

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Jeremiah 20:7-13

Psalm 69:7-18

*Answer me, O Lord, for your love is kind.
(v16)*

Romans 6:1b-11

Matthew 10:5a, 21-33

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give & not to count the cost, to fight & not to heed the wounds, to toil & not to seek for rest, to labor & not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Matthew 10:5a, 21-33

^{5a}These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: ²¹“Brother will betray brother to death, & a father his child, & children will rise against parents & have them put to death; ²²and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ²³When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. ²⁴A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; ²⁵it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, & the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! ²⁶So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, & nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; & what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul & body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. ³²Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; ³³but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

LISTENING TO . . .

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

1. What encouragement does Jesus give in the midst of suffering & persecution? *See vv26, 28, 31; Matthew 6:25-34; John 10:27-30; see also Psalm 8:5; Jonah 4:(1-9) 10-11*
2. What secret does Jesus want revealed after his resurrection (v27)? *See Matthew 12:1-16, 16:13-23, 17:1-9*

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

3. Consider these connections in *John 15:18; Rom 5:3-5; 2 Cor 11:21b-33* (your study Bible may list more). Our American culture was founded to be free from such persecution. By & large, this has been successful compared to brothers & sisters on other continents. How is the old way of doing things starting to show fatal cracks in our society?
4. Read *2 Kings 20:12-18; Isaiah 39:1-8*. How can you set up those who will be here after you to be protected, rather than quietly being glad such things won't happen in your lifetime?

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

5. Jesus doesn't expect his disciples to stay where they are rejected (v23); *see also Matthew 4:12, 10:14, 13:54-58; Mark 9:30-32; Luke 4:16-30; John 8:48-59, 10:31-39*. How does this add practicality to dealing with our pre-Christian neighbors?
6. Jesus also warns against cutting & running from him & his mission entirely (v33). How do vv23, 33 help guide us so that we “endure to the end” (v24)?

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

06.25.23

Series: Reality Check

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Reality of the Hardship

Trust me, you're worth more to me than you realize, says Jesus

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: So do not be afraid;
you are of more value than many sparrows. (v31)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Jesus says, The Spirit of the Lord will testify on my behalf,
& you also are to testify. (*John 15:26, 27*)

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