

"RECOGNIZING THE OBVIOUS, IN THE RUSH OF THE WIND!"
JULY 18, 2021 - THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JEREMIAH 23:1-6; EPHESIANS 2:11-22; MARK 6:30-34,53-56
Promises for your pocket or purse - Take notes and carry them with you.

We do not always see or recognize what is right in front of us. We may see something or someone, but we may not acknowledge or realize or recognize the importance of the place, event or person. If not careful, if not intentional, if not observant we may not recognize the needs, the gifts, the uniqueness of co-workers, neighbors, friends or even family. As Jesus' disciples and apostles, what do we recognize? Do we recognize others - visitors, fellow church members, neighbors, those in passing - as brothers and sisters in Christ? What about Jesus, himself? Do we recognize gifts of grace, and all God makes known? In Mark today, we read the people `recognize Jesus and his disciples.' Do people recognize us as his disciples and apostles? When we are lost or wander about like sheep, in the rush of The Wind, The Good Shepherd recognizes us and has compassion on us. Let us recognize the grace of all God makes known in Jesus, The Good Shepherd, who recognizes us and all we need!

1. In the rush of The Wind, Jesus helps us recognize our obvious need for rest, renewal, recreation, and re-creation. Ephesians 2:17-18; Mark 6:30-32
 - A. Jesus helps us recognize our obvious need to get away from it all.
 - B. To do mission effectively, to be devoted disciples and apostles, will require us to find rest and renewal.
 - C. Jesus recognizes our need to take time to go to those deserted places. Jesus satisfies our obvious need to be renewed, restored, and re-created.

2. In the rush of The Wind, Jesus helps us recognize our obvious need for a shepherd, our call to shepherd others. Jeremiah 23:1-2,4; Mark 6:30-34
 - A. We need a guide, and so much more - that is obvious.
 - B. It is obvious, to shepherd others is not easy. May they recognize Christ in us.
 - C. Let us recognize our obvious need for Jesus to guide, protect, save us, and to grace us!

3. In the rush of The Wind, grace is given to recognize all God makes known in Jesus Christ. Jeremiah 23:3-6; Ephesians 2:12-21; Mark 6:33,54-56

- A. God graces us to recognize he alone lifts us up!
- B. Christ graces us to recognize he has made us one people.
- C. We have a cornerstone, others are longing to recognize.
- D. Let us clearly recognize: `The days are surely coming!'
- E. In the rush of The Wind, Jesus will help us see and recognize more of what is so obvious: Our need for him, our daily and eternal dependence on him and the peace we have in The Shepherd. Even when Jesus steps back to rest a while, Jesus recognizes us, has compassion on us, and graces us!