

Pastor's Class
April 28, 2010
Evil: Humanity's Call
Rev. Dr. Arthur Bergren

Welcome/Opening Prayer

Review

God's Way

If there is a gap between the ways things are and the way things should be
Then we need a bridge
Bridge is Jesus Christ
The Wilderness, Ministry, Preaching, Table Fellowship, Healings
Cross, Resurrection
Jesus is the bridge that fills the gap caused by the fall.

Baptism

Gift of Jesus
Gift of the Bridge
Call of Humanity is to journey across the bridge
Growing in Faith
Resisting Evil
Confession of Sins

First Call

Grow in Faith
Grow in our Baptisms

Acts 2: 37-47

³⁷Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" ³⁸Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." ⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." ⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. ⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The Day of Pentecost

The first Christians sought to grow in their faith

Point: We need Christian Community

Through Bible Study, Fellowship, Service and Worship

Strengthen for their faith walk

Second Call

Resist Evil through word and deed

Matthew 25: 31-40

³¹When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Tend to those in need

Often the most weak are most vulnerable to evil

The hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, the imprisoned

Discover the face of Christ within them

Never can turn away from other people's pain

Third Call

Repent when Evil overcomes us

John 8: 31-36

³¹Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.

³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

Slave to Sin is like being a slave to evil

Either we are working for God or against God

Repentance redirects us

So how does this all come together?

Holocaust of the Jewish People

Evil of the Nazi regime

6 million dead

Concentration Camps

Rev. Andre Trocme, pastor of the Reformed congregation in Le Chambon sur Lignon
Served during WWII

After France's surrender to the Nazi's, he proclaimed these words in a sermon
"The responsibility of the Christians is to resist the violence that will be brought to bear on their consciences through the weapons of the spirit."

His parishioners, the people of God, in that time and place took this call seriously

They hid and protected 5,000 Jews from the Nazi's

These actions put themselves and their families at great risk

After the war, the people were described as heroic and virtuous

They were surprised, even puzzled, at all the attention

They believed this is what you do in the face of evil

They embodied the bridge of Jesus

Call of Humanity is to journey across the bridge

Growing in Faith

Resisting Evil

Confession of Sins

Next Time:

5 May 2010—People of Faith: Elijah