Our Missionary Care Team will meet this Thursday, May 11th at 7pm at the Groce's home. This is open to anyone who would like to hear updates and pray for our distributed members across the world.
- 3) Classes - Our originally scheduled class for next Sunday—How to lead your Child to Christ—will be postponed in light of Mothers Day. The next class will be Membership Class on Sunday, May 21st. If you are interested in exploring membership at Antioch, please sign up on the side table.

We begin each gathering with a call to worship and end with a benediction, which is simply a blessing for the road. I invite you to open your hands in a posture of reception:

Church, you have been crucified with Christ, the One who gave all, and gave himself for you. By his Spirit who lives in you, may you go, preparing yourself and others for the coming judgment and the coming reward. Based on Galatians 2:20

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

You are sent.
