

“TAKE 10”- Worship While Away! (Sunday, November 3, 2024)

Share:

A wandering people wondered what their new life would be like, and Moses said:

You shall love the Lord with all your heart.

Generations later, leaders argued over which rules were most important, and Jesus reminded them:

You shall love the Lord with all your soul.

And in this world that so often feels broken and brutal, we recognize God’s call

You shall love the Lord with all your might

With heart, soul, and might, let us worship God.

Read these words from a hymn:

Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord

**Take Thou our minds, dear Lord, we humbly pray,
Give us the mind of Christ each passing day;
Teach us to know the truth that sets us free;
Grant us in all our thoughts to honor Thee.**

**Take Thou our hearts, O Christ, they are Thine own;
Come Thou within our souls and claim Thy throne;
Help us to shed abroad Thy deathless love;
Use us to make the earth like heaven above.**

**Take Thou our wills, Most High! Hold Thou full sway;
Have in our inmost souls Thy perfect way;
Guard Thou each sacred hour from selfish ease;
Guide Thou our ordered lives as Thou dost please.**

**Take Thou ourselves, O Lord, heart, mind, and will;
Through our surrendered souls Thy plans fulfill.
We yield ourselves to Thee—time, talents, all;
We hear, and henceforth heed, Thy sovereign call.**

Read this scripture from worship:

Ruth 1:1-18 *The Message*

¹⁻² Once upon a time—it was back in the days when judges led Israel—there was a famine in the land. A man from Bethlehem in Judah left home to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. The man’s name was Elimelech; his wife’s name was Naomi; his sons were named Mahlon and Kilion—all Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They all went to the country of Moab and settled there.

³⁻⁵ Elimelech died and Naomi was left, she and her two sons. The sons took Moabite wives; the name of the first was Orpah, the second Ruth. They lived there in Moab for the next ten years. But then the two brothers, Mahlon and Kilion, died. Now the woman was left without either her young men or her husband. ⁶⁻⁷ One day she got herself together, she and her two daughters-in-law, to leave the country of Moab and set out for home; she had heard that God had been pleased to visit his people and give them food.

And so she started out from the place she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law with her, on the road back to the land of Judah.

⁸⁻⁹ After a short while on the road, Naomi told her two daughters-in-law, “Go back. Go home and live with your mothers. And may God treat you as graciously as you treated your deceased husbands and me. May God give each of you a new home and a new husband!” She kissed them and they cried openly.

¹⁰ They said, “No, we’re going on with you to your people.”

¹¹⁻¹³ But Naomi was firm: “Go back, my dear daughters. Why would you come with me? Do you suppose I still have sons in my womb who can become your future husbands? Go back, dear daughters—on your way, please! I’m too old to get a husband. Why, even if I said, ‘There’s still hope!’ and this very night got a man and had sons, can you imagine being satisfied to wait until they were grown? Would you wait that long to get married again? No, dear daughters; this is a bitter pill for me to swallow—more bitter for me than for you. God has dealt me a hard blow.”

¹⁴ Again they cried openly. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye; but Ruth embraced her and held on. ¹⁵ Naomi said, “Look, your sister-in-law is going back home to live with her own people and gods; go with her.”

¹⁶⁻¹⁷ But Ruth said, “Don’t force me to leave you; don’t make me go home. Where you go, I go; and where you live, I’ll live. Your people are my people, your God is my god; where you die, I’ll die, and that’s where I’ll be buried, so help me God—not even death itself is going to come between us!” ¹⁸ When Naomi saw that Ruth had her heart set on going with her, she gave in. And so the two of them traveled on together to Bethlehem.

Mark 12:28-34, *The Message*

²⁸ One of the religion scholars came up. Hearing the lively exchanges of question and answer and seeing how sharp Jesus was in his answers, he put in his question: “Which is most important of all the commandments?”

²⁹⁻³¹ Jesus said, “The first in importance is, ‘Listen, Israel: The Lord your God is one; so love the Lord God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy.’ And here is the second: ‘Love others as well as you love yourself.’ There is no other commandment that ranks with these.”

³²⁻³³ The religion scholar said, “A wonderful answer, Teacher! So clear-cut and accurate—that God is one and there is no other. And loving him with all passion and intelligence and energy, and loving others as well as you love yourself. Why, that’s better than all offerings and sacrifices put together!”

³⁴ When Jesus realized how insightful he was, he said, “You’re almost there, right on the border of God’s kingdom.”

After that, no one else dared ask a question.

Talk together:

- ✎ When you hear the words, “the bottom line,” what do you imagine?
- ✎ What is the “bottom line” for the scribe and Jesus?
- ✎ What is the “bottom line” for followers of Jesus?
- ✎ What does it mean to you to love God with all you’ve got and to love your neighbor as yourself?
- ✎ How will you obey and live out these commandments in the week ahead?
- ✎ How will you keep the “main thing the main thing?”

Pray together

O God, you are our God, and we come as your people on earth. Gather us in, that we may remember the ties that bind us together in your love. Write your law upon our hearts, that others may find us to be generous and loving friends. Strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may live in love—a love that transforms our lives even as we help to transform the lives of others. In the hope of your miraculous love, we pray. Amen.

Resources Used:

Feasting on the Word

Glory to God

The Presbyterian Hymnal