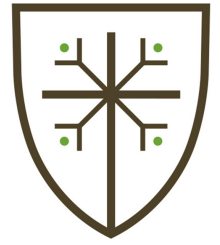


PARABLES OF JESUS

Summer Sermon Series

SERMON NOTES



August 27, 2023

SERMON INFO

TITLE

The Tireless Lapping of Waves

PREACHER

Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt

TEXTS

Isaiah 55:6-11

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Matthew 13:31-33

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In what small, subtle ways do you see God working? Why is it so hard to see these things?
2. Where do you see God has called you to take root in order to infuse his life into your corner of the world?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

In his sermon this week, Tim looked at what the parables tell us about how God works in the world. And it is not in the manner which the world often tells us is right.

Gentle

Repeated throughout the gospels is the refrain "another parable he set before them." This steady, gentle reminder is, as one commentator said, "like waves lapping against the shore." God is gentle in his dealings with us, and steadily puts his word before us. He treats us with meekness - power under the control of the love of others.

Subtle

In our gospel reading, we saw two very small, minuscule even, substances - mustard seed and leaven. There is always a hiddenness to God's Word. It is not just the bad and broken things that are hidden but also the good and the beautiful. We hide away that which is precious. God wants us to see him and seek him for the precious and valuable thing he truly is. And when we do find him, God makes himself known in subtle ways, like the still small voice that whispered to Elijah the prophet. For good or for ill, it is often the smallest, unnoticed things that work most significantly on our souls.

Patient

With both parables in the gospel reading, time must pass. A tree does not grow up from a seed overnight. A loaf of bread takes hours to rise. God works in this same way - slowly, steadily. And in his own time. Because of this, God is infinitely patient. He takes time with us to change and he endures with us while we change. There is no stability with constant immediacy. As we saw with the seed that landed on the rocky soil, there are no roots and so the seed that falls here is tossed around, constantly shifting.

Decisive

The final attribute we saw of God's work in the world is decisiveness. The phrase, that enters into both parables, "which having taken" is the thing on which all the other action is predicated. God takes hold of us and then works in our hearts and our lives to grow the faith planted there. God the Father took God the Son and planted him in our world so that the life in him might take root and grow. That we might become those God formed us to be.

We are called to do the same, to take root that the life living in us might shape the world into a place that tastes a little more like heaven.