

6/27/2010

**THE CALL TO WORSHIP AND THE PSALM Psalm 16 (Of David)**

Lay Minister: 1 Keep me safe, O God, for in you I take refuge.

**People: 2 I said to the LORD, "You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing."**

Lay Minister: 3 As for the saints who are in the land, they are the glorious ones in whom is all my delight.

**People: 4 The sorrows of those will increase who run after other gods. I will not pour out their libations of blood or take up their names on my lips.**

Lay Minister: 5 LORD, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure.

**People: 6 The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.**

Lay Minister: 7 I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.

**People: 8 I have set the LORD always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.**

Lay Minister: 9 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure,

**People: 10 because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.**

Lay Minister: 11 You have made known to me the path of life;

**People: you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.**

Lay Minister: We begin in the name of the Lord who makes known to us the path of life, who fills us with joy in His presence.

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

**THE PRAYER OF THE DAY Lord of all power and might, author and giver of all good things, graft into our hearts the love of Your name and nourish us with all goodness that we may love You and serve our neighbor; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**THE EPISTLE LESSON Galatians 5:1, 13-25***(God gives new freedom of living by the Spirit)*

13 You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. 14 The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 15 If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

**16 So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. 17 For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature.** They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not

do what you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. **19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.**  
**22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.**  
**24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.**  
25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

**THE GOSPEL LESSON** Luke 9:51-62 (*Jesus shares the challenge of following Him.*)

51 As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. 52 And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; 53 but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem.

54 When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" 55 But Jesus turned and rebuked them, 56 and they went to another village.

57 As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." 58 Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." 59 He said to another man, "Follow me." But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." 60 Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." 61 Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family." 62 Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

**THE SERMON** "A Different Way of Life"  
**5:1, 13-25**

**Galatians**

You've heard the commercials and seen the ads. "Ride the silver bullet." Or, drink a lot of our beer. Maybe you've heard "Chicks dig the Long Ball" or life is about pursuing the opposite sex. Maybe you've heard, "I don't get mad, I get even." in other words, I like to fight. All of these slogans talk about an attitude or a way of life that pursues the desires of the flesh. I could go on and on and on and talk about people taking drugs, movies that tempt our children. There is a whole portion of our population that believes "if it feels good, if it tastes good, if it's fun, then let's do it. That's what life is about.

That is what our lesson for today talks about, and I really don't have to explain it to you. But listen to Galatians 5:19-21 and see if this sounds familiar. **19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.** Have you seen or experienced anything that looks like verses 19-21?

I'll be leading worship in prison tonight. That attitude of a life pursuing the acts of the sinful nature has been the cause of the incarceration of many of these men. But, all of us are tempted by these same feelings. We live in the world. We read magazine and watch TV (though, we should be selective in what we do read and watch.) We are tempted to pursue the desires of the flesh instead of pursuing God. The problem is that this world changes. It is infected by sin. The material things of this world do not bring lasting peace, or joy, or love. The desires of the flesh lead us away from God and His Kingdom of eternal life.

So, you've seen commercials that encourage people to "Ride the silver bullet." How many times have you seen a commercial that says, "*Receive God's love and find the real good in life.*"??? That after all is what the Scriptures say. Everything good is found in God. Or, as our Psalm says, "**You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing.**" All good is found in God, and in God we find everything good.

The material things of this world are actually part of the good world God created, and can be blessings as we seek to live as God's children. But, when people pursue the creation instead of the creator, it is an empty acquisition.

Jesus is God and Lord of the Universe, the all powerful Creator. But, he did not come demanding and punishing. He came giving and loving and sacrificing and forgiving. He came trusting His Father's love enough to sacrifice Himself in love for us. That is a life of giving instead of taking. That's a different way of life. When we receive the love of God, then God's Spirit guides us. As we live receiving God's blessings, Guided by God's Spirit, the love of God gives all the things people seek through the flesh. **22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.** That life, this fruit from God in our lives, is a different kind of life than the world lives or pursues.

What is our part in this different way of life? It is described in verse 24 and verse 16. Verse 24

says, **24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.** When we live as God's child, guided by the spirit, we give up pursuing the desires of the flesh. Verse 16 says, **16 So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.** If we believe Jesus lived and died for us, we will naturally want to live for Him. God's Spirit leads us. But, if we believe Jesus died and rose for us, we will work to live by the Spirit, not seeking the desires of the sinful nature. We will first to receive God, and His love, and to live in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. We will do this because we want to serve the one who lived, and died, and rose for us.

Last night I was at the home of Josh and Erin for Emmalee's birthday. It was time to say grace so Josh called Jacob to fold his hands. Jacob must have heard another call. He didn't want to do what dad said. When you leave today which call will you hear and follow, the way of the world or the love of God? When the people of St. John leave worship today, will we look different than the world around us? The way of the world is **sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like.** The way of a child of God is **22 . . . love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.** What will our lives look like?