

Pentecost 15A

September 17, 2017

Other Readings

Genesis 50:15-21

Psalm 103:1-13

Readings for study

Romans 14:1-12

Before: Salvation is right around the corner

- Weak in faith
 - These are actually people who cling to the rules closely according to Paul
- Quarreling over opinions
 - Conjoining pagan experiences with Jewish
- Eating anything/vegetables
 - Unclean food or clean
- Must not despise
 - Don't dismiss them for their faith practices
- Must not pass judgment
 - There is still room for God to be judge
- God has welcomed them
 - We don't get to exclude where God has welcomed
- Their Lord will make them stand
 - They will get their strength if they follow God in their own way
- Some days better than others
 - Sundays better than other days of the week?
- Let all be convinced in their own minds
 - We could make God into what we want God to be
- Whatever you do, do it in honor of the Lord
 - Why you do things matters just as much as what you do
- *If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's*
- Lord of both the dead and the living
 - There is no longer anything outside of the reach of the Gospel
- Each of us will be accountable to God
 - An interesting individualistic focus where Paul usually discusses corporate accountability to God

After: Do not get in the way of another's faith

Matthew 18:21-35

Before: How to address someone who sins against you

- Member of the church sins against me
 - Peter is seeking clarification about what Jesus just taught (recall that in Matthew's Gospel the disciples do tend to understand because truth has been revealed to them)
- Forgive as many as seven times?
 - Holy and complete number – what the law requires
- Not seven times but (77 or 70 times 7)
 - Not meant to be the new rule, but really meant to use the symbolic number to talk about extravagant forgiveness
- King & Slaves

- This is a proper relationship(for the time) that is being worked out in bizarre ways by massive forgiveness of debt
- 10,000 talents
 - A bajillionty dollars (just a ridiculous amount)
- Sold with wife and kids and payment to be made
 - Paul appeals in his earlier written letter to not owe anyone anything – this is probably why, debt changes relationship and affects all
- Have patience and I will pay
 - This is an impossible plea given the sum of money, the king and the servant both know this
- Out of pity
 - Recalling that in Matthew, pity motivates Jesus a lot
- Released and forgave the debt
 - King is unfair on the side of grace
- Fellow slave
 - It is not a proper relationship for one slave to have ownership of another, as they are both slaves to the king
- 100 denarii
 - Still a lot of money – 3 months of income or so
- Have mercy?
 - The previous slave asked for patience and was granted mercy, this slave asked for mercy and was granted nothing
- Tortured until he paid his entire debt
 - Debtors prison was a lifetime trap – usually resulting in a spiral of imprisonment and work that would trap you for life
- So God will do to you if you do not forgive your brother from your heart
 - Burden that reaches out to everyone around you, forgiveness releases us from the punishment that our own sins (hatred, etc.) place on ourselves

After: Divorce