

Pentecost 10A

August 13, 2017

Other Readings

1 Kings 19:9-18
Psalm 85:8-13

Readings for study

Romans 10:5-15

Before: Differences between children of the flesh and children of promise

- Moses
 - Paul's appeal to the Jews is always anchored to the big players – Moses, Elijah, Isaiah
 - What authority can we draw on in the same way today?
 - Maybe Gandhi has a modern authority
 - Figures of comprehensive authority need to be in the past to allow time for their wisdom to bear fruit
 - Moses was rejected often times among his followers
- Righteousness that comes from the law
 - Strict observation of the rules leads to right relationship with God
- Righteousness that comes from faith
 - Belief that God has restored the relationship
- *The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart*
 - Deut 30:12-14 (I have set before you life and death....choose life)
- If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
 - Contrast this with the work-based righteousness
 - Does this mean that works have no effect on our salvation?
- Believes with the heart
 - "Is righteous" – with God in the heart we have right relationship
- Confesses with the mouth
 - Calls out to God for rescue
- No one who believes in him will be put to shame
 - Literally: will be vindicated
- No distinction between Jew and Greek
 - Those favored before are now on equal playing field with those who were called later
- Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved
 - Direct quote from Joel 2:32, which this declaration occurs on the last day when all things are set right
- How are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?
 - The building up of the rallying cry to evangelical mission, Paul is coaching people to be excited to go share the news of Jesus Christ
- *How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!*
 - Isaiah 52:7

After: Faith comes from what is heard

Matthew 14:22-33

Before: Feeding of the Five Thousand

- Jesus in a boat

- ...again
- The other side
 - Still on the Jewish side of the Sea in Galilee
- Up the mountain by himself to pray
 - ...again
- It is a ghost
 - A preview of the bodily resurrection of Christ?
- Do not be afraid
 - We're scared of what we can't understand
 - Angels/divine messengers always start with this
- Peter
 - Enthusiastic coward who wants glory but not willing to do what's necessary
- Got out and started walking on water
 - Took the first steps, remember Luke 14:28 – calculate the cost of discipleship
- Strong wind
 - Frequently strong wind is a metaphor for God's action (Pentecost, whirlwind in Job)
 - Is God's action here in lifting Peter up or distracting him?
- Frightened
 - When we get a sense of what we're actually doing it's scary
 - Seeing the big picture
- Lord, save me
 - The cry of calling out to the Lord – just like the Romans text
- You of little faith, why did you doubt
 - Jesus is critical of doubt, not the same as his response to Thomas after the resurrection
- Wind ceased
 - God's ability to even be in control of the sea or God saying that God's work is done here
- Son of God
 - A term not solely applied to Jesus in scripture, but always referencing someone who was clearly sent from God

After: Jesus heals in Gennesaret