

PROPER 17 - 14TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

09/02/18

Mount Calvary, West View

DEUTERONOMY 4: 1-9, EPHESIANS 6: 10-20, MARK 7: 14-23

HYMNS: I KNOW MY FAITH IS FOUNDED LSB# 587,

BY GRACE I'M SAVED, GRACE FREE & BOUNDLESS, LSB #566,

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT, WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT LSB # 664

Theme: List of Sins Again?

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

Our Text is a continuation of Saint Mark's Gospel, the 7th Chapter:

For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, fornication [sexual immorality], theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness [sensuality], envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a man.

Wow, what a list. Let me consult that 667 list that I had last week! .andí yes! They are all covered! Got my pocket list made as well, don't you?i I would think that every good Roman Catholic ó and Lutheran ó would be referring to this handy guide. Individual confessions could be speeded up with a Chinese ordering menu we have here. òYes, Father (or Pastor), I have sinned by committing G-9 and B-4, was thinking about P-9, and still have trouble understanding how Psalm 100 verse 3 is a proof text to understanding the violation of E-22 but its on the list so I have to include that, and we have the list of today, which means I confess T-1, S13, Pr-95, H-28-30, G-5 (did I order that already? Give me a double repent on that one just in case). Iðl take a forgiveness for R-11, R-50, boy, R-2 and P-15 sound awfully the same, E-10, S-36, P-25 don't forget that one its one of my favorites. Now I do not believe I violate E-46 but others have accused me of it so throw that in there just to cover myí ..Self. Wow again. I am full from that menu. How about you?

If you haven't figured it out yet, we have the same problem with our list as Martin Luther did when he was a younger lad. It is impossible to list them all when it comes to listing our sins. There are, as we have just confessed, sins of thoughts, word and deed, things we have done and left undone, and by far, have not loved God with our whole hearts and most certainly not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We certainly do deserve temporal and eternal punishment, if we are truly honest with ourselves, and therein lies the true problem. We are not honest with ourselves, or we would understand the gravity of our sins and the due punishment thereof, fill these pews to overflowing and have more than 10 tables of communion rail attendees. Since we are not honest with ourselves and able to repent of every infraction of God's Holy Law, God gives us the wonderful opportunity to have private confession, found on page 292 in the front of your pew hymnal there (you may have to unstick the pages), or refer to page 310 in your blue hymnal at home. And if you still prefer the Old Red, as I do, there is page 46 for individual as well as corporate use. What I am impressing upon you is that individual confession is not a "Roman" thing to do, it is a Christian thing to do, as Martin Luther encouraged us so to do in the Small Catechism, *"Which sins should we confess? Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even of those which we do not know, as we do in the Lord's prayer (Ah, yes, another reason to pray the Lord's Prayer like voting in Chicago - early and often); but before the Pastor (that is individual confession,) we should confess those sins only which we know and feel in our hearts. And which are these? Here consider your station according to the Ten Commandments, whether you are father, mother, son, daughter, master, mistress, servant; whether you have been disobedient, unfaithful, slothful; whether you have grieved any person by word or deed; whether you have stolen, neglected, or wasted aught, or done other injury.*

Jesus had in our text just berated the pharisees with their accusation that the disciples, and by default, Jesus, defiled the LAW by eating with ceremonially unclean hands. Yet, the ceremonial laws were to prepare for the coming of the Messiah, and by holding onto traditions rather than the true purpose

in looking to the coming Messiah, they have violated their own traditions, and violated God's commandment of taking care of others. The problem lies not in the consumption of the food being unclean, but in the outward actions of their evil thoughts about Jesus and His followers, about their immorality, thievery, murdering, covetous and wicked adulterous generation.

The Jews were big on refraining from certain foods, and for good reason. Really, it was, for God told them NOT to eat such things. It was good for them to follow these rules because it helped them remember the coming of the Messiah, the Lamb of God that will shed His body and blood as the final sacrifice for sins and allow us mere mortals to live again in a state of grace and forgiveness. No longer will we need to prepare and look forward to a coming messiah, but the Messiah, the Savior has come in Christ Jesus our Lord! Because of this, He has declared all foods clean. Maybe Peter forgot this in Acts 10, but no matter; God forgives even the things we do not do. All foods are good for eating ó just do so in moderation. If I eat red meat at every meal, and decide to be a slothful dullard, well, this might not be the best living choice, so I need to be moderate and exercise more. It is best to remember sin this way: the food is not the sin, but when I do sin, I can only blame myself.

For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, fornication [sexual immorality], theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness [sensuality], envy, slander, pride, foolishness. Did Jesus miss anything? Of course not; God doesn't miss anything being omnipotent. Every one of these sins cannot be blamed on anyone else but myself. They come out of me and are a condition of the original sin that is in this old man. *All these evil things come from within, and they defile a man.* I am defiled not because God tempted me, or because the devil made me do it. I am defiled because my very own flesh wishes to do me in. I cannot stop sinning any more than I can stop breathing. Actually, I can stop breathing, and in doing so, I still sin. Wow, sin permeates our very being. We really must come to the reality that we cannot save ourselves.

This is where Jesus steps in. Through the work of the Holy Ghost, and the Word and Sacrament ministry He gives to you, you have been made a New Man in baptism. A New Man has come forth that desires not the old ways, but desires to follow God, and believes in Jesus Christ as the Only Lord and Savior. It trusts that the suffering and dying on the cross IS the salvation won, and that the partaking of the very same Body and Blood at this altar is the forgiveness of EVERY sin, and the garment of my baptism is again white as snow. Just as there is nothing I can eat to make me any better or worse as a person (not to hear PETA say something about that), there is nothing I can do to make me a better Christian. I can only live in faith and allow the New Man to show forth and live a life worthy of the name, Jesus. To do this, God has given me a whole armor to wear to combat the list of sins. I have the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the readiness of the Gospel of peace, and the great shield of faith. For my head, may it ever recall the salvation I have through Jesus Christ my Lord, and protect myself with the sword of the Spirit, the wonderful Word of God.

The thing about this listⁱⁱ is that it separates sins that can be committed towards non-Christians as well as fellow Christians. To me, this is silly. Sins committed towards Christians are no worse than any other sins, we just assume they are. If anything, they should be better, because we should receive forgiveness faster, yes? That is another thing, how fast are you to forgive, knowing that the offender is unable to keep from sinning? Knowing how your life has been changed through the washing of Water and Word, are you as willing to forgive as you have been forgiven? Even of old, our God cautioned us, *öTake care, keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen.ö* What He means is that you have seen the great things God has done for you through Word and Sacrament ministry. Just imagine what He can do to someone else with the same washing of Water and Word and Body and Blood ó there just might be a new man before you! Remember, from the heart comes evil; from God comes everlasting life and forgiveness. 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

ⁱ Refer to last Sunday's sermon for list to print out if you really want to. Read on, and understand the facetiousness of this statement.

ⁱⁱ I am referring to my pocket guide here.