

and, through our obedience, the grace we enjoy “spills out” of our hearts and touches those around us with the love of God. May God’s abundant grace be poured out on all peoples through us because of our faithfulness to God.

Psalms 69; 1 Corinthians 3:16-23; Matthew 5:11-16

Birthdays: Betsy Landry, Julia Buckley, Cooper Freese, Jeanine Webster

Friday’s Calendar:
7:00 a.m. Hour of Power AA
9:30 a.m. Life Group
10:00 a.m. Bible Study
12:00 p.m. A Way Out
8:00 p.m. AA Friday Nite Young People

Today’s Ministry: Choir

Saturday, September 23

Matthew 5:17-20 *“Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”* (v.20)

Whoa! How can this be? The scribes and Pharisees were meticulous in trying to obey the law. How can we ever hope to be more righteous than they? For people it is impossible, but not for God. The Pharisees were trying to earn God’s favor by following the law instead of trusting God. When they failed in even the most minor of points of the law they were done for, like only one link breaking in a chain. Jesus perfectly fulfilled the law, unlike the Pharisees, and his righteousness is given to us as a gift when we accept that gift by faith. Then our righteousness, which Jesus has given to us, does exceed that of the Pharisees.

This faith then begins to grow; and in time, with some maturity, we bear fruit which glorifies Jesus in our lives. This fruit bearing is the evidence that we live by faith (cf. Matthew 7:16; Galatians 5:16-24). What type of fruit do you see in your life? Is it Spirit led and righteous or “fleshy?” Paul warns “Examine yourselves, to see whether you are holding to your faith. Test yourselves” (2 Corinthians 13:5). Remember “worldviews” from earlier in the week? What is your worldview? Self-centered or God-centered? Pharisaic or Faithful? May the righteous fruit of Jesus come forth from our lives every day so he is glorified.

2 Kings 2:1-18; Psalms 75, 76; 1 Corinthians 4:1-7

Birthdays: Samuel D'Auria, Trey Fritz

Anniversaries: Alan & Carol Block

Saturday’s Calendar:
9:30 a.m. Step Sisters Meeting
10:00 a.m. Bible Study ONLINE
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
8:30 p.m. Not Alone Group

Today’s Ministry: Coffee Hour Ministry

by **Andrew Doan**

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“Growing into Jesus - Reaching out with Love”

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ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH Good News Daily

Volume XXIII

September 17-23, 2023

Number 38

Sunday, September 17

John 11:45-57 *“This man performs many signs. If we let him go on thus, every one will believe in him, and the Romans will come and destroy both our holy place and our nation.”* (vv.47b-48 NKJV)

A clash of worldviews! Everyone has what is called a worldview. A worldview is one’s internal way of understanding and making sense of reality. Some have a worldview which includes God (or at least a god). Others have a worldview in which there is no God, where this world, or life this side of the grave, is all there is and there is no more. The former is known as a “theistic” worldview and the latter is known as “atheistic.” These are the extremes of the spectrum, and all people possess a worldview somewhere between these poles.

It is interesting that even in Jesus’ day, among a people believed to be totally theistic, we see evidence of a human-centered worldview. I have often thought this was a much more recent phenomena. The Pharisees were concentrating on the things of this world and placing the most importance on them, instead of seeking God and what He might be doing. Notice the focus of their concern: “our holy place and our nation.” In these words they betrayed that they thought more about their needs, wants, and desires than they did about what God wants and desires.

Begin this week to examine your worldview. Watch how you pray, the words you use in conversation, etc. What is your worldview?

1 Kings 19:8-21; Psalms 24, 29; Acts 5:34-42

Birthdays: Sophia Saunders, Marie Van Scoy, Cynthia Putnam

Anniversaries: Mary & James Gordon

Sunday’s Calendar :
7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:00 a.m. Contemporary Family Worship
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Today’s Ministry: Altar Guild

Monday, September 18

1 Kings 21:1-16 *“I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.”* (v.7b)

We're all familiar with the phrase, "The end justifies the means." That is a phrase that betrays a very "worldly" way of thinking. "It doesn't matter how one gets there, as long as you get there." Jezebel is one of those in history that portrays to us, in sometimes shocking clarity, this philosophy. She had no regard for the one true God at all. Her "god" was the Canaanite god, Baal, which was believed to have dominion over the earth. Still, her actions do not appear to have been prayerful to this idol in the least, and she had a plan to get what she and Ahab wanted—and get it quickly. In that respect, her actions revealed her atheistic worldview.

Sometimes Christians act in the same way as Jezebel, in that they run off and do something that they are sure God wants them to do without taking time to seek Him in prayer. They thus betray a bit of the same type of worldview—an "I know what's best" thinking.

Once, in Florida, a young boy wanted to help his dad. Since it had not rained for some days, the youngster, on his own, turned on the pump to the sprinkler system, as he had done many times at his father's request. Fortunately, the dad heard the pump turn on and went to investigate. Fortunate because had the pump run long enough it would have burned out because the valves had not been opened to allow water to flow. The very same action that had been desirable to his father before was this time undesirable.

May we be people faithful to the God, our Father, in seeking, listening, and following Him in all things every day.

