

Dear Ones,

In today's passage, all the leaders who had illicit relationships outside of the faith confess their sin, offer a guilt offering, and pledge to put away the illicit relationships. What a colossal mess!

Things we can learn from this passage:

- Sooner or later sin gets revealed. Sunlight is a disinfectant.
- We have fellowship with one another in our sin as well as in our redemption.
- The consequences of sin affect more than just us.
- God is incredibly patient.
- Death (sacrifice) must always accompany sin and confession.

Warmly, Steve

God the Father Calls Us to Worship Him

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

We are now in the season of Easter—a celebration of Jesus' victory over sin and death. Followers of Christ are called to a life of dying to sin, rising to the life of the Spirit, and participating in His reign as the Sovereign Lord. The Church now lives as those who are "risen with Christ," living under His rule.

The tapestry at the front of the WEPC sanctuary is the traditional liturgical color of white for this 50-day season of Easter. The tapestry will return to its many colors during the season of Pentecost. The piece is entitled "<u>Psalm 148</u>," and was created by a team of WEPC artists.

Preparation for Worship

For Their Guilt

"Communion with the Lord dries many tears, but it starts many more... we become burdened with some of the griefs that rend the heart of the Lord." *--F.B. Meyer*

"Our sin is the attempt to live as if we are the authors of our own stories. Our sin is a challenge to God's authorship and a denial that we are characters in the drama of the Kingdom." -- Stanley Hauerwas

"You stand before God as if you were Christ, because Christ stood before God as if He were you—He in your stead, you in His stead. Substitution!" -- Charles Spurgeon

Call to Worship

Revelation 15:3-4

Great and amazing are Your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty!

Just and true are Your ways, O King of the nations!

Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name?

For You alone are holy.

All nations will come and worship You.

For Your righteous acts have been revealed.

Worship Bulletin

Invocation

Song of Adoration

JESUS I COME

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night, Jesus, I come; Jesu,s I come. Into Thy freedom, gladness and light, Jesus, I come to Thee. Out of my sickness into Thy health, Out of my wanting and into Thy wealth, Out of my sin and into Thyself, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss, Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come. Into the glorious gain of Thy cross, Jesus, I come to Thee. Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm, Out of life's storm and into Thy calm, Out of distress into jubilant psalm, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride, Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come. Into Thy blessed will to abide, Jesus, I come to Thee. Out of myself to dwell in Thy love, Out of despair into raptures above, Upward forever on wings like a dove, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb, Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come. Into the joy and light of Thy home, Jesus, I come to Thee. Out of the depths of ruin untold, Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold, Ever Thy glorious face to behold, Jesus, I come to Thee.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." -Matthew 11:28 William Sleeper (1887); Tune: ©2000 Greg Thompson. Used by permission. CCLI #708363

Welcome

We are glad you have joined us this morning! If you are "visiting" our church for the first time, we encourage you to send us an email at <u>mail@wepc.org</u> to introduce yourself, request prayer, or request more information about our church.

Gospel Reading

Luke 19:1-10

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I

restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Reflecting on the Lord's Prayer

Adapted from Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q&A 102 (1647)

What do we mean when we pray, "Thy Kingdom come"?

When we pray "*Thy Kingdom come*"¹ we ask that Satan's kingdom may be destroyed, ² that the Kingdom of grace may be advanced ³ and ourselves and others brought into it and kept in it; ⁴ and that the Kingdom of glory may come quickly. ⁵

¹ Matt 6:10; ² Psalm 68:1,18; ³ Rev 12:10-11; ⁴ II Thess 3:1, Rom 10:1, John 17:9,20; ⁵ Rev 22:20

The Ministry of Prayer

Concluding with the Lord's Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Offering

If participation in the offering is part of your weekly worship, please either mail your offering to the church office (9008 Quioccasin Road, Henrico, VA, 23229) or visit our website (<u>www.wepc.org/resources/giving</u>) for online giving options.

Song of Praise

HELP MY UNBELIEF

I know the Lord is nigh, and would but cannot pray. For Satan meets me when I try, And frights my soul away, and frights my soul away.

I would but can't repent, though I endeavor oft. This stony heart can ne'er relent, Till Jesus makes it soft, till Jesus makes it soft...

> Help my unbelief, help my unbelief, Help my unbelief; my help must come from Thee.

I would but cannot love, though wooed by love divine. No arguments have power to move A soul as base as mine, a soul so base as mine.

I would but cannot rest, in God's most holy will I know what He appoints is best And murmur at it still, I murmur at it still...

"Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, 'I believe; help my unbelief!" -Mark 9:24 John Newton (1779) Tune: ©2007 Clint Wells. Used by permission. CCLI # 708363

Children's Message

Pastor Joe Brown

God the Son Renews Us through His Word

Scripture Reading

Ezra 10:18-44

¹⁸ Now there were found some of the sons of the priests who had married foreign women: Maaseiah, Eliezer, Jarib, and Gedaliah. some of the sons of Jeshua the son of Jozadak and his brothers. ¹⁹ They pledged themselves to put away their wives, and their guilt offering was a ram of the flock for their guilt. 20 Of the sons of Immer: Hanani and Zebadiah. 21 Of the sons of Harim: Maaseiah, Elijah, Shemaiah, Jehiel, and Uzziah. ²² Of the sons of Pashhur: Elioenai, Maaseiah, Ishmael, Nethanel, Jozabad, and Elasah. ²³ Of the Levites: Jozabad, Shimei, Kelaiah (that is, Kelita), Pethahiah, Judah, and Eliezer. ²⁴ Of the singers: Eliashib. Of the gatekeepers: Shallum, Telem, and Uri. ²⁵ And of Israel: of the sons of Parosh: Ramiah, Izziah, Malchijah, Mijamin, Eleazar, Hashabiah, and Benaiah. ²⁶ Of the sons of Elam: Mattaniah, Zechariah, Jehiel, Abdi, Jeremoth, and Elijah. 27 Of the sons of Zattu: Elioenai, Eliashib, Mattaniah, Jeremoth, Zabad, and Aziza, ²⁸ Of the sons of Bebai were Jehohanan, Hananiah, Zabbai, and Athlai. 29 Of the sons of Bani were Meshullam, Malluch, Adaiah, Jashub, Sheal, and Jeremoth. ³⁰ Of the sons of Pahath-moab: Adna, Chelal, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattaniah, Bezalel, Binnui, and Manasseh. ³¹ Of the sons of Harim: Eliezer, Isshijah, Malchijah, Shemaiah, Shimeon, ³² Benjamin, Malluch, and Shemariah. ³³ Of the sons of Hashum: Mattenai, Mattattah, Zabad, Eliphelet, Jeremai, Manasseh, and Shimei. 34 Of the sons of Bani: Maadai, Amram, Uel, ³⁵ Benaiah, Bedeiah, Cheluhi, ³⁶ Vaniah, Meremoth, Eliashib, ³⁷ Mattaniah, Mattenai, Jaasu. ³⁸ Of the sons of Binnui: Shimei, ³⁹ Shelemiah, Nathan, Adaiah, ⁴⁰ Machnadebai, Shashai, Sharai, ⁴¹ Azarel, Shelemiah, Shemariah, ⁴² Shallum, Amariah, and Joseph. ⁴³ Of the sons of Nebo: Jeiel, Mattithiah, Zabad, Zebina, Jaddai, Joel, and Benaiah. ⁴⁴ All these had married foreign women, and some of the women had even borne children.

Sermon

God the Holy Spirit Transforms Us by His Grace

Confession of Sin

from The Valley of Vision

Father, Son, and Holv Spirit, We come before You, in need of Your grace. We have sinned against You and our neighbor. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Too often have we chosen the fruit over the garden. Too often have we bowed down to the golden calf. Too often have we begged for a sign. Too often have we declared Caesar to be Lord. Too often have we demanded to see the wounds in Your hands. Too often have we substituted our image of you, for You. Too often have we neglected Your call to be salt and light. Too often have we reduced following Christ to self-righteousness. Too often have we forgotten Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Too often have we acted on sight and not on faith. Silent Confession of Sin

Words of Encouragement

Zephaniah 3:14-15

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; He has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

Songs of Response to God's Grace

THY MERCY, MY GOD

Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song, The joy of my heart and the boast of my tongue. Thy free grace alone from the first to the last Hath won my affection and bound my soul fast.

Without Thy sweet mercy I could not live here; Sin would reduce me to utter despair. But through Thy free goodness my spirits revive, And He that first made me still keeps me alive.

Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart, Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart. Dissolved by Thy goodness I fall to the ground, And weep to the praise of the mercy I've found.

Great Father of mercies, Thy goodness I own, And the covenant love of Thy crucified Son. All praise to the Spirit Whose whisper divine, Seals mercy and pardon and righteousness mine.

"You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call to you." -Psalm 86:5

John Stocker (1776); Tune: Sandra McCracken, ©2001 Same Old Dress Music (ASCAP). Used by permission. CCLI #708363

JESUS' PRECIOUS BLOOD

What sacred fountain yonder springs Up from the throne of God? And all new covenant blessings brings, Tis Jesus' precious blood.

What mighty sum paid all my debt, When I a bondman stood? And has my soul at freedom set, Tis Jesus' precious blood.

> What stream can sweep away My sins just like a flood? Nor lets one guilty blemish stay, Tis Jesus' precious blood.

What voice is that which speaks for me In heaven's court for good? And from the curse has set me free, Tis Jesus' precious blood.

What theme my soul shall best employ Thy harp before thy God? And make all heaven to ring with joy, Tis Jesus' precious blood.

"I will; be clean." -Matthew 8:3 William J. Irons (1887); Tune: Clint Wells, ©2005 Red Mountain Music. Used by permission, CCLI #708363

KINDNESS

Open up the skies of mercy; Rain down the cleansing flood. Healing waters rise around us, Hear our cries Lord, let 'em rise...

> And it's Your kindness Lord That leads us to repentance; Your favor Lord is our desire. It's Your beauty Lord That makes us stand in silence; And Your love, Your love... is better than life.

We believe Your mercy falling; You turn our hearts back again. Hear our praises rise to heaven, Draw us near Lord, meet us here...

"God's kindness leads you toward repentance." -Romans 2:4 "Your love is better than life." -Psalm 63:3 Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, Louie Giglio, ©2000 Sixsteps Music. Used by permission. CCLI #708363

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below. Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

"Let everything that has breath praise the LORD." -Psalm 150:6 Thomas Ken (1709); Tune: "Old 100^{hn} , Louis Bourgeois (1551)

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality." -*Romans* 12:12-13

Benediction

Pastor Steve Shelby preached today's sermon. Worship was led by Pastor Kevin Greene. Pastor Joe Brown gave today's Children's Message. Kevin Shaffer, Audrey Snyder, and Worship Arts Coordinator Becca Wethered led this morning's congregational singing. Jay Smith and Pastor Joe Brown managed today's audio and video live stream.

Q & A with Pastor Steve Shelby:

Join Steve this morning after the worship service, as he responds (via text) to some of your inquiries related to the worship service. We welcome questions related to the sermon, as well as general responses to something that encouraged your heart during the service. We plan on the Q & A lasting approximately 10 minutes. Please send your texts to **804-608-9372**.