



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast July 12, 2020

Note on the Readings: We can find several common themes and topics in these four readings. A question we can ask ourselves: what is a life in "The Spirit"?

Readings for the 6th Sunday After Pentecost

Genesis 25:19-34: Easu, the older son, gives up his birthright to his brother Jacob.

Psalms 119:105-112: Begins... "Your word is a lantern to my feet and a light upon my path."

Romans 8:1-11: Paul discusses life in the Spirit vs. life in the Flesh.

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23: The parable of The Sower.

Not a sermon...

Once again, Paul (in Romans) is a good place to start. He says there are two mindsets: one self-oriented and the other Spirit-oriented. (vs. 5-6)

"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace."

The first leads to spiritual death and the second leads to life. Self-orientation can be – Paul would say "IS" – inherently in opposition to God, and the lesson is to be mindful of what is in our hearts, that is, what motivates our actions.

The portion of the Psalm for Sunday reads (vs. 105, 111-112)

*"Your word is a lantern to my feet and a light upon my path...
Your decrees are my inheritance for ever; truly, they are the joy of my heart.
I have applied my heart to fulfill your statutes for ever and to the end."*

God's Word is the compass and a life in The Spirit requires staying on the path!

Now, what do we make of the story in Genesis? We can rightly question both Jacob's and Esau's motivations. The end of the reading says, "Thus Esau despised his birthright." Why? He was hungry: "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" Why didn't Jacob just give him some? But no.... "First sell me your birthright." And of course, Esau did.

A lot can be said about the parable of The Sower and the Seeds (remember, words are seeds from the heart). But best to put it like this: "As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit..." Living according to the Flesh vs. living a life in The Spirit.

May it be so. AMEN!
-Blessings, Vance

Prayers for Cynthia living with a cancer diagnosis; Chris having cancer surgery; the safety and good health of residents and visitors to Raquette Lake.

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