

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 7, 2018



THE LESSON Job 1:1; 2:1-10

A man in the land of Uz was named Job. That man was honest, a person of absolute integrity; he feared God and avoided evil.

2 One day the divine beings came to present themselves before the LORD. The Adversary also came among them to present himself before the LORD. 3 The LORD said to the Adversary, "Where have you come from?"

The Adversary answered the LORD, "From wandering throughout the earth."

4 The LORD said to the Adversary, "Have you thought about my servant Job, for there is no one like him on earth, a man who is honest, who is of absolute integrity, who reveres God and avoids evil? He still holds on to his integrity, even though you incited me to ruin him for no reason."

5 The Adversary responded to the

LORD, "Skin for skin—people will give up everything they have in exchange for their lives. 6 But stretch out your hand and strike his bones and flesh. Then he will definitely curse you to your face."

7 The LORD answered the Adversary, "There he is—within your power; only preserve his life."

8 The Adversary departed from the LORD's presence and struck Job with severe sores from the sole of his foot to the top of his head. 9 Job took a piece of broken pottery to scratch himself and sat down on a mound of ashes. 10 Job's wife said to him, "Are you still clinging to your integrity? Curse God, and die."

11 Job said to her, "You're talking like a foolish woman. Will we receive good from God but not also receive bad?" In all this, Job didn't sin with his lips.

THE RESPONSE Psalm 26

Establish justice for me, LORD, because I have walked with integrity. I've trusted the LORD without wavering.

2 Examine me, LORD; put me to the test! Purify my mind and my heart.

3 Because your faithful love is right in front of me—I walk in your truth!

4 I don't spend time with people up to no good; I don't keep company with liars.

5 I detest the company of evildoers, and I don't sit with wicked people.

6 I wash my hands—they are innocent! I walk all around your altar, LORD, 7 proclaiming out loud my thanks, declaring all your wonderful deeds!

8 I love the beauty of your house, LORD; I love the place where your glory resides.

⁹Don't gather me up with the sinners, taking my life along with violent people ¹⁰in whose hands are evil schemes, whose strong hands are full of bribes.

¹¹But me? I walk with integrity. Save me! Have mercy on me!

¹²My feet now stand on level ground. I will bless the LORD in the great congregation.

THE EPISTLE

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

In the past, God spoke through the prophets to our ancestors in many times and many ways. ²In these final days, though, he spoke to us through a Son. God made his Son the heir of everything and created the world through him. ³The Son is the light of God's glory and the imprint of God's being. He maintains everything with his powerful message. After he carried out the cleansing of people from their sins, he sat down at the right side of the highest majesty. ⁴And the Son became so much greater than the other messengers, such as angels, that he received a more important title than theirs. . . .

⁵God didn't put the world that is coming (the world we are talking about) under the angels' control. ⁶Instead, someone declared somewhere,

What is humanity that you think about them?

Or what are the human beings that you care about them?

⁷*For a while you made them lower than angels.*

You crowned the human beings with glory and honor.

⁸You put everything under their control.

When he puts everything under their control, he doesn't leave anything out of control. But right now, we don't see everything under their control yet. ⁹However, we do see the one who was made lower in order than the angels for a little while—it's Jesus! He's the one who is now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of his death. He suffered death so that he could taste death for everyone through God's grace.

¹⁰It was appropriate for God, for whom and through whom everything exists, to use experiences of suffering to make perfect the pioneer of salvation. This salvation belongs to many sons and daughters whom he's leading to glory. ¹¹This is because the one who makes people holy and the people who are being made holy all come from one source. That is why Jesus isn't ashamed to call them brothers and sisters when he says,

¹²*I will publicly announce your name to my brothers and sisters.*

I will praise you in the middle of the assembly.

THE GOSPEL Mark 10:2-16

²Some Pharisees came and, trying to test him, they asked, "Does the

Law allow a man to divorce his wife?"

³Jesus answered, "What did Moses command you?"

⁴They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a divorce certificate and to divorce his wife."

⁵Jesus said to them, "He wrote this commandment for you because of your unyielding hearts. ⁶At the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. ⁷Because of this, a man should leave his father and mother and be joined together with his wife, ⁸and the two will be one flesh. ⁹So they are no longer two but one flesh. ¹⁰Therefore, humans must not pull apart what God has put together."

¹¹Inside the house, the disciples asked him again about this. ¹²He said to them, "Whoever divorces his

wife and marries another commits adultery against her; ¹³and if a wife divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

¹⁴People were bringing children to Jesus so that he would bless them. But the disciples scolded them. ¹⁵When Jesus saw this, he grew angry and said to them, "Allow the children to come to me. Don't forbid them, because God's kingdom belongs to people like these children. ¹⁶I assure you that whoever doesn't welcome God's kingdom like a child will never enter it." ¹⁷Then he hugged the children and blessed them.