

"TRADITION! TRADITION! ... IN THE RUSH OF THE WIND"
AUGUST 29, 2021 - THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
DEUTERONOMY 4:1-2, 6-9; JAMES 1:17-27; MARK 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
Promises for your pocket or purse - Carry them with you.

We have traditions we celebrate, keep alive. Traditions are important. Some traditions, however, leave us asking why this or that is important, why such traditions matter to someone else? In your Christian walk, what are the traditions most important for you? Why? Today we hear Jesus' word against tradition for tradition's sake. If what we do in our spiritual life becomes more vital than who we do it with and who we do it for, then we have missed the importance altogether! Today the rush of The Wind gives peace, assurance, hope and energy in this simple and powerful truth: If God was more focused on tradition for tradition's sake, there would be no Jesus! May we forever celebrate the enduring, timeless, eternal tradition of God's saving grace!

1. Traditions help us celebrate, keep moments, memories, mission alive. Traditions are important to us. In the rush of The Wind, Jesus makes known tradition for tradition's sake means nothing, without grace.
 - A. For most of us, some traditions leave us wondering why this or that, why such traditions are so vital to someone else.
 - B. In your Christian walk, what are some of the traditions that are most important for you? Why?
 - C. Today we hear Jesus' word makes known, tradition for tradition's sake means nothing, without grace. Mark 7:1-5

2. In the rush of The Wind, difficult traditional truths are made known: 'humans will be human.' Deuteronomy 4:9; James 1:22-23; Mark 7:1-6,8,15
 - A. It is very human of us to hold onto the tradition of making rules and following the rules, as long as they work for us.
 - B. It is traditionally human of us to make excuses and to let our words speak louder than our actions.
 - C. Traditions can build foundation when the traditions themselves build on the foundation. Traditions crumble when they are built for their own sake. In the rush of The Wind, let us make God's grace known as a foundation and a living tradition 'to our children and to our children's children.'

3. Hear anew the tradition for God to be God! God is the one in charge. In the rush of The Wind, peace and assurance and hope and energy are made known again in the tradition of this truth: If God was more focused on tradition for tradition's sake, there would be no Jesus! Deuteronomy 4:7-9; James 1:18-22; Mark 7:8
 - A. It is a tradition: God's traditions, grounded in grace, are vital for our salvation's sake.
 - B. It is a tradition: God makes rules for us, then breaks them for us!
 - C. It is tradition: God is at work in what we do, not how we do it. Our favorite phrase, `we've never done it that way before.' If that was the case, we would have no Jesus. God puts James' words into action.
 - D. It is tradition: God's traditions are vital, not for tradition's sake, but for the sake of salvation. Trust God keeps the tradition, the truth, of salvation alive for us, for our children, and for our children's children.

4. Today, may we feel the rush of The Wind, blessing us so our traditions never become what matter most, blessing us to celebrate and keep alive, the enduring, timeless, eternal tradition of God's saving grace, in the new tradition, in the new, fulfilled, truth and grace of Jesus Christ!