



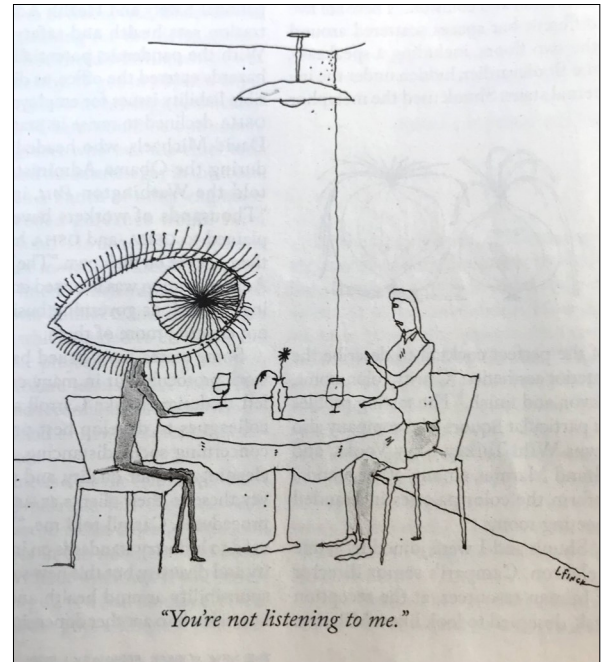
## BETWEEN 6:00 AM—9:00 AM: **DISAPP-EAR-ING**

My friend sent me this cartoon. This poor woman can't get her date to tune in. Of course, he can't because his head is just one big eye with long, enviable lashes. He's got no ears.

I wonder if God feels like this woman sometimes ("My child, you're not listening to me"). God wants to speak to us but our spiritual ears have shrunk as our eyes have grown to monstrous proportions. But our lives depend on big, cupped ears.

Last week at the 3:00 PM Joel Moment, Pastor Rick told us a funny story. When he became the senior pastor at Big Valley Grace Church, he made a policy for the whole staff. He required everyone to spend the first 60 minutes reading the Scriptures and praying. That means they all had to turn off their computers and phones and listen to God. No exceptions.

Rick shared that one day he saw one of the pastors drive in and so he decided to test the young guy. Rick called his office extension and the young pastor answered the phone. Uh-oh! Bad decision. Rick said in his booming voice, "Why'd you answer? You're supposed to be meeting with the Lord." Doh! I bet he didn't make that mistake again. God also likes to listen to us. A new guy to Valley named **Stephen Vivien** got inspired by verse 1. Here it is.



**Psa. 101:1** *I will sing of steadfast love and justice; to you, O LORD, I will make music.*

He wrote: *"I have been cogitating on verse 1 this morning. I am encouraging myself to sing of our Lord's steadfast love and justice, and I am even trying to make a little music. I sang a brief song about it. It is uplifting for me to do this."* Amen! Let's do the same. Here's a hymn called "God of Justice Love and Mercy." You can sing acapella with the lyrics below. Or, if you want some musical accompaniment, search for "God of Justice, Love and Mercy InterVarsity" and you'll find a great version from an InterVarsity worship team.

God of justice love and mercy  
 Pour Your wisdom on our souls  
 By Your all sustaining power  
 Keep our spirits strong and whole  
 Lift our eyes to see Your vision  
 Of a world in urgent need  
 Grant us courage then to follow  
 Bringing comfort with each deed  
 God of justice love and mercy  
 With compassion let us care  
 As we come in humble weakness  
 May Your strength be ours to share

Press our hearts to know the struggle  
 Of the ones we cannot see  
 Brothers sisters all who suffer  
 May Your kindness set them free  
 God of justice love and mercy  
 Send us out and make us bold  
 As we strive for Your high calling  
 Let our hands Your mercy hold  
 You have blessed us with abundance  
 Gifts to share with those in need  
 Father Son and Holy Spirit  
 May we follow as You lead

**BETWEEN 9:00 AM—12:00 AM: THE PSALMIST WILL, BUT WILL WE? YES WE WILL.**

Anna Aseltine made this keen observation about our Psalm:

