

Notes for Next Sunday

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Point of this Week's Readings

Old Testament (Jeremiah 23:16-29). Jeremiah had been given a very difficult task by God. The southern kingdom of Judah had fallen into deep idol worship. Jeremiah (also known as the weeping prophet) was called by God to preach repentance to nation of Judah. On top of that he was to announce that, since the Judah refused to repent, they would be led into exile in Babylonia. This was not received well. To make matters worse there were false prophets who contradicted what Jeremiah had to say. Jeremiah had lamented to God about them. In this reading God answers Jeremiah telling him what is going to happen to them and the people who listen to them

Epistle (Hebrews 11:17-31, 12:1-3). In this reading Paul continues to articulate the actions of faith that the heroes of old had exhibited. After ending this listing our text switches to 12:1-3. Like a massive cloud those OT heroes of faith surround the readers, giving vivid example of the endurance and eventual triumph of faith. "Don't give up!" those heroes would shout from the pages of Holy Scripture, "Keep on running? You're on the right track!" (PBC)

Gospel (Luke 12:49-53). Fire can either destroy or it can purify. The fire of God's wrath laid on Jesus will lead to His death and will destroy the power of sin and hell. This fire is first laid on Jesus when He enters the waters of his baptism by John. Now He wishes that His passion was already over. What can be puzzling is Jesus the peace-bearer is also the divider. His message and ministry will bring division because it is not what they were expecting. Families, too, may well be divided over what to make of Jesus.

For more in-depth commentary on each reading, read the notes found after each text below.

OLD TESTAMENT – Jeremiah 23:16-29

¹⁶ This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Do not listen to what the prophets are prophesying to you; they fill you with false hopes. They speak visions from their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD. ¹⁷ They keep saying to those who despise me, 'The LORD says: You will have peace.' ¹⁸ And to all who follow the stubbornness of their hearts they say, 'No harm will come to you.' ¹⁸ But which of them has stood in the council of the LORD to see or to hear his word? Who has listened and heard his word? ¹⁹ See, the storm of the LORD will burst out in wrath, a whirlwind swirling down on the heads of the wicked. ²⁰ The anger of the LORD will not turn back until he fully accomplishes the purposes of his heart. In days to come you will understand it clearly. ²¹ I did not send these prophets, yet they have run with their message; I did not speak to them, yet they have prophesied. ²² But if they had stood in my council, they would have proclaimed my words to my people and would have turned them from their evil ways and from their evil deeds. ²³ "Am I only a God nearby," declares the LORD, "and not a God far away? ²⁴ Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?" declares the LORD. "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" declares the LORD. ²⁵ "I have heard what the prophets say who prophesy lies in my name. They say, 'I had a dream! I had a dream!' ²⁶ How long will this continue in the hearts of these lying prophets, who prophesy the delusions of their own minds? ²⁷ They think the dreams they tell one another will make my people forget my name, just as their fathers forgot my name through Baal worship. ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell his dream, but let the one who has my word speak it faithfully. For what has straw to do with grain?" declares the LORD. ²⁹ "Is not my word like fire," declares the LORD, "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?"

23:16 *visions*. Revelations of their own imagination. (Kretzmann)

23:16 *from their own minds*. See v. 26; 14:14. False prophets are like preachers of a “different gospel” (Gal 1:6–9). (CSB)

23:18 *council of the LORD*. They did not associate with the Lord like the prophets to whom He entrusted the task of “revealing His secret” (Am 3:7). (TLSB)

23:19 *storm ... whirlwind*. A vivid image of God’s wrath. (CSB)

23:27 *my name*. To forget the Lord’s name is tantamount to forgetting him. (CSB)

23:27 *forgot ... through Baal worship*. When Judah’s ancestors forgot God, they began to serve Baal (see Jdg 3:7; 1Sa 12:9–10). (CSB)

EPISTLE – Hebrews 11:17-31, 12:1-3

¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son,¹⁸ even though God had said to him, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.”¹⁹ Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death.²⁰ By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future.²¹ By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph’s sons, and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff.²² By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions about his bones.²³ By faith Moses’ parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king’s edict.²⁴ By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter.²⁵ He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.²⁶ He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.²⁷ By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.²⁸ By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days.³¹ By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.

11:11 BY FAITH – Faith enabled Abraham to become a father even though he was old and Sarah had never been able to have children. Abraham trusted that God would keep his promise. (Concordia Journal – July 2001)

11:13 aliens and strangers on earth. Their true home was in heaven. (CSB)

11:24 Moses...refused. It says, he said no to the elite position and exalted privileges he had as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. By faith he did this, knowing what his decision would cost him. Deliberately he shook off the position of royal blood and chose identification with the [people of God]. (PBC)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.² Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of

God.³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

12:1 run with perseverance. The Christian life is pictured as a long-distance race rather than a short sprint. Some Hebrew Christians were tempted to drop out of the contest because of persecution. (CSB)

12:2 fix our eyes on Jesus. We do this by looking exclusively to Jesus. The word means to rivet one's attention on one person or thing. (Exegetical Notes – Buls)

12:2 perfecter of our faith. Beck renders it: “who gives us our faith from start to finish.” (Exegetical Notes – Buls)

GOSPEL –Luke 12: 49-53

⁴⁹“I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. ⁵²From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. ⁵³They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

12: 51 division. There is no middle ground with respect to Jesus and His rule. A person stands either with Him or against Him. (TLSB)