

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 8, 2018



THE LESSON

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10

All the Israelite tribes came to David at Hebron and said, "Listen: We are your very own flesh and bone. ²In the past, when Saul ruled over us, you were the one who led Israel out to war and back. What's more, the LORD told you, You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will be Israel's leader."

³So all the Israelite elders came to the king at Hebron. King David made a covenant with them at

Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel.

⁴David was 30 years old when he became king, and he ruled for forty years. ⁵He ruled over Judah for seven and a half years in Hebron. He ruled thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah in Jerusalem. . . .

⁹David occupied the fortress, so it was renamed David's City. David built a city around it from the earthen terraces inward. ¹⁰David grew increasingly powerful, and the LORD of heavenly forces was with him.

THE RESPONSE Psalm 48

In the city belonging to our God, the LORD is great and so worthy of praise!

His holy mountain ²is a beautiful summit, the joy of the whole world. Mount Zion, in the far north, is the city of the great king.

³God is in its fortifications, revealing himself as a place of safety.

⁴Look: the kings assembled themselves, advancing all together—

⁵when they saw it, they were stunned; they panicked and ran away frightened.

⁶Trembling took hold of them right there—like a woman giving birth,

⁷or like the east wind when it smashes the ships of Tarshish.

⁸Just like we had heard, now we've seen it for ourselves in the city of the LORD of heavenly forces, in the city of our God. May God make it secure forever!

⁹We dwell on your faithful love, God, in your temple.

¹⁰Your praise, God, just like your reputation, extends to the far corners of the earth. Your strong hand is filled with righteousness.

¹¹Let Mount Zion be glad; let the towns of Judah rejoice because of your acts of justice!

¹²Walk around Zion; go all the way around it; count its towers.

¹³Examine its defenses closely; tour its fortifications so that you may tell future generations:

¹⁴“This is God, our God, forever and always! He is the one who will lead us even to the very end.”

THE EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

²I know a man in Christ who was caught up into the third heaven fourteen years ago. I don't know whether it was in the body or out of the body. God knows. ³I know that this man was caught up into paradise and that he heard unspeakable words that were things no one is allowed to repeat. I don't know whether it was in the body or apart from the body. God knows. ⁴I'll brag about this man, but I won't brag about myself, except to brag about my weaknesses.

⁵If I did want to brag, I wouldn't make a fool of myself because I'd tell the truth. I'm holding back from bragging so that no one will

give me any more credit than what anyone sees or hears about me. ⁷I was given a thorn in my body because of the outstanding revelations I've received so that I wouldn't be conceited. It's a messenger from Satan sent to torment me so that I wouldn't be conceited.

⁸I pleaded with the Lord three times for it to leave me alone. ⁹He said to me, “My grace is enough for you, because power is made perfect in weakness.” So I'll gladly spend my time bragging about my weaknesses so that Christ's power can rest on me. ¹⁰Therefore, I'm all right with weaknesses, insults, disasters, harassments, and stressful situations for the sake of Christ, because when I'm weak, then I'm strong.

THE GOSPEL Mark 6:1-13

Jesus left that place and came to his hometown. His disciples followed him. ²On the Sabbath, he began to teach in the synagogue. Many who heard him were surprised. “Where did this man get all this? What's this wisdom he's been given? What about the powerful acts accomplished through him? Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't he Mary's son and the brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? Aren't his sisters

here with us?” They were repulsed by him and fell into sin.

³Jesus said to them, “Prophets are honored everywhere except in their own hometowns, among their relatives, and in their own households.” ⁵He was unable to do any miracles there, except that he placed his hands on a few sick people and healed them. ⁶He was appalled by their disbelief.

Then Jesus traveled through the surrounding villages teaching.

⁷He called for the Twelve and sent them out in pairs. He gave them authority over unclean spirits. ⁸He instructed them to take nothing for the journey except a walking stick—no bread, no bags, and no money in their belts. ⁹He told them to wear sandals but not to put on two shirts. ¹⁰He said, “Whatever house you enter, remain there until you

leave that place. ¹¹If a place doesn't welcome you or listen to you, as you leave, shake the dust off your feet as a witness against them.” ¹²So they went out and proclaimed that people should change their hearts and lives. ¹³They cast out many demons, and they anointed many sick people with olive oil and healed them.