

Second Sunday in Lent

Expectation

The second of the “heart issues” that we will be considering “giving up” over the weeks of Lent will be the issue of Expectation. This relates specifically to what we think life would be

like if some special thing happened to us.

As a crowd, we are probably old enough to recall the dream of discovering a rich relative that unknowingly loved us so much that they just left everything to us and sent a messenger to tell us how rich we are. In a more contemporary solution to the same dream, many people already are spending the proceeds in their minds on the lotto ticket number they just played.

Expectation is driven by what our mind tells us how a thing should be. We have some type of mental picture of what that is all about, and how we relate to that concept is what our expectation is all about. At times, that expectation is like a tiny box, in which all of our ideas are supposed to fit into. Being so small, we just cannot get much in.

Jesus tells Nicodemus that his “thought box” and expectation is too small. For all of the Jewish wisdom that Nicodemus was full of, he really misses the point of what God really is all about. What was Nicodemus doing with the fact he was the recipient of God’s amazing and unconditional love? How was he squaring the fact that God loved him so much that he was offering the very kingdom of Heaven as a gift?

Our expectations look great on paper but they often lock us up. They make us see things in only one way and we miss seeing the bigger picture. John’s gospel reminds us of God’s expectations for us, and not our own. God has plans for us. We have been told that we are God’s beloved children, by virtue of our baptism into God’s grace. We hear about but rarely participate in the kingdom work because we can’t let go of the expectations that we have.

God has some different news for us. Are we willing to listen to His plan? We share the same invitation that Jesus gave to Nicodemus. Let’s consider what it would mean to set our expectations aside, and look to God for His pattern in our lives.

Pastor Jonathon Kosec

OUR WORSHIP TODAY

GATHERING AND MEDITATION TIME

Pre-Service Music

Welcome and Announcements

CONFESSIONAL PRAYER

As we observe this Lenten season, may the message of the Gospel accounts of the work of Jesus Christ guide us and allow the revelation of the Kingdom of God to speak to our hearts and motivate a renewed sense of purpose even today. May the feelings in our hearts be matched with the actions of our hands, our feet, even our words. For the times we have neglected to do this, or avoided doing this, we know we need to offer our confession to Almighty God:

Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by the things we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die for us, and for His sake, and by His promise, forgives us all our sin. Therefore on His behalf, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Go and sin no more, that the rest of your life might be pure and holy and modeled after our Lord Jesus in all we say and all we do, we pray in His Holy Name, **Amen**

HYMN 362 Blessed Assurance 1,3

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY (Unison): O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC “IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE”

Dean Carson, Soloist

THE FIRST LESSON: Genesis 12:1-9

New Living Translation (NLT)

The Lord had said to Abram, “Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and go to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.”

So Abram departed as the Lord had instructed, and Lot went with him.

THE SECOND LESSON: Romans 4:1-17

New Living Translation (NLT)

Abraham was, humanly speaking, the founder of our Jewish nation. What did he discover about being made right with God? If his good deeds had made him acceptable to God, he would have had something to boast about. But that was not God’s way. For the Scriptures tell us, “Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.”

When people work, their wages are not a gift, but something they have earned. But people are counted as righteous, not because of their work, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners.

Clearly, God’s promise to give the whole earth to Abraham and his descendants was based not on his obedience to God’s law, but on a right relationship with God that comes by faith. If God’s promise is only for those who obey the law, then faith is not necessary and the promise is pointless. For the law always brings punishment on those who try to obey it. (The only way to avoid breaking the law is to have no law to break!)

So the promise is received by faith. It is given as a free gift. And we are all certain to receive it, whether or not we live according to the law of Moses, if we have faith like Abraham’s. For Abraham is the father of all who believe. That is what the Scriptures mean when God told him, “I have made you the father of many nations.” This happened because Abraham believed in the God who brings the dead back to life and who creates new things out of nothing.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

New Living Translation (NLT)

There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. “Rabbi,” he said, “we all know

that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you.”

Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.”

“What do you mean?” exclaimed Nicodemus. “How can an old man go back into his mother’s womb and be born again?”

Jesus replied, “I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. So don’t be surprised when I say, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can’t tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can’t explain how people are born of the Spirit.”

“How are these things possible?” Nicodemus asked.

Jesus replied, “You are a respected Jewish teacher, and yet you don’t understand these things? I assure you, we tell you what we know and have seen, and yet you won’t believe our testimony. But if you don’t believe me when I tell you about earthly things, how can you possibly believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ever gone to heaven and returned. But the Son of Man has come down from heaven. And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

The Gospel of our Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.

SERMON “Expectation”

Pastor Jonathon Kosec

SERMON HYMN: 456 In The Garden 1,2,3

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles Creed (C)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the

third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE OFFERING:

After the consecration of the Offering, we will sing the Doxology:

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise him, all creatures here below, Praise him above, Ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

-PRAYERS OF PRAISE, WORDS OF INSTITUTION, LORD'S PRAYER

THE DISTRIBUTION

THE COMMUNION BLESSING

HYMN 188 Thine Be the Glory 1,2,3

THE BENEDICTION & THE DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C. **Thanks be to God**

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WELCOME TO OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN! Thank you for joining us as we worship our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We are happy you are here! Please take a moment to turn your Cell Phone or other devices to mute, so they do not go off during the service and become disruptive. We appreciate your help to this regard. And thanks again for being here with us this morning!

IN OUR PRAYERS: We take time during our service to offer petitions for the prayer needs of ourselves, our families, our friends, and the world. Please give those requests to Pastor at the beginning portion of the service so they can be included in our prayers during worship today.

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO BE WITH US THIS LENTEN SEASON! Traditionally a season of preparation and reflection, we hope to have a new look on the traditions of Lent as we celebrate the work that Jesus accomplished on the cross. **"GIVE IT UP!"** will be the guiding theme as we examine the various things people have given up in observance of the Lenten season, but with more attention as to what Jesus would have us do. It might be the best time to bring someone with you and form a new church relationship together! Next Sunday we will look at our **SUPERIORITY**.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS: It was announced at our last Church Council meeting that the 2016 Audit was conducted and everything was found to be in order. Our thanks again to Dean Carson who went above and beyond the call of duty and completely computerized all of the church's records since its inception. Thanks Dean!

OSLC GARAGE SALE will be held at the home of one of our parishioners on Friday, March 17th at 3282 Spicewood Lane here in Port Charlotte. Spicewood is located in Gulf Cove which is off Gillot Blvd. More information will be announced this morning.

AFTER WORSHIP TRANSITION: Following worship this morning we will be completely transitioning and taking everything down. Any help breaking things down will be appreciated!

Our Savior Lutheran Church, LCMC
14344 Jamison Way Port Charlotte, FL 33953
Website: <http://www.oslc-lcmc.com>
Office: (941) 249-5108
Worship Time: Sunday 10 A.M.
Bible Study: Times as announced

Rev. Jonathon Kosec, Lead Pastor
Pastor's email: jonathonkosec@gmail.com
Cell Phone: (941) 916-7300