

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12

God alone is my rock & my salvation. (v6)

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, by grace alone you call us & accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, & make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Mark 1:14-20

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, & the kingdom of God has come near; repent, & believe in the good news.” ¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon & his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me & I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets & followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee & his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; & they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, & followed him.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Look carefully at vv14-15; what can you learn about the gospel/good news? *Hint- look for 6 things. See Matthew 4:17; Luke 24:47; Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 1:17-18; Galatians 1:3-5 to expand your list.*
2. Review Jonah’s story & St. John the Baptizer’s story (*Mark 6:14-29*). (By the way, some of St. John’s disciples became Jesus’; *cf. John 1:35-42*). What’s at risk for these disciples as they walk away from following one lifestyle to following Jesus? *See Mark 10:28-31*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Building on #2, what’s risky about following Jesus for you in everyday life? Note- the question isn’t what’s risky about being a loudmouth, opinionated, doctrinaire partisan, or a tattletale/ snitch/ gossip, or a “let me talk to the manager!” Karen. You may have to think about this question a little bit each day.
4. Jesus chooses his own disciples (*v17; cf. John 15:16*) How does this give you confidence in following Jesus, that something more than your will power or opinion is at work? *Review Small Catechism: Creed, 3rd article (have you memorized this yet?); Formula of Concord Epitome: XI Election, (if you have time read the FC Solid Declaration XI, too); SC, FCEp, & FCSD available bookofconcord.org*

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Jesus is compelling to not-yet-believers. Every Christmas & Easter the national media capitalize on this interest. How does your own “fishing for people” (*v17*) show & tell Jesus in a compelling & Biblical way? How can you “decrease” so that this compelling side of Jesus “increases” (*cf. John 3:30*) in your everyday life? Reviewing #1, how is the gospel the fishing net? *Hint- look up a seine net.*
6. Building on #2, 3, what’s risky about following Jesus for your congregation in your neighborhood? Again, the question isn’t what’s risky about becoming (partisan) social-issue activists, or aggressive MLM-type recruiters, or obnoxious, garish, & pretentious neighbors. *See Romans 12:18*

Prayer of the Day from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies license SB140201. Scripture is reprinted from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Devotion prepared by Rev. Jared Stillions. Copyright 2023; may be reproduced & shared for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included. Previous studies available stpeterhallettsville.org/blog

Third Sunday after Epiphany

01.21.24

Series: God's Grandeur

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

The Holy Spirit at Work in our Lives

Our Security

*The Holy Spirit compels John the Baptizer, the prophet Jonah,
& us to take a risk*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Abraham (v25)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

The time is fulfilled, & the kingdom of God has come near;
repent, & believe in the good news. (*Mark 1:15*)

Prayer of the Day from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies license SB140201. Scripture is reprinted from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Devotion prepared by Rev. Jared Stillions. Copyright 2023; may be reproduced & shared for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included. Previous studies available stpeterhallettsville.org/blog

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12

God alone is my rock & my salvation. (v6)

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, by grace alone you call us & accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, & make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Mark 1:14-20

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, & the kingdom of God has come near; repent, & believe in the good news.” ¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon & his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me & I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets & followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee & his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; & they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, & followed him.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Look carefully at vv14-15; what can you learn about the gospel/good news? *Hint- look for 6 things. See Matthew 4:17; Luke 24:47; Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 1:17-18; Galatians 1:3-5 to expand your list.*
2. Review Jonah’s story & St. John the Baptizer’s story (*Mark 6:14-29*). (By the way, some of St. John’s disciples became Jesus’; *cf. John 1:35-42*). What’s at risk for these disciples as they walk away from following one lifestyle to following Jesus? *See Mark 10:28-31*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Building on #2, what’s risky about following Jesus for you in everyday life? Note- the question isn’t what’s risky about being a loudmouth, opinionated, doctrinaire partisan, or a tattletale/ snitch/ gossip, or a “let me talk to the manager!” Karen. You may have to think about this question a little bit each day.
4. Jesus chooses his own disciples (*v17; cf. John 15:16*) How does this give you confidence in following Jesus, that something more than your will power or opinion is at work? *Review Small Catechism: Creed, 3rd article (have you memorized this yet?); Formula of Concord Epitome: XI Election, (if you have time read the FC Solid Declaration XI, too); SC, FCEp, & FCSD available bookofconcord.org*

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Jesus is compelling to not-yet-believers. Every Christmas & Easter the national media capitalize on this interest. How does your own “fishing for people” (*v17*) show & tell Jesus in a compelling & Biblical way? How can you “decrease” so that this compelling side of Jesus “increases” (*cf. John 3:30*) in your everyday life? Reviewing #1, how is the gospel the fishing net? *Hint- look up a seine net.*
6. Building on #2, 3, what’s risky about following Jesus for your congregation in your neighborhood? Again, the question isn’t what’s risky about becoming (partisan) social-issue activists, or aggressive MLM-type recruiters, or obnoxious, garish, & pretentious neighbors. *See Romans 12:18*

Prayer of the Day from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies license SB140201. Scripture is reprinted from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Devotion prepared by Rev. Jared Stillions. Copyright 2023; may be reproduced & shared for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included. Previous studies available stpeterhallttsville.org/blog

Third Sunday after Epiphany

01.21.24

Series: God's Grandeur

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

The Holy Spirit at Work in our Lives

Our Security

*The Holy Spirit compels John the Baptizer, the prophet Jonah,
& us to take a risk*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Abraham (v25)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

The time is fulfilled, & the kingdom of God has come near;
repent, & believe in the good news. (*Mark 1:15*)

Prayer of the Day from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies license SB140201. Scripture is reprinted from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Devotion prepared by Rev. Jared Stillions. Copyright 2022; may be reproduced & shared for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included. Previous studies available stpeterhallettsville.org/blog