**Notes for Next Sunday**

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

**The Point of this Week’s Readings**

All of the readings touch on the power and effectiveness of the Word of God in the life of a Christian.

Psalm (Psalm 119:9-16). This text begins by a young man asking how he can keep his way pure. Then it goes on to point out numerous ways how this can be done by being in the Word. It then goes on to say that by meditating on God’s Word the young man’s whole being is permeated with guidance from the Lord.

Old Testament (Ecclesiastes 5:10-20). This reading states that whatever we have materially, we will always seem to want more. Nothing on earth ever seems to satisfy. The real secret is to be happy in our work and enjoy the good things that God gives us. This leads to gladness of the heart.

Epistle (Hebrews 4:1-16). Verses 1-13 are about eternal rest. The author urges his readers to continue to be faith-filled by being in the Word and thus not losing that eternal rest prepared for them. It is pointed out that the Word is very powerful and penetrates the soul. Verses 14-16 speak of Jesus as our high priest who can totally identify with our needs and because He was sinless can provide us with relief.

Gospel (Mark 10:23-31). Wealth can make it hard to get into the kingdom of God. Only with God is it possible to enter His kingdom. All who because of their faith work in the kingdom of heaven will find great rewards.

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

**Psalm 119:9-16**

9﻿ **How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. ﻿10﻿ I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. ﻿11﻿ I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. ﻿12﻿ Praise be to you, O LORD; teach me your decrees. ﻿13﻿ With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth. ﻿14﻿ I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches. ﻿15﻿ I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. ﻿16﻿ I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word**.

The following are some insights to individual verses…

*119:9 word.* Hebrew *dabar*, a general designation for God’s (word) revelation, but here used with special reference to his law (sometimes promises). (CSB)

*119:11 stored.* God’s Word is treasured through memorization; it is brought out through action so that, by thought and deed, the believer may be kept before God. “We should daily be engaged with God’s Word and carry it in our hearts and upon our lips” (LC I 89). (TLSB)

*119:13 lips.* Words from God’s mouth are graciously allowed on our lips to savor, recount, and rehearse. (TLSB)

**Old Testament – Ecclesiastes 5:10-20**

**10﻿ Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless. ﻿11﻿ As goods increase, so do those who consume them. And what benefit are they to the owner except to feast his eyes on them? ﻿12﻿ The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether he eats little or much, but the abundance of a rich man permits him no sleep. ﻿13﻿ I have seen a grievous evil under the sun: wealth hoarded to the harm of its owner, ﻿14﻿ or wealth lost through some misfortune, so that when he has a son there is nothing left for him. ﻿15﻿ Naked a man comes from his mother’s womb, and as he comes, so he departs. He takes nothing from his labor that he can carry in his hand. ﻿16﻿ This too is a grievous evil: As a man comes, so he departs, and what does he gain, since he toils for the wind? ﻿17﻿ All his days he eats in darkness, with great frustration, affliction and anger. ﻿18﻿ Then I realized that it is good and proper for a man to eat and drink, and to find satisfaction in his toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given him—for this is his lot. ﻿19﻿ Moreover, when God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work—this is a gift of God. ﻿20﻿ He seldom reflects on the days of his life, because God keeps him occupied with gladness of heart.**

The following are some insights to individual verses…

*5:13 harm.* Hoarding wealth can invite charlatans, sin, pride, and love of money, thus drawing one away from the Lord and His Word. (TLSB)

*5:17 easts in darkness.* This depicts the greedy man working late into the night before taking time to eat. (PBC)

He eats the bread of sorrows. This is not a repentant sorrow before God (cf Ps 77:2) but anger in old age, where affliction and failing health beg the question as to the worthiness of laboring “under the sun.” (TLSB)

*5:18 satisfaction.* Theme of 2:24–25; 3:12–13, 22 returns. Only in God does life have meaning and true pleasure. Without Him, nothing satisfies. True pleasure comes only when we acknowledge and revere God (12:13). (TLSB)

