

## **FAITH COMES BY HEARING Bible Study – 4.24.24 (for 4.28.24)**

### **FIRST READING: Psalm 68:4-6**

<sup>4</sup>Sing to God, sing praises to his name;  
lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts;  
his name is the Lord; exult before him!

<sup>5</sup>Father of the fatherless and protector of widows  
is God in his holy habitation.

<sup>6</sup>God settles the solitary in a home;  
he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,  
but the rebellious dwell in a parched land.

- 1) God is worthy of praise for reversing peoples' fates. It is a special part of what God does! What are the reversals David shows us that God has made?
- 2) God is seen as a provider and a protector to these words. Who specifically does God provide for and protect? Why is this significant?
- 3) David wrote this psalm as a way to tell of God's victorious rule, tracing the story back to the rescue from Egypt. How do these verses guide us to see God's victory in our personal stories?

### **Second Reading: James 1:22-27**

<sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. <sup>23</sup>For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. <sup>24</sup>For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. <sup>25</sup>But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer

who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. <sup>26</sup>If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

- 1) James calls out incongruity among his readers to the teachings of Jesus. According to James, why is it important for his audience to understand this?
- 2) James specifically mentions two areas in his church where incongruity was surfacing. What are those two areas?
- 3) How does James focus on and reiterate what we learned in our passage from Psalm 68?

## GOSPEL: Luke 10:25-37

<sup>25</sup>And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” <sup>26</sup>He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” <sup>27</sup>And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>28</sup>And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.” <sup>29</sup>But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” <sup>30</sup>Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup>Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the

other side. <sup>32</sup>So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup>But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. <sup>34</sup>He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup>And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ <sup>36</sup>Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” <sup>37</sup>He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

- 1) Jesus answers this teacher of the Law with an important statement. What is it and who is the focus of his answer?
- 2) The parable Jesus tells identifies what his answer looks like in real life. To whom is our love for God shown?
- 3) In this parable, it was easy to justify a lack of love. What makes the Samaritan’s deeds stand in such contrast?
- 4) How are Jesus’ final words in this passage a call and challenge to us to be the best neighbors?