**Notes for Next Sunday**

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**The Point of this Week’s Readings**

A general thread of staying connected to Christ and His Word flow through all of the readings

Psalm (Psalm 34:12-22). David invites us to learn from his experience so that we will always place our trust in the Lord for deliverance from trouble. This psalm teaches us to fear the Lord and stay close to through His Word. We know that the Lord hears and delivers. The Lord also redeems His servants.

Old Testament (Proverbs 9:1-10). Wisdom is personified as a woman who prepares a house and a feast for all who answer her invitation. That is not to say wisdom is a woman. At times we use feminine pronouns to personify what is not necessarily female. The audience for Wisdom’s invitation is all who lack wisdom but have not yet rejected her. They may not be seeking Wisdom, but she seeks their attention. (TLSB)

Epistle (Ephesians 5:6-21). Now that the Ephesians have become Christians, Paul is teaching them what their life as a Christian should be like. Paul contrasts what he is telling them to do with how they had lived before. The Ephesians are to understand what God’s will is for them in their lives. By keeping their behavior in check Paul reminds them that they are to be a positive witness to those around them.

Gospel(John 6:51-69). Verses 51-58 are not an obvious reference to the Lord’s Supper. However, John records many veiled references to Jesus’ future service, such as His work on the cross. Verses 60-69, deal with people who had been listening to Jesus but had not believed. Now they desert him.

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

**Psalm 34:12-22**

**12﻿ Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days, ﻿13﻿ keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies. ﻿14﻿ Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. ﻿15﻿ The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry; ﻿16﻿ the face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth. ﻿17﻿ The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. ﻿18﻿ The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. ﻿19﻿ A righteous man may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all; ﻿20﻿ he protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken. ﻿21﻿ Evil will slay the wicked; the foes of the righteous will be condemned. ﻿22﻿ The LORD redeems his servants; no one will be condemned who takes refuge in him.**

The following are some insights to individual verses…

*34:14* *seek peace.* This indicates that all such virtues must be cultivated, not halfheartedly, but

with constant and diligent devotion.

*34:16* *face of the Lord.* This means that the Lord has turned with focused intention, in this case, to punish. When Jesus became sin in our stead on the cross, His heavenly Father turned His face away from Him so that He might bear our punishment and be our Savior. (TLSB)

*34:18 brokenhearted.* Christians are not excluded from disappointments, temptations to sin, and other experiences that can test one’s faith or crush it. Yet the Lord is near, and He saves! TLSB)

*34:22* *redeems.* Christ came to free us from the prison of sin, death, and the devil by means of His incarnation, sinless life, preaching, brutal cross, and glorious resurrection. (TLSB)

**Old Testament – Proverbs 9:1-10**

**Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn out its seven pillars. ﻿2﻿ She has prepared her meat and mixed her wine; she has also set her table. ﻿3﻿ She has sent out her maids, and she calls from the highest point of the city. ﻿4﻿ “Let all who are simple come in here!” she says to those who lack judgment. ﻿5﻿ “Come, eat my food and drink the wine I have mixed. ﻿6﻿ Leave your simple ways and you will live; walk in the way of understanding. ﻿7﻿ “Whoever corrects a mocker invites insult; whoever rebukes a wicked man incurs abuse. ﻿8﻿ Do not rebuke a mocker or he will hate you; rebuke a wise man and he will love you. ﻿9﻿ Instruct a wise man and he will be wiser still; teach a righteous man and he will add to his learning. ﻿10﻿ “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.**

The following are some insights to individual verses…

*9:1 seven pillars.* These indicate a large house. Israelite houses were built with pillars on the ground floor to support the upper room, where the family dwelt. As seven is often a sacred number, the house with seven pillars or foundations may refer to the whole earth. (TLSB)

*9:2 set her table*. Here Wisdom prepares for her feast as if by checklist. (TLSB)

*9:4 lack judgment.* To accept Wisdom’s invitation, we must first admit that we need it, that we are among the “simple” and “those who lack judgment.” (PBC)

*9:7* *Whoever corrects a mocker invites insult.* Foolish people are not open to correction and may respond to admonition with defensiveness and counterattack. (TLSB)

*9:8 rebuke a wise man and he will love you.* Those who are wise are open to correction and reproof. They know the value of wisdom, even when it hurts. (TLSB)

*9:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.* The sense of sin leads to repentance, and God bestows His compassion upon those who are penitent. (TLSB) Again we have the key refrain of Proverbs. The book keeps coming back to this because it is central. (PBC)

**Epistle – Ephesians 5:6-21**

**﻿ ﻿6﻿ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient. ﻿7﻿ Therefore do not be partners with them. ﻿8﻿ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ﻿9﻿ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ﻿10﻿ and find out what pleases the Lord. ﻿11﻿ Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ﻿12﻿ For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ﻿13﻿ But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ﻿14﻿ for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: “Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” ﻿15﻿ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ﻿16﻿ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ﻿17﻿ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. ﻿18﻿ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. ﻿19﻿ Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, ﻿20﻿ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ﻿21﻿ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.**

The following are some insights to individual verses…

*5:6 empty words.* Their gentile contemporaries sought to convince the Ephesian Christians that

talk that is mentioned in v.3 and 5 were innocent, harmless pleasures and permissible interests.