**Epistle – Hebrews 4:1-16**

**Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. ﻿2﻿ For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith. ﻿3﻿ Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said, “So I declared on oath in my anger, ‘They shall never enter my rest.’”And yet his work has been finished since the creation of the world. ﻿4﻿ For somewhere he has spoken about the seventh day in these words: “And on the seventh day God rested from all his work.”﻿﻿5﻿ And again in the passage above he says, “They shall never enter my rest.” ﻿6﻿ It still remains that some will enter that rest, and those who formerly had the gospel preached to them did not go in, because of their disobedience. ﻿7﻿ Therefore God again set a certain day, calling it Today, when a long time later he spoke through David, as was said before: “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.”﻿ ﻿8﻿ For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day. ﻿9﻿ There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; ﻿10﻿ for anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. ﻿11﻿ Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience. ﻿12﻿ For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. ﻿13﻿ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.**

The following are some insights to individual verses…

*4:1 the promise of entering his rest still stands.* God’s promise of forgiveness and peace remains true and can be lost only if we refuse it. (TLSB)

*4:2 good news*. The promise of rest, to the people of Israel through the gift of the land, and to the Church with the gift of new life in Christ. TLSB)

*4:3 we who have believed enter that rest.* Prefigured by the promise of a new life for God’s people in the Promised Land. This promise is fulfilled in Christ Jesus, who gives us an eternal home and rest. (TLSB)

*4:8 if Joshua had given them rest*. Eventually, God’s people possessed the Promised Land under the leadership of Joshua, but the ultimate rest was with the second Joshua, Jesus, who saves His people from their sin. (TLSB)

*4:9 There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest.* God has fully completed the six days of His work in creation; thus, His Sabbath rest extends throughout time. In Christ, God’s people enter into God’s day of rest and experience the peace He gives. (TLSB)

*4:11 make every effort.* We do this in two ways: (1) by daily returning to our Baptism, renouncing the devil and all evil; (2) by trusting God’s mercy in Christ, who has prepared our eternal rest in heaven (John 14:2). (TLSB)

*4:12 sharper than any two-edged sword*. Even the sharpest sword can cut only through flesh and bone; God’s Word cuts through any spiritual barriers that stand between human beings and God. (TLSB)

**14﻿ Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens,﻿a﻿ Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ﻿15﻿ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. ﻿16﻿ Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.**

The following are some insights to individual verses…

*4:14 great high priest.* The only One who can truly represent us to the Father, and who can truly represent the Father to us. (TLSB)

Gospel – Mark 10:23-31

**23﻿ Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!” ﻿24﻿ The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ﻿25﻿ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” ﻿26﻿ The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, “Who then can be saved?” ﻿27﻿ Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.” ﻿28﻿ Peter said to him, “We have left everything to follow you!” ﻿29﻿ “I tell you the truth,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel ﻿30﻿ will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life. ﻿31﻿ But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”**

The following are some insights to individual verses…

*10:23 hard…rich to enter kingdom of God.* "He went on to say." Very often the wealthy, like this young man, cannot give up their love and trust in their wealth. (Buls)

*10:24 disciples were amazed.* The Jews regarded wealth as a mark of God’s favor. The disciples thought rich people had the best chance to enter the kingdom of God because of all the good things they could afford to do. (TLSB)

*10:25 eye of a neddle.* A camel, proverbially the largest animal, had a better chance of slipping through the eye of a needle, proverbially the smallest opening, than the most favored human being had of entering the kingdom of God through works. (TLSB)

*10:27 With man this is impossible, but not with God.* Salvation is totally the work of God. Every attempt to enter the kingdom on the basis of achievement or merit is futile. Apart from the grace of God, no one can be saved. (CSB)

*10:28 we have left everything.* The note on Matthew 19:27 states, “Though based on a misunderstanding, Peter’s anguished cry is nonetheless poignant, for he had left everything to follow Jesus. Owing to the heartfelt nature of Peter’s exclamation, Jesus responds not with a rebuke but with a wonderful promise and reassurance. (TLSB)

*10:30 a hundred times as much … and with them persecutions.* The life of discipleship is a combination of promise and persecution, blessing and suffering. God takes nothing from a Christian without making multiplied restoration in a new and glorious form. Paradoxically, fellowship with other believers develops most deeply in persecution. (CSB)

*10:31 first will be last.* The poor, sinners, and Gentiles whose confidence was in God alone would enter the Kingdom ahead of those whose spiritual confidence was in their worldly power and wealth. (TLSB)