

Sunday, June 21, 2026 - Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Both the First Reading and the Psalm are stunning examples of someone who was very open and honest in expressing how he felt to God, even when his emotions were very raw and negative.

How open and honest do you feel that you can be in expressing how you feel to God?

The people in the Bible were people for whom their relationship with God was very honest and very real.

How honest and real is your relationship with God?

*How important is it that we are open and honest in expressing how we feel to other people?
What restraints do we need to place on our level of openness and honesty?*

Notice the pattern of lament followed by expressions of trust in these passages.

First Reading: Jeremiah 20: 7-13

7 - O LORD, you have enticed me; you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed.

I have become a laughingstock all day long; everyone mocks me.

9 - If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,"
then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones;
I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.

11 - The LORD is with me like a dread warrior;
therefore my persecutors will stumble and will not prevail.
They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed.

13 - Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD!
For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

Psalm 69: 7-18 (A Psalm of David)

7 - It is for your sake that I have suffered reproach and shame has covered my face.

9 - It is zeal for your house that has consumed me;
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

12 - I am the subject of gossip for those who sit at the gate;
drunkards make songs about me.

13 - But as for me, this is my prayer to you.

At the time you have set, O LORD, answer me with your unfailing help.

16 - Answer me, O LORD, for your love is kind; in your great compassion, turn to me.

Cf. Psalm 22 (A Psalm of David)

1 - My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

7 - All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads.

14 - I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint.

15 - My mouth is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to my jaws.

16 - Dogs are all around me; a company of evildoers encircles me.

18 - They divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.

27 - All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord.
All the families of the earth shall worship before him.

30-31 – Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn.

Second Reading: Romans 6:1b-11

1b - Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound?

2- By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it?

3 - Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

4 - We have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

5 - If we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

6 - Our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin.

11 - So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel: Matthew 10:24-39

25 - If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.

26 - Have no fear of them.

29-31 - Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. Even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

How are those verses comforting for you?

Ethel Waters – "His Eye Is on the Sparrow"

34 - Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

How does Jesus bring not peace but a sword?

Most everyone is comfortable with talking about God, because God can be whatever you want God to be. But when you talk about Jesus, you are getting specific.

A lot of people today are offended by Jesus' claim that He is the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Him. (John 14: 6)

They are offended by the assertion that Christianity is true in a way that other world religions are not true.

39 - Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

Jim Elliot – "He is no fool who will give what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

How have the events of the last three-plus years shown you how fragile and vulnerable everything in life is except your relationship with Jesus Christ?