

Pentecost 9A

August 6, 2017

Other Readings

Isaiah 55:1-5

Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

Readings for study

Romans 9:1-5

Before: Nothing separates us from God's Love

- Speaking the truth in Christ
 - o Almost like swearing that this testimony is true
 - o Elsewhere – see what big letters I use when I write with my own hand
- Conscience
 - o Literally, to see together with
 - o Idea that we have ability to judge right and wrong
- Confirms
 - o Literally, bears witness with (martyrs)
- Great sorrow and unceasing anguish
 - o Different words although their meaning is similar
 - o Anguish – the only other time used in the NT is what people who love money have caused themselves – inward aching from grief
 - o Sorrow – grief or heaviness – a state of mind
- Accursed
 - o Anathema in the greek – a church term still used in transliteration – something given for destruction
- My own people/my kindred according to the flesh
 - o Here meaning related by blood rather than a reference to those who are not focused on God/spirit
- Israelites
 - o Literally, from Israel, setting up a wordplay a few verses later
- Adoption
 - o Typically adoption has been referred to as what happened to the Christians, here Paul uses it to reference the Israelites
- Glory
 - o The blessings belonging to the righteous
- Covenants
 - o The bonds that God entered into with the people
- Giving of the law
 - o Moses and the Ten Commandments probably the reference, but also recall that Law is considered a gift from God as well
- Worship
 - o Liturgy
- Promises
 - o Used almost exclusively to speak of God's promises
- Patriarchs
 - o Fathers
- Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

- Translation issues with the greek

After: Distinguishing between children of flesh and children of the promise

Matthew 14:13-21

Before: Execution of John the Baptist

- Jesus in a boat
 - Jesus frequently uses boats to get a little distance from the crowds, often time for teaching but this time for retreat
- Deserted place by himself
 - Same word (wilderness, desert) where Jesus was tempted by Satan in Mt 4
 - An Island away from the shore? Where he returns from to find the crowds
 - Does this make Jesus seem more human? He needs some time away after getting worn down
- The crowds followed on foot
 - The crowds (even after the hometown incident where he couldn't do much) persist in following him despite Jesus trying to get away for a while
- He goes ashore
 - Jesus comes back to the crowd rather than further retreat
- Cured them because of his compassion
 - Elsewhere, Jesus performs miracles because of compassion – suffering with
- “You give them something to eat”
 - A miracle with precedent in 2 Kings.
 - God's Work, Our Hands
 - God gave us the ability to tend to the needs of the world
- Five loaves and two fish
 - 7 is a holy number signifying completion, God's presence is up to something
- 12 baskets full
 - Another holy number signifying God's power and authority
 - The supply of blessings (grace) that God offers is limitless
 - Do we sometimes treat the blessings of God as if we have to ration them to survive?
- Five thousand men, besides women and children
 - Compare to other feeding story

After: Jesus walking on the water

The class took a study at the differences between the miracle feedings in the first three Gospels. In Matthew's Gospel there were two distinct details: that the five loaves and two fish were commanded to be brought to Jesus for blessing and that the count of 5000 referenced that there were more “women and others.”