**Notes for Next Sunday**

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

OLD TESTAMENT – Deuteronomy 7:6-9

**﻿6﻿ For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession. ﻿7﻿ The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. ﻿8﻿ But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ﻿9﻿ Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.**

V. 6 *holy.* This means separated from all corrupting people or things and consecrated totally to the Lord.

V. 7 *chosen.* Israel might have asked: Did the Lord choose us because we were bigger or greater than other nations? The Lord’s choice wasn’t grounded in any quality found in Israel; it arose instead from a quality found in God. The old poem, “How odd of God to choose the Jews,” underscores how unexpected and unmerited that choice was. That’s what we call grace, God’s remarkable mercy and faithfulness toward sinners who don’t deserve either one.

V. 8 *because the Lord loved you.* The “covenant of love” (vv. 9, 12) stems from God’s love for his people, as expressed in his covenant; it does not stem from the numerical greatness of the people or any virtue of theirs. His love must be reciprocated by his people. (CSB)

V. 9 *Know … that the Lord… is God.* Psalm 100:3 says it well. “Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. (ESV)

V. 9 *thousand generations of those who love him.* This was treaty language of the ancient Near East. The “love” owed to the great king was a conventional term for total allegiance and implicit trust expressing itself in obedient service. (CSB)

By this Israel was to know that Jehovah their God was the true God. He was the faithful God, who keeps His covenant, showing mercy to those who love Him. He did so to the thousandth generation, but repaying those who openly showed their hatred to His face. In this development of the nature of God, Moses introduces as a warning not to forfeit the mercy of God, or to draw upon themselves His holy wrath by falling into idolatry.

GOSPEL – Matthew 13:44-52

**44﻿ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.**

**45﻿ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine Pearls. ﻿46﻿ When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. 47﻿ “Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. ﻿48﻿ When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. ﻿49﻿ This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous ﻿50﻿ and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ﻿51﻿ “Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked. “Yes,” they replied. ﻿52﻿ He said to them, “Therefore every teacher of the law who has been instructed about the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old**.”

The Point of these Parables is:

We people are greatly valued and Christ gave up all to redeem us and make us His children.

Verse 44 – Different interpretations of this parable exist. One may naturally see the man as any man and the treasure as the kingdom he discovers. However, a more Christ-centered interpretation describes the field as the world, the treasure as you (the hearer), and the man as Christ, who gives up the glory of heaven to win you. (TLSB)

Jesus gave up the glory He possessed from eternity past as He emptied Himself and took on the form of a servant in His incarnation. His entire ministry, culminating in His death and resurrection, can be compared to the extravagant action of purchasing. (CC – Gibbs)

Verses 45-46 – The man/merchant did whatever it took in order to possess what he valued so highly, even to the point of selling everything he had. So has Jesus done what is needed to be done to possess His holy Christian church on earth today. We disciples may often feel buried under the challenges and dangers presented by our own sinful flesh, by the hostile world around us, and by the great enemy and father of lies. But, there need be no doubt that we belong to Jesus. We have been acquired. Christ has purchased us at the price of everything that He had. In the breathtaking reckoning of grace, we are as a treasure to him. Secure in that confidence, we can continue to follow Him. (CC – Gibbs)