



The Shepherd's Voice

March 12, 2013

By Fr. Joe Rees

'The Stone the Builders Rejected-- Jesus!'

"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him." Luke 20: 17b-18.

Our Lord Jesus tells this parable of the Wicked Tenants to the people but in reality it was meant to be directed at the religious hierarchy and His opponents. It's an example of how God is going to take away the blessing from the kingdom of Israel and forge a whole new kingdom of God's choosing. This would be done through the very life of Christ Jesus our Lord. But, that precious life would have to be lifted up for all the world to see, on the cross, the chief cornerstone in the heights of Jerusalem, the key-stone for a whole new arch, the bridge into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Jesus saying these words, "Everyone who falls on that stone"...really means those who reject Jesus as the Messiah, who stumble and fall because of Him, those who cannot see the saving love of God in Him, will be shattered to pieces as they really fall from the grace of God. They will crash into the abyss of darkness. They will have no way to put themselves back together again. What a great fall indeed. "When it falls on anyone, it will crush him"...is a means of saying that when Christ comes back again, then His judgment will be upon those who do not believe, who stumbled and fell at the Name of Jesus in disbelief! Surely, they will be judged unworthy to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. What sorrow there will be then! The 'tenants' or the leaders of Israel at the time of Jesus will be destroyed and cast out of the vineyard. Jesus is strictly warning them to repent! And, He is asking us to heed His warning today.

I was musing on the 'falling on the stone' metaphor that Jesus used and thought that we all in one way or another must address the Lord Jesus in our lives. 'How' is the question? Will we trip over Him and ignore Him, disbelieving? Or will we actually fall headlong down on top of Him?! In some senses, I've fallen headlong down upon Him, the stone with the cross in it. A long time ago I realized that Jesus was calling me but I ignored Him. Then something happened to me so that I *had* to acknowledge and look to Jesus in a cry for help. I needed Him then more than ever before. I fell fully from the safety of my human abilities to strive for the making of my 'self', but realized I could not save myself. I needed a Savior. I needed Jesus. I fell. I fell hard upon the rock of my life. I bled many tears. I was crushed and humbled. I was laid low and really didn't know how to lift myself up. My heart was broken to pieces and I was in agony and despair. Perhaps this sounds familiar? I'm so glad that I fell upon that stone; the rock of ages, the powerful and immovable rock of Jesus! I'm forever changed because when I hit that cross-etched stone, my shattered heart bled out the pain of the idolatry of my 'self'! Then and only then, did I realize the blood of Jesus to restore the broken pieces of my heart. His blood literally saved me. His blood drew the pieces of my heart back together again like glue. There was something about Jesus' real presence in the Holy Eucharist that knit my heart back together again...I just needed to repent and receive His Body and Blood by faith. I did. And now I live because of Him who in breaking my heart, took His broken heart for me, and bled His blood into mine, to start my heart beating with His, gradually repairing all the torn tissues of my life. The rest is His story of new creation in me. Now my heart is His heart, and I'm really alive!

Won't you fall on Jesus today? Fall on Him even if it means a broken and contrite heart, for He will not despise (Ps 51) you. He will instead fill you with

His healing blood and repair your heart, heal your soul, and give you new life. Do it now, before He comes again, and in judgment crushes those who know Him not. Now is the time. Fall; fall completely, fall fully onto the beautiful heart of the rock of Life who loves you dearly. He will graciously seal your heart with His perfect love.

With eternal love for Jesus who saved me,
Yours faithfully abiding in Jesus,
Fr. Joe

Sunday Servers this week...

March 17, 2013		8:00 a.m. Service	10:15 a.m. Service
First Reader	Isaiah 43:16-21	Nancy Tackett	Jim Livingston
Psalm Reader	Psalm 126	Choir	Pat Richardson
Second Reader	Philippians 3:8-14	Pam Theobald	Jani Dubski
Intercessor		Thor Strom	Mitch Dubski
Lay Euch. Ministers		Trish Stewart, Jackie Lansing	Frances Slaughter, KC Winward
Acolytes		Thor Strom	Mitch D (C); Kai C (T1); Damon W (T2)
Welcomers		Chris Corey, Paula Sholly	Margaret Olsen, Paula Sholly
Ushers		Dick Sholly, Chris Corey	Dink Nash Ted Vallas, JR Fox, April Knowles
Vestry Person of Day	Mitch Dubski		
Healing Ministers		Rudy Theobald, Jan Simon	Ann Fox, Donna Sandner
Announcer		Kay Focke	Petey Seibold
Counters			Michael Murphv & Cline Handv



Soaking Prayer

with Holy Communion

Wednesday, March 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Bring a pillow and your blanket. Wear comfortable clothes and come prepared to soak in the presence of the Lord as you listen to soft music and hear Scripture read.

