

The NDCCRS 2020 Gathering in the Spirit Committee would like to thank our donor for providing these notes on Jim Murphy's five talks. Our donor, who wishes to be anonymous has requested, "please use your discretion to discern the accuracy of these notes."

## **Gathering in the Spirit** ( Jim Murphy) - August 2020

**TOPIC:** It isn't what I will do for you. It is what I will be for you.

### **PROPHETIC WORD:**

1) **Psalm 63:1** as confirmation for the song...

- O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you.

2) **Ephesians 4:22-24** - to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

- let go of the old self and put on the new self
- let go of the old self and put on the new self
- wait and see what the mighty God can do

- my people are packed in chains. ...unforgiveness, sin in our life, pain, etc...  
unhealed relational wound. Anything that keeps us from freely moving  
in the world of God is a chain.
- some want to repeat the story of our brokenness over and over again; some  
find comfort in the pity of others
  
- He asks us to be yoked with Him and not to be chained
  - He says my burden is light
  - don't hold onto your chain, don't bury your memories,... dare to give  
it all to the God who died to break our chains
  - we can start today, get lighter and more able to run the race before us
  
- song "**I give you my heart**"... it is a conscious choice to give your heart to the  
Lord. He won't just take it from you, you need to give it to Him.
  
- Here's my heart Lord...x3 Speak what is true  
I am found, I am yours, I am loved, I'm made pure  
I have life, I can live, I can breathe, I am free, I am strong  
You are more than enough, you are here, you are love, you are hope,  
you are grace you I have, you are everything.

## **Jim Murphy: - Talk 1**

- in the Old Testament, God told Moses to begin the liberation of the people  
and to bring them out of Egypt and into the promise land

- Moses says, "By the way, I didn't catch your name."
- God answers, "I am"
- Moses asks again, "What is your name?" and God replies, "I am."
  
- for those who have ears to hear, Jesus has identified himself as God
  - in the OT, God says He is : "I am" and in the NT, Jesus says, "I am"
  - I am your healer, your salvation, etc...
  - He answers it throughout the Bible both in the OT and the New
  - "I am whatever you need me to be."
  
- God is so magnificent that he is a diamond with so many facets.
  - each facet tells a different story

**Isaiah 55** - all who are thirsty come to the water  
 - this is our scripture passage for the conference

### **Isaiah 55: An Invitation to Abundant Life**

"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters;  
 and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!  
 Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.

<sup>2</sup> Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor  
 on what does not satisfy?

Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight  
 in the richest of fare.

<sup>3</sup> Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live.  
 I will make an everlasting covenant with you,  
 my faithful love promised to David.

<sup>4</sup> See, I have made him a witness to the peoples,  
a ruler and commander of the peoples.

<sup>5</sup> Surely you will summon nations you know not,  
and nations you do not know will come running to you,  
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has endowed you with splendor.”

<sup>6</sup> Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while  
he is near.

<sup>7</sup> Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous  
their thoughts.

Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

<sup>8</sup> “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways  
my ways,” declares the Lord.

<sup>9</sup> “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways  
higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

**Matt 11:28-30** says the same as Isaiah

<sup>28</sup> “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will  
give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for  
I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

<sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” and delight yourselves in rich  
food.

- the invitation is for everyone, but once you are in, He expects you to

repent and change.

- He loves us too much to leave us the way we are
- "I am" is an open sentence
  - to you, I am your healer; to the other, I am your redeemer.
- in the OT, God says, "I am willing to be part of you, but he also says I am bigger than you"
  - in one way, "I can be whatever you need"
  - in another way, He is bigger than what you need him to be / he is high and mighty
- we don't need to understand this duality completely
  - God is available to us and yet, He is far bigger than we are
  - when He says I am, there is great mystery in that
  - we know what comes after "I am..." your friend, your healer, the One who forgives you
  - in another way, there is a mystery there and none of us know everything about God
  - that mysterious God who one moment reveals himself, and at another moment tells you He is bigger than you
  - **this mysterious God says come**

**Isaiah 55** - he is offering us wine and drink (these were considered rich drink in the OT)

- He talks about rich fare and fine food
- He says, "I am giving to you the benefits that I gave to David" and yet, I am not a king, I am just me

- God is so generous and so good... what eye has not seen, what ear has not heard, all the good things God has in store for us
  - this almost sounds too good to be true
  
- we hear these things and we go, "that's nice"... but we don't quite believe it
  - "is He really going to do that for me?"
  
- Jim has seen many good Christians struggle and pay a high price for serving the Lord
  - and yet, he has heard stories of God's deliverance and God's provision
  - ...a divine appointment where this one leads another to a new job
  - ... someone who knows a doctor who has a new cure
  - this really happens
  
- while on earth, we will have our struggles, even faithful servants of God
  - we often say, "That is the way it is."
  - we think we will not see the fullness of all this until we get to heaven
  - you don't have to wait to be dead to set foot in Heaven!
    - for one, it was at a prayer meeting,
    - for another, it was during Eucharist when Heaven had come down to you and the curtain was open
  - God was there!
  
