

June 7 Worship

Reader- Deb Dancause- Gayanne Boyer

Announcements/Joys

Time Of Quiet Meditation- *“Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day’s own trouble be sufficient for the day.”* Matthew 6:34

Opening Scripture- Psalm 50:7-15(page 491-492)

Opening Chorus- 556- Gentle Shepherd

Responsive Call To Worship-

Leader: We are met in the presence of God.

People: And we do not meet alone.

Leader: With the angels in the highest heaven.

People: We gather to worship the Lord.

Leader: With Abraham and Sarah.

People: We gather to worship the Lord.

Leader: With the saints of every age.

People: We gather to worship the Lord.

Leader: We embark on our own journey of faith.

People: God’s Holy name be praised.

Leader: God makes of us a great people.

People: God’s Holy name be praised.

Leader: In the desert and in the den, in barrio and basilica.

Leader: God’s Holy name be praised.

Leader: We journey in the presence of God.

People: And we do not journey alone.

Hymn of Praise- 49- Come Christian, Joy To Sing

Unison Prayer/Lord's Prayer- Generous God, you gave us our voices, no two the same. As you did with Abraham and Sarah, you take and touch our lives and they can become extraordinary. And in your Church you have gathered us, in your community of common folk and complainers, prophets and puzzled people, you have called us and made a place for us. So let what we say and do here, what we ponder and decide here, be real for us and honest to you, as you prepare us for the life of the world in which you are praised. We pray as Jesus taught, saying...*Lord's Prayer...*

“Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”

Gloria Patri- Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen, Amen.

Old Testament Scripture- Genesis 12:1-9(page 9)

Special Music-

Gospel Scripture- Matthew 9:9-13(page 842)

Children's Time/Echo Prayer/Passing of the Peace

Hymn- 552- Where He Leads Me

New Testament Scripture- Romans 4:13-25(page 980)

Message

“Isn't His Word Enough?”

Before I begin my sermon for today, I want to make sure that we realize the importance of this weekend. June 6 was the 82nd anniversary of the Allied invasion at Normandy, also called D-Day. Over 160,000 troops from the United States, Great Britain, and Canada stormed the beaches, 73,000 were US. Today there are less than 1,000 left, still living. Only a few hundred of them, American. We owe those who fought that battle a debt that cannot properly be paid. Please, remember them in your prayers.

We have been given a great gift in the Holy Bible. We don't make a good use of this gift as we should and when we do, we try to second guess much of what we read. For some strange reason, we seem to think that God's Word is not enough to satisfy our needs. We attempt to prove that our reasoning and our interpretation is better than what God is trying to tell us. Then we decide that what God is providing for us is less than enough for us. When do we have enough? Enough money? Enough food? Enough clothes? Enough intelligence? When are we satisfied and truly content? The pursuit of more and more is constant in the hearts of many of us.

Let's make it sound a little more spiritual and look at it from God's point of view. Have we read our Bible enough this week? Do we pray enough? Have we given enough? Are we sharing our faith enough? What is "enough" in all of these situations? The answers to the above seem to leave us longing for more or feeling guilty. The deeper question that needs to be asked is: is God really enough? Do we believe that God is sufficient, and in Him, we can have an abundant life?

Everything we need can be found in God. It seems like a cliché, but the truth of this statement is life-giving, thirst-quenching, and soul-satisfying. All of the longings of the heart can be brought to God and found in Him. It is not when things are going seemingly well in life that we trust that God is with us. It is often when all of those things we trust to save or satisfy us are taken away. That is when we get to the heart of what really matters. In countries where the persecution of Christians is severe, believers are living a life that proclaims "Christ is enough." They risk their lives because they truly trust in Jesus. When everything else is taken from them, they know their God is sufficient. Holocaust survivor Corrie ten Boom said, "You can never learn that Christ is all you need, until Christ is all you have."

How many of us find ourselves complaining about the rising prices that we find in the cost of just about everything we buy now-a-days? It seems that everyday we are spending more and more for our "basic necessities." we spend a fair bit of our time griping and bemoaning how expensive everything is today. How about if we take just a little bit of that time and thank God for the many, many blessings we have? How many true necessities are we doing without because of the high prices? Are we going hungry? Are we going without shelter? Are we wearing rags? Do we realize the the poorest people in this nation have a higher standard of living than 90% of the rest of the world. When is enough, enough?

