

July 9, 2023: Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Main Idea: Even (and especially) when we misunderstand Jesus, he will come to us offering another lesson—another chance to grow in our wisdom and in our relationship with him.

This gospel text is a combination of frustration and invitation. It starts with Jesus scolding the crowds around him for failing to grasp what is right in front of them. In likening John the Baptist to a demon and calling Jesus, himself, a glutton and a drunkard who befriends tax collectors and other sinners, these crowds show Jesus that they are fundamentally confused about who he is. They are operating on bits and pieces of the truth. They have missed the point—the significance—of the Son of Man, entirely, which means they don't really get who he is or what he is on earth to accomplish.

Jesus must feel disheartened by all of this. And maybe a little anxious, too. Friends and strangers alike seem to be mixing messages about him—he does not seem to be in control of the narrative that is circulating about him. But instead of succumbing to the irritation and the worry—instead of writing everyone off because they should have figured things out by now—Jesus invites them to figure things out later. He calls them to keep learning from him as he teaches. He gives them the benefit of the doubt, assuming that they will grow in their wisdom and draw the connections they need to draw between him and the Father with just a little more time and attention.

Jesus uses the word “yoke” here to in the way that it is used in most rabbinic writings—that is, to reference obedience to the Torah (the written law). Jesus wants your faith journey to liberate you and to free you of your burdens instead of becoming another burden in and of itself. Jesus wants to walk with you in your growing understanding of him instead of leaving you to your own devices. This passage is a testament to the patience of our God and the evergreen opportunities God provides to know God—to connect with God.

Scripture Summary

Jesus acknowledges there's a lot of misunderstanding about who he is. But instead of giving up on the people, he invites them to come to him and know him more deeply—to learn from him a new and different way.



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*Come to me,
all you that are
weary and are
carrying heavy
burdens, and
I will give you rest.*



GOD'S WORD for Today

July 9, 2023

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.' ⁴²'I came today to the spring, and said, 'O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also" —let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master's son.' ⁴⁵'Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' ⁴⁶She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸Then I bowed my head and worshiped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.'" ⁵⁸And they called Rebekah, and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." ⁵⁹So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. ⁶⁰And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes."⁶¹Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. ⁶²Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. ⁶³Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. ⁶⁴And

Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, ⁶⁵and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Psalm: Psalm 45:10-17 or Song of Solomon 2:8-13

Second Reading: Romans 7:15-25a

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

¹⁶"But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ¹⁷'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.' ¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

²⁵At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."