



TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

August 23, 2020
Anglican Parish of Raymond Terrace
www.stjohnsraymondterrace.org

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Pray:

May I speak to you in the name of GOD – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen



JESUS asked His disciples: Who do you say I am? After some other disciples go through John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah or one of the prophets, Peter replies: YOU ARE THE MESSIAH, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD! To which JESUS replies: ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.’ ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The rock on which JESUS would build His Church has been identified as:

1. JESUS Himself – His work of salvation by dying for us on the cross
2. PETER – the first great leader of the Church at Jerusalem
3. The confession of faith that Peter gave and that all subsequent believers would give.

It seems most likely that the rock refers to Peter as the leader of the Church. In Aramaic, Peter is translated as Cephas – meaning rock. Just as Peter had revealed the true identity of CHRIST, so JESUS revealed Peter's identity and role.

Later, in his first letter, Peter reminds Christians that they are the Church built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets – ^with JESUS as the cornerstone: ⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to

be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture: ‘See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.’

All believers are joined into this Church by faith in JESUS CHRIST as Saviour – the same faith that Peter expressed here. JESUS praised Peter for his confession of faith. It is faith like Peter’s that is the foundation of CHRIST’s kingdom.

So, a question we could ask ourselves is “WHO AM I?” During this pandemic, we have set up an online Bible Study group where we meet using Zoom. At the moment, we are tackling a 5-part study based on the movie OVERCOMER – which looks at who we are. What do we allow to define us? One of the defining moments in the film is when one of the main characters – Hannah – works out who she really is – and she learns this from studying Paul’s letter to the Ephesians chapters 1 and 2.

From these chapters we discover that we are:

- Blessed – with every spiritual blessing in CHRIST
- Chosen – by GOD to be holy and blameless
- Adopted – as a child of GOD through JESUS CHRIST
- Redeemed – through the blood of JESUS
- Forgiven – of our sins
- Sealed – under the authority of CHRIST
- Loved – by GOD
- Saved – by grace – not by works.

Hannah's character's mother died of a drug overdose and her father was headed in the same direction, but he became blind. Hannah is being brought up by her grandmother. **[Movie clip]**



Frances Hayes – a sister of a religious order called the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Western Australia summaries it like this: The question JESUS asks in today's Gospel must always be paramount in our

lives – who do you say I am? What answer do I give with my words and what answer do I give with the way I live? JESUS revealed Himself in the Gospels as one whose focus is on the kingdom of GOD. As His follower, am I also focussed on the values of the kingdom – love, justice, forgiveness, mercy, compassion? Is this what my life is about? Am I living as a follower of a GOD whose whole life was directed towards sharing His love with everyone He encountered? Does everyone who sees me, see also the GOD who revealed Himself in JESUS? Am I another JESUS to those I meet? Do they look at me and see JESUS? In the end, my answer to JESUS' question is reflected more in the life I live than in the words I utter.



May we pray:

Eternal GOD, you have never withheld your mercy and your pardon to the contrite of heart. Bestow upon your people a burning desire to bring that same compassion

into a world that needs healing and peace. This we pray through JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen

Life Application Study Bible

GOD's Word 2020

Daily Prayer 2020

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=overcomer+movie+clip+who+are+you&docid=608029393326639684&mid=4B075745FFE7FBABE8E94B075745FFE7FBABE8E9&view=detail&FORM=VIRE>