

2015 Summer Sermon Series (Inspiring Songs of *Fresh-Brewed Faith!*)
"Beautiful Day" (Jamie Grace)

Texts: Psalm 147:1-11
1 Peter 1:3-9

Preached: 6/21/15

This morning we continue our Summer Sermon Series. Each Sunday features a song that has been important to one of our members and was highlighted during Fresh-Brewed Faith – our Spring Youth Sunday School Class.

The song we celebrate this morning is "Beautiful Day," presented to our youth by Vonna May Miller.



"Beautiful Day" was written by Jamie Grace, a 22-year-old Christian singer-songwriter from Atlanta, Georgia. The song is upbeat – a good song for Father's Day, since Grace is singing about her Heavenly Father.

(You can listen to the song on YouTube --
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uPy0ctqMwE0>)

My daughter, Fiona, originally turned me on to this song. I can't help but like such a "feel-good" song. It's feel-good, but it's not flippant.

1. Wake up and smile cause it's been a while
It's been like a whole day since
I stopped so you could hold me
This child awaits, strong in the faith
Lord, You are the refuge that I can't wait to get to
Cause I can't let a day go, Can't let a day go by
Without thanking you for the joy that
you bring to my life

Chorus:

And ooooooh there's something 'bout the way
Your sun shines on my face
It's a love so true, I could never get enough of You
This feeling can't be wrong
I'm about to get my worship on, take me away
It's a beautiful day.

2. When trouble seems to rain on my dreams
It's not a big, not a big deal
Let it wash all the bugs off my windshield
Cause You're showing me in You I'm free
And You're still the refuge
That I've just got to get to
So I won't let a day go, won't let a day go by
So put the drop top down, turn it up,
I'm ready to fly. Chorus

3. I've got no need to worry,
I've got no room for doubt
No matter what's coming at me
You'll always be the beautiful I sing about
There ain't no limitations to Your amazing grace
Your amazing grace

Yeah, I'm about to get my worship on... Take me away on this beautiful day
It's a beautiful day...It's a beautiful day... It's a beautiful day... Such a beautiful day.



My daughter, Fiona, originally turned me on to this song. I can't help but like such a "feel-good" song. It's feel-good, but it's not flippant. "Beautiful Day" has depth and maturity.

Jamie Grace is young, yes. But she's also talented. She landed a nomination at the 2012 Grammy awards for her debut single "Hold Me" featuring Toby Mac. That's a great song, as well. She is the youngest Grammy nominee ever.

A graduate of Point University with a bachelor's in child and youth development, Jamie Grace uses her gifts as a singer and actress to motivate those around her, especially kids and teens.

At 11-years-old, Jamie was diagnosed with Tourette's Syndrome and knows first hand the importance of being encouraged at a young age. She had been experiencing uncontrollable eye and head twitches since the age of 9.

"I just struggled. I had a hard time walking because of twitches," Jamie said. "I spent the next three years being miserable."

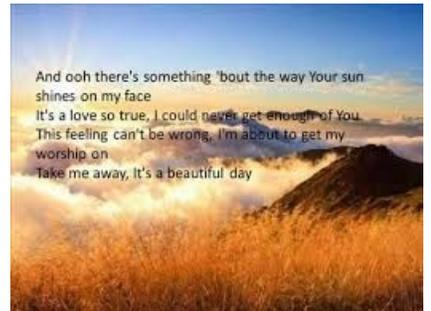


Then, Jamie says, life "slapped me in the face" and she took her music career in her own hands. She began posting videos of herself performing songs on YouTube, which helped her career take off. Now she's using her story and struggles to inspire others. Jamie started the foundation, *I'm a Fighter*, an online community of people trying to overcome their challenges.

"Everyday, a new story is posted of a kid with cancer or a single mom or hard-working father," she said. "I try to encourage them, but ultimately at the end of the day, they end up encouraging me."

There are several lines of the song I find memorable. Lines that mimic the scriptures in a modern way.

Jamie sings in the chorus – "I'm about to get my worship on."



The Psalmist sings:

Praise the LORD! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.



Some of us are too dreary, too often... a song of praise is rarely on our lips. Instead, we sing a song of woe... even if come by it honestly. Maybe we are dragged down by the troubles of the world. Maybe we feel sorry for ourselves and we like to have a pity party. Maybe we feel so bad and we resent those around us who seem to be doing better so we want to drag them down, too. But such a song...in the language of the psalmist...is hardly fitting.

Some of us, with God's help, need to lift our spirits and sing a song of praise. In the language of Jamie Grace – we need to get our worship on, a little earlier and more often! Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The psalmist says in another place,
“this is the day that the LORD has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

And Jamie sings,
Can't let a day go by without thanking you for the joy that you bring to my life.

Some are inundated with lists – shopping lists, to-do lists, appointment lists. But do we consult our joy lists enough? Do we write down and celebrate our blessings? ...every day?

The first letter of Peter says of God:

⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

That's worth singing about...every day. And just the act of singing about it may just lift your spirit and remind you it is another beautiful day.

It's been raining a lot lately.

Some would say the weather has been downright dreary. And such weather reminds us of our own dreary feelings inside.



That's why I love that line in the song:
*When trouble seems to rain on my dreams
It's not a big, not a big deal,
Let it wash all the bugs off my windshield*

The Psalmist again:

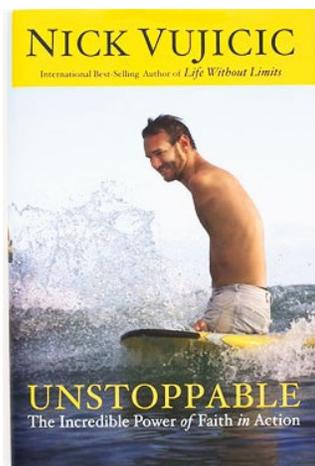
The LORD... heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds... The LORD lifts up the downtrodden... Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre.

All of us can sing a song of praise, no matter our disabilities. As I was contemplating my sermon this week I came across the incredible story of Nick Vujicic.



Nick is a man of deep faith and a motivational speaker. Jo and I just stumbled on a television show about him. Nick is Australian, born 30 years ago with no arms and no legs.

He said, "I won't pretend my life is easy, but through the love of my parents, loved ones, and faith in God, I have overcome my adversity and my life is now filled with joy and purpose." He resides now in California with his wife, Kanae, and they both love seeing people's lives changed for the better or touched in some way. Nick says, "It is my hope that your life is positively impacted by my story."



It's amazing what Nick can do with no limbs – amazing how positive he can be. He drives a car. He loves being in the pool and swimming, enjoys playing golf with his Dad, who is also his best friend.

I don't know if Nick is familiar with the music of Jamie Grace. I would bet that he is. The song "Beautiful Day" reminds me of Nick and his story. Nick has a DVD titled "No Arms, No Legs, No Worries."

I trust you have plenty of worries, like I do, even with your functioning arms and legs! I would wager you have enough worries, that if you dwelt on them, you could ruin any day. Yet you can still get your worship on. We can celebrate this day, every day – a beautiful day.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

