

# Alton Baptist Church e-Service 16<sup>th</sup> August 2020

## **Don't be afraid of those who kill the body**

### **Worship scripture focus (1)** Psalm 95:1-7

<sup>1</sup> Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

<sup>2</sup> Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

<sup>3</sup> For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods.

<sup>4</sup> In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him.

<sup>5</sup> The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

<sup>6</sup> Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;

<sup>7</sup> for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care

### **Prayer.**

Father God, thank you that there is no joy that can begin to compare to the joy of knowing you in our lives every day, that you are our rock, our salvation, that you are great, above all things, that regardless of our earthly circumstances, we can safely trust our lives into your hands, the same powerful hands that created the universe.

Thank you that we are your people and are under your care.

Help us this morning through your Holy Spirit, to give you the praise, adoration and worship which you deserve.

**Song**      Come let us sing for Joy to the Lord

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CEK\\_s\\_KD1Qw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CEK_s_KD1Qw)

(Control + click to play)

### **Worship scripture focus (2)** Revelation 4:9-11

<sup>9</sup> Whenever the living creatures give glory, honour and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, <sup>10</sup> the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

<sup>11</sup> "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

## **Prayer Time**

### **Praise**

Father we affirm you are worthy to receive all the praise we can offer, and as we will one day in heaven, like the elders we have just read about, we give you glory, honour and our heartfelt thanks.

Having praised our wonderful God, let's now bring our confession and needs to Him using examples of prayer from scripture.

**Confession** 2 Sam 12:13 "I have sinned against the LORD."

A time to make ourselves right with God

### **Asking for God's assured help**

Is 65:24 "Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear".

Prayer suggestions:- For those with health, financial, family, job, or worry problems.

For our country's leaders for wisdom.

For our family and friends.

### **Asking for God's leading in our lives and the future of our church**

Gideon's fleece prayer Judges 6:39

### **Asking for the filling of the Holy Spirit to spread the good news**

Acts 4:31 "After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly".

This morning we continue with our "Do not be afraid" series, and our next song is based on Isaiah 43, which Graham a few weeks ago pointed out was for Jew and Gentile alike, it reminds us of all the reasons why this can be true for us.

**Song** Do not be afraid for I have redeemed you

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EAdRk9c1R1o>

## Reading

Extracts from Matt 10:1; 5-8; 16-23; 26-33

Do not be afraid of those who kill the body

### **Jesus Sends Out the Twelve**

**10** Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

<sup>5</sup> These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. <sup>6</sup> Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. <sup>7</sup> As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ <sup>8</sup> Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

<sup>16</sup> “I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. <sup>17</sup> Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues. <sup>18</sup> On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. <sup>19</sup> But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, <sup>20</sup> for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

<sup>21</sup> “Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. <sup>22</sup> You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. <sup>23</sup> When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. Truly I tell you, you will not finish going through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

<sup>26</sup> “So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. <sup>27</sup> What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. <sup>28</sup> Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.

Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. <sup>30</sup> And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup> So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

<sup>32</sup> “Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. <sup>33</sup> But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven

## Some thoughts.

For those of you who have in the past been in employment, what are your experiences of your bosses?

A good leader will give clear instructions, give you the authority to do the work set, give support, and acknowledge achievements *and* point out failures.

Our passage this morning is entitled “Jesus sends out the twelve” and is an account of Jesus’ instructions as leader to His disciples, and as we are also His disciples they are instructions to us too.

If you look through the verses I selected from Matthew 10, you will see that Jesus addressed all the headings I set out for a good leader.

His instructions are clear in verses 7-8, “As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’<sup>8</sup> Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give”.

The disciples were clearly told to bring this message exclusively to Israel, but this brief has been extended for us in Acts 13:47:- For this is what the Lord has commanded us: ‘I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’”

Look at the verbs, the action words, “Go”, “Proclaim”, and then the list of spiritual ministries.

We, even as a small fellowship in Alton, are charged to do the same, and as a good leader he gives us His authority to carry this out.

In verse 1 Jesus specifically gave the disciples His authority, and we too are given this authority in The Great Commission in Matt 28: 18-19 “Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me, therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”.

Work is never guaranteed to be easy, and the likely difficulties are clearly spelt out in verses 16-23. But as a good leader Jesus offers His support in verses 26-30.

We need not be afraid with God at our side, He may not spare us from difficulties, but He will be with us through them.

He tells us our souls are eternal, even if clearly our bodies are not, and regardless of what happens to us physically, we have the certainty that we have a future in heaven with our God, if we believe in Him.

We are precious and special to God and in His care, as we are reminded in verses 29-30

“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. <sup>30</sup> And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup> So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows”

Jesus will acknowledge us and reprove us.

In verse 32 we read “Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. <sup>33</sup> But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

When we get things right we will be commended just like the widow in Luke 21:3 who was commended by Jesus for her commitment.

Being human we also fail, and will be reprovved, so that we can confess like David, be forgiven, and learn from our errors.

What a great Leader we have!

We do not need to be afraid of what happens to us for our leader is with us all the way.

### **Closing thoughts from Scripture**

Let’s take to heart the words of the psalmist David from Psalm 27 as we enter another week and go forward with Jesus, the ultimate leader guiding us.

The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>2</sup>When the wicked advance against me to devour me,  
it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall.

<sup>3</sup>Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear;  
though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.

**<sup>4</sup>One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek:  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD ALL the days of my life,**

**Song** You are my anchor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U4N1dcrBxFQ>

**A prayer of blessing** Numbers 6:22-26

<sup>24</sup> “The LORD bless you and keep you;

<sup>25</sup> the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;

<sup>26</sup> the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.” AMEN

## **Optional Communion**

If we were meeting in church we would be having a communion service this morning in memory of the sacrifice Jesus made upon the cross.

If you wish to include communion as part of your worship, find yourself some bread and wine (or juice)

and click on this link - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=na33U\\_QaEGQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=na33U_QaEGQ)