



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

August 8, 2010
Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Rev. Jeremiah Wright

RCL: Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40
LM: Wisdom 18:6-9; Psalm 33:1, 12, 18-19, 20-22; Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19 or 11:1-2, 8-12;
Luke 12:32-48 or 12:35-40

One of my parishioners, Judge R. Eugene Pincham, a retired judge of the appellate court in the state of Illinois, says that when he grew up, he grew up “po.” His family was too poor to afford the “or” in the word “poor.” His mother, however, raised him and his brother on the principle that God provided “enough for all.”

Whenever they sat down to eat, they always had something extra in case there was an individual or a family in their community who was hungry. Anyone who showed up at dinnertime always had something to eat because God had provided “enough for all.”

As I listened to Judge Pincham describe the conditions under which he grew up, I thought about my parents and the home in which I was raised. My parents also were from the South. (Judge Pincham was raised in Alabama, while my parents were raised in Philadelphia.) In the South among African Americans, the principle was that no one should go hungry! Food was always available for anyone who showed up at dinnertime or at any mealtime.

My parents could take leftovers and make a feast fit for a king. Yet they always had something extra if an unexpected guest stopped by at mealtime because God had provided “enough for all.”

The connecting thread for me in today’s readings is that in the economy of creation, God has provided “enough for all.” God has provided resources for the sustenance of life, so all humankind can enjoy life’s fullness. Those who claim to love God, however, have acted selfishly and unjustly, and as a result some of us on God’s earth have nothing, while a few of us on God’s earth wallow in overabundance.

The reading from Isaiah shows God’s displeasure with our splendid worship services because the worshipers do not seek justice. They do not rescue oppressed people or defend orphans and widows. Poor people are left wanting, while the rich love worship. God warns (in the midst of worship!) that such unwillingness to obey God’s way will result in a war that the rich will lose! “Justice denied anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” Seeking the justice of food for those who are on the margins is Bread for the World’s response to God’s call.



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Psalm 50 undergirds this theme, showing the uselessness of worship without works. We “talk the talk,” but we do not “walk the walk”! Only to those who go the right way (God’s way) does God show salvation. Going some other way brings about our own condemnation.

In Hebrews, the writer reminds us that God’s Word prepared the worlds. The reference back to the creation story reminds us that in creation God made “enough for all”! We are strangers and foreigners on this earth that God made, and we are allowed to share in (as equals) the abundance God has placed here.

Luke underscores the theme by showing us how those with more than enough are to sell their surplus and give to those who have nothing. The image of the wedding banquet drives the point home; those who serve God have prepared food for all who are invited to God’s table!

When we prepare a banquet, we prepare more than enough so that there will always be “enough for all”! God honors that kind of faithfulness by blessing everyone who takes time to prepare enough for all!

Children’s Time

Bring ten pieces of fruit (like apples). In selecting children to take part in an exercise, ask to see the hands of those who like apples. Pick ten who like apples, and then line them up. Give nine apples to one child, one to another child, and nothing to the other eight children. Ask the children to clap their hands if they love you and are happy. (The one with the nine apples might not be able to clap!) Then ask them to show their love for you by dividing the apples so that everyone has something to eat. Of course, if all goes well, the one with the nine apples will provide each of the other eight children with one apple so that everyone has “enough for all”! Based upon that demonstration, explain what happens in today’s world. The richest one-fifth of the world’s population uses up 86 percent of the world’s resources, while the poorest fifth consumes only one percent.¹ God has provided “enough for all,” but the wealthiest one-fifth of God’s children who say they love God will not share that which God has made so that all have enough and can eat!

Musical Suggestions [LH]

Banquet of Praise in Justice Spread—Banquet of Praise 79

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart—Gather Comprehensive 815

Praise and Thanksgiving—Gather Comprehensive 764

1. United Nations Development Program, 1999.



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Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning—The New Century Hymnal 369

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