

## Faith Comes by Hearing Bible Study – 9.17.25 (For 9.21.25)

### First Reading: Psalm 133

<sup>1</sup>Behold, how good and pleasant it is  
when brothers dwell in unity!

<sup>2</sup>It is like the precious oil on the head,  
running down on the beard,  
on the beard of Aaron,  
running down on the collar of his

robes!

<sup>3</sup>It is like the dew of Hermon,  
which falls on the mountains of Zion!  
For there the Lord has commanded the  
blessing,  
life forevermore.

1. This psalm paints a picture of what it looks like when believers are unified. What does it mean for believers to "dwell in unity"?
2. Unity is compared to the precious anointing oil flowing in abundance. What does this imagery convey about God's blessing, especially on Christian unity?
3. The psalmist also uses a comparison of how unity is like the dew of Mount Hermon. The psalmist is making a connection between life-giving qualities. How does unity provide and highlight this?

### Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 24b-26

<sup>12</sup>For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

<sup>14</sup>For the body does not consist of one member but of many.

<sup>24b</sup>But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, <sup>25</sup>that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup>If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

1. Paul also uses an image to provide an analogy of how Christian unity functions. What image does he use and how does this help us understand unity?
2. As Paul further illustrates the unity and diversity found among Christians, what is his practical point for the church at Corinth (and by extension, our church)?
3. In your opinion, what parts/gifts in the body of the church seem less weak, less honorable, or less desirable (all terms Paul uses)? How might a church implicitly or explicitly communicate that they are "less"? What is Paul's proposal to the church to fight against such attitudes and behaviors?

## Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup>And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. <sup>2</sup>And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. <sup>3</sup>And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. <sup>4</sup>And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. <sup>5</sup>And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." <sup>6</sup>Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, <sup>7</sup>"Why does this man speak like that? He is

blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" <sup>8</sup>And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question these things in your hearts? <sup>9</sup>Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'? <sup>10</sup>But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic— <sup>11</sup>"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home." <sup>12</sup>And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

1. How do these friends demonstrate their faith and display an example of unity in caring for their friend?
2. What does Jesus' choice to forgive the man's sins before healing him physically teach us about our deepest spiritual needs?
3. Jesus makes an overall point about what united belief in Him leads to being proclaimed and happening for others. What is it? How can unity be a witness for the mission of Christ in our world?