



LIGHT FROM THE LECTIONARY

LEADER PAGES

Lent3C

March 14, 2004

From BIBLE STUDIES BY E-MAIL

RCL Readings:

Isaiah 55:1-9

Ps 63:1-8

1 Cor 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

MAJOR THEMES

SEEKING THE LORD is one throughout the readings. It is expressed in terms of thirst.

GRACE that is abundant and free also stands out here in the images of water and food offered to all and without price.

REPENTANCE is a theme in the Gospel lesson.

THE PROBLEM OF SUFFERING is also a theme in the Gospel lesson.

WARNINGS is a theme in the Gospel and epistle lessons as well.

Discussion Questions

A. Isaiah 55:1-9. You might come to the session today sipping a bottle of cold water and acting like it is the best you have ever had. Talk about how good it is. Then relate this to the readings today which use thirst as an image of seeking or needing God. (Then here or later you can give them each, for free, a bottle of cold water).

B. What's the toughest thing about packing up and moving to another home? (Relate this to how the exiles in Babylon are being are being challenged to pack up, to get ready, for God was coming to bring them home).

C. Is there someone you know who is also hungry and thirsty for God? How might you point him or her to the true source of water and food?"

D. (verse 3). Who in their family when they were growing up most heard this or something like it, "Listen! Pay attention!"?

E. Ask them, "What do you think it means to 'seek the Lord'"?

F. Ask, "When have you found yourself really seeking God? Why? What happened?" (You might wish to divide them into small groups and let them ask and answer this question).

G. There is a warning here in this verse. Ask them if they can identify it. (It's to seek the Lord WHILE THE LORD IS NEAR AND CAN BE FOUND. Does this not imply that perhaps they can wait too long?)

H. Ps 63. Where does the psalmist feel he/she is in regard to God?

I. But does he/she stay there?

J. What desert have you been through lately?

K. Which verse from this psalm best fits your relationship with God right now?

L. St. John Chrysostom advised us to read this psalm each day. Challenge the group to read it each day next week and to be ready to share their experiences next time.

M. 1 Cor 10:1-13 When you were growing up, what or who did your parents use as an example or warning for you? What have you used with your own children?

N. What are the temptations you have the most trouble with on your own spiritual journey?

O. Does what Paul say here about them give you any insight and help in coping with them?

P. What's something from the old life that you know you need to leave behind in order to fully follow Christ?

Q. Luke 13:1-9. When did you first come to realize how fragile life can be?

R. If you knew this would be the last day of your life, how would you spend it?

S. What would you want to make sure you did?

T. If you took the words of Jesus to repent seriously, what would that mean for you right now in your life?

U. Conclude this session with a hymn. One that comes to mind is, "Nearer My God to Thee." It expresses well the message of today's lesson of seeking the Lord. Another one might be, "O Master Let Me Walk With Thee."

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