



# ST. MARK

LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Daily Devotional

Wednesday, November 2, 2022

Pastor Eric Jay

**Prayer:** Lord we live in a world that pridefully denies the truth, and we admit Lord, that before You so mercifully revealed Yourself to us, we too were lost in the lies of the Devil and in our own sin. Jesus, in Your mercy, we pray that You would use even us to proclaim the truth of God's love and forgiveness that can only be found in You. Amen.

**Scripture: Mark 7:21-23**

*"For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come--sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person."*

**Daily Devotional – “Confessing Hope”**

We live in a culture and society today that is lost in a vicious cycle of self-justification. Those who hate religion claim that to believe in God, or in Jesus, is a “crutch” for those who are too weak to deal with the reality of the world, and that if we would only turn to a different political position, rely more on science, trust more in human reason, or some other false idol in Hollywood or on a professional sports team, then we would see that the world is not so bad and that all the broken parts can be fixed.

There are consequences to living in denial of the fundamental reality of our sinful nature. It causes us to turn a deaf ear to important warnings we might otherwise heed. According to a study released by AAA Auto Club back in 2019, at least two (2) people are killed every single day because they ignore the warning of a yellow light, run a red light, and then run into the very thing the yellow light was warning them about. Tragically, countless hundreds if not thousands more people die every day having ignored the clear warnings God has given. No matter how much better we think humanity has become over the years, either morally or intellectually, the huge flashing yellow light of death reminds us that the life and salvation we seek will never come from anything of mankind; all men die. To turn from God and ignore the obvious sinfulness of humanity and turn to human knowledge, politics, medicine, or anything of man for the hope we desire, will have dreadful consequences not only in this life, but the next.

Faith in God and in Christ is anything but a “crutch.” In fact, the whole reason people hate religion, and Christianity in particular, is because Jesus and the Word of God make it painfully clear that the hearts of all men and women, of all mankind, are helplessly wicked from birth – that we have not only been corrupted since the fall of Adam and Eve but continue in our own

personal rebellion and sinfulness against God. If there is any weakness, it is found in denying that evil is real, denying that the Devil is real, and that we ourselves are the ones responsible for bringing evil into our own lives.

True strength and hope in the midst of this tragic world can only be found in confessing our wickedness and sinfulness to God and pleading for His mercy; His mercy that has in fact been given in the blood of His Son Jesus. We cannot save ourselves from ourselves. We can only rely on He who is bigger than we are, He who is truly holy and righteous, He who is perfect in both love and justice and He who has provided both to us in Jesus Christ. When we acknowledge our need for a Savior and turn to Jesus as the One True savior of the world, God has promised to forgive us for Christ's sake and to make us a new creation in Christ Jesus and give us a new heart toward God and toward one another. This message of God's love and transformative grace found only in Christ Jesus is the only hope humanity has – the only hope we have to be saved from sin and death and to be saved from our own wickedness and evil.

God bless you my friends, and may God bless those to whom you bring hope today with the Good News of Jesus. Remember that God has forgiven yesterday, is with you today and has already taken care of tomorrow. Amen.