

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map

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Jeremiah 23:23-29

August 17 & 18, 2019

Share Yahweh's zeal for the faithful proclamation of his word.

- I hope it was clear - Yahweh was worked up, pointed, zealous
 - ♦ Justly angry that he was misrepresented by false preachers
 - ♦ Deeply concerned for his people. ...*make my people forget my name*
- The context reveals the problem - what made Yahweh so upset.

¹⁶ *This is what the LORD Almighty says:*

“Do not listen to what the prophets are prophesying to you; they fill you with false hopes.

They speak visions from their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD.

¹⁷ *They keep saying to those who despise me,*

‘The LORD says: You will have peace.’

And to all who follow the stubbornness of their hearts they say, ‘No harm will come to you.’ ...

¹⁹ *See, the storm of the LORD will burst out in wrath, a whirlwind swirling down on the heads of the wicked.*

²⁰ *The anger of the LORD will not turn back until he fully accomplishes the purposes of his heart.*

- ♦ Note: **the LORD** = Yahweh, *the God of faithful covenant saving love*
- ♦ Yahweh's passion: **rescue people from the ravages of sin**
- ♦ God works it with his word. Mess with his word = rescue aborted!
 - Yahweh is zealous for his passion to save. Don't mess with it!
 - The saved, seeing the problem and solution, share his zeal. They...

Share Yahweh's zeal for the faithful proclamation of his word.

- ❖ Those who know his salvation dare not be lukewarm about his word.
 - Those who know the crushing, destructive power of guilt and shame
 - Those who've experienced the bait-and-switch fake promises of *pleasure*
 - Those who sadly know sin's power to enslave, plague, and addict
 - Those who know the self-loathing of giving in - they know sin is **BAD!**
 - Then God's word reveals the stunning, amazing, healing, and uplifting news of Yahweh's restorative undeserved forgiving embrace in Christ - only a dead fool would not be passionate about this!
 - ♦ The rescued are zealous to never let anyone rob them of his saving word.
 - ♦ The rescued are not happy to see false preachers rob others of it.
- Yahweh says: ...*let the one who has my word speak it faithfully.*
 - ♦ Obviously those given the word to publicly proclaim
 - ♦ Also all who know, believe, and rely on it for daily deliverance & hope

- ❖ Watch out for people-pleasing preachers of false peace!
 - The false goal for religion: comfort, feel good, tell us: *All is well. Peace.*
 - ♦ *God wants you to be happy, so do what makes you happy.*
 - ♦ *Don't talk about sin. It makes people uncomfortable. Just comfort them.*
 - Karl Marx was half right. **Such religion is an opium for the people.**
 - ♦ Offering a false and delusional relief, until reality hits in life and death.
 - Pious sounding religious platitudes surround us - fill our culture
 - ♦ The falsely called *evangelists* (TV): *You can do it. You're great!*
 - ♦ Use the *freedom of religion* to concoct our own anything pizza religion
 - ♦ Sympathy cards that offer hope even for the unbelievers.
 - ♦ People who've had life-after-death experiences: *all go to a good place*
 - ♦ Finding hope that your loved one who died has come back to visit you as a cardinal, a hummingbird, butterfly, mouse, or cat.
 - At death their spirit goes to heaven or hell. They don't visit us!
- ❖ Ask: ...**what has straw to do with grain?**
 - *Straw*: the golden dry straw-like stem that once held up the grain.
 - ♦ Unlike hay (dry grass to feed animals), straw has **no** nutritional value.
 - ♦ Separated from grain for bedding, mulch, or to be burned.
 - The life sustaining nutrition is only in the grain.
 - Only God's word gives life and provides human spiritual nutrition!
 - ♦ *False peace* makes people feel full - while starving them to death.
 - ♦ *Man-made religious sounding messages* are empty calories.
 - Similar to fast-food. Seem to satisfy - but in the long run, not healthy
 - Go for the grain! Develop a healthy zeal for God's healthy word.
 - ♦ The more you know there's no substitute, you'll not accept substitutes.
 - ♦ The more you see even a little fake stuff makes *dog dropping brownies*
 - ♦ The more you taste Yahweh's zeal to save with the gospel
 - The more you'll be truly evangelical - use the gospel to save **from** sin
 - Never to minimize sin, let alone approve of or promote sin!
 - You'll avoid being a doctrine-nazi: a legalist trying to use law to save
 - The mission of God and his word: save people from sin's reign and ruin
 - ♦ Only God's word - law & gospel properly applied - can do that.
 - ♦ Mess with God's word - you mess with God's mission.

Our church body is known for carefully caring about God's word - what we teach, preach, and practice. Let it never be about us. It's about God's mission.

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