

Faith Comes by Hearing Bible Study – 10.15.25 (For 10.19.25)

First Reading: Isaiah 59:14-21

¹⁴Justice is turned back,
and righteousness stands far away;
for truth has stumbled in the public
squares,
and uprightness cannot enter.

¹⁵Truth is lacking,
and he who departs from evil makes
himself a prey.

The Lord saw it, and it displeased him
that there was no justice.

¹⁶He saw that there was no man,
and wondered that there was no one to
intercede;

then his own arm brought him salvation,
and his righteousness upheld him.

¹⁷He put on righteousness as a
breastplate,
and a helmet of salvation on his head;
he put on garments of vengeance for
clothing,
and wrapped himself in zeal as a
cloak.

¹⁸According to their deeds, so will he
repay,
wrath to his adversaries, repayment to
his enemies;
to the coastlands he will render
repayment.

¹⁹So they shall fear the name of the Lord
from the west,
and his glory from the rising of the sun;
for he will come like a rushing stream,
which the wind of the Lord drives.

²⁰“And a Redeemer will come to Zion,
to those in Jacob who turn from
transgression,” declares the Lord.

²¹“And as for me, this is my covenant with
them,” says the Lord: “My Spirit that is
upon you, and my words that I have put
in your mouth, shall not depart out of your
mouth, or out of the mouth of your
offspring, or out of the mouth of your
children's offspring,” says the Lord, “from
this time forth and forevermore.”

1. In this passage of Isaiah, God makes a judgment on humanity. What has brought about His judgment and displeasure?
2. How does the Lord respond to what He sees?
3. What does the Lord cover Himself with? What does He offer those who trust Him?

Second Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the
strength of his might. ¹¹Put on the whole
armor of God, that you may be able to
stand against the schemes of the devil.

¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and
blood, but against the rulers, against the

authorities, against the cosmic powers over
this present darkness, against the spiritual
forces of evil in the heavenly places.

¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of
God, that you may be able to withstand in
the evil day, and having done all, to stand

firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸praying

at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

1. The passage begins by telling believers to "be strong in the Lord". Where do non-believers find strength, and how is Christian strength different?
2. Paul mentions the "schemes of the devil." What are these? How can understanding and applying the armor of God help us withstand these schemes?
3. Paul asks for prayers for him to "boldly proclaim the gospel." Why does the devil scheme to stop this? How can we support one another in proclaiming our faith and praying for each other?

Gospel: Luke 8:26-33, 38-39

²⁶Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs. ²⁸When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me." ²⁹For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.) ³⁰Jesus then asked him, "What is

your name?" And he said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. ³¹And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. ³²Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned.

³⁸The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹"Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

1. What does the man's appearance and lifestyle reveal about the intensity of his torment and the "unclean spirits" controlling him?
2. Why did the demons recognize Jesus as "the Son of the Most High God," and how does this recognition differ from a saving faith in Jesus? What does their request to enter the pigs suggest about their nature?
3. As Jesus sets this man free, He also commissions Him to declare. What does this man do? How does this instruction challenge us to share our own "rescue stories" and declare what God has done for us?