



The MBPC Texter

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

Issue 9: Monday, November 5, 2018

Lectionary Year B



Sunday, November 11, 2018

25th Sunday after Pentecost and 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
(Green is the liturgical color for Ordinary Time.)

Psalter Reading (sermon text) Psalm 127	Gospel Reading Mark 12: 38-44
<p>The book of Psalms, also known as the Psalter, is a collection of prayers and songs composed throughout Israel's history. Some were composed before the reign of King David and the united kingdom of Israel (c. 1000 B.C.). Others were composed after the Babylonian conquest of the southern kingdom of Judah and the return of the exiled Jews to Jerusalem when the temple was rebuilt (c. 500 B.C.).</p> <p>Poetic Structure: The overall poetic character of each psalm begins with the balance and symmetry of each numbered verse into 2 or 3 phrases. For example, consider Verse 2 of Psalm 90:</p> <p><i>Before the mountains were brought forth, or you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.</i></p> <p>Types of Psalms: The book of Psalms contains texts composed for various purposes, including prayers and/or laments asking for help; songs of thanksgiving, and hymns of praise</p> <p>Amen and Amen: The Psalter is arranged in 5 parts, analogous with the 5 books of the Torah: Psalms 1-41; 42-72; 73-89; 90-106; and 107-150. It can be an interesting exercise to look up the last two or so verses in each of the ending psalms (Psalms 41, 72, 89, 106, & 150) observing similarities and differences.</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 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.</p> <p>Mark does not tell us anything about Jesus' birth and childhood but begins with the story of Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist in Chapter 1. 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. In the Gospel according to Mark, the teachings of Jesus to his followers are described as being grounded in the Old Testament scriptures, particularly the Ten Commandments given by God to Moses and the Israelites at Mt. Sinai.</p>



✝ Sharing 365 Stories of our Faith with Children ✝

Dear Parents and Grandparents,



For many years, Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church has presented *The Children's Bible in 365 Stories* to its first graders on Rally Day Sunday. A strong point of this book is the close connections which can be drawn between the included stories and specifically cited books of the Bible (even when two texts are blended in some stories). After reading many of these stories and reflecting on them for "The MBPC Texter," I note that this book is written on a high reading level. Even so, recent brain research indicates that young minds of all children are much more

capable of sophisticated understandings and critical thinking than we have previously realized. Therefore, as an educator, I suggest engaging with the stories in this book on a succession of levels.

- **Level 1:** Read the stories first to yourself as recreational reading (We may find them exceedingly more uplifting than some of the other things we spend our free time reading!) Connect the stories in your mind with the Bible-book summaries printed above and with the ideas presented in the actual scripture passages. Then, tell the stories to children in your own words helping them to remember names of people, as well as situations.
- **Level 2:** Read the stories to children stopping frequently to summarize, explain, and answer questions. Also, when the opportunity presents itself talk about the story's setting including time and place.
- **Level 3:** Encourage children to advance their reading skills through practice reading the stories aloud to you or older children. Stop frequently to talk about the story and word meanings.

Start now increasing your knowledge and interest in the Bible through following the *Texter*, a weekly calendar for suggested passages and stories. If you are interested, children will also be interested.

Furthermore, as an educator, I have also come to appreciate the importance of structuring all learning so that it's more than just isolated facts. Therefore, an approach of using a three-year cycle of texts from the Revised Common

Lectionary for learning about the Bible can be helpful. I like to think of it as fitting the many pieces of a jigsaw puzzle together. Structuring our Bible knowledge in this way can produce deeper understandings of God's relationships with people through the ages. Even though the people we learn about in the Bible may have lived on a different side of the world 2000 years ago, God's presence made a difference in their lives. Thus, the stories and experiences of people in the Bible can help us see how God is acting in our lives and times today – and how God is continually offering us an everlasting and saving relationship.

This week's featured stories in *The Children's Bible in 365 Stories* are as follows:

- To talk about Mark 12:38-44 with children, read the story "The Biggest Gift of All" (p 332-333), sometimes called the story of the "Widow's Mite." In addition to the definition of "mite" as a tiny parasite, the word is also defined as a very small sum of money or contribution.
- For a story about the book of Psalms, read "The Hymnbook of Israel," #230 and 231 (pages 263-264).

Have a great week, taste the honey, and always remember,

"LEARNING IS SWEET!"

Amanda



Save the date: Advent New Year Celebration

Sunday, December 9, 2018: 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

You may be asking, "Why is Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church having a New Year party in early December?" Our response is that the traditional Christian year begins with the Advent season and is followed by Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time. The first Sunday in Advent is December 2, and during worship on that day, we will have our annual "Hanging of the Greens" in the sanctuary. We place candles in the windows; find the right spot for each of our beautiful Chrismon ornaments on the tall tree; and hang wreaths in the chancel. After these preparations, our congregation will be ready for a special event on Sunday, December 9th. An invitation to the Advent New Year celebration will follow.





✠ Mark 12: 38-44 (complete text) ✠

As he taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes,
who like to walk around in long robes,
and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces,
and to have the best seats in the synagogues
and places of honor at banquets!

They devour widows’ houses
and for the sake of appearance say long prayers.
They will receive the greater condemnation.”

He sat down opposite the treasury,
and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury.
Many rich people put in large sums.

A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins,
which are worth a penny.

Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you,
this poor widow has put in more
than all those who are contributing to the treasury.

For all of them have contributed out of their abundance;
but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had,
all she had to live on.”





☆ Psalm 127(complete text) ☆

Unless the LORD builds the house,
those who build it labor in vain.
Unless the LORD guards the city,
the guard keeps watch in vain.
It is in vain that you rise up early
and go late to rest,
eating the bread of anxious toil;
for he gives sleep to his beloved.

Sons are indeed a heritage from the LORD,
the fruit of the womb a reward.
Like arrows in the hand of a warrior
are the sons of one's youth.
Happy is the man who has
his quiver full of them.
He shall not be put to shame
when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.



THE WEEK AT A GLANCE AT MPBC

Monday, November 5

8:00 am Body Works

Tuesday, November 6

8:00 am Body Works

1:00 pm Worship Staff Meeting

6:30 pm Christian Education Meeting

Wednesday, November 7

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

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, November 8

8:00 am Body Works

10:00 am Bible Study

6:00 pm Troop #320 Lion's Den Meeting

Friday, November 9

8:00 am Body Works

Saturday, November 10

Sunday, November 11

9:30 am Sunday School for all adults

10:15 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal

11:00 am Worship

11:15 am Sunday School for Children (Preschool-3rd Grade)

12:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting

5:00 pm Session Meeting