Donna Brayton will be leading
“A Call to Holiness”
 Lenten retreat on Saturday, March 23 from
 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Sanctuary to prepare
 our minds, hearts, and souls for the
 celebration of Easter. Please call the church
 office to let us know you are coming.

Saturday, March 23rd - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 Intergenerational Family Ministry presents
Easter Traditions
 A time of fun, food, fellowship and faith-building.
 Everyone is invited whatever your age.
 Captivating Godly Play Narratives:
 “The Faces of Jesus”
 Visual and performing arts activities with arts
 specialists.

Faith & Family Night at Petco Park –
 Saturday, April 13th at 5:40 p.m. The Padres vs.
 the Rockies. If you would like to go to this
 game, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex
 or call the church office so we can set up a
 group. Tickets are \$11.

Donna Brayton’s class – “Signs of Our
 Times” will continue tonight. There are two
 more weeks after that – March 19 and March
 26. Join your church family for a potluck
 dinner at 6:30 and stay for Donna’s
 wonderful teaching which begins at 7 p.m.

Sunday at Grace Fellowship Sunday

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist w. Choir
9:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
10:00 a.m. Nursery opens
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist
w. Worship Team

Palm Branches – we are looking for palm branches of all sizes to decorate the Sanctuary and carry on Palm Sunday. If you have some palms branches that you can donate we would appreciate them. Please clean them up before bringing them.

Readings for Sunday

Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126
Philippians 3:8-14
Luke 20:9-19

We are using the English Standard Version of the Bible and the Lectionary from the Book of Common Prayer (Year C)

This Week at Grace –Mar. 12- Mar. 19, 2013

Tues. March 12

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Healing prayer & Eucharist at CHC
6:30 p.m. Lenten Potluck Fellowship Supper
7:00 p.m. Donna Brayton's Class

Wed March 13

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer & Eucharist
9:30 a.m. No Staff Meeting
3:30 p.m. Alpha Club for Kids
6:30 p.m. Youth Group
6:30 p.m. **Soaking Prayer**

Thurs. March 14

7:00 a.m. Bible Study
10:00 a.m. Sr. Women's Fellowship
11:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at the Oasis
7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal

Fri. March 15

Fr. Joe's day off
6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer & Eucharist at Grace
7:00 p.m. A Time of Liturgical Contemplation

Sat. March 16

8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship
10:00 a.m. Kingdom Conference Planning Meeting
10:00 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

Sun. March 17

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Choir
9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Adult Forum
10:00 a.m. Nursery opens
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Worship Team
10:15 a.m. Children's Church
10:45 a.m. Coffee & fellowship

Mon. March 18

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer

Tues. March 19

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Healing Prayer & Eucharist at CHC
6:30 p.m. Potluck Fellowship Fellowship Supper
7:00 p.m. Donna Brayton's Class

Rector's Bible Study

Tuesdays

11:30 a.m.

Fr. Joe is leading the group through a study of the Book of Isaiah. Everyone is welcome.
B.Y.O.L. (Bring your own lunch)

Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m.
Morning Prayer At Grace Anglican
All are welcome to attend.

Weekly – There are over 25 small groups meeting during the week. Check our newsletter for a list of all the groups or you can find the list on our website: www.graceanglicanchurch.com.

Save the date!

Mar. 12 Donna Brayton's Class
Mar. 13 Soaking Prayer
Mar. 15 A Time of Liturgical Contemplation
Mar. 19 Donna Brayton's Class
Mar. 20 Br. Benno's Team – 6:15 a.m.
Mar. 20 Vestry Meeting
Mar. 23 Contemplative Prayer Retreat 10-1
Mar. 23 Traditions of Easter – Families 10-1
Mar. 24 Palm Sunday services at 8 and 10:15 a.m.
Mar. 28 Maundy Thursday – Foot Washing service
Mar. 28 All Night Prayer Vigil –9:00 p.m.-6:00 a.m.
Mar. 29 Good Friday Services – Noon and 7:00 p.m.
Mar. 30 Holy Saturday/Great Vigil of Easter 7 p.m.
Mar. 31 Easter Sunday – Services at 8 & 10:15 a.m.
Apr. 5-7 "Rooted"-Youth Min. at Green Oak Ranch
Apr. 10 Soaking Prayer
Apr. 13 Prayers & Squares – 9:30 a.m.
Apr. 13 Saturday Pizza & Praise – San Marcos
Apr. 21 Family Friendly Leaders Meet – Noon – 2
May 3 Anglican Men's Retreat at Forest Home