

17TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 09/23/18

Mount Calvary, West View

JEREMIAH 11:18-20, JAMES 3: 13- 4: 10, MARK 9: 30-37

HYMNS: I AM TRUSTING THEE LORD JESUS LSB# 729,

I WALK IN DANGER ALL THE WAY LSB# 716,

CHILDREN OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER LSB# 725,

SING MY TONGUE, THE GLORIOUS BATTLE LSB# 454

THEME: THE HARD TEACHINGS

+ Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN +

Our Text is from the continuation of Saint Mark's Gospel, the 9th Chapter:

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And He did not want anyone to know, for He was teaching His disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And when He is killed, after three days He will rise." But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask Him.

Is there anything worse than ignorance? My wife likes to complain about the people who stay behind when the flood waters rise. "Why do they stay there when the call goes out to evacuate?" She has no sympathy for the people who need rescued cause it's their own fault. So why are they there? Researching such a thought, I have been given some insight as to why some stay and endanger themselves. (1) They do not have a way out. Too poor to have a car, too poor to be able to pick up and leave. Unable to make it to a safe place and therefore tough it out. (2) Invalid. They are handicapped, and no one thought to assist them when they themselves were fleeing. Addendum to these two thoughts: they have no family watching or caring for them. (3) they WANT to tough it out. After all, they have been through worse storms; the weatherman has to embellish so as to keep people glued to his show and make himself so important. (4) Got to save my stuff from the looters. Ties in with (1) in that when you have little, you want to keep what little you have since you cannot afford to replace it. And (5), ignorance. They just

plain did not know. Perhaps some would lump into this crowd the ultra-Christian as "ignorant." Identifiable by the Classic statement: "God will save me." Always quoting Psalm 50: ***Call upon Me in the Day of Trouble, and I will deliver You.*** After all, what is more troubling than a natural disaster? God promised to save His people! However, is it ignorance to believe God will save, or is it ignorance to believe God will not save? Ignorance, I believe, is in the mind of the beholder. It is only ignorance if you do not find out "Why" people do what they do. Ask a few questions, and maybe you will find the answer.

People tend to look at God as a kind of entity that will stop all disasters, now that Christ has come. After all, it only makes sense that only the sinners get God's wrath. So, when Christ drops the bombshell upon His followers, "***The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him,***" how would you expect them to understand this? There is nothing more disastrous than knowing you are going to die, and at the hands of people no less. Certainly, Jesus does not deserve to die, only evil people deserve to die. If anybody is protected from evil, it would certainly be this wonderful man, Jesus. Even though the disciples were not there, they heard how Jesus had battled Satan in the wilderness and won; How He was ministered to by the angels and strengthened. They have witnessed how the very demons obey His command, and they have seen death reversed by this Messiah. They have seen wind and waves obey Him and He walked on water! How can a bunch of goofballs grab Him and kill Him? The last time that happened, the mob moved Him to the edge of the cliff to throw Him over, and He just walked right through them. How can He now tell us that He is going to be simply handed over and be killed?

The sad thing is, they were afraid to ask Him. Before you get all huffy, and say you would have asked, because here and now we have no trouble asking God about anything. We even say it without thinking. "Dear God! What happened?" we say. Did you expect an answer, or were you just using God's name in vain? That is just one example. I am sure you have many more, but the disciples were not about

to ask simply because they did not want to hear another diatribe about how ignorant they are. All those times Jesus chastised them for having little faith, for having no faith when He was sleeping in the hull of the ship. When Jesus reprimanded them for not perceiving, for not understanding. Scolding them for not having enough prayer last Sunday. He even called Peter SATAN for speaking out against Jesus dying the FIRST time. So, it is quite understandable why they were afraid to ask, and why they still do not understand.

And when He is killed, after three days He will rise. To me, that is the key to the understanding, and why we who are here now have such comfort reading JesusøWords and living the faith. The disciples were at a disadvantage. They have not the Word as we have it. We know that Jesus when killed, will rise from the grave because we have the rest of the story. The disciples do not have this information yet, just the report that it will happen. They do not yet have the Holy Ghost as we do. We have the knowledge of the Word of God, and the Holy Ghost to keep us in the Word. When we need comfort to understand why bad things are happening to us and around us, we are to turn to Jerimiah and understand that things do happen that are beyond our control, that evil people do plot against us, even though we are simple sheep to them. There are evil plots to destroy us simply because we believe and trust in the Triune God of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Sometimes we get knowledge of such heinous deeds, sometimes like on Big Brother we are Blindsided. (poor Brett.) All these things happen because we all sin, and are conditioned to fits of jealousy, selfish ambition, unspiritual earthly acts as if demonic. James was indeed insightful when he reminds us that our sins war within us. *You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.* The disciples did not ask, because they did not have the comforting faith necessary to ask. Their sin was fear of God, in a bad way. The same as all of us, when we rely on our own reason or strength to get us out of terrible situations.

The thing is, God gives us faith to resist the devil, and make him flee. Martin Luther was correct in his hymn, "One little Word can fell him". When we rely on the Word of God, we have all we need to trust and believe. This means we can face all troubles and ask forgiveness from the One Who was slain Who wants to forgive us our trespasses. He is the Servant of all and was handed over willingly not by men, but by the Father in Heaven. He was killed at the hands of evil men but not because they were all powerful but because Jesus allowed to be killed as the final sacrifice for sins. He died not because He gave up in despair, but because He gave up His spirit willingly since all has been finished for your salvation through His precious blood.

Ignorance is only when one has not the Word of God, salvatorily speaking. When one is faced with disasters, either of one's own doing, or by situations beyond one's control, one can rely on the cross to remember Jesus came to save us, He died for us, He will come again because He has risen for us. When we trust in His merit for our salvation, we can overcome the world. And when bad things do happen, we can through faith and prayer do our best to get through such bad times, but always trust that God will bless our decisions, and when wrong, He will provide an out way in His time in His way. Life is hard to navigate, and we do make horrible decisions from time to time, and some out of pure ignorance. However, we can in baptismal faith trust in the death and resurrection of Jesus will forgive our sins, because with God all things are possible, and He is faithful, and He will save. In our Triune God's Name, we pray. **AMEN.**

+ AND NOW MAY THE PEACE OF GOD WHICH SURPASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING
KEEP YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS IN UNION WITH CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD. AMEN+

There are only two days on my calendar...today and the day of judgment