LECTONARY 2025 08 10

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20. Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23. Hebrews 11:1-3,8-16. Luke 12:32-40.

*Desire -what do I want to communicate to ? God, people, myself: closer to God, understanding -yes – but a deeper permanence*

HEBREWS 11:1-3,8-16. Part of this reding is in three weeks listed readings.

Last Sunday Pat spoke a very clear message on faith and trust and the difference - or the movement between them – if Pat had been my English teacher at school I might have shown interest.

**1:the Principle**

V1 “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” How do we see this in ourselves – the earth/world examples given of Abraham and others – ok but what relevance does this have in the inner world of Allan or Ruth or ……………..

 “Faith is the substance of thing hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” how do we see this – a thought in the brain – an emotion that we feel – a logical process -something that results In action? Does it draw us closer into God, in our private being.

**2/3: Making it personal**

When I wake up ‘faith’ says ‘get up’ quiet time in Gods Presence -body says ‘quiet time here I am at peace here’ yeah right – I wake up half an hour latter and the time has past – faith says get up trust is activating the body to obey. Action, ‘trust’ is were faith becomes ‘solid’. Trust is faith in action. Thinking about it – berating myself is not action – it is however a choice.

**4:the Patriarchs.**

The following verses give us examples a number of people who had faith in Gods promises – lived in them – but never in this life saw the promised things happen – they did not come into physical existence. Yet they still believed and *lived in the reality of them -*  God approved of them. The faith was in the believing and the living was the trust – ok promised a kingdom – living in tents – promised multitudes of descendants – grew old with none! Yet lived in faith – *God is true – no matter what the world sees.*

**5: what of us?**

How we live now – where we are – is faith in action – can we get through middle age, grow to old age – not bitter or resentful or ……whatever with the expectations that we had and the physical reality of now?? Mid-life crisis – old age bitterness. NO - Living in victory now no matter what the past.

The person we are, the reality of us, of our relationships – how we live in them – are they in trust that even though our choices in life have brought us to where we are – is our trust in Gods overruling and Presence bringing us peace in ourselves – we are IN Christ – IN God – living in the Spirit of God. Some verses read “Jesus is in us” another says “we are IN Christ” this has spoken to me – both are true and both are real – but if I see that Christ is in me, the outer me still faces life but if I live in the reality that I AM IN CHRIST – it is Christ – the Presence of the Spirit of God who faces the world – there is security and strength and safety.

**6: so OK where do we live?**

Faith is the evidence of things not seen.

John 14:20. “in that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.” V16,17a. “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He will aide with you forever – the Spirit of Truth”

This is the reality as we live in ordinary, day to day things.

# V18. “I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.” No matter what our age we are in God. “Even to grey hair I will carry you.”

# 4Even to your old age and grey hairs    I am he, I am he who will sustain you.I have made you and I will carry you;    I will sustain you and I will rescue you. Isaiah 46:4 NIV

Do we have this experience -are we living in that experience, in the security of that safe space - no matter what physical age or life status– a safe place.

At one level we experience loss, unfulfilled expectations - a relationship crash, or maybe a child or loved one whom we trusted God to bring them to belief in Himself, for healing and it did not happen – absolute certainty that that person – or ourselves, would be restored but they died. For ourselves we can say with Paul, when he prayed for healing and God did not grant if – “A thorn in the flesh for Me to grow through, and with Paul to see that God was protecting me” or for someone else’s growth? Our experience effects others and are growth experiences for them.

**7: our inner lives.**

*If we hang on to the past, keep reliving in the past, we refuse to grow and be free and we hold ourselves and other people – especially the people who love us – captive with us – liked, chained together in a dungeon.* ***We believe – faith – but do not trust God*** *– it shows If we do not accept and live, move into the freedom of God that we believe in, that is real.*

**8: the basis of our faith.**

Look to Jesus who prayed three times in the garden, cried out with such intensity of emotion and physical force that blood was forced through his skin – “Father spare me from this hour – yet not what I ask with all my heart and emotions – I know what is ahead of me “Jesus became sin that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” “ **But what You will is what must be done. – that is my choice.”** *If this had not been Jesus trust, his faith in action – then we, you and I and no one else could be saved.*

Jesus knew that he could call in 72.000 front line infantry angel soldiers to defend him – in 2 Kings 19:35 it is recorded that one angel destroyed 185.000 enemy soldiers in one night. This multiplies out at about 14 billion in a night, todays world population approx. 8.2 billion. Jesus chose.

For Christians - our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, (other human beings) but we wrestle against the principalities, against the powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” Ephesians 6:12

**Who’s side/who’s army do we choose to be in?**

Jesus had this authority but he freely chose – for the joy of Gods will – he chose the cross, becoming sin for us – God the Fathers love for us, me, you, for our coming into Gods family.

**9: Our battle**

God is faithful and God raised Jesus from the power of death as God will do with us. Raise us from our past and where it has corrupted our closeness to God and others.

I want to introduce a third word – faith – trust – and grace. Gods love for us. “God loved us from the foundation of the world – God loved us even when we wanted nothing to do with Him”………….this is grace – it brings a feeling inside of – love to God.

Just to reinforce – I am looking at ourselves – who we are in our character and relationship. Do not trust just the mind it is very tricky, we are instructed to ”renew the mind every day by the word of God.”

Ok but what if our ‘hope’ our certainty is based in our own legitimist and real desires. They may not be Gods way for us. What is they were based on false desires ..do we know – how do we face this – we know that people will be given life and purified bodies again -and in Jesus we will have the fulfilment of the clean pure mind and emotions to be filled with our born again spirit – become the real person that God the Father designed us to be!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! We now discern and “be still and know that I AM GOD. “ ‘Be still’ is a person having their hair plaited – they are still but something is happening.……so with us – troubled – have faith – trust – be still and know that I AM God – God will show us the way.….

**10: Wrap up.**

V8. God spoke to Abraham to go out, and he did – he went not knowing where he was going - he did not see the fullness of Gods promise - but God spoke – and he, and a multitude of other people, including us in various ways, have heard/known in ourselves, God speak to me, them/us. Some followed Gods leading – others did not. Did I, did we?

V9. The promise did not happen instantly “they lived in tents in a foreign land and actually died without seeing the fulfillment off the promise – yet in trust they lived in it.

V8-16. They, as we do, lived a progressive revealing of the fulfilment of the promise – over some 450 years. Can we see our lives as a progressive unveiling of the person that God created us to be! I am coming up 80 and trust to grow more in God, the person He designed me to be.

Faith is the substance/the reality for us – God is real, we have come into Gods Presence in belief, in trust, in action, in repentance and in turning to God’s cleansing, in the knowledge that Gods love is for us individually - Jesus became our substitute in life and death and defeating death in God giving him back His life. And so for us – God is bringing us into the person that He created us to be.

It is the day to day things were I feel Gods direction – leaving the day open even if it is a busy calendar, it is trust in God in the moment of the day. Even if the result is not what I have expected – following the guidance of Gods Spirit in me – there is peace – not questioning – ie did I imaging the leading – is it my own desires telling me it is Gods leading – better to get it wrong and be still – guilt or self-bashing is destructive to Gods Presence.

V13b.- 15 for us and those of the past we” confess that we are foreigners and travelers on this earth.” *Beware the past* –“If we keep remembering where we came from we will have an opportunity to return.” But we desire a heavenly home – we have one – in us, now, this moment, we are seated with Christ in heavenly places.

Faith is the evidence of things not seen -

“Set our minds on things above, not on things on the earth” Colossians 3:2.