

## **FAITH COMES BY HEARING Bible Study – 1.31.24 (for 2.4.24)**

### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:26-31**

<sup>26</sup>Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of his might and because he is strong in power, not one is missing. <sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God”? <sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow

weary; his understanding is unsearchable. <sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. <sup>30</sup>Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup>but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

- 1) At the start of this chapter, the tone of the book shifts from calling out Israel’s sins to remembering God’s majesty and faithfulness. How do the words in v. 26 point us to this?
- 2) When have you experienced weariness in your faith? How do you find encouragement in that God does not grow weary?
- 3) What promise does God give us for resting and trusting Him?

### **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:19-27**

<sup>19</sup>For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. <sup>20</sup>To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. <sup>21</sup>To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup>To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I

might save some. <sup>23</sup>I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings. <sup>24</sup>Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. <sup>25</sup>Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. <sup>26</sup>So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. <sup>27</sup>But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

- 1) Luther teaches in the Freedom of a Christian, “A Christian is a free lord of everything and subject to no one. A Christian is a willing servant of everything and subject to everyone.” In what ways do you see Paul’s words shaping Luther’s?
- 2) In what ways does Paul’s example challenge you? Inspire you?
- 3) Why does Paul take evangelism, discipleship, and preaching so seriously, so as to not become “disqualified?”

## **GOSPEL: Mark 1:29-34**

<sup>29</sup>And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. <sup>31</sup>And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

<sup>32</sup>That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered together at the door. <sup>34</sup>And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

- 1) In this passage, Jesus heals some people. Who are they and why is this important?
- 2) How do Jesus’ actions reveal His authority?
- 3) What time of day does Jesus perform these healings? Why would that be information be significant?