

Fourteenth Sunday after PentecostSEPTEMBER 6, 2020

INVITATION AND GATHERING

WELCOME

CENTERING WORDS

When we break God's commands, we are often quick to blame outer circumstances. Let us come before the Lord this morning ready to take responsibility for our actions and seeking a pure heart."

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

Listen for God's word of hope with new ears and fresh faith: Here is God's good news. Now is the time. This is the time to pay attention to God's word to see what He has to say to us today.

***SCRIPTURE READING Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23**

*** OPENING HYMN:Sanctuary**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Let every people from every land hear the good news of Jesus Christ!

People: Let us proclaim the wonderful news of the resurrection wherever we go.

Leader: And let the mercy and grace we have received be extended to all we meet.

People: That everyone might know our words to be full of truth and substance.

Leader: Christ the Lord lives today in the hearts and lives of the church.

All: Blessed be the name of the Lord!

*** Let us pray (Congregation):
Heavenly Father, we, your children, need your help. O Creator God, we come asking you to create in us clean hearts. We know that the evil that is in us shows up in our greed, deceit, jealousy,**

slander, pride, and folly. By your Spirit establish your love in our hearts that it may shine in our every word and action. Amen.

*** LET'S WORSHIP THE LORD WITH HYMNS: Precious Lord Take My Hand**

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Congregation)**

Lord, we are prone to judge ourselves and make decisions based on what is acceptable in society. Wake us up, Merciful God, to the freedom you have given us from customs and conformity that we may follow your will and only your will in deciding what is good and right and pleasing to you. Amen.

*** LET'S WORSHIP THE LORD WITH HYMNS:Lord, I Need You**

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

Gracious God, like a pen in your hands, write us with open hearts to hear the words of Holy Scripture. Open our lives this day that we may respond to your word with acts of love and care. Amen

***SCRIPTURE READING:James 1:12-18**

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE WORD MADE FLESH: "Overcoming Temptation"

*** RESPONSE TO THE WORD: A Decided Mind**

CONGREGATION IN PRAYER: Joys and Concerns

*** PRAYER HYMN: # 2200 O Lord, Hear My Prayer**

HOLY COMMUNION

CLOSING HYMN: You Are My Hiding Place

***DISMISSAL BLESSING**

Today's Scripture Readings -- September 6, 2020

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

7 Then the Pharisees and some of the scribes came together to Him, having come from Jerusalem. ² Now ^[a] when they saw some of His disciples eat bread with defiled, that is, with unwashed hands, ^[b] they found fault. ³ For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands ^[c] in a special way, holding the tradition of the elders. ⁴ When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other things which they have received and hold, like the washing of cups, pitchers, copper vessels, and couches.

⁵ Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?"

⁶ He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.

⁷ And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'

⁸ For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men—^[d] the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do."

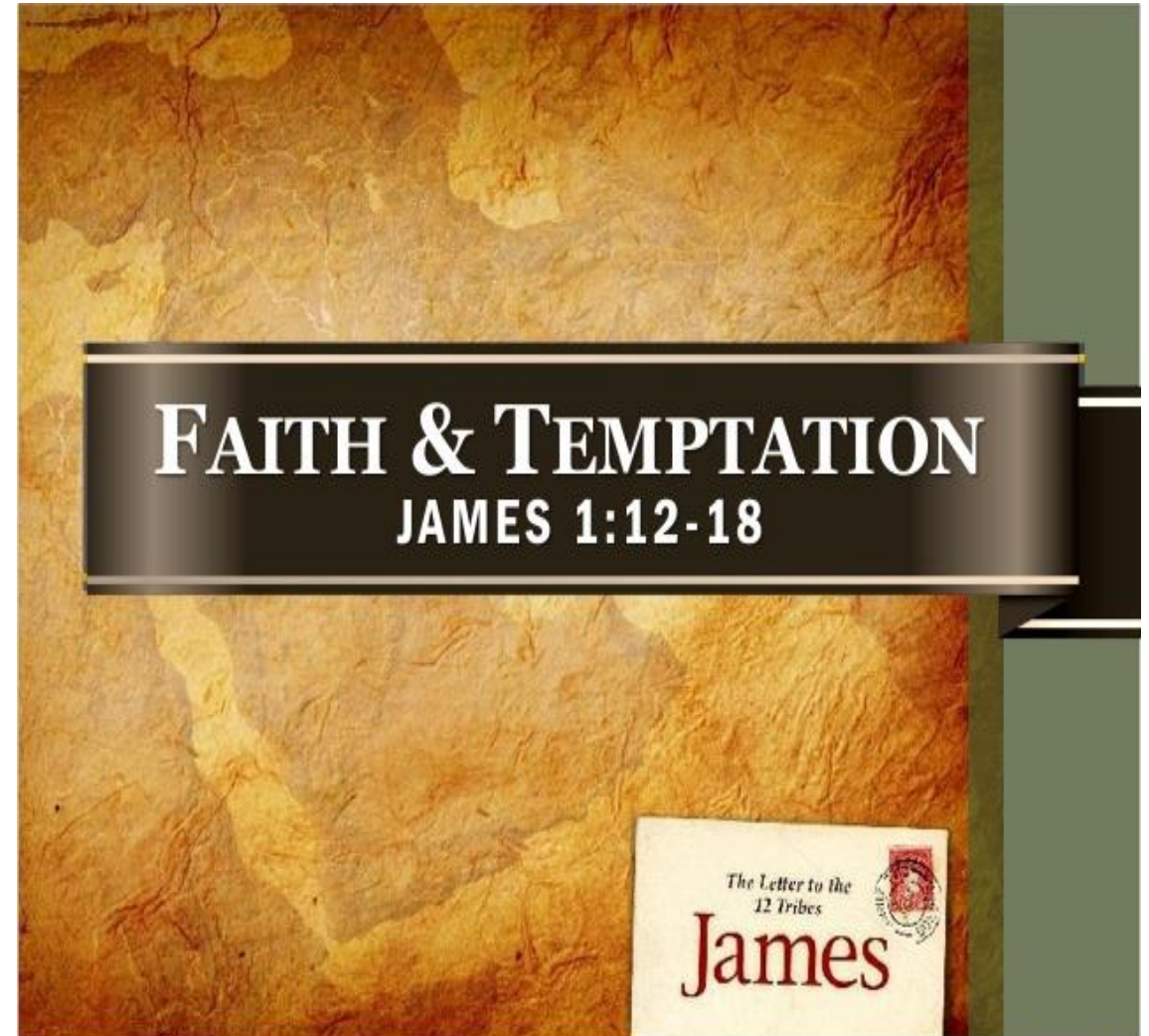
¹⁴ When He had called all the multitude to Himself, He said to them, "Hear Me, everyone, and understand: ¹⁵ There is nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him; but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man.

²¹ For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, ²² thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. ²³ All these evil things come from within and defile a man."

Second Scripture Reading: James 1:12-18

¹² Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. ¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. ¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. ¹⁸ Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of His creatures.



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