

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Psalm 1

They are like trees planted by streams of water. (v3)

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Luke 6:17-26

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, & in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

¹²Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain & your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile & you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. How does St. Paul connect Jesus' resurrection with the forgiveness of our sins? That is, what does one have to do with the other? What bearing does the truth of the resurrection have on the truth of his death for the forgiveness of our sins? *See vv3-4*
2. Compare & contrast the Sermon the Plain (*Luke 6:17-49*) with the Sermon on the Mount (*Matthew 5:1-7:29*), paying particular attention to *Luke 6:17-26* & *Matthew 5:1-12*. What do you notice? How do these similarities & differences change the meaning & interpretation of the texts? *Note: St. Augustine believed they were two separate sermons with common ideas*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. How do Christians today (inadvertently) deny the resurrection with comments such as at death we're "set free," or our bodies "aren't really" us, or we're "done" with them, or that funerals are only for sadness & grieving, not gratitude & living, just to name a few?
4. "Happy" could also be translated "blessed" (*cf. Luke 6:17-26; Matthew 5:1-12*). In a culture of so many unhappy people (Christians & not) how would "holy happiness" improve your everyday life & the everyday lives of those around you? List at least 10 ways. What holds you back from this holy happiness? *See Psalm 1:1, 145:1-2, 146:2; Romans 12:12; Philippians 4:4; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; 1 Peter 4:13; James 1:2-4*; for further reading, see Dennis Prager's bestseller *Happiness Is a Serious Problem* (Wm. Morrow Paperbacks, 1998).

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. If Christianity brings hope solely to the circumstances of everyday life, what makes that a pity? How do *vv3-4* properly identify how Jesus matters in our everyday lives as we introduce our pre-Christian friends to him? *See Exodus 20:1-7; Acts 5:40-41, 7:54-58, 21:10-11; 2 Corinthians 11:23-28*
6. Building on #5, consider the Prayer of the Day above & especially the verbs transform, renew, & make known. How does the prayer connect with *Luke 6:17-26*? How does this equip you to encourage & pray **with** your pre-Christian friends & neighbors?

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

02.16.25

Series: DF²

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Our life together Developing Fully Devoted Followers of Jesus

In Fact

In fact, because Jesus is risen, we know these blessing

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: If Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been
in vain & your faith has been in vain. (v14)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Rejoice, & leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven.

(*Luke 6:23*)

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