

Sunday, July 4, 2021 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 2:1-5 - The Call of Ezekiel

1-2 - [A voice] said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me.

When have you most needed God to help you stand and/or take a stand?

2 Corinthians 11:16–33 – Boasting in weaknesses

18 - Since many boast according to human standards, I will also boast.

22-23 - Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. Are they ministers of Christ? I am talking like a madman—I am a better one.

23-28 - With far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless floggings, and often near death. Five times I have received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I received a stoning. Three times I was shipwrecked; for a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers and sisters; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, hungry and thirsty, often without food, cold and naked. And, besides other things, I am under daily pressure because of my anxiety for all the churches.

We know of a time when Paul was stoned – in Lystra on his first missionary journey. (Acts 14: 19-20)

But when were the five times that he received the forty lashes minus one?

When were the three times he was shipwrecked?

The one we know about – on his way to Rome – has not happened yet.

30 - If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.

2 Corinthians 12:1-10 – God’s grace is sufficient

2 - I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. *1 Corinthians 14: 18 – I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you.*

3-4 - And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat.

7 - Even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated.

*What about yourself do you most want to change?
Why do you think God might choose not to change it?*

*What might that thorn in the flesh have been?
Poor eyesight - did not recognize the high priest (Acts 23: 1-5) – see what large letters (Galatians 6: 11)
Epilepsy
Number of physical injuries*

8-9 - Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness."

9-10 - So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

*When and how have you experienced God's grace being sufficient for you?
When and how have you experienced God's power being made manifest and perfect in your weakness?*

Mark 6:1-13 – Amazed at their unbelief

1-3 - [Jesus] came to his hometown. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands? Is not this the carpenter the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon?" And they took offense at him.

5-6 - And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

*Vs. Matthew 8: 5-10 - Jesus was amazed at the centurion's belief
Would Jesus be amazed at your unbelief or at your belief?*