

Straight from the "Hart"

July 31, 2022

 HARTLAND

Sharing the journey
to know, love, and serve God.

Apostle's Creed

Money Verse Last week, Jesus responded to a crowd member's interruption of his sermon -- asking Jesus to make his brother give him an inheritance. Jesus took the opportunity to warn people about the dangers of greed and coveting what does not belong to us. He then encourages us to resist this feverish dependence on worldly goods by instead developing a true faith in the fatherly care of God. Hear again the conclusion of that section as our money verse for the day.

So don't ever be afraid, dearest friends! Your loving Father joyously gives you his kingdom realm with all its promises! "So, now, go and sell what you have and give to those in need, making deposits in your account in heaven, an account that will never be taken from you. Your gifts will become a secure and unfailing treasure, deposited in heaven forever. Where you deposit your treasure, that is where your thoughts will turn to—and your heart will long to be there also." Luke 12:32-34 (TPT)



Donna Allmond (not pictured) plays pre-service, offering, and post-service music with Kathy Novak

Opening Prayer God of grace, we gather because you gave your only Son for us, that we may be saved and empowered to daily live in your love. We offer these gifts as an expression of our willingness to faithfully follow your steps and pursue your vision for us and what we can become in you. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen. Please remain standing for the Call to Worship and first song...

Call to Worship Lay Reader: Come, rejoice that Jesus Christ has formed into one body all his people from every heritage and generation. Come to give thanks that the gospel has reached *us* -- and that today, our voices will join believers from many nations across the world who have come to offer praise, to have hearts purified, to be instructed in his Word, to be nourished by his communion covenant, and to be refreshed and renewed by the Holy Spirit -- that we may follow in the

ways of faith and bring glory of God.

(Adapted from © 2011 Constance Cherry in *Worship & Song, Leaders Edition.*)

Music Leader Among the problems of last week's interrupter was that while on the surface, it sounds like he was seeking Jesus' guidance and helpful provision; he was actually trying to guide Jesus to satisfy his selfish greed. We don't want to do that. Let's remind ourselves that our covenant with Jesus means that he leads, and we follow his will. Let's sing



He Leadeth Me

He leadeth me: O blessed thought!
 O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
 Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
 still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Refrain

He leadeth me, he leadeth me, by his own hand he leadeth me;
 his faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.

Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom,
 sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
 by waters still, o'er troubled sea,
 still 'tis his hand that leadeth me.

Refrain

Lord, I would place my hand in thine,
 nor ever murmur nor repine;
 content, whatever lot I see,
 since 'tis my God that leadeth me.

Refrain

Intro to Bible Reading (1)

As we heard from Jesus in the money verse, the priority of a person's energy and interest is always with the things he or she values most in their heart. This is why *over-prioritizing* earthly riches gets in the way of trusting in God's provision which prevents us from giving to those that God sends across our path to receive his help through us. But when we have the proper attitude as responsible stewards surrounding our gifts and graces, our spiritual life grows, and God provides for our

needs and gives what he deems best for us -- treasures that cannot be stolen or otherwise fade away... This is covenant commitment to stewardship of all he has given us is what Jesus calls being prepared ... This is what he goes on to say:

Bible Reading (1)

Be prepared for action at a moment's notice. Be like the servants who anticipate their master's return from a wedding celebration. They are ready to unlock and open the door at a moment's notice. What great joy is ahead for the awakened ones who are waiting for the Master's return!... He himself will become their servant and wait on them at his table... Of course, if they knew ahead of time the hour of the master's appearing, they would be alert, just as they would be ready if they knew ahead of time that a thief was coming to break into their house. So keep alert and ready at all times. For I can promise you that the Son of Man will surprise you and will appear when you don't expect him.

(Luke 12:35-37, 39-40 (TPT))



Theme I recently mentioned that the weddings of those days were a community event that would last up to a week, and the precise timing of the events within that week were not precisely announced. Jesus didn't make it clear whether the master is the groom returning with the soon to be bride and her entourage of attendants and the commencement of ceremonies and feasts, or he was only attending someone else's wedding, but either way, the master's return is unpredictable because of the nature of ancient weddings. What is important is that when he arrives, be it alone or with a bridal entourage, or friends, the servants are alert and prepared and ready to greet him... to put in in the slogan of a hotel that says they want to offer simple down-home hospitality – the servants promise to “leave the light on for you.” This is what is going on in the picture. The master, as groom or guest, returning home, and a servant diligently waiting, holding a lantern, ready to do whatever service their master desires, or even better -- being caught doing what the master wanted them to do while he was gone.



It was not unusual to change metaphors mid-stream. We start with a returning homeowner and quickly switch to an unexpected burglar. They didn't have the kind of security we have, or could have, today. It isn't a matter of setting alarms and locking doors and windows, if they even had window coverings that could be locked. Houses then were generally made of mud bricks – walls that could be easily dug around or broken through. So securing a door, if there was an actual door, wouldn't help a lot either. The only security is to always be ready.

The meaning of both images are the same. We would all be ready if we knew the time of arrival of the master or the burglar. The absence and the unknown time of appearance may tempt us to leave the light off, to not be diligently about our duties of service, or in defense against crime. Both images are meant to motivate us to active readiness. The only way to secure ourselves for an unpredictable future is by living according to our covenant promise to love God and others this day and every day.

Music Leader Being alert and ready for the unexpected means we are always to be about being able to avoid distractions and temptations and to continue serving God to the end... Let's sing **O Jesus I Have Promised**

Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
be thou forever near me, my Master and my friend.

I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel thee near me! The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but Jesus, draw thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.

O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee
that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.

Music And of course, the call of God is not only to serve to the end, but to do it together to the end – for power and effectiveness grow when we join our gifts and graces.... Let's prepare our hearts for prayer by singing....

Together We Serve

Together we serve, united by love,
 inviting God's world to the glorious feast.
 We work and we pray through sorrow and joy,
 extending your love to the last and the least.

We seek to become a beacon of hope,
 a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
 We learn, year by year, to let love shine through
 until we see Christ in each person we meet.

Together, by grace, we witness and work,
 remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong.
 Together we serve in Spirit and truth,
 remembering love is the strength of our song.

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Prayers Almighty Father, we praise you for your willingness to guide us each day not only as individuals, but as a gathered body of your believers. We thank you for sending Jesus to teach us and model for us the way of love. You come to us – sustaining us by your redemption, making us your children, offering to pour out your strength and courage upon us, that together we may be good stewards of the resources, gifts, and graces that you provide. May we always be prepared to rush to make you welcome, be it in your coming or in your presence in the lives of others you have called us to serve. May we do so generously and faithfully in your name. We give all of ourselves to you for your use as you see fit, so that we will always be ready, going about your business and leaving the light on for your arrival--in your ultimate coming, or in your coming to our hearts again today.

Praises and Petitions Today we lift up * Pat Schleh's friend Penny who has COPD, is in a nursing home and very discouraged, * Jan Martin says prayers are needed for John McCollum who is in FL, and will be having tests August 8, * and for Jan's neighbor Charlie Meyers who is having new tests and treatments for his cancer (he has donated a lot of fabric to our quilting ministry), * and Terri reports praises - that Rick Talbot's aortic aneurysm was a misdiagnosis, * and that Janice Larson is cancer free, * and for the children of Johnson City, TN and those who support them (– a relative of one our people was recently on a mission trip to that impoverished area), * we pray for those impacted by the floods in Kentucky, * for Linda and Mary DeGiorgio who both had surgery this past week, * for the family and friends of Sharon Barrett who passed away, and especially for Calvin, and

Reese, Sharon's ex-husband and brother of Jan Martin. We also continue to pray for * Jan's friend Darlene, * Mike Sharlow's nephew Angelo, * for the Hansens – **Quilt** and today especially, we lift up * Sabrina Alred with breast cancer, for whom we now dedicate this quilt...Lord, we humbly come before you, lifting Sabrina Alred before you and offering this quilt as a symbol of your love and the prayers of this congregation.

This quilt was prepared with loving hands, and Sabrina's name was already written on your heart. We don't always understand what you have planned for us, but we do have the faith to know that you hold our fragile lives in your hands. We cannot imagine the power and effect an act of love can have on a person's life – may your Holy Spirit breathe through this quilt and radiate your love from us to the recipient. We dedicate it as a tangible reminder that we are never alone, that you are with each of us – always. As this quilt wraps around Sabrina, may she realize that you are wrapping your arms around her, surrounding her with your love, so that she may feel your care and the care of all those holding her up to you in prayer. May this quilt serve to bring her comfort, hope, and peace, in ways that only you can give. We make this appeal for your blessing on this quilt and on Sabrina on the basis of your compassionate grace.



Now Creator and re-creator of all that is – call us again and reveal to us again just how to love and serve you with body, mind, and spirit; loving your creation with each life we touch as we live how you taught us to pray: **LORD'S PRAYER**

Introduction to Bible Reading (2)

Today, Jesus has been elaborating on proper preparation and priorities by telling us to live alertly -- reminding us that God's people are heavenly minded, while earthly things are temporary – and not only when God's presence is obvious, but even when it seems we are left to work "on our own". He illustrates this through a story...

Bible Reading (2)

"A trustworthy and thoughtful manager who understands the ways of his master will be given a ministry of responsibility in his master's house, serving others exactly what they need at just the right time. And when the master returns, he will find that his servant has served him well. I can

promise you, he will be given a great reward and will be placed as an overseer of everything the master owns.

“But what if that servant says in his heart, ‘My master delays his coming, and who knows when he will return?’ Because of the delay, the servant elevates himself and mistreats those in his master’s household. Instead of caring for the ones he was appointed to serve, he abuses the other servants, both men and women. He throws drunken parties for his friends and gives himself over to every pleasure. Let me tell you what will happen to him. His master will suddenly return at a time that shocks him, and he will remove the abusive, selfish servant from his position of trust. He will be severely punished and assigned a portion with the unbelievers... For those who have received a greater revelation from their master are required a greater obedience. And those who have been entrusted with great responsibility will be held more responsible to their master.” (Luke 12:42b-46, 48b (TPT))

Music Leader To be a good steward of our covenant responsibilities, we must understand God’s ways, and serve as he would have us serve – to do what we would do if Jesus was right here with us – which he is. So through music, let’s dedicate ourselves to aligning our life’s priorities with Jesus’ priorities. Let’s stand before the sermon and sing **Take My Life, and Let it Be**

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.
 Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.
 Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love.
 Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.
 Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King.
 Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee.
 Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.
 Take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.
 Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
 Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.
 Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure-store.
 Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

Sermon Covenant Living Priorities

When Jesus established the new covenant between God and ourselves, he understood what it meant to consecrate his life – to set aside as sacred his life for God’s use alone. He already knew what was coming – what that would mean for

his life. We now know “the rest of the story”. Therefore, it is easy for us to read back into the story Jesus’ arrest and crucifixion (as the thief who broke in unawares and took away the world’s greatest treasure – Jesus himself). And we also know his resurrection, ascension to heaven and promised coming return. (the Lord who went away and will return for his marriage to the church, to his people. And we are to be alert and about his business until that happens.

But the original listeners could not have imagined those events were even on the horizon. They would have understood these stories -- not in its ultimate fulfillment (which is true); but they would have seen it in terms of present-day life issues, issues that still apply to us today as well.

In the original context, then, Jesus would be telling us to be ready against temptation. From **Be ready against temptation** the wider context, Jesus was talking about being earthly focused versus heavenly minded - of being obsessed with worldly wealth and temporary things -- as our ultimate spiritual security versus trusting God to keep our spirits secure and providing for our daily needs as well. We understand the wealth that we chase (and especially if we do it unethically) can be here today and gone tomorrow – just like we can be. One crisis and it can all be gone just like that. (See James 1:9-11, 4:13-15, 5:1-4). Ben has a source that he posts every night on his Facebook page and last night’s just happened to say this: “... letting go makes you wealthier. Wealth is never measured by what you have, but by what you can give away. You are rich with money when you can afford to donate. You are rich with love when you can give love freely. You are rich with God when you can behold your enemy with compassion.” Be ready against the temptation to live only for ourselves.

Jesus would also be telling us to be ready against crisis. We need to be ready to faithfully react to and **Be ready for life crises** handle life *as a disciple of Christ would* – not just in good and normal time, but also in times of trouble. We react and we press forward -- actively doing what we know we are supposed to do, and as we are empowered to do -- as we wait for Jesus to come; and we trust that the Holy Spirit will communicate to our hearts and show us the next steps on how to deal with any unexpected challenges that arise in our life. Be prepared against temptation, be prepared for crises.

If we can remain faithful in his expectations and in service to him, the master will be so pleased that we will be greatly rewarded. Our first reading told us that

Greatly rewarded - but be ready against ego

he will have the faithful servant sit down at the table and he will serve him himself. In heavenly terms, when we sit down to the heavenly banquet. It gets really confusing when we talk about that in earthly terms. Because that'd be like going to your favorite restaurant, getting your favorite waitress or waiter, server, and having them sit down and waiting on them. Does that make sense? We can see it, but it would really be odd, wouldn't it? The role reversal is kind of mind boggling. The waitress may think "what is going on here?" and we might think the same thing, but the waitress also may really like it. To follow our pattern of being ready, then – when blessed with great reward and responsibility for being faithful, we must be ready to guard against selfishness and an inflated ego. If we let it go to our heads – we may give – not out of love, but as a way of getting rewards – as if it were a business investment rather than a relationship between God and his people, between Jesus and his fiancée.

The best way to understand this passage of turning the tables is thinking of the time Jesus gathered his closest disciples to celebrate the Passover feast, give some final instructions, initiated the new covenant between God and humanity. And in that room while they were arguing about who was going to be the greatest in the new kingdom, Jesus kneels at the feet of his friends and washes their feet like a common servant (John 13:1-17) – and even in that case, it was not because they were faithful – Jesus knew before the night was over they'd all be scattered away. It isn't that they were so faithful that the tables were turned and Jesus now *has* to serve us -- No, he serves us because God is full -- *over* full of grace for his beloved people, and he is calling us to do the same – he set the example for covenant living for us. This table waiting image gives us an example of what it means to serve, and we do it because we love, because we are saved.

In Jesus' final story of the day – the one we heard just before the sermon, Jesus warns what can happen when we are not prepared to be on our guard against ego and letting our covenant privilege go to our head – it'd be like the waitress that served when she is supposed to be serving us – and she gets the big head and rubs her hands together and thinks, "okay, now you *have* to serve me – and I can be nasty to you like so many are nasty to me."

The servant is rewarded with the responsibility and freedom that goes with oversight of his master's affairs in this final story. Instead of acting on his master's behalf, in the way he knows his master expects; he assumes that the master won't be back for a while. He lets his position create within him a selfish, swollen ego.

This servant begins to think he is not accountable to anyone. He looks down on those surrounding him -- those he was entrusted to care for, those who actually did the grunt work that made him successful, and he began ordering them about according to his personal whims, mistreating them and eagerly trying (unethically) to grab even more power and more status through entertaining friends in inappropriate ways. He completely forgets that he is only a steward -- not an owner who has the right to be as wicked as he wants to be....but when the real master returns, it won't be good.

All these stories together can be summed up in one simple way. Jesus is saying that in his physical absence, and his covenant people -- who will have no idea when he will return, are going to have a choice.

The first choice is that we can continue to work faithfully with what he has authorized and gifted and trained us to do -- and be caught unawares -- going about the business that he has expected us to do all along. That's choice one.

Choice two is -- in the owner's long absence -- we may begin to imagine that we are not only the caretaker in the owner's absence, but to think we are actually the owner -- who can do whatever we want, however we want... just as we please -- no matter what it does to others and to take it to the extreme, then we'd be thinking things like 'Jesus *should* be taking care of my feet and waiting tables for me -- and every other one of my whims too'. Now we don't talk or think like that because we know it is offensive and brash. But how often do we ask God for what we want compared to how often we ask what God wants of us?

In a sense, this story goes back to the story of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. Although God was still in the garden with them and walked with them in the garden -- but he had given them the responsibility to care of all of that garden, but they decided to do it their own way rather than God's way and they messed it all up. That is why he is not only our Creator God, he is our Re-creating God. Grace has to come.

But ultimately, Jesus says, those people that he has placed in areas of responsibility, who are taught and gifted and empowered to serve, but who use those roles to serve self will be grouped with the unfaithful. Probably

Make a Choice

1) Work faithfully

or

2) Work for self

Working for self leads to being grouped with the unfaithful

not much of an issue for an egocentric, self-indulgent manager, (they are not going to get it) unless they come to their senses -- but it also includes punishment. And the more we are re-sponsible for, the more for which we are held accountable; the more severe will be the punishment if we turn away, and deliberately neglect God's known expectations and calling on our life.

But to those who diligently and devotedly serve as best they can as the Lord teaches and empowers

Working faithfully means being rewarded with joy and increased responsibility

them, these people will be rewarded with great joy, and more responsibility – which to me sounds more like a punishment, not a reward! But that's just me.

-- because the more we have, the more we must be responsible and accountable. If you are familiar with the parable of the talents, refer to that at this point. (See Matthew 25:14ff or Luke 19:12ff) I'll summarize it real quick. One was given 10, one was given 5, one was given 1 (or 5,2,1 depending on the version) – The first one invested and doubled it, the second one invested and doubled it, the one that got one hid it in the ground and lost what he had – it was given to the one who had the most.

God's heavenly kingdom is designed for us to grow and blossom to our fullest potential. Now in the world we sometimes have this "Peter Principle". Are you familiar with the Peter Principle? What it means if you do really good at a job, they promote you to the next level which you can't do quite as good, but good enough that they promote you to the next level which you can't do quite as good, and they continue to do this until you have been promoted to a point where you are overwhelmed and unable to do that job well and you are stressed out and that is where you are stuck. It is kind of a satirical look at the way some hierarchal organizations don't always work – because they promote people above and beyond where they are able to excel to positions in which they cannot do well.

But in Christ's kingdom, God knows just how much we can grow, just how much potential we have, just what areas we are good at and where we need to be so that we can always excel. He doesn't assign responsibilities to us that we cannot, with his help, fulfill. With his help, we can always fulfill them. And he rewards us with a joy for all that he does enable us to do if we only keep our life in his hands – and that is the secret to it all – keeping our life in his hands. When we keep our life in his hands, he enables us to do everything we are called to do, and we don't have to worry about being accountable because he is guiding us and empowering us

every step of the way. That is why we prayed in song that God would take our life – until we live the way our Master would live if he were here... and he is. It is why we pursue his will, it is why we desire him to guide us and direct us to be all we can be for him and for each other as we place every aspect of our lives into his sure hands – for he can prune away of the unwanted areas of our life (saying no to temptation and ego and to whatever stretches us in ways that we shouldn't be stretched – and then he does get us to say yes to those things that do stretch us in the right way – allowing us to enhance and grow and empower our lives so that we can do it all with excellence. And that is also why we turn to the Communion table -- to be reassured of his presence and promises and enablement to serve him well, and also be reminded of our responsibilities to serve.

Communion

Invitation

Put yourself in with the group of disciples that Thursday night when Jesus was betrayed.

The disciples were assembled in the upper room,
They didn't know that Jesus would be leaving very soon,
They talked about his kingdom as they readied for the feast,
Who would be the greatest -- who would be the least.

One said if there's a greatest, I hope I'm the one,
Others talked of miracles they had seen and done.
No one noticed Jesus as he rose up from His seat,
till he knelt before them and began to wash their feet.

Imagine the look on each man's face,
a single act of service puts us all in our place.
Though we're called to minister and do miracles in His name,
remember when you're sent by him --
the reason he said he came:

"I've come to serve you ... and if you know my Father's love
the way you say you do, then you will serve each other too."

(Adapted from Ray Boltz – I've Come to Serve)

Music Let's begin to prepare ourselves for Communion, then, by singing

Make Me a Servant

Make me a servant, humble and meek,
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant, make me a servant,

Make me a servant today.

Confession and Assurance

Let's continue to prepare our hearts through a time of Confession. Let's pray:

Lord, we confess that we don't always live up to what it means to be truly human. We fail to love with all we have and are, because we do not fully understand what it means to love. Because we are afraid of risking ourselves, or because we get caught up in our privileges and turn it to pride rather than a resource and resolve to complete our responsibilities to our covenant with you. As a result, we alienate others and cut ourselves off from those we are called to serve, and those with whom we are to join in serving. Our strains of selfishness and lack of sympathy stifle our generosity and time meant for others. Holy Spirit, speak to us. Help us listen to your word of forgiveness, and free us from sin.

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made. He is great and most worthy of praise. Celebrate his abundant goodness and joyfully sing of his righteousness. For he will not always accuse, nor harbor his anger, he does not treat us or repay us as our sins deserve. Rather, so great is his love for those who revere him, that as high as the heavens are above the earth, as far as the east is from the west – so far has he removed our sins from us. He so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned.

The Great Thanksgiving Therefore, Lord, bless our hearts with your presence so that by your grace, we may faithfully continue to allow you to do your work through us wherever we find ourselves, in whatever structured or spontaneous moments we find ourselves, gift us to model your grace and love.

We cannot do what we do in our own power – help us to continue to rely on your divine grace, that you will help us give ourselves without reservation to the ministry opportunities to which we have been sent, be they “official” or informal ministry of simply living Christianly. By your guidance, may we fulfill our life's call to you in sincerity and in love, cooperating with your coworkers for the cause of your kingdom and for the hearts of those who receive the benefits of our labor in you -- and for sake of your heavenly name.

Heavenly Father, it is indeed for your great name and promises that we have gathered to share in this table of grace. You formed us and gifted us for the tasks

that lay ahead; breathing into us your life, your holiness, and your salvation through Jesus Christ; freeing us from not only the guilt of our sins; and the power of sinful nature. And through these elements you give us a perpetual reminder that it isn't us; but it is Christ in us and with us to the end of the time – accomplished by his sacrifice on the cross and his resurrection from the dead and his future coming.

Pour out your Spirit, then on these people here and at home, and on these elements we hold. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may become the body of Christ, his living connection to his world. And it is in Jesus name that we pray, Amen.

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Jesus established that new covenant of love and grace with us when he took the bread, lifted it up, gave thanks for it and broke it, saying; this is my body -- broken for you -- as you eat it; feel his hands touching your heart. [Take and eat]



When the supper was over, he took the cup, lifted it up, gave thanks, and said “This is my blood, poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins and the sins of all in the world -- as often as you drink it, remember me;” [Take and drink].

Remember that he is with us, his breath of life, his Spirit; has entered us and awakened us to his presence. Allow him to flow through your entire being and empower you to experience life at its fullest.

Prayer Now Lord, having been strengthened by your presence, renew us and guide us into the privilege and joy of faithfully serving until Christ returns or we come to you and are – by grace -- welcomed and rewarded with the heavenly banquet, and with the words, “Well done.” Amen.

Music Let's stand and sing about the peace and joy of living for Jesus.

Living for Jesus (Oh What Peace)

Living for Jesus, oh, what peace! Rivers of pleasure never cease.
Trials may come, yet I'll not fear. Living for Jesus, He is near.

Refrain

Help me to serve thee more and more. Help me to praise Thee o'er and o'er;
Live in Thy presence day by day, Never to turn from Thee away.

Living for Jesus, oh, what rest! Pleasing my Savior, I am blest.
Only to live for Him alone. Doing His will till life is done!

Refrain

Living for Jesus, ev'rywhere, all of my burdens He doth bear.
Friends may forsake me; He'll be true. Trusting in Him, He'll guide me through.

Refrain

Living for Jesus, till at last into His glory I have passed;
There to behold Him on His throne, Hear from His lips, "My child, well done!"

Refrain

Blessing Now as we go, remember that One who is coming has come and is among us. May his grace go with you as the Father lights your path, the Son's compassion be the love by which you walk that path, and the Spirit's presence be the power for each step. Amen.