

Grace Lutheran Community, 9 July 2023:
Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

The sermon text for today is based on the text
Matthew Chapter 11 verses 16 -19 & 25-30

How often have you started to think that there seem to be a lot of people in this world who have it all together? They seem to be able to have all the comforts of this life while still managing to have a polished life and maybe even children that always listen and never make a mess. Maybe you are drawn into thinking that if only I could get to that point I would not feel burdened or overwhelmed or too busy to just sit and be and enjoy the things you used to enjoy.

Do you ever think that if only I get through this year, or month or week things will start getting better? Because they should after all the challenges I have had.

Life changes pretty fast sometimes and then sometimes it doesn't change fast enough for our liking to move from the wilderness or stressful, overwhelming with no end in sight days or weeks or months that all of us face sometimes. You may be in the middle of that now. You may be at the point where all the advice you have received so far from friends and family is not helping or maybe you find yourself feeling along under the weight of judgement or failure. You might even be at that place where you feel you have no support and you are doing it on your own while others around you seem to be getting ahead and even thriving.

Are you in that place where you are weighing yourself down remembering your sin, your shame and guilt of brokenness that you have contributed to or been part of in some way? The self-talk continues then doesn't it that I am useless not worth anything. I no longer like who I see in the mirror, maybe you have even stopped looking in the mirror because you don't want to look at yourself.

Do you ever get to the point that you think I am getting what I deserve because I am not worth it? Do you ever think that God doesn't love you because of who you are or what you have done or where you are at in life?

In a world where Jesus is frowned upon or has no place we can often get influenced into thinking the same. Surely Jesus doesn't listen to me when I cry out day and night to Him to change my situation. Jesus really is not as relevant to me or others as the old days of those church attenders.

Jesus says 'To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the market-places and calling out to others:

“We played the pipe for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.”

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, “He has a demon.” The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, “Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.” But wisdom is proved right by her deeds.’

The world living in the worldly way won't see the truth nor know the truth as they live in darkness. The world would rather make excuses

for the truth just as the people of Jesus day. The place where no matter what Jesus did in His own words or through His disciples the generation didn't respond rather explained it all away. Jesus was a glutton and drunkard because He sat with real humans who needed Him, a friend of tax collectors, while John had a demon because he spoke about repentance.

The people of this generation, and our own and every generation who live in darkness, who are happy to dwell in their sin will not want to hear the truth. For life is too important to them, too valuable to hold onto and not give up for Jesus.

At that time Jesus said, 'I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

For the kingdom of God is not discerned nor found by the wise and those who have much knowledge but the kingdom of God is received by faith. Jesus says let the children come to me for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.

This receiving by a child is simple, it is a trust in the gift of God through Jesus.

Today we have our Kindy children who led us in the beautiful words and actions of God who is a God of love and a God of peace. God kept Daniel safe because He loved Daniel. God gave Him peace because Daniel knew that God keeps His promises and says I am with you always. Daniel trusted like a child without thinking of His own life, rather He focused on God's word.

We too in all our trials and burdens and the weight many of us carry of political and physical and emotional burdens will find peace in Jesus. God's own Son who died on the cross for our sin, to offer us forgiveness and life and salvation. When we come to Jesus we find peace.

Jesus says to you today and He says this over and over again.

'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.'

What a joy this is. To come to Jesus. This comes with a promise. That in Jesus you will find rest for your souls. You will know of the forgiveness Jesus gives and He will take your burdens and recreate you, for Jesus makes all things new. Come to me Jesus says – be with me, follow me and walk with me, be in me as I am in you He says.

Stop fighting me and let me hold you. Put my yoke, my way upon you in your whole life for my yoke is kind and easy and my burden is light and you will find rest and you will find peace.

So in Jesus you will no longer need to worry about getting past a bad patch or spending your life desiring a better life for Jesus is with you always.

Amen