**Notes for Next Sunday**

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

**The Point of this Week’s Readings**

Three of our readings deal with God providing for His own.

Psalm (Psalm 34:1-8). This is a psalm of Praise for the Lord’s deliverance in answer to prayer. Verses 1-3 speak of a commitment to continual praise—to the encouragement of the godly who are afflicted. Verses 4-7 are about God’s saving answer to prayer. Verse 8 is the first of 10 imperatives which invites the hearer to believe and trust in the Lord for salvation and all good things.

Old Testament (1 Kings 19:1-8). Elijah is coming off of an incredible victory over the prophets of Baal. God had answered his prayer to send fire on his sacrifice even after he poured 12 barrels of water on it. At the death of Baal’s prophets, Jezebel threatens Elijah’s life and he falls into a deep depression. Our text shows how low Elijah has sunk and how God continues to care for him.

Epistle (Ephesians 4:17-5:2). Paul begins the second half of his epistle by exhorting the Ephesians, “live a life worthy of the calling you have received” (4:1). This recalls 2:10, where Paul reminds them that Christians are “created in Christ Jesus to do good works” which God has “prepared in advance for us to do.”

Gospel (John 6:35-51). The bread of life discourse occurs in a Passover context (6:4). It brings to mind the sacrifice of Jesus will offer to atone for sin. By giving His flesh for the life of the world, Jesus declares this atonement is universal. Jesus’ teaching here will soon divide those who believe in Him (His disciples) from those who do not; those offended by His words about eating His flesh will withdraw from Him (6:66).

*For more in-depth commentary on each reading, read the notes found after each text below.*

**Psalm 34:1-8**

**I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. ﻿2﻿ My soul will boast in the LORD; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. ﻿3﻿ Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together. ﻿4﻿ I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. ﻿5﻿ Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame. ﻿6﻿ This poor man called, and the LORD heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles. ﻿7﻿ The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them. ﻿8﻿ Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.**

The following are some insights to individual verses…

*34:1 I will extol/bless the Lord*. Restated, there is no time in life when his praises cannot or should not be on our lips.

*34:3 together.* Praise and worship in the congregation is much deeper and more meaningful than individual worship. (TLSB)

*34:5 radiant.* Their faces will not be red with shame and embarrassment. God’s children will have peaceful faces because they know that when they speak, God will listen and answer. (TLSB)

*34:7 angel encamps around.*† The line speaks of the security with which the Lord surrounds his people, individually and collectively; the reference here is not necessarily to individual “guardian angels.” (CSB)

*34:8 taste and see.* It means to perceive. It is an invitation for the saints to experience the Lord’s trustworthiness. If you do not taste, you will not see. (TLSB)

**Old Testament – 1 Kings 19:1-8**

**Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ﻿2﻿ So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, “May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them.” ﻿3﻿ Elijah was afraid[[1]](#footnote-1) ﻿ and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, ﻿4﻿ while he himself went a day’s journey into the desert. He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. “I have had enough, LORD,” he said. “Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.” ﻿5﻿ Then he lay down under the tree and fell asleep. all at once an angel touched him and said, “Get up and eat.” ﻿6﻿ He looked around, and there by his head was a cake of bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again. ﻿7﻿ The angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him and said, “Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you.” ﻿8﻿ So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God.**

The following are some insights to individual verses…

*19:2 May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely.* This is a curse formula that Jezebel puts on herself if she should fail.

God’s mighty miracles did not change the heart of Jezebel. This wicked woman, who had already killed many of the Lord’s prophets, now swore to avenge the death of the 450 prophets of Baal. She swore by her gods that Elijah would dies within twenty-four hours. (PBC)

*19:4 broom tree.* This was a desert shrub, sometimes large enough to offer some shade.