Even though they are faulty, one would not immediately go to hell just because he once gave to

natural weakness. These are empty words, void of all truth.

*5:7* *partners.* Although Christians live in normal social relationships with others, as did the Lord Jesus (Lk 5:30–32; 15:1–2), they are not to participate in the sinful life-style of unbelievers. (CSB)

*5:9* *fruit of the light.* A mixed metaphor, but the meaning is clear. Light is productive (consider the effect of light on plant growth), and those who live in God’s light produce the fruit of moral and ethical character (cf. Gal 5:22–23), while those who live in darkness do not. (CSB)

*5:10 find out what pleases the Lord.*” Literally means to “test,” by the standard of God’s Word (Rom. 2:18; 12:2; Php. 1:9-10). (TLSB)

*5:15 be careful how you live.* In order that those without may be won, Christians should be very particular in their conduct, in all that they do. They should walk carefully and prudently. They should turn away from everything that could give offense to Christians and to unbelievers. (Stoeckhardt)

*5:16* *opportunity.* Our text is speaking about making use of opportunities in the interest of the Kingdom of God, whatever that opportunity may be. Unbelievers make use of opportunities to further their own material gain. It is not wrong for Christians to do that. But, in addition to that, they must wisely seize opportunities which are in the interest of God's Kingdom. (Buls)

*5:16 redeeming the time.* Stoeckhardt: Take advantage of the right moment, grasp the opportunity to approach opportunely those who despise God and Christ, to get a hearing for the divine Word, to get in some good work and accomplish something for the Lord. (Buls)

*5:16 days are evil.* The word here means  "actively evil." The world and all that is in it opposes the Kingdom of God. There is so very much immorality, sin and wickedness all around us. But there are opportunities nonetheless. (Buls)

*5:18 debauchery.* It" literally means "unsavingness." The translations are interesting: "excess, debauchery, dissipation, wild living." (Buls)

*5:20 always giving thanks.* This means to have a thankful life-style. It is a good way to keep the heart in good tone. The Christian will always find some cause for thanksgiving. Under the divine control even painful experiences, calamities etc. must bring us spiritual benefits such as driving us closer to God to seek His protection, making us search his Word more earnestly for comfort. (Lenski)

*5:21 submit.* This is taking one’s proper role in God’s order and laying aside one’s selfish interests (Gal. 5:13). Described in detail in Eph. 5:22-6:9. Based on the Greek, verse 21 likely introduces the next section. (TLSB)

**Gospel – John 6:41-69**

**51﻿ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.” ﻿ 52﻿ Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” ﻿53﻿ Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ﻿54﻿ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. ﻿55﻿ For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. ﻿56﻿ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. ﻿57﻿ Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. ﻿58﻿ This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever.” ﻿59﻿ He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum. 60﻿ On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?” ﻿61﻿ Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, “Does this offend you? ﻿62﻿ What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! ﻿63﻿ The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit﻿a﻿ and they are life. ﻿64﻿ Yet there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. ﻿65﻿ He went on to say, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him.” ﻿66﻿ From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. ﻿67﻿ “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve. ﻿68﻿ Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ﻿69﻿ We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.” ﻿**

The following are some insights to individual verses…

*6:51 my flesh, which I will give.* This is looking forward to Calvary. Providing eternal life would be costly to the Giver. (CSB)

*6:52 Jews began to argue sharply among themselves.* This was a heated argument that erupted over Jesus’ language in v. 51, which the audience found offensive. (TLSB)

*6:54 whoever eats my flesh…blood.*  “There is a twofold eating of Christ’s flesh. One is spiritual, which Christ describes especially in John 6:54. This ‘eating’ happens in no other way than with the Spirit and faith, in preaching and meditation on the Gospel, as well as in the Lord’s Supper” (FC SD VII 61). (TLSB)

*6:55 real food…real blood.* Only through faith in Christ crucified do people have what they really need for eternal life, a life with God that earthly food and drink cannot provide. “His flesh is a truly life-giving food and His blood a truly life-giving drink” (FC SD VIII 76). (TLSB)

*6:61 offend.* Offend means to be a “trap” that snares. Here the emphasis is on a "snare" rather than on a "stumbling block." The Truth ensnares the unbeliever, not because it is Truth, but because of the unbelief of the individual. Jesus is not asking for information. He is reminding them of the consequences of unbelief. (Buls)