

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 14:13-21 8-6-17

BRING YOUR LITTLE TO THE LORD

*“They replied, ‘We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.’”
Matthew 14:17*

Introduction: Have you ever looked at life and felt overwhelmed? Have you ever tried to assess a situation and not known what to do or where to begin?

Jesus’ disciples faced a similar situation when Jesus, after teaching a huge crowd, asked them to feed 5,000 men besides women and children. Jesus’ way of providing for so many instructs us for when we are faced with situations that overwhelm us.

1. Bring what little we are and have to Jesus.
2. Jesus will bless what we give to him.
3. Jesus uses what we give him to accomplish his purposes and provides in abundance.

Why is it not all that bad to feel overwhelmed at times? What might God want to be teaching us?

Bringing our “little to the Lord” is not just for when we feel overwhelmed. It’s a good way to approach how we live our everyday lives.

“When a scarcity exists, our reason can only calculate (how to remedy the situation) and does not want to believe (that God will help).” Ewald Plass, ed., What Luther Says, CPH, 1991, #1294, p. 437.



Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 14:22-33 8-13-17

WALKING ON WAVES

“But when he (Peter) noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, ‘Lord, save me!’” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to

him, ‘You of little faith, why did you doubt?’” Matthew 14:30-31

Introduction - We take “first steps” many times in life. Those moments are often filled with anxiety.

Peter took a “first step” in responding to Jesus’ invitation to come to him on the water, but was soon filled with anxiety as he saw the waves.

- Peter did alright as he kept looking to Jesus. So will we.
- When Peter began to sink, Jesus rescued him. So will Jesus do for us.

The climax of our Gospel is not Peter walking on the water; nor is it Jesus’ rescue of Peter when he began to sink; nor is it even the stilling of the storm. Rather it is the confession and worship of the disciples. As they witnessed what Jesus did, they exclaimed, “*Truly, you are the Son of God.*”

“A Christian modestly says to God: Dear Lord, although I am sure of my position, I am unable to sustain it without Thee. Help Thou me, or I am lost – He is indeed certain of his position, as Peter was on the water (Matt. 14:29). Peter could not be more certain than he was. The water was supporting him. He saw no obstacle in his way. But when the wind came rushing on, he saw what was lacking in him.

This must be taken well to heart. For although we are sure of our position, have Scripture, and are covered and armed with clear passages in the very best way, yet our security depends on the power, the will, and the might of God, who protects us and defends us against the devil, our adversary and greatest enemy.” Ewald Plass, ed., What Luther Says, CPH, 1991, #1294, p. 437.

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 15:10-28 8-20-17

“Have Mercy on Me”

A. Some interesting things about our text.

B. What can we take home from it?

A Luther Sermon Quotation: [Comment: From Luther’s theses of 1543]: 26 *It is truly something horrible that through the wrath of God the whole human race is infected, lost, and condemned by the one sin of one human being. 27 But the magnitude of that wrath is greatly exceeded by the magnitude of the mercy through which a person so exalted as the Son of God was made a Sacrifice for lost human*

beings. (Plass, What Luther Says, 5052, p. 1555)

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 12:1-8 8-27-17

A NEW WAY OF LIVING

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”

Romans 12:1

Introduction – The story of professional golfer Payne Stewart.

In Romans 12 the Apostle Paul describes the on-going work of the Holy Spirit in a believer’s life. Our lives are being shaped as “living sacrifices,” that is, God puts our old nature to death and raises us to new life every day. This process never stops until the day we die and God by his grace once again raises us to new life, this time eternally in heaven.

“I beseech you, therefore, brethren.’ He (Paul) does not say: I command you; for he is preaching to those who already are Christians and are pious through the faith of the new man within them, who are not to be forced by commandments but are to be urged by exhortation voluntarily to give their old sinful nature the treatment it requires. Whoever does not do this voluntarily, merely through the influence of friendly exhortation, is no Christian; and whoever forces the unwilling by the restraints of the Law is simply no Christian preacher or ruler but a worldly jailer.” Ewald Plass, ed., What Luther Says, CPH, 1991, #4893, p. 1312.