



KIDS' LECTIONARY LEARNING TEACHING SUPPLEMENT

5TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SUNDAY, JULY 2ND, 2023

BIBLE LESSONS:
ROMANS 7:1-13
MATT. 10:34-42

In the Gospel lesson today, Matthew shares Jesus' words to us about the eternal rewards in heaven. In verse 39 Jesus tells us that putting too much emphasis on the things of earth is dangerous. He is not telling us that we should not be happy in our life on earth, because God placed us here and provided it for our enjoyment. He is saying that we can be assured of a wonderful home waiting for us once we arrive in heaven.

Like last week's Gospel lesson from Matthew, Jesus is once again warning us that life on earth will be challenging, and that while many people will join us in following Him, we will also face difficulties, some even from within our own family.

We will fail repeatedly to put Jesus first and to follow Him, even to our intentions, but thankfully, what we are unable to do on our own, Jesus has already done for us. He perfectly followed the path that our heavenly Father put in front of Him, making it possible for us to have peace. This peace is something we could never achieve on our own and so that is why using the hymnal and liturgy the pastor uses in worship will bless us with the "peace that passes all human understanding".

In today's Epistle reading Paul is sharing with the Romans that same message of peace. He tells us that through Christ's death we are freed from the mirror of the law that on its own would show us our sins but was not able to give us power to stop sinning. Only God has that power and sent His Son Jesus to pay the penalty for us so that we would be forgiven, free and have peace.

What a comfort to know that we are loved so much! God knows our weakness; He knows that we are sinful and cannot follow the law perfectly. Jesus was sent to be with us, take care of our sins, and tell us why He was here and what he was doing so that we would know God's love and have peace.

Even in today's Old Testament lesson we hear Jeremiah's prophecies about God's gift of Jesus being the only one who can bring true peace.



Prayer

Let us pray together: Dear Father in heaven, thank you for sending us Jesus, the only one who can perfectly obey the law, take away sin and bring us true peace. In His name we pray. Amen.