

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 15, 2019



THE LESSON

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28

¹¹At that time, this people and Jerusalem will be told: A blistering wind from the bare heights; it rages in the desert toward my people, not merely to winnow or cleanse. ¹²This wind is too devastating for that. Now I, even I, will pronounce my sentence against them. . . .

²²My people are foolish. They don't even know me! They are thoughtless children without understanding; they are skilled at doing wrong, inept at doing right. ²³I looked at the earth, and it was

without shape or form; at the heavens and there was no light. ²⁴I looked at the mountains and they were quaking; all the hills were rocking back and forth. ²⁵I looked and there was no one left; every bird in the sky had taken flight. ²⁶I looked and the fertile land was a desert; all its towns were in ruins before the LORD, before his fury. ²⁷The LORD proclaims: The whole earth will become a desolation, but I will not destroy it completely. ²⁸Therefore, the earth will grieve and the heavens grow dark because I have declared my plan and will neither change my mind nor cancel the plan.

THE RESPONSE Psalm 14

Fools say in their hearts, There is no God. They are corrupt and do evil things; not one of them does anything good.

³The LORD looks down from heaven on humans to see if anyone is wise, to see if anyone seeks God, ³but all of them have turned bad. Everyone is corrupt. No one does good—not even one person!

⁴Are they dumb, all these evildoers, devouring my people like they are eating bread but never calling on the LORD?

⁵Count on it: they will be in utter panic because God is with the righteous generation.

⁶You evildoers may humiliate the plans of those who suffer, but the LORD is their refuge.

⁷Let Israel's salvation come out of Zion! When the LORD changes his people's circumstances for the better, Jacob will rejoice; Israel will celebrate!

THE EPISTLE

1 Timothy 1:12-17

¹²I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength because he considered me faithful. So he appointed me to ministry ¹³even though I used to speak against him, attack his people, and I was proud. But I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and without faith. ¹⁴Our Lord's favor poured all over me along with the faithfulness and love that are in Christ Jesus.

THE GOSPEL Luke 15:1-10

All the tax collectors and sinners were gathering around Jesus to listen to him. ²The Pharisees and legal experts were grumbling, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³Jesus told them this parable: ⁴"Suppose someone among you had one hundred sheep and lost one of them. Wouldn't he leave the other ninety-nine in the pasture and search for the lost one until he finds it? ⁵And when he finds it, he is thrilled and places it on his shoulders. ⁶When he arrives home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Celebrate

¹³This saying is reliable and deserves full acceptance: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"—and I'm the biggest sinner of all. ¹⁶But this is why I was shown mercy, so that Christ Jesus could show his endless patience to me first of all. So I'm an example for those who are going to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷Now to the king of the ages, to the immortal, invisible, and only God, may honor and glory be given to him forever and always! Amen.

with me because I've found my lost sheep.' ⁷In the same way, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who changes both heart and life than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need to change their hearts and lives.

⁸Or what woman, if she owns ten silver coins and loses one of them, won't light a lamp and sweep the house, searching her home carefully until she finds it? ⁹When she finds it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Celebrate with me because I've found my lost coin.' ¹⁰In the same way, I tell you, joy breaks out in the presence of God's angels over one sinner who changes both heart and life."

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