

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Year A

Isaiah 49:1-7

This is called the second servant song. The servant is Israel and the servant speaks. Remember, Jacob and Israel are the same person.

Listen to me, O coastlands,
pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The LORD called me before I was born,
while I was in my mother's womb he named
me.
He made my mouth like a sharp sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow,
in his quiver he hid me away.
And he said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."
But I said, "I have labored in vain,
I have spent my strength for nothing and
vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the LORD,
and my reward with my God."
And now the LORD says,
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him,

for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,
and my God has become my strength--
he says,
"It is too light a thing that you should be my
servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the
earth."
Thus says the LORD,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the
nations,
the slave of rulers
, "Kings shall see and stand up,
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
The Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

1. When did Yahweh call Israel? _____
2. What's with the sword and arrow metaphor? _____

3. What is the servant's purpose/job? _____

4. Israel is despised by the nations, but what will happen? _____

Psalm 40:1-12

A Psalm of David. I told you this is an upbeat season, read it with enthusiasm.

1. I waited patiently upon the LORD; *
he stooped to me and heard my cry.
2. He lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the
mire and clay; * he set my feet upon a high cliff
and made my footing sure.
3. He put a new song in my mouth,

a song of praise to our God; *
many shall see, and stand in awe,
and put their trust in the LORD.

4. Happy are they who trust in the LORD! *
they do not resort to evil spirits or turn to false
gods.

5. Great things are they that you have done, O LORD my God! how great your wonders and your plans for us! * there is none who can be compared with you.

6. Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! * but they are more than I can count.

7. In sacrifice and offering you take no pleasure * (you have given me ears to hear you);

8. Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required, * and so I said, "Behold, I come.

9. In the roll of the book it is written concerning me: * 'I love to do your will, O my God; your law is deep in my heart.'"

10. I proclaimed righteousness in the great congregation; * behold, I did not restrain my lips; and that, O LORD, you know.

11. Your righteousness have I not hidden in my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance;*I have not concealed your love and faithfulness from the great congregation.

12. You are the LORD; do not withhold your compassion from me;*let your love and your faithfulness keep me safe for ever.

1. So what are two of the major themes?

a. _____

b. _____

I Corinthians 1:1-9

This is a very gracious introduction before Paul gets down to the business of calling out the Corinthians on how they are getting off message. Sosthenes may have been the ruler of the synagogue in Corinth mentioned in Acts 18:17 who was beaten up by the Jews, no doubt for listening to and supporting Paul. Sosthenes is probably with Paul at this writing.

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1. Who is Paul? _____

2. To whom is it addressed? _____

3. Do the Corinthians lack any spiritual resources? _____

John 1:29-42

Last week, we read Matthew's version of Jesus baptism.

John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter). *Cephas is rock in Aramaic and Peter - Petros - is rock in Greek.*

Note: John does not record the actual baptism of Jesus. We can safely infer from the text that John baptized

Jesus prior to the time indicated by this passage. We can also infer that Jesus has also been in the wilderness for 40 days (which may be an expression for a fair piece of time). We can infer this because Jesus now has his act together and he knows who (or whose) he is and what he must be about.

1. Jesus is John's cousin, how could he not know him? _____

2. So John identifies Jesus as _____
 - a. To whom did John point out Jesus to? _____
 - b. Andrew and another of John's disciples _____ (do what)
 - c. They stayed with Jesus for _____ and did what (hint, what would you have done?)

 - d. Then Andrew finds _____ and says to him
