

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 14)  
Sunday, July 4, 2021 Sermon

Our Lord often shows us things that are right before us in His word, but we do not see it. The Old Testament is filled with arch-types that point to the type itself. David was a man after God's own heart. Look beyond the sin issues, for we all have them. See what God is saying. David loved the Lord above all things. The things of this world may have gotten in the way, but they did not displace David's loyalty to the Lord. Thou shalt have no other gods above Me says the Lord.

Jesus said that He only spoke what the Father gave Him to speak. Do not speak for yourself, speak for the Lord. Learn His word and speak His word. Did not the disciples say, "Lord, You have the words of eternal life?" Where else can we go? Let the word of the Lord be on your heart, mind and soul.

David was king for forty years. Forty. Moses called to those whom the Lord had chosen and they came out of slavery. They came out of slavery, but would not come out of the bondage they were in. We confess that we are in bondage to sin, but will you come out of that bondage? If Christ makes you free, then you are free indeed. Forty years, and the old generation passed away. What has our culture done in forty years? Have we walked in freedom, or back into bondage? Yet, you are not the culture. You have been called by Christ to walk in freedom. David reigned for forty years. Jesus was alone in the wilderness for forty days.

David built the city. The city of David, Jerusalem. The city of peace, but there has been constant bloodshed and violence. Jesus said, "The kingdom of God suffers violence." Scripture tells us that there is the true city of God, Zion. In Zion, the people of God dwell in safety. David built with human hands, but our Lord builds what is eternal. "In my Father's mansion are many rooms. If it were not so, I would have told you.

David was thirty when He became king. Jesus was thirty when He began His public ministry and He is the King of kings. Do not underestimate this simple truth that David was an arch-type for the true King of kings. David was from humble circumstances and Jesus came, humble and into Jerusalem on the foal of a donkey. Even Pilate understood a little, "Behold your King." The inscription above Jesus on the cross read, "King of the Jews."

Freedom comes at a price, for this world enslaves, but Christ sets us free. We have been blessed in this nation because we have lived in a freedom that many, dare I say, most in this age have never experienced. But true freedom comes through Christ alone.

No matter the philosophy that drives people, the world is seeking what God alone can give. The world cries, "Peace, peace," but there is no peace. Jesus gives us the peace that surpasses all understanding. We can look at all that is wrong in this world and in so doing, not see all that God has made which is good and right. The world is not wicked, but wickedness is destructive and this world is filled with it.

It's an amazing thing that God has created the order of things and all decent people – regardless their religion – appeal to the same order. Do not lie, cheat, steal, kill, or take what is another's. Love and do not hate. That's pretty much the human order of things. It is the order that God has established. God has created order and He loves us.

Often, we are tempted to ask God to tell us what eternity is like. How do you describe what cannot be fathomed? The child in the womb. How would you describe living outside of the womb? It is, so to speak, incomprehensible. St. Paul tells us of one who was in heaven. They were not able to describe what they saw. What we do know is that in heaven, all who are

there are complete. We often say, "Perfect." But are we not to be complete in the Lord? Yes! We are to walk in the eternal relationship which has been established through Christ, through the blood He shed, by His grace. Walk then in the completeness which is Christ alone. What we do know is that now we see dimly, but then we shall be face to face with Christ and know, even as we have always been fully known.

In this world of "I am better than you," we are called to live boasting only in the Lord. I am nothing and I have nothing, but with the Lord, I am everything and have everything. It is His, not mine, so I have nothing to boast about except the Lord. So then, I come here each week and boast of the goodness of our Lord and Savior. I know we each have our difficulties, but be comforted that no matter what happens, there is nothing in all of creation that will ever be able to separate you from the love which is yours in our Savior, Jesus Christ.

I encourage you to live by grace. There is so much guilt and shame piled high by sinners. We have already confessed our bondage to sin. We have also heard that our sins have been forgiven. Do not live as one who is unforgiven, nor treat others as if they were unforgivable. In Christ, we have the assurance that He paid the price for our sin, once for all. What sins we have will be used for God's purpose in the end. This includes every sinner and no sin is greater than another. So do see that behind all that is reprehensible are not particularity of the sin, but the pride that keeps us from humbly receiving what our Lord has done for each one of us.

I do understand the difference between right and wrong, but I often am unable to comprehend good from evil. It may, to me, seem evil, but then it has that twist to it that ends up good. The Lord has promised that for those who love Him, it will be good. So leave behind these things which we do not know in order to take up the things that you do know. You know that Jesus, raised from the dead, has promised you eternal life with Him.

We do see things through human eyes, but the Lord has awakened us through the promise of our baptism to see things with heavenly eyes. We ponder how the Creator God of all eternity could be born in specific place and at a specific time, yet that is the very thing that Scripture proclaims. How can this be? With God, all things are possible. He placed Himself in a very difficult situation. God is quite intentional. If He, being God, did not exempt Himself from living a difficult life, why should we think that He would exempt us from the difficulties we face? In fact, I suspect that if we look close enough, it is these very difficulties which make us into the very people we have become.

In this world which quickly rejects pursuing truth for the convenience of a lie, we are called to "Come and reason" with the Lord. Knowledge is the beginning of wisdom. Seek knowledge and the Lord will weave all things together to bring about understanding. Jesus teaches us to think. Continue to practice learning how to think. Learn to think clearly, for the goodness of the Lord teaches us how to understand our circumstances and reminds us to always rejoice in what the Lord is doing.

Who can stand in the way of God? Who will overcome what God will accomplish? God's will shall be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give thanks that the Lord has not only called us, but equipped us to go into all the world and proclaim the goodness of His love and mercy. Who are demons that they can stand in the way of the Lord? Nothing. Who are people, opposed to the will of the Lord, who stand in the way of humbly walking with Him? Nothing. Who indeed? Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. Through Christ, you are more than conquerors through Him who first loved you.

Beloved, you are precious in the sight of the Lord and He gave His earthly life so that you could have His eternal life. Live then in the freedom, possible because of the shedding of blood and rejoice. Thanks be to God! Amen.

David is made king at thirty

David was loyal to the Lord. Speak God's word.

He reigned forty years - the number to bring home ( Moses)

Jesus wandered for forty days and the devil was overcome.

David built the city - Jerusalem

Jesus has prepared Zion - the place of eternal peace

Jesus begins His ministry at thirty

Freedom comes at a price. Jesus paid the price

The world is trying to do what God alone can do.

All that is wrong in the world masks all that is right.

God has created the order of things and He loves people

What is heaven like?

Perfect

What it looks like we do not know.

What we know is that we will be face to face with the Lord

If we are to boast, let it be in what the Lord has done and is doing.

We each have the difficulties we have. The Lord leaves them for His own purpose.

Jesus died to release us from paying the price we are unable to pay for the sin in our life. Though sin is there, God leaves it for what He intends it to accomplish in us.

This is why it is important that we realize that we truly do not understand what is good, nor what is evil. We do know right from wrong, for the Lord has placed these in our heart.

We see things through human eyes. How can God be a man? Born in place and time, how can this be God?

Are not all things possible with God?

Has He not placed Himself in a difficult situation?

If He, bring God, does not exempt Himself from difficulty, why do we not embrace the difficulty He gives us?

We are too quick to reject what is true and embrace what is false.

We often do not think.

The disciples went out and called for those who would hear to repent.

Turn from the ways of this world and embrace the truth you have heard.

Truth is not a proposition, but the very God who has come in the flesh to redeem you

Who can stand in the way of God?

Who will overcome what God will accomplish?

God's will shall be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Thanks be to God!