

First Presbyterian Church - Rouses Point NY
Virtual Worship - June 28, 2020

Greeting- Remember offering

PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Lord, we come before you today seeking your guiding love. Pour out your Spirit on us that we may truly serve you as individuals and as a church. We give you thanks and praise because you welcome us today with joy and peace. Impart, we pray, those attributes in each of us that as we are called to serve in your world we may feel the power of your love and peace. In Jesus' name, we pray

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, let us worship the Lord who always welcomes us. Let us open our hearts to Christ who welcomed friend and stranger alike. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Patient God, each and every day you offer to us new hope and special blessings. From the rising of the sun to its descent, you pour the light of your love on your creation. We confess our love for you is not as worthy of you as it should be. Forgive us for allowing your love to go so unrequited. Teach us to share openly and willingly with others. Forgive our selfishness and turn it to selflessness in service to you. In Christ's name we pray. Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Readings and Proclaiming God's Word

Old Testament: Psalm 13

New Testament: Matthew 10:34-42

Sermon "What Did Jesus Say?"

*Affirmation of faith: Apostle's Creed
Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer
*Benediction

PSALM 13

1 How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? 2 How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me? 3 Look on me and answer, Lord my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death, 4 and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him," and my foes will rejoice when I fall. 5 But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. 6 I will sing the Lord's praise, for he has been good to me.

MATTHEW 10:34-42

³⁴ "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to turn "a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law-
³⁶ one's enemies will be the members of his own household.'
³⁷ "Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸ Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it. ⁴⁰ "Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹ Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. ⁴² And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward."

SERMON SUMMARY – MATTHEW 10:34-42

TODAY'S SERMON TITLE IS: "WHAT DID JESUS SAY?" IT POINTS TO THE FACT THAT THERE ARE TIMES HE SAID SOME THINGS WE'D RATHER NOT HEAR. JESUS DOES OFFER COMFORTING WORDS AND IMAGES TO HELP HIS FOLLOWERS ALONG ON THEIR FAITH JOURNEY.

HOWEVER TODAY'S READING DEMONSTRATES THAT THE SAVIOR DID NOT SUGAR COAT WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW HIM. SPECIFICALLY HE SAID HIS VERY PRESENCE IN THE WORLD AND THE LIVES OF HIS DISCIPLES WILL CAUSE, FOR SOME, CONFLICT IN THEIR OWN FAMILIES.

THIS IS NOT THE HAPPY, FOLLOW JESUS, AND YOUR PERSONAL AND FAMILY LIFE WILL BE WONDERFUL EVEN IF THOSE IN THE WORLD MAY OPPOSE YOU, MESSAGE. THE SAVIOR'S POINT IS NOT THAT IT WAS OR IS HIS INTENTION TO CREATE DISCORD IN FAMILIES, BUT THE PEACE HE OFFERS COMES AT A COST, AND FOR SOME THAT WILL BE THE COST OF FAMILY UNITY.

AND FOR ALL CHRISTIANS, THE COST OF BEING AT PEACE WITH GOD THROUGH THE SALVATION JESUS WON ON THE CROSS MEANS PUTTING GOD FIRST, EVEN BEFORE FAMILY.

JESUS CHOSE DOING GOD'S WILL OVER FAMILY, SAYING: "WHOEVER DOES THE WILL OF MY FATHER IN HEAVEN IS MY BROTHER, AND SISTER, AND MOTHER."

A MESSAGE LIKE THIS IS FOUND IN THREE OF THE FOUR GOSPELS. BUT MARK ALONE PRECEDES THAT STATEMENT WITH A STORY FOUND IN MARK 3:19-22. IT IS THERE WE HEAR THAT SOME OF JESUS' FAMILY ATTEMPTED WHAT WE WOULD CALL AN "INTERVENTION". THEY MAY HAVE BEEN DOING WHAT THEY THOUGHT WAS BEST FOR JESUS, YET THEY WERE UNKNOWINGLY OPPOSING GOD.

HERE IS WHAT IS WRITTEN IN MARK 3:21-22: WHEN HIS FAMILY HEARD IT, THEY WENT OUT TO RESTRAIN HIM, FOR PEOPLE WERE SAYING, "HE HAS GONE OUT OF HIS MIND. AND THE SCRIBES WHO CAME DOWN FROM JERUSALEM SAID, "HE HAS BEELZEBUB, AND BY THE RULERS OF DEMONS HE CASTS OUT DEMONS."

WHEN JESUS SPOKE ABOUT FAMILY STRIFE BECAUSE OF THE GOSPEL MESSAGE AND SOME PEOPLE'S REACTION TO IT, HE WAS SPEAKING FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE. THE POINT JESUS IS MAKING HERE IS TO PREPARE US FOR OPPOSITION EVEN FROM UNEXPECTED PLACES. HE SOUGHT TO HELP US TO BE ABLE TO MEET EVEN FAMILY OPPOSITION WITH LOVE FOR GOD AND LOVE FOR THOSE WHO OPPOSE US, EVEN WHEN REJECTING FAMILY DESIRES.

AFTER THAT DIFFICULT MESSAGE, THE SAVIOR'S NEXT STATEMENT WAS JUST AS CHALLENGING. HE SPOKE ABOUT TAKING UP OUR CROSS TO FOLLOW HIM. THEN HE SAID IF WE TRY TO SAVE OUR LIFE WE WILL LOSE IT, BUT IF WE LOSE OUR LIFE FOR JESUS WE WILL FIND IT.

THIS MAY MEAN TO STAY FAITHFUL IF YOU ARE PERSECUTED AS A CHRISTIAN. BUT LOSING OUR LIFE CAN MEAN TO STRIVE TO LET GO OF SELFISHNESS AND OUR SINFULNESS. IT CAN ALSO MEAN TO TITHE TO CHRIST'S SERVICE A PORTION OF OUR MONEY, TIME, AND TALENTS. BUT THERE IS EVEN A DEEPER LEVEL, WHICH IS TO LET GO OF WHAT WE DESIRE IN ORDER TO FOLLOW JESUS.

CHRISTIANS WILL HAVE TO LOSE THE PART OF THEMSELVES THAT DOES NOT FIT IN WITH GOD'S WILL FOR THEM. WE NEED TO DO SO, IN ORDER BE ABLE TO GROW INTO THE PERSON GOD PLANS FOR US TO BE. THE POINT IS, IT TAKES EFFORT TO FOLLOW JESUS, IT TAKES A WILLINGNESS TO LET GO OF WHAT HOLDS US BACK, SO WE MAY TAKE HOLD OF CHRIST'S HAND AND FOLLOW HIM.

THE FINAL VERSES OF TODAY'S GOSPEL PASSAGE, SPEAKS ABOUT HOW THE DISCIPLES WILL NOT ONLY GIVE TO OTHERS, BUT WILL RECEIVE FROM THEM. IT SPEAKS ABOUT THE RECIPROCAL NATURE OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE.

THIS INVOLVES NOT ONLY GIVING TO OTHERS IN JESUS' NAME, BUT ALSO BEING OPEN TO RECEIVING FROM SOMEONE WHO WILL BE BLESSED BECAUSE THEY GAVE TO US. THE KEY TO ALL OF THIS IS RECOGNIZING NOT ONLY GOD'S LOVE AND GRACE, BUT ALSO GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY AND WILL.

MAY WE BE OPEN TO THE SPIRIT'S GUIDANCE AND STRENGTH AS WE FOLLOW JESUS. AMEN