Psalms 56, 57, 58; 1 Corinthians 1:1-19; Matthew 4:1-11

Birthdays: Ben Norris

Anniversaries: Audley Haynes & Winsome Coley-Haynes

Monday's Calendar:

7:00 a.m. Hour of Power AA
 10:00 a.m. Praying Hands (1st & 3rd Mondays)
 3:00 p.m. Daughters of the King (2nd Mondays)
 5:45 p.m. ACOA

Today's Ministry: AV Team

Tuesday, September 19

1 Corinthians 1:20-31 *The foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.* (v.25)

A friend of mine has said, "Religion is man's attempt to reach God. Jesus is God's attempt to reach man." How many times do we try to figure things out, try to make sense of what is happening in the world or our personal lives, without consulting Jesus or God's inspired Scripture? Some who read the Good News Daily, perhaps read the meditations and never open the Bible—as if what I and others have to say is in some way more meaningful than what God has to say. There will be times when that is all we will be able to do—read the short passage at the start of the meditation and then jump into what follows, but that should be the exception rather than the rule. As one of my seminary professors said, "Read the Bible. It sheds a lot of light on the commentaries."

Godly wisdom versus worldly wisdom; which one do you employ in your thinking? How do we know? By soaking ourselves in Scripture and praying that God will send His Holy Spirit to "guide us into all truth" (John 16:13).

1 Kings 21:17-29; Psalms 61, 62; Matthew 4:12-17

Birthdays: Michael Ferrera, Davin Badzinski

Tuesday's Calendar:

7:00 a.m. Hour of Power AA
 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
 9:30 a.m. Life Group ONLINE
 12:10 p.m. Healing Service

Today's Ministry: Backpack Buddies

Wednesday, September 20

Matthew 4:18-25 *"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."* (v.19)

What if Simon Peter and Andrew didn't want to be "fishers of men"? Would their discipleship have ended right there, or would they have been able to continue to be counted among the faithful while continuing to live as they saw fit and not as Jesus saw fit?

With the proclamation of Jesus being Lord also comes the authority of Jesus to redirect our paths to the fulfilling of His Father's will, not ours in our personal lives. Do we realize that Jesus has done just that for each of us who call ourselves Christian? We need to remember our baptismal promises and Jesus' words at the end of Matthew's Gospel: "All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Go, therefore and make disciples... teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you."

The Church in our day needs to remember and act on the direction whereby Jesus has redirected us. Each of us should be actively doing our part, as directed by Jesus through our local congregation, to the living out of this mandate, empowered by the Holy Spirit. If we are not, or are not conscious of it, what does that say about our worldview (see Sunday's meditation)?

1 Kings 22:1-28; Psalm 72; 1 Corinthians 2:1-13

Birthdays: Bob Kloppenborg, Jacki Nardone, Dax Ferraro, Meghan Faulkner, Vicky Witkowski

Anniversaries: Flip & Sandy Banyard

Wednesday's Calendar:

6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study
 7:00 a.m. Hour of Power AA
 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
 10:00 a.m. Life Group
 4:30 p.m. Mary's Kitchen
 6:00 p.m. NAMI

Today's Ministry: Bible Study Groups

Thursday, September 21

1 Corinthians 2:14—3:15 *For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it.* (vv.9-10a)

More than 120 years ago, evangelist D. L. Moody said, "It can be done, it ought to be done, it must be done" about the evangelization of the world by 1900. Mission— carrying the gospel to people in all parts of the world who have not heard it—is of primary importance to the Church.

The call to missions, which has been said to be the "unfinished task," is doable soon, especially if Moody thought it was doable more than a century ago. With the incredible expanse of world wealth, and the explosion of technology, it is literally possible to reach all people groups with the gospel by the end of this decade. But does the Church Jesus founded have the desire? What is your attitude toward missions? What does your attitude tell you about your worldview? Let us pray, let us give, let us sacrifice, let us give ourselves to the spread of the gospel in all places, to all peoples.

1 Kings 22:29-45; Psalms 70, 71; Matthew 5:1-10

Birthdays: Ryan Strom, Quin Calkins, Jeri Gumbinner, Dr. Terry Scheid, Lillian Garcia

Anniversaries: Dick & Missy Guiles

Thursday's Calendar:

Choir Rehearsal Begins
 7:00 a.m. Hour of Power AA
 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
 1:30 p.m. Grief Support Group
 4:30 p.m. Life Group, Smith Hall
 7:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Stepping Stones

Today's Ministry: Chalice Bearers

Friday, September 22

2 Kings 1:2-17 *"O man of God, I pray you, let my life, and the life of these fifty servants of yours, be precious in your sight."* (v.13b)

This captain of fifty portrayed a different attitude, regardless of what motivated it, from the previous two captains of fifty. All three addressed Elijah as "man of God," but the first two treated him as though Ahaziah was supreme: "This is the king's order, 'Come down quickly.'" The third acknowledged God as supreme by pleading for mercy. This shows that the third soldier was genuine at least at that time, whereas the first two were not; God was not in their hearts.

This points up the difference that can exist between the words we use and the attitude, or truth, that is in our hearts. Using the right words does not automatically secure God's mercy nor the mercy of His servants. Sometimes we are tempted to succumb to the pressure to conform to the standards set by culture or superiors. We rationalize that "God will understand what is in my heart," and further give ourselves the OK to disobey God because we are saved by faith, not by works. But attitude and obedience are manifestations of what really is in our hearts;