

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Jeremiah 11:18-20

Psalm 54

God is my helper; it is the Lord who sustains my life. (v4)

James 3:13--4:3, 7-8a

Mark 9:30-37

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, our teacher & guide, you draw us to yourself & welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy & selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom & understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Mark 9:30-37

³⁰[Jesus & the disciples went on] & passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, & they will kill him, & three days after being killed, he will rise again." ³²But they did not understand what he was saying & were afraid to ask him. ³³Then they came to Capernaum; & when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, & said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all & servant of all." ³⁶Then he took a little child & put it among them; & taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, & whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

LISTENING TO . . .

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

1. What do the following add to the story? *See Matthew 20:25-28, 23:11; Mark 10:42-45; Luke 1:52, 14:10-11, 18:14, 22:26; don't forget to check the surrounding verses for more context.*
2. How do the James reading & Gospel connect? What would St. James say to the disciples? Traditionally St. James is understood to be Jesus' stepbrother who became a believer after Easter. How do you find that feasible with the connections you find in these stories?

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

3. Congregations always seem to greatly value (perceived) tastemakers, trend-setters, opinion-givers, and check-writers. Name 10 times you've fallen prey to this thinking in the last several years. Assuming you're sorry for your sins, how can you do better in the future to avoid these pitfalls? What opportunities does your congregation have for you to serve away from these devilish traps?
4. Who were the great people in your life that took you into their midst, put their arm around you, and taught you about Jesus, the Bible, the sacraments, right doctrine, and the like? List 12 people and tell what they did specifically and give a prayer of thanks for each one and their actions.

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

5. Often in Bible stories, children also function as a symbol of newness, powerlessness, dependence, trust, service, vulnerability, inability, and such (*cf. 1 Corinthians 3:2; Galatians 4:19; Hebrews 5:12-14; 1 Peter 2:2; 1 John 2:1*). Children can also represent new believers regardless of age. When was the last time your congregation celebrated an adult baptism or adult confirmation? What makes us take this lack for granted? How can you join Jesus on his mission in everyday life to connect with new believers?
6. Consider your congregation's mission, vision, values statement (St. Peter's is available < stpeterhallettsville.org/blog >). How does each declaration reflect this gospel story? What does each one need to make sure it's interpreted in accord with Jesus' call to great service to those not yet baptized believers with us?

Prayer of the Day from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2021 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 2021; may be reproduced & shared for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included. Previous studies available stpeterhallettsville.org/blog

17th Sunday after Pentecost

09.19.21

Series: Following Jesus

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Servants of All

The disciples are oblivious & arguing about who is the greatest. Jesus says that whoever desires to be the greatest must be a servant of all.

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: He sat down, called the twelve, & said to them,
“Whoever wants to be first must be last of all & servant of all.” (v35)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

God has called us through the proclamation of the good news, that we may
obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 *Thessalonians 2:14*)

Prayer of the Day from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2021 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 2021; 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

Jeremiah 11:18-20

Psalm 54

God is my helper; it is the Lord who sustains my life. (v4)

James 3:13--4:3, 7-8a

Mark 9:30-37

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, our teacher & guide, you draw us to yourself & welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy & selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom & understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Mark 9:30-37

³⁰[Jesus & the disciples went on] & passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, & they will kill him, & three days after being killed, he will rise again." ³²But they did not understand what he was saying & were afraid to ask him. ³³Then they came to Capernaum; & when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, & said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all & servant of all." ³⁶Then he took a little child & put it among them; & taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, & whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

LISTENING TO . . .

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

1. What do the following add to the story? *See Matthew 20:25-28, 23:11; Mark 10:42-45; Luke 1:52, 14:10-11, 18:14, 22:26; don't forget to check the surrounding verses for more context.*
2. How do the James reading & Gospel connect? What would St. James say to the disciples? Traditionally St. James is understood to be Jesus' stepbrother who became a believer after Easter. How do you find that feasible with the connections you find in these stories?

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

3. Congregations always seem to greatly value (perceived) tastemakers, trend-setters, opinion-givers, and check-writers. Name 10 times you've fallen prey to this thinking in the last several years. Assuming you're sorry for your sins, how can you do better in the future to avoid these pitfalls? What opportunities does your congregation have for you to serve away from these devilish traps?
4. Who were the great people in your life that took you into their midst, put their arm around you, and taught you about Jesus, the Bible, the sacraments, right doctrine, and the like? List 12 people and tell what they did specifically and give a prayer of thanks for each one and their actions.

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

5. Often in Bible stories, children also function as a symbol of newness, powerlessness, dependence, trust, service, vulnerability, inability, and such (*cf. 1 Corinthians 3:2; Galatians 4:19; Hebrews 5:12-14; 1 Peter 2:2; 1 John 2:1*). Children can also represent new believers regardless of age. When was the last time your congregation celebrated an adult baptism or adult confirmation? What makes us take this lack for granted? How can you join Jesus on his mission in everyday life to connect with new believers?
6. Consider your congregation's mission, vision, values statement (St. Peter's is available < stpeterhallettsville.org/blog >). How does each declaration reflect this gospel story? What does each one need to make sure it's interpreted in accord with Jesus' call to great service to those not yet baptized believers with us?

Prayer of the Day from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2021 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 2021; may be reproduced & shared for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included. Previous studies available stpeterhallettsville.org/blog

17th Sunday after Pentecost

09.19.21

Series: Following Jesus

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Servants of All

The disciples are oblivious & arguing about who is the greatest. Jesus says that whoever desires to be the greatest must be a servant of all.

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: He sat down, called the twelve, & said to them,
“Whoever wants to be first must be last of all & servant of all.” (v35)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

God has called us through the proclamation of the good news, that we may
obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 *Thessalonians* 2:14)

Prayer of the Day from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2021 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 2021; may be reproduced & shared for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included. Previous studies available stpeterhallettsville.org/blog