



The MBPC Texter

... get into scripture – an ancient form of text messaging

Issue 3: Monday, September 24, 2018

Lectionary Year B



Hey, Readers,

This Monday marks the beginning of the third week since Rally-Day Sunday on September 9th and the presentation of Bibles to our 1st and 4th graders. For the past two weeks, most of our Wednesday and Sunday Bible explorations have been from Mark and Proverbs. For the upcoming Sunday (September 30), Lant and I will be traveling, and the director of the local UKIRK Presbyterian campus ministry, Patrick Harley, will be the guest pastor. He has chosen a passage from the book of Numbers as his sermon text. Additionally, in beginning this third issue of *The Texter*, I want to share with you a brief list of some Bible basics which always help me to think about whenever I'm seeking out a particular book and passage.

READING THE BIBLE: ASK WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

WHAT? The Bible is not one book but is made up of many books. Its two main divisions are Old Testament and New Testament. The 39 books of the Old Testament teach us about who God is and how we should live. The 27 books of the New Testament teach us about the life of Jesus and what his life as a human meant for all Christians.

WHEN? The New Testament stories and writings come to us from times almost 2000 years ago, but the events of the Old Testament happened way more than 2000 years ago.

WHERE? Most of the stories of both the Old and New Testament took place in the land God promised to Abraham and his descendants, and today, most of this land is included in nation of Israel.

Now, as you read anything I write to you, remember that I am no Bible scholar. I've learned most of what I'm telling you from being a pastor's wife for 13 years. Hmm,... if there are 52 weeks in a year, then that's 13 times 52 or about 676 of Lant's sermons that I have listened to. Check my math!

Amanda



Sunday September 30, 2018
19th Sunday after Pentecost and 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)
(Green is the liturgical color for Ordinary Time.)

Old Testament Reading (sermon text) Numbers 11: 4-6; 10-16; and 24-29	Gospel Reading Mark 9:38-50
<p>The book of Numbers gets its name from the numbering or census of the Israelite tribes that was first taken not long after they escaped from Egypt and began their wanderings in the Sinai Desert or “wilderness” that it’s frequently referred to in the Bible. Chapter 1 reports the following census results for 3 of the 12 tribes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribe of Reuben: 46,500 (1:21) • Tribe of Simeon 59,300 (1:23) • Tribe of Gad 45,650 (1:25) <p>Wow! Even only several hundred years after God’s promises to Abraham (Genesis 12) his descendants had become a great nation. In addition to the “numbers,” this book tells many stories of God’s people as they wandered in the wilderness on the Sinai Peninsula, including how the Israelites continually complained to God about the scarcity of food and water under these desert conditions. One of the most familiar and important stories from Numbers (13-14) is the one in which Moses sent spies from the oasis at Kadesh-Barnea into Canaan, the land promised to Abraham (Deuteronomy 1). Most of the spies came back discouraged and afraid. Only Joshua and Caleb came back advising that God’s help would enable them to live in the land. Because no one listened to Joshua and Caleb, God was angered at the Israelites for their lack of trust and told Moses that they must wander 40 more years in the Sinai wilderness. Only Joshua, Caleb, and the young adults would be allowed to enter the Promised Land.</p>	<p>In the list of the gospels, the first four books of the New Testament, the Gospel of Mark appears second – after Matthew and before Luke and John. Even so, most scholars conclude that Mark was the first-written and that the authors of Matthew and Luke used it as a source. The completion of a manuscript of Mark’s gospel is dated after 65 C.E. and before the temple in Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans in 70. Like all of the early writings about Jesus, copies of Mark’s gospel were sent to different cities where new Christian churches were being formed. Mark does not tell us anything about Jesus’ birth and childhood; and Mark 1 begins with the story of Jesus’ baptism by John. The 16 chapters of Mark’s gospel describe Jesus as a person of action and power. He called the disciples, performed miracles, and healed the sick. Jesus’ teachings to his followers were grounded in the Old Testament scriptures, particularly the 10 Commandments given by God to Moses and the Israelites on Mt. Sinai.</p>



Numbers 11:4-6; 10-16; and 24-29 (complete text)

The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, "If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at."

....

Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the Lord became very angry, and Moses was displeased. So Moses said to the Lord, "Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child,' to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors? Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, 'Give us meat to eat!' I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery." So the Lord said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you.

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So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again. Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!"



Story-Bible Connections to Numbers



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On Rally Day, our first graders received *The Children's Bible in 365 Stories* by Mary Batchelor. The stories "The Promised Land in Sight" and "We Can't Do It" (pages 85-86) describe how the Israelites did not follow God's instructions to enter the Promised Land and argued that the people already living there were too big and too strong. The story "We Can't Do It" also reflects ideas from next Sunday's sermon text about how the Israelites constantly complained to Moses and God.



Mark 9: 38-50 (complete text)

John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

“For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”



Story-Bible Connections to Mark 9: 38-50

Story # 280 (out of 365) on pages 318-319 interprets and softens the harshness of the Mark 9 passage. Also reflected here are ideas from Proverbs about the foolishness of self-importance:

*Pride goes before destruction,
and a haughty spirit before a fall* (Proverbs 16:18).

THE WEEK AT A GLANCE AT MPBC

Monday, September 24

- 8:00 am Body Works
- 10:00 am Chancel Guild Meeting
- 6:00 am Cub Scout Den Meeting

Tuesday, September 25

- 8:00 am Body Works
- 1:00 pm Worship Staff Meeting

Wednesday, September 26

- 4:30 pm Bike riding and play in the parking lot
- 5:00 pm Property Committee Meeting
- 5:00 pm Hand Bell
- 5:30 pm Bible Book Bonanza (children)
- 5:30 pm Making Bible connections for children (adults)
- 6:00 pm Dinner
- 6:45 pm “Reading the Bible for Myself” (4th grade & up)
- 6:45 pm “Let’s Talk It Over” (adults)
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 27

- 8:00 am Body Works
- 10:00 am Bible Study - Cancelled

Friday, September 28

- 8:00 am Body Works

Saturday, September 29

Sunday, September 30

- 9:30 am Sunday School for all adults
- 10:15 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 11:00 am Worship - Patrick Harley (Guest Pastor)
- 11:15 am Sunday School for Children (Preschool-3rd Grade)
- 4:00 pm Cheer Practice