

SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2020 – FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Jeremiah 1: 4-8

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you.”

Jeremiah 20: 7, 9 (First Reading for June 21)

O Lord, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all day long; everyone mocks me. . . . If I say, “I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,” then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.

Jeremiah 28:5-9 (NRSV)

Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD; and the prophet Jeremiah said, “Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD fulfill the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles.”

Jeremiah 28: 15

And the prophet Jeremiah said to the prophet Hananiah, “The Lord has not sent you; you made this people trust in a lie.”

Have you ever trusted in a lie? When have you seen other people trust in a lie?

Do you – like Jeremiah - have the courage to speak up when you see people trusting in a lie?

Park Ranger at Voyageurs National Park

Jeremiah 29: 5-7, 10-11

Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters. . . . Multiply there, and do not decrease. Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

Only when Babylon’s seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

With all the problems in our nation and in our world today, how can you seek the welfare of where we live and pray to the Lord on its behalf?

What does it mean to you to know that God has plans for you – plans to give you hope and a future? What do you think God’s plans for you might be? Where do you most need hope?

Romans 6:12-23 (NRSV)

Verse 12 - Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. Cf. "We are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves."

Verse 15 - What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!

Verses 17-18 - But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

Verse 19 - Just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

Verses 21-22 – So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life.

Verse 23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 10:40-42 (NRSV)

Luke 4: 18 –

At the beginning of His ministry, in His inaugural address, in the one time in the Bible when Jesus was handed a Bible and told, "Select a passage to read for us," Jesus chose a passage which expressed God's great concern for the poor.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor."

Matthew 25 -

At the end of His ministry, in His last recorded sermon in the Bible, Jesus expressed His concern for the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the sick.

Verse 35 – "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink."

Verse 40 – "Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Verse 42 - Whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.

In a land like Israel a cup of cold water is not just a good thing, it is a necessity for life and survival.

Wall Drug, South Dakota

1982 – Hitchhiking around the Sea of Galilee