

Living Water Fellowship

9th Sunday in Pentecost

21ST JULY 2024

COME TO JESUS

SONGS:

Dreams and Visions (AT 249)

Holy Spirit you are Welcome Here

WELCOME & PRAYER:

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING:

Jeremiah 3:11-15

¹¹ Then the Lord said to me, "Even faithless Israel is less guilty than treacherous Judah!

¹² Therefore, go & give this message to Israel. This is what the Lord says:

"O Israel, my faithless people, come home to me again, for I am merciful.

I will not be angry with you forever.

¹³ Only acknowledge your guilt. Admit that you rebelled against the Lord your God & committed adultery against him by worshiping idols under every green tree. Confess that you refused to listen to my voice. I, the Lord, have spoken!

¹⁴ "Return home, you wayward children," says the Lord, for I am your master.

I will bring you back to the land of Israel — one from this town & two from that family — from wherever you are scattered.

¹⁵ And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will guide you with knowledge & understanding.

SONG:

Good & Gracious King

BIBLE READING:

Jeremiah 7:1-15

¹ The Lord gave another message to Jeremiah. He said, ² "Go to the entrance of the Lord's Temple, & give this message to the people: 'O Judah, listen to this message from the Lord! Listen to it, all of you who worship here! ³ This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel, says:

"Even now, if you quit your evil ways, I will let you stay in your own land. ⁴ But don't be fooled by those who promise you safety simply because the Lord's Temple is here. They chant, 'The Lord's Temple is here! The Lord's Temple is here!' ⁵ But I will be merciful only if you stop your evil thoughts & deeds & start treating each other with justice; ⁶ only if you stop exploiting foreigners, orphans, & widows; only if you stop your murdering; & only if you stop harming yourselves by worshiping idols. ⁷ Then I will let you stay in this land that I gave to your ancestors to keep forever.

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Jeremiah 3:11-15 & 7:1-15. What questions immediately come to mind? What do you find most challenging?
2. What had happened to the nation of Israel, Judah's cousins in the Northern Kingdom? What had God hoped would occur when Judah saw Israel destroyed? Had it done so? Explain.
3. What is God's intention for his people if they repent? Given what you know of human nature in general & God's people in particular, will they pursue repentance wholeheartedly?
4. What had the people been taking for granted as a sign of their permanent standing with God in verse four? Why was that such a tempting refuge even in their sinfulness?
5. What specific changes was God looking for in the behavior of his people? If our lives don't give evidence of our relationship with God, how effective is our worship and how real is that relationship?
6. What's the danger of substituting religious behaviour for obedient living? How does God say here that such a substitution will be addressed?
7. How might today's message of repentance affect your day-to-day life? In the 95 Theses, Luther noted the first as this: *When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of a believer to be one of repentance. Why do you think he said that? Is repentance more about saying "sorry" for sinful deeds or about acknowledging your dependence on Christ for every moment of life now & eternally? How could that understanding be part of your daily living?*
8. Read on in Jeremiah 7 through verses 16-19. Why does God forbid Jeremiah to pray for God's rebellious people? Why does God point out the multi-generational aspect of their unfaith? What does this tell you about how faith withers & dies when it is neglected in families?
9. Ultimately, who is hurt by their lack of faith? Re-read Jeremiah 2:5. How is unfaith a self-destroying lifestyle?
10. What does this text call you to do?

Remember:

A world without God has no place to lay its guilt or shame.
Jesus says, "Give them to me."

Continue praying through the week:

***Father prepare me for whatever you require today
and lead me in faith wherever you call me to go.
In Jesus' Name...Amen.***

⁸ “Don’t be fooled into thinking that you will never suffer because the Temple is here. It’s a lie! ⁹ Do you really think you can steal, murder, commit adultery, lie, & burn incense to Baal & all those other new gods of yours, ¹⁰ then come here & stand before me in my Temple & chant, “We are safe!”—only to go right back to all those evils again? ¹¹ Don’t you yourselves admit that this Temple, which bears my name, has become a den of thieves? Surely I see all the evil going on there. I, the Lord, have spoken!

¹² “Go now to the place at Shiloh where I once put the Tabernacle that bore my name. See what I did there because of all the wickedness of my people, the Israelites. ¹³ While you were doing these wicked things, says the Lord, I spoke to you about it repeatedly, but you would not listen. I called out to you, but you refused to answer. ¹⁴ So just as I destroyed Shiloh, I will now destroy this Temple that bears my name, this Temple that you trust in for help, this place that I gave to you & your ancestors. ¹⁵ I will send you out of my sight into exile, just as I did your relatives, the people of Israel.

FAITH CHAT:

1. Why are “I apologize” such difficult words for us to say?
2. What does God promise when we say those words to Him?

THE MESSAGE: *FULLY ENGAGED: IN REPENTANCE*

OFFERING SONG: *Kyrie Eleison (Empty Broken here I stand) (AT 564)*

PRAYERS:

THE COMMUNION:

Words of Institution & The Lord’s Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Worship Video during Communion: Wonderful Merciful Saviour

GO IN HIS POWER

THE BLESSING:

**(Name), † child of God,
The Father calls you to himself & restores you as his own!
-- Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: *Ancient of Days*

SHOW HIS LOVE

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