

# FAITH COMES BY HEARING THE WORD OF GOD 6.6.2021

Let's look at the Bible readings for Sunday, June 6, to prepare for on-line, drive-in, and in-person worship (at 9:00 am) with Abounding Joy.

## 1ST READING: Genesis 3:8-15

<sup>8</sup>The man and his wife **heard** the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup>And he said, "I **heard** the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup>He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" <sup>12</sup>The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be

with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup>Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." <sup>14</sup>The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup>I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

## SOME QUESTIONS TO PONDER RELATED TO GENESIS, CHAPTER 3

1. In verse 8, why did Adam and Eve try to hide from the presence of the Lord?  
What makes you try to sometimes run or hide from God?
2. In verse 12, who does Adam blame for his disobedience?
3. In verse 13, who does Eve blame for her disobedience?
4. What does that failure to take responsibility say about the nature of sin?
5. Vs. 15 has been interpreted as a prophecy that foretells Jesus being wounded by Satan, and Jesus eventually defeating Satan through that attack. Does that make sense to you?

## 2ND READING: 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

<sup>13</sup>Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, <sup>14</sup>knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. <sup>15</sup>For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the **glory** of God. <sup>16</sup>So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.

<sup>17</sup>For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of **glory** beyond all comparison, <sup>18</sup>as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

<sup>1</sup>For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

## SOME QUESTIONS TO PONDER RELATED TO II CORINTHIANS, CHAPTERS 4 & 5:

1. What does the promise in vs. 14 mean for you?
2. In vs. 15, explain the progression from grace to thanksgiving to glory.
3. In what ways have you experienced your “outer self, wasting away” (vs. 16)?
4. What is meant in vs. 18 by the phrase, looking “to the things that are unseen”?
5. How is our inner self being renewed day by day (vs. 16)?

## THE GOSPEL: Mark 3:20-35

<sup>20</sup>Jesus went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that Jesus and the apostles could not even eat. <sup>21</sup>And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, “He is out of his mind.”

<sup>22</sup>And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, “He is possessed by **Beelzebul**,” and “by **the prince of demons** he casts out the demons.”

<sup>23</sup>And he called them to him and said to them in parables, “How can **Satan** cast out **Satan**? <sup>24</sup>If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup>And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. <sup>26</sup>And if **Satan** has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. <sup>27</sup>But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he

may plunder his house.

<sup>28</sup>Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, <sup>29</sup>but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin” — <sup>30</sup>for they were saying, “He has **an unclean spirit**.”

<sup>31</sup>And his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him. <sup>32</sup>And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you.” <sup>33</sup>And he answered them, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” <sup>34</sup>And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! <sup>35</sup>For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.”

## SOME QUESTIONS TO PONDER RELATED TO MARK, CHAPTER 3:

1. Jesus’ home base appears to have been in the community of Capernaum, on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee (some 30 miles from Nazareth). Why do you think Jesus’ family had travelled there?
2. Jesus is being accused by the religious leaders of being possessed by Satan (also called Beelzebul, and, the prince of demons). If Jesus could be shown to not be working on the side of evil, what would they have to admit about him?
3. In vs. 27, who is the strongman and who is the one who alone is able to bind him?
4. According to vss. 28-30, what is the unforgiveable sin?