

Pentecost 11A

August 20, 2017

Other Readings

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
Psalm 67

Readings for study

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Before: God's repeated calling out to Israel <Note: the text skips over a LARGE section declaring why all of Israel will be saved>

- Rejected
 - Though Paul frequently references Israel's disobedience, he still states that God has not "pushed them away"
- His people
 - Recall that earlier Paul had said that not all who are Israelites are "of Israel"
 - Is Paul saying that not all Israelites (those who follow God's will) are yet saved but will be or that all "of Israel" meaning all Jews (even those who don't follow God's will) will be saved by the old covenant?
- Descendant of Abraham
 - Genealogy narrative in Matthew starts at Abraham (the father of many)
 - Of note, Luke starts at Adam
- Tribe of Benjamin
 - One of Rachel's two sons, King Saul was also of this tribe
- Foreknew
 - Another definition is to focus thoughts on
- Gifts and Calling
 - Being chosen by God
- Irrevocable
 - The English means can't take back, but the greek is closer to can't regret
 - 2 Corinthians uses this word to speak of repentance (change in action) without regret (dwelling on the harm)
- You received mercy because of their disobedience
 - God adopted them first, but because they wouldn't listen, God moved on to the Gentiles
- They have been disobedient and may now receive mercy
 - Since you have now been adopted, you are to pass mercy back to them
- So that
 - Intention and purpose of God
 - left hand (judgment) serves the right hand of God (mercy)
 - We are all born in bondage
 - What does this mean for Christian & Jewish relations?
 - Being that we are all born in sin, what are we supposed to do now that there's no condemnation?
 - What do we do when there's nothing to do?

After: God's judgments are above human judgments

Matthew 15:10-28

Before: The disciples don't wash their hands before dinner

- Teaching the crowd

- He just scathed the Pharisees and scribes in front of the crowd – not a gentle Jesus
- What goes into the mouth
 - Do the Israelite dietary laws still have weight for the Christians?
- What comes out of the mouth
 - What you speak reveals who you are
 - Actions speak louder than words
- The disciples approach
 - As if Jesus somehow missed that he was insulting the Pharisees
- Took offense
 - Greek – scandalizes; also translated as “falls away”, the same word used for the seeds that grow quickly but “fall away” because they have no root
- My father has not planted
 - Recall the parable of the seeds?
- Blind guides of the blind
 - Those who cannot see, pretending to offer vision to those who cannot see
 - They move slowly and waywardly
 - “Christianity is one beggar showing another beggar where to find food” (preaching? Evangelism? Are both words that can substitute for Christianity) quote by D.T. Niles
- Both fall into a pit
 - Not condemnation as I first supposed, but rather a trap
- Parable
 - Where was the parable? Peter likely offers the feelings of the disciples in asking for explanation for what they don’t understand
- Digestion
 - Sure, eating something can make you sick, but it does not make you impure in the eyes of God
- From the heart
 - The thought that whatever you say is an honest reflection of who you are
- Eating with unwashed hands does not defile
 - Again, you may get sick, but it does not make you impure

After: Jesus heals many maimed, blind, mute, others