
WORSHIP AT HOME

Call to Worship



*You have to teach
your heart and mind
how to sing together...
then you'll hear the
sound of your soul.*

Why do the nations conspire and the people plot in vain?
Why racism, sexism, oppression, greed, and violence?

The kings of the earth rise up, and the rulers take council together against God and God's anointed, saying.
Let us burst their bonds, and cast their cords from us."

What are the bonds of God's anointed? What are the cords being Cast off?

The Anointed One binds God's children with cords of mercy, peace, reconciliation, grace, and love!

The One who sits in the heavens laughs, and holds them in derision. Then God will speak to them in anger, and terrify them in fury, saying, "I. Have set my king on Zion, my holy hill."

What is the King of Zion's Name?

Jesus!

Where is the holy hill?

Calvary

Why be terrified? Describe His fury!

Come and See!

(Psalms 2 1-6 edited by Robert)



Hymn of Praise

He is Lord, he is Lord! He is risen from the dead. And he is Lord! Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Jesus, How do you know me?

Nathaniel

Scripture: John 1:43-51

The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."

44 Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of

Bethsaida. **45** Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have

found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote— Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

46 “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked.

“Come and see,” said Philip.

47 When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”

48 “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.”

49 Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.”

50 Jesus said, “You believe[h] because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.” **51** He then added, “Very truly I tell you,[i] you[j] will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on’[k] the Son of Man.”

Homily: Jesus, How Do You Know Me?

Nathaniel asked Jesus an eye opening question. “How do you know me?” Jesus replied, “I saw you while you were still sitting under the fig tree.”

How does Jesus know you? What tree does Jesus see you still sitting beneath?

To answer these questions I find it helpful to explore scripture and grasp the meaning of the four major trees Jesus sees people sitting beneath.

The Tree Knowledge of Good and Evil. **15** The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. **16** And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; **17** but you must not eat from the tree of the

knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.” Genesis 2:15-17.

The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil symbolizes sin. The Fruit of this Tree is shame, guilt, and blame. The death herein is spiritual. God created our heart, soul, and mind to reflect the life of Christ Jesus. Shame binds us from God with us. Guilt deafens our ears to God’s still small voice. Blame separates us from God and neighbor!

The Cross. “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”. Galatians 3: 13. The Fruit of this Tree is redemption, forgiveness, empathy, compassion, and deliverance from the power of sin, death. Here we are delivered, healing is another matter!

The Fig Tree: “Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the Lord Almighty has spoken.” Micah 4:4 Friends, the Fig Tree symbolizes Peace. The Fruit of this tree heals the heart and mind. Come and see how often Jesus says, “Peace be with You.”

The Tree of Life. 22 And the Lord God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” Genesis 3: 22. The Fruit of this tree is God’s unconditional love. (Galatians 5: 22-26)

We have been trained to look at these four trees as choices. We tend to pick the one we hope to sit beneath. Again, we want to judge where we sit, where our neighbor sits, and insist that other must change.

Experience teaches me that in the course of a day or week I spend time sitting beneath each of these trees. Discerning what tree we sit beneath is as simple as recognizing the fruit we are eating. But to discern the fruit we eat we must be led by the same Spirit that led Christ Jesus through His suffering, death, and resurrection. Being led by the Spirit slowly but surely teaches us how to live Jesus' Way, and do the same things he did to bring God's will from heaven to earth. (The Kingdom of God)

The fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil is judgment. We experienced it as shame, guilt, and blame. Fear!

The fruit of the Cross is forgiveness or being delivered from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Don't miss that the Holy Spirit leads us from The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil to sit beneath the Cross to taste the fruit of redemption.

The fruit of the Fig Tree is Peace with God, self, and neighbor. Don't miss what the Spirit of God has done in your life. The Spirit led you from the Cross to sit beneath the Fig Tree to taste the Peace of Christ and experience His goodness.

Jesus gives us His Peace to prepare us for another change. He gives us the same Spirit that guided Him through this wilderness of suffering and death. The Holy Spirit leads the person of Peace to sit beneath the Tree of Life. The fruit of this Tree is Love. Love is patient, kind...never insist on its way...sees hope in all things. (I Corinthians 13)

Asking Jesus, "How do you know me" is the "Change" I hear people demand! The question changes my focus. Jesus invites me to Come and See HIM, not you or me! Seeing Jesus, I listen to him, not you! Hearing Jesus, I follow Him., not the leaders and

authorities of this world. Following Him convinces me to be like Phillip and invite my neighbors to Come and See Jesus.

Come and See Jesus' way, not my way, or your way! What a Change!

Benediction

We believe in God the Father, creator of heaven and earth!

Father, we believe, now help our unbelief. Fear blinds us. The voices of Covid-19, racism, sexism, oppression, and greed drowns out your still small voice.

We believe in Jesus Christ...who suffered, died, and rose again.

Lord Jesus, we believe, now help our unbelief. By our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness we say we know you! But what is this Born Again Change we hear about and long to experience? Lord, is the answer heard in hearing you tell us individually "How do you know us?" How do we hear you?

We believe in the Holy Spirit...

Comforter, Advocate, Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us. Lead us to taste the fruit of Christ's mercy, experience His Peace, live in His Grace, and testify to God's unconditional -eternal love.

Amen