**Notes for Next Sunday**

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

**The Point of this Week’s Readings**

All of the readings warn against continued unbelief and wickedness. They also invite the sinner to repent and return to the Lord who seeks to have them come to His truth and be saved.

Psalm (Psalm 90:12-17). This section of the psalm is a prayer for compassion. The psalmist brings nothing to the table that would deserve God’s mercy but simply pleads for God’s unending love.

Old Testament (Amos 5:6-7, 10-15). The eighth century BC was a time of great danger for Israel and Judah because they had forsaken the Lord their God. Corruption and idolatry were rampant in the land. The Assyrians were growing in power and military might and were threatening the Israel. Here they are called to repentance.

Epistle (Hebrews 3:12-19). Unbelief is always a heart problem, one that deals with the inner being. And unbelief is always serious because it rejects Christ’s salvation. It is not a matter of casual drifting but of deliberate desertion by hearts which once heard and believed, but then cut themselves off from the living God. The author warns his readers’ concerning having an unbelieving heart.

Gospel (Mark 10:17-22). The man in this text is young (Matthew) and a ruler (Luke) meaning he was probably a member of an official council or court. He goes through all the right postures and says the right things. BUT, he was full of his own righteousness. Jesus loves him and tries to help him see that he has made his wealth his god. He walks away being very sad because he does not want to give up his riches.

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

**Psalm 90:12-17**

**12﻿ Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. ﻿13﻿ Relent, O LORD! How long will it be? Have compassion on your servants. ﻿14﻿ Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days. ﻿15﻿ Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, for as many years as we have seen trouble. ﻿16﻿ May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendor to their children. ﻿17﻿ May the favor﻿ of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us— yes, establish the work of our hands.**

The following are some insights to individual verses…

*90:12 gain a heart of wisdom.* This request for wisdom leads to a series of petitions, beginning with a true understanding of human life, that we realize how few are the days we actually have and how we need to turn to God for security and refuge. (TLSB)

*90:13 Relent.* It means to “turn.” The plea is for God’s punishment to last no longer and to end the despair that goes with it; the psalmist longs to see God’s glorious power. (TLSB)

*90:14 in the morning.* A picturesque reversal from grass withering in the evening (v 6) to the renewal God brings in the morning. (TLSB)

*90:15* Prayer that life’s joys will balance out life’s sorrows. God’s answer to this prayer goes much further (Rm 8:18–39). (TLSB)

*90:17 establish the work of our hands.* Burden of work that comes from the first sin is replaced with enduring service in the Lord’s wisdom and name. (TLSB)

**Old Testament – Amos 5:6-7, 10-15**

**6﻿ Seek the LORD and live, or he will sweep through the house of Joseph like a fire; it will devour, and Bethel will have no one to quench it. ﻿7﻿ You who turn justice into bitterness and cast righteousness to the ground. 10﻿ you hate the one who reproves in court and despise him who tells the truth. ﻿11﻿ You trample on the poor and force him to give you grain. Therefore, though you have built stone mansions, you will not live in them; though you have planted lush vineyards, you will not drink their wine. ﻿12﻿ For I know how many are your offenses and how great your sins. You oppress the righteous and take bribes and you deprive the poor of justice in the courts. ﻿13﻿ Therefore the prudent man keeps quiet in such times, for the times are evil. ﻿14﻿ Seek good, not evil, that you may live. Then the LORD God Almighty will be with you, just as you say he is. ﻿15﻿ Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts. Perhaps the LORD God Almighty will have mercy on the remnant of Joseph.**

The following are some insights to individual verses…

*5:6 house of Joseph.* The northern kingdom of Israel, dominated by the tribe of Ephraim, descendants of Joseph (also in v. 15; 6:6). (CSB)

*5:7 wormwood*. Bitter plant with a repulsive taste. Accordingly, it represents sorrow (Pr 5:4; Lm 3:15). Once again, Amos rails against the prevalent injustice of his day, esp the abuse of the poor (cf 2:7–8; 3:10; 4:1). (TLSB)

*5:10 abhor him who speaks the truth*. Dishonest oppressors naturally loathed those who dared contradict or expose them. Luther: “Wickedness cannot bear sound doctrine” (AE 18:161). (TLSB)

*5:11* Note the change from the indefinite “They” in v 10 to the accusation “you” in vv 11–12—this becomes a pointed, personal rebuke. (TLSB)

*5:11 taxes of* *grain*. Taxes were one way the poor were exploited rather than protected (cf Lv 25:35–37; Dt 23:19). (TLSB)

*5:11 houses of hewn stone*. Expensive homes, associated with royal households. However, Israel will not enjoy the fruit of these ill-gotten gains. (TLSB)

*5:13 It is an evil time.* Unbridled wickedness forced the wise into resigned silence. Pressing for justice seemed futile and even dangerous. (TLSB)

*5:17 remnant.* These words look beyond the impending destruction of the Northern Kingdom at the hands of the Assyrians and see that a faithful few will be preserved and restored, leaving a mere remnant. (TLSB)

Epistle – Hebrews 3:12-19

**﻿12﻿ See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. ﻿13﻿ But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness. ﻿14﻿ We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first. ﻿15﻿ As has just been said: “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion.”﻿ 16﻿ Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt? ﻿17﻿ And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the desert? ﻿18﻿ And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed﻿c﻿? ﻿19﻿ So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief.**

The following are some insights to individual verses…

*3:14 hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first.* Salvation is evidenced by continuing in faith to the end. Such perseverance reveals those who share in Christ. (CSB)

*3:19* God was willing to give His people rest, but His people were unwilling to receive it. People’s unbelief – their lack of confidence in the promises of God – rendered them incapable of experiencing the blessings that flow from trust. (TLSB)

**Gospel – Mark 10:17-22**

**17﻿ As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ﻿18﻿ “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. ﻿19﻿ You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.’﻿” ﻿20﻿ “Teacher,” he declared, “all these I have kept since I was a boy.” ﻿21﻿ Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” ﻿22﻿ At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.**

The following are some insights to individual verses…

*10:17 what must I do … ?* Inheritance is not given based on merit. (TLSB)

*10:18* *Why do you call me good?* Jesus changes the focus from the man’s works to who God is. (TLSB)

*10:21* *Jesus … loved him.* Jesus did not speak harshly or out of anger, but compassionately. He sought to strip away the man’s self-deception about having kept the Law. (TLSB)