



The Word @ Home

Pentecost 17
Luke 17:5-10

The Point

God calls us to work even without praise.

Key Verse

“So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, ‘We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!’”

– Luke 17:10

Scripture Summaries

Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

Work without Applause

The text today begins as the apostles ask Jesus to increase their faith, but he responds that the size of their faith does not matter because even faith the size of a mustard seed has great power. He continues with a story of masters and servants. The master expects the servant to do the work that is set before them. This servant does the work because they are devoted to the master. In the same way, we work for the kingdom of God out of our devotion to Jesus. As servants of God, we should not look for benefits or praise for simply doing what we are told to do.

First Reading: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

The prophet complains to God that there is violence and injustice in the world and asks for God’s intervention. God answers and says that there is still a vision and promise for a just end for those who wait.

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:1-14

The writer challenges us to rekindle the gift of God within us and not to be afraid or ashamed. God appeals to a holy calling according to God’s purpose and grace.

Seasons & Festivals

Today is the 17th Sunday after Pentecost and World Communion Sunday. On World Communion Sunday, we focus on the shared celebration of Holy Communion with our siblings around the world. Taking place annually on the first Sunday in October, it is a time to promote unity among congregations throughout the world.

Discussion Starters

- When you have worked hard at home, work, or school, what do you expect in return?
- What does today’s Gospel say about expecting a return for our work for God?
- The writer uses a mustard seed as an illustration of faith. Find a mustard seed and hold it in your hand. Is this how you imagine your faith? Why or why not?

Prayer of the Week

God, keep us working hard for you even when people do not notice what we are doing. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday

Read Luke 17:5-10 Work without expecting anything in return.
Find a trophy or award that you have received. Talk about what you did to earn it and how it made you feel.

Monday

Read James 1:2-11 Believers experience trials and temptations.
Have one person build a tower with blocks and another knock it down. How is this like faith?

Tuesday

Read 1 John 5:1-5, 13-21 Faith conquers the world.
How is Jesus like or unlike historical conquerors you know of?

Wednesday

Read Mark 11:12-14, 20-24 Jesus curses a fig tree.
The word of Jesus is powerful! You may not have seen a tree wither or a mountain move, but where have you seen the power of Jesus in your life?

Thursday

Read Psalm 111 Read a song of praise.
Create a dance or song based on this psalm.

Friday

Read 2 Timothy 2:1-7 Paul teaches about reward.
Compare ways that this passage is similar to the text from Sunday.

Saturday

Read Luke 5:12-16 Jesus heals a man with leprosy.
Search the Internet for information about leprosy in biblical times.



Blessing for the Week

Share this blessing while tracing a cross on each person's forehead or hand with their permission:
Work for God and grow in faith. Amen.