

Sermon notes for Exaudi 2010 (6th Sunday of Easter)

Jeremiah 31:21-24

John 15:26-16:4

Ephesians 3:14-21

“For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom His whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. 16 I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.”

Grace, Mercy and Peace from our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Last Sunday was Rogate, which means “Ask!” or “Pray!”, today is called Exaudi, which means “Listen”. Listening is something that we rarely do, history repeats itself because we are not prepared to listen, and thereby assumes to learn from it. For some unknown reason we believe that we can do the same sins as our parents or our friends, and get a better result.

“God is dead” - said Nietzsche and so many people say the same thing, so that they can do what they want to, so that they do not have to listen to Him. The world has lost it's Spirituality. (referring only to the Holy Spirit)

Jeremiah – reminding others of Christ

“33 I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. 34 No longer will a man teach his neighbour, or a brother, saying 'Know the Lord' , because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord.”

This time as come and gone. There was a time when the law that God had written on our hearts kept us from doing that which is

wrong. There was a time when God's law kept teenagers from graffiti, and meant that their parents were in church each Sunday. There was a time that the word of God meant that on a Sunday we did not work. But that time has come and gone.

The world whom God had given the Holy Spirit to guide and comfort them, has given the Spirit up. No longer do we do things spiritually, not on a Sunday or on any other day.

All that we know, and understand is revealed to us by the Holy Spirit, without Him we cannot survive or have faith. He sustains faith and fuels it like petrol fuels a car.

Now again we must teach our brothers and sisters, our neighbours, (and ourselves) **“Know the Lord”** because they have forgotten Him. We all have forgotten whom Christ is because we have not maintained our faith.

John - Spiritual exercise

“27 And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning. 16:1 All this I have told you so that you will not go astray.”

In these words are the reason for all of Scripture, **“so that we will not go astray”**, we might think that Scripture and the church is stupid, or old fashioned, but everything in God's word is to keep our salvation secure. And don't be fooled you can lose your salvation so easily in the world today. Sadly there is a good chance you will not even notice that it is slipping from you.

“15 Are they ashamed of their loathsome conduct? No, they have no shame at all; they do not even know how to blush. So they will fall among the fallen; they will be brought down when I punish them, says the Lord.” Jeremiah 6:15

That is why going to church, praying in the morning and in the evening, praying with your children or co-workers, reading your

Bible and talking about Jesus Christ are so important, they are spiritual training that keeps your faith healthy and strong.

Teaching others, admonishing them, witness and testifying to Christ, these are spiritual exercise and not just the Great Commission that was given to all believers. The more you exercise your faith, the safer your salvation is.

What John and also Paul are telling us are that the Spirit that we receive needs to work in us, it needs to be allowed to move our lazy and opinionated butts in the ways of the Lord. Without the Spirit we will not sustain faith, nor will we remain in that faith.

The key to all this is not found in ourselves, but in the one who can and will train and sustain our faith in Jesus Christ, the Spirit whom Jesus sent to the disciples and sends to us.

Ephesians – letting the Spirit reign

Here is a great example of this generation not listening. Paul says, “**For this reason I kneel before the Father, ...**” and He actually qualifies why he is kneeling in the statement, that all Jesus' family in heaven and earth have derived their name from Him. King David(assumed) in Psalm 95 declares the greatness of the Lord and says, “**Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker, for He is our God ...**”

And even Luther in the small prayer for morning and evening says, “**Then either kneeling or standing**”, yet this generation does not believe to kneel before the Lord is important.

How sad it is when we will not heed what greater men and women than we did in respect for God.

There are so many things that we can do to strengthen our faith, to exercise it, so that it will remain strong. And these are the things that are often caught up in the traditions of the church. Things that our forefathers realised were good for faith.

Now it is our turn in this world that would take away our faith, it is our turn to strengthen ourselves and our children, to nurture our neighbours and our brothers and sisters in the faith. It is time to again speak aloud, “Know the Lord” for so many who would have been saved had the world not lost its faith, need to hear from the Lord again. It is time for us to set aside our attitude, or opinions and , to pray to the Lord, to sing, to make a joyful noise, to listen to Him for our salvation lies in Him and living out that salvation can only be done in Him.

What Nietzsche forgot was that Jesus might have been dead, but He rose again from that death, and ascended into heaven. God is not dead, He is alive, and the only 'dead' is Nietzsche.

It is time for us to embrace the Spirit again, to call upon the living God to come and live within us, guide us and direct us. It is time again that the Spirit determine our attitude and not we ourselves, that He might reign in our lives. It is time again that the words on our lips and the songs in our hearts are words about Jesus Christ. It is time again that we become more Spiritual in everything that we do.

Amen

AM 5770