**“One Voice”**

Psalm 143

Genesis 11:1-9

Acts 2:1-21

John 14:23-31

Pentecost, June 4/5, 2022

[Jesus said:] “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. Whoever does not love Me does not keep My Words. And the Word that you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.”

Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Bridge**

To **hear and keep the Word of the One Voice who is God the Father’s Voice spoken through His Son**, that’s the very **definition** (according to this text) of **loving** Jesus. **Not** **keeping or, even, hearing** the Word of that One Voice is also the definition, then, of **not loving God in His Son Jesus**. And one can’t “keep” God’s Word (so love Jesus) without some semblance of **understanding it**. This **understanding** (“**hearing**” and “**keeping**” of God’s Word) being the definition of **loving Him and His Son**, it’s absolutely **essential to understand** …

… yet so much is (as the term goes) “**Greek to humanity**”. That expression of a **lack of understanding** is older than Shakespeare into the Middle Ages in its use … all, first, because of **theology (or Words about and of God)**. With the decline of use of the Greek language for Latin instead (except among scholarship), **not understanding even the words of the language meant never understanding what the language has to convey**. That lack of understanding was born in theology and yet became used for that lacking in understanding of other things too (engineering, mathematics and philosophy, for instances). Originally, though, it was **not knowing God** stemming from the Old Testament reading about **man’s (quote) brilliant idea of building a Tower to the heavens** and, then, God, making that all, **indeed**, “Greek to humanity”. He did that so **what** we could **understand first (before anything else)** was **that we need to gain an understanding of Him**.

**Text**

This weekend’s texts are, then, perfect for Confirmation weekend as well as Pentecost. Spending two dedicated years studying and hearing and discussing Words of and about God to better understand that One Voice in His, confirmands had quacking to admit how little they could love Jesus on their own (even though they wanted to). They were simply **unable to “keep His Words”** perfectly (as expected) by having no other gods in any way, shape, or form, needing a Savior and to be saved since **they couldn’t do that themselves**.

It took about two weeks for Confirmand to “**understand**” that **they could never build a “Tower of Babel” to God’s approval or blessing of them, that only Jesus could bridge the height necessary to travel and no one (even working together as a group) could construct a building or ladder big and high enough to make that happen**. God had to **DESCEND** when men lie to themselves thinking they can **ASCEND** the gap … and God squelched even their attempt so as to save them from the false (and useless / in-vane) thought and effort. In Genesis (only chapter 11), humans were cut-off trying to (in even a corporate way) try to save themselves arrogantly, as if they could. The **babbling of fools** confirmands **understand** in vane attempts that they could be making. And that by the simple and honest listening-to and expectation of God’s Commandments. After hearing that God demands perfection in those, they were asked (straight out) if they needed a Savior … and the youth resoundingly replied “Yes”.

The start to **understanding God is understanding mankind:** **“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us” and “the wages of sin is death”.** We have **humbled youth** this Confirmation weekend. They were humbled (and stayed that way in a healthy way) by the **honesty of God’s Word and One Voice (Father through Son)**.

You will also find **Confirmands (beyond humbled) ready to praise God for His forgiveness of them as they remain repentant and confessing. What that is** got also **heard and discussed / unpacked so as to be understood and appreciated** as **the other is honestly asserted**. “**If we confess our sins, GOD IS faithful and just to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness**”. That’s the **Good News** (and **how He made it possible, and available to be ours**)….

There’s 46 weeks and gathering Sessions in our Confirmation’s 2 years of curriculum. Each year’s lessons are 3 pages long with Scripture to hear and discuss in the family, catechism to memorize the words of and terms that explain how this **Law and Gospel work (how God’s gift of forgiveness upon sorrow and confessing of sin works as purchased for us by Jesus’ blood, granting us His Holy Spirit in baptismal ways to “keep us” in THE FAITH, and making us useful, willing to act Good as He makes of us Good)**. In all **of that curriculum** **(God’s Words / One concise Voice understandable through His Spirit in us unpacking His Word), here it is in** **one sentence:** “if **we** say that **we** have no sin, **we** deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us; but if **we** confess our sins, God is faithful and just and **will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness**”), **that’s** what Confirmands have **understood as their faith**.

**Application**

At the “Tower of Babel”, God **separated** sinners from sinners to, hopefully, not extend the sin beyond where **unrepentance** could hinder **correcting it**. He (God) **scattered** the too-collective one voice of evil spoken with Satan’s encouragement of humanity to try to get someplace eternally useful on their own. God **reconnected the discussion and understanding that returned a single and useful language of HIS VOICE at Pentecost**. He made that One Voice **victorious and powerful** upon the completion of His saving work in Christ Jesus and bestowed, then, His Holy Spirit to people through it.

Folks from every language and situation **understood** Peter as they listened to His Sermon of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Confirmands (every one of us **still confirmands in our continuing learning**) know the Gospel is gift victorious and powerful so confess our sins and actually receive grace from God knowing the depths of our sins He forgives.

We’re **Confirmands**, all of us yet. We’re **granted** **understanding** **(and growth in that) which is love for Jesus by hearing and keeping His and His Father’s Words**. “The Helper (the Holy Spirit) will **teach** all things and **bring to our remembrance** all that Jesus, from the Father has said to us, and peace He leaves with us. His peace He gives to us. Not as the world gives does God give to us, so **let not our hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid, because you’ve** **heard Him say**, ‘I am going away and I **will come to you**.’ If you love Me, **rejoice**, because I go to the Father. I have told you all things before they take place so that **when the rest happens you will BELIEVE**.”

**Hear God’s One united Word and Voice … and believe!** In +Jesus’ name. Amen.