

# WORSHIP AT HOME

## Legalism | Moralism | Respect

### Legalism

The way to heal sin is to know the Law of Moses, keep it, and when the smallest violation occurs we make costly sacrifices. In other words, Legalism makes people pay for their sinfulness.

### Moralism

The way to heal sin is to submit to practices that makes our neighbors think we are right, good, perfect, and to be commended. In other words, Moralism makes us pretend we are perfect.

### Respect

The way to heal sin is to deny self the way of Legalism and Moralism to place our trust in Jesus' mercy, grace, and love.



## Prelude

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me. Mold me. Fill me. Use Me. Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

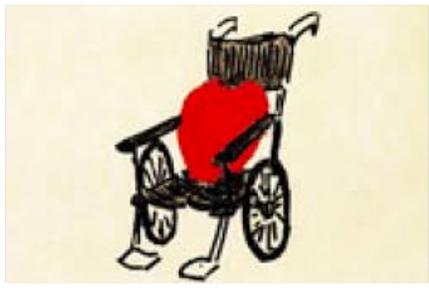
## Lighting the Candles

Light the world with mercy. Shine the Light of Grace greater than all our sin. Shine the Light of Love and celebrate Life.

## Special Music

Come, we that Love the Lord, and let our joys be known; join in a song with sweet accord; and thus surround the throne.

Scripture teaches that God's love is patient, kind, not insisting on its way... Human love is emotional guided action. How is God's love the song of sweet accord?



### Three Kinds of Paralysis

Some of our neighbors suffer physical paralysis in their body. Disciples deny self to push their wheel chair, sit eye level to look into their eyes and open a door. Disciples deny self to physically carry them to Jesus.

Some of our neighbors suffer paralysis in their heart and mind. Disciples deny self to listen to hear, not fix or answer. This is how Disciples carry the broken hearted weighed down with a mind full of trouble into Jesus' presence.

Some of our neighbors suffer paralysis in their spirit. Disciples deny self to bless the poor in spirit. They carry those who trust the curse of Legalism and Moralism into Jesus Mercy, grace, and love.

## Welcome

Who are you carrying this morning? Who is on your mind? Who is tugging at your heart? Notice how often we deny ourselves to care for others. To whom shall we carry them? What is the cost of carrying them to Jesus?

## Prayer

**Lord, you give us life. You give us a heart that experiences Life through emotions. You give us a mind that experiences Life through reason, logic, and judgment. You give us a body that experiences joy and sorrow, blessing and curse, fear and peace.**

**Come, Holy Spirit and free us to give as God gives. Free us to give God our Life. Free us to give God our emotions, judgements, blessing, and curses.**

**Thank you Christ Jesus for giving us Mercy that frees us from Sin to live in Grace, and experience Life as Love.**



## The Lord's Prayer

# Reading of Scripture: Matthew 9: 1-8

Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. **2** Some men brought to him a paralyzed man, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven."

**3** At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!"

**4** Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? **5** Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? **6** But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "Get up, take your mat and go home." **7** Then the man got up and went home. **8** When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to man.

## Meditation Music

There are three kinds of paralysis. Which are you suffering? A paralyzed body. A paralyzed heart-mind. A paralyzed spirit. Listen to music. Listen to your body, heart-mind, and spirit.

## Message

Where did the crowd filled with awe in experiencing God giving Jesus "such authority" go?

The crowd saw Jesus forgive a fellow's sin. Which of the 613 Laws did the Paralyzed man break? Notice the Legalist couldn't find the Law the man broke. They believed that since God is Holy and Perfect people must make themselves perfect. The Teachers of the Law practice judgement. The Pharisees practiced works-righteousness. Jesus says, our righteousness must exceed that of the Teachers of the Law and the Pharisees.

The Law the Law the Paralyzed man broke must have been a really big one. Then again maybe his Paralysis had nothing to do with sin. Aren't people's imperfections God's way of opening our eyes to see the sinners among us? Such is the heart and mind of humanity

Paralyzed in fear, judgement, condemnation, exile, and death. To these Jesus says, Repent.

What paralysis do you suffer. The man Jesus healed suffered paralysis of his body. The legalist suffered paralysis of the mind by seeing and hearing their neighbors through the Law. The Pharisees suffered paralysis of their heart by focusing on outward practices intended to get their neighbors to believe they were holy, right, and good. All three received a reward. Only one received their reward from Jesus.

Jesus says, do to others what you would have them do to you. Isn't this what the nameless people do for the Paralyzed Man? Walking in another person's shoes is not the same as denying ourselves. We deny self to experience life through our neighbors heart, soul, and mind. Once we take the time to hear about their paralysis we may carry them to Jesus.

Why didn't they carry the Paralyzed Man to the Teachers of the Law? Teachers of the Law recognize sin. They focus on what separates us from God, not Jesus way of being deliver from sin to be healed.

I respect the Teachers of the Law, how about you? Their continual judgement fills our hearts and minds with desire for mercy, acceptance, and peace. Notice how respect and denying self hold hands! Doing to others what you would have them do to you opens the door of our souls to repentance. For example: Jesus says, no one when asked for a fish would give the person a snake? And, yet, selfish people do this very thing without knowing what they are doing...to their neighbors.

Selfishness blinds us from seeing our neighbor's needs. Self- Righteous people cannot hear their neighbor. Isn't this the reason Jesus ate with sinners and tax collectors? His interaction with paralyzed people shows us the way He fulfills the Law and Prophets. His righteousness exceeds that of the Pharisees, Teachers of the Law, Priests, and Civil Authorities.

Experience proves that the Teachers of the Law, the Pharisees, the Priests, and the Civil authorities possess great power, influence, and authority. They teach us sin's hidden, divisive, nature. Their power and authority comes through judgement. They control us by demanding we change and become like them. They deceive people with promises of lower taxes designed to provide greater services. Again, Jesus calls his disciples to repent. This means he invites us to think, see, and experience life through his heart and mind.

Everyone has faith. Faith means we trust our teachers, leaders, and heroes power and authority. Placing our faith in Jesus will comes as a challenge to our teachers, leaders, and heroes. Deny them and soon they will give us a cross to bear. Yes, the very one that Jesus teaches his disciple to take up to follow him. The Cross is the place Jesus fulfill the Law and Prophets through God's mercy.

Why didn't they carry the Paralyzed Man to the Pharisees? The core of the Pharisees teaching remains to this day. They are quick to dispense the latest and greatest self help techniques promised to change us. They send us on our way saying, "When you change come back and see us. Until you change you will never belong." The change of Jesus reveals is mercy that leads us to live in freedom from sin. Freedom from Sin is Grace. Grace is greater than all our sin!

Why didn't they carry the Paralyzed Man to the Priest? They knew from experience there is not a sacrifice perfect enough to heal the body, or give us the same mind that was in Christ Jesus. The best our sacrifices have to offer is initiation and incorporation into a religious system or world order, not the Kingdom of Heaven.

Jesus saw their faith! What happened to faith? Everyone has faith. The Teachers of the Law have faith in Moses. The Pharisees have faith in their self help practices. Citizens have faith in their leaders. Faith simply means we trust someone's authority more than our own. Faith means we deny ourselves to trust our teachers, leaders, and heroes. The people who brought the Paralyzed man to Jesus trusted that he had the power and authority to accomplish what he Teachers of the Law, Pharisees, Priests, and Civil Authorities could never do. Denying self, teachers, leaders, and heroes is not the same as disposing them.

I think I know what happened to awe filled crowds. Righteousness that exceeds the Teachers of the Law and the Pharisees requires us to deny self and carry our paralyzed neighbors to Jesus. We believe in Jesus but have learned to carry paralyzed people to the Teachers of the Law and Pharisees.

## Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father

and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,

as it was in the beginning,

is now and ever shall be,

world without end. Amen, amen.

## Tithes and Offerings

Giving Money and physical energy maintains our building and staff a place in the world.

Denying self to listen to hear our neighbors with compassion and empathy maintains the Church as a Body of People.

Taking up our crosses to forgive our neighbors as Jesus forgives us maintains the Gospel as the way to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, on earth.

## Special Music

Then let our songs abound, and every tear be dry; we're marching through Emmanuel's ground, to fairer worlds on high.

The song of God's love dries our tears of sin, doubt, and fear. Emmanuel's ground is the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth where Jesus is with us always even to the end of this age.