

FAITH COMES BY HEARING THE WORD OF GOD 3.7.2021

Let's look at the Bible readings for the 3rd Sunday in Lent, Mar. 7, to prepare for on-line, drive-in, and in-person worship (10 am) with Abounding Joy.

1ST READING: Exodus 20:1-17 The Lord gives the Ten Commandments to His people

¹God spoke all these words, saying, ²"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

³You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

⁸Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or

your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. ¹¹For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore, the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

SOME QUESTIONS TO PONDER RELATED TO EXODUS, CHAPTER 20

1. The Ten Commandments are listed here, and also in Deuteronomy 5:6-21. What's the significance of the introduction here in verses 1 and 2? What does it say about the context of the giving of these laws? Did God give the law so that the people of Israel might be saved, or did he give it because He had already saved them?
2. Verse 7: What are some examples of ways people take the name of the Lord in vain?
3. Verse 8-11: What day of the week is the Sabbath? Why do Christians worship on Sundays?
4. Verse 12: What promise is given with this commandment?
5. Verse 13: Here murder is forbidden. What's the difference between killing and murdering?
6. Verse 16: What does it mean to bear false witness against someone?
7. Verse 17: What does it mean to covet something or someone?

2ND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 God's "unwise" way of accomplishing our salvation

St. Paul writes: ¹⁸For the word of the cross is **folly** to those who are perishing, but to us who are being **saved** it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, "I will destroy the **wisdom** of the **wise**, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰Where is the one who is **wise**? Where

is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made **foolish** the **wisdom** of the world? ²¹For since, in the **wisdom** of God, the world did not know God through **wisdom**, it pleased God through the **folly** of what we preach to **save** those who believe.

²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek **wisdom**, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and **folly** to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the **wisdom** of God. ²⁵For the **foolishness** of God is **wiser** than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. ²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is

foolish in the world to shame the **wise**; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might **boast** in the presence of God. ³⁰And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us **wisdom** from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹so that, as it is written, “Let the one who **boasts**, **boast** in the Lord.”

SOME QUESTIONS TO PONDER RELATED TO I CORINTHIANS, CHAPTER 1:

1. Turn to Isaiah 55:8-9. How does this passage from First Corinthians relate to the Isaiah text?
2. The discussion here is about the so-called wisdom of people, and the true (strange) wisdom of God. Why is the idea that God would save the world through one judged an outlaw and then crucified, folly from a human perspective?
3. Why is the cross of Jesus a stumbling block and folly (vs. 22-24)?
4. Is it possible to come to saving faith in God by means of human reason (see vs. 21)?
5. Describe God’s “upside-down logic,” His strange way of doing things, as noted in vss. 27-29.
6. What’s the good news for us that is contained in verses 30 and 31?

THE GOSPEL: John 2:13-25 Jesus cleanses the temple and reveals why He has come

¹³The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the **temple** he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. ¹⁵And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the **temple**, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶And he told those who sold the pigeons, “Take these things away; do not make my Father’s **house** a **house** of trade.” ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your **house** will consume me.” ¹⁸So the Jews said to him, “What sign do you show us for doing these things?” ¹⁹Jesus answered them, “Destroy this **temple**, and in

three days I will raise it up.” ²⁰The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this **temple**, and will you raise it up in three days?” ²¹But he was speaking about the **temple** of his body. ²²When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they **believed** the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

²³Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many **believed** in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. ²⁴But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people ²⁵and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.

SOME QUESTIONS TO PONDER RELATED TO JOHN, CHAPTER 2:

1. In John’s Gospel, Jesus often speaks using double entendres, that is, His words have two levels of meaning. What’s the confusion here regarding the word temple?
2. What was going on in the temple that so upset Jesus?
3. Some say that Jesus here announces that He is replacing the temple. That is, the way to God is not through a stone building, but through Him; through His death and resurrection. Do you agree?
4. Faith is worthless without a promise to cling to. What’s the promise the disciples trust in vs. 22?
5. What do you make of vss. 23 and 24? What did Jesus know about the nature of human beings?