

## NEXT STEP: STUDY &amp; SHARE

## READINGS

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

Psalm 19:7-14

*The commandment of the Lord gives light to the eyes.* (v8)

James 5:13-20

Mark 9:38-50

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, & in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

## SERMON TEXT- Mark 9:38-50

<sup>38</sup>John said to [Jesus,] “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, & we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” <sup>39</sup>But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me.” <sup>40</sup>Whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup>For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. <sup>42</sup>If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck & you were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup>If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands & to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire.\* <sup>45</sup>And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet & to be thrown into hell.\* <sup>47</sup>And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes & to be thrown into hell, <sup>48</sup>where their worm never dies, & the fire is never quenched. <sup>49</sup>For everyone will be salted with fire. <sup>50</sup>Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, & be at peace with one another.”

\*vv44, 46 (which are identical with v48) are lacking in the best ancient manuscripts

## LISTENING TO . . .

**GOD-** *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. What do the following add to this gospel story? *See Matthew 3:11; 5:13, 12:13, 20:20-28; Mark 10:35-45; Luke 11:23, 14:34-35; Romans 12:16; 1 Corinthians 12:3; Colossians 4:5-6; read surrounding verses for more context.*
2. What connections do you find between the first, second, & Gospel lessons? Find at least five between each. Hint: consider themes, actions, language, grammar, plot, similarities, opposites/inversions etc.

**EACH OTHER-** *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Jesus calls us to be “consistent in our walk\*” through everyday life. Make a list of 10 things that you need to “cut off” (cold turkey) from your life, rather than be led to hell by them. How can Confession & Forgiveness help you? *See [Small Catechism: Confession](#); [SC available](#) < [bookofconcord.org](#) > \**St. Peter’s mission & vision available* < [stpeterhallettsville.org/blog](#) > *use your own congregation’s mission/vision/values, if you have them.**
4. Jealousy- & its sense of turf- is all too common in ministry. When have you fretted about others “taking over” your personal sense of ministry, losing your sense of power, position, prestige & the like, worrying others won’t do it right? How did you move from being a ministry pirate (contributing to your own mission) to a crewmember (contributing God’s mission)? Perhaps you haven’t; what would help you? *Review the [SC](#): 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment; don’t overlook Confession & Forgiveness.*

**NEIGHBORS-** *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Our St. Peter value “Commissioned for Ministry” affirms that the Holy Spirit puts us to work in our everyday lives, not only at church or on church projects. Another way to say it is that we join Jesus on his mission in everyday life. How is God developing you into a fully devoted follower of Jesus bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sister in Christ?
6. Our St. Peter value “Commitment to the Lost” means we actively (verbally) introduce our friends & acquaintances to our friend Jesus. Who has God placed in your life right now for this? Make a list of 10 people & keep them in your daily prayers.

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18th Sunday after Pentecost  
Series: Following Jesus

09.26.21  
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Pursuing Peace

*Peace is an active life in pursuit of righteousness-  
as good works & good examples.*

-Notes-

**KEY VERSE:** Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, & be at peace with one another (v50)

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-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Your word, O Lord, is truth; sanctify us in the truth. (*John 17:7*)

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