

In Living Memory (11-20-16)

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Jeremiah 23: 1-62 Colossians 1: 11-23 Luke 23: 33-43

Responsive Reading: Psalm 46

Summary: We have no hope but one: that Jesus remembers us. The world has no hope but one: that we remember Jesus.

If Jesus had not told us that the rulers of the nations in this world were led by the enemy of God rather than God, we would have figured it out from His temptation. Satan offers Jesus all the nations of Earth and all their wealth and power if He will just worship him. Jesus refuses, but the bad news is that Satan could never have made the offer without the world in his pocket. If there was any doubt, this was made clear when the Roman Empire itself washes its hands and the leaders of God's people stir up a mob demanding the Cross.

The prophet Jeremiah lived during a terrible time like this. The rulers and authorities were expected to take care of God's people, but they took care only for their own profit, pleasure, and power while the people were either exploited or scattered. So, the world will be shaken

and there will be but one king, whose name shall be, “The Lord Our Salvation.” We know that name as, “Jesus.”

In those days, when wheat was winnowed, it was cast up into the wind, which tore the useless husk, the chaff, away and the good and nourishing grain which held onto itself fell back to the ground to be gathered and ground into flour. In the midst of buffeting wind and confusion, the good parts had to hold together.

Many people feel like wheat being sifted in these confusing days. We have to hold onto what is true or we will just be blown away by winds of change. For us, there is only one hope and one truth that will set us free. Like that thief suffering beside Jesus on the Cross, I cannot but acknowledge that I have brought my own cross upon myself, but Jesus has done nothing wrong. It must have been the hardest thing to be dying and to glance to the side and see the Savior dying by my side. That is what made his faith so amazing when he said “When you come as king, Jesus, remember me.” That is the most human thing: we simply

want to be remembered, and this is a wish we share both with the thief and with Jesus.

We have no hope but one: that Jesus remembers us. Yet, what did Jesus ask after He broke the bread, poured the wine, and gave it to His friends to eat and drink? Yes, He said it was His body and His blood, but what did he ask? He said, "Remember me."

We have no hope but one: that Jesus remembers us. This world has no hope but one: that we remember Jesus. Hold on to that whatever winds of change blow and we will not only be blest, but we will be blessings. Amen and Hallelujah.