

Meditation

On the Commandments of God

September 20, 2009 Pastor Mark Voss



P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Teach me, O LORD, to follow your decrees;

C: then I will keep them to the end.

Psalm 119:33

P: Direct me in the path of your commands.

C: for there I find delight.

Psalm 119:35

P: How I long for your precepts!

C: Preserve my life in your righteousness.

Psalm 119:40

MUSICAL SELECTION – Jr. Choir (10:30a)

"Thy Word"

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PRAYER

P: Lord God, you are compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in love. Fill us with the peace of your forgiveness so that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

HYMN – "Lord, Open Now My Heart to Heart"

CW 282

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Lord, open now my heart to hear, And through your Word to me draw near.

Let me your Word e'er pure retain; Let me your child and heir remain.

Your Word inspires my heart within; Your Word grants healing from my sin.

Your Word has pow'r to guide and bless; Your Word brings peace and happiness.

To God the Father, God the Son, And God the Spirit, Three in One,

Shall glory, praise, and honor be Now and throughout eternity.

PSALM OF CONFESSION – Psalm 143

All: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

P: O Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy, in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief.

C: Do not bring your servant into judgment, for no one living is righteous before you.

P: My spirit grows faint within me; my heart within me is dismayed.

All: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

C: Answer me quickly, O Lord; do not hide your face from me.

P: Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you.

C: Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

All: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

SONG OF PRAISE

CW 236 vv 1 & 2 Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

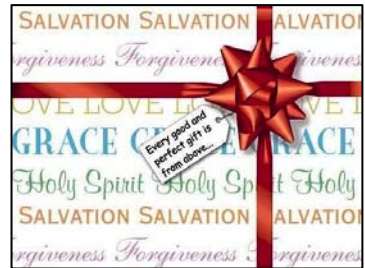
P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Sing: **All praise to God who reigns above, The God of all creation,
The God of wonders, pow'r, and love, The God of our salvation!
With healing balm my soul he fills, The God who ev'ry sorrow stills –
To God all praise and glory!**

**I cried to him in time of need: Lord God, oh, hear my calling!
For death he gave me life indeed And kept my feet from falling.
For this my thanks shall endless be; Oh, thank him, thank our God with me --
To God all praise and glory!**

READING

James 1:17-27 *Every Good Gift Comes From God* ¹⁷Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created. ¹⁹My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. ²¹Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. ²²Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it--he will be blessed in what he does. ²⁶If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.



VERSE OF THE DAY

C: (sing) **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

READING FROM THE CATECHISM – *Our Love For God, His Name, and His Word*

P: The First Commandment

C: **You shall have no others gods.**

P: *What does this mean?*

C: **We should fear, love and trust in God above all things.**

P: The Second Commandment

C: **You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.**

P: *What does this mean?*

C: **We should fear and love God that we do not use his name to curse, swear, lie or deceive, or use it superstitiously, but call upon God's name in every trouble, pray, praise and give thanks.**

P: The Third Commandment

C: **Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy.**

P: *What does this mean?*

C: **We should fear and love God that we do not despise preaching and his Word, but regard it as holy, and gladly hear and learn it.**

Gospel Mark 7:31-37 - *"With One Word Jesus Transforms a Man's Life"* ³¹Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. ³²There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged him to place his hand on the man. ³³After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. ³⁴He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, <"Ephphatha!" (which means, "Be opened!"). ³⁵At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly. ³⁶Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. ³⁷People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

SERMON HYMN - *"O God, My Faithful God"*

CW 459

SERMON SERIES – Courageous Heroes of Faith

Rahab – Joshua 2:1-14

¹Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. "Go, look over the land," he said, "especially Jericho." So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there.

²The king of Jericho was told, "Look! Some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land." ³So the king of Jericho sent this message to Rahab: "Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land."

⁴But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. She said, "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from. ⁵At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, the men left. I don't know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them." ⁶(But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax she had laid out on the roof.) ⁷So the men set out in pursuit of the spies on the road that leads to the fords of the Jordan, and as soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut.

⁸Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof ⁹and said to them, "I know that the LORD has given this land to you and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. ¹⁰We have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed. ¹¹When we heard of it, our hearts melted and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below. ¹²Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign ¹³that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and that you will save us from death."

¹⁴"Our lives for your lives!" the men assured her. "If you don't tell what we are doing, we will treat you kindly and faithfully when the LORD gives us the land."



INSTALLATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

OFFERING

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

P: Lord God Almighty, we stand in violation of your holy will.

C: There is no one who does good, not even one.

Psalm 14:3

P: In mercy, you sent your Son, the Passover Lamb without blemish, to atone for our sins.

C: This is the name by which he is called: The LORD Our Righteousness.

Jeremiah 23:6

P: Teach our hearts to praise you for your saving love.

C: Lead us to fear, love, and trust in you above all things.

P: You have taught us to pray:

C: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours. Now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S SUPPER God's word requires proper preparation and understanding for receiving the Lord's Supper. We practice membership communion, and ask that those who partake first become members or belong to a congregation of our church body, the Wisconsin Synod. Please ask for an informational sheet from one of the ushers for a fuller explanation from the scriptures. Thank you!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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**Come to the table of mercy,
Pre-pared with the wine and the bread;
All who are hungry and thirsty,
Come and your souls will be fed.
Come at the Lord's invitation;
Receive from His nail-scarred hand.
Eat of the bread of salvation;
Drink of the blood of the Lamb.**

DISTRIBUTION AND HYMN – “May the Mind of Christ My Savior”

CW 467

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

BLESSING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13:14

C: Amen.