

“TAKE 10”- Worship While Away! (Sunday, November 5, 2017)

Share: Come, let us worship the God of abundant blessings?
What shall we bring before God?
 We bring our bodies and spirits – broken and in need of healing.
What shall we bring before God?
 We bring our dreams and our hopes to be fulfilled.
What shall we bring before God?
 We bring our gratitude and our commitment to make a difference in
 our community and world.
What shall we bring before God?
 We bring ourselves. May our offerings and our dedication be holy
 and acceptable to God.

Read these words from a hymn today: *Take My Life and Let It Be*
Take my life and let it be, consecrated, Lord, to thee; take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise; let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold; take my intellect and use,
every power as thou shalt choose, every power as thou shalt choose.
Take my love, my Lord, I pour, at thy feet its treasure store; take myself and I will be:
ever, only, all for thee, every only, all for thee.

Read this scripture from worship: Matthew 23:1-12 (*The Message*)

23 ¹⁻³ Now Jesus turned to address his disciples, along with the crowd that had gathered with them. “The religion scholars and Pharisees are competent teachers in God’s Law. You won’t go wrong in following their teachings on Moses. But be careful about following *them*. They talk a good line, but they don’t live it. They don’t take it into their hearts and live it out in their behavior. It’s all spit-and-polish veneer.

⁴⁻⁷ “Instead of giving you God’s Law as food and drink by which you can banquet on God, they package it in bundles of rules, loading you down like pack animals. They seem to take pleasure in watching you stagger under these loads, and wouldn’t think of lifting a finger to help. Their lives are perpetual fashion shows, embroidered prayer shawls one day and flowery prayers the next. They love to sit at the head table at church dinners, basking in the most prominent positions, preening in the radiance of public flattery, receiving honorary degrees, and getting called ‘Doctor’ and ‘Reverend.’

⁸⁻¹⁰ “Don’t let people do that to *you*, put you on a pedestal like that. You all have a single Teacher, and you are all classmates. Don’t set people up as experts over your life, letting them tell you what to do. Save that authority for God; let *him* tell you what to do. No one else should carry the title of ‘Father’; you have only one Father, and he’s in heaven. And don’t let people maneuver you into taking charge of them. There is only one Life-Leader for you and them—Christ.

11-12 “Do you want to stand out? Then step down. Be a servant. If you puff yourself up, you’ll get the wind knocked out of you. But if you’re content to simply be yourself, your life will count for plenty.

Talk together, responding to these questions:

- It is easy to find faults in others; can you see any of the scribes’ and Pharisees’ behavior in yourself?
- Think of examples of humility exercised by someone (a family member, friend, neighbor, stranger, yourself) and consider what it means that the one who is humble is the greatest among us?
- How do I take God’s Law and the Good News of Christ into my heart and live it?
- What do I need to surrender to the Lord, saying, “Take my _____ and . . . ?”

Pray together:

Thank you for waking me up this morning, O God; each day is a gift from you. Let your word be at work within me today that I may be faithful to you and every breath be a prayer of gratitude and every act be an expression of humble service. Through Christ, who humbled himself for our salvation. 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 as a child of God."

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