*“What stood out the most in this passage is the **“I wills”** that indicate how we can respond in any situation. I was reminded of the return of David and his men to Ziklag. What horrible circumstances. The Amalekites had burned the city, the women and children taken captive, and David’s own men wanted to stone him. Then it says, ‘But David strengthened Himself in the Lord.’ How did he do that? By applying Isaiah 40:31. We can do the same. When I do so, I always know Lord Himself is with me. I’m challenged to keep my thoughts stayed on Jesus. He is truly the Victor and I am on the Winning side. Satan cannot get his hands on me!”*



Again, how observant on Anna’s part. I didn’t notice all the “I wills.” I counted eight: (1) I will sing, (2) I will ponder the pure path, (3) I will walk with integrity, (3) I will not set bad stuff before my eyes, (4) I will not know evil, (5) I will destroy slanders (whoa), (6) I will not endure the arrogant people, and (7) I will destroy the evildoers (whoa again).

My first thought is for us to pray for the highest level of willingness to be above reproach in everything, but the good news is that willingness is already rising up within us. Philippians says that he presently is giving us the willingness because of our spiritual rebirth (*“for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure”* (Phil. 2:13). I bet you’re more willing to be holy than you were before you started this paragraph five minutes go. If you’re not, just do good and wait on the Lord for the “willing” to flood back.

**BETWEEN 12:00 PM—3:00 PM: FOUR WORDS FROM THE MAN UNDER THE HAT**

*“Who would be left?”* That’s what **Harry Idehara** wrote after reading Ps. 101. He gets at an aspect of the Psalm that can’t be denied: it’s severity. Let’s lean into the hard passages: *“Whoever slanders his neighbor secretly I will destroy...No one who practices deceit shall dwell in my house...I will destroy all the wicked in the land”* (Ps. 101:5, 7, 8). That’s one stern king. (By the way, this is a picture of Harry serving on the Mexico team on June 19, 2019. This guy and his quiet, kind wife **Claudia** worked liked mad.)



**Patty Grimm** had an interesting experience with the Ps. 101 this morning. She was reading a devotional by Robert Bolton, a sixteenth century pastor, who wrote the following:

*“David’s eyes gushed out with tears to see men transgress the law...A right apprehension of God’s wrath and fiery indignation, and the pure eye of God against sin. The Christian often complains that he cannot grasp God’s wrath sufficiently. Let him take these helps. The severity of God’s judgments against sin, for which...He threw down the angels from heaven to be devils for ever, who might have done Him abundance of glory...For but eating*

*forbidden fruit, which some count a small fault, He cast Adam out of Paradise, and sent a world of misery upon him and his posterity.”*



But then Rev. Bolton sounds forth on God’s mercy: “[Despite his future wrath against sinner] He is wonderfully ready and easy to be intreated whilst He vouchsafes a day of visitation.” Praise God that he is ready and easy to be summoned to help and save anyone who turns to him with the weakest, frailest belief in his Son Jesus.

**BETWEEN 3:00 PM—4:00 PM:** Join the **AFTERNOON Joel Moment Prayer Gathering**. Go to [Zoom.com](https://zoom.us) and enter Meeting ID and Password.

**BETWEEN 7:00 PM—8:00 PM:** Join the **EVENING Joel Moment Prayer Gathering**. Go to [Zoom.com](https://zoom.us) and enter Meeting ID and Password.

**BETWEEN 12:00 PM—3:00 PM:** **HE INHABITS US. THAT'S OUR HOPE.**



**Cindy Kapcoe** sheds some light on our little tension between God's holiness and grace. He's a demanding King, yes, but he delivers to us what he demands from us. But cooperate we must.

Cindy focused on a line in the Psalm that differs from all the others, a single, tender question in v.2: *"Oh when will you come to me?"* What's going on here? In a passage full of muscular "I will" statements comes this needy little prayer asking for God's

companionship. Cindy writes: *"Does God come to me, or do I come to Christ? Be secure and know He is already there with you. He indwells His believers."* Yes. Think of Harry building that house on the previous page. Our hearts become Christ's home. He takes up residence to stay.

