

PROPER 6 - 3RD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

06/17/18

Mount Calvary, West View

EZEKIEL 17: 22-24, II CORINTHIANS 5: 1-10, MARK 4:26-34

HYMNS: O WORSHIP THE KING ALL-GLORIOUS ABOVE LSB #804,

PREACH YOU THE WORD LSB #586, TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE LSB #783

Theme: Sowing Seed, You Are

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

Christ. AMEN +

Our Text is from the Gospel of St. Mark, the 4th Chapter:

The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how.

Being that this is celebrated by the nation as Father's Day, I would like to draw your attention to the second grandest vocation: Fatherhood. If motherhood is the grandest vocation in nurturing young ones to understand how to be meet, right and proper beings in this sin filled world, then I suggest that Fatherhood be the second grandest. For the explanation of fatherhood, Martin Luther directed us fathers to memorize and understand the verse from Saint Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus, the sixth chapter, verse 4: ***And Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*** Ah yes, we dads are not to find ways to make our children mad, and yet, how many times have we been yelled at, disrespected and treated shamefully

simply because we tried to raise them in the ***discipline and instruction of the Lord***. We can take comfort in the words of Martin Luther, “*We must therefore impress upon the young that they should regard their parents as in God’s stead, and remember that however lowly, poor, frail, and queer they may be, nevertheless they are father and mother given them by God. They are not to be deprived of their honor because of their conduct or their failings. Therefore, we are not to regard their persons, how they may be, but the will of God Who has thus created and ordained.*”ⁱ So if you have been nurturing your child to understand God and your position as Father, and they yell the great wisdom, “I Never Asked To Be Born!” we are not to respond with, “I Didn’t ask for you either!” that would be provoking to anger. Instead, let us gently remind them that God placed us here and we will do what we can to help them understand their place in the big picture, and hopefully they will grow up in the wisdom of God.

Which is really all that our text is about. ***The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how.*** This is especially true of daughters. Mr. Hoover can no wise attest with me; one night we went to sleep with an innocent little girl hugging her stuffed animal or dolly ever so tight, snoring away so well, Julia snored so and when we woke up, there was a woman demanding the car keys to go to practice after school. Where did the time go? As I say at every funeral, “***Man is of few days and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower and is cut down. He fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.***”

Our time is his quite short. In the grand scheme of things, this world has been going on for at least 10 thousand years, (I say 20,) and our simple 75 to 95 years is not even a single percent on a low scale; we are just a blip on the radar.

We cannot even understand the years as they go by in human life terms with our immediate families, how can we be expected to understand the life that has become renewed by the Holy Ghost in our world as we live in it? We have the awesome responsibility to share what we have in Christ Jesus with a very hostile world that did not ask to have a God or Lord over it. We sow seeds of the Word by what we have learned by watching our parents live their lives in Christ Jesus; we sow seeds of the Word by sharing what we have gleaned from our own reading and learning from Sunday School and Sermons we recall; we sow seeds by living our vocations in the glory of God and forgiving our neighbor seventy times seventy. When of these times have you seen it sprout and grow? And the rare times that you have, what did you think about it? Did you give glory to God that a convert came to the fold? Or did you complain how sincere such display really was?

Jesus preached in parables because we really cannot understand the mind of God and how it works. Indeed, we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ that each may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body whether it be good or bad. The hardened serial killer makes it to heaven because he repents of his sins and asks for true forgiveness. The great humanitarian fails because he trusted in his merits

rather than God's. Why does anyone have to fail to know God when He has brought down the tall tree and made the low tree tall. He is the one that dries up the green tree and makes the dry tree flourish, so why does any person not trust in Him above all things! It truly is because man cannot take away his own sin; it must be dealt with outside himself.

Jesus must go to the cross and be the sinless sacrifice that saved man from himself. He must give His life for the sinner, or there is no hope. And as the Spirit of God moves where and when He wills, we cannot know when the seed takes root, nor understand the growing, but when the full corn appears, we recognize the handy work of God and praise Him for our salvation.

It is most troubling with our children though. We bring them up in the Word of God and they seem to not hear it nor accept it. As dads entrusted to our children's care, we can only trust that we sowed the seed, for sowing seed, you are through your life of faith. We pray the kids do hear and believe the testimony, so that God is praised. May all you do brings glory to God alone. In His Most Holy 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+

Offering / Prayers

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

ⁱ Large Catechism of Martin Luther, 1:108 [*Triglotta, 611*]