

Bible Discussion Group, February 16, 2022

The Lessons

A reading from Genesis

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Joseph said to his brothers, "I'm Joseph! Is my father really still alive?" His brothers couldn't respond because they were terrified before him. Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me," and they moved closer. He said, "I'm your brother Joseph! The one you sold to Egypt. Now, don't be upset and don't be angry with yourselves that you sold me here. Actually, God sent me before you to save lives. We've already had two years of famine in the land, and there are five years left without planting or harvesting. God sent me before you to make sure you'd survive and to rescue your lives in this amazing way. You didn't send me here; it was God who made me a father to Pharaoh, master of his entire household, and ruler of the whole land of Egypt. He kissed all of his brothers and wept, embracing them. After that, his brothers were finally able to talk to him.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 37:1-7

Do not be upset over those who do evil;
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.
For they shall soon wither like the grass,
and like the green grass fade away.
Put your trust in the Lord and do good;
dwelt in the land and farm faithfulness.
Take delight in the Lord,
and he shall give you your heart's desire.
Commit your way to the Lord and put your trust in him,
and he will bring it to pass.
He will make your righteousness as clear as the light
and your justice as the noonday.
Be still before the Lord
and wait patiently for him.

A reading from Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth 1 Cor. 15:35-38, 42-44, 50

But someone will say, "How are the dead raised? What kind of body will they have when they come back?" Look! When you put a seed into the ground, it doesn't come back to life unless it dies. What you put in the ground doesn't have the shape that it will have, but it's a bare grain of wheat or some other seed. God gives it the sort of shape that he chooses, and he gives each of the seeds its own shape. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

It is the same with the resurrection of the dead: a rotting body is put into the ground, but what is raised won't ever decay. It is degraded when it's put into the ground, but it's raised in glory. It is weak when it's put into the ground, but it's raised in power. It is a physical body when it's put into the ground, but it's raised as a spiritual body. This is what I'm saying, brothers and sisters: Flesh and blood cannot inherit God's kingdom. Something that rots cannot inherit something that does not decay.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Luke 6:27-38

Jesus said, "I say to you that listen: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."