- **the sad thing is that we are not open to it**
  - some think, "how can I convince God to be nicer to me? What can I say to God to bless me?"
  - you don't have to talk to Him about anything

- **you need to talk to yourself that this is our God, who is abundant...**

**story** - immigrant family from eastern Europe sailing to New York or Halifax

- on the boat, they had bread, cheese and dried vegetables
- "how long are we going to eat this stale bread?" but there was nothing else
- one day, little son (10- 12 years) got out of the state room and walked around the ship
- he saw table filled with food... others had all this food while his family was stuck eating stale bread
- there was one more day before the ship would reach its destination
- a steward came up and said, "Son, would you like something to eat?"
  - we don't have money for food
  - son, all this food was included in the price of your ticket!
  - you mean all of these are available to us.?
  - yes, from the time we left Europe!

- **that is kind of our story**

- there are more blessings and graces available to us right now in the midst of this Covid pandemic.... graces and gifts beyond our capacity for us to understand.
  - They are there. but our little mind is not believing that this is possible
- you heard in prophetic word and scriptures, "be transformed by the renewing of your mind"
- we are in a mind set, a rut... "so that's just the way life is"
  - we don't dare to dream anymore
  - **but with God, all things are possible.... right now, God wants**

**to show us the glory of his "I am".**

- God doesn't say I will provide for you, He says I am your provider
  - He doesn't say I will give you resurrection. He says I am your resurrection
  - He doesn't say I will give you light. He says, I am the light!
  
- we start to put emphasis on the phenomena, we separate it from the person of God
  - we talk about the gifts of the Holy Spirit, but what about the gift of the Holy Spirit Himself?
  - the person Himself is the gift
  
- when God comes....it is Him who is coming. He is not sending a force field or an object... He is coming to you.
  
- **I would like to challenge you to believe this for the next 24 hours.**
  - we all have had bad things happen.
  - choose to believe that God is everything that you need Him to be

**2nd part of invitation...** this is true in both the Isaiah and Matthew passages

- Come to me and I will give you rest
- come to me without paying, without cost... I am making this a free gift
- BUT, we somehow want to pay our way...
  - we think that if we say enough prayers or do enough for God., we are paying our own way.
  - there is nothing you can do to earn this...
  - I am giving this to you because I love you and I want a

relationship with you

- He is doing all this to bring us close to Him and to a relationship with Him
  
- the yoke in Matthew is a double yoke, He is on one side and you are on the other
  - He is referring to a relationship
  - not just to make you happy, but I am inviting you into My life
  
- we can't earn this or buy it
  - once we have received the free gift, God expects a change, a transformation
  - parable of the man with the tree... the man waters and fertilizes it and he waits
    - he wants to see fruits coming from the tree
  
- God is lavishing us with gifts because He wants to be in relationship with us
  - we need to realize that all that God has given us, we need to do something with what He gives
  - it is God's nature to give gifts, to heal, to help people
  - that has become our nature, **we need to participate in that nature**
  - as we are transformed, our heart and mind becomes like His
    - we then participate in His work... there is a process here...
  
- the free gifts change me and now, I can continue to do the work of God so others can experience God's love too

- if this is so good, why is it so hard for us to accept?
  - for some, it is too good to be true
  - for some, they don't want to be in debt to God; they want to be their own person
  - for the idea that God is doing them a favor, they feel they have to pay God off so it becomes "I earned it" and "it is not a gift"
  - for some, I am not worthy of this. If you knew what I had done...  
.you would know why I don't deserve anything
  
- **yes, you don't deserve anything, that's why it is called mercy and grace**
  - let all who are thirsty / weary, come to me
  - **we are the one who put the qualifications,**
    - He says anyone who wants this, it is available to you
  - **we, ourselves disqualify ourselves** (because of guilt, some are taught by others that they are not worth anything - abused or used... I'm stupid, I'm a big mistake, they said I should not have been born
  - they are so damaged that they can't believe they are loved by God
  
- the enemy constantly plays on our weakness, our lack of faith, our guilt, our pain...
  - he tries to keep us away from the Lord
  - he knows that if we relax and accept what God gives us, we will be changed and the devil will no longer have power

over us

- we have a safe place to fall back on.... the devil would rather have us be weary and heavy laden
- he is more than happy to help us find our problems / he doesn't want us to know the solution

**- Where do you need God in your life tonight?**

**... in your world, in your situation, in your family,  
in your parish**

**- what do you need God to be and not what do you want God to do?**

- He is saying whatever it is, I am ready. Come to Me  
... if you're thirsty, weary, scared, lonely, beat up,  
you don't know how you are going to handle those relationship  
problems, if you're broke...

**- it isn't what I will do for you, it is what I will be for you.**

**... there in lies the answer**

**- it is not what I can do for you, but who I am for you**

**CHALLENGE:**

- dare to believe for the next 24 hours that God is true to what He is saying here
  - He really loves us;
  - He can be for us what we need Him to be
  - that's the God who we serve and who is calling us into a relationship with Him

- that is the God who loves us and transforms us,  
He heals us, He renews us
- He does it by who he is for us.... hold onto that.

**Questions for discussion break away group:**

- 1) the impact of what Jim's talk was for you
- 2) what is God offering me?

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