

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Exodus 19:2-8a

Psalm 100

We are God's people & the sheep of God's pasture. (v3)

Romans 5:1-8

Matthew 9:35--10:8 [9-23]

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of compassion, you have opened the way for us & brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm & faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Romans 5:1-8

¹Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; & we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, & character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. ⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

LISTENING TO . . .

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

1. Compare & contrast the following scriptures with the saying "God helps those who help themselves." What the main difference between these verses & the saying? *See Deuteronomy 28:1,8,15-16; Proverbs 6:10-12, 12:11, 12:24, 13:4, 21:31; Matthew 5:3-4; Colossians 3:23; 1 Timothy 5:8; be sure to check the surrounding verses for greater context.*
2. Compare & contrast the following scriptures with the saying as well. How is one's own personal initiative necessary or not for Jesus? *See Mark 1:29-32, 2:1-12, 6:30-43 9:14-29 esp. v24, 10:46-53; John 2:1-11, 5:1-8, 9:1-12; Romans 5:1-8. See also Genesis 3:1-7, 4:1-8 for human initiative & 3:8-10, 4:9-15 for God's.*

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

3. As you consider the ups & downs of your own life, how have you experienced vv3-5 to be true because of the Holy Spirit at work in your life? *See also v2a*
4. Review vv6, 8, 10 (also *Colossians 1:21-22*). What does it mean to you that you personally were God's enemy & he was yours? If you had met in battle he would have killed you on purpose. How does this raise the stakes & heighten the contrast between works & grace? *See vv1-2, 8; John 16:33; Acts 13:38-39; Hebrews 9:11-14*

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

5. In this preaching series we'll explore common misconceptions. How has confronting your own misconception about grace this week equipped you to listen to others & point them away from self-sufficiency toward grace?
6. Relaunching from *Corona Virus* Keep it your goal to reach out to one other person in the congregation (not in your home/family) each day during these restrictions- it's a long way back to how we lived before. As your congregation returns to 50+ in-person worship who can you invite to come with you? Who may need a ride or a little extra company? How can your congregation's new online resources help break the ice?

Second Sunday after Pentecost

06.14.20

Series: Things the Bible Doesn't Say

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

God Helps Those Who Help Themselves

So said Aesop's fables, not the Bible

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: For while we were still weak,
at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. (v6)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Alleluia. The kingdom of God has come near; repent,
and believe in the good news. (*Mark 1:15*)

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