*19:7 angel of the Lord.* Ministering angel acts in a comforting, gentle manner. Typically, the appearance of an angel evokes fear. (TLSB)

*19:8 forty days and forty nights.* Sustained by the Lord as Moses had been for the same length of time on Mount Sinai (Ex 24:18; 34:28) and as Jesus would be in the desert (Mt 4:2, 11). (CSB)

**Epistle – Ephesians 4:17-5:2**

**17﻿ So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ﻿18﻿ They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ﻿19﻿ Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more. ﻿20﻿ You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. ﻿21﻿ Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. ﻿22﻿ You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ﻿23﻿ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ﻿24﻿ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. ﻿25﻿ Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ﻿26﻿ “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ﻿27﻿ and do not give the devil a foothold. ﻿28﻿ He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. ﻿29﻿ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ﻿30﻿ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ﻿31﻿ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ﻿32﻿ Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.**

The following are some insights to individual verses…

*4:17 futility of their thinking.* Life without God is intellectually frustrating, useless and meaningless (see, e.g., Ecc 1:2; Ro 1:21). (CSB) Probably a reference to idolatry. (TLSB)

*4:19 having lost all sensitivity.* Their hard hearts do not feel the accusations of conscience. “By the fall of our first parents mankind was so corrupted that in divine things having to do with our conversion and the salvation of our souls we are by nature blind” (DC SD II 5). (TLSB)

*4:23 in the attitude of your minds*. "Attitude" comes from the Greek *spirit*. Constantly be renewed in respect to the spirit of your mind. Compare in the vanity of their minds, in verse 17. The mind is the source of the thoughts which determine the actions. Renew the thoughts and the actions will also be renewed.

*4:26 In your anger.* Christians do not lose their emotions at conversion, but their emotions should be purified. Some anger is sinful, some is not. (CSB)

*4:27 a foothold.* Sometimes we make it easy for the devil. We put ourselves into situations where sin is more likely. Give the devil an inch, and he will take a mile. (LL)

*4:30 grieve.* God feels the grief of loss when we turn away from Him or deny Him in word and deed. “When the baptized act against their conscience, allowing sin to rule in them, they grieve the Holy Spirit in them and lose Him” (FC SD II 69). (TLSB)

*4:30 sealed.* When I was baptized the Holy Spirit had the end of my life and beginning of eternal life in mind. I am safe in Him.

*5:1 Be imitators.* The chief way to imitate God is to forgive and to love in a sacrificial way (v. 2). These acts flow from being re-created in God’s image (4:24). (TLSB)

**Gospel – John 6:35-51**

**35﻿ Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. ﻿36﻿ But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. ﻿37﻿ All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. ﻿38﻿ For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. ﻿39﻿ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. ﻿40﻿ For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.” 41﻿ At this the Jews began to grumble about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” ﻿42﻿ They said, “Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I came down from heaven’?” ﻿43﻿ “Stop grumbling among yourselves,” Jesus answered. ﻿44﻿ “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day. ﻿45﻿ It is written in the Prophets: ‘They will all be taught by God.’﻿ Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me. ﻿46﻿ No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. ﻿47﻿ I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life. ﻿48﻿ I am the bread of life. ﻿49﻿ Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. ﻿50﻿ But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. ﻿51﻿ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.” ﻿**

The following are some insights to individual verses…

*6:35 I am.* The first of seven self-descriptions of Jesus introduced by “I am” (see 8:12; 9:5; 10:7, 9; 10:11, 14; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1, 5). In the Greek the words are solemnly emphatic and echo Ex 3:14. (CSB) Jesus clearly identified Himself as the source of real life, which lasts forever. (TLSB)

*6:45 Everyone who … learns from him comes.* Only those who learn from God come to salvation, and all who learn from him are saved. (CSB) This is from a section in Isaiah, where the prophet foretells Zion’s future glory when the Messiah will rule His people. (TLSB)

*6:50 eat and not die.* Jesus’ gift is in contrast; the life he gives is eternal. (CSB)

*6:51 my flesh, which I will give.* Jesus is looking forward to Calvary. He will provide eternal life would be costly to the Giver. (CSB)

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)