

5TH SUNDAY IN LENT 03/18/18

Mt. Calvary, West View / Pentecost, Avella

JEREMIAH 31: 31-34, HEBREWS 5: 1-10, MARK 10: 35-45

Theme: Cup of Woe

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

Our Text is taken from the Gospel of St. Mark, the 10th chapter:

Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to Him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at My right hand or at My left is not Mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

I mentioned in a sermon two Sundays ago the appreciation of a Lutheran Beverage, the Saintry Brew, the human 40 weight, the pick-me-up-perk, the Jaunty Java, the Bean Brew, a good cup of Joe, black coffee. Not sure what the problem is, but my wife does not like black coffee. I like my coffee just the way I like my women ó just the way God made it. I do not need my wife to change her hair or her personality or her figure ó she is beautiful and perfect just the way God made her, and it is the same with my Lutheran Leaded. Why are there hundreds of thousands different types of additives for coffee, when the whole point of a bitter cup is to drink it bitter, to remind yourself that you are a sinner and deserve no good thing, and yet, God does allow us to have wonderful things, like an Oramøⁱ donut with that bitter cup of woe ó I mean Joe.

Ah, the cup of woe. Today, this is the type of cup being mentioned, although according to my wife, my coffee would be called this, a cup of woe. It is pretty bad. It is strong, bitter, sometimes gritty, but to me, I can handle it! It is not an insurmountable task to drink a 44 ounce tankard of Java Wava; just ask the Bible Class. The Zebedee boys feel the same way about Jesusø

cup of woe. *Jesus said to them, “Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” And they said to Him, “We are able.”*

Yes, they believe they are able to drink that drink, for, as Jesus tells them, *“You do not know what you are asking.”* And He is most certainly right. After all, who among us really understands what it takes to appease the Father from the wrath He has against sin? Last week, we were witnesses to the grumbling of the Israelites that were truly ungrateful for the manna that God had sent for them to survive in the wilderness wondering. They only had to wait a little longer before entering into the land flowing with milk and honey. Yet, they complained because their sin was great against God, refusing to accept the grace of God found in the manna. They could not endure this little cup of suffering, and yet the Zebedee boys think they can handle Jesus’s cup of woe, which holds the entire wrath of the Father against all sins for all time?!

Let me put it another way. If you were told to eat hot dogs and drink water for a month but then you would be allowed to eat steak and potatoes and corn on the cob and Dutch Apple pie and everything else you love to eat, *and* get to wash it all down with your favorite beverage of choice, yes even a big cup of Irish Joe, for the rest of your earthly life, would you do it? I know someone who couldn’t, but I know I could, because the end would be worth it.

This is what the Sons of Zebedee are thinking. They see the end of this ministry of Jesus as a way to be the top of the top, the elite of the elite. After all, they are the top 12 of all those other believers that have been following Jesus around, and as a band of brothers, that have been zealous for Jesus more than any of the others, with the possible exception of Peter, but he was called Satan, remember; and there are two of them, so it would be *natural* for Jesus to pick them to sit at His right and left. They are even gracious enough to let Jesus pick who sits where, as long as it is one of them on His immediate right or left.

What they failed to remember is why Jesus came in the first place. He did not come to establish His throne here on earth ó this is what the pre-dispensationalists and post-dispensationalists have to deal with. Jesus came to die for sins, and to be the final sacrifice for all sins. To bring faith about, Jesus came to tell people that there is a world where God will bring them by faith alone. Just as the Israelites were wondering in the dessert waiting for the promised land, this was not their final resting place. Egypt was not to be their home. The Father wanted to bring them to their new home promised in their covenant, the land flowing with milk and honey. It is the same now. We are but strangers here on earth. The Father in Heaven wants to bring His children from this vale of tears to Himself in heaven; to paradise Jesus said to the malefactor on the cross. This is the New Covenant, in the hearts of every believer, that no longer will we have to tell other believers òknow the Lord,ö for we will all know Him as The One Who brings us to the New heavens and the New earth, by faith alone. This old place will pass away with all its sins and decay. We await the new heaven where the faithful reside when Christ comes to bring you to paradise.

Since James and John were still thinking earthly things concerning Jesusø ministry, of course they could drink the cup and endure the baptism and earn their seats near God. As it turns out, they did indeed have a new baptism and drink from the bitter cup of suffering but not for salvation. Only Jesus can and does drink from that cup, but to suffer for the faith, that others might know Christ Jesus and His dying on the cross for salvation? That they did do, as all the disciples did.

That is where we are my friends. You and I know the Lord, and we know where to find Him. Yes, Jesus came to serve, but know that Him. He is in the Word that we hear given to us from the lectern and the bulletin; He is in the Water and the Word of our Baptism, and every baptism that

is made with the Words of our Lord, making children believers in the One True Faith; He is in the forms of bread and wine for us to eat and to drink so that we might receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life through the forgiveness of all sins. We who know the Lord understand the forgiveness He has earned through His death upon the cross. although we will never understand the agony, the pain, the full price of what it takes to appease the Father from the wrath He has against sin, we do understand the forgiveness. Hence the prayer, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." We who have been forgiven by the most High Priest, Christ Himself, certainly can forgive our neighbor, in order that they too can receive the forgiveness of sins and eternal life by faith in Christ alone.

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to Him who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard for His godly fear. This is how you and I can share the faith of Him Who died, by offering up our own prayers and supplications on behalf of our fellow creation to have peace and comfort in God's Holy Word.

We, too may have to suffer a little while as we endure here on earth, but the new heaven and the new earth are so incredible, so wonderful, it makes our wondering upon this earth worth all the suffering and tears on Christ's behalf. Not only this, but others might see our faith in the midst of trials and might see and believe the Gospel because of your great faith. To have comfort and peace in knowing that Jesus was obedient *through what He suffered; and being made perfect He IS the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.* Certainly you have the faith that trust in Him above all things, *so* share what you know to those who do not understand, that they may have a comfort that surpasses all understanding in Christ Jesus our Lord. In His most Holy Name.

AMEN.

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

Offering / Prayers

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

ⁱ Oramø Donut Shop (A tradition since 1938) is in Beaver Falls, PA. If you have not had an ðOramøö, get one delivered and enjoy! www.orams.com