

5/11/2008

PENTECOST DAY - MOTHERS' DAY

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lay Minister: Let us pray.

People: (In Unison) **Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you set the solitary in families. We commend to your care all the homes where your people live. Fill them with faith, virtue, knowledge, moderation, patience, and godliness. Knit together in enduring affection those who have become one in marriage. Let children and parents have full respect for one another; and light the fire of love in your family the church, that we may show love for one another as you have loved us; through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen.**

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Proverbs 31:10-31 page
(*A woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. – A*)

10 A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. 11 Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. 12 She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life. 13 She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands. 14 She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar. 15 She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family and portions for her servant girls. 16 She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. 17 She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. 18 She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night. 19 In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers. 20 She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy. 21 When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet. 22 She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple. 23 Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land. 24 She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes. 25 She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. 26 She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. 27 She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.

28 Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: 29 "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all."

30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. 31 Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

THE SECOND LESSON Acts 2:1-21 page
(*The Holy Spirit enables the disciples to spread the Word.*)

1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs-- we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!"

12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" 13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. 15 These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! 16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17 "'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. 18 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. 19 I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. 20 The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

21 And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

THE GOSPEL LESSON

John 7:37-39

page

(Jesus alludes to the coming Spirit.)

37 On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."

39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

SERMON TEXT

2 Timothy 1:3-10

3 I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. 4 Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. **5 I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.**

6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

8 So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, 9 who

has saved us and called us to a holy life-- not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, 10 but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

INTRO - In the Fall of 1998, my son Josh and I went to visit two Lutheran Colleges, one in Portland, and one outside of Los Angeles. As we were talking to the people in the education department in California, we were told a teaching degree would take 5 years, four years for a degree in his area of interest, such as English, or science, or math, and one year for a degree in teaching. We were told that was a new law in California at that time. The idea was that before you could teach others the subject, you had to know the subject yourself. That makes sense I believe this requirement is now part of the “No Child Left Behind” program.

I. Today is Pentecost Sunday.

A. Jesus had left giving the disciples a job, to go make disciples of all nations, and to be his witnesses to the end of the earth.

1. But as he leaves the disciples were confused, and doubting, and timid and afraid. It did not seem like these men would make great changes in the world.
2. But in today’s lesson we are told God sent the Holy Spirit on them in a dramatic outpouring of his power.
3. Then these men preached to people from all over the world about Jesus.
4. Before they could tell others about Jesus, they had to be strengthened in their own faith in Him.

B. In 2 Timothy, young Timothy was also called to bold sharing.

1. Paul calls Timothy in the following ways,

7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. 8 So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God,

2. But, before Timothy could tell others, he had to know about and believe in Jesus.
3. On this Pentecost Day, on this Mothers’ Day, guess what tool the Holy Spirit used to bring Timothy to know and believe in Jesus. Look at verse 5.
4. **5 I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.** His faith was first in his grandmother, and his mother, and from there ended up in Him. His grandmother and mother taught him about Jesus.

C. Parents, take note, please.

1. Before your child can live as a child of God, in love and righteousness, they have to know and believe in Jesus.
2. Parents, the primary job God has given to parents is to teach, to teach their children first and foremost about God.
3. For most of us, the nurturing of our mothers, their love for us as their children, led them to be those who really took the lead in teaching us, in leading us, so we believed in Jesus and came to faith.

II. Dale Meyer tells about Pastor Ron Rall who is pastor of Timothy Lutheran church in St. Louis. He was in a class with me a couple of summers ago. Pastor Rall shares the story of a young child, Jamie, who had tried out for his school’s play. Jamie was on pins and needles waiting to find out if he had been chosen and his mom was on pins and needles too. If Jamie would be selected for some part, great, but if not...his little heart will break and her big heart was guaranteed to break because of Jamie’s disappointment. Dale says, “A father has these

kinds of feelings too, but from my experience a good mother feels for her child in a way a man cannot fully understand and must admire.” So finally comes the announcement. When Mom picked up Jamie at school, he was bubbling with joy. “Guess what, Mom, I was chosen to . . . clap and cheer!” And deep in mom’s heart there must have been a complex stirring of disappointment and of joy, but above all of love.

- A. Most of you remember the special care you received from your mom.
 - 1. You remember her reading stories, and wiping away tears.
 - 2. You remember her teaching, and correcting, and forgiving.
 - 3. Most of you remember your mom, patching a scraped knee, nursing you when ill, sewing clothes, cooking, washing, and making lunch for you when you went to school.
 - 4. Moms do have a special love.

- B. But, is there any greater gift than the gift of eternal life.
 - 1. Two chapters further in 2 Timothy, Paul says this to Timothy. **14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, 15 and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.**
 - 2. I don’t remember a time, **from infancy**, that I did not believe in Jesus. I know it is not that way with all of you, but maybe most of you.
 - 3. I do remember my mom teaching me about Jesus, and helping me to remember what I learned in Sunday School.
 - A. When I was three I learned about Moses in the bulrushes, and I came home with a little rubber doll. . . it was supposed to be Moses. I guess I was a real pest, can you imagine that? I do remember my mom explaining again to me how God saved Moses.
 - B. I remember washing dishes, when it was my turn, and my mom dried. I remember many discussions about Jesus, about my faith, and even about becoming a pastor.

- C. The faith Timothy had started in his grandmother and mother, and ended up in him. God used these women in Timothy’s life to teach him about Jesus, so he could pastor and teach others.
 - 1. How about you, do you remember your mom telling you about Jesus?
 - 2. Has your mom ever told you she was praying for you? Maybe about some specific item?
 - 3. Is there a greater way a mother can, or does love their children, than by sharing Jesus?

CONCLUSION - Dale Meyer also tells a story about an older woman went to the funeral director. "I'd like to pre-arrange my funeral," she said. "We can do that," the director answered. "I'd like to be cremated," she said. "No problem," was the reply. "I'd like my ashes spread around the entrance of Wal-Mart." "OK," said the surprised funeral director. "But may I ask why?" "That way I know that my children will finally come to visit me."

Today, our idea is not to forget, but to honor our mothers, women who were used by God to raise us, and in many cases to give us the greatest gift we have, the gift of knowing and believing in Jesus. I have an idea to help you. A couple of years ago my wife shared her favorite verse in Scriptures. It comes from 3 John 4 **I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.** Sounds like a mom, doesn't it. Today when you call mom, or if she's not here any more, as you remember her, as you give thanks for all the love she gave, why not give thanks for that greatest gift? Thanks, Lord, for my Mom! Thanks, Mom, for telling me about Jesus! Amen.

