

**SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**Sunday closest to June 29**  
**Proper 8**

**Genesis 22:1-14**

*I'm sorry (actually I'm not) but I just cannot buy into God testing Abraham by commanding him to sacrifice his only son whom he loves. I suspect that Abraham started to buy into some of the local Canaanite religions which did practice human sacrifice. The technical name for this accommodation is called syncretism and the Children of Israel did it commonly enough that the prophets were constantly railing against it. I also think God did intervene with the equivalent of, "Wadda ya nuts? What I demand is mercy not sacrifice."*

*The land of Moriah may be Mt Moriah the hill in Jerusalem where Solomon later built the Temple. Scholars are not sure.*

God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

1. What do you think? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Psalm 13**

*Another psalm of David pleading for deliverance from personal enemies. Our image of David – shepherd, romantic outlaw, king and in charge – I would guess. is not congruent with David's reality.*

1. How long, O LORD? will you forget me for ever? \* how long will you hide your face from me?

2. How long shall I have perplexity in my mind, and grief in my heart, day after day?\*  
how long shall my enemy triumph over me?

3. Look upon me and answer me, O LORD my

God; \* give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death;

4. Lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," \* and my foes rejoice that I have fallen.

5. But I put my trust in your mercy; \*  
my heart is joyful because of your saving help.

6. I will sing to the LORD, for he has dealt with me richly; \* I will praise the Name of the Lord

Most High.

1. Where does David try to coerce God? \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Jeremiah 28:5-9**

*Babylon has already extracted tribute from Judah as well as hostages. Hananiah has claimed that God told him that he, God, would break the yolk of the king of Babylon and bring everything and everyone back in two years. The king is considering joining a rebellion with other nations in the region. Jeremiah counsels that Judah should get use to "wearing the yolk of Nebuchadnezzar". This is a face off with Hananiah and is difficult to understand even in context.*

The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD; and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD fulfill the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles. But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet."

### **Psalm 89:1-4.15-18**

*This is a maskil of Ethan the Ezrahite, again praying for deliverance from enemies.*

1. Your love, O LORD, for ever will I sing; \*  
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your  
faithfulness.

2. For I am persuaded that your love is established  
for ever; \*  
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the  
heavens.

3. "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; \*  
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

4. I will establish your line for ever, \*  
and preserve your throne for all generations."

15. Happy are the people who know the festal  
shout! \*  
they walk, O LORD, in the light of your presence.

16. They rejoice daily in your Name; \*  
they are jubilant in your righteousness.

17. For you are the glory of their strength, \*  
and by your favor our might is exalted.

18. Truly, the LORD is our ruler; \*  
the Holy One of Israel is our King.

1. Verse 4 Is this literally true? \_\_\_\_\_

a. How might it be true? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Comment on the wisdom of the last verse in contrast to vs. 4. \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Romans 6:12-23**

*Paul is so deep! The Law is so strict and as human beings we are nuanced, complex and the situations we find ourselves in are commonly so ambiguous that we tend to either go crazy trying to obey or just give up.*

*But under grace we are saved. If we truly have faith and believe in Christ, Good works will flow from us like a never failing stream.*

Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1. Think of two examples of being a slave to sin. (Here is one. Holding a grudge against someone.)

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### **Matthew 10:40-42**

*This is the last of Jesus instructions before he sends his disciples out.*

Jesus said, "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple-- truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

1. We can't all be leaders, movers and shakers, prophets or Saints. So what is our responsibility? (Hint, think of a cold drink as a metaphor as well as literally.) \_\_\_\_\_

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