

Sunday, June 13, 2021 Sermon
Third Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 6)

The Lord does not see as mortals see. He knows each one of us. He knows where we have been, where we are, and where we shall be. He, who is in eternity, sees the whole of our lives. He sees you. He, who knows all things, has called you to Himself. The real question before each of us is, "Will you heed the call and come to the Lord? He calls, but you can reject that call.

God did not make what we might assume would be the logical choice in choosing David. Jesus is not like David, but David was chosen because he was like Jesus. The One who has come looked ordinary. Jesus did not come looking good and what we humans might think of when we think how a leader ought to look. The Lord chose David because He chose David. What has come of this we read about in the Old Testament. The thing to point out is that we have a picture of how God works things together for good in spite of the rampant sin in and around us. Our Lord weaves the tapestry of all life together to accomplish His will in and through the faithful.

Every farmer knows the simple mystery of the seed. They prepare the ground as best they know how, tilling, perhaps fertilizing, providing for the needed water with irrigation, if necessary, but, that is not the mystery. The seed, that is the mystery. The seed is put into the soil and without any aid from the farmer, the seed sprouts and grows. Has not God provided the truth of the mystery of faith? Seeds of His word are scattered amidst the living in this life and certain things stick and grow.

I have great compassion and mercy for young boys who are distracted in our worship service. I too was one of those boys. When the Lord awakened the reality of His presence in me, it was amazing how much of what I heard during services actually registered in my mind. Week after week, I heard what I thought were the same things, but the Holy Spirit was up to something I could not imagine. The word of the Lord was being sowed into my mind. Our Lutheran worship is steeped in God's word and Scripture reminds us that the word of the Lord will not come back void. Jesus also taught us to not hinder the little ones. Yes mom, there is a line that should not be crossed, but do not expect your fidgety children to behave like adults. Do not hinder them from every opportunity for the Lord to speak to them. He who is the author and finisher of our faith will use every opportunity to make real the promise of our baptism.

The world often thinks of Jesus as a great teacher. They say He was a great teacher, but then deny that He is our Savior. Do you not see that this is not possible? Jesus claimed to be God. With that claim, if was not God, then anything He taught would, at the very least be suspect. But Jesus is the Incarnate God who took on human form and walks among us. Yes, He is a great teacher, but He is also our Savior and Lord. He, who knows all things, will plant His seed in us. He will make it (them) grow in all who believe. But you and I have our part in being prepared to receive what the Lord will give.

We are fertile soil. I know that on the one hand, our culture tells us that we are independent free thinkers and can make our own choice in this world. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we can enter into a place where we hear things differently. Our world is pumping into us all kinds of propaganda. Many people, thinking they are thinking people, regurgitate the mantras of the age. From our music to our entertainment, all kinds of ideas which are reprehensible to the Lord are accepted as normal. We do not give it a second thought and often, that is the problem. Being a Christian means becoming one who thinks and begins to see as the Holy Spirit gives sight. There are debates that are not worth entering because the propaganda is so prevalent. But

the one place we must never back down from is the truth that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior and that without Him, those who reject Him will doubtless perish.

My call is not to have you think as I think, but to be formed to the image of Christ so that you think as Christ thinks. In part, this is why we gather to hear God's word week after week. We need more of the see of God's word. We also need to be prepared to receive His word and grow in His admonition. Yes, we need this!

Do not focus upon which seeds the Lord is planing in you. Focus upon growing in the Lord. In thought, word, and deed, we are called to grow in the likeness of Christ. This is the hard work of being Christian.

If you are constantly distracted by information you regularly receive, such as some form of music, entertainment, or news, then stop being distracted. The world is a mess, we already know that, so why do you need a constant reminder. We live in a culture that does not want to think, but wants to feel. So why do you listen to music that encourages you to feel? You say God's word is boring to read, so why would you expect anything less than a scraggly harvest in your soul? The Lord is not interested in cleaning you up and sending you upon your way. He died for your soul and will not stop until He makes of you what He will.

Whether you or I are common laborers, or chosen, like David, to a position of high authority, it does not matter. The Lord loves us equally. The Lord says they way equity, but the Lord gives the gifts He gives. We each have that portion the Lord has given. What will you do with the gifts the Lord has given you? The unwise steward squandered what was given. The wise steward pursues every opportunity. As Jesus said, we do not have because we do not ask. We do not receive because we ask with wrong motive. When we understand the words of Paul, that to live is Christ, we then live the life that salvation offers.

I do not know what you and I will become. I do know that all who believe will be conformed to the image of Christ. That ruddy youngest son of Jesse had no clue that God would make of a shepherd boy a great king. Each of the disciples, many of them common laborers who made a living as fishermen, did not know that in following Jesus He would make of them the great evangelists through whom the world has been forever changed. We live by faith, not by sight. We are reminded that God does work all things together for good for those who love Him.

The mind of Christ urges us on. Do you think you already know all you need to know? Think again. Until you are just like Christ, our Lord will not stop in conforming you to His image – whatever that may mean in your life. He will not stop until He has completed His work in you.

We are called to no longer live for ourselves, but for the sake of the One who calls us to our eternal home. He has gone to prepare a place for us and He has sent the Holy Spirit to prepare us to live there. A part of this is that we are to no longer view things from a human point of view. We live by faith, so we understand that our view of things is very limited. God, who is eternal and sees things as He is making them to be, is leading us to be the kind of people and fellowship that He intends.

This is grand adventure and I remind you that our good and gracious Lord, who redeemed us by His own spent blood, is making of us, you, me, and this fellowship, more than we can imagine. If you are in Christ, then you are a new creation. The old of this world has passed away and behold, He is making all things new. That begins with you, beloved promise-receiving, baptized believer in Christ. There is nothing to compare with God's kingdom, for it is something new. Live then in His kingdom and in joy receive all that He brings in your life. Amen.