

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--4:10

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- James 3:13-4:10

¹³Who is wise & understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy & selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful & false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy & selfish ambition, there will also be disorder & wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy & good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. ^{4:1}Those conflicts & disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something & do not have it; so you commit murder. & you covet something & cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes & conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask & do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁴Adulterers! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you suppose that it is for nothing that the scripture says, "God yearns jealously for the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? ⁶But he gives all the more grace; therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, & he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, & he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, & purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Lament & mourn & weep. Let your laughter be turned into mourning & your joy into dejection. ¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, & he will exalt you.

LISTENING TO . . .

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

1. Review the story of Cain (*Genesis 4:1-16, esp. vv5-8; cf. 1 Peter 5:6-9*). Notice how evil is predatory; it stalks, attacks and preys upon Cain. How does this shift temptation/sin/evil from merely wrong personal moral/ethical choices or actions to something with much greater stakes? What are those stakes? Follow your study Bible's cross references. *See Ephesians 6:10-18*
2. Read *Revelation 19:11-21 (cf. 1:16, 2:16; Isaiah 49:2)*. What makes vv7-10 a better "battle plan" than, well, everything else? *See Psalm 66:3; Matthew 5:1-12, 11:28-29, 12:39, 23:12; Luke 18:14*

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

3. Review the 1st Commandment, the 1st article of the Apostles' Creed, & their Small Catechism* explanations. How is unfaithfully putting our fundamental trust in, giving our hearts & minds to, anything other than God rightly described as "adultery" (*cf. v4*)? What clarity does this bring to you? *See Jeremiah 3:12-14, 31:31-34; Ezekiel ch16, ch23; Hosea 1:2-3, 3:1; Mark 8:12*
4. Consider vv2b-3. We do get most of what we ask for in our prayers (*cf. rain wicked*), yet we focus so much on what little we're denied (often for clear reasons, *cf. 3*). How does the logic of the Lord's Prayer train our prayer focus toward those things "which God would have us ask"? Review the Lord's Prayer explanation in the Small & Large Catechisms* *See John 13:13-14, 15:16, 16:23-26* *SC, LC available bookofconcord.org

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

5. How do the 9th & 10th Commandments (& their explanations in SC, LC) equip you to speak to others contrary to our craving (*cf. 4:1*) consumerist choice culture?
6. How does your congregation's mission statement give you clarity to act freely for the sake of ministry?

Prayer of the Day from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2024 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 2024; may be reproduced & shared for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included. Previous studies available stpeterhallettsville.org/blog

18th Sunday after Pentecost

09.22.24

Series: Prove It!

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Faith active in love

Proof by Submission

Submission = “under mission”, not “less than free”

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Submit yourselves therefore to God.
Resist the devil, & he will flee from you. (v7)

-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 2024 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 2024; 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--4:10

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- James 3:13-4:10

¹³Who is wise & understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy & selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful & false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy & selfish ambition, there will also be disorder & wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy & good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. ^{4:1}Those conflicts & disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something & do not have it; so you commit murder. & you covet something & cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes & conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask & do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁴Adulterers! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you suppose that it is for nothing that the scripture says, "God yearns jealously for the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? ⁶But he gives all the more grace; therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, & he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, & he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, & purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Lament & mourn & weep. Let your laughter be turned into mourning & your joy into dejection. ¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, & he will exalt you.

LISTENING TO . . .

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

1. Review the story of Cain (*Genesis 4:1-16, esp. vv5-8; cf. 1 Peter 5:6-9*). Notice how evil is predatory; it stalks, attacks and preys upon Cain. How does this shift temptation/sin/evil from merely wrong personal moral/ethical choices or actions to something with much greater stakes? What are those stakes? Follow your study Bible's cross references. *See Ephesians 6:10-18*
2. Read *Revelation 19:11-21 (cf. 1:16, 2:16; Isaiah 49:2)*. What makes vv7-10 a better "battle plan" than, well, everything else? *See Psalm 66:3; Matthew 5:1-12, 11:28-29, 12:39, 23:12; Luke 18:14*

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

3. Review the 1st Commandment, the 1st article of the Apostles' Creed, & their Small Catechism* explanations. How is unfaithfully putting our fundamental trust in, giving our hearts & minds to, anything other than God rightly described as "adultery" (*cf. v4*)? What clarity does this bring to you? *See Jeremiah 3:12-14, 31:31-34; Ezekiel ch16, ch23; Hosea 1:2-3, 3:1; Mark 8:12*
4. Consider vv2b-3. We do get most of what we ask for in our prayers (*cf. rain wicked*), yet we focus so much on what little we're denied (often for clear reasons, *cf. 3*). How does the logic of the Lord's Prayer train our prayer focus toward those things "which God would have us ask"? Review the Lord's Prayer explanation in the Small & Large Catechisms* *See John 13:13-14, 15:16, 16:23-26* *SC, LC available bookofconcord.org

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

5. How do the 9th & 10th Commandments (& their explanations in SC, LC) equip you to speak to others contrary to our craving (*cf. 4:1*) consumerist choice culture?
6. How does your congregation's mission statement give you clarity to act freely for the sake of ministry?

Prayer of the Day from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2024 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 2024; may be reproduced & shared for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included. Previous studies available stpeterhallettsville.org/blog

18th Sunday after Pentecost

09.22.24

Series: Prove It!

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Faith active in love

Proof by Submission

Submission = “under mission”, not “less than free”

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Submit yourselves therefore to God.
Resist the devil, & he will flee from you. (v7)

-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 2024 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 2024; may be reproduced & shared for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included. Previous studies available stpeterhallettsville.org/blog