

14 August 2016

THIRTEENTH
SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

FIX your eyes
on Jesus



TAKING
FAITH
home



share

your highs & lows of the day.



read

and highlight the daily readings in your Bible.

S	Luke 12:49-56	Jesus the cause of division
M	John 7:1-12	People divided about Jesus
T	John 9:13-34	Pharisees divided on Jesus
W	Acts 14:1-7	Division at Iconium
T	1 Corinthians 1:10-17	Paul writes about division
F	Hebrews 10:23-28,35-38	Persevere in the Lord
S	Psalms 35	Contend, O Lord
S	Luke 13:10-17	Jesus heals on the Sabbath



talk

- about how the daily Bible reading relates to your highs & lows.
- Hebrews 11 lists people of faith who encourage us by the way they have trusted God. Who or what encourages you in your faith?
- Share how you can encourage other Christians.



pray

for your highs & lows, for your family and for the world.



bles

one another. Share this week's blessing (below) or make up your own.

May the Holy Spirit keep your eyes fixed on Jesus. Amen.

FAITH 5

*The peace that Jesus brings causes division... can you believe that?!
But once you have His peace, then you can be in the company of ANYBODY!
This is the spirit of a humble person.*

THE PARABLE OF THE GREAT FEAST

Luke 14:15-24

"When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God."

Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.' Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.' Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.' The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.' 'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.' Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.'"

When you are invited to a meal or celebration, do you delay returning your acceptance in hope of a better offer? Do you indicate you will come and then not turn up? Do you refuse invitations for flimsy excuses as these ancient invitees did in Jesus's story? Why do we find it difficult to commit, even to a feast where we will certainly eat, drink and be merry?



Just as the Jews [God's own people] were offered first choice at God's heavenly banquet and refused the feast, God offers his salvation to all who believe in Jesus. It doesn't matter if we are blind, crippled, lame, an outcast from our family or if we have distanced ourselves from him by sin, he welcomes us all. We are honoured with an invitation from God to have a living relationship with Jesus in heaven, to share what is freely offered. All are invited.

Holy Communion is the feast of Jesus's own body and blood.

Will you accept the invitation or are you waiting for a better offer?

Journal: Think about pending invitations, will you go? Or wait for a better offer? Does this reflect your attitude to life?

Prayer: Dear Lord, Give me a heart like Jesus, to give and not expect repayment. Amen