

FAITH COMES BY HEARING Bible Study – 2.14.24 (for 2.18.24)

FIRST READING: Exodus 34:5-9

⁵The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. ⁶The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the

guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.” ⁸And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped. ⁹And he said, “If now I have found favor in your sight, O Lord, please let the Lord go in the midst of us, for it is a stiff-necked people, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance.”

- 1) Reread verse 5. What in this verse stands out to you?
- 2) As the Lord passes before Moses, His name is proclaimed. What aspects reveal His name? Why do these matter?
- 3) As a result of this moment, Moses prays. What does Moses pray for the Lord to do?

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:14-21

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may have strength to comprehend with all the

saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

- 1) The reason Paul prays for all those who belong to the church is because of how God displays His plan of salvation through His people. How have you experienced God's creativity from others throughout your faith life?
- 2) Paul prays “that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith.” What does the indwelling of Christ bring into our lives that would make this matter so much?
- 3) Paul uses dimensions to describe God's love. What do we learn about God's love through Paul's words?

GOSPEL: John 10:9-18

⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good

shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

- 1) In this passage, Jesus invites us to "find pasture" through Him. What do you think Jesus means? What images come to mind?
- 2) Jesus also invokes the words of Psalm 23 here. How does Jesus care for His sheep?
- 3) Why is it important to know what Jesus wants and has in store for us? How does this also affect how you view others?