

“TAKE 10”- Worship While Away! (Sunday, October 1, 2017)

Share:

In the midst of meaninglessness, You call us to meaning, O God.
In the midst of divisiveness, You call us to community through Christ.
Out of our brokenness, You call us to wholeness and new life in the Spirit.
Through faith, with thanksgiving, we respond with joy.

Read these words from a hymn today: *There Is a Balm in Gilead*

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole, there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain, but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole, there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

Read this scripture from worship: Matthew 21:23-32 (*The Message*)

²³ Then he was back in the Temple, teaching. The high priests and leaders of the people came up and demanded, “Show us your credentials. Who authorized you to teach here?”

²⁴⁻²⁵ Jesus responded, “First let me ask you a question. You answer my question and I’ll answer yours. About the baptism of John—who authorized it: heaven or humans?”

²⁵⁻²⁷ They were on the spot and knew it. They pulled back into a huddle and whispered, “If we say ‘heaven,’ he’ll ask us why we didn’t believe him; if we say ‘humans,’ we’re up against it with the people because they all hold John up as a prophet.” They decided to concede that round to Jesus. “We don’t know,” they answered.

Jesus said, “Then neither will I answer your question.

²⁸ “Tell me what you think of this story: A man had two sons. He went up to the first and said, ‘Son, go out for the day and work in the vineyard.’

²⁹ “The son answered, ‘I don’t want to.’ Later on he thought better of it and went.

³⁰ “The father gave the same command to the second son. He answered, ‘Sure, glad to.’ But he never went.

³¹⁻³² “Which of the two sons did what the father asked?”

They said, “The first.”

Jesus said, “Yes, and I tell you that crooks and whores are going to precede you into God’s kingdom. John came to you showing you the right road. You turned up your noses at him, but the crooks and whores believed him. Even when you saw their changed lives, you didn’t care enough to change and believe him.

Talk together, responding to these questions:

- Have you ever agreed to do something and found that it was not possible to keep your promise?
- Have you ever had someone do this to you?
- How do you feel when this happens?
- What if someone just blows off their promise?
- How do you think God feels when promises are broken?
- God gets angry in the Old Testament, does God get angry today?

Pray together:

Loving God, your love for us is deep, holding strong even as we struggle for truth, even as we gamble on other paths, even as we are ready to give in to temptation. Walk with us and help us see beyond the flashy, beyond the smooth pitch, beyond the quick fix. Keep our eyes focused on Jesus, who knew temptation, disappointment and pain, yet remained faithful to the One who is always working for good. Hold us in your grace, tender God, and bring us to increasing faith with open hearts and ready lives. Amen.

Bless one another:

Take each person's hand and say. "God's grace is for you, God's love is upon you, God's Call is within you. Be kind to yourself this week.

Resources Used: Homiletics Online, Glory to God, The Presbyterian Hymnal