

Willow River Parish: Clear Lake, Deer Park, and Faith Family

Title: Homing Instinct

Lesson: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

10 *I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.*

⁶ *Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰ And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹² So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³ No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.*

(Slide 1) On Thursday afternoon, my family and I went to the Twin Cities to buy a cake and decorations for Evan's birthday because his birthday was yesterday. In the city, we went to a coffee shop because we like latte. At that time, we felt something different than usual because the coffee shop usually isn't crowded, but that day it was crowded, and Irish music was playing. Then, as I was driving, I saw men in green skirts. Then, I thought, why did

they wear skirts? They looked so happy with green skirts and beer. Esther googled and learned that March 17th was St. Patrick's Day, and let me know.

(Slide 2) Like St. Patrick's Day, each country has its own holidays. For the Israelites, the Passover is one of the great holidays. The Passover is a day celebrating that the Israelites were saved by God putting the blood of a lamb on the doorposts. According to the Bible, the Egyptians ignored God's word and did not offer lamb sacrifices, so all the Egyptians' firstborn died. The Passover event means that the people of Israel were saved by God. After this event, the Israelites crossed the Red Sea. To borrow Paul's words, the Israelites were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea. Like the Passover, the event of crossing of the Red Sea was one of the big events in the Old Testament. And, Paul described that event as baptism because the Israelites went into the water and were rescued by God and set free.

(Slide 3) And after crossing the Red Sea, the 40-year journey of the Israelites to Canaan began. God protected them in the wilderness and provided manna and quail daily. In other words, God brought them out of Egypt through Moses, opened the Red Sea and made them cross, was with them, protected them, and gave them food every day, but they forgot all the grace God had given them and worshiped idols, committed immorality such as adultery, tested God, and blamed and complained against God and Moses. Even, they weren't grateful to be free and missed their days of slavery in Egypt rather than living as children of God, saying: "We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic;" (Numbers 11:5)

The food God gave them in the wilderness was the food of life, but it was not delicious. Because of that, some of them said: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." (Numbers 21:5)

Therefore, according to verse 5, God was not pleased with most of them. All the Israelites, who worshiped idols and complained against God, died in the wilderness. And their next generations entered the land of Canaan.

(Slide 4) Question! Why is Paul telling the story of the Israelites to the Corinthians? This was because the Corinthians were not very different from the Israelites recorded in the Old Testament. Let's read together 1 Corinthians 7:1, 8:1: "Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: "It is well for a man not to touch a woman." "Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up."

As we just learned through those verses, the Corinthian church was a church with many problems. In the church, some committed adultery, some worshiped idols, some tested God, and some quarreled and complained.

Because of that, Paul told the Corinthians not to worship idols, not to commit adultery, not to test God, and not to complain through the story of the Exodus and the destruction of the Israelites in the wilderness.

(Slide 5) Let's read 1 Corinthians 10:7-10, "⁷ Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰ And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer."

(Slide 6) Have you ever heard of the homing instinct? The homing instinct means returning to the place where an animal was genetically born. Do you know what? Homing instinct can be applied to human sinful nature. The people of Israel were slaves in Egypt and were saved by God's grace. However, because of the homing instinct of sin, they could not live as children of God and missed and longed for the days when they were slaves in Egypt.

The Israelites were saved children of God. And the Corinthians were also saved children of God. And we too are saved children of God. However, when we put our hands on our hearts and think, we sometimes feel negative emotions, neglect our relationship with God, get angry, and even act irritated even though we confessed that we are children of God, and we were saved by

Jesus Christ. Therefore, we need daily food for our souls and our lives. That is why we pray in the Lord's Prayer like: "Give us this day our daily bread."

Beloved: we have a sinful nature. Even though Jesus Christ was crucified for us and forgave all our sins, we cannot be free from our sins until the day we return to God. When we neglect our relationship with God, we unknowingly walk down the path of sinners. Covid-19 has been around for a long time.

Why and how did the disease start? I believe that came from our greed and selfishness. I think the disease came because we destroyed nature because of our greed. In one-word, human greed, selfishness, jealousy, anger, and arrogance are 'sin'. The war between Russia and Ukraine has been going on for three weeks. Why did the war start, and why didn't it end? The fundamental reason that war began was because of greed and selfishness.

In human history, there were countless wars and invasions to other countries. The fundamental reason of all wars is our sins. Not because of their sins, but because of our sins.

(Slide 7) Thus, we should ask God for forgiveness every day. Galatians 2:20 says: "²⁰and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." In verse 5 of today's text, it says that the Israelites, who didn't obey God's word, were struck down in the wilderness. What we have to do is to be crucified with Christ and our sins including selfishness, greed, anger, and jealousy were struck down every day.

We are on a special Lenten journey. Our faith journey is a continual process of confession and absolution. Lent is a period in which we intensively ask God for forgiveness and build a relationship with God. I hope that you do not spend this time in vain, but spend it well with God and live as children of God. Amen.