

DEVOTIONAL

“After these things I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing in front of the throne and of the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and with palm branches in their hands. They called out with a loud voice and said: Salvation comes from our God, who sits on the throne, and from the Lamb.” ~ Revelation 7:9-10

Every time I see this vision of heaven’s worship, my heart swells. When I scan the countless multitude in heaven, I see someone special to me – my mom. Next month will be 5 years that she’s there. When I see that lowly Mexican immigrant shining as one of Abraham’s stars, my heart swells with joy and gratitude to Jesus for his sacrifice to make that a reality. I’m grateful for his faithful, loving people of St. Paul’s 1st, North Hollywood that made a disciple of that woman and her son.

At the same time, when I see John’s vision, my heart breaks for someone that is likely not there – Mahatma Ghandi. Did you know that he almost became a Christian? As a student, he read the Gospels and said, “Finally, a religion that eliminates the caste system oppressing my people.” So, one Sunday he walked into a church, but they told him to go worship with his own nation and people. He left and never went back. He said, “If Christians have caste differences also, I might as well remain a Hindu.”

My heart aches! I want us all to take part in fulfilling the earthly mission that makes the heavenly worship a reality. My heart breaks over the selfishness and prejudice in me and in you that hinders that. But, here’s where heaven’s vision makes my heart swell all the more. As I scan the multitude in white, know who else I see? You! I’m there too. Jesus has purified us of all our prejudices! He has! And his people continue to make disciples of us with his gospel.

Pastor David Salinas
Christ the Lord of
Houston, TX

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With a full heart, pray for someone, reach out to someone, invite someone to worship this week. Then, look up, see them there, and say bye-bye to your achy-breaky heart!

Prayer:

Dearest Jesus, Bridegroom of the church, on this week of love and friendship, we remember that we love because you first loved us. And we know what love really is: not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent you as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. As we enter the season of Lent on Wednesday, the season which magnifies your sacrificial love, bless us with repentant hearts that turn their backs to sin and that run to you and your cross! Fill our souls with your Spirit that we may take up our crosses and follow you. Let this Lenten season be a fruitful one of growth in faith and love.

As severe winter weather sweeps across much of our nation this week, please protect property and life, especially, of those who travel. Keep our loved ones safe in your care.

In your name, we pray. Amen.

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