

3/8/09

**THE PSALM AND THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Psalm 121**

Lay Minister: 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills-- where does my help come from?

**People: 2 My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.**

Lay Minister: 3 He will not let your foot slip-- he who watches over you will not slumber;

**People: 4 indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**

Lay Minister: 5 The LORD watches over you-- the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

**People: 6 the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.**

Lay Minister: 7 The LORD will keep you from all harm-- he will watch over your life;

**People: 8 the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.**

Lay Minister: We begin in the name of the Lord, who watches over us, who watches over our coming and going both now and forevermore.

**People: We begin in the Almighty and Loving name of God the Father, in the name of God the Son, and in the name of God the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

Lay Minister: Bless our worship, loving and almighty God.

**People: Amen.**

**THE PRAYER OF THE DAY O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

page

*(God reaffirms His promises and His covenant with Abraham, giving new names that point to God's Promises.)*

1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. 2 I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers."

3 Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, 4 "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. 5 No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. 6 I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. 7 I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. . .

15 God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. 16 I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her."

**THE EPISTLE LESSON** Romans 5:1-11

page

*(God's great love is shown in the sacrificial death of Jesus.)*

1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

3 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! 10 For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! 11 Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

## THE GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 8:27-38

page

*(Jesus shares the reality of His work with His disciples.)*

27 Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?" 28 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."

29 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Christ." 30 Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

**31 He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. 32 He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."**

34 Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 35 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. 36 What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?

37 Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? 38 If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

## THE SERMON *"Accepting the Reality of Sin and Suffering in this World"* Mark 8

27 Kai. evxh/lqen o` Vlhsou/j kai. oi` maqhtai. aurtou/ eivj ta.j kw,maj Kaisarei,aj th/j Fili,ppou\ kai. evn th/| o`dw/| evphrw,ta tou.j maqhta.j aurtou/ le,gwn aurtou/j\ ti,na me le,gousin oi` a;nqrwpoi ei=naiE

And Jesus and His disciples went ou to the region of Caesarea Philippi, and on the way / road he asked his disciples, saying to them, "Who do men say that I am?"

28 oi` de. ei=pan aurtw/| le,gontej Îo[tiE Vlwa,nnhn to.n baptisth,n( kai. a;lloi VHli,an( a;lloi de. o[ti ei-j tw/n profhtw/nA

And they said to him, "John the Baptist, and other Elijah, and other that you are the prophet.

29 kai. auvto.j evphrw,ta auvtou,j\ u`mei/j de. ti,na me le,gete ei=naiÈ avpokriqei.j o` Pe,troj le,gei auvtw/\ su. ei= o` cristo,jÅ

And he asked them, "And you, who do you say that I am. Peter answered and said to him, "You are the Christ."

30 kai. evpeti,mhsen auvtou/j i[na mhdeni. le,gwsin peri. auvtou/Å

And he commanded them to say nothing concerning him to anyone.

31 Kai. h;rxato dida,skein auvtou.j o[ti dei/ to.n ui`o.n tou/ avnqrw,pou polla. paqei/n kai. avpodokimasqh/nai u`po. tw/n presbute,rwn kai. tw/n avrciere,wn kai. tw/n grammate,wn kai. avpoktanqh/nai kai. meta. trei/j h`me,raj avnasth/nai\

And he began to teach them that it is necessary for the son of man to suffer many things and to be handed over by the Elders and the chief priests and the scribes and to die and after three days to rise.

32 kai. parrhsi,a| to.n lo,gon evla,leiÅ kai. proslabo,menoj o` Pe,troj auvto.n h;rxato evpitima/n auvtw/|Å

And he spoke the word to them boldly. And Peter took him aside and began to scold him.

33 o` de. evpistrafei.j kai. ivdw.n tou.j maqhta.j auvtou/ evpeti,mhsen Pe,trw| kai. le,gei\ u[page ovpi,sw mou( satana/( o[ti ouv fronei/j ta. tou/ qeou/ avlla. ta. tw/n avnqrw,pwnÅ

And having turned and seeing his disciples he scolded Peter and said, "Go behind me, Satan, because you do not think the things of God, but the things of men.

34 Kai. proskalesa,menoj to.n o;clon su.n toi/j maqhtai/j auvtou/ ei=pen auvtou/j\ ei; tij qe,lei ovpi,sw mou avkolouqei/n( avparnhsa,sqw e`auto.n kai. avra,tw to.n stauro.n auvtou/ kai. avkolouqei,tw moiÅ

And having called the crowd to him, with his disciples, he said to them, "If someone wished to follow after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

35 o]j ga.r eva.n qe,lh| th.n yuch.n auvtou/ sw/sai avpole,sei auvth,n\ o]j dV a'n avpole,sei th.n yuch.n auvtou/ e[neken evmou/ kai. tou/ evvaggeli,ou sw,sei auvth,nÅ

For whoever wishes to save his life / soul shall lose it. Whoever loses his life on behalf of me and the gospel shall save it.

36 ti, ga.r wvfelei/ a;nqrwpon kerdh/sai to.n ko,smon o[lon kai. zhmiwqh/nai th.n yuch.n auvtou/È

For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and to forfeit his soul?

37 ti, ga.r doi/ a;nqrwpoj avnta, llagma th/j yuch/j auvtou/È

For what can a man give in exchange for his life?

38 o]j ga.r eva.n evpaiscunqh/| me kai. tou.j evmou.j lo,gouj evn th/| genea/| tau,th| th/| moicali,di kai. a`martwlv/|( kai. o` ui`o.j tou/ avnqrw,pou evpaiscunqh,setai auvto,n( o[tan e;lqh| evn th/| do,xh| tou/ patro.j auvtou/ meta. tw/n avgge,lwn tw/n a`gi,wnÅ

For whoever is ashamed of me and my word in this adulterous and sinful generation, also the son of man shall be ashamed of him when ever he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

INTRO - I remember the death of an aunt when I was 10. She was my grandfather's sister, and lived upstairs in the home where he lived downstairs. I remember spending time with her in her part of the house when I was a child. She would read and sing to us. Her name was Bertha, and we called her the German name Tante Bertha. It seems that my Tante Bertha had known she had a lump in her breast, but tried to ignore that lump and did not go to the doctor. So when I was 10 and she was what seems a young 54, she died. Ignoring problems does not necessarily make them go away.

I. How often do ignore life's problems?

A. We all do it.

1. If we hear a noise in the vehicle, we hope we won't hear it next time.
2. If a family member is having a problem, sometimes it seems easier to say nothing.
3. Or, sometimes when we point out a problem, or a fault, even lovingly, we are criticized for pointing it out.

B. Peter scolded Jesus for telling the disciples of His coming crucifixion.

1. After the great confession of faith by Peter, stating that Jesus was the Christ, Jesus told them what was coming as He fulfilled God's plan for the Christ. **31 He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.**
2. This was the truth. This was why Jesus came, to suffer and die to pay for our sins. This was the first of 3 or 4 times that Jesus told this to His disciples. But, they refused to listen. They didn't like this bad news that Jesus would die. So here Peter scolded Jesus for telling the truth of what was coming. **Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.**
3. Imagine Peter's surprise and shame when Jesus scolded him in return. **33 But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."**

C. How often do we want to ignore the sin, the sufferings, the troubles of life caused by sin.

1. I've heard people say, "You know, everybody's basically good, and will do good if given a chance." That's not true. People are sinners. We are sinners. And the events in our world prove this.
2. Often people wonder when the troubles of life, their troubles, will go away.
3. Troubles are the result of our sin and the sin of this world. As long as we live in this life there will be pain, and loss, and trouble.
4. In fact, if we act like my aunt, or even like Peter today, we can allow the pain and trouble of this life to get worse.
5. Or like Peter, in not wanting to hear the bad that Jesus will die, he also didn't hear the good that Jesus was going to rise again.

II. Please look at the attitude and actions of Jesus in contrast to Peter.

A. Our Lord knew and faced the truth sin and suffering in this world.

1. **31 He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law,**

**and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.**

2. And facing the truth of sin, also allowed Jesus also to speak the victory of God over sin.

B. Our country is in the midst of a bad financial downturn. While these cycles come, it seems that the greed and unethical practices of some in the financial community have helped to cause this downturn to be worse.

1. Jesus came because the selfishness, the hatred, the greed of people causes pain in our world.

2. When we cannot live perfect lives, Jesus, the son of Mary and the Son of God lived a life of love and righteousness.

3. Jesus faced sin, and gave his righteous life to pay for sin, to overcome the sin of tyrants, of greedy people in the financial markets, of all sinners, and even our sin. Because He faced our sin, he offers us victory through forgiveness.

4. When He rose Jesus not only had overcome sin, he had overcome all the results of sin. You and I, when we trust in Jesus, are saved from eternal death and eternal punishment.

III. I wonder what would have happened if my aunt went to the doctor when she first felt that lump in her breast. Would she have lived? Would she have met my children and sung to them? Others her age in my family did. I don't know, but it is possible that if she had trusted the doctors and faced her illness she would not have died from the cancer at that time.

A. When we trust that Jesus has overcome sin and death, we can admit that sin, we can face it, and we can let the victory of Jesus overcome it in our lives.

1. For example, when a husband and wife are having marriage problems, these problems are just the result of one party. But, I have seen people face their problems, confess their sins, seek God's help, and make their marriage stronger. It is not easy to admit and deal with those problems. But, ignoring the problems will not make them go away.

2. When we trust God, that He is with us, that He has overcome the sin and death of this world, and that his victory can help us in this life, there is nothing we cannot face.

B. This month we are looking at God's call to continue as His children through and despite the suffering in this world.

1. If there is anyone who can face the pain and suffering in this world caused by sin it is God's children who know Jesus suffered, and Jesus died and Jesus rose for us.

2. Christians can face situations of abuse in our culture, and even in our church.

3. Christians can face problems of injustice such as hunger, poverty, abortion.

4. Christians can face problems in our own lives because Jesus died and rose and forgives us, because Jesus has won victory, and that eternal victory changes today.

CONCLUSION - A number of years ago Mike and Julie Donn asked me to visit a friend of theirs who was ill, and dying. I went to see this person not even sure if they knew about Jesus. But, this lady had a hand written poster in front of their bed. It said, "There is no problem so big that the Lord and I cannot face together." This lady died soon after I visited. She had faced her

illness with Jesus' victory, and she is now living in victory.

What problems would you like to avoid. With the forgiveness, love and victory of Jesus we can accept that this is a life of sin and pain and suffering, and we can face these problems with Jesus and His victory by our side.

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               David Rockey  
               Pat Mills Mary C.'s mom  
               Mary Richards

TROUBLE   families  
               Country  
               Serving  
                   Peter  
                   Kathryn  
                   Josh

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and began to rebuke him. 33 But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."