

THE LORD’S DAY EVENING

February 26, 2017
Six O’clock

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

What was sown on good soil? “This is the one who hears the Word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case, a hundred fold, then another sixty, and in another thirty.” Here’s a receptive heart. You see how Jesus characterizes it? It understands the Word. That’s the exhortation for us here - understand, grasp the message of the Gospel. In all its revolutionary, life-changing power, see the grace of God for you in Jesus. Embrace the liberating power of free forgiveness through faith in Him. Do not harden your heart. Don’t choose the fading pleasures of the worldling when solid joys and lasting treasures are offered to you in Christ. Don’t respond prematurely, superficially, unthinkingly, so that your enthusiasm is easily squashed by the first threat of opposition or the first wave of suffering. Run to Jesus. Receive with gladness the implanted seed of the Word. Repent. Weep for sin. Believe. Trust no longer in the bankrupt riches of the world. Empty trinkets they are. Or your own resources that will always, always run dry. Trust instead in the inexhaustible riches of the grace of God in Jesus and the limitless supply of His grace. Those who do, Jesus says, bear fruit. They are changed. Changed. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control begin to characterize your heart. You begin to look like the Savior you trust.

The ways God works by the Word - sovereignly saving His elect, justly judging the world. And then the ways we respond to the Word - with an impervious heart, with a superficial heart, with a stifled heart, or perhaps with sincerity and humility and repentance and faith looking only to Jesus to rescue us and keep us and make us fruitful. Well as the seed of the Gospel has been broadcast here this morning, what kind of soil has it found in your heart? (*David Strain*, Sermon at FPC Jackson)

Call to Worship Romans 7:4-6

MINISTER: Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God.

PEOPLE: **For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death.**

ALL: But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.

InvocationRev. Ben Griffith

Songbook 64O Day of Rest and Gladness

Responsive Reading Westminster Confession of Faith Chapter XVIII

ALL: **Although hypocrites and other unregenerate men may vainly deceive themselves with false hopes and carnal presumptions of being in the favor of God, and estate of salvation (which hope of theirs shall perish): yet such as truly believe in the Lord Jesus, and love Him in sincerity, endeavouring to walk in all good conscience before Him, may, in this life, be certainly assured that they are in the state of grace, and may rejoice in the hope of the glory of God, which hope shall never make them ashamed.**

MINISTER: This certainty is not a bare conjectural and probable persuasion grounded upon a fallible hope; but an infallible assurance of faith founded upon the divine truth of the promises of salvation, the inward evidence of those graces unto which these promises are made, the testimony of the Spirit of adoption witnessing with our spirits that we are the children of God, which Spirit is the earnest of our inheritance, whereby we are sealed to the day of redemption.

Songbook 6All Must Be Well
(*Children will be dismissed to 4 Corners on last verse.*)

Scripture Reading..... Mark 4:1-20

Prayer of Illumination

SermonRev. Ben Griffith
“The Kingdom at Ground Level”

Songbook 75..... Speak, O Lord

Benediction

Postlude



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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI