

FAITH COMES BY HEARING Bible Study – 1.24.24 (for 1.28.24)

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

¹⁵“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—¹⁶just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ ¹⁷And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from

among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. ¹⁹And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. ²⁰But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.’

- 1) Deuteronomy is considered Moses’ last teaching – his farewell message. In what ways do you see Moses providing the people with leadership in what he shares?
- 2) As people pay attention to the prophet the Lord raises up, what are the people to notice?
- 3) How do these words show us God’s foreknowledge of His plan of salvation?

Second Reading: Psalm 111

¹Praise the LORD!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

²Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.

³Full of splendor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;

the LORD is gracious and merciful.

⁵He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.

⁶He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

⁷The works of his hands are faithful and just;

all his precepts are trustworthy;

⁸they are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

⁹He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.

Holy and awesome is his name!

¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;

all those who practice it have a good understanding.

His praise endures forever!

- 1) Psalm 111 is the first of a series of Psalms called the Hallel. These psalms were repeated or sung as people went to Jerusalem for the Passover. How does this psalm invoke the memory of Passover?
- 2) Passover is not only about the past, but the present. In repeating these words, how would they invite people to praise God in the present?
- 3) Passover also has a future element to it. How does this psalm push us to consider what is to come with God?

GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28

²¹And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. ²²And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. ²³And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, ²⁴“What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But

Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

- 1) In what ways does Jesus fulfill the words in Deuteronomy 18 in this scene?
- 2) In what ways does Jesus inspire praise, like we saw in Psalm 111?
- 3) How does this scene establish Jesus’ identity as Israel’s long-awaited Messiah?