



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY August 11 & BEYOND”

“Faith is not closing your eyes; Faith is seeing”



Some very powerful scripture verses will fill the air on Sunday morning in All Saints' Church during our 8am and 10:30am times for worship of the Lord God. You are certainly invited to join the parish as it gathers at those times.

The power scriptures are those that have to do with faith, with very familiar stories and instructions. All three of the lessons you will hear are about faith, both the faith that describes what we are doing right now, and the faith that we are asked to hold for things that haven't yet happened – and may never happen in our lifetime!

I'm not sure which is the hardest, which is the easiest. One seems to be within our understanding of time, and one outside of our timeframe altogether.

Two of the most famous would be the promise given to Abraham, and about the second coming of Jesus. Regarding the promise to Abraham, Abraham received and held onto it by faith as God had said it to him. It wasn't easy, and Abraham had at least two times of accepting advice to jump the gun, so to speak. But he was reminded, and it was made further clear, and he was on board.

For instance, from our first lesson, the one usually which is from what we call the Old Testament, we hear that at the encouragement of Sarah, Abraham caused a child to be conceived in her maidservant. The Lord's response in specific was “...No one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” Which means between he and Sarah, to whom the promise was given as well, and no other woman. He brought Abraham outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” And Abraham believed the LORD; and the LORD^[a] reckoned it to him as righteousness.

What happens next? Sarah will conceive at her “advanced” age, and she will give birth to a healthy baby boy, and they will name him Isaac. This was the physical, worldly sign of Abrahams willingness to believe, to have faith. But Abraham and Sarah would die before they saw the fullness of that vision world, countless descendants more than

the number of stars in the heavens. But they still believed, even if they didn't see it when they died. That's faith, too. Faith in things that haven't yet happened.

And so, we will hear the author of the Letter to the Hebrews say, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

And then Jesus would bring it home as to our human emotional response when things haven't yet happened, "

"Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. [But STILL] "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit."

Would it be easier to believe Jesus would rise from the dead on the third day, like he SAID he would? Or to believe that - even though you don't know when - he would be returning again? The first, our time, is something like, "Oh, that's just impossible." The second, God's timing, is so often forgotten, or by impatience rejected.

Would it be easier for Abraham to believe that his wife of about 80 years of age could actually conceive, if they could even get that far? Or to believe that one way or the other God would provide countless descendants, never to be seen anyway?

And for Noah! Oh, man, there is some SERIOUS faith there.

Two things for your consideration:

The faith with which these men and women eventually responded to God's promises was the very thing that would bring them into eternal life with God the Father in heaven. That faith "reckoning of righteousness" is exactly what God is looking for in each of us. He's made infinitely clearer for us now by the promise that if we - You - would believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and is risen from the dead, then we too - You, too - will be ushered into eternal life. Wahoo! (you may translate that as "Alleluia!").

The second thing is that you don't have to be a Noah, or a Moses, or an Enoch, or an Abraham, or a Mary, the Mother of our Lord, or even Jesus, to prove such faith. The promise of God is a "now" time. And even the barest confession of believing in Jesus will mark you as an eternity-bound, faith-filled believer.

These moments in our time become the landmarks for the times of faith needed for the "God's timing we can't see yet" requirement of faith. Holding on to the faithful God we have NOW, will help utter our belief in the things to come, but that we may not see.

My advice is to fill your ears, your eyes, your heads, your hopes with things that God is doing NOW, so that you will have faith to hold onto the things to come. The easiest way is:

1) Read consistently the record of God’s mighty works in creation, and all along the way in the lives of men, women, boys and girls.

2) When you need help for an answered prayer, a healing, a provision of some sort, or maybe even a conception, your faith means asking God for it, and asking others to help you by joining their faith in God by agreeing with you for those prayer requests.

Whether for this “time” or for the “time to come”, “having faith” means not blindness, it means “seeing” what can be by trusting in God.

Fr. Robert G. Eaton, Interim Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 15:1-6 Psalm 33:12-15, 18-22 Hebrews 11:1-16 Luke 12:32-40

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30a Low Mass (Church)
10:30a Solemn High Mass (Church)
AA Meeting
7:00p Little Apple Group (Parish Hall)

—The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue—

Note: Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary’s Chapel)

FRIDAY AA Meetings
8:00p Ladies’ Group (Fireside Room)
8:15p Men’s Group (Parish Hall)

SUNDAY The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
8:00am Low Mass
10:30am Solemn Mass
AA Meeting
7:00p Little Apple Group (Parish Hall)