

Eastern Mission

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America

March 2021

Greetings of Gods Peace and Blessings to all:

We are coming up on about a year now that we have been facing some difficulties with Covid restrictions. There has been time that our churches have not been able to be open, church functions unable to be done, such as funerals and weddings, and when they are; there are restrictions on how many can attend or how we conduct a service. Yet in all this God still makes a way. We are blessed every day; God is still with us every day. Rejoice in this.

What is so marvelous in this, is that by God's goodness we have the technology to share in his Word, to hear his Word and to attend a service online. Most churches have services through Facebook, YouTube and on the church websites. If one has access to a computer, there is available many options to listen to a service from a church of your choosing. There are also call-in options. The Eastern Mission does have a Facebook page that newsletters and podcasts are available. We can also take suggestions on what could be helpful to put on it. The Eastern Mission as well hosts a Podcast, called God's Peace, which is available to all to listen to.

When we look at this opportunity to be in the Word through technology, it is a reminder that we should make time each day to be with God. If we do not spend time with God, we cannot fully do God's Work. It is not if one stands in the front of the church and shares or if one is sitting in the pews listening, we must all make that time to spend with God. We are all called to be servants of God, bringing the Gospel to the world, to bring Jesus to the world. We can do so boldly for we have God with us in our hearts and guiding our lives through the Holy Spirit. We as Holy Children of God can go forth without fear, to do outreach work, to do mission work, to fellowship with one another. It does not have to be a formal undertaking, be an example of God's Grace in how you share your life, in how you are seen by others with each step you take.

We look at; **Joshua 1/8** ; This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

We see here that God is reminding Joshua that he must know the Word of God before he can be a leader of his people. This Word is his life guide; it is what he makes his decisions on and judgements to help the people. This continues to be true in our lives as the Gospel message should not leave us. The Gospel should always be part of how we live our lives, in how we show our faith to the world. God tells us to make time to be with him to gain knowledge, to have understanding, and to be given wisdom in our sharing God to the world. Take up the scripture and read it. I saw a quote that says "God grant me the patience and discipline to stay still for a while each day. That I might hear your gentle whisper in my life". Should we not strive for that? In a book I am reading there is a quote that says, "Preach the Gospel everyday and if needed use words". As a believer we live by what our heart confesses. We live the Gospel, Share the Gospel, Teach the Gospel, then we use words if needed. We seek no glory in serving, we serve with Joy.

1 Corinthians 9/16 says: For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for

necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

In a class I attend through the seminary it was discussed how our elders knew the scriptures so well. Looking back at their lives we know they may have had a newspaper or a radio, but they did not have the distractions of the world. Each evening they sat in a chair, on the table next to the chair was a Bible, probably worn from reading each night, and they made time to sit with God. They read the scriptures, studied, and discussed the Bible. They prayed and spent time with God in quietness. Find silent time to be with God in fellowship, pick up the Bible whether worn, new or covered with dust, open it, and see what God wants to tell you. We may be surprised what he reveals to us. Make it a priority each day that have time to be with God in the Word.

As we begin this season of Lent, we can examine our lives and hearts, to find and recognize those things in life that are interfering or keeping us from God, those things that distract us from making that time to be with God. It is not something that we change for a short period of time, but it is something we do always, because have Jesus in our hearts. If you choose a ritual of giving something up for lent it is meaningless if not done with a heart fully of God. We must remember, that all what we have been given, all we do in serving, starts at the Cross and what Jesus did for us. He took our sins unto death, resurrected so we can have life. Live for Jesus.

1 Corinthians 1/18: For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

God's Grace, Mercy and Peace be with you all,

Jon Salo

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