

"TREASURED ON THIS AND EVERY LEVEL" - FEBRUARY 17, 2019
THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
JEREMIAH 17:5-10; 1 CORINTHIANS 15:12-20; LUKE 6:17-26
Promises for your pocket or purse - Take notes and carry them with you.

`Do you get it?' `I didn't understand one thing they said.' `That guy talked way over my head.' Do you ever feel this way? Have you been in situations where you want to understand, and yet the person doing the explaining is talking on a different plain? One of the keys to being a good teacher is being able to relate the material to one's students. To present the material on the level of the listener. In Luke this morning, we read that Jesus, "came down with them and stood on a level place." Our Epiphany today is, the One who treasures us first, comes and stands with us, to meet us on this and every level. Though Jesus' ways are contrary to the world, he wants nothing to go over our heads. The Spirit fills us with light and grace to believe anew Emmanuel is forever with us on every level!

1. The One who treasures us first, comes down on our level, to help us understand him, to reveal himself, to believe and to see him, to fill us with light and grace. Luke 6:17 - "Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place,..."
 - A. Jesus in his ministry met people on every level, to teach, to preach, to heal, to forgive, to restore, to save.
 - i. Jesus told parables about things we can relate to.
 - ii. Jesus used miracles in the midst of real life events.
 - iii. Jesus cried with those he loved.
 - iv. Jesus sat down with those who were excluded.
 - v. Jesus faced death on our level.
 - B. The One who treasures us first, comes down on our level to fill us with light and grace so we might be touched by his power and presence. Luke 6:19 - "All in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them."
 - i. Emmanuel is forever with us; Jesus' power and presence are with us even when we cannot see him or touch him.

- ii. The sacraments of baptism and communion, bring Christ's power and presence to our level.
 - iii. The Holy Spirit comes to us; we receive Christ on our level.
 - iv. The blessing of God's people, fellow believers, is an epiphany God uses to touch us with light and grace on this and every level.
2. Though Jesus' ways are contrary to the world, The Spirit fills us with light and grace as Jesus brings his message to us on every level.
- A. The Beatitudes make no sense to us in this world. The summary-like version of the Beatitudes (from Matthew 5) given in Luke 6:20-26 help us believe and see just how different God does things, how different we are in Christ.
 - B. That the dead would rise and the sinner would be forgiven, are a new level for us. This is the promise Jesus brings to us on every level. 1 Corinthians 15:13-18.
 - C. The Holy Spirit fills us with light and grace to live with faith and hope and assurance on a new level. Jeremiah 17:5-10
3. The Holy Spirit fills us in Jesus Christ to give us a new epiphany on this and every level: God does things differently to break into lives, to make clear, the One who treasures us first, touches us, graces us, saves us!