

SERMON – Pentecost 4 2022

TEXTS: Galatians 6:9
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

“Are You Weary?”

Grace, mercy and peace be yours from God the Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. Amen

There is always, for me at least, a sense of hesitation when providing a sermon title that is a question. What if someone provides an answer? Well, in this case, I hope you are contemplating the question that is this title....and I also hope that you will hear what I wish to share, and what the Holy Spirit opens your ears, minds and hearts to understand.

I have been thinking about what the word “weary” could mean in our lives together in this day and time. Did you hear this word as it was read during the second lesson from Galatians? Paul counsels the infant Christian community: “So let us not grow weary....”

This letter is believed to have been written about 20 years after Jesus’ resurrection to a community made up of believers who are both Gentile and Jewish in heritage. A diverse community.

Twenty or so years have passed since the day of Pentecost. Paul and others have been proclaiming the Good News and the Living Word of God is shared. Twenty years may not seem like a long time, but just think about what excited you about your lives 20 years ago....perhaps whatever it was is still exciting today, but maybe the focus of your interest has changed.

It is within this reality of living that Paul tells the believers: “So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.”

Let us not confuse the word “weary” with “tired” as we hear these words of Paul. The message I believe Paul is sending is not to “give up”, or “move on” from the life that the Holy Spirit is directing the people of God to live.

Do you feel “tired”, especially as we continue to experience the impact of pandemic...or as we are exposed to death and war’s impacts in many countries...or as we recognize anguished and

hurting people, friends and family members and strangers, impacted by decisions made in this country.

Perhaps, we do feel “tired”, but I urge us to heed Paul’s words and not grow “weary in doing what is right”especially in the midst of the issues of these days.

This is Independence Day weekend. Perhaps you will spend time with family and friends, a cookout, a pool party, and yes some of you may be working because you have accepted responsibilities that do not recognize holidays above the needs of others. We are community, not solitary individuals...a community! People living together, supporting one another, respecting one another, prayerfully still doing what is right.

Martin Luther loved the message contained in Paul’s Letter to the Galatians so much that he called it “My Katie” as a tribute to his wife. This is a letter of faith, and of challenge. It is a letter for us today, just as it was a letter for the very young Christian community gathering two decades after the Resurrection.

“Do not grow weary in doing what is right”.

In today’s reading from Luke’s Gospel Jesus says: “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few”. Possibly we respond “Amen” to this comment. The Lord had selected 12 individuals to be closest to him during his journey of ministry. “The laborers are few” so what did Jesus do, he appointed 70 others to go ahead of Him and proclaim God’s presence. More hands, more feet, more mouths to proclaim the fact that the Kingdom of God has come near. Empowered by God’s Holy Spirit, this “advance team” experienced the power of God revealed....as they did what was right.

My friends, on our journey today, I am convinced that God’s Holy Spirit still leads on...God’s Holy Spirit provides strength for the journey...God’s Holy Spirit continues to do marvelous things thru you, and so Paul’s word for the Galatians is a word for us today, “Do not grow weary in doing what is right”, because it is what happens as Faith comes alive in and thru our actions in response to what God has done, and with the powerful presence of God’s Holy Spirit.

This, my friends, is most certainly true. Seize this truth.

Amen.

May the peace of God, the powerful presence of God, keep our hearts and minds, all that God has called us to be, secure in the reality of Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.