

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

Daily Lectionary Passages:

Psalm 134; Proverbs 8:32-9:6 & 1 Peter 2:1-3

Psalm 134 (NRSV)

Praise the Lord, all you servants of the Lord  
who minister by night in the house of the Lord.  
Lift up your hands in the sanctuary  
and praise the Lord.  
May the Lord bless you from Zion,  
he who is the Maker of heaven and earth.



Thought:

We Presbyterians don't lift our hands very often in worship. Lifting your hands in worship does two things. First, it lifts up the one being worshipped. We worship the Lord, the creator of heaven and earth. God is the only one worthy of our praise. Second, lifting our hands in praise humbles us. We physically show ourselves lower than the one we are worshipping. Maybe, once in a while, we should lift our hands in praise to the Lord.

Proverbs 8:32-9:6 (NRSV)

"Now then, my children, listen to me;  
blessed are those who keep my ways.  
Listen to my instruction and be wise;  
do not disregard it.  
Blessed are those who listen to me,  
watching daily at my doors,  
waiting at my doorway.  
For those who find me find life  
and receive favor from the Lord.  
But those who fail to find me harm themselves;  
all who hate me love death."  
Wisdom has built her house;  
she has set up its seven pillars.  
She has prepared her meat and mixed her wine;  
she has also set her table.  
She has sent out her servants, and she calls  
from the highest point of the city,  
"Let all who are simple come to my house!"  
To those who have no sense she says,  
"Come, eat my food  
and drink the wine I have mixed.  
Leave your simple ways and you will live;  
walk in the way of insight."

Thought:

What do you listen to? Throughout the day, there are many things to listen to. We can listen to news, television shows, music, talk radio, traffic, birds, kids playing. There is always something to listen to. Proverbs encourages us to listen to wisdom. When we seek out wisdom,



we will find the Lord. Yet, it is not something that is easily found. Finding wisdom takes patience and deliberate seeking. The true source of wisdom is the Lord. In Proverbs 9:10, we are told “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” Wisdom not only leads us to the Lord wisdom comes from the Lord.

May we pursue wisdom in order that we may live a life in the presence of the Lord. This is not gaining knowledge for the sake of knowledge, but wisdom to be in right relationship with God and others. To be able to sit at table and taste and see that God is good.

### 1 Peter 2:1-3 (NRSV)

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

#### Thought:

Tuesday mornings is garbage day in my neighborhood. Every week, I empty the garbage in the bathrooms and kitchen, carry them out to the garbage can and take it to the curb. I then put new clean bags for the week ahead. If I forget, the garbage begins to pile up, and I end up putting garbage in the neighbor’s garbage can before the week is out.

In chapter 1, Peter calls us to be holy as God is holy. Being holy means we have a clean heart for God and for one another. In order to do this, we need to take out the garbage in our lives. Peter gives a list of some of the dirt in our lives that we need to take out of our lives. While this isn’t a complete list, it deals with what comes out of the mouth. Hypocrisy, envy and slander come from an unclean heart. They all focus on the self rather than the other. Peter is calling us to throw them out, to cast them off like garbage.

Then, we are to feed on pure spiritual milk. There is a connection between love and holiness. We cannot truly love or be holy unless we feed on the word of God. We are to crave the word of God and the ways of God as a newborn child desires milk to grow. In his Book *Eat This Book*, Eugene Peterson states “Christians are to absorb, imbibe, feed on and digest Scripture.” When we eat the word of God, we are able to develop habits of living as followers of Jesus Christ.

#### Prayer:

Almighty God, you are the creator of the heavens and the earth. How wonderful and glorious is your name. May we truly worship you with all our lives. Cleanse us from all malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. May we crave your word and live as your children. Purify our hearts to live as your children. Give us ears to hear and hearts to follow your voice directing our lives.

Powerful God, shine your light into the darkness of fear and despair today. Send your children to provide for the poor, the sick, and the needs of the world. Guide President Trump and all world leaders as they lead through this pandemic. Give safety to our first responders, the men and women who risk their lives to help others. Bring a cure to what ails our land.

(Spend time in silent prayer, praying for those you know. Name them before God and place them in God’s loving arms).

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.