**La Porte Sermon: Singing Sermon**

**Pastor Bob Vale; Mary Kay Steele and Peter Steele.**

**(March 22, 2020 through the Corona Virus Pandemic)**

**Biblical Focus**: **PS 150:1 Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens.**

Today I want to share the words of the scriptures to you and also sing the praises of God through gospel songs.

During these times of isolation and being alone at home due to the Corona Virus, please know that God is with you and cares for you.  **I Peter 5:7** **tells all of us to cast all our cares upon the Lord, because God cares for us.**

Today I want to give you hope, joy, peace, laughter, and a song in your heart.  I have asked Peter and Mary Kay Steele to help me share both the word of God with you and also songs from our past to give us joy and happiness.

Let us not forget the words of the **23 Psalms**:  Yeah though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me.

God is with us each and every hour of every day.

I hope today's service and sermon will bless you and you can listen to it over and over again on Facebook or youtube in the days and weeks ahead. I have written this and put it together to encourage our hearts as we go through the corona virus together.

Have you ever had a crazy idea?

An idea that was so out there that people thought you were crazy?

Has anyone ever called you crazy?

People thought Thomas Edison was crazy before he invented the light bulb.

People thought Edmond Hillary was crazy before he climbed Mount Everest.

People thought 56 men over 200 years ago under the leadership of Thomas Jefferson, wrote the declaration of Independence to begin a new Nation with freedoms for all.

People though Jesus was crazy when he said he would be killed and rise from the dead in just three days.

**Has anyone ever called you crazy because of your faith?**

Has anyone ever thought you were delusional because you believe in a God who created the heavens and the earth, believed in a virgin birth and a salvation experience by a God you can't see, feel or touch?

         I hope all of you have been called crazy because of your faith! Because it's not normal to believe in something you can't see, feel, touch or experience. Science wants to put our faith under a microscope and establish a formula to explain it, but that will never happen, because our faith this side of heaven will always come from believing without seeing. Jesus himself said, **"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."**  Yes, it is the Bible that points our way to faith.

**II Timothy 3:16-17** says, **"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."**

**Pastor Bob:** Congregation, call me crazy, but I still believe the Bible is true from cover to cover. Please lift up your voice as we sing a few songs from your past that tell a wonderful story of our faith. Songs open the window to the soul.  So today we are going to sing our way through out faith and reciting the Bible at the same time.

**Pastor Bob:** Congregation, call me crazy, but I still believe the Bible is true from cover to cover. Please lift up your voice as we recite the responsive reading together:

**Congregation:** Call me crazy, but I still believe that.............

The B-I-B-L-E yes that's the book for me. I stand alone on the word of God. The B-I-B-L-E. (Repeat)

**Mary Kay Steele:** As Christians we believe the Bible says in **John 3:16**, For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only son that whosoever believes in him, should not perish, but have everlasting life. In other words, Jesus loves all of us.  Congregation perhaps you remember this song in your past:

**Congregation:** Call me crazy, but I still believe that............

**Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong, they are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus Love me, yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so. (Repeat)**

**Pastor Bob:**Congregation, God is here! Do you feel the Lord's presence? God's presence is all around us this morning. Some of you are feeling it in your soul. **Isaiah 41:10** says, So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Congregation: Call me crazy, but I still believe that.....

**Surely, The Presence of The Lord is in this place.**

**I can feel His mighty power and His grace**

**I can hear the brush of angel's wings; I see glory on each face**

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place. (Repeat)**

**Mary Kay Steele:** Congregation; tell me what really is the power of God in your life?  Do you believe that the blood of Jesus can wash away our sins?  **I John 1:7** says, But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

**Congregation:** Call me crazy, but I still believe that.....

**What can wash away my sin, nothing but the blood of Jesus. What can make me whole again, nothing but the blood of Jesus. Oh precious is the flow, that makes me white as snow. No other fount I know. Nothing but the blood of Jesus. (Repeat)**

**Pastor Bob**: Congregation I believe the very name of Jesus stirs emotions and feelings in your soul that warm your heart. Did you know that **Philippians 2:9-11 says**, Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, **10**thatatthenameofJesuseverykneeshouldbow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is LORD, to the glory of God the Father.

