

A Follow Up Bible Study

Building on the Messages of the Lessons from the 4th Sunday of Easter

Peace Ev. Lutheran Church

June 10, 2020

Sermon for June 7, 2020

Text: 2 Corinthians 13:11-14

Theme: The Triune God - what a God! What a blessing!

Warm Up

Share: Our Sunday Services usually begin with the Trinitarian Invocation (*In the name of the Father...*) or the Apostolic Blessing from our text. Which one do you **personally** prefer and why? Or share what you appreciate about each one.

1. 2nd Lesson: 2 Corinthians 13:11-14

Read this Lesson.

Share your *takeaways* from last Sunday's sermon.

- ❖ Insights you gained. - Something you want to remember. - Questions you have.
- ❖ Tangential thoughts that occurred to you.

2. We call v. 14 a benediction or blessing. What makes it a blessing?

3. In the Catechism we summarize the chief work of each person of the Trinity with the words: *Creation (Providence), Redemption, and Sanctification*. **Connect and compare** these summary words with the words Paul uses in this blessing.

God the Father: Creation/Providence - love

Lord Jesus Christ - the Son: Redemption - grace

Holy Spirit: Sanctification - fellowship

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4. In the sermon we noted: What other god is known for giving grace, love, and fellowship to his or her worshipers? In all other faiths these are gifts worshipers seek through their spiritual actions, without the guarantee that they will have them. Try to put yourself in the place of such adherents.

What would you expect they are feeling or experiencing?

What are they coping with?

How do they cope?

Thinking about these things **opens our hearts** to empathetically care for those not in Christ, gives us insights to **be open to listen** to their struggles, helps **us appreciate** what we have in the Triune God, and **prepares us** to share God's gifts with them.

5. What insights can you share from your life's experience about the common sentiment in our culture expressed when people say, "*she/he is in a better place,*" when speaking of someone who died? What's their assumptions about God and about the afterlife?

6. In the sermon I asked: Is it clear to you? Restored fellowship summarizes God's goal and mission: *be reconciled to God and each other by God's grace and love.*

Did the sermon help make this clear? Have you ever thought of *fellowship* as **God's goal**?

What comes to mind when you hear the word *fellowship*?

Some say God's goal is *to have a relationship with us*. That begs the question: *What kind of relationship?* There are all kinds of *relationships* that do not model what God wants. List examples.

List relationships God has prepared for us.

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Use the term and concept of *fellowship* to explain:

Justification:

Sanctification:

Glorification:

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 28:18-20

7. The *Therefore* in v. 19 is based on, *All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*

What does Jesus mean when he says, *All authority ...has been given to me?*

On what bases was it given to him? Who is Jesus claiming to be with these words?

8. In this commission Jesus reveals his plan for using his authority. What is it?

What tools did Jesus use/authorize to accomplish this? What tools are thus excluded?

9. The EHV translates: *go and gather disciples.* The NIV: *go and make disciples.*

What's the strength and potential weakness of each translation?

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First Lesson: Genesis 1:1-2:

10. While God does not reveal that he is Triune in the Old Testament he *leaves a trails of crumbs* that lead us to the New Testament revelation. Where in the Creation account does God hint at his nature as three persons?

11. Sound interpretation of any text in any writing begins by asking what kind of literature is it. What does the author offer us? ex. poetry - myth - fable - parable - a historic account.

Point out the earmark of this account that makes this clear.

12. What's the real surprise in what God did on the 4th Day?

The NIV11 translates *sacred times*. What does that sound like to you?

13. What in the text reveals that humans are the crown of God's creation?