

About the Readings on 6.9.24

Sunday, June 5–11

Mark's narratives proclaim that Jesus' power comes, not from evil, but from God, for good. We are now those who become Jesus' mother, brothers, and sisters as we hear the word, share the meal, and enact God's will in the world.

Deuteronomy 5:12-15

Genesis 3:8-15

The legend of the fall is read here to connect with Mark's discussion of Satan, since Christian interpretation saw the snake of Genesis 3 as an embodiment of the devil, always acting to destroy what God wills. The woman and the man (who are not yet named) can function as nongendered symbols of all humans who too readily heed the voice of evil rather than the will of God.

The Psalm for the Day

We have heard the story of the woman and the man in the garden, and we know that we are these primordial sinners, and so we plead for God's forgiveness by singing the penitential **Psalm 130**. Yes, we cannot stand: we are hiding in the bushes. Yet we hope for forgiveness from the Lord.

2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1

Today's reading of 2 Corinthians hears Paul urging us, despite contemporary afflictions, to believe in Jesus, who will bring us into his presence. In worship we are already in Christ's presence. The church itself has been described as the building that God has constructed. We hope to stand, not only with the woman and the man, naked and ashamed of our sin, but also with Jesus, to the glory of God.

Mark 3:20-35

What is the power upon which we rely? Mark asks us to take with utter seriousness the power of evil and to trust with all those who do the will of God that Jesus embodies the power of God. The claim that there is a sin that cannot be forgiven contrasts with other biblical passages that indicate that God will always forgive.