Then Cindy quotes from the hymn, "Just as I Am" with this line, "O Lamb of God, I come, I come!" Let's do that now. Let's sit with the Lord in the quiet of our hearts and recognize he's not going anywhere. Phew! Singing again makes good sense. Here's "Just As I Am."

Verse 1

Just as I am without one plea  
But that Thy blood was shed for me  
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee  
O Lamb of God I come I come

Verse 2

Just as I am and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot  
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot  
O Lamb of God I come I come

Chorus

I come broken to be mended  
I come wounded to be healed  
I come desperate to be rescued  
I come empty to be filled

I come guilty to be pardoned  
By the blood of Christ the Lamb  
And I'm welcomed with open arms praise God  
Just as I am

Verse 3

Just as I am I would be lost  
But mercy and grace my freedom bought  
And now to glory in Your cross  
O Lamb of God I come I come

**BETWEEN 8:00 PM—10:00 PM:** **HERE'S A PERSPECTIVE THAT WE SHOULD HEAR.**

My brother **Frank Nemec** has a viewpoint that we should consider. Here's his crisp summary of Ps. 101 along with a plea.

*"Psalm 101 is Hebrew poetry of the wisdom literature. It's an emotional expression of what good people want from their leaders, and wish that they get. It applies to anyone with any leadership authority. It pleads with leaders to enforce common morality, focusing primarily on deceit. The most obvious modern application is the intense desire by good people to remove from political power the person most recently infamous for lies and slander: Donald Trump. Will anyone have the courage to raise that issue?"*



OK, may God give our leaders truthfulness, whether they be in the halls of power, the church office or the home.





## 3:00 PM and 7:00 PM Prayer Gatherings

**RITA HANNA** *[When we first asked Rita to share, she said, "I'd rather have a root canal!" But here she is, ready to share with us. She has a story that will inspire us to remember our commitments.]*



**Phil. 1:6** *And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*

**GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #1 (5 min.): Rom. 11:22** *Note then the kindness and the severity of God:*

So noted. The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is both kind and stern. But his kindness towards us trumps his sternness. He presented Christ as our sacrifice of atonement. Let your heart be at rest. Express your thanks.

**GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #2 (5 min.): Gen. 2:24** *Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

Let's pray for the next generation of families. We want our young people to grow up and marry in the Lord (unless they have the gift of singleness). Let's pray that dozens and dozens of boys and girls at Valley will have godliness, integrity and happy, kingdom-advancing marriages. Let's pray for lots of babies. Ask God to bless Pastor Andy's upcoming "Parenting Our Youth" Zoom session.

**GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #3 (5 min.):** Johanna Byrd did a fine study on the Hebrew word for "integrity" and discovered that it means "without blemish, complete, perfection, sincerity, soundness, uprightness and wholeness." That's what the king wanted for his own heart, family and land. Talk to God with this theme in mind.

**GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #4: (5 min.):** Bob Schaetzle made a great connection between Psalm 101:2-4 and Romans 12:1-2. I like it! Bob paraphrased Paul that we should be "His living sacrifices, not conforming to the world of unbelief." As we know, America's young people are being eaten alive by unbelief. We need a student ministries pastor who will lead a platoon of diverse volunteer leaders when Jared and Arienna hit the mission field. We ask each week. Let's ask again.

**GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #5 (5 min.):** Pray a blessing on someone in your Zoom group like this: "Lord, may you [do such and such — touch, heal, help, lift up — and then fill in a name] [e.g., Astha, Lauren, Joe, Dana, Kurt, Michael]."



## Wild Cupertino

Last Friday I was working in the office and walked out to my car to get my lunch. Then the unexpected happened. A coyote sprinted past me at about 15 MPH. He's wasn't a small coyote either. I was so startled I almost dropped my phone. I was able to get this not-so-good picture. When he was about even with the large planters, he made a hard left turn towards the tennis courts. I hopped in my Hyundai to track him but he gave me the slip. I'm not sure what I would have done had I caught him. Saint Francis would have preached a sermon to him and he (or she) probably would have stopped and listened. Anyway, may God bless the animal kingdom.

