

Praise the name of the Lord!

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalms 23:1-6

Ephesians 2:13-18

Mark 6:30-34

Jeremiah utters the Lord's words warning those who mislead and scatter the people. Such leaders have not cared for the people responsibly and actually have misled and driven many away. The Lord will gather the remnant, appoint shepherds for them, and raise up a righteous shoot to David; this will be the one who shall govern wisely and do what is right and just.

The Psalmist's thankfulness resounds in all his words. It is the Lord who gives him repose, who leads him to restful places, who refreshes his soul, who guides him onto right paths, and even anoints his head with oil. He fears no evil with God at his side and goodness and kindness always follow him.

Paul notes it is Christ Jesus who has broken down the dividing wall of enmity. He came and preached peace and he is our peace; he abolished the Law with its commandments and legal claims and enables us to be reconciled with God through the cross. We have been given access in one Spirit to the Father.

The Apostles gathered with Jesus and reported on all they had done in his name. Jesus attempted to take them away to a quiet place but the crowds followed them not even allowing time for them to eat. Jesus' heart was moved with pity as they appeared to be like sheep without a shepherd and he began to teach them many things.

**The Father is accessible because
The Son, the Lord of justice,
Has given us access through the Holy Spirit**

Jeremiah chastises the shepherds who have not been good leaders of the flock while Jesus gives us the example of what it means to be a good shepherd. Taking pity on those who have no one to guide them he opens the ways of truth to them with his teaching. He heals their physical infirmities and brings them to understand and praise the divine generosity of a loving God. He sought out a lonely place and the many that followed were rewarded with healings and given a hope that they needed.



The Gospel says that Jesus taught the people many things. He commonly emphasized reverent sincerity and simplicity in speech and action, really meaning what one says and following through with the required action. Paul notes how Jesus abolished the law and yet Jesus himself also noted that he came not to diminish the law but rather to "fulfill the law," that is to make it complete in its application to the life of the faithful. While the law limited revenge, Jesus abolished it altogether, and says no injury should be inflicted in retaliation on one who harms the innocent; i.e., love your enemies. The law allowed one to respond with limited hate; hate only your enemies, but Jesus said hate not even your enemies. This is to be done because of the example the Father in heaven sends us in that sunshine and rain do not discriminate between the fields of those who are good and those who are bad. God's children must strive to be perfect in this idea and be as impartial as the Father is; "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."

It is not difficult to see why Jesus' message, so different from what the people commonly heard, captivated his listeners!