

“TAKE A BREATH ...EASIER SAID WHEN DONE!”
AUGUST 18, 2019 – THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JEREMIAH 23:23-29; HEBREWS 11:29-12:2; LUKE 12:49-56
Promises for your pocket or purse - Take notes and carry them with you.

Have you ever taken on something that sounded easier said than done? To stand up for what we believe in, to speak up for something when everyone else is speaking against it, to hold up a light everyone else cannot wait to blow out, to ground yourself in something others say will not last; this is so much easier said than done. If those challenging you, if those questioning where you stand, are those closest to you; spouse, parent, child, friend - how are you expected to take the first step or to utter the first word? Jesus reminds us today, to follow him will not be easy. To hold up The Christ, to make God first, will divide us from others. Those we want to like us, to accept us, to love us, may not understand our conviction, our risk for the sake of truth rather than acceptance. Have you ever noticed, tough things are easier said when done? Take a deep breath in grace and trust the Lord of life has done all the doing for us. Jesus spoke first. Jesus stood firm on our behalf. Grace and power have done what we could never do alone!

1. It sounds easier said than done, to stand firm, even when others do not agree, understand, believe. Jeremiah 23:28; Hebrews 11:29-39; Luke 12:51-53
 - A. To be a follower of Christ today is so very difficult, especially when others challenge us. It is so much easier said than done.
 - i. Was it easier to be at Christ's side? Not necessarily.
 - ii. Many things divide our world. Unfortunately, in the name of faith, in the name of Christ, many people, many families, many spirits of individuals are still divided.
 - B. To risk being a prophet, a messenger of God, to speak truth and conviction, rather than wanting to be liked, is easier said than done.

2. Have you ever noticed how some things are easier said when done. We are unsure, until we make the attempt, or until someone goes first, or until we know we are not alone. Hebrews 12:1-2; Luke 12:51, 56
 - A. Let us stand firm, speak out, risk believing, risk faith, when others challenge or question us, knowing and believing Who stood firm, Who hung high, Who spoke out for us in grace.
 - i. Jesus went first. Jesus faced divisions we will never face.
 - ii. This has all been done for us, to make it a little easier, much easier for us, in grace.

- B. Have you noticed, the more you do something, the easier it gets.
- i. Standing firm when others question us, is easier said when done. The first few times are the hardest.
 - ii. It is easier said when done for us when we make God first, and rely on faith as a first resort.
 - iii. It is easier said when done to trust so much, that others see in us not arrogance, but confidence, not in ourselves, but in our God who went first for us, who is beside us.
- C. If you are looking for some added inspiration and support, look up and listen to the song noted here – the title, composers and a portion of the song are included for you here:

*“Only A Mountain,” by Castro, Fields, Mosley
Another day, another fight, it always feels like an uphill climb.
Another step, another mile, the story of your life.
It’s harder than you ever thought, and it costs you everything you got,
When you’re back against the wall, and you feel like giving up.
This is only a mountain. You don’t have to find your way around it.
Tell it to move, it’ll move. Tell it to fall, it’ll fall.
This is only a moment. You don’t have to let your fear control it.
Tell it to move, it’ll move. Tell it to fall, it’ll fall.*

3. God does not promise life will be free of mountains, demands, circumstances, challenges. To face these, is easier said than done. To face them alone is impossible. To face them taking a deep breath in Christ, in grace, in hope, trusting Who will move them and make them fall, is much easier said when done, in the strength and power and presence of The One who has made the biggest division of all, of The One who has stood the most firm of all! What could be easier?
Jeremiah 23:23-24; Luke 12:49-50