

May 26, 2019

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: Reading services 9:30 a.m and 6:30 p.m.

This week Wednesday, May 29, Rev. Witvoet hopes to be with us for an Ascension Day service at 7:00 p.m.

Next Week: Reading services 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

-All the Lord Willing-

Offerings Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund
2nd Special TBS collection* 2nd School Fund

**Special TBS collection as a token of appreciation and support for the presentation last week and the work they do.*

We Remember in Prayer:

-Those who have been unable to gather with us for some time, our widows and widowers, our elderly, the unborn, prodigal sons and daughters, those who are under doctor's care, and all those who have hidden crosses.

MEDITATIONS

*Come, sinners all, both young and old,
Give heed to what we've often told:
Call on God's Name, while He is near,
Forsake the world, and sin do fear.*

*Seek Him in truth, and ye will live,
Abundant mercy He will give.
Our life is short, while time is brief,
Our day of death comes as a thief*

*How blest are they, with grace Divine,
Who hear God's voice: Come, thou art Mine.
Oh, sinners, hear the gospel sound:
Seek Jesus, He can still be found!*

A KINGLY COMMAND

“And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” Mark 16:15

Not many weeks ago, we meditated on Christ's appearances to His disciples after His resurrection. We also noted their unbelief and hardness of heart. There can be much unbelief in the hearts of God's children. Even when they are told of “a risen Christ”, they still don't believe it. How is this possible?

When unbelief gets the upper hand in the hearts of God's children, even the purest Gospel message will make them doubt. The Lord is the only One Who can break this unbelief. This is what Jesus did for His disciples when He appeared to them, but only after He rebuked them for their sin of unbelief. What shame it caused these men as they realized the greatness of their sin of unbelief. At the same time, they also experienced how much Jesus cared for them despite their unbelief. Yet, the disciples were given a weighty command by the risen Saviour. They were instructed to preach the Gospel to every creature.

We would wonder why Jesus used these men who were full of unbelief. It is feared that such people, when things become difficult, would fall into greater unbelief. From man's side, nothing else could be expected. Nevertheless, it is a wonder that the Lord uses men who are “dust and ashes” for such a weighty task. Why? The answer is that their strength and ability is *not* in themselves but is given by the Sender Himself. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus said: *“I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.”* Jesus would give them strength and support for the weighty work they were about to begin.

The command to *“preach the gospel to every creature”* holds true for our time and will continue until the last day. Therefore, the Lord as King of His Church, still calls men to do this work; men who don't feel qualified in themselves but need to be empowered by their Sender. It will be a great blessing if the Lord would continue to call men in our denomination to this work. Reader, have you ever prayed for this?

As you know, in a few weeks our Curatorium hopes to meet again. It would be such a blessing if men were sent with a request from their consistories to be heard. It would bring such joy and amazement if there were men to whom the Lord spoke: *“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”* The Gospel is in the hand of God's Spirit *“like as a fire... and like a hammer...”*

(Jeremiah 23:29) and is the means God uses for conversion. We all know that the Lord can also use reading services to build His Kingdom. There was clear evidence of this in the past in our denomination. Jesus commanded: *"Preach the gospel."* May the Lord gladden us with His benefits to this end. If we look at ourselves and all that is happening, even within our denomination, it certainly would be a great miracle. The Lord could also say: *"For My people have committed two evils; they have forsaken Me the Fountain of living waters, and hewn them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water"* (Jeremiah 2:13). May the Lord bless our denomination to His glory for His great Name's sake.

~Rev. P. Melis

Notes

Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

John 14:2

Consistory

Mr. Craig Timmer, President Mr. Norm DeWit, Treasurer
Mr. Dave Hoogendoorn, Clerk

Contacts

Bulletin announcements: Mr. Craig Timmer craigtimmer@ymail.com or (231) 942-1389
Sermon recordings : Mr. Ryan Rozeboom

Church Times: 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 or 6:30 p.m.