



Seventh Sunday of Easter

1 Corinthians 15:1-26, 51-57

Summary

In this part of his letter to the Corinthians, Paul drives home the centrality of the resurrection of Jesus to the Christian faith. He starts by affirming the Gospel message, that Christ taught, died, and was raised.

His argument is that without the resurrection, faith would be futile, that we would still be trapped in and bound by our sin.

The intent, as with other parts of this letter, is to remind the people of the church of Corinth of their connectedness to one another in Christ..

Prayer

Risen Christ, as we delve into your word, reveal to us the truth that waits there. Inspire us to be a people who are curious, eager to learn more about you and your impact on the world across time. Help us to live in hope, whatever may come, because you are by our side. AMEN

The Story Behind the Words

- ❖ How does the content of this passage speak to the overall message of Paul's letter to the Corinthians?
- ❖ Why does Paul refer to himself as the "least" of the or "unfit" to be called an apostle?
 - What is Paul's story?
 - How did he come to be an apostle of Jesus Christ?
- ❖ How does the concept of the resurrection fit in with the world view of many people in Paul's day?
 - How is that worldview different from today?

The Characters

- ❖ Who are the people that Paul is talking about in this passage?
- ❖ Who is Adam?
 - What is his significance to the Corinthians?
 - What is his significance to us?
- ❖ How does Paul describe the relationship between Adam and Jesus?
 - What is common between them?
 - What makes them different?
- ❖ Where do you see yourself in this reading??

What is the Word saying to us?

- ❖ What do you see as the primary message of the opening verses (verse 1-11)?
 - Why do you think Paul wanted the Corinthians to hear this message?
- ❖ How does Paul describe the resurrection over the course of this reading?
 - How are we transformed by the resurrection?
 - How does this confirm or confront your own understanding of resurrection/new life/afterlife?

Where do we go from here?

- ❖ How does this passage speak to your faith journey?
- ❖ What is your understanding of the resurrection?
 - Does Paul's explanation reaffirm that understanding, or does it challenge that understanding?
- ❖ How does the resurrection of Christ affect your living day to day by your faith?
 - In what ways does it inform your choices, if it does at all?
- ❖ How can centrality on the resurrection of Christ help us as a community of faith to avoid or deal with conflict?