

March 5, 2021

Lectionary Passages:

Psalm 19

Exodus 19:9b-15

Acts 7:30-40

Selected Verses:

The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure,
making wise the simple;
the precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear,
enlightening the eyes;
More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb.
Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward. – Psalm 19: 7-8, 10-11

The Lord said to Moses: “Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. Have them wash their clothes and prepare for the third day, because on the third day the Lord will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.”

– Genesis 19: 10-11

This is the Moses who said to the Israelites, ‘God will raise up a prophet for you from your own people as he raised me up.’ He is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the angel who spoke to him at Mount Sinai, and with our ancestors; and he received living oracles to give to us. Our ancestors were unwilling to obey him; instead, they pushed him aside, and in their hearts they turned back to Egypt. – Acts 7: 37-39

Devotional:

There are different ways to draw attention to something important. In writing, people use underlining, capital letters, italics, bold, large print, or different colors. When we are talking, we could raise our voice, soften our voice, speak more deliberately, or repeat ourselves. Some preachers I listen to will say something such as, “And now this is the point, listen to this, write this down.” What are other examples you know of people drawing attention to something important?

In the Bible, to draw attention to something important, it is repeated using different words. In the Psalm 19, David is drawing attention to the importance of the Law, for him of the



Bible. The only words from God for David was the Law—the books of Moses. By repeating the phrase, using different images, David was emphasizing the importance of God’s word.

If it is repeated twice it is underlining. In Psalm 19, David used six different expressions. The nouns are: law, decrees, precepts, commandment, fear of the Lord, and ordinances. As a whole, David is stressing the word of God six different times. David had underlined, highlighted, italics, bold, large print, caps and changed the color stressing the importance of God’s word.

Then, he tells us God’s word is more precious than gold, sweeter than the honeycomb. God’s word is pure guiding us into a right relationship with God and one another. When we listen to the word of God, and live by it, the decrees of God are the most precious we have. They taste better than anything else. I have a book titled Eat This Book. The Bible is a book that we are to eat, to taste and see that God is good.

While David only had the books of Moses as the word of God, we have the rest of the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Bible is the word of God for the people of God. In these words we read about the call to be a holy people, a chosen nation. As God’s people we are to meditate on God’s word, realizing the importance God’s call to righteousness as only found in the grace of God through Jesus Christ.

While David stress the importance of the Law, the people had rejected both Moses and Jesus. Moses called the people to consecrate themselves. It would be similar to taking a shower, brush your teeth and putting on your Sunday best. The next day, God would be giving the Israelites the ten commandments. Even so, over and over again the people rejected Moses and in doing so rejected God and wanted to return to the comforts of Egypt. Egypt was the place of bondage and darkness.

In the book of Acts, Stephen is telling people that in days of old, the people rejected Moses. Part of what they rejected was Moses’ prophecy that “God will raise up a prophet for you from your own people as he raised me up.” When Jesus was raised up on the cross, God had raised up his prophet to bring complete release from darkness and bondage. In Christ, “the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45) Jesus paid the price for your redemption.

In order to learn about God’s grace, to find God’s freedom, to gain life eternal, it is important to spend time in God’s word. God’s word revives the soul, makes wise the simple, rejoices the heart, enlightens the eyes, endures forever, are true and righteous. The message of God is sweeter than honey more desired than gold. As followers of God, let us spend time eating the word of God.

Prayer:

Almighty God, you have made your thoughts and desires known to us through your word written in the scriptures and displayed through your son, Jesus Christ. May we learn from your word and follow your commands. Whenever we put ourselves above you, or over your word, forgive us. Remind us to humble ourselves and meditate on your word. Guide us by your Spirit to live out our salvation today. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.