

Wednesday, June 3, 2020

Daily Lectionary Passages:

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Numbers 11:24-30; John 7:37-39

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b (NRSV)

O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
Yonder is the sea, great and wide,
creeping things innumerable are there,
living things both small and great.
There go the ships,
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.
These all look to you
to give them their food in due season;
when you give to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.
When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath, they die
and return to their dust.
When you send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the ground.
May the glory of the Lord endure forever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works—
who looks on the earth and it trembles,
who touches the mountains and they smoke.
I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.
May my meditation be pleasing to him,
for I rejoice in the Lord.
Bless the Lord, O my soul.
Praise the Lord!



Thought:

May I sing to the Lord as long as I live. As the weather gets warmer, Janet and I are starting to bicycle in the mornings. This morning, as I rode in the cool breeze to start the day, I spent my time singing praise to God. What a wonderful way to start the day: enjoying God's creation while meditating on songs of praise. Then, to come home, work on my sermon and these daily devotionals. Time in God's creation and time in God's word gives focus to the day. And, it gives focus to my life. May you find ways in the cool of the mornings this summer to spend time in God's creation and in His word giving focus and direction for your life. Then, may we all rejoice in the Lord and give praise to the Lord.

Numbers 11:24-30 (NRSV)

So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, “My lord Moses, stop them!” But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord’s people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!” And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

Thought:

The Spirit of the Lord came upon the people in different ways. When it rested on most the leaders, they prophesied: telling what God was doing or what God was going to do. Two of them, Medad and Eldad were amongst the leaders, but had not gone to the meeting. Even so, God’s Spirit rested upon them. So, the prophesied within the camp. Obviously, Joshua was concerned that God had filled Medad and Eldad, and they would threaten Moses’ leadership. Yet, instead of wanting to keep the Spirit of God for himself, Moses wished that all people were filled with the Spirit. That all people would be able to proclaim what God was doing.

In Jesus Christ, we have been given the Spirit that Moses had hoped would come to all people. God has gifted each of His followers with gifts of the Spirit. These gifts are to be used for the common good. When one is gifted by the Spirit, others are to encourage using the gifts. At the same time, they are not to be jealous of God’s gifts. May we seek the empowering of the Spirit in each other.

John 7:37-39 (NRSV)

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, ‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.’” Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Thought:

It was the last day of the festival of Tabernacles or feast of Booths, reminding the people that they had been in booths when God brought them through the wilderness with Moses (Leviticus 23: 42-43). God had ordered the people to annually remember the things God had done for them when he brought them out of Egypt, out of bondage. We often remember the events of Passover, as Jesus became the Passover lamb on Good Friday. The feast of Booths reminded the people that God provided for them throughout the forty years in the wilderness.

In this passage, Jesus stressed the gift of water in the wilderness. Twice, when the people were dying of thirst, God miraculously provided water out of a rock. Now, Jesus is offering himself as the living water to quench all thirst. To accept this living water, people need to first realize that they are thirsty. Right now, many in our nation is thirsty for justice and racial equality. Hopefully, the thirst is enough to finally bring the changes that need to be made. As followers of Jesus, we need to repent for our sins of commission and sins of omission. We need to seek forgiveness and reconciliation with God and with others. Through the gift of the Spirit, we can offer living water. The life-saving water of Jesus Christ. By God’s Spirit, our hearts are overflowing with the water of life. May we find ways to offer this gift to those who are thirsty today.

Prayer:

Almighty God, we look at the beauty of your creation and give you praise. In your wisdom, you made all that is seen and unseen. When we take pleasure in the beauty of the flowers, the fields, the mountains, the sky, may we give you praise. With your Spirit, you have filled us with living water. Guide us on opportunities to share your life saving water with others. Lord, we pray for the change that needs to take place in our culture. May it be a change to bring people back to you.

(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.