



WEPC Lectionary Project: *Union with Christ*

West End Presbyterian Church is using the Scripture readings recommended by the Revised Common Lectionary as a framework for our corporate worship and our personal and family devotion. This project is part of WEPC's 25th Anniversary Year and will run from December 2018 through November 2019. The Lectionary gives us access to the whole counsel of Scripture and these texts are a means for us to grow in our understanding of our union with Christ.

To learn more and subscribe to a daily email of Daily Scripture Readings, visit www.wepc.org/lectionary.

Sunday, September 15, 2019

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Ordinary Time

[Exodus 32:7-14](#) *Relent*

[Psalm 51:1-10](#) *Have Mercy*

[I Timothy 1:12-17](#) *I Am the Foremost*

[Luke 15:1-10](#) *Who Repents*

Monday, September 16

[Psalm 73](#) *My Strength & Portion Forever*

[Amos 7:1-6](#) *The LORD Relented*

[I Timothy 1:18-20](#) *The Good Warfare*

Tuesday, September 17

[Psalm 73](#) *My Strength & Portion Forever*

[Jonah 3:1-10](#) *Who knows? God may Turn and Relent*

[II Peter 3:8-13](#) *That All Should Reach Repentance*

Wednesday, September 18

[Psalm 73](#) *My Strength & Portion Forever*

[Job 40:6-14; 42:1-6](#) *Therefore I Repent*

[Luke 22:31-33, 54-62](#) *You Will Deny Me*

Thursday, September 19

[Psalm 113](#) *He Raises the Poor from the Dust*

[Exodus 23:1-9](#) *You Shall Not Pervert the Justice*

[Romans 3:1-8](#) *God is Just*

Friday, September 20

[Psalm 113](#) *He Raises the Poor from the Dust*

[Ezekiel 22:17-31](#) *I Have Returned their Way Upon Their Heads*

[Romans 8:31-39](#) *It is God Who Justifies*

Saturday, September 21

[Psalm 113](#) *He Raises the Poor from the Dust*

[Isaiah 5:8-23](#) *Woe to Those Who Call Evil Good and Good Evil*

[Mark 12:41-44](#) *Abundance & Poverty*

Who Repents

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [Luke 15:1-10](#)

¹ Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner

who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸ "Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

- Do you experience joy when things work the way they are supposed to, according to plan?
- Jesus visits and eats with all kinds of people. "One Sabbath, when he went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, 'Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?' But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. And he said to them, 'Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?' And they could not reply to these things." ([Luke 14:1-6](#)). So Jesus is not just eating with "sinners".
- Next there is a man with dropsy. He heals him to the response of silence. Why? "Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, 'When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, and he who invited you both will come and say to you, "Give your place to this person," and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, "Friend, move up higher." Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.'" ([Luke 14:7-11](#))
- Because their attention is on themselves and acquiring honor from others. The man with dropsy is simply a distraction. We want people we deem to be important to take notice of us. If we do this enough then we will be blind to the less important.
- Next Jesus says this: "He said also to the man who had invited him, 'When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers[b] or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.'" ([Luke 14:12-13](#))
- Their focus is so much on this world that they cannot think about the glory that is theirs in loving someone who cannot love you back.
- "When one of those who reclined at table with him heard these things, he said to him, 'Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!' But he said to him, 'A man once gave a great banquet and invited many. And at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, "Come, for everything is now ready." But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, "I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused." And another said, "I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused." And another said, "I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come." So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, "Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame." And the servant said, "Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room." And the master said to the servant, "Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet'.'" ([Luke 14:15-24](#))
- So what Jesus is doing by eating with these people is previewing and inviting others to the joy and love of the Father's banquet. This banquet is the joy of heaven mentioned in the parables.
- People are repenting because they see themselves for who they are and suddenly repentance becomes the only response in the face of Jesus's action toward us.