**Congregation:** Call me crazy, but I still believe that.....

**Jesus, Jesus, Jesus...There's just something about that name. Master savior Jesus. It's like the fragrance after rain. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, Let Heaven and Earth proclaim. Kings and kingdoms will all pass away; but there is something about that name.**

**Mary Kay Steele:** Congregation do you know of this joy from the Lord that I am talking about? Did you know that **Psalm 47:1**. Tells us to Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy."

**Congregation:** Call me crazy, but I still believe that.....

**I've got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy, down in my heart; Where? Down in my heart: Where? Down in my heart. I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart down in my heart to stay.**

**Cause I'm so happy, so very happy, I've got the love of Jesus in my heart. Cause I'm so happy, so very happy, I've got the love of Jesus in my heart.**

**I've got the peace that passes understanding down in my heart. Where.......**

**Pastor Bob:** Congregation most of us have many years before the Lord will call us back home. But trust me, one day God will call you home also. It's simply part of God's plan for our stay here on earth. The Bible says in **Hebrews 9:27** that it is appointed unto man to die once then the judgment.  Call me crazy, but I believe in eternity; I believe there is a heaven that awaits the Christian when this earthly life is over. Amen!

**Congregation:** Call me crazy, but I still believe that.....

**When we all get to heaven what a day of rejoicing that will be. When we all see Jesus; we'll sing and shout the victory.**

**Sing the wondrous love of Jesus; Sing his mercy and his grace; In the mansions bright and blessed; He'll prepare for us a place.**

**When we all get to heaven what a day of rejoicing that will be. When we all see Jesus; we'll sing and shout the victory.**

**While we walk the pilgrim pathway; Clouds will overspread the sky; But when travlin' days are over; Not a shadow, not a sigh.**

**When we all get to heaven what a day of rejoicing that will be. When we all see Jesus; we'll sing and shout the victory.**

**Mary Kay Steele:** Church family, I want you to know that Jesus Christ, who we put our trust, holds your yesterday's, your today's, and your tomorrow's. Because you have asked God to be your Lord and master, you have something the rest of the world does not have. You have the entire trinity residing inside of you. You have Peace, love, joy, strength, hope, assurance, faith, calmness of heart, encouragement of your soul, and a love that can help you love any neighbor. **John 14:19** says After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also.

         **Call me Crazy but that's a pretty good deal.**

**Congregation:** Call me crazy, but I still believe that.....

**Because He Lives, I can Face Tomorrow. Because He lives, all fear is gone; Because I know He holds the future; and life is worth a living just because He lives.**

**And then one day, I'll cross that river. I'll fight life's final war with pain; And then as death gives way to victory; I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He reigns;**

**Because He Lives, I can Face Tomorrow. Because He lives, all fear is gone; Because I know He holds the future; and life is worth a living just because He lives.**

**Pastor Bob:** Church family, as we close the worship service out I want you to know that God will take care of you in your darkest hour. God is with us and walking with us as we go through the corona virus pandemic.  **Philippians 4:19** says, "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus." **Also I Peter 5:7** says, Cast all your cares upon the Lord because God cares for you!

**Congregation:** Call me crazy, but I still believe that................

**God Will Take Care of You, Through every day; Ore all the way. God will take care of you. God will take care of you.**

**Be not dismayed whate'er betide, God will take care of you; Beneath his wings of love abide, God will take care of you.**

**God Will Take Care of You, Through every day; Ore all the way. God will take care of you. God will take care of you.**

**Pastor Bob: Thank you for singing along with us and sharing in the scriptures and old songs. I hope it lifted your soul today.**

**Let our closing prayer today also be a song:**Pastor Bob begins to sing softly (acapella) and Mary Kay Steele joins in.

**The Negro spiritual:**

Amen...amen....amen....amen...amen.

Listen to me now.

Amen...amen....amen....amen...amen.

To the baby Jesus.....

Amen...amen....amen....amen...amen.

To the Lord in Heaven.

**Amen...amen....amen....amen...amen.**

**Prayer: Lord, allow us to be a people with a song in our heart.  Teach us to sing to you as an offering of the joy that is in our hearts in serving you.  When we are sad, remind us of a Christian song or hymn to lift us up!  Today we sang wonderful songs to you! Amen.**

**Words of Wisdom:**A Christian hymn or song will outlive all church sermons in the memories of our heart

**Benediction:** May you keep a song in your heart, a jump in your step and a beautiful melody in your thoughts.  Keep singing....I think it helps enjoy life better. AS it says in the book of Malachi, May God bless you as He sings over you.