From the beginning, we, as human beings, have been people who cherish their belongings. We judge each other by how many material things we possess, by how much money we have. We look at each other and assign social position based on our financial worth. Those who have the most are considered people to look up to, people who know more than the rest of us, people who wield the power. This is not unusual, this is how it has been ever since Cain and Able had it out over whose sacrifice was better than the others. There is no sin in having wealth. The sin comes when wealth becomes more important than God. Paul's 1st letter to Timothy, 6:6-10 says it all; "There is great gain in godliness with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world; but if we have food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and hurtful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all evils; it is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced their

hearts with many pangs.”

The Bible talks a lot about the poor and makes it clear that we should not ignore their plight. The Bible has examples of rich people being blessed by God, including Abraham, Jacob, and Solomon. But, in the overwhelming majority of cases, when Scripture speaks of material wealth, it warns us of the dangers of having riches. It is not a sin to be rich, but riches certainly invite temptation. The sin is not in possessing wealth but in our attitudes about that wealth and in the ways we use it. In no way am I trying to shame anyone for what they possess. I enjoy the many blessings that have been given to me. There is no way that I would trade what I have for a life of poverty. I give thanks to God every day for the way I can live.

There are those people in this world, however, that are not able to live as we do. Poverty exists and we cannot ignore it. Those who have less than we do are not living this way because God decided who can and cannot live in prosperity. These things are just the way the world works. I have seen and heard of people whose faith is so much stronger than most but have nowhere near as much as we enjoy. The Bible has a lot to say about being poor, and we have many examples of poor people in Scripture. Since material wealth is not a sure indication of God’s blessing, being poor is not necessarily a sign of God’s disapproval. In fact, it is possible to be poor in material things but rich in spiritual things. The Bible portrays poor people as having been blessed, and many who are rich are seen in a negative light. Jesus Himself was poor, not having a home or a “place to lay his head” (Matthew 8:20). The disciples and most of Jesus’ followers were poor, at least in worldly terms, but rich in spiritual wealth. The disciples even left all they had to follow Him, giving up all they owned, placing their full trust in Him to provide what they needed. Jesus said the poor will always be with us.

The Bible constantly yells us that material wealth is temporary just as our worldly life is temporary. All of this that we enjoy here on earth will pass on just as we will pass on. This being said, what are we supposed to look forward to? Read your scriptures and discover what God has promised us that will replace this temporary existence with permanence. We are promised eternity in God's Kingdom **IF** we follow Christ and obey the Holy Spirit. As I have said many times, what God promises, He will deliver because God does not lie. How much more will be enough? Isn't what God says enough for us? Praise Be to God. Amen.

Prayers of the People- O Lord, we give you thanks for the example of Abraham and for all the saints who have gone before us, for those who waited in patience for your promises to come to pass, for those who lived in hope while around them it seemed to be only darkness, for those who witnessed to you when it was not considered the proper thing to do, for those who forgot their own selves in their

desire to obey your commands and respond to your call upon their lives. Help us today, O God, to examine the level of our faith, to look seriously at our resistance to talk about the cross and about sacrifice; and to consider in prayer our reluctance to give up the things of this world, to risk our reputations, our comfort, and our security for the sake of following you, for the sake of witnessing to you, for the sake of obeying you. We pray, O Lord, that you would make us bold in our faith. By our self-forgetting, our self-denial, help us make visible to all our brothers and sisters the reality of your power and care, that power and care that is so often made evident when we confess our weakness, and so often concealed from others when we think we are strong. We pray, O Lord, for those people whose names, or faces, or needs are resting upon our hearts, for the members of our church whose health is failing as they age, for those believers whose families are struggling to deal with teenage rebellion and adult confusion and uncertainty, for those who have little or no faith and who seem to be lost even though your light shines around them and your word is close to hand. Help us to discover that You are more than enough. In the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Communion Hymn- 374- Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face To Face

Thanksgiving Prayer- Lord Jesus, as we gather around the communion table, unite our hearts as one body. Let the bread and wine not only remind us of Your sacrifice but also of our calling to walk in love, peace, and unity with one another. Heal any division, bitterness, or offense among us, and replace it with a bond of brotherhood in the Spirit. Help us live in harmony, just as You desire for Your people. Amen.

Closing Hymn- 697- In The Sweet By And By

Benediction- Go now, and live before God in openness and integrity. Set your minds on the ways of God, not clinging to your own life, but taking up your cross and following Jesus. And may God give you a share in the eternal covenant; May Christ Jesus be proud of you when he comes in glory; And may the Holy Spirit make you grow strong in faith and lead you in the ways of righteousness. We go in peace to love and serve the Lord, In the name of Christ. Amen.