

THEME FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 2011

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“A MODERN-DAY JOB”

JOB 38: 4 – 18

What do you know about the Job of the Scriptures? And we’re not talking about an occupation, but a person! Most people remember enough about Job to know that he was a man who suffered many painful things for reasons that he and his friends could not discern. Do you know any “modern-day Jobs”? Hear what God has to say to them – and to us!

Introit

Selected Verses from Psalm 18

- L: I love You,
C: **O LORD, my strength.**
L: The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,
C: **My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.**
L: I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised,
C: **And I am saved from my enemies.**
L: The cords of death encompassed me;
C: **The torrents of destruction assailed me;**
L: The cords of Sheol entangled me;
C: **The snares of death confronted me.**
L: In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I cried for help.
C: **From His temple He heard my voice, and my cry to Him reached His ears.**

The Old Testament Lesson

Job 38: 4 – 18

(The Lord reminds Job, and us, that *He* is the Creator and *we* are the created. We place our trust in His wisdom, power, and understanding, which are beyond our comprehension.)

⁴“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. ⁵Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? ⁶On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, ⁷when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

⁸“Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb, ⁹when I made clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band, ¹⁰and prescribed limits for it and set bars and doors, ¹¹and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stayed?’

¹²“Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place, ¹³that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it? ¹⁴It is changed like clay under the seal, and its features stand out like a garment. ¹⁵From the wicked their light is withheld, and their uplifted arm is broken.

¹⁶“Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep? ¹⁷Have the gates of death been revealed to you, or have you seen the gates of deep darkness? ¹⁸Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth? Declare, if you know all this.”

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The Epistle Lesson

Romans 10: 5 – 17

(As we face trials and difficult situations, we have the assurance that “everyone who believes in Him will not be put to shame...for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”)

⁵For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. ⁶But the righteousness based on faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷or “‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

⁸But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

¹⁴But how are they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” ¹⁶But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” ¹⁷So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

The Gospel Lesson

Matthew 14: 22 – 33

(Jesus gives His disciples a tremendous and reassuring reminder that He is none other than the God who holds control over all things; He who is worthy of our trust and worship.)

²²Immediately [Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, “It is a ghost!” and they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.”

²⁸And Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” ²⁹He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. ³⁰But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³²And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”