

“TAKE 10”- Worship While Away! (Sunday, November 26, 2017)

Share: The Lord God is our shepherd.
We are the people of God’s pasture, the sheep of God’s hand.
God will seek the lost, feed the hungry, and strengthen the weak.
But the proud and power-hungry will be fed with justice.

Read these words from a hymn today: *You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd*
You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shepherd. You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
You, peacemaker and sword-bringer, of the way you took and gave.
You, the everlasting instant; you, whom we both scorn and crave.
You, who walk each day beside us, sit in power at God’s side.
You, who preach a way that’s narrow, have a love that reaches wide.
You, the everlasting instant; you, who are our pilgrim guide.

Read this scripture from worship: Matthew 25:31-46 (*The Message*)

³¹⁻³³ “When he finally arrives, blazing in beauty and all his angels with him, the Son of Man will take his place on his glorious throne. Then all the nations will be arranged before him and he will sort the people out, much as a shepherd sorts out sheep and goats, putting sheep to his right and goats to his left.

³⁴⁻³⁶ “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Enter, you who are blessed by my Father! Take what’s coming to you in this kingdom. It’s been ready for you since the world’s foundation. And here’s why:

I was hungry and you fed me,
I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,
I was homeless and you gave me a room,
I was shivering and you gave me clothes,
I was sick and you stopped to visit,
I was in prison and you came to me.’

³⁷⁻⁴⁰ “Then those ‘sheep’ are going to say, ‘Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?’ Then the King will say, ‘I’m telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.’

⁴¹⁻⁴³ “Then he will turn to the ‘goats,’ the ones on his left, and say, ‘Get out, worthless goats! You’re good for nothing but the fires of hell. And why? Because—

I was hungry and you gave me no meal,
I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,
I was homeless and you gave me no bed,

I was shivering and you gave me no clothes,
Sick and in prison, and you never visited.'

⁴⁴ "Then those 'goats' are going to say, 'Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or homeless or shivering or sick or in prison and didn't help?'

⁴⁵ "He will answer them, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you failed to do one of these things to someone who was being overlooked or ignored, that was me—you failed to do it to me.'

⁴⁶ "Then those 'goats' will be herded to their eternal doom, but the 'sheep' to their eternal reward."

Talk together, responding to these questions:

- What kind of King is Jesus?
- When have I failed to be Christ to others?
- How can I be Christ to others?
- How would it change me to see the face of Christ in every stranger I meet?

Pray together:

Lord Jesus, when did I see you hungry? When did I see you thirsty? When did I welcome you, or clothe you, or take care of you, or visit you? Have I ignored your claim upon my time, my attention, my resources? Open my eyes; melt my heart; enlighten my understanding. Let me see you in the world, welcome you as my brother, and serve you as my Lord, with the family you acknowledge as your own: the poor, the stranger, the sick, and the prisoner. 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 and others this week as a child of God."

Resources Used: *Glory to God*, The Presbyterian Hymnal
Feasting on the Word, Year A, A Worship Companion