

Old Testament Texts for Life Observance Sunday (Series C)

Sixth Sunday in Pentecost

Theme of Day: Being a disciple of Christ is not without cost

Old Testament Text: 1 Kings 19:9-18

Theme: God moves us to a deeper trust

- A witness humbled
- God works in His own way and on His own timetable
- God is still in control of all things C all these prove to humble the witness of God, when we think God ought to act according to our wants, wishes, and timetable
- Elijah is told to go back the same way. God speaks to us the same and says, "Keep doing what you're doing. I am in control and will take care of the rest."
- The message doesn't change to damnation, damnation, but still the message of law and Gospel is the same. God is loving, even to his messengers
- This working brings a change in life, and a change and respect for life. God still desires all to be saved. So do His messengers

Focus: Human reason leads people to conclusions that are not always consistent with God's will. Human reason concludes that some people are not worthy of continued life. Although Elijah was discouraged, God was still in control and had work for him to do. Elijah was like many Christians today who look forward to eternal life in heaven but also get frustrated when things don't go well here on earth. Even when events in life don't make sense, our role remains constant C to live and share our faith.

Facts: In the early 1990s, the number of U.S. abortions performed annually came to approximately 1.6 million. During the decade of the 1990s, those numbers declined steadily to estimates around 1.3 million. Yet, in spite of many positive reports, the estimated number of abortions ranges between 1.2 to 1.3 million each year. This calculates to a daily average of well over 3,000 abortions.

Although exact statistics are not available, it is commonly recognized that the number of Down Syndrome children continues to decline. This is attributed to the increased number of abortions of preborn children diagnosed with Down Syndrome in the womb. Reports, such as the 1990 Dutch Rimmeling Report, show continual and growing abuse of human life at critical stages.

11th Sunday in Pentecost**Theme of Day:** To know Christ in faith is the meaning and purpose of this life.**Old Testament Text:** Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:18-26**Theme:** Know His purposes for your life

- God gives meaning to heavy hearts
- Things are meaningless in and of themselves: they wear out, die, rot, spoil, rust, etc.
- Solomon, famous for his wisdom, could not find lasting meaning in any aspect of this sin-riddled world
- God brings meaning through His son. Real meaning is found only in believing in His Son
- God brings meaning to living your life
- While the things of this world are worthless, the things of God are meaningful.
- Life has a purpose, to reveal what is not fading and is not worthless C that is: Jesus.
- Life has an end, but that is only a door to an eternity of meaningful worship and praise

Focus: Staying focused on God's purpose for our lives becomes increasingly difficult.

People tell you to grab what you deserve, hang on to things you've earned, and pursue the goals that can fulfill your life. God's Word tells us something quite different, and most of your members know that. It is difficult to get them to change their daily activities and attitudes in this regard. This text on Solomon's life is a good example and reminder to Christians that our focus must be on Christ, not ourselves.

Facts: According to the Survey of Consumer Finances, the bottom 40% of households hold 1% of the country's wealth. The top 1% hold 30% of the wealth, the top 5% hold 55% of the wealth, and the top 20% of households hold 80% of the nation's wealth.

Charitable contributions in the country average approximately 2% of household income.