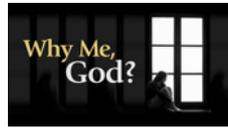


18 September 2016 – 18 Pentecost.

Readings: Amos 8:4–7; Psalm 113; 1 Timothy 2:1–7; Luke 16:1–13.

Theme: *Crooked* – Luke 16:8, “Now here’s a surprise: The master praised the **crooked** manager! And why? Because he knew how to look after himself.”

Crooked



I. ASK CROOKED QUESTIONS.

Luke 16:3, “The manager said to himself, ‘**What** shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg—”

The Pentecost question. Acts 2:37, “Brothers, **what** shall we do?”

Questions re St. Paul’s future: “What’s the cake?” “What’s the recipe?” “Who are the master chefs?” “What is our promised land?” “What does it mean to be ‘Lutheran’ in our context?”



II. GIVE CROOKED ANSWERS.

Luke 16:4, “I know what I’ll do!” Wait for a God inspired answer.

Luke 16:5-9, “So he called in each one of his master’s **debtors**. He asked the first, ‘**How much do you owe** my master?’ ‘**Nine hundred gallons** of olive oil,’ he replied. The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and **make it four hundred and fifty.**’ Then he asked the second, ‘And **how much do you owe?**’ ‘**A thousand bushels** of wheat,’ he replied. He told him, ‘Take your bill and **make it eight hundred.**’ The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. I tell you, use worldly wealth to **gain friends for yourselves**, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.”

1 Timothy 2:3, “**God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.**” Gain friends for God. **1. Decrease/eliminate debt.** How? Use your keys. **Matthew 16:19**, “I will give you the **keys** of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” **2. Increase credit.** How? **Matthew 5:44**, “**love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.**”

Romans 12:14, “**Bless** those who persecute you; **bless** and do not curse.” **Ephesians 4:29**, “Do not let any unwholesome **talk** come out of your mouths, but **only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.**” **Colossians 4:6**, “Let your conversation be always **full of grace, seasoned with salt**, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”



THE EXODUS ROUTE
AND RED SEA
CROSSING POINT
Exodus 13:17-18



III. PRACTICE CROOKED DISCIPLESHIP.

Luke 16:10-12, “Whoever can be **trusted with very little** can also be **trusted** with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been **trustworthy in handling worldly wealth**, who will **trust** you with true riches? And if you have not been **trustworthy with someone else’s property**, who will give you property of your own?”

Genesis 22:2, 12, “God said, ‘Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. **Sacrifice him** there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you... **Do not lay a hand on the boy,**’ he said. ‘**Do not do anything to him.**’”

Exodus 13:17-18, “When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, ‘If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt.’ So **God led the people around** by the desert road toward the Red Sea.”

Mark 6:8, “These were his instructions: ‘**Take nothing** for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts.’”

Luke 22:36, “He said to them, ‘But **now** if you have a purse, **take it**, and also a bag; and if you don’t have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one.’” Illus. Inala “Happy Hour.”

CONCLUSION: Acts 2:13, “They’re drunk on cheap wine.”

Little Big Town, *Sober*, “I wanna walk that line a little **crooked**. And live my life a little on the rocks, Laugh at everytime I fell, Not afraid to make a fool of myself, And keep on dancin' when the music stops 'Cause I love being in love; It's the best kind of drug. Drunk on the high, Leanin' on your shoulder, Sweet like wine as it gets older, When I die - I don't wanna go sober, Oh when I die - I don't wanna go sober.” May we learn to do the same, in Jesus’ name, Amen ☺