

Pentecost 8A

July 30, 2017

Other Readings

1 Kings 3:5-12

Psalm 119:129-136

Readings for study

Romans 8:26-39

Before: Hope as anticipation in spite of suffering

- Helps us
 - Literally, helps together (with God is the assumption) and references more than one person helping (possible trinitarian imagery)
- Weakness
 - Elsewhere in scripture this word refers to illness
 - An acknowledgement of when we are not in control
 - This takes many forms in our life, and often faces much resistance from us to acknowledge our own lack of control
- Pray as we ought
 - Probably that we do not pray for the things we should pray for
 - We ought to be in conversation with God always and about all things
 - Stress causes us to lose focus and not pray as we ought
 - Luther encourages on busy and stressful days to spend an extra hour in prayer
 - Sometimes routines lose meaning
- Intercedes
 - To step in for someone else, speak for someone who can't
 - The communion of saints steps in on behalf of others constantly and for many and various needs
- *That very spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words*
 - Groanings inexpressible is a simple translation
- God, who searches the heart
 - Who looks for inner thoughts, passions, concerns
- *We know that all things work together for good for those who love God.*
- Foreknew
 - God's knowledge is not linear? How God acts in eternity appears to us as past action
- Predestined
 - Does God hold all futures or is there only a single path we're all on?
- Justified and glorified
 - We believe in a set future (on Zion, no more tears, no more hunger & thirst, etc.) where God is all and in all
 - How we get there and what acts are glorious and which are not don't seem to be set
- *For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

After: Israel's place in the promises

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 *<note: the text skips the mention that he only speaks to the crowd in parables and the explanation of the parable of the weeds in the wheat>*

Before: Parable of the weeds in the wheat

- Mustard seed
 - The diminutive size of the seed would probably gather people's attention
- Smallest
 - Probably known in the area and time as the smallest seed, even though there are smaller seeds across the world
- Shrub and then tree
 - Stages of growth, a call to be constantly growing the kingdom
- Birds of the air make nests
 - Frequent imagery for Israel and God's children on God's holy mountain
- Yeast
 - Almost always a reference to evil or bad things
- Three measures
 - 50 lbs, a hundred loaves of bread
- Leavened
 - Leaven often refers to what is evil, here it is used as a positive ingredient
- Hidden in a field
 - In what ways is the kingdom of God alive but hidden?
- Buys the field
 - Showing a gracious act that much expense must be laid out to keep such a precious gift
- Pearl
 - (margaritas is the greek word) simply an object of great value
- Net that caught fish
- Good baskets/bad throw out
- Furnace of fire
- Weeping and gnashing of teeth
- Understood
- Scribe
- Master
- treasure

After: Rejection of Jesus in hometown