



WEPC Lectionary Project: *Union with Christ*

West End Presbyterian Church is using the Scripture readings recommended by the Revised Common Lectionary as a framework for our corporate worship and our personal and family devotion. This project is part of WEPC's 25th Anniversary Year and will run from December 2018 through November 2019. The Lectionary gives us access to the whole counsel of Scripture and these texts are a means for us to grow in our understanding of our union with Christ.

To learn more and subscribe to a daily email of Daily Scripture Readings, visit www.wepc.org/lectionary.

Sunday, July 14, 2019

The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost: Ordinary Time

[Deuteronomy 30:9-14](#) *The LORD Will Delight in Prospering You*

[Psalm 25:1-10](#) *Teach Me Your Paths*

[Colossians 1:1-14](#) *The Gospel Fruit & Inheritance*

[Luke 10:25-37](#) *Go and Do Likewise*

Monday, July 15

[Psalm 25:11-20](#) *I Take Refuge in You*

[Job 24:1-8](#) *Why?*

[James 2:1-7](#) *Show No Partiality*

Tuesday, July 16

[Psalm 25:11-20](#) *I Take Refuge in You*

[Proverbs 19:1-17](#) *The Poor*

[John 3:11-17](#) *Brother in Need*

Wednesday, July 17

[Psalm 25:11-20](#) *I Take Refuge in You*

[Ecclesiastes 9:13-18](#) *One Sinner Destroys Much Good*

[Matthew 25:31-46](#) *Judgment*

Thursday, July 18

[Psalm 15](#) *He Who Walks Blamelessly*

[Genesis 12:10-20](#) *Abram Defends Himself*

[Hebrews 5:1-6](#) *Christ Did Not Exalt Himself*

Friday, July 19

[Psalm 15](#) *He Who Walks Blamelessly*

[Genesis 13:1-18](#) *Peaceful Resolution*

[Ephesians 3:14-21](#) *His Spirit in Your Inner Being*

Saturday, July 20

[Psalm 15](#) *He Who Walks Blamelessly*

[Genesis 14:1-16](#) *Abram Rescues Lot*

[Luke 8:4-10](#) *Seed & Soils*

You Likewise

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [Luke 10:25-37](#)

²⁵ And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" ²⁷ And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸ And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."

²⁹ But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰ Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead." ³¹ Now

by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴ He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

- With whom do we identify?
- A Lawyer? A very good lawyer. He knows his Bible.
- "Do this and you will live" (28). You will be living the life God desires for you.
- Now, we should pause here for a moment and not rush on too fast to the story Jesus tells next. For first of all, how many of us think this way? That loving God and loving your neighbor is living? That it is living the life God has given you? Or do we not start with a different view of life, a more self-centered view of life? That this is my life, to live how I want, and so think that loving God and loving others is not my life but an intrusion into my life? That if I get interrupted, if I have to stop what I'm doing, if I need to go out of my way to help someone - that's getting in the way of my life and my living of it. That's not fulfilling my life, but taking something away from it. So right off the bat, we may have a whole different way of looking at life than God does.
- How do you deal with the inconveniences others put in front of you?
- But then there's this too: when I do actually help my neighbor, am I loving him as myself? Or even as I do it, am I resenting her for needing my help? Am I bitter toward others for not helping and making me do it? Do I begrudge the expense and the inconvenience? And does that then corrupt my love for God by questioning Him and His ways and His love for me and not wanting the life or the people He has given me? To love them and to receive love from them. And so then we wind up asking: Why me, Lord? Why so long, Lord? Why this, Lord? Why so much, O Lord?
- Which puts us in a difficult position, if loving God and loving neighbor is the law, then I am not only not doing the law, I don't really want to do the law....So let's justify ourselves and "minimize" the law.
- Who is my neighbor? Then Jesus tells this story. Why this story? And Why this way?
- But I wonder if this is just a story, or if this hadn't just happened to the lawyer? If he himself hadn't just passed by someone by the side of the road who had been robbed and needed help? What a shock that would be if he had! Who is my neighbor? You just passed your neighbor, Jesus would be saying! And don't bother trying to go back now. It's too late. Someone else stopped. A Samaritan. Yes, someone you as a Jew look down on and consider a half-breed at best, and someone the world would be a better place without at worst. Someone you don't consider your neighbor. Well guess what? He stopped. He helped. And He didn't just do the minimum required, but even more than that. He had compassion. He was, in fact, filled with mercy. So you tell me, putting me to the test. You who knows the Law, you tell me: Who lived the Law? You or the Samaritan?
- So, how do I "inherit" eternal life?