

Cleansed by the Word

by Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin

The 15th Sunday after Pentecost (Pr 17B)
2 September, A.D. 2018
Dt 4.1-2, 6-9; Eph 6.10-20; Mk 7.14-23

Introduction

How did the crowds feel about Jesus?

How about the scribes and Pharisees?

I. Scribes, Pharisees, & the Power of The Word

What becomes important during a crisis?

The example of the Jewish people . . .

What happened in 586 BC?

Why had this happened (cf. Dt 4)?

What actually happened when Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians?

What did the people realize in the exile?

Key responses of faith:

1. Renewed attention to God's Word

What did all the people recognize? "We have _____! We ignored God's _____! Our own opinions were more important than the words of Moses. Our own pleasure and "happiness" was more important than _____ to God.

What did the fall of Jerusalem and the exile help the people recognize the importance of?

Before copy machines, how did we get copies?

Scribes are people _____ in writing skills... During the exile in Babylon educated scribes became the experts in God's written word, copying, preserving, and _____ it.

2. The Rise of the Synagogue & the Pharisees

a. The Synagogue

Synagogue worship arose because the Jews didn't have the _____.

Who led these services?

What happened to them after the exile?

According to the Gospels, _____ participated in both Temple and synagogue worship.

Blessings & greetings from your Capital Campaign Committee!

The Phase One goal was to pay off enough debt to restore a full-time Minister of Music to our staff and--along the way--help our local, regional, and international mission partners.

Though--thus far--we did not quite get to our goal, there is a lot to celebrate!

In the last three years, this campaign, thus far, has:

- † Paid down almost **\$550,000** of our debt
- † Provided over **\$15,000** to help build a new Lutheran school in the Dominican Republic
- † Provided over **\$12,000** to help homeless families recover and find a more permanent home through Family Promise of Western Waukesha County
- † Provided over **\$17,000** in tuition support to the Lutheran High School Association of Greater Milwaukee.

This campaign has deepened our relationships with our community, with our mission partners, and helped--even in subtle ways--thousands of people, in Oconomowoc, Waukesha County, Greater Milwaukee, and the Dominican Republic.

The Free to Serve committee met and agreed to distribute all tithes and offerings through the official end of the campaign on August 31, 2018. All special Free to Serve offerings arriving after August 31st will go directly to debt reduction.

If you have questions about what your pledge was, please contact the church office at 262.567.5001.

Our LORD has blessed us richly and given us the opportunity to bless others through the Free to Serve capital campaign.

Thank you to all who contributed to the campaign!

In Christ,

Dr. Pete Sheild



LIFE TOGETHER

Bible Study Opportunity



Service and Servanthood:
What Piece of the Puzzle
are YOU?

Wednesday Nights
Sept 5 – Oct 31
6:15 pm – 7:15 pm
Room 219

Led by Kurt and Cheryl Oelsner

We are all parts of one body; called to be servants for Christ. But what does that mean, exactly? In this study, we will dig into Scripture while looking at the best role model of servanthood - Jesus - to answer questions such as:

- What is service?
- What is being a servant?
- Why should we serve?
- How should we serve?
- Who should we serve?



In addition, we will explore practical ways to practice service and servanthood in our lives.

All you need for this study is your Bible and your willingness to participate.

b. The Pharisees

Why did the Pharisees arise?

“Pharisees” means “_____ ones.” What did the Pharisees believe?

Pharisees, in particular, attempted to put a _____ around the law to protect people from violating it. What is a modern day remnant of this?

Jesus gets to the heart of the matter (Mark 7:6–7)

Mark 7:14–23 (ESV)

v.14-16. This is a _____ with the scribes and Pharisees.

v.17. Jesus is a new setting...

vv.18-23. What defiles a person? What is most important/essential to Jesus?

What is he charging the scribes and Pharisees with?

Hebrews 11:6: “And without _____ it is impossible to please God...” Which means that everything can look great on the outside, but...

II. Our Own Inner Pharisee and the Solution

We all have our own _____ Pharisee. What does that person believe?

How do you deal with that sinful nature that would cooperate with the devil and take us to hell?

What is the truth to which we cling in faith?

Conclusion

Think about the conversations you may have this weekend... What might you consider?

CCT: Christ cleanses and sustains _____ with His Word.

Living as Christ's disciple (Ephesians 6:11–18)