



ALL SAINTS

PRESBYTERIAN

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR ALL SAINTS SMALL GROUPS

“Shame and Suffering” | Rev. Jordan Griesbeck | March 10, 2019

Deuteronomy 31:1-3, 7-8

So Moses continued to speak these words to all Israel. ² And he said to them, “I am 120 years old today. I am no longer able to go out and come in. The Lord has said to me, ‘You shall not go over this Jordan.’ ³ The Lord your God himself will go over before you. He will destroy these nations before you, so that you shall dispossess them, and Joshua will go over at your head, as the Lord has spoken. ⁷ Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, “Be strong and courageous, for you shall go with this people into the land that the Lord has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall put them in possession of it. ⁸ It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.”

2 Timothy 1:7-16

⁷ for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

⁸ Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, ⁹ who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰ and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, ¹¹ for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, ¹² which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me. ¹³ Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ By the Holy

Intro Reflection

We are beginning a Lenten series on 2 Timothy. These are some of Paul’s last words to Christians. Consider what a writer would want to convey to his audience, knowing he was ending his days of letter-writing to Christians across the world at the time. What traits might mark a final letter?

Background

Jordan spoke of the shame, the power, and the suffering of the gospel. He said Paul was “moving against the grain” as he wrote about the gospel that was politically threatening, spiritually threatening and religiously threatening. And yet we are not alone as Christ, who already bore the suffering of the gospel, fills us with his power and does the heavy lifting. Furthermore, we are baptized into a community that suffers together.

Discuss:

In light of Sunday’s homily and the scriptures listed:

1. There is some consolation in that Jesus called his generation “adulterous and sinful.” What characteristics of our *times** and places might cause us to be ashamed of the gospel?
2. Jordan said that the gospel is a message “small with large implications.” What does that mean?
3. What does it look like to be a community that suffers together? How might that be done practically and specifically? And what would it look like from the outside looking in?

Conclusion/Application

“It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.”

*vocabulary word: Zeitgeist

the defining spirit or mood of a particular period of history as shown by the ideas and beliefs of the time.

Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

¹⁵ You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes. ¹⁶ May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains,

Mark 8:31-38

³¹ And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

³⁴ And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever would save his life^[a] will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. ³⁶ For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? ³⁷ For what can a man give in return for his soul? ³⁸ For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."