

2/14/2010

THE PSALM AND THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 99

Lay Minister: 1 The LORD reigns, let the nations tremble;

People: he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake.

Lay Minister: 2 Great is the LORD in Zion;

People: he is exalted over all the nations.

Lay Minister: 3 Let them praise your great and awesome name-- he is holy.

People: 4 The King is mighty, he loves justice-- you have established equity; in Jacob

you have done what is just and right.

Lay Minister: 5 Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his footstool;

People: He is holy.

Lay Minister: 6 Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel was among those who called

on his name; they called on the LORD and he answered them.

People: 7 He spoke to them from the pillar of cloud; they kept his statutes and the

decrees he gave them.

Lay Minister: 8 O LORD our God, you answered them;

People: you were to Israel a forgiving God, though you punished their misdeeds.

Lay Minister: 9 Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his holy mountain,

People: for the LORD our God is holy.

Lay Minister: People of God, we come to the holy and forgiving Lord to exalt and worship Him.

People: We exalt the Lord God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of your loving work in Jesus by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace. We thank you that you mercifully make us fellow children of yours through faith in Jesus. Bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit; one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Deuteronomy 34:1-12

(The Lord gives Moses one final view of the Promised Land.)

1 Then Moses climbed Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah, across from Jericho. There the LORD showed him the whole land-- from Gilead to Dan, 2 all of Naphtali, the territory of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the western sea, 3 the Negev and the whole region from the Valley of Jericho, the City of Palms, as far as Zoar.

4 Then the LORD said to him, "This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have let you see it with

your eyes, but you will not cross over into it." 5 And Moses the servant of the LORD died there in Moab, as the LORD had said. 6 He buried him in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is. 7 Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone.

8 The Israelites grieved for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days, until the time of weeping and mourning was over. 9 Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the LORD had commanded Moses. 10 Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, 11 who did all those miraculous signs and wonders the LORD sent him to do in Egypt-- to Pharaoh and to all his officials and to his whole land. 12 For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

THE EPISTLE LESSON Hebrews 3:1–6 (*Christ is our leader and ultimate source of hope.*)

1 Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess. 2 He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house. 3 Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself. 4 For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything. 5 Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house, testifying to what would be said in the future. 6 But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house. And we are his house, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast.

THE GOSPEL LESSON Luke 9:28–36

(Jesus shows His glory as the Son of God in His transfiguration.)

28 About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. 29 As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. **30 Two men, Moses and Elijah, 31 appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.**

32 Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. 33 As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters-- one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what he was saying.) 34 While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. 35 A voice came from the cloud, saying, **"This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him."**

36 When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves, and told no one at that time what they had seen.

THE SERMON **"Strengthened for Ministry and Trial"** **Luke 9**

INTRO - Kathy and I are back from vacation, our first ever trip to Hawaii, and then some work in Portland. One place most people told us to visit was Pearl Harbor and the memorial to the battleship Arizona. Our first day in Hawaii we did just that. We took a tour of Pearl Harbor. You know the history. December 7, 1941 the Japanese attacked Pearl harbor. By all accounts it was a surprise. The Americans were not ready for the attack, and the consequences were devastating for America and crippling to our war effort. Being unprepared had lingering negative consequences.

I. Today's account in Jesus' life calls for preparation for the coming trial's of life

A. Jesus was about to go to Jerusalem to be crucified, so He went up on a mountain to pray.

1. While he was there his appearance changed and He showed his glory as the son of God.

2. While he was there he talked to Moses and Elijah. This was a very important conversation.

3. We are told of this conversation in verses 30-31. **30 Two men, Moses and Elijah, 31 appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.**

B. **They spoke about his departure,**

1. We can read this and understand Moses and Elijah were talking to Jesus about his coming death, preparing Him for the coming trial of his suffering and death. He would not be unprepared when the trouble came.

2. There is even more meaning when looking at this sentence in the original language. They were preparing Jesus for his "EXODUS."

3. Moses and Elijah were preparing for the time of waiting and temptation before the promised land would come.

C. Both Jesus and the disciples were being prepared for the coming trials, pain, for the coming saving of the world

1. You see, Jesus knew the trials were coming. He knew he faced crucifixion, and he went to pray.

2. The disciples didn't know they needed strengthening - - - they didn't know the coming crucifixion, nor the difficulties they would face after Jesus died and rose as they served Him. But, coming they were.

3. Even if they didn't know it, the disciples needed help for what lay ahead.

II. What are your coming trials? What exodus, what time of waiting on God do you face?

A. There are known trials we all face.

1. Most of us face aging and the coming of death, some sooner, some later.

2. Some of our trials and struggles are because of our own failures and weakness.

A. Some are facing the loss of weight, or some face quitting smoking, other temptations of the flesh.

B. In living as a child of God we may face the difficulty of confessing our sin to another and the work of reconciliation.

C. Because of the known difficulties of life, it helps to prepare to face

them.

- B. But, some of our trials are unknown. It is harder to prepare for what isn't known.
 - 1. We can't know about accidents, or illness.
 - 2. We may face unknown failure by those we love.
 - 3. We face unknown temptations.
 - 4. But, while we don't know what is coming, we know that difficulties of life are coming.
- C. We all face trials because we live in a sinful world, and because we are sinful.
 - 1. If the sailors at Pearl Harbor had known the attack was coming and been prepared they would still have had a battle on their hands. But, preparation would have helped.
 - 2. Not being prepared for the trials of life can be like our own Pearl Harbors.
 - 3. Today's lesson calls us to expect the trials of life and to be to be prepared.

III. Recently the Swine flu hit America. We knew the illness faced and many prepared for the coming illness with a vaccination. But, what do we do to prepare for the struggle of sin, and the trials of a sinful world? Our lesson helps us with this preparation.

- A. Jesus, the Son of God Himself, prepared for His known trials through prayer. He went to His heavenly Father for help He needed.
 - 1. Prayer is important for the life of God's people.
 - 2. Prayer not only bring God's answers, but it opens our eyes to how God is working in our lives.
- B. Jesus, the Son of God, but also Jesus the man, the Son of Mary who would die, spent time talking with other men who had seen the trials of life faced by a child of God.
 - 1. Moses and Elijah had seen life's trials. They knew God's help.
 - 2. You see, Christian fellowship and encouragement also helps us when trials come.
 - 3. Who do you turn to in this world when life is difficult? Hopefully there are people in church here to listen to you and help you.
- C. But, for the disciples who did not realize what was coming, the Father gave some simple advice, **"This is my Son, whom I have chosen; LISTEN to him."**
 - 1. Listen to Jesus, and what He says. It helps with knowing and facing the difficulties that come in this world as we live as God's Children.
 - 2. God's Word may seem old fashioned. But God's Word points to our sin, and to our Savior.
 - 3. In a world of sin, what we need is Jesus, and the forgiveness and salvation He gives. Using God's Word through Worship and personal devotions helps God's people.

CONCLUSION - We have watched for the last month at the devastation from the earthquake in Haiti. How do you prepare for something like that. We know difficulties come in life, but no one knows an earthquake is coming. Did you hear the words of the Father? They were similar to Jesus' baptism. **"This is my Son, whom I have chosen;"** Today God reaches out in baptism to Audrey Jordan. She does not know what troubles life brings, but she knows God is with her. Having the Lord in our life helps us with the coming trials, pains. Today, God calls us to grow close to Him through prayer, through fellowship, and His Word, so that

God is with us when trouble comes.