

WE CONFESS OUR NEED

Dear Heavenly Father, we admit and confess our sins and sinfulness. We have not lived up to our calling as Your faithful people. We have not reached out in love to others and have been poor witnesses of Your grace. Have mercy on us and forgive us, dear Father, and give us strength by the Holy Spirit to serve you with joy in the days to come. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen

Scripture Readings
January 20, 2008

Isaiah 49:1-7

Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations: Before I was born the LORD called me; from my birth he has made mention of my name. He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver. He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendor." But I said, "I have labored to no purpose; I have spent my strength in vain and for nothing. Yet what is due me is in the LORD's hand, and my reward is with my God." And now the LORD says, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD and my God has been my strength- he says: "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth." This is what the LORD says— the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel— to him who was despised and abhorred by the nation, to the servant of rulers: "Kings will see you and rise up, princes will see and bow down, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I always

thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way—in all your speaking and in all your knowledge— because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

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John 1:29-42

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel." Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God." The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" "Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent that day with him. It was about the tenth hour. Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Outline - January 20, 2008

"Too Small a Thing" • Isaiah 49:1-7

Introduction: "Who are you really?"

"Before I was born the LORD called me; from my birth he has made mention of my name." v.1

1. Do you know _____ you are?

He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendor." v.3

- Are you sure of _____ you are as well?

2. Yes, but...

But I said, "I have labored to no purpose; I have spent my strength in vain and for nothing." v.4

- What do we do _____ ?

• _____
"It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept." v.6a

- _____
- _____!

"I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth." v.6b

- _____

Answers to Sermon Outline:

who, whose, when the picture is bleak? Circle the Wagons, a focus on self, go big